

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 688

To combat illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing at its sources globally.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 24, 2025

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

A BILL

To combat illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing at its sources globally.

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 “Fighting Foreign Ille-
5 gal Seafood Harvests Act of 2025” or the “FISH Act of
6 2025”.

7 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

8 In this Act:

9 (1) ADMINISTRATOR.—Unless otherwise pro-
10 vided, the term “Administrator” means the Adminis-

1 trator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Ad-
2 ministration or the designee of the Administrator.

3 (2) BENEFICIAL OWNER.—The term “beneficial
4 owner” means, with respect to a vessel, a person
5 that, directly or indirectly, through any contract, ar-
6 rangement, understanding, relationship, or other-
7 wise—

8 (A) exercises substantial control over the
9 vessel; or

10 (B) owns not less than 50 percent of the
11 ownership interests in the vessel.

12 (3) FISH.—The term “fish” means finfish,
13 crustaceans, and mollusks.

14 (4) FORCED LABOR.—The term “forced labor”
15 has the meaning given that term in section 307 of
16 the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1307).

17 (5) IUU FISHING.—The term “IUU fishing”
18 means activities described as illegal fishing, unre-
19 ported fishing, or unregulated fishing in paragraph
20 3 of the International Plan of Action to Prevent,
21 Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Un-
22 regulated Fishing, adopted at the 24th Session of
23 the Committee on Fisheries in Rome on March 2,
24 2001.

1 (6) REGIONAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT ORGA-
 2 NIZATION.—The terms “regional fisheries manage-
 3 ment organization” and “RFMO” have the meaning
 4 given the terms in section 303 of the Port State
 5 Measures Agreement Act of 2015 (16 U.S.C. 7402).

6 (7) SEAFOOD.—The term “seafood” means
 7 fish, shellfish, processed fish, fish meal, shellfish
 8 products, and all other forms of marine animal and
 9 plant life other than marine mammals and birds.

10 (8) SECRETARY.—Unless otherwise provided,
 11 the term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Com-
 12 merce acting through the Administrator of the Na-
 13 tional Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration or
 14 the designee of the Administrator.

15 **SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

16 It is the policy of the United States to partner, con-
 17 sult, and coordinate with foreign governments (at the na-
 18 tional and subnational levels), civil society, international
 19 organizations, international financial institutions, sub-
 20 national coastal communities, commercial and recreational
 21 fishing industry leaders, communities that engage in
 22 artisanal or subsistence fishing, fishers, and the private
 23 sector, in a concerted effort—

24 (1) to continue the broad effort across the Fed-
 25 eral Government to counter IUU fishing, including

any potential links to forced labor, human trafficking, and other threats to maritime security, as outlined in sections 3533 and 3534 of the Maritime SAFE Act (16 U.S.C. 8002 and 8003); and

(2) to, additionally—

(A) prioritize efforts to prevent IUU fishing at its sources; and

(B) support continued implementation of the Central Arctic Ocean Fisheries agreement, as well as joint research and follow-on actions that ensure sustainability of fish stocks in Arctic international waters.

SEC. 4. ESTABLISHMENT OF A BLACK LIST (IUU VESSEL LIST).

Section 608 of the High Seas Driftnet Fishing Moratorium Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 1826i) is amended by striking subsections (c) and (d) and inserting the following:

“(c) BLACK LIST (IUU VESSEL LIST).—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in coordination with the Secretary of State, the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and the Secretary of Labor, shall develop, maintain, and make public a list of foreign vessels, foreign fleets, and beneficial owners of foreign vessels or foreign

1 fleets engaged in IUU fishing or fishing-related ac-
 2 tivities in support of IUU fishing (referred to in this
 3 section as the ‘IUU vessel list’).

4 “(2) INCLUSION ON LIST.—The IUU vessel list
 5 shall include any foreign vessel, foreign fleet, or ben-
 6 eficial owner of a foreign vessel or foreign fleet for
 7 which the Secretary determines there is clear and
 8 convincing evidence to believe that a foreign vessel
 9 is any of the following (even if the Secretary has
 10 only partial information regarding the foreign ves-
 11 sel):

12 “(A) A foreign vessel listed on an IUU ves-
 13 sel list of an international fishery management
 14 organization.

15 “(B) A foreign vessel taking part in fishing
 16 that undermines the effectiveness of an inter-
 17 national fishery management organization’s
 18 conservation and management measures, in-
 19 cluding a foreign vessel—

20 “(i) exceeding applicable international
 21 fishery management organization catch
 22 limits; or

23 “(ii) that is operating inconsistent
 24 with relevant catch allocation arrange-
 25 ments of the international fishery manage-

1 ment organization, even if operating under
2 the authority of a foreign country that is
3 not a member of the international fishery
4 management organization.

