

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6338

AN ACT

To require the imposition of sanctions with respect to foreign persons and foreign vessels that engage in illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Stop Illegal Fishing
3 Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

5 It is the Sense of Congress that—

6 (1) illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing
7 (referred to in this section as “IUU fishing”) is a
8 rising and harmful global trend;

9 (2) the People’s Republic of China is the pri-
10 mary perpetrator of IUU fishing and the largest ex-
11 ploiter of global fisheries;

12 (3) IUU fishing is a concerning and significant
13 driver of overfishing, thereby threatening fisheries,
14 damaging marine ecosystems, and inhibiting con-
15 servation;

16 (4) IUU fishing in another country’s exclusive
17 economic zone violates international law as reflected
18 in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the
19 Sea, undermines the rules-based order, ignores sov-
20 ereign rights, reinforces excessive maritime claims,
21 exploits finite resources, and unfairly seizes eco-
22 nomic access at the expense of coastal states;

23 (5) IUU fishing is often associated with sub-
24 standard and illicit conditions for crew, including
25 lack of safety controls, illegally low pay, inhumane

1 treatment, and, in some cases, outright forced labor
2 or human trafficking;

3 (6) IUU fishing has a particularly nefarious im-
4 pact on coastal communities in poor and developing
5 nations that rely on ocean bounties;

6 (7) IUU fishing undermines the economic secu-
7 rity of the United States and undermines maritime
8 security around the globe; and

9 (8) the United States Government should utilize
10 sanctions to deter and prevent IUU fishing.

11 **SEC. 3. SANCTIONS.**

12 (a) SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO FOREIGN PER-
13 SONS.—The President shall impose the sanctions de-
14 scribed in subsection (e) with respect to any foreign person
15 that knowingly—

16 (1) owns any vessel that engages in IUU fish-
17 ing;

18 (2) works as a captain or senior crew member
19 on such a vessel;

20 (3) operates as an entity primarily engaged in
21 IUU fishing; or

22 (4) serves as an officer or senior manager in an
23 entity primarily engaged in IUU fishing.

24 (b) SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO FOREIGN VES-
25 SELS.—The President shall impose the sanctions de-

1 scribed in subsection (e) with respect to any foreign vessel
2 that engages in IUU fishing.

3 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date
4 of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for five
5 years, the President shall submit to the appropriate com-
6 mittees a report that—

7 (1) describes all efforts to carry out the require-
8 ments of subsections (a) and (b); and

9 (2) lists all foreign persons and foreign vessels
10 sanctioned thereunder.

11 (d) SANCTIONS PROGRAM REQUIRED.—In carrying
12 out subsection (a) and subsection (b), the President shall
13 direct the creation of an IUU fishing sanctions program.

14 (e) SANCTIONS DESCRIBED.—The sanctions de-
15 scribed in this subsection are the following:

16 (1) ASSET BLOCKING.—Notwithstanding the re-
17 quirements of section 202 of the International
18 Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701),
19 the President may exercise of all powers granted to
20 the President by that Act to the extent necessary to
21 block and prohibit all transactions in all property
22 and interests in property of the foreign person or
23 foreign vessel if such property and interests in prop-
24 erty are in the United States, come within the

1 United States, or are or come within the possession
2 or control of a United States person.

3 (2) VISAS, ADMISSION, OR PAROLE.—

4 (A) IN GENERAL.—An alien who the Sec-
5 retary of State or the Secretary of Homeland
6 Security (or a designee of one of such Secre-
7 taries) knows, or has reason to believe, is de-
8 scribed in subsection (a) is—

9 (i) inadmissible to the United States;

10 (ii) ineligible for a visa or other docu-
11 mentation to enter the United States; and

12 (iii) otherwise ineligible to be admitted
13 or paroled into the United States or to re-
14 ceive any other benefit under the Immigra-
15 tion and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et
16 seq.).

17 (B) CURRENT VISAS REVOKED.—

18 (i) IN GENERAL.—The issuing con-
19 sular officer, the Secretary of State, or the
20 Secretary of Homeland Security (or a des-
21 ignee of one of such Secretaries) shall, in
22 accordance with section 221(i) of the Im-
23 migration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C.
24 1201(i)), revoke any visa or other entry
25 documentation issued to an alien described

1 in subparagraph (A) regardless of when
2 the visa or other entry documentation is
3 issued.

