## LACEY ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1981

## [Public Law 97-79, Approved Nov. 16, 1981, 95 Stat. 1073]

[As Amended Through P.L. 117–243, Enacted December 20, 2022]

[Currency: This publication is a compilation of the text of Public Law 97-79. It was last amended by the public law listed in the As Amended Through note above and below at the bottom of each page of the pdf version and reflects current law through the date of the enactment of the public law listed at https:// www.govinfo.gov/app/collection/comps/]

[Note: While this publication does not represent an official version of any Federal statute, substantial efforts have been made to ensure the accuracy of its contents. The official version of Federal law is found in the United States Statutes at Large and in the United States Code. The legal effect to be given to the Statutes at Large and the United States Code is established by statute (1 U.S.C. 112, 204).]

AN ACT To provide for the control of illegally taken fish and wildlife.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, [16 U.S.C. 3371 note] That this Act may be cited as the "Lacey Act Amendments of 1981".

### SEC. 2. [16 U.S.C. 3371] DEFINITIONS.

For purposes of this Act:

(a) BREED.—The term "breed" means to facilitate propagation or reproduction (whether intentionally or negligently), or to fail to prevent propagation or reproduction.

(b) The term "fish or wildlife" means any wild animal, whether alive or dead, including without limitation any wild mammal, bird, reptile, amphibian, fish, mollusk, crustacean, arthropod, coelenterate, or other invertebrate, whether or not bred, hatched, or born in captivity, and includes any part, product, egg, or offspring thereof.

(c) The term "import" means to land on, bring into, or introduce into, any place subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, whether or not such landing, bringing, or introduction constitutes an importation within the meaning of the customs laws of the United States.

(d) The term "Indian tribal law" means any regulation of, or other rule of conduct enforceable by, any Indian tribe, band, or group but only to the extent that the regulation or rule applies within Indian country as defined in section 1151 of title 18, United States Code.

(e) The terms "law,""treaty,""regulation," and "Indian tribal law" mean laws, treaties, regulations or Indian tribal laws which regulate the taking, possession, importation, exportation, transportation, or sale of fish or wildlife or plants.

(f) The term "person" includes any individual, partnership, association, corporation, trust, or any officer, employee, agent, department, or instrumentality of the Federal Government or of any State or political subdivision thereof, or any other entity subject to the jurisdiction of the United States.

(g) PLANT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The terms "plant" and "plants" mean any wild member of the plant kingdom, including roots, seeds, parts, or products thereof, and including trees from either natural or planted forest stands.

(2) EXCLUSIONS.—The terms "plant" and "plants" exclude—

(A) common cultivars, except trees, and common food crops (including roots, seeds, parts, or products thereof);

(B) a scientific specimen of plant genetic material (including roots, seeds, germplasm, parts, or products thereof) that is to be used only for laboratory or field research; and

(C) any plant that is to remain planted or to be planted or replanted.

(3) EXCEPTIONS TO APPLICATION OF EXCLUSIONS.—The exclusions made by subparagraphs (B) and (C) of paragraph (2) do not apply if the plant is listed—

(Å) in an appendix to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (27 UST 1087; TIAS 8249);

(B) as an endangered or threatened species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.); or

(C) pursuant to any State law that provides for the conservation of species that are indigenous to the State and are threatened with extinction.

(h) PROHIBITED WILDLIFE SPECIES.—The term "prohibited wildlife species" means any live species of lion, tiger, leopard, cheetah, jaguar, or cougar or any hybrid of such species.

(i) The term "Secretary" means, except as otherwise provided in the Act, the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Commerce, as program responsibilities are vested pursuant to the provisions of Reorganization Plan Numbered 4 of 1970 (84 Stat. 2090); except that with respect to the provisions of this Act which pertain to the importation or exportation of plants, the term also means the Secretary of Agriculture.

(j) The term "State" means any of the several States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa, and any other territory, commonwealth, or possession of the United States.

(k) TAKEN AND TAKING.—

(1) TAKEN.—The term "taken" means captured, killed, or collected and, with respect to a plant, also means harvested, cut, logged, or removed.

(2) TAKING.—The term "taking" means the act by which fish, wildlife, or plants are taken.

