

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1369

To support the execution of bilateral agreements concerning illicit transnational maritime activity and to authorize the President to impose sanctions with respect to illegal, unreported, or unregulated fishing and the sale, supply, purchase, or transfer of endangered species, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 9, 2025

Mr. KAINE (for himself, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. HEINRICH, and Mr. CURTIS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

A BILL

To support the execution of bilateral agreements concerning illicit transnational maritime activity and to authorize the President to impose sanctions with respect to illegal, unreported, or unregulated fishing and the sale, supply, purchase, or transfer of endangered species, 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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Protecting Global
5 Fisheries Act of 2025”.

1 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

2 In this Act:

3 (1) ADMISSION; ADMITTED; ALIEN; LAWFULLY
4 ADMITTED FOR PERMANENT RESIDENCE.—The
5 terms “admission”, “admitted”, “alien”, and “law-
6 fully admitted for permanent residence” have the
7 meanings given those terms in section 101 of the
8 Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101).

9 (2) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
10 TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-
11 mittees” means—

12 (A) the Committee on Armed Services and
13 the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Sen-
14 ate; and

15 (B) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and
16 the Committee on Armed Services of the House
17 of Representatives.

18 (3) FOREIGN PERSON.—The term “foreign per-
19 son” means an individual or entity that is not a
20 United States person.

21 (4) ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED, OR UNREGULATED
22 FISHING.—The term “illegal, unreported, or unregu-
23 lated fishing” has the meaning given that term in
24 the implementing regulations or any subsequent reg-
25 ulations issued pursuant to section 609(e) of the

1 High Seas Driftnet Fishing Moratorium Protection
2 Act (16 U.S.C. 1826j(e)).

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

5 (A) a United States citizen or an alien law-
6 fully admitted for permanent residence to the
7 United States;

8 (B) an entity organized under the laws of
9 the United States or any jurisdiction within the
10 United States, including a foreign branch of
11 such an entity; or

12 (C) any person located in the United
13 States.

14 **SEC. 3. INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION RELATED TO**
15 **COUNTERING ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED, OR**
16 **UNREGULATED FISHING.**

17 (a) STATEMENT OF POLICY.—It is the policy of the
18 United States to prioritize collaboration with friendly
19 countries, and through appropriate international institu-
20 tions, to combat illegal, unreported, or unregulated fish-
21 ing.

22 (b) ACTIONS BY SECRETARY OF STATE.—The Sec-
23 retary of State shall take such actions as may be necessary
24 to use the voice, vote, and influence of the United States

1 in all appropriate international fora and with appropriate
 2 countries that are allies or partners of the United States—

3 (1) to ensure that cutting edge technology is de-
 4 ployed in accordance to existing or future maritime
 5 law enforcement agreements the United States may
 6 enter or has entered into; and

7 (2) to hold accountable those individuals or en-
 8 tities that are responsible or complicit in illegal, un-
 9 reported, or unregulated fishing, with a particular
 10 focus on the harmful actions of the People’s Repub-
 11 lic of China.

12 (c) ADVOCACY AT UNITED NATIONS.—The President
 13 may direct the United States Permanent Representative
 14 to the United Nations to use the voice, vote, and influence
 15 of the United States to urge the United Nations to take
 16 greater action with respect to collaborative global efforts
 17 to counter illegal, unreported, or unregulated fishing.

18 **SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS**
 19 **WITH RESPECT TO ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED,**
 20 **OR UNREGULATED FISHING AND TRADE IN**
 21 **ENDANGERED SPECIES.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—The President may impose the
 23 sanctions described in subsection (b) with respect to any
 24 foreign person or foreign vessel (regardless of ownership)
 25 that the President determines—

1 (1) is responsible for or complicit in—

2 (A) illegal, unreported, or unregulated fish-
3 ing; or

4 (B) except as part of a conservation effort,
5 the sale, supply, purchase, or transfer (includ-
6 ing transportation) of endangered species, as
7 defined in section 3(6) of the Endangered Spe-
8 cies Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1532(6));