5 “(C) A foreign vessel, either on the high
6 seas or in the exclusive economic zone of an-
7 other country, identified and reported by
8 United States authorities to an international
9 fishery management organization to be con-
10 ducting IUU fishing when the United States
11 has reason to believe the foreign country to
12 which the foreign vessel is registered or docu-
13 mented is not addressing the allegation.

14 “(D) A foreign vessel, foreign fleet, or ben-
15 eficial owner of a foreign vessel or foreign fleet
16 on the high seas identified by United States au-
17 thorities to be conducting IUU fishing or fish-
18 ing that involves the use of forced labor, includ-
19 ing individuals and entities subject to a with-
20 hold release order or a finding issued by U.S.
21 Customs and Border Protection pursuant to
22 section 307 of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19
23 U.S.C. 1307) or any other U.S. Customs and
24 Border Protection enforcement action, sanctions
25 imposed by the Department of the Treasury

1 under the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Ac-
2 countability Act (22 U.S.C. 10101 et seq.), or
3 any other United States Government forced
4 labor prevention or enforcement action that has
5 not been subsequently revoked.

6 “(E) A foreign vessel that provides services
7 (excluding emergency or enforcement services)
8 to a foreign vessel that is on the IUU vessel
9 list, including transshipment, resupply, refuel-
10 ing, or pilotage.

11 “(F) A foreign vessel that is a fishing ves-
12 sel engaged in commercial fishing within the ex-
13 clusive economic zone of the United States
14 without a permit issued under title II of the
15 Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and
16 Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1821 et seq.).

17 “(G) A foreign vessel that has the same
18 beneficial owner as a foreign vessel on the IUU
19 vessel list at the time of the infraction.

20 “(H) A foreign vessel or beneficial owner
21 of a foreign vessel subject to economic sanctions
22 administered by the Department of the Treas-
23 ury Office of Foreign Assets Control for
24 transnational criminal activity associated with
25 IUU fishing under Executive Order 13581 (76

1 Fed. Reg. 44757, 84 Fed. Reg. 10255; relating
 2 to blocking property of transnational criminal
 3 organizations), or any other applicable economic
 4 sanctions program, including sanctions imposed
 5 by the Department of the Treasury under the
 6 Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability
 7 Act (22 U.S.C. 10101 et seq.).

8 “(3) NOMINATIONS TO BE PUT ON THE BLACK
 9 (IUU VESSEL) LIST.—The Secretary may receive
 10 nominations for putting a foreign vessel on the IUU
 11 vessel list from—

12 “(A) the head of an executive branch agen-
 13 cy that is a member of the Interagency Work-
 14 ing Group on IUU Fishing established under
 15 section 3551 of the Maritime SAFE Act (16
 16 U.S.C. 8031);

17 “(B) a country that is a member of the
 18 Combined Maritime Forces; or

19 “(C) civil organizations that have data-
 20 sharing agreements with a member of the Inter-
 21 agency Working Group on IUU Fishing.

22 “(4) PROCEDURES FOR ADDITION.—The Sec-
 23 retary may put a foreign vessel on the IUU vessel
 24 list only after notification to the foreign vessel’s ben-
 25 eficial owner and a review of any information that

1 the owner provides within 90 days of the notifica-
2 tion.

3 “(5) PUBLIC INFORMATION.—The Secretary
4 shall publish its procedures for adding foreign ves-
5 sels on, and removing foreign vessels from, the IUU
6 vessel list. The Secretary shall publish the IUU ves-
7 sel list itself in the Federal Register annually and on
8 a website, which shall be updated any time a foreign
9 vessel is added to the IUU vessel list, and include
10 the following information (as much as is available
11 and confirmed) for each foreign vessel on the IUU
12 vessel list:

13 “(A) The name of the foreign vessel and
14 previous names of the foreign vessel.

15 “(B) The International Maritime Organi-
16 zation (IMO) number of the foreign vessel, or
17 other Unique Vessel Identifier (such as the flag
18 state permit number or authorized vessel num-
19 ber issued by an international fishery manage-
20 ment organization).

21 “(C) The maritime mobile service identity
22 number and call sign of the foreign vessel.

23 “(D) The business or corporate address of
24 each beneficial owner of the foreign vessel.

1 “(E) The country where the foreign vessel
2 is registered or documented, and where it was
3 previously registered if known.

