

Calendar No. 349

119TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION**S. 2314****[Report No. 119–114]**

To direct the Secretary of Commerce to establish a task force regarding shark depredation, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 16, 2025

Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself and Mr. SCHATZ) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

MARCH 4, 2026

Reported by Mr. CRUZ, without amendment

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Commerce to establish a task force regarding shark depredation, 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 “Supporting the Health
5 of Aquatic systems through Research Knowledge and En-

1 hanced Dialogue Act of 2025” or the “SHARKED Act
2 of 2025”.

3 **SEC. 2. SHARK DEPREDAATION TASK FORCE AND RESEARCH**
4 **PROJECTS.**

5 (a) SHARK DEPREDAATION TASK FORCE.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Commerce
7 shall establish a task force (referred to in this sub-
8 section as the “task force”) to identify and address
9 critical needs with respect to shark depredation.

10 (2) MEMBERSHIP.—The Secretary of Com-
11 merce shall appoint individuals to the task force, in-
12 cluding—

13 (A) 1 representative from—

14 (i) each Regional Fishery Manage-
15 ment Council established under section
16 302(a)(1) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fish-
17 ery Conservation and Management Act (16
18 U.S.C. 1852(a)(1));

19 (ii) each Marine Fisheries Commis-
20 sion, as such term is defined in section 3
21 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Con-
22 servation and Management Act (16 U.S.C.
23 1802);

24 (iii) the fish and wildlife agency of a
25 coastal State from each Regional Fishery

1 Management Council established under
2 section 302(a)(1) of the Magnuson-Stevens
3 Fishery Conservation and Management Act
4 (16 U.S.C. 1852(a)(1)); and

5 (iv) the National Marine Fisheries
6 Service;

7 (B) an individual with expertise in the
8 management of highly migratory species;

9 (C) a researcher with expertise in shark
10 management and behavior; and

11 (D) a researcher with expertise in shark
12 ecology.

13 (3) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The task force shall—

14 (A) develop ways to improve coordination
15 and communication across the fisheries man-
16 agement community and shark research com-
17 munity to address shark depredation;

18 (B) identify research priorities and funding
19 opportunities for such priorities, including—

20 (i) identifying shark species involved
21 in interactions;

22 (ii) shark stock assessments;

23 (iii) how sharks become habituated to
24 humans and thus lead to more interactions
25 between sharks and humans;

1 (iv) how angler behavior and fishery
2 regulatory frameworks may influence shark
3 interactions;

4 (v) techniques and strategies to re-
5 duce harmful interactions between sharks
6 and humans, including the development
7 and use of non-lethal deterrents;

8 (vi) the role of healthy shark popu-
9 lations in the ocean food web; and

10 (vii) climate change impacts on shift-
11 ing shark populations, prey, and shark be-
12 havior;

13 (C) develop recommended management
14 strategies to address shark depredation; and

15 (D) coordinate the development and dis-
16 tribution of educational materials to help the
17 fishing community minimize shark interactions,
18 including through changed angler behavior and
19 expectations.

20 (4) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the
21 date of enactment of this section, and every 2 years
22 thereafter until the termination of the task force in
23 accordance with paragraph (5), the task force shall
24 submit to Congress a report regarding the findings
25 of the task force.

1 (5) SUNSET.—The task force shall terminate
2 not later than 7 years after the date on which the
3 Secretary of Commerce establishes the task force.

4 (6) COASTAL STATE DEFINED.—In this sub-
5 section, the term “coastal State”—

6 (A) means a State of the United States in,
7 or bordering on, the Atlantic Ocean, Pacific
8 Ocean, Arctic Ocean, Gulf of Mexico, or Long
9 Island Sound; and

10 (B) includes Puerto Rico, the Virgin Is-
11 lands of the United States, Guam, the Com-
12 monwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands,
13 and American Samoa.

14 (b) SHARK DEPREDATION RESEARCH PROJECTS.—
15 Section 318(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Con-
16 servation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1867(c)) is
17 amended by adding at the end the following:

18 “(6) Projects to better understand shark depre-
19 dation, including identifying what causes increases
20 in shark depredation and determining how to best
21 address shark depredation.”.

22 (c) EFFECT.—Nothing in this section shall be con-
23 strued to affect the authority and responsibility of the Sec-
24 retary of Commerce in carrying out the Endangered Spe-
25 cies Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) or the Magnu-

- 1 son-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act
- 2 (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.).

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