9 (2) is a leader or official of an entity, including
10 a government entity, that has engaged in, or the
11 members of which have engaged in, any of the ac-
12 tivities described in paragraph (1) during the tenure
13 of the leader or official;

14 (3) has ever owned, operated, chartered, or con-
15 trolled a vessel during which time the personnel of
16 the vessel engaged in any of the activities described
17 in paragraph (1); or

18 (4) has materially assisted, sponsored, or pro-
19 vided financial, material, or technological support
20 for, or goods or services in support of—

21 (A) any of the activities described in para-
22 graph (1); or

23 (B) any foreign person engaged in any
24 such activity.

1 (b) SANCTIONS DESCRIBED.—The sanctions that
2 may be imposed under subsection (a) with respect to a
3 foreign person or foreign vessel are the following:

4 (1) BLOCKING OF PROPERTY.—Notwith-
5 standing section 202 of the International Emergency
6 Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701), the exercise
7 of all powers granted to the President by the Inter-
8 national Emergency Economic Powers Act (50
9 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) to the extent necessary to block
10 and prohibit all transactions in all property and in-
11 terests in property of a foreign person described in
12 subsection (a), if such property and interests in
13 property are in the United States, come within the
14 United States, or are or come within the possession
15 or control of a United States person.

16 (2) INADMISSIBILITY TO THE UNITED
17 STATES.—In the case of an alien described in sub-
18 section (a), or any alien that the President deter-
19 mines is a corporate officer or principal of, or a
20 shareholder with a controlling interest in, a foreign
21 person described in subsection (a) that is an enti-
22 ty—

23 (A) ineligibility for a visa and inadmis-
24 sibility to the United States; and

1 (B) revocation of any valid visa or travel
2 documentation in accordance with section
3 221(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act
4 (8 U.S.C. 1201(i)).

5 (3) PROHIBITION ON ACCESS TO THE UNITED
6 STATES.—In the case of a foreign vessel described in
7 subsection (a), denial of access to United States
8 ports.

9 (4) LOANS FROM UNITED STATES FINANCIAL
10 INSTITUTIONS.—The President may prohibit any
11 United States financial institution from making
12 loans or providing credits to a foreign person de-
13 scribed in subsection (a).

14 (5) FOREIGN EXCHANGE.—The President may,
15 pursuant to such regulations as the President may
16 prescribe, prohibit any transactions in foreign ex-
17 change that are subject to the jurisdiction of the
18 United States and in which a foreign person or for-
19 eign vessel described in subsection (a) has any inter-
20 est.

21 (c) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 1 year after
22 the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually there-
23 after, the President shall submit a report on the imposi-
24 tion of sanctions under this section to—

1 (1) the Committee on Banking, Housing, and
2 Urban Affairs and the Committee on Foreign Rela-
3 tions of the Senate; and

4 (2) the Committee on Financial Services and
5 the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of
6 Representatives.

7 (d) NATIONAL INTEREST WAIVER.—The President
8 may waive the imposition of sanctions under subsection
9 (a) with respect to a foreign person or foreign vessel if
10 the President determines that such a waiver is in the na-
11 tional interests of the United States.

12 (e) EXCEPTIONS.—

13 (1) EXCEPTIONS FOR AUTHORIZED INTEL-
14 LIGENCE AND LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES.—
15 Sanctions under this section shall not apply with re-
16 spect to activities subject to the reporting require-
17 ments under title V of the National Security Act of
18 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3091 et seq.) or any authorized in-
19 telligence, law enforcement, or national security ac-
20 tivities of the United States.

21 (2) EXCEPTION TO COMPLY WITH INTER-
22 NATIONAL AGREEMENTS.—Sanctions under sub-
23 section (b)(2) shall not apply with respect to the ad-
24 mission of an alien to the United States if such ad-
25 mission is necessary to comply with the obligations

1 of the United States under the Agreement regarding
2 the Headquarters of the United Nations, signed at
3 Lake Success on June 26, 1947, and entered into
4 force on November 21, 1947, between the United
5 Nations and the United States, or the Convention on
6 Consular Relations, done at Vienna on April 24,
7 1963, and entered into force on March 19, 1967, or
8 other international obligations.