4 “(F) The date of inclusion on the IUU ves-
5 sel list of the foreign vessel.

6 “(G) Any other Unique Vessel Identifier
7 (UVI), if applicable.

8 “(H) Any other identifying information on
9 the foreign vessel, as determined appropriate by
10 the Secretary.

11 “(I) The basis for the Secretary’s inclusion
12 of the foreign vessel on the IUU vessel list
13 under paragraph (2).

14 “(d) CONSEQUENCES OF BEING ON BLACK LIST
15 (IUU VESSEL LIST).—

16 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Except for the purposes of
17 inspection and enforcement or in case of force
18 majeure, a foreign vessel on the IUU vessel list is
19 prohibited from—

20 “(A) accessing United States ports and
21 using port services;

22 “(B) traveling through the United States
23 territorial sea unless it is conducting innocent
24 passage; and

1 “(C) delivering or receiving supplies or
2 services, or transshipment, within waters sub-
3 ject to the jurisdiction of the United States, un-
4 less such prohibition would be inconsistent with
5 customary international law.

6 “(2) SERVICING PROHIBITED.—No vessel of the
7 United States may service a foreign vessel that is on
8 the IUU vessel list, except in an emergency involving
9 life and safety or to facilitate enforcement.

10 “(3) IMPORTS PROHIBITED.—The import of
11 seafood or seafood products caught, processed, or
12 transported by foreign vessels on the IUU vessel list
13 is prohibited and shall be subject to the enforcement
14 provisions of section 606.

15 “(4) FISHING TREATIES AND AGREEMENTS.—It
16 should be a priority for United States delegations
17 to—

18 “(A) advocate for the incorporation of arti-
19 cles in international fishery management orga-
20 nizations providing identical or similar safe-
21 guards described in this section in new and up-
22 dated bilateral or multilateral fishing treaties;
23 and

24 “(B) encourage parties to international
25 and regional fisheries organizations that the

1 United States is party to, or holds observer sta-
2 tus, to take similar measures described in this
3 section.

4 “(e) ENFORCEMENT OF BLACK LIST (IUU VESSEL
5 LIST).—

6 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
7 graph (2), a foreign vessel on the IUU vessel list
8 and the cargo of such vessel shall be subject to sei-
9 zure and forfeiture to the United States in the same
10 manner as merchandise is forfeited for violation of
11 the customs revenue laws.

12 “(2) EXCEPTION.—The cargo of seafood of a
13 foreign vessel on the IUU vessel list shall not be
14 subject to seizure and forfeiture to the United States
15 if the cargo of seafood is in the possession of an im-
16 porter who has paid for the cargo of seafood and did
17 not know, or did not have any reason to know, that
18 the seafood was the product of IUU fishing.

19 “(f) PERMANENCY OF BLACK LIST (IUU VESSEL
20 LIST).—

21 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
22 graphs (2) through (4), a foreign vessel, foreign
23 fleet, or beneficial owner of a foreign vessel or for-
24 eign fleet that is put on the IUU vessel list shall re-
25 main on the IUU vessel list.

1 “(2) REVOCATION OF WRO.—The Secretary
2 shall remove a foreign vessel or foreign fleet from
3 the IUU vessel list if the foreign vessel was added
4 to the IUU vessel list because it was found by U.S.
5 Customs and Border Protection to have had a with-
6 hold release order or a finding issued pursuant to
7 section 307 of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C.
8 1307) and the withhold release order was subse-
9 quently revoked.

10 “(3) APPLICATION BY OWNER FOR POTENTIAL
11 REMOVAL.—

12 “(A) IN GENERAL.—In consultation with
13 the Secretary of State and the U.S. Customs
14 and Border Protection, the Secretary may re-
15 move a foreign vessel, foreign fleet, or beneficial
16 owner of a foreign vessel or foreign fleet from
17 the IUU vessel list if the beneficial owner of the
18 foreign vessel submits an application for re-
19 moval to the Secretary that meets the stand-
20 ards that the Secretary has set out for removal.

21 “(B) STANDARDS.—The Secretary shall in-
22 clude in the standards set out for removal a de-
23 termination that the foreign vessel or foreign
24 vessel owner has not engaged in IUU fishing or
25 fishing that involves the use of forced labor dur-

1 ing the 5-year period preceding the date of the
2 application for removal. The Secretary, in con-
3 sultation with the Secretary of State and the
4 U.S. Customs and Border Protection, shall de-
5 termine whether each application for removal
6 demonstrates that sufficient corrective action
7 has been taken to remediate the violations and
8 infractions that led to the inclusion on the IUU
9 vessel list.