December 27, 2022

(1) The term "transport" means to move, convey, carry, or ship by any means, or to deliver or receive for the purpose of movement, conveyance, carriage, or shipment.

### SEC. 3. [16 U.S.C. 3372] PROHIBITED ACTS.

(a) OFFENSES OTHER THAN MARKING OFFENSES.—It is unlawful for any person—

(1) to import, export, transport, sell, receive, acquire, or purchase any fish or wildlife or plant taken, possessed, transported, or sold in violation of any law, treaty, or regulation of the United States or in violation of any Indian tribal law;

(2) to import, export, transport, sell, receive, acquire, or purchase in interstate or foreign commerce—

(A) any fish or wildlife taken, possessed, transported, or sold in violation of any law or regulation of any State or in violation of any foreign law; or

(B) any plant—

(i) taken, possessed, transported, or sold in violation of any law or regulation of any State, or any foreign law, that protects plants or that regulates—

(I) the theft of plants;

(II) the taking of plants from a park, forest reserve, or other officially protected area;

(III) the taking of plants from an officially designated area; or

(IV) the taking of plants without, or contrary to, required authorization;

(ii) taken, possessed, transported, or sold without the payment of appropriate royalties, taxes, or stumpage fees required for the plant by any law or regulation of any State or any foreign law; or

(iii) taken, possessed, transported, or sold in violation of any limitation under any law or regulation of any State, or under any foreign law, governing the export or transshipment of plants;

(3) within the special maritime and territorial jurisdiction of the United States (as defined in section 7 of title 18, United States Code)—

(A) to possess any fish or wildlife taken, possessed, transported, or sold in violation of any law or regulation of any State or in violation of any foreign law or Indian tribal law, or

(B) to possess any plant—

(i) taken, possessed, transported, or sold in violation of any law or regulation of any State, or any foreign law, that protects plants or that regulates—

(I) the theft of plants;

(II) the taking of plants from a park, forest reserve, or other officially protected area;

(III) the taking of plants from an officially designated area; or

(IV) the taking of plants without, or contrary to, required authorization;

As Amended Through P.L. 117-243, Enacted December 20, 2022

(ii) taken, possessed, transported, or sold without the payment of appropriate royalties, taxes, or stumpage fees required for the plant by any law or regulation of any State or any foreign law; or

(iii) taken, possessed, transported, or sold in violation of any limitation under any law or regulation of any State, or under any foreign law, governing the export or transshipment of plants; or

(4) to attempt to commit any act described in paragraphs (1) through (3) or subsection (e).

(b) MARKING OFFENSES.—It is unlawful for any person to import, export, or transport in interstate commerce any container or package containing any fish or wildlife unless the container or package has previously been plainly marked, labeled, or tagged in accordance with the regulations issued pursuant to paragraph (2) of subsection 7(a) of this Act.

(c) SALE AND PURCHASE OF GUIDING AND OUTFITTING SERVICES AND INVALID LICENSES AND PERMITS.—

(1) SALE.—It is deemed to be a sale of fish or wildlife in violation of this Act for a person for money or other consideration to offer or provide—

(A) guiding, outfitting, or other services; or

(B) a hunting or fishing license or permit;

for the illegal taking, acquiring, receiving, transporting, or possessing of fish or wildlife.

(2) PURCHASE.—It is deemed to be a purchase of fish or wildlife in violation of this Act for a person to obtain for money or other consideration—

(A) guiding, outfitting, or other services; or

(B) a hunting or fishing license or permit;

for the illegal taking, acquiring, receiving, transporting, or possessing of fish or wildlife.

(d) FALSE LABELING OFFENSES.—It is unlawful for any person to make or submit any false record, account, or label for, or any false identification of, any fish, wildlife, or plant which has been, or is intended to be—

(1) imported, exported, transported, sold, purchased, or received from any foreign country; or

(2) transported in interstate or foreign commerce.

(e) CAPTIVE WILDLIFE OFFENSE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), it is unlawful for any person to—

 (A) import, export, transport, sell, receive, acquire, or purchase in interstate or foreign commerce, or in a manner substantially affecting interstate or foreign commerce; or
(B) breed or possess;

any prohibited wildlife species.

