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119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION**S. 688****[Report No. 119–101]**

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, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. WICKER, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. COONS, Mr. KENNEDY, and Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

FEBRUARY 3, 2026

Reported by Mr. CRUZ, with an amendment

[Insert the part printed in *italic*]**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,*

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-

ported fishing, or unregulated fishing in paragraph 3 of the International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing, adopted at the 24th Session of the Committee on Fisheries in Rome on March 2, 2001.

(6) REGIONAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION.—The terms “regional fisheries management organization” and “RFMO” have the meaning given the terms in section 303 of the Port State Measures Agreement Act of 2015 (16 U.S.C. 7402).

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

(8) SECRETARY.—Unless otherwise provided, the term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Commerce acting through the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration or the designee of the Administrator.

SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

It is the policy of the United States to partner, consult, and coordinate with foreign governments (at the national and subnational levels), civil society, international 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 A BLACK LIST (IUU VESSEL**
 20 **LIST).**

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

25 “(c) BLACK LIST (IUU VESSEL LIST).—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in coordina-
2 tion with the Secretary of State, the Commissioner
3 of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and the
4 Secretary of Labor, shall develop, maintain, and
5 make public a list of foreign vessels, foreign fleets,
6 and beneficial owners of foreign vessels or foreign
7 fleets engaged in IUU fishing or fishing-related ac-
8 tivities in support of IUU fishing (referred to in this
9 section as the ‘IUU 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 foreign ves-
17 sel):

18 “(A) A foreign vessel listed on an IUU ves-
19 sel list of an international fishery management
20 organization.

21 “(B) A foreign vessel taking part in fishing
22 that undermines the effectiveness of an inter-
23 national fishery management organization’s
24 conservation and management measures, in-
25 cluding a foreign 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 foreign vessel, either on the high
12 seas or in the exclusive economic zone of an-
13 other country, identified and reported by
14 United States authorities to an international
15 fishery management organization to be con-
16 ducting IUU fishing when the United States
17 has reason to believe the foreign country to
18 which the foreign vessel is registered or docu-
19 mented is not addressing the allegation.

20 “(D) A foreign vessel, foreign fleet, or ben-
21 efiticial owner of a foreign vessel or foreign fleet
22 on the high seas identified by United States au-
23 thorities to be conducting IUU fishing or fish-
24 ing that involves the use of forced labor, includ-
25 ing individuals and entities subject to a with-

1 hold release order or a finding issued by U.S.
2 Customs and Border Protection pursuant to
3 section 307 of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19
4 U.S.C. 1307) or any other U.S. Customs and
5 Border Protection enforcement action, sanctions
6 imposed by the Department of the Treasury
7 under the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Ac-
8 countability Act (22 U.S.C. 10101 et seq.), or
9 any other United States Government forced
10 labor prevention or enforcement action that has
11 not been subsequently revoked.

12 “(E) A foreign vessel that provides services
13 (excluding emergency or enforcement services)
14 to a foreign vessel that is on the IUU vessel
15 list, including transshipment, resupply, refuel-
16 ing, or pilotage.

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

23 “(G) A foreign vessel that has the same
24 beneficial owner as a foreign vessel on the IUU
25 vessel list at the time of the infraction.

“(H) A foreign vessel or beneficial owner of a foreign vessel subject to economic sanctions administered by the Department of the Treasury Office of Foreign Assets Control for transnational criminal activity associated with IUU fishing under Executive Order 13581 (76 Fed. Reg. 44757, 84 Fed. Reg. 10255; relating to blocking property of transnational criminal organizations), or any other applicable economic sanctions program, including sanctions imposed by the Department of the Treasury under the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act (22 U.S.C. 10101 et seq.).

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

“(A) the head of an executive branch agency that is a member of the Interagency Working Group on IUU Fishing established under section 3551 of the Maritime SAFE Act (16 U.S.C. 8031);

“(B) a country that is a member of the 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.—The Sec-
5 retary may put a foreign vessel on the IUU vessel
6 list only after notification to the foreign vessel’s ben-
7 eficial owner and a review of any information that
8 the owner provides within 90 days of the notifica-
9 tion.

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

20 “(A) The name of the foreign vessel and
21 previous names of the foreign vessel.

22 “(B) The International Maritime Organi-
23 zation (IMO) number of the foreign vessel, or
24 other Unique Vessel Identifier (such as the flag
25 state permit number or authorized vessel num-

1 ber issued by an international fishery manage-
2 ment organization).

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

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

7 “(E) The country where the foreign vessel
8 is registered or documented, and where it was
9 previously registered if known.

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

12 “(G) Any other Unique Vessel Identifier
13 (UVI), if applicable.