10 “(C) CONSIDERATION OF RELEVANT IN-
11 FORMATION.—In considering an application for
12 removal, the Secretary shall consider relevant
13 information from all sources.

14 “(4) REMOVAL DUE TO INTERNATIONAL FISH-
15 ERY MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION ACTION.—The
16 Secretary may remove a foreign vessel from the IUU
17 vessel list if the foreign vessel was put on the list be-
18 cause it was a foreign vessel listed on an IUU vessel
19 list of an international fishery management organi-
20 zation, pursuant to subsection (c)(2)(A), and the
21 international fishery management organization re-
22 moved the foreign vessel from its IUU vessel list.

23 “(g) REGULATIONS AND PROCESS.—Not later than
24 12 months after the date of enactment of the Fighting
25 Foreign Illegal Seafood Harvests Act of 2025, the Sec-

1 retary shall issue regulations to set a process for estab-
 2 lishing, maintaining, implementing, and publishing the
 3 IUU vessel list. The Administrator may add or remove a
 4 foreign vessel, foreign fleet, or beneficial owner of a for-
 5 eign vessel or foreign fleet from the IUU vessel list on
 6 the date the foreign vessel becomes eligible for such addi-
 7 tion or removal.

8 “(h) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

9 “(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—Unless otherwise pro-
 10 vided, the term ‘Administrator’ means the Adminis-
 11 trator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Ad-
 12 ministration or the designee of the Administrator.

13 “(2) BENEFICIAL OWNER.—The term ‘bene-
 14 ficial owner’ means, with respect to a vessel, a per-
 15 son that, directly or indirectly, through any contract,
 16 arrangement, understanding, relationship, or other-
 17 wise—

18 “(A) exercises substantial control over the
 19 vessel; or

20 “(B) owns not less than 50 percent of the
 21 ownership interests in the vessel.

22 “(3) FORCED LABOR.—The term ‘forced labor’
 23 has the meaning given that term in section 307 of
 24 the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1307).

1 “(4) FOREIGN VESSEL.—The term ‘foreign ves-
2 sel’ has the meaning given the term in section 110
3 of title 46, United States Code.

4 “(5) INTERNATIONAL FISHERY MANAGEMENT
5 ORGANIZATION.—The term ‘international fishery
6 management organization’ means an international
7 organization established by any bilateral or multilat-
8 eral treaty, convention, or agreement for the con-
9 servation and management of fish.

10 “(6) IUU FISHING.—The term ‘IUU fishing’
11 means activities described as illegal fishing, unre-
12 ported fishing, or unregulated fishing in paragraph
13 3 of the International Plan of Action to Prevent,
14 Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Un-
15 regulated Fishing, adopted at the 24th Session of
16 the Committee on Fisheries in Rome on March 2,
17 2001.

18 “(7) SEAFOOD.—The term ‘seafood’ means
19 fish, shellfish, processed fish, fish meal, shellfish
20 products, and all other forms of marine animal and
21 plant life other than marine mammals and birds.

22 “(i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
23 are authorized to be appropriated to the Department of
24 Commerce to carry out this section \$20,000,000 for each
25 of fiscal years 2025 through 2030.”.

1 **SEC. 5. IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS.**

2 (a) AUTHORIZATION FOR SANCTIONS.—The Sec-
3 retary of the Treasury may impose the measures described
4 in subsection (b) with respect to—

5 (1) any foreign person or foreign vessel, regard-
6 less of ownership, that the Secretary of the Treasury
7 determines has participated in—

8 (A) the sale, supply, purchase, or transfer
9 (including transportation) of a fish species that
10 is an endangered species, as defined in section
11 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16
12 U.S.C. 1532), directly or indirectly; or

13 (B) IUU fishing;

14 (2) a leader or official of an entity that has en-
15 gaged in, or whose members have engaged in, any
16 of the activities described in paragraph (1);

17 (3) an entity determined to have owned, oper-
18 ated, chartered, or controlled a vessel whose per-
19 sonnel are engaged in the activities described in
20 paragraph (1) at a time period relating to the activi-
21 ties;

22 (4) an entity that commits any action described
23 in section 608(c) of the High Seas Driftnet Fishing
24 Moratorium Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 1826i) as a
25 basis to be put on the IUU vessel list under such
26 section; and

1 (5) an entity that has materially assisted, spon-
2 sored, or provided financial, material, or techno-
3 logical support for, or goods or services in support
4 of, a foreign person or foreign vessel described in
5 paragraph (1).

