

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 688

AN ACT

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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Fighting Foreign Ille-
3 gal Seafood Harvests Act of 2025” or the “FISH Act of
4 2025”.

5 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

6 In this Act:

7 (1) **ADMINISTRATOR.**—Unless otherwise pro-
8 vided, the term “Administrator” means the Adminis-
9 trator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Ad-
10 ministration or the designee of the Administrator.

11 (2) **BENEFICIAL OWNER.**—The term “beneficial
12 owner” means, with respect to a vessel, a person
13 that, directly or indirectly, through any contract, ar-
14 rangement, understanding, relationship, or other-
15 wise—

16 (A) exercises substantial control over the
17 vessel; or

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

20 (3) **FISH.**—The term “fish” means finfish,
21 crustaceans, and mollusks.

22 (4) **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).

25 (5) **IUU FISHING.**—The term “IUU fishing”
26 means activities described as illegal fishing, unre-

1 ported fishing, and unregulated fishing in paragraph
2 3 of the International Plan of Action to Prevent,
3 Deter, and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Un-
4 regulated Fishing, adopted at the 24th Session of
5 the Committee on Fisheries in Rome on March 2,
6 2001.

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

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

16 (8) SECRETARY.—Unless otherwise provided,
17 the term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Com-
18 merce acting through the Administrator of the Na-
19 tional Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration or
20 the designee of the Administrator.

21 **SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

22 It is the policy of the United States to partner, con-
23 sult, and coordinate with foreign governments (at the na-
24 tional and subnational levels), civil society, international
25 organizations, international financial institutions, sub-

1 national coastal communities, commercial and recreational
2 fishing industry leaders, communities that engage in
3 artisanal or subsistence fishing, fishers, and the private
4 sector, in a concerted effort—

5 (1) to continue the broad effort across the Fed-
6 eral Government to counter IUU fishing, including
7 any potential links to forced labor, human traf-
8 ficking, and other threats to maritime security, as
9 outlined in sections 3533 and 3534 of the Maritime
10 SAFE Act (16 U.S.C. 8002 and 8003); and

11 (2) to, additionally—

12 (A) prioritize efforts to prevent IUU fish-
13 ing at its sources; and

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

19 **SEC. 4. ESTABLISHMENT OF AN IUU VESSEL LIST.**

20 Section 608 of the High Seas Driftnet Fishing Mora-
21 torium Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 1826i) is amended by
22 striking subsections (c) and (d) and inserting the fol-
23 lowing:

24 “(c) IUU VESSEL LIST.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in coordina-
2 tion with the Secretary of State, the Secretary of
3 Labor, and the heads of other relevant agencies,
4 shall develop, maintain, and make public a list of
5 foreign vessels, foreign fleets, and beneficial owners
6 of foreign vessels or foreign fleets engaged in IUU
7 fishing or fishing-related activities in support of
8 IUU fishing (referred to in this section as the ‘IUU
9 vessel list’).

10 “(2) INCLUSION ON LIST.—The IUU vessel list
11 shall include any foreign vessel, foreign fleet, or ben-
12 eficial owner of a foreign vessel or foreign fleet for
13 which the Secretary determines there is clear and
14 convincing evidence to believe that a foreign vessel
15 is any of the following (even if the Secretary has
16 only partial information regarding the vessel):

17 “(A) A vessel listed on an IUU vessel list
18 of an international fishery management organi-
19 zation.

20 “(B) A vessel knowingly taking part in
21 fishing that undermines the effectiveness of an
22 international fishery management organization’s
23 conservation and management measures, in-
24 cluding a vessel—

1 “(i) exceeding applicable international
2 fishery management organization catch
3 limits; or

4 “(ii) that is operating inconsistent
5 with relevant catch allocation arrange-
6 ments of the international fishery manage-
7 ment organization, even if operating under
8 the authority of a foreign country that is
9 not a member of the international fishery
10 management organization.

11 “(C) A vessel, either on the high seas or
12 in the exclusive economic zone of another coun-
13 try, identified and reported by United States
14 authorities to an international fishery manage-
15 ment organization to be conducting IUU fishing
16 when the United States has reason to believe
17 the foreign country to which the vessel is reg-
18 istered or documented is not addressing the al-
19 legation.