(2) LIMITATION ON APPLICATION.—Paragraph (1) does not apply to—

(A) an entity exhibiting animals to the public under a Class C license from the Department of Agriculture, or a Federal facility registered with the Department of Agriculture that exhibits animals, if such entity or facility

As Amended Through P.L. 117-243, Enacted December 20, 2022

holds such license or registration in good standing and if the entity or facility—

(i) does not allow any individual to come into direct physical contact with a prohibited wildlife species, unless that individual is—

 (I) a trained professional employee or contractor of the entity or facility (or an accompanying employee receiving professional training);
(II) a licensed veterinarian (or a veterinary

student accompanying such a veterinarian); or

(III) directly supporting conservation programs of the entity or facility, the contact is not in the course of commercial activity (which may be evidenced by advertisement or promotion of such activity or other relevant evidence), and the contact is incidental to humane husbandry conducted pursuant to a species-specific, publicly available, peer-edited population management and care plan that has been provided to the Secretary with justifications that the plan—

(aa) reflects established conservation science principles;

(bb) incorporates genetic and demographic analysis of a multi-institution population of animals covered by the plan; and

(cc) promotes animal welfare by ensuring that the frequency of breeding is appropriate for the species; and

(ii) ensures that during public exhibition of a lion (Panthera leo), tiger (Panthera tigris), leopard (Panthera pardus), snow leopard (Uncia uncia), jaguar (Panthera onca), cougar (Puma concolor), or any hybrid thereof, the animal is at least 15 feet from members of the public unless there is a permanent barrier sufficient to prevent public contact;

(B) a State college, university, or agency, or a Statelicensed veterinarian;

(C) a wildlife sanctuary that cares for prohibited wildlife species, and—

(i) is a corporation that is exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and described in sections 501(c)(3) and 170(b)(1)(A)(vi) of such Code;

(ii) does not commercially trade in any prohibited wildlife species, including offspring, parts, and byproducts of such animals;

(iii) does not breed any prohibited wildlife species;

(iv) does not allow direct contact between the public and any prohibited wildlife species; and

(v) does not allow the transportation and display of any prohibited wildlife species off-site;

(D) has custody of any prohibited wildlife species sole-

ly for the purpose of expeditiously transporting the prohib-

As Amended Through P.L. 117-243, Enacted December 20, 2022

ited wildlife species to a person described in this paragraph with respect to the species; or (E) an entity or individual that is in possession of any

(E) an entity or individual that is in possession of any prohibited wildlife species that was born before the date of the enactment of the Big Cat Public Safety Act, and—

(i) not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of the such Act, the entity or individual registers each individual animal of each prohibited wildlife species possessed by the entity or individual with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service;

(ii) does not breed, acquire, or sell any prohibited wildlife species after the date of the enactment of such Act; and

(iii) does not allow direct contact between the public and prohibited wildlife species.

(f) PLANT DECLARATIONS.—

(1) IMPORT DECLARATION.—Effective 180 days from the date of enactment of this subsection, and except as provided in paragraph (3), it shall be unlawful for any person to import any plant unless the person files upon importation a declaration that contains—

(A) the scientific name of any plant (including the genus and species of the plant) contained in the importation;

(B) a description of—

(i) the value of the importation; and

(ii) the quantity, including the unit of measure, of the plant; and

(C) the name of the country from which the plant was taken.

(2) DECLARATION RELATING TO PLANT PRODUCTS.—Until the date on which the Secretary promulgates a regulation under paragraph (6), a declaration relating to a plant product shall—

(A) in the case in which the species of plant used to produce the plant product that is the subject of the importation varies, and the species used to produce the plant product is unknown, contain the name of each species of plant that may have been used to produce the plant product;

(B) in the case in which the species of plant used to produce the plant product that is the subject of the importation is commonly taken from more than one country, and the country from which the plant was taken and used to produce the plant product is unknown, contain the name of each country from which the plant may have been taken; and

(C) in the case in which a paper or paperboard plant product includes recycled plant product, contain the average percent recycled content without regard for the species or country of origin of the recycled plant product, in addition to the information for the non-recycled plant content otherwise required by this subsection.