6 (b) SANCTIONS DESCRIBED.—The sanctions to be
7 imposed under subsection (a) are the following:

8 (1) BLOCKING OF PROPERTY.—Notwith-
9 standing section 202 of the International Emergency
10 Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701), the exercise
11 of all powers granted to the President by the Inter-
12 national Emergency Economic Powers Act (50
13 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) to the extent necessary to block
14 and prohibit all transactions in all property and in-
15 terests in property of a foreign person or entity de-
16 scribed in subsection (a) including, to the extent ap-
17 propriate, the vessel of which the person is the bene-
18 ficial owner, if such property and interests in prop-
19 erty are in the United States, come within the
20 United States, or are or come within the possession
21 or control of a United States person.

22 (2) INELIGIBILITY FOR VISAS, ADMISSION, OR
23 PAROLE.—

24 (A) VISAS, ADMISSION, OR PAROLE.—A
25 foreign person described in subsection (a) is—

- 1 (i) inadmissible to the United States;
2 (ii) ineligible to receive a visa or other
3 documentation to enter the United States;
4 and
5 (iii) otherwise ineligible to be admitted
6 or paroled into the United States or to re-
7 ceive any other benefit under the Immigra-
8 tion and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et
9 seq.).

10 (B) CURRENT VISAS REVOKED.—

- 11 (i) IN GENERAL.—The visa or other
12 entry documentation of a foreign person
13 described in subsection (a) shall be re-
14 voked, regardless of when such visa or
15 other entry documentation is or was
16 issued.

- 17 (ii) IMMEDIATE EFFECT.—A revoca-
18 tion under clause (i) shall, in accordance
19 with section 221(i) of the Immigration and
20 Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1201(i))—

- 21 (I) take effect; and

- 22 (II) cancel any other valid visa or
23 entry documentation that is in the
24 person's possession.

- 25 (c) IMPLEMENTATION; PENALTIES.—

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

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

15 (d) NATIONAL INTEREST WAIVER.—The President
 16 may waive the imposition of sanctions under this section
 17 with respect to a foreign person or entity.

18 (e) EXCEPTIONS.—

19 (1) EXCEPTIONS FOR AUTHORIZED INTEL-
 20 LIGENCE AND LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES.—
 21 This section shall not apply with respect to activities
 22 subject to the reporting requirements under title V
 23 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C.
 24 3091 et seq.) or any authorized intelligence, law en-

1 enforcement, or national security activities of the
2 United States.

3 (2) EXCEPTION TO COMPLY WITH INTER-
4 NATIONAL AGREEMENTS.—Sanctions under sub-
5 section (b)(2) shall not apply with respect to the ad-
6 mission of an alien to the United States if such ad-
7 mission is necessary to comply with the obligations
8 of the United States under the Agreement regarding
9 the Headquarters of the United Nations, signed at
10 Lake Success June 26, 1947, and entered into force
11 November 21, 1947, between the United Nations
12 and the United States, or the Convention on Con-
13 sular Relations, done at Vienna April 24, 1963, and
14 entered into force March 19, 1967, or other inter-
15 national obligations.

16 (3) EXCEPTION FOR SAFETY OF VESSELS AND
17 CREW.—Sanctions under this section shall not apply
18 with respect to a person or entity providing provi-
19 sions to a vessel identified under section 608(c) of
20 the High Seas Driftnet Fishing Moratorium Protec-
21 tion Act (16 U.S.C. 1826i) if such provisions are in-
22 tended for the safety and care of the crew aboard
23 the vessel, or the maintenance of the vessel to avoid
24 any environmental or other significant damage.

1 (4) HUMANITARIAN EXCEPTION.—The Presi-
 2 dent may not impose sanctions under this section
 3 with respect to any person or entity for conducting
 4 or facilitating a transaction for the sale of agricul-
 5 tural commodities, food, medicine, or medical devices
 6 or for the provision of humanitarian assistance.

7 (f) RULEMAKING.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—The President is authorized
 9 to promulgate such rules and regulations as may be
 10 necessary to carry out the provisions of this section
 11 (which may include regulatory exceptions), including
 12 under section 205 of the International Emergency
 13 Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1704).

14 (2) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this
 15 section, or in any amendment made by this section,
 16 may be construed to limit the authority of the Presi-
 17 dent pursuant to the International Emergency Eco-
 18 nomic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.).

19 (g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

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

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

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

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

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

13 (C) any person in the United States.