20 “(D) A vessel, fleet, or beneficial owner of
21 a vessel or fleet on the high seas identified by
22 United States authorities to be conducting IUU
23 fishing.

24 “(E) A vessel that knowingly provides
25 services (excluding emergency or enforcement

1 services) to a vessel that is on the IUU vessel
2 list, including transshipment, resupply, refuel-
3 ing, or pilotage.

4 “(F) A vessel that is a fishing vessel en-
5 gaged in commercial fishing within the exclusive
6 economic zone of the United States without a
7 permit issued under title II of the Magnuson-
8 Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management
9 Act (16 U.S.C. 1821 et seq.).

10 “(G) A vessel that has the same beneficial
11 owner as another vessel on the IUU vessel list
12 at the time of the infraction.

13 “(3) NOMINATIONS TO BE PUT ON THE IUU
14 VESSEL LIST.—The Secretary may receive nomina-
15 tions for putting a vessel on the IUU vessel list
16 from—

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

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

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

4 “(4) PROCEDURES FOR ADDITION.—

5 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may
6 put a vessel on the IUU vessel list only after
7 notification to the vessel’s beneficial owner and
8 a review of any information that the owner pro-
9 vides within 90 days of the notification.

10 “(B) HEARING.—A beneficial owner may
11 request a hearing on the evidence if the owner’s
12 vessel is placed on the IUU vessel list under
13 subparagraph (A) and may present new evi-
14 dence to the Interagency Working Group on
15 IUU Fishing described in paragraph (3)(A).
16 Such Working Group shall review the new evi-
17 dence and vote on whether the vessel shall re-
18 main on the IUU vessel list or not.

19 “(5) PUBLIC INFORMATION.—The Secretary
20 shall publish its procedures for adding vessels on,
21 and removing vessels from, the IUU vessel list. The
22 Secretary shall publish the IUU vessel list itself in
23 the Federal Register annually and on a website,
24 which shall be updated any time a vessel is added
25 to the IUU vessel list, and include the following in-

1 formation (as much as is available and confirmed)
2 for each vessel on the IUU vessel list:

3 “(A) The name of the vessel and previous
4 names of the vessel.

5 “(B) The International Maritime Organi-
6 zation (IMO) number of the vessel, or other
7 Unique Vessel Identifier (such as the flag state
8 permit number or authorized vessel number
9 issued by an international fishery management
10 organization).

11 “(C) The maritime mobile service identity
12 number and call sign of the vessel.

13 “(D) The business or corporate address of
14 each beneficial owner of the vessel.

15 “(E) The country where the vessel is reg-
16 istered or documented, and where it was pre-
17 viously registered if known.

18 “(F) The date of inclusion on the IUU ves-
19 sel list of the vessel.

20 “(G) Any other Unique Vessel Identifier
21 (UVI), if applicable.

22 “(H) Any other identifying information on
23 the vessel, as determined appropriate by the
24 Secretary.

1 “(I) The basis for the Secretary’s inclusion
2 of the vessel on the IUU vessel list under para-
3 graph (2).

4 “(d) ACTION.—The Secretary may take the action
5 described in subsection (c)(2) of this section in effect on
6 the day before the date of enactment of the Fighting For-
7 eign Illegal Seafood Harvests Act of 2025 against a vessel
8 on the IUU vessel list, the owner of such vessel, and the
9 operator of such vessel.

10 “(e) PERMANENCY OF IUU VESSEL LIST.—

11 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
12 graph (3), a vessel, fleet, or beneficial owner of a
13 vessel or fleet that is put on the IUU vessel list shall
14 remain on the IUU vessel list.

15 “(2) APPLICATION BY OWNER FOR POTENTIAL
16 REMOVAL.—

17 “(A) IN GENERAL.—In consultation with
18 the Secretary of State and the heads of other
19 relevant agencies, the Secretary may remove a
20 vessel, fleet, or beneficial owner of a vessel or
21 fleet from the IUU vessel list if the beneficial
22 owner of the vessel submits an application for
23 removal to the Secretary that meets the stand-
24 ards that the Secretary has set out for removal.