(3) EXCLUSIONS.—Paragraphs (1) and (2) shall not apply to plants used exclusively as packaging material to support, pro-

As Amended Through P.L. 117-243, Enacted December 20, 2022

tect, or carry another item, unless the packaging material itself is the item being imported.

(4) REVIEW.—Not later than two years after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Secretary shall review the implementation of each requirement imposed by paragraphs (1) and (2) and the effect of the exclusion provided by paragraph (3). In conducting the review, the Secretary shall provide public notice and an opportunity for comment.

(5) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date on which the Secretary completes the review under paragraph (4), the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report containing—

(A) an evaluation of—

(i) the effectiveness of each type of information required under paragraphs (1) and (2) in assisting enforcement of this section; and

(ii) the potential to harmonize each requirement imposed by paragraphs (1) and (2) with other applicable import regulations in existence as of the date of the report;

(B) recommendations for such legislation as the Secretary determines to be appropriate to assist in the identification of plants that are imported into the United States in violation of this section; and

 $({\rm C})$  an analysis of the effect of subsection (a) and this subsection on—

(i) the cost of legal plant imports; and

(ii) the extent and methodology of illegal logging practices and trafficking.

(6)  $\hat{P}_{ROMULGATION}$  OF REGULATIONS.—Not later than 180 days after the date on which the Secretary completes the review under paragraph (4), the Secretary may promulgate regulations—

(A) to limit the applicability of any requirement imposed by paragraph (2) to specific plant products;

(B) to make any other necessary modification to any requirement imposed by paragraph (2), as determined by the Secretary based on the review; and

(C) to limit the scope of the exclusion provided by paragraph (3), if the limitations in scope are warranted as a result of the review.

# SEC. 4. [16 U.S.C. 3373] PENALTIES AND SANCTIONS.

(a) CIVIL PENALTIES.—

(1) Any person who engages in conduct prohibited by any provision of this Act (other than subsections (b), (d), (e), and (f) of section 3) and in the exercise of due care should know that the fish or wildlife or plants were taken, possessed, transported, or sold in violation of, or in a manner unlawful under, any underlying law, treaty, or regulation, and any person who knowingly violates subsection (d), (e), or (f) of section 3, may be assessed a civil penalty by the Secretary of not more than \$10,000 for each such violation: *Provided*, That when the violation involves fish or wildlife or plants with a market value of

As Amended Through P.L. 117-243, Enacted December 20, 2022

less than \$350, and involves only the transportation, acquisition, or receipt of fish or wildlife or plants taken or possessed in violation of any law, treaty, or regulation of the United States, any Indian tribal law, any foreign law, or any law or regulation of any State, the penalty assessed shall not exceed the maximum provided for violation of said law, treaty, or regulation, or \$10,000, whichever is less.

(2) Any person who violates subsection (b) or (f) of section 3, except as provided in paragraph (1), may be assessed a civil penalty by the Secretary of not more than \$250.

(3) For purposes of paragraphs (1) and (2), any reference to a provision of this Act or to a section of this Act shall be treated as including any regulation issued to carry out any such provision or section.

 $(\hat{4})$  No civil penalty may be assessed under this subsection unless the person accused of the violation is given notice and opportunity for a hearing with respect to the violation. Each violation shall be a separate offense and the offense shall be deemed to have been committed not only in the district where the violation first occurred, but also in any district in which a person may have taken or been in possession of the said fish or wildlife or plants.

(5) Any civil penalty assessed under this subsection may be remitted or mitigated by the Secretary.

(6) In determining the amount of any penalty assessed pursuant to paragraphs (1) and (2), the Secretary shall take into account the nature, circumstances, extent, and gravity of the prohibited act committed, and with respect to the violator, the degree of culpability, ability to pay, and such other matters as justice may require.

(b) HEARINGS.—Hearings held during proceedings for the assessment of civil penalties shall be conducted in accordance with section 554 of title 5, United States Code. The administrative law judge may issue subpenas for the attendance and testimony of witnesses and the production of relevant papers, books, or documents, and may administer oaths. Witnesses summoned shall be paid the same fees and mileage that are paid to witnesses in the courts of the United States. In case of contumacy or refusal to obey a subpena issued pursuant to this paragraph<sup>1</sup> and served upon any person, the district court of the United States for any district in which such person is found, resides, or transacts business, upon application by the United States and after notice to such person, shall have jurisdiction to issue an order requiring such person to appear and give testimony before the administrative law judge or to appear and produce documents before the administrative law judge, or both, and any failure to obey such order of the court may be punished by such court as a contempt thereof.