14 **SEC. 6. AGREEMENTS.**

15 (a) PRESIDENTIAL NEGOTIATION.—In negotiating
 16 any relevant agreement with a foreign nation or nations
 17 after the date of enactment of this Act, the President is
 18 encouraged to consider the impacts on or to IUU fishing
 19 and fishing that involves the use of forced labor and strive
 20 to ensure that the agreement strengthens efforts to com-
 21 bat IUU fishing and fishing that involves the use of forced
 22 labor.

23 (b) FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ENCOURAGEMENT.—
 24 The Federal Government should encourage other nations
 25 to ratify treaties and agreements that address IUU fishing

1 to which the United States is a party, including the UN
 2 Fish Stocks Agreement, the High Seas Fishing Compli-
 3 ance Agreement, the Port State Measures Agreement, and
 4 other applicable agreements, and pursue bilateral and
 5 multilateral initiatives to raise international ambition to
 6 combat IUU fishing, including in the G7 and G20, the
 7 United Nations, the International Labor Organization
 8 (ILO), and the International Maritime Organization
 9 (IMO), and through voluntary multilateral efforts. The bi-
 10 lateral and multilateral initiatives should address under-
 11 lying drivers of IUU fishing and fishing that involves the
 12 use of forced labor, such as the practice of transshipment,
 13 flags of convenience vessels, and government subsidies of
 14 the distant water fishing industry.

15 (c) TRANSPARENCY FOR NON-BINDING INSTRU-
 16 MENTS CONCLUDED UNDER THIS SECTION.—Any memo-
 17 randum of understanding or other non-binding instrument
 18 to further the objectives of this section shall be considered
 19 a qualifying non-binding instrument for purposes of sec-
 20 tion 112b of title 1, United States Code.

21 **SEC. 7. ENFORCEMENT PROVISIONS.**

22 (a) INCREASE BOARDING OF VESSELS SUSPECTED
 23 OF IUU FISHING.—The Commandant of the Coast Guard
 24 shall strive, in accordance with the UN Fish Stocks Agree-
 25 ment, to increase, from year to year, its observation of

1 vessels on the high seas that are suspected of IUU fishing
2 and related harmful practices, and is encouraged to con-
3 sider boarding these vessels to the greatest extent prac-
4 ticable.

5 (b) FOLLOW UP.—The Administrator shall, in con-
6 sultation with the Commandant of the Coast Guard and
7 the Secretary of State, coordinate regularly with regional
8 fisheries management organizations to determine what
9 corrective measures each country has taken after vessels
10 that are registered or documented by the country have
11 been boarded for suspected IUU fishing.

12 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the date
13 of enactment of this Act and in accordance with informa-
14 tion management rules of the relevant regional fisheries
15 management organizations, the Commandant of the Coast
16 Guard shall submit a report to Congress on—

17 (1) the total number of bilateral agreements
18 utilized or enacted during Coast Guard counter-IUU
19 patrols and future patrol plans for operations with
20 partner nations where bilateral agreements are re-
21 quired to effectively execute the counter-IUU mis-
22 sion and any changes to IUU provisions in bilateral
23 agreements;

24 (2) incidents of IUU fishing observed while con-
25 ducting High Seas Boarding and Inspections

1 (HSBI), how the conduct is tracked after referral to
 2 the respective country where the vessel is registered
 3 or documented, and what actions are taken to docu-
 4 ment or otherwise act on the enforcement, or lack
 5 thereof, taken by the country;

6 (3) the country where the vessel is registered or
 7 documented, the country where the vessel was pre-
 8 viously registered and documented if known, and
 9 status of a vessel interdicted or observed to be en-
 10 gaged in IUU fishing on the high seas by the Coast
 11 Guard;

12 (4) incident details on vessels observed to be en-
 13 gaged in IUU fishing on the high seas, boarding re-
 14 fusals, and what action was taken; and

15 (5) any other potential enforcement actions that
 16 could decrease IUU fishing on the high seas.

17 **SEC. 8. IMPROVED MANAGEMENT AT THE REGIONAL FISH-**
 18 **ERIES MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATIONS.**

19 (a) INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP ON IUU FISH-
 20 ING.—Section 3551(c) of the Maritime SAFE Act (16
 21 U.S.C. 8031(c)) is amended—

22 (1) in paragraph (13), by striking “and” after
 23 the semicolon;

24 (2) in paragraph (14), by striking the period at
 25 the end and inserting a semicolon; and

1 (3) by adding at the end the following:

2 “(15) developing a strategy for leveraging en-
3 forcement capacity against IUU fishing, particularly
4 focusing on nations identified under section 609(a)
5 of the High Seas Driftnet Fishing Moratorium Pro-
6 tection Act (16 U.S.C. 1826j(a)); and