1 The Secretary shall make such standards pub-
2 licly available.

3 “(B) CONSIDERATION OF RELEVANT IN-
4 FORMATION.—In considering an application for
5 removal, the Secretary shall consider relevant
6 information from all sources.

7 “(3) REMOVAL DUE TO INTERNATIONAL FISH-
8 ERY MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION ACTION.—The
9 Secretary may remove a vessel from the IUU vessel
10 list if the vessel was put on the list because it was
11 a vessel listed on an IUU vessel list of an inter-
12 national fishery management organization, pursuant
13 to subsection (c)(2)(A), and the international fishery
14 management organization removed the vessel from
15 its IUU vessel list.

16 “(f) REGULATIONS AND PROCESS.—Not later than
17 12 months after the date of enactment of the Fighting
18 Foreign Illegal Seafood Harvests Act of 2025, the Sec-
19 retary shall issue regulations to set a process for estab-
20 lishing, maintaining, implementing, and publishing the
21 IUU vessel list. The Administrator may add or remove a
22 vessel, fleet, or beneficial owner of a vessel or fleet from
23 the IUU vessel list on the date the vessel becomes eligible
24 for such addition or removal.

25 “(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

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

5 “(2) BENEFICIAL OWNER.—The term ‘bene-
6 ficial owner’ means, with respect to a vessel, a per-
7 son that, directly or indirectly, through any contract,
8 arrangement, understanding, relationship, or other-
9 wise—

10 “(A) exercises substantial control over the
11 vessel; or

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

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

17 “(4) INTERNATIONAL FISHERY MANAGEMENT
18 ORGANIZATION.—The term ‘international fishery
19 management organization’ means an international
20 organization established by any bilateral or multilat-
21 eral treaty, convention, or agreement for the con-
22 servation and management of fish.

23 “(5) IUU FISHING.—The term ‘IUU fishing’
24 has the meaning given the term ‘illegal, unreported,
25 or unregulated fishing’ in the implementing regula-

1 tions or any subsequent regulations issued pursuant
2 to section 609(e).

3 “(6) SEAFOOD.—The term ‘seafood’ means
4 fish, shellfish, processed fish, fish meal, shellfish
5 products, and all other forms of marine animal and
6 plant life other than marine mammals and birds.

7 “(h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
8 are authorized to be appropriated to the Department of
9 Commerce to carry out this section \$10,000,000 for each
10 of fiscal years 2025 through 2030.”.

11 **SEC. 5. VISA SANCTIONS FOR FOREIGN PERSONS.**

12 (a) FOREIGN PERSONS DESCRIBED.—A foreign per-
13 son is described in this subsection if the foreign person
14 is the owner or beneficial owner of a vessel on the IUU
15 vessel list developed under section 608(c) of the High Seas
16 Driftnet Fishing Moratorium Protection Act (16 U.S.C.
17 1826i(c)).

18 (b) INELIGIBILITY FOR VISAS, ADMISSION, OR PA-
19 ROLE.—

20 (1) VISAS, ADMISSION, OR PAROLE.—A foreign
21 person described in subsection (a) is—

22 (A) inadmissible to the United States;

23 (B) ineligible to receive a visa or other doc-
24 umentation to enter the United States; and

1 (C) otherwise ineligible to be admitted or
2 paroled into the United States or to receive any
3 other benefit under the Immigration and Na-
4 tionality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.).

5 (2) CURRENT VISAS REVOKED.—

6 (A) IN GENERAL.—The visa or other entry
7 documentation of a foreign person described in
8 subsection (a) shall be revoked, regardless of
9 when such visa or other entry documentation is
10 or was issued.

11 (B) IMMEDIATE EFFECT.—A revocation
12 under subparagraph (A) shall, in accordance
13 with section 221(i) of the Immigration and Na-
14 tionality Act (8 U.S.C. 1201(i))—

15 (i) take effect; and

16 (ii) cancel any other valid visa or
17 entry documentation that is in the person's
18 possession.

