

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 283

To require the Under Secretary of Commerce for Standards and Technology and the Administrator of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to develop a standard methodology for identifying the country of origin of seafood to support enforcement against illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 28, 2025

Mr. CRUZ (for himself, Mr. SCHATZ, Mrs. BRITT, and Mr. TUBERVILLE) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

A BILL

To require the Under Secretary of Commerce for Standards and Technology and the Administrator of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to develop a standard methodology for identifying the country of origin of seafood to support enforcement against 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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Illegal Red Snapper
5 and Tuna Enforcement Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. METHODOLOGY FOR IDENTIFYING THE COUNTRY**
 2 **OF ORIGIN OF SEAFOOD.**

3 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

4 (1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Adminis-
 5 trator” means the Administrator of the National
 6 Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

7 (2) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CON-
 8 GRESS.—The term “appropriate committees of Con-
 9 gress” means—

10 (A) the Committee on Commerce, Science,
 11 and Transportation of the Senate; and

12 (B) the Committee on Transportation and
 13 Infrastructure and the Committee on Natural
 14 Resources of the House of Representatives.

15 (3) KEY AGENCY LEADERSHIP.—The term “key
 16 agency leadership” means the Administrator and the
 17 Under Secretary in consultation with the Commis-
 18 sioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection and
 19 the Commandant of the Coast Guard.

20 (4) RED SNAPPER.—The term “red snapper”
 21 means the species *Lutjanus campechanus*.

22 (5) TUNA.—The term “tuna” means the fol-
 23 lowing species of tuna:

24 (A) Bigeye tuna (*Thunnus obesus*).

25 (B) Yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*).

26 (C) Bluefin tuna (*Thunnus thynnus*).

1 (6) UNDER SECRETARY.—The term “Under
2 Secretary” means the Under Secretary of Commerce
3 for Standards and Technology and the Director of
4 the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

5 (b) STANDARD METHODOLOGY FOR IDENTIFICA-
6 TION.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—Key agency leadership shall,
8 in accordance with this section, jointly develop a
9 standard methodology, based on chemical analysis,
10 for identifying the country of origin of seafood to
11 support enforcement against illegal, unreported, and
12 unregulated fishing.

13 (2) REQUIREMENTS.—Key agency leadership
14 shall ensure that the methodology developed under
15 this subsection—

16 (A) is consistent with the needs of Federal
17 and State law enforcement agencies in com-
18 bating illegal, unreported, and unregulated fish-
19 ing;

20 (B) minimizes processing time;

21 (C) involves the use of a field kit that can
22 be easily carried by one individual; and

23 (D) to the extent practicable, can be used
24 to test prepared food, including raw prepara-

1 tions of seafood such as ceviche, sashimi, sushi,
2 and poke.

3 (3) INITIAL SPECIES FOR IDENTIFICATION.—In
4 developing the methodology under this subsection,
5 key agency leadership shall conduct pilot studies on
6 red snapper, as an example of a stationary stock,
7 and tuna, as an example of a highly migratory stock.

8 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date
9 of the enactment of this Act, the Under Secretary shall
10 submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report
11 that includes the following:

12 (1) A summary of the methodology developed
13 under subsection (b).

14 (2) A plan for operationalizing the methodology
15 developed under subsection (b).

16 (3) In the event that any aspect of the method-
17 ology developed under subsection (b) is impracti-
18 cable, an explanation of why, whether additional re-
19 search would make developing such a methodology
20 practicable, and whether a different approach other
21 than chemical analysis might be practicable.

22 **SEC. 3. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR IUU FISHING EN-**
23 **FORCEMENT.**

24 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense is au-
25 thorized to, in coordination with the United States Coast

1 Guard, expend funds appropriated for the Department of
2 Defense for operation and maintenance to provide mari-
3 time technical assistance to maritime forces from other
4 nations in efforts to combat illegal, unreported, or unregu-
5 lated fishing (commonly known as “IUU fishing”) and
6 other transnational organized crime. Such technical assist-
7 ance may include providing observers, shipriders, and spe-
8 cialized personnel to deploy with such maritime forces, in
9 addition to remote sensing, analysis of data, and oper-
10 ational intelligence, as appropriate and consistent with
11 United States law and policy.

12 (b) APPLICATION OF AUTHORITY.—The authority
13 provided under subsection (a) shall apply to the use of
14 the United States Coast Guard members deployed to and
15 operating aboard Department of Defense, partner nation,
16 or international partner platforms, as well as partner na-
17 tion personnel operating aboard United States military
18 and Coast Guard assets or international partner vessels,
19 as appropriate.

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