14 “(H) Any other identifying information on
15 the foreign vessel, as determined appropriate by
16 the Secretary.

17 “(I) The basis for the Secretary’s inclusion
18 of the foreign vessel on the IUU vessel list
19 under paragraph (2).

20 “(d) CONSEQUENCES OF BEING ON BLACK LIST
21 (IUU VESSEL LIST).—

22 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Except for the purposes of
23 inspection and enforcement or in case of force
24 majeure, a foreign vessel on the IUU vessel list is
25 prohibited from—

1 “(A) accessing United States ports and
2 using port services;

3 “(B) traveling through the United States
4 territorial sea unless it is conducting innocent
5 passage; and

6 “(C) delivering or receiving supplies or
7 services, or transshipment, within waters sub-
8 ject to the jurisdiction of the United States, un-
9 less such prohibition would be inconsistent with
10 customary international law.

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

15 “(3) IMPORTS PROHIBITED.—The import of
16 seafood or seafood products caught, processed, or
17 transported by foreign vessels on the IUU vessel list
18 is prohibited and shall be subject to the enforcement
19 provisions of section 606.

20 “(4) FISHING TREATIES AND AGREEMENTS.—It
21 should be a priority for United States delegations
22 to—

23 “(A) advocate for the incorporation of arti-
24 cles in international fishery management orga-
25 nizations providing identical or similar safe-

1 guards described in this section in new and up-
2 dated bilateral or multilateral fishing treaties;
3 and

4 “(B) encourage parties to international
5 and regional fisheries organizations that the
6 United States is party to, or holds observer sta-
7 tus, to take similar measures described in this
8 section.

9 “(e) ENFORCEMENT OF BLACK LIST (IUU VESSEL
10 LIST).—

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

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

24 “(f) PERMANENCY OF BLACK LIST (IUU VESSEL
25 LIST).—

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

6 “(2) REVOCATION OF WRO.—The Secretary
7 shall remove a foreign vessel or foreign fleet from
8 the IUU vessel list if the foreign vessel was added
9 to the IUU vessel list because it was found by U.S.
10 Customs and Border Protection to have had a with-
11 hold release order or a finding issued pursuant to
12 section 307 of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C.
13 1307) and the withhold release order was subse-
14 quently revoked.

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

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

1 “(B) STANDARDS.—The Secretary shall in-
2 clude in the standards set out for removal a de-
3 termination that the foreign vessel or foreign
4 vessel owner has not engaged in IUU fishing or
5 fishing that involves the use of forced labor dur-
6 ing the 5-year period preceding the date of the
7 application for removal. The Secretary, in con-
8 sultation with the Secretary of State and the
9 U.S. Customs and Border Protection, shall de-
10 termine whether each application for removal
11 demonstrates that sufficient corrective action
12 has been taken to remediate the violations and
13 infractions that led to the inclusion on the IUU
14 vessel list.

15 “(C) CONSIDERATION OF RELEVANT IN-
16 FORMATION.—In considering an application for
17 removal, the Secretary shall consider relevant
18 information from all sources.

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

1 international fishery management organization re-
2 moved the foreign vessel from its IUU vessel list.

3 “(g) REGULATIONS AND PROCESS.—Not later than
4 12 months after the date of enactment of the Fighting
5 Foreign Illegal Seafood Harvests Act of 2025, the Sec-
6 retary shall issue regulations to set a process for estab-
7 lishing, maintaining, implementing, and publishing the
8 IUU vessel list. The Administrator may add or remove a
9 foreign vessel, foreign fleet, or beneficial owner of a for-
10 eign vessel or foreign fleet from the IUU vessel list on
11 the date the foreign vessel becomes eligible for such addi-
12 tion or removal.

13 “(h) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

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

18 “(2) BENEFICIAL OWNER.—The term ‘bene-
19 ficial owner’ means, with respect to a vessel, a per-
20 son that, directly or indirectly, through any contract,
21 arrangement, understanding, relationship, or other-
22 wise—

23 “(A) exercises substantial control over the
24 vessel; or

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

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

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

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

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

23 “(7) SEAFOOD.—The term ‘seafood’ means
24 fish, shellfish, processed fish, fish meal, shellfish

1 products, and all other forms of marine animal and
 2 plant life other than marine mammals and birds.