19 (c) NATIONAL INTEREST WAIVER.—The President
20 may waive the imposition of sanctions under this section
21 with respect to a foreign person if doing so is in the na-
22 tional interest of the United States.

23 (d) EXCEPTIONS.—

24 (1) EXCEPTIONS FOR AUTHORIZED INTEL-
25 LIGENCE AND LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES.—

1 This section shall not apply with respect to activities
2 subject to the reporting requirements under title V
3 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C.
4 3091 et seq.) or any authorized intelligence, law en-
5 forcement, or national security activities of the
6 United States.

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

20 (3) EXCEPTION FOR SAFETY OF VESSELS AND
21 CREW.—Sanctions under subsection (b) shall not
22 apply with respect to a person providing provisions
23 to a vessel identified under section 608(c) of the
24 High Seas Driftnet Fishing Moratorium Protection
25 Act (16 U.S.C. 1826i) if such provisions are in-

1 tended for the safety and care of the crew aboard
2 the vessel, or the maintenance of the vessel to avoid
3 any environmental or other significant damage.

4 (4) EXEMPTIONS.—Sanctions under subsection
5 (b) shall not apply with respect to a person de-
6 scribed in subsection (a), if such person was listed
7 as the owner of a vessel described in that subsection
8 through the use of force, threats of force, fraud, or
9 coercion.

10 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

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

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

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

22 (A) a United States citizen or an alien law-
23 fully admitted for permanent residence to the
24 United States;

1 (B) an entity organized under the laws of
2 the United States or any jurisdiction within the
3 United States, including a foreign branch of
4 such an entity; or

5 (C) any person in the United States.

6 **SEC. 6. AGREEMENTS.**

7 (a) **PRESIDENTIAL NEGOTIATION.**—In negotiating
8 any relevant agreement with a foreign nation or nations
9 after the date of enactment of this Act, the President is
10 encouraged to consider the impacts on or to IUU fishing
11 and fishing that involves the use of forced labor and strive
12 to ensure that the agreement strengthens efforts to com-
13 bat IUU fishing and fishing that involves the use of forced
14 labor as long as such considerations do not come at the
15 expense of higher priority national interests of the United
16 States.

17 (b) **FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ENCOURAGEMENT.**—
18 The Federal Government should encourage other nations
19 to ratify treaties and agreements that address IUU fishing
20 to which the United States is a party, including the High
21 Seas Fishing Compliance Agreement and the Port State
22 Measures Agreement, and pursue bilateral and multilat-
23 eral initiatives to raise international ambition to combat
24 IUU fishing, including in the G7 and G20, the United Na-
25 tions, the International Labor Organization (ILO), and

1 the International Maritime Organization (IMO), and
2 through voluntary multilateral efforts, as long as clear
3 burden sharing arrangements with partner nations are de-
4 termined. The bilateral and multilateral initiatives should
5 address underlying drivers of IUU fishing and fishing that
6 involves the use of forced labor.

7 (c) **TRANSPARENCY FOR NON-BINDING INSTRU-**
8 **MENTS CONCLUDED UNDER THIS SECTION.**—Any memo-
9 randum of understanding or other non-binding instrument
10 to further the objectives of this section shall be considered
11 a qualifying non-binding instrument for purposes of sec-
12 tion 112b of title 1, United States Code.

13 **SEC. 7. ENFORCEMENT PROVISIONS.**

14 (a) **INCREASE BOARDING OF VESSELS SUSPECTED**
15 **OF IUU FISHING.**—The Commandant of the Coast Guard
16 shall strive to increase, from year to year, its observation
17 of vessels on the high seas that are suspected of IUU fish-
18 ing and related harmful practices, and is encouraged to
19 consider boarding these vessels to the greatest extent prac-
20 ticable.

21 (b) **FOLLOW UP.**—The Administrator shall, in con-
22 sultation with the Commandant of the Coast Guard and
23 the Secretary of State, coordinate regularly with regional
24 fisheries management organizations to determine what
25 corrective measures each country has taken after vessels

1 that are registered or documented by the country have
2 been boarded for suspected IUU fishing.