9 (3) EXCEPTION FOR SAFETY OF VESSELS AND
10 CREW.—Sanctions under this section shall not apply
11 with respect to a person providing provisions to a
12 vessel if such provisions are intended for the safety
13 and care of the crew aboard the vessel or the main-
14 tenance of the vessel to avoid any environmental or
15 other significant damage.

16 (4) HUMANITARIAN EXCEPTION.—

17 (A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in
18 subparagraph (B), the President may not im-
19 pose sanctions under this section with respect
20 to any person for conducting or facilitating a
21 transaction for the sale of agricultural commod-
22 ities, food, medicine, or medical devices or for
23 the provision of humanitarian assistance.

24 (B) EXCLUSION.—The exception under
25 subparagraph (A) does not include transactions

1 for the sale of food or agricultural commodities
2 obtained through illegal, unreported, or unregu-
3 lated fishing.

4 (f) IMPLEMENTATION; PENALTIES.—

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

10 (2) PENALTIES.—A person that violates, at-
11 tempts to violate, conspires to violate, or causes a
12 violation of this section or any regulation, license, or
13 order issued to carry out this section shall be subject
14 to the penalties set forth in subsections (b) and (c)
15 of section 206 of the International Emergency Eco-
16 nomic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1705) to the same ex-
17 tent as a person that commits an unlawful act de-
18 scribed in subsection (a) of that section.

19 (g) RULEMAKING.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—The head of any Federal
21 agency responsible for the implementation of this
22 section may promulgate such rules and regulations
23 as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of
24 this section (which may include regulatory excep-
25 tions), including under section 205 of the Inter-

1 national Emergency Economic Powers Act (50
2 U.S.C. 1704).

3 (2) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this
4 section may be construed to limit the authority of
5 the President pursuant to the International Emer-
6 gency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et
7 seq.).

8 **SEC. 5. BRIEFING AND REPORT ON GLOBAL ILLEGAL, UN-**
9 **REPORTED, OR UNREGULATED FISHING.**

10 (a) BRIEFING.—Not later than 90 days after the date
11 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in
12 consultation with the Secretary of Defense, shall brief the
13 appropriate congressional committees on—

14 (1) efforts to work with United States partners
15 and allies to counter illegal, unreported, or unregu-
16 lated fishing via bilateral engagements;

17 (2) efforts to counter, and challenges faced in
18 countering, illegal, unreported, or unregulated fish-
19 ing through existing international agreements, insti-
20 tutions, and mechanisms; and

21 (3) efforts by the Department of State and the
22 Department of Defense to engage and collaborate
23 with nongovernmental organizations and State and
24 local agencies to spread awareness and coordinate

1 responses to global illegal, unreported, or unregu-
2 lated fishing concerns.

3 (b) REPORT.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after
5 the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually
6 thereafter for 4 years, the Secretary of State, in con-
7 sultation with the Secretary of Defense, shall submit
8 to the appropriate congressional committees a report
9 that includes—

10 (A) recommendations to bolster maritime
11 law enforcement agreements with United States
12 allies and partners;

13 (B) an assessment of the global illegal, un-
14 reported, or unregulated fishing patterns, stra-
15 tegic goals, and regional priorities of the Peo-
16 ple's Republic of China, and government and
17 non-government resourcing vectors of the Peo-
18 ple's Republic of China for illegal, unreported,
19 or unregulated fishing fleets; and

20 (C) an assessment of the efficacy of global
21 forums to respond to illegal, unreported, or un-
22 regulated fishing, and a strategy for United
23 States engagement in such forums.

- 1 (2) FORM.—The report required by paragraph
- 2 (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may
- 3 include a classified annex.