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

7 **SEC. 5. IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS.**

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

11 (1) any foreign person or foreign vessel, regard-
 12 less of ownership, that the Secretary of the Treasury
 13 determines has participated in—

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

19 (B) IUU fishing;

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

23 (3) an entity determined to have owned, oper-
 24 ated, chartered, or controlled a vessel whose per-
 25 sonnel are engaged in the activities described in

1 paragraph (1) at a time period relating to the activi-
2 ties;

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

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

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

15 (1) BLOCKING OF PROPERTY.—Notwith-
16 standing section 202 of the International Emergency
17 Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701), the exercise
18 of all powers granted to the President by the Inter-
19 national Emergency Economic Powers Act (50
20 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) to the extent necessary to block
21 and prohibit all transactions in all property and in-
22 terests in property of a foreign person or entity de-
23 scribed in subsection (a) including, to the extent ap-
24 propriate, the vessel of which the person is the bene-
25 ficial owner, if such property and interests in prop-

erty are in the United States, come within the United States, or are or come within the possession or control of a United States person.

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

(A) VISAS, ADMISSION, OR PAROLE.—A

foreign person described in subsection (a) is—

(i) inadmissible to the United States;

(ii) ineligible to receive a visa or other documentation to enter the United States; and

(iii) otherwise ineligible to be admitted or paroled into the United States or to receive any other benefit under the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.).

(B) CURRENT VISAS REVOKED.—

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

(ii) IMMEDIATE EFFECT.—A revocation under clause (i) shall, in accordance

1 with section 221(i) of the Immigration and
2 Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1201(i))—

3 (I) take effect; and

4 (II) cancel any other valid visa or
5 entry documentation that is in the
6 person's possession.

7 (c) IMPLEMENTATION; PENALTIES.—

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

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

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

25 (e) EXCEPTIONS.—

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

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

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

22 (3) EXCEPTION FOR SAFETY OF VESSELS AND
23 CREW.—Sanctions under this section shall not apply
24 with respect to a person or entity providing provi-
25 sions to a vessel identified under section 608(c) of

1 the High Seas Driftnet Fishing Moratorium Protec-
2 tion Act (16 U.S.C. 1826i) if such provisions are in-
3 tended for the safety and care of the crew aboard
4 the vessel, or the maintenance of the vessel to avoid
5 any environmental or other significant damage.

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

12 (f) RULEMAKING.—

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

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

24 (g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

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

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

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

12 (A) a United States citizen or an alien law-
 13 fully admitted for permanent residence to the
 14 United States;

15 (B) an entity organized under the laws of
 16 the United States or any jurisdiction within the
 17 United States, including a foreign branch of
 18 such an entity; or

19 (C) any person in the United States.

20 **SEC. 6. AGREEMENTS.**

21 (a) PRESIDENTIAL NEGOTIATION.—In negotiating
 22 any relevant agreement with a foreign nation or nations
 23 after the date of enactment of this Act, the President is
 24 encouraged to consider the impacts on or to IUU fishing
 25 and fishing that involves the use of forced labor and strive

1 to ensure that the agreement strengthens efforts to com-
2 bat IUU fishing and fishing that involves the use of forced
3 labor.

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

21 (c) TRANSPARENCY FOR NON-BINDING INSTRU-
22 MENTS CONCLUDED UNDER THIS SECTION.—Any memo-
23 randum of understanding or other non-binding instrument
24 to further the objectives of this section shall be considered

1 a qualifying non-binding instrument for purposes of sec-
2 tion 112b of title 1, United States Code.

3 **SEC. 7. ENFORCEMENT PROVISIONS.**

4 (a) INCREASE BOARDING OF VESSELS SUSPECTED
5 OF IUU FISHING.—The Commandant of the Coast Guard
6 shall strive, in accordance with the UN Fish Stocks Agree-
7 ment, to increase, from year to year, its observation of
8 vessels on the high seas that are suspected of IUU fishing
9 and related harmful practices, and is encouraged to con-
10 sider boarding these vessels to the greatest extent prac-
11 ticable.

12 (b) FOLLOW UP.—The Administrator shall, in con-
13 sultation with the Commandant of the Coast Guard and
14 the Secretary of State, coordinate regularly with regional
15 fisheries management organizations to determine what
16 corrective measures each country has taken after vessels
17 that are registered or documented by the country have
18 been boarded for suspected IUU fishing.

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

24 (1) the total number of bilateral agreements
25 utilized or enacted during Coast Guard counter-IUU

1 patrols and future patrol plans for operations with
2 partner nations where bilateral agreements are re-
3 quired to effectively execute the counter-IUU mis-
4 sion and any changes to IUU provisions in bilateral
5 agreements;

6 (2) incidents of IUU fishing observed while con-
7 ducting High Seas Boarding and Inspections
8 (HSBI), how the conduct is tracked after referral to
9 the respective country where the vessel is registered
10 or documented, and what actions are taken to docu-
11 ment or otherwise act on the enforcement, or lack
12 thereof, taken by the country;

13 (3) the country where the vessel is registered or
14 documented, the country where the vessel was pre-
15 viously registered and documented if known, and
16 status of a vessel interdicted or observed to be en-
17 gaged in IUU fishing on the high seas by the Coast
18 Guard;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

22 “(A) the List of Goods Produced by Child
23 Labor or Forced Labor produced pursuant to
24 section 105 of the Trafficking Victims Protec-
25 tion Reauthorization Act of 2005 (22 U.S.C.
26 7112);

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

4 “(C) United States Customs and Border
 5 Protection’s Forced Labor Division and en-
 6 forcement activities and regulations authorized
 7 under section 307 of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19
 8 U.S.C. 1307); and

9 “(D) reports submitted under the Uyghur
 10 Human Rights Policy Act of 2020 (22 U.S.C.
 11 6901 note).”.