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

8 (1) the total number of bilateral agreements
9 utilized or enacted during Coast Guard counter-IUU
10 patrols and future patrol plans for operations with
11 partner nations where bilateral agreements are re-
12 quired to effectively execute the counter-IUU mis-
13 sion and any changes to IUU provisions in bilateral
14 agreements;

15 (2) incidents of IUU fishing observed while con-
16 ducting High Seas Boarding and Inspections
17 (HSBI), how the conduct is tracked after referral to
18 the respective country where the vessel is registered
19 or documented, and what actions are taken to docu-
20 ment or otherwise act on the enforcement, or lack
21 thereof, taken by the country;

22 (3) the country where the vessel is registered or
23 documented, the country where the vessel was pre-
24 viously registered and documented if known, and
25 status of a vessel interdicted or observed to be en-

1 gaged in IUU fishing on the high seas by the Coast
2 Guard;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

23 “(16) developing a strategy for leveraging en-
24 forcement capacity against associated abuses, such
25 as fishing that involves the use of forced labor and

1 other illegal labor practices, and increasing relevant
2 enforcement, using as resources—

3 “(A) the List of Goods Produced by Child
4 Labor or Forced Labor produced pursuant to
5 section 105 of the Trafficking Victims Protec-
6 tion Reauthorization Act of 2005 (22 U.S.C.
7 7112);

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

11 “(C) United States Customs and Border
12 Protection’s Forced Labor Division and en-
13 forcement activities and regulations authorized
14 under section 307 of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19
15 U.S.C. 1307); and

16 “(D) reports submitted under the Uyghur
17 Human Rights Policy Act of 2020 (Public Law
18 116–145).”.

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

22 (1) identify regional fisheries management or-
23 ganizations that the United States is party to that
24 do not have a high seas boarding and inspection pro-
25 gram; and

1 “(4) Recommendations for sharing and devel-
2 oping forensic resources between Federal agencies
3 and States.

4 “(5) Recommendations for enhancing capacity
5 to conduct more effective field investigations and en-
6 forcement efforts with U.S. state enforcement offi-
7 cials.

8 “(6) Recommendations for improving data col-
9 lection and automated risk-targeting of seafood.

10 “(7) Recommendations for the dissemination of
11 IUU fishing and fishing that involves the use of
12 forced labor analysis and information to those gov-
13 ernmental and non-governmental entities that could
14 use it for action and awareness, with the aim to es-
15 tablish an IUU fishing information sharing center.

16 “(8) Recommendations for an implementation
17 strategy, including measures for ensuring that sea-
18 food not linked to IUU fishing and fishing that in-
19 volves the use of forced labor is not affected.

20 “(9) An analysis of the IUU fishing policies
21 and regulatory regimes of other countries in order to
22 develop policy and regulatory alternatives for United
23 States consideration.”.

1 **SEC. 10. INVESTMENT AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN THE**
2 **FISHERIES SECTOR.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State and the
4 Secretary of Commerce, in consultation with the heads of
5 relevant agencies, are encouraged to increase support to
6 programs that provide technical assistance, institutional
7 capacity, and investment to nations' fisheries sectors for
8 sustainable fisheries management and combating IUU
9 fishing and fishing involving the use of forced labor. The
10 focus of such support is encouraged to be on priority re-
11 gions and priority flag states identified under section
12 3552(b) of the Maritime SAFE Act (16 U.S.C. 8032(b)).

13 (b) ANALYSIS OF US CAPACITY-BUILDING EXPER-
14 TISE AND RESOURCES.—In order to maximize efforts on
15 preventing IUU fishing at its sources, the Interagency
16 Working Group on IUU Fishing established under section
17 3551 of the Maritime SAFE Act (16 U.S.C. 8031) shall
18 analyze United States capacity-building expertise and re-
19 sources to provide support to nations' fisheries sectors.
20 This analysis may include an assessment of potential ave-
21 nues for in-country public-private collaboration and multi-
22 lateral collaboration on developing local fisheries science,
23 fisheries management, maritime enforcement, and mari-
24 time judicial capabilities.