7 “(16) developing a strategy for leveraging en-
8 forcement capacity against associated abuses, such
9 as fishing that involves the use of forced labor and
10 other illegal labor practices, and increasing enforce-
11 ment and other actions across relevant import con-
12 trol and assessment programs, using as resources—

13 “(A) the List of Goods Produced by Child
14 Labor or Forced Labor produced pursuant to
15 section 105 of the Trafficking Victims Protec-
16 tion Reauthorization Act of 2005 (22 U.S.C.
17 7112);

18 “(B) the Trafficking in Persons Report re-
19 quired under section 110 of the Trafficking Vic-
20 tims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7107);

21 “(C) United States Customs and Border
22 Protection’s Forced Labor Division and en-
23 forcement activities and regulations authorized
24 under section 307 of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19
25 U.S.C. 1307); and

1 “(D) reports submitted under the Uyghur
 2 Human Rights Policy Act of 2020 (22 U.S.C.
 3 6901 note).”.

4 (b) SECRETARY OF STATE IDENTIFICATION.—The
 5 Secretary of State, in coordination with the Commandant
 6 of the Coast Guard and the Administrator, shall—

7 (1) identify regional fisheries management or-
 8 ganizations that the United States is party to that
 9 do not have a high seas boarding and inspection pro-
 10 gram; and

11 (2) identify obstacles, needed authorities, or ex-
 12 isting efforts to increase implementation of these
 13 programs, and take action as appropriate.

14 **SEC. 9. STRATEGIES TO OPTIMIZE DATA COLLECTION,**
 15 **SHARING, AND ANALYSIS.**

16 Section 3552 of the Maritime SAFE Act (16 U.S.C.
 17 8032) is amended by adding at the end:

18 “(c) STRATEGIES TO OPTIMIZE DATA COLLECTION,
 19 SHARING, AND ANALYSIS.—Not later than 3 years after
 20 the date of enactment of the Fighting Foreign Illegal Sea-
 21 food Harvests Act of 2025, the Working Group shall iden-
 22 tify information and resources to prevent fish and fish
 23 products from IUU fishing and fishing that involves the
 24 use of forced labor from entering United States commerce
 25 without increasing burden or trade barriers on seafood not

1 produced from IUU fishing. The report shall include the
2 following:

3 “(1) Identification of relevant data streams col-
4 lected by Working Group members.

5 “(2) Identification of legal, jurisdictional, or
6 other barriers to the sharing of such data.

7 “(3) In consultation with the Secretary of De-
8 fense, recommendations for joint enforcement proto-
9 cols, collaboration, and information sharing between
10 Federal agencies and States.

11 “(4) Recommendations for sharing and devel-
12 oping forensic resources between Federal agencies
13 and States.

14 “(5) Recommendations for enhancing capacity
15 for United States Customs and Border Protection
16 and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administra-
17 tion to conduct more effective field investigations
18 and enforcement efforts with U.S. state enforcement
19 officials.

20 “(6) Recommendations for improving data col-
21 lection and automated risk-targeting of seafood im-
22 ports within the United States International Trade
23 Data System and Automated Commercial Environ-
24 ment.

1 “(7) Recommendations for the dissemination of
 2 IUU fishing and fishing that involves the use of
 3 forced labor analysis and information to those gov-
 4 ernmental and non-governmental entities that could
 5 use it for action and awareness, with the aim to es-
 6 tablish an IUU fishing information sharing center.

7 “(8) Recommendations for an implementation
 8 strategy, including measures for ensuring that trade
 9 in seafood not linked to IUU fishing and forced
 10 labor is not impeded.

11 “(9) An analysis of the IUU fishing policies
 12 and regulatory regimes of other countries in order to
 13 develop policy and regulatory alternatives for United
 14 States consideration.”.

15 **SEC. 10. INVESTMENT AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN THE**
 16 **FISHERIES SECTOR.**

17 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State, the Ad-
 18 ministrators of the United States Agency for International
 19 Development, and the Secretary of Commerce, in consulta-
 20 tion with the heads of relevant agencies, the Millennium
 21 Challenge Corporation, and multilateral institutions such
 22 as the World Bank, are encouraged to increase support
 23 to programs that provide technical assistance, institutional
 24 capacity, and investment to nations’ fisheries sectors for
 25 sustainable fisheries management and combating IUU

1 fishing and forced labor. The focus of such support is en-
 2 couraged to be on priority regions and priority flag states
 3 identified under section 3552(b) of the Maritime SAFE
 4 Act (16 U.S.C. 8032(b)).