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

15 (1) identify regional fisheries management or-
 16 ganizations that the United States is party to that
 17 do not have a high seas boarding and inspection pro-
 18 gram; and

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

22 **SEC. 9. STRATEGIES TO OPTIMIZE DATA COLLECTION,**
 23 **SHARING, AND ANALYSIS.**

24 Section 3552 of the Maritime SAFE Act (16 U.S.C.
 25 8032) is amended by adding at the end:

1 “(c) STRATEGIES TO OPTIMIZE DATA COLLECTION,
2 SHARING, AND ANALYSIS.—Not later than 3 years after
3 the date of enactment of the Fighting Foreign Illegal Sea-
4 food Harvests Act of 2025, the Working Group shall iden-
5 tify information and resources to prevent fish and fish
6 products from IUU fishing and fishing that involves the
7 use of forced labor from entering United States commerce
8 without increasing burden or trade barriers on seafood not
9 produced from IUU fishing. The report shall include the
10 following:

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

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

15 “(3) In consultation with the Secretary of De-
16 fense, recommendations for joint enforcement proto-
17 cols, collaboration, and information sharing between
18 Federal agencies and States.

19 “(4) Recommendations for sharing and devel-
20 oping forensic resources between Federal agencies
21 and States.

22 “(5) Recommendations for enhancing capacity
23 for United States Customs and Border Protection
24 and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administra-
25 tion to conduct more effective field investigations

1 and enforcement efforts with U.S. state enforcement
2 officials.

3 “(6) Recommendations for improving data col-
4 lection and automated risk-targeting of seafood im-
5 ports within the United States International Trade
6 Data System and Automated Commercial Environ-
7 ment.

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

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

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

22 **SEC. 10. INVESTMENT AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN THE**
23 **FISHERIES SECTOR.**

24 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State, the Ad-
25 ministrator of the United States Agency for International

1 Development, and the Secretary of Commerce, in consulta-
2 tion with the heads of relevant agencies, the Millennium
3 Challenge Corporation, and multilateral institutions such
4 as the World Bank, are encouraged to increase support
5 to programs that provide technical assistance, institutional
6 capacity, and investment to nations' fisheries sectors for
7 sustainable fisheries management and combating IUU
8 fishing and forced labor. The focus of such support is en-
9 couraged to be on priority regions and priority flag states
10 identified under section 3552(b) of the Maritime SAFE
11 Act (16 U.S.C. 8032(b)).

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

1 **SEC. 11. PREVENTING IMPORTATION OF SEAFOOD AND**
 2 **SEAFOOD PRODUCTS FROM FOREIGN VES-**
 3 **SELS USING FORCED LABOR.**

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

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

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

13 **SEC. 12. REPORTS.**

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

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

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

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

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

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator, in con-
2 sultation with relevant members of the Working
3 Group, shall seek to enter into an arrangement with
4 the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering,
5 and Medicine under which the National Academies
6 will undertake a multifaceted study that includes the
7 following:

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

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

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

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

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

1 (d) REPORT.—Not later than 24 months after the
 2 date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall sub-
 3 mit to Congress a report on the study conducted under
 4 subsection (d) of section 3551 of the Maritime SAFE Act
 5 that includes—

- 6 (1) the findings of the National Academies; and
- 7 (2) recommendations on knowledge gaps that
- 8 warrant further scientific inquiry.

9 **SEC. 13. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR NA-**
 10 **TIONAL SEA GRANT COLLEGE PROGRAM.**

11 *Section 212(a) of the National Sea Grant College Pro-*
 12 *gram Act (33 U.S.C. 1131(a)) is amended—*

13 *(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “this title” and*
 14 *all that follows and inserting “this title \$105,700,000*
 15 *for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2031.”; and*

16 *(2) in paragraph (2)—*

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

19 *(B) in the matter preceding subparagraph*
 20 *(A), by striking “fiscal years 2021 through*
 21 *2025” and inserting “fiscal years 2026 through*
 22 *2031”.*

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A BILL

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

FEBRUARY 3, 2026

Reported with an amendment