1 **SEC. 11. STRATEGY TO IDENTIFY SEAFOOD AND SEAFOOD**
2 **PRODUCTS FROM FOREIGN VESSELS USING**
3 **FORCED LABOR.**

4 The Secretary, in coordination with the heads of
5 other relevant agencies, shall—

6 (1) develop a strategy for utilizing relevant
7 United States Government data to identify seafood
8 harvested on foreign vessels using forced labor; and

9 (2) publish information regarding the strategy
10 developed under paragraph (1) on a publicly acces-
11 sible website.

12 **SEC. 12. REPORTS.**

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

1 grate these technologies into global fisheries enforcement
2 and management.

3 (b) RUSSIAN AND CHINESE FISHING INDUSTRIES'
4 INFLUENCE ON EACH OTHER AND ON THE UNITED
5 STATES SEAFOOD AND FISHING INDUSTRY.—Not later
6 than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the
7 Secretary of State, with support from the Secretary of
8 Commerce, shall—

9 (1) conduct a study on the collaboration be-
10 tween the Russian and Chinese fishing industries
11 and on the role of seafood reprocessing in China (in-
12 cluding that of raw materials originating in Russia)
13 in global seafood markets and its impact on United
14 States interests; and

15 (2) complete a report on the study that includes
16 classified and unclassified portions, as the Secretary
17 of State determines necessary.

18 (c) FISHERMEN CONDUCTING UNLAWFUL FISHING
19 IN THE EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE.—Section 3551 of
20 the Maritime SAFE Act (16 U.S.C. 8031) is amended by
21 adding at the end the following:

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

24 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator, in con-
25 sultation with relevant members of the Working

1 Group, shall seek to enter into an arrangement with
2 the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering,
3 and Medicine under which the National Academies
4 will undertake a multifaceted study that includes the
5 following:

6 “(A) An analysis that quantifies the occur-
7 rence and extent of IUU fishing and fishing in-
8 volving the use of forced labor among all flag
9 states.

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

13 “(C) An assessment of the costs to the
14 global economy of IUU fishing and fishing in-
15 volving the use of forced labor.

16 “(D) An assessment of the effectiveness of
17 response strategies to counter IUU fishing, in-
18 cluding both domestic programs and foreign ca-
19 pacity-building and partnering programs.

20 “(2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

21 There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out
22 this subsection \$2,000,000.”.

23 (d) REPORT.—Not later than 24 months after the
24 date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall sub-
25 mit to Congress a report on the study conducted under

1 subsection (d) of section 3551 of the Maritime SAFE Act
2 that includes—

- 3 (1) the findings of the National Academies; and
4 (2) recommendations on knowledge gaps that
5 warrant further scientific inquiry.

6 **SEC. 13. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR NA-**
7 **TIONAL SEA GRANT COLLEGE PROGRAM.**

8 Section 212(a) of the National Sea Grant College
9 Program Act (33 U.S.C. 1131(a)) is amended—

10 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “for fiscal
11 year 2025” and inserting “for each of fiscal years
12 2025 through 2031”; and

13 (2) in paragraph (2)—

14 (A) in the paragraph heading, by striking
15 “FOR FISCAL YEARS 2021 THROUGH 2025”; and

16 (B) in the matter preceding subparagraph
17 (A), by striking “fiscal years 2021 through
18 2025” and inserting “fiscal years 2026 through
19 2031”.

20 **SEC. 14. EXCEPTION RELATED TO THE IMPORTATION OF**
21 **GOODS.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—The authorities and requirements
23 provided in this Act, and the amendments made by this
24 Act, shall not include any authority or requirement to im-

1 pose sanctions on the importation of goods or related to
2 sanctions on the importation of goods.

3 (b) GOOD DEFINED.—In this section, the term
4 “good”—

5 (1) means any article, natural or man-made
6 substance, material, supply or manufactured prod-
7 uct, including inspection and test equipment; and

8 (2) excludes technical data.

9 **SEC. 15. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**

10 Nothing in this Act shall be construed to limit the
11 authority under, or otherwise affect, a provision of law
12 that—

13 (1) is in effect on the date of enactment of this
14 Act; and

15 (2) is not amended by this Act.

Passed the Senate March 22, 2026.

Attest:

Secretary.

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 688

AN ACT

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