4 (ii) EFFECT OF REVOCATION.—A rev-
5 ocation under clause (i)—

6 (I) shall take effect immediately;

7 and

8 (II) shall automatically cancel

9 any other valid visa or entry docu-

10 mentation that is in the alien's pos-

11 session.

12 (f) EXCEPTIONS.—

13 (1) EXCEPTION TO COMPLY WITH INTER-
14 NATIONAL OBLIGATIONS.—Sanctions under sub-
15 section (e)(2) shall not apply with respect to the ad-
16 mission of an alien if admitting or paroling the alien
17 into the United States is necessary to permit the
18 United States to comply with the Agreement regard-
19 ing the Headquarters of the United Nations, signed
20 at Lake Success June 26, 1947, and entered into
21 force November 21, 1947, between the United Na-
22 tions and the United States, or other applicable
23 international obligations.

24 (2) EXCEPTION RELATING TO THE PROVISION
25 OF HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE.—Sanctions under

1 this section may not be imposed with respect to
2 transactions or the facilitation of transactions for—

3 (A) the sale of agricultural commodities,
4 food, medicine, or medical devices;

5 (B) the provision of humanitarian assist-
6 ance;

7 (C) financial transactions relating to hu-
8 manitarian assistance; or

9 (D) transporting goods or services that are
10 necessary to carry out operations relating to
11 humanitarian assistance.

12 (3) EXCEPTION FOR INTELLIGENCE, LAW EN-
13 FORCEMENT, AND NATIONAL SECURITY ACTIVI-
14 TIES.—Sanctions under this section shall not apply
15 to any authorized intelligence, law enforcement, or
16 national security activities of the United States.

17 (4) EXCEPTION FOR SAFETY OF VESSELS AND
18 CREW.—Sanctions under this section shall not apply
19 with respect to a person providing provisions to a
20 vessel otherwise subject to sanctions under this sec-
21 tion if such provisions are intended for the safety
22 and care of the crew aboard the vessel, the protec-
23 tion of human life aboard the vessel, or the mainte-
24 nance of the vessel to avoid any environmental or
25 other significant damage.

1 (g) IMPLEMENTATION; PENALTIES.—

2 (1) IMPLEMENTATION.—The President may ex-
3 ercise all authorities provided to the President under
4 sections 203 and 205 of the International Emer-
5 gency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1702 and
6 1704) to carry out this section.

7 (2) PENALTIES.—The penalties provided for in
8 subsections (b) and (c) of section 206 of the Inter-
9 national Emergency Economic Powers Act (50
10 U.S.C. 1705) shall apply to a person that violates,
11 attempts to violate, conspires to violate, or causes a
12 violation of regulations promulgated to carry out
13 this section to the same extent that such penalties
14 apply to a person who commits an unlawful act de-
15 scribed in section 206(a) of that Act.

16 (h) WAIVER.—The President may waive the applica-
17 tion of sanctions imposed with respect to a foreign person
18 or foreign vessel under this section if the President cer-
19 tifies to the appropriate congressional committees, not
20 later than 15 days before such waiver is to take effect,
21 that the waiver is important to the national security inter-
22 ests of the United States.

23 (i) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

24 (1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
25 TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-

1 mittees” means the Committee on Foreign Affairs of
2 the House of Representatives and the Committee on
3 Foreign Relations of the Senate.

4 (2) FOREIGN PERSON.—The term “foreign per-
5 son” means an individual or entity that is not a
6 United States person.

7 (3) FOREIGN VESSEL.—The term “foreign ves-
8 sel” means a vessel of foreign registry or operated
9 under the authority of a foreign country.

10 (4) IUU FISHING.—The term “IUU fishing”
11 has the meaning given the term in section 3532 of
12 the Maritime SAFE Act (16 U.S.C. 8001).

13 (5) UNITED STATES PERSON.—The term
14 “United States person” means—

15 (A) a United States citizen;

16 (B) a permanent resident alien of the
17 United States;

18 (C) an entity organized under the laws of
19 the United States or of any jurisdiction within
20 the United States, including a foreign branch of
21 such an entity; or

1 (D) a person in the United States.

Passed the House of Representatives June 8, 2026.

Attest:

Clerk.

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