5 (b) ANALYSIS OF U.S. CAPACITY-BUILDING EXPER-
 6 TISE AND RESOURCES.—In order to maximize efforts on
 7 preventing IUU fishing at its sources, the Interagency
 8 Working Group on IUU Fishing established under section
 9 3551 of the Maritime SAFE Act (16 U.S.C. 8031) shall
 10 analyze United States capacity-building expertise and re-
 11 sources to provide support to nations' fisheries sectors.
 12 This analysis may include an assessment of potential ave-
 13 nues for in-country public-private collaboration and multi-
 14 lateral collaboration on developing local fisheries science,
 15 fisheries management, maritime enforcement, and mari-
 16 time judicial capabilities.

17 **SEC. 11. PREVENTING IMPORTATION OF SEAFOOD AND**
 18 **SEAFOOD PRODUCTS FROM FOREIGN VES-**
 19 **SELS USING FORCED LABOR.**

20 The Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Pro-
 21 tection, in coordination with the Secretary shall—

22 (1) develop a strategy for utilizing relevant
 23 United States Government data to identify imports
 24 of seafood harvested on foreign vessels using forced
 25 labor; and

1 (2) publish information regarding the strategy
2 developed under paragraph (1) on the website of
3 U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

4 **SEC. 12. REPORTS.**

5 (a) **IMPACT OF NEW TECHNOLOGY.**—Not later than
6 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Sec-
7 retary of Homeland Security, with support from the Ad-
8 ministrators and the Working Group established under sec-
9 tion 3551 of the Maritime SAFE Act (16 U.S.C. 8031),
10 shall conduct a study to assess the impact of new tech-
11 nology (such as remote observing, the use of drones, devel-
12 opment of risk assessment tools and data-sharing soft-
13 ware, immediate containerization of fish on fishing vessels,
14 satellite Wi-Fi technology on fishing vessels, and other
15 technology-enhanced new fishing practices) on IUU fish-
16 ing and associated crimes (such as trafficking and fishing
17 involving the use of forced labor) and propose ways to inte-
18 grate these technologies into global fisheries enforcement
19 and management.

20 (b) **RUSSIAN AND CHINESE FISHING INDUSTRIES’**
21 **INFLUENCE ON EACH OTHER AND ON THE UNITED**
22 **STATES SEAFOOD AND FISHING INDUSTRY.**—Not later
23 than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the
24 Secretary of State, with support from the Secretary of

1 Commerce and the Office of the United States Trade Rep-
2 resentative, shall—

3 (1) conduct a study on the collaboration be-
4 tween the Russian and Chinese fishing industries
5 and on the role of seafood reprocessing in China (in-
6 cluding that of raw materials originating in Russia)
7 in global seafood markets and its impact on United
8 States seafood importers, processors, and con-
9 sumers; and

10 (2) complete a report on the study that includes
11 classified and unclassified portions, as the Secretary
12 of State determines necessary.

13 (c) FISHERMEN CONDUCTING UNLAWFUL FISHING
14 IN THE ECONOMIC EXCLUSION ZONE.—Section 3551 of
15 the Maritime SAFE Act (16 U.S.C. 8031) is amended by
16 adding at the end the following:

17 “(d) THE IMPACTS OF IUU FISHING AND FISHING
18 INVOLVING THE USE OF FORCED LABOR.—

19 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator, in con-
20 sultation with relevant members of the Working
21 Group, shall seek to enter into an arrangement with
22 the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering,
23 and Medicine under which the National Academies
24 will undertake a multifaceted study that includes the
25 following:

1 “(A) An analysis that quantifies the occur-
 2 rence and extent of IUU fishing and fishing in-
 3 volving the use of forced labor among all flag
 4 states.

5 “(B) An evaluation of the costs to the
 6 United States economy of IUU fishing and fish-
 7 ing involving the use of forced labor.

8 “(C) An assessment of the costs to the
 9 global economy of IUU fishing and fishing in-
 10 volving the use of forced labor.

11 “(D) An assessment of the effectiveness of
 12 response strategies to counter IUU fishing, in-
 13 cluding both domestic programs and foreign ca-
 14 pacity-building and partnering programs.

15 “(2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—
 16 There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out
 17 this subsection \$4,000,000.”.

18 (d) REPORT.—Not later than 24 months after the
 19 date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall sub-
 20 mit to Congress a report on the study conducted under
 21 subsection (d) of section 3551 of the Maritime SAFE Act
 22 that includes—

23 (1) the findings of the National Academies; and

- 1 (2) recommendations on knowledge gaps that
- 2 warrant further scientific inquiry.

