

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1456

To prohibit the sale of shark fins, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 9, 2017

Mr. ROYCE of California (for himself, Mr. SABLAN, Ms. LEE, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. KINZINGER, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. COHEN, Mr. KATKO, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. GARRETT, Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. MCSALLY, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. CURBELO of Florida, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. KEATING, and Mrs. RADEWAGEN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To prohibit the sale of shark fins, 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 “Shark Fin Sales Elim-

5 nation Act of 2017”.

6 **SEC. 2. PROHIBITION ON SALE OF SHARK FINS.**

7 (a) PROHIBITION.—Except as provided in section 3,

8 no person shall possess, offer for sale, sell, or purchase

9 any shark fin or product containing any shark fin.

(b) PENALTY.—For purposes of section 308(a) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1858(a)), a violation of this section shall be treated as an act prohibited by section 307 of that Act (16 U.S.C. 1857).

SEC. 3. EXEMPTION FOR TRADITIONAL FISHERIES, EDUCATION, AND SCIENCE.

Section 2 shall not apply with respect to possession of a shark fin that was taken lawfully under a State, territorial, or Federal license or permit to take or land sharks, if the shark fin is separated from the shark in a manner consistent with the license or permit and is—

- (1) destroyed or discarded;
- (2) used for noncommercial subsistence purposes in accordance with State or territorial law; or
- (3) used solely for display or research purposes by a museum, college, or university, or other person under a State or Federal permit to conduct noncommercial scientific research.

SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

- (1) SHARK.—The term “shark” means any species of the orders Pristiophoriformes, Squatiniformes, Squaliformes, Hexanchiformes, Lamni-

1 formes, Carchariniformes, Orectolobiformes, and
2 Heterodontiformes.

3 (2) SHARK FIN.—The term “shark fin” means
4 the raw, dried, or otherwise processed detached fin,
5 or the raw, dried, or otherwise processed detached
6 tail, of a shark.

7 **SEC. 5. STATE AUTHORITY.**

8 Nothing in this Act affects any right of a State or
9 territory of the United States to adopt or enforce any reg-
10 ulation or standard that is more stringent than a regula-
11 tion or standard in effect under this Act.

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