(c) REVIEW OF CIVIL PENALTY.—Any person against whom a civil penalty is assessed under this section may obtain review thereof in the appropriate District Court of the United States by filing a complaint in such court within 30 days after the date of such order and by simultaneously serving a copy of the complaint

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>So in law. Probably should be "this subsection".

## LACEY ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1981

by certified mail on the Secretary, the Attorney General, and the appropriate United States attorney. The Secretary shall promptly file in such court a certified copy of the record upon which such violation was found or such penalty imposed, as provided in section 2112 of title 28, United States Code. If any person fails to pay an assessment of a civil penalty after it has become a final and unappealable order or after the appropriate court has entered final judgment in favor of the Secretary, the Secretary may request the Attorney General of the United States to institute a civil action in an appropriate district court of the United States to collect the penalty, and such court shall have jurisdiction to hear and decide any such action. In hearing such action, the court shall have authority to review the violation and the assessment of the civil penalty de novo.

(d) CRIMINAL PENALTIES.—

(1) Any person who-

(A) knowingly imports or exports any fish or wildlife or plants in violation of any provision of this Act (other than subsections (b), (d), (e), and (f) of section 3), or

(B) violates any provision of this Act (other than subsections (b), (d), (e), and (f) of section 3) by knowingly engaging in conduct that involves the sale or purchase of, the offer of sale or purchase of, or the intent to sell or purchase, fish or wildlife or plants with a market value in excess of \$350,

knowing that the fish or wildlife or plants were taken, possessed, transported, or sold in violation of, or in a manner unlawful under, any underlying law, treaty or regulation, shall be fined not more than \$20,000, or imprisoned for not more than five years, or both. Each violation shall be a separate offense and the offense shall be deemed to have been committed not only in the district where the violation first occurred, but also in any district in which the defendant may have taken or been in possession of the said fish or wildlife or plants.

(2) Any person who knowingly engages in conduct prohibited by any provision of this Act (other than subsections (b), (d), (e), and (f) of section 3) and in the exercise of due care should know that the fish or wildlife or plants were taken, possessed, transported, or sold in violation of, or in a manner unlawful under, any underlying law, treaty or regulation shall be fined not more than \$10,000, or imprisoned for not more than one year, or both. Each violation shall be a separate offense and the offense shall be deemed to have been committed not only in the district where the violation first occurred, but also in any district in which the defendant may have taken or been in possession of the said fish or wildlife or plants.

(3) Any person who knowingly violates subsection (d) or (f) of section 3-

(A) shall be fined under title 18, United States Code, or imprisoned for not more than 5 years, or both, if the offense involves—

(i) the importation or exportation of fish or wildlife or plants; or

December 27, 2022

(ii) the sale or purchase, offer of sale or purchase, or commission of an act with intent to sell or purchase fish or wildlife or plants with a market value greater than \$350; and

(B) shall be fined under title 18, United States Code, or imprisoned for not more than 1 year, or both, if the offense does not involve conduct described in subparagraph (A).

(4) Any person who knowingly violates section 3(e) shall be fined not more than \$20,000, or imprisoned for not more than 5 years, or both. Each violation shall be a separate offense and the offense is deemed to have been committed in the district where the violation first occurred, and in any district in which the defendant may have taken or been in possession of the prohibited wildlife species.

(e) PERMIT SANCTIONS.—The Secretary may also suspend, modify, or cancel any Federal hunting or fishing license, permit, or stamp, or any license or permit authorizing a person to import or export fish or wildlife or plants (other than a permit or license issued pursuant to the Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976<sup>2</sup>), or to operate a quarantine station or rescue center for imported wildlife or plants, issued to any person who is convicted of a criminal violation of any provision of this Act or any regulation issued hereunder. The Secretary shall not be liable for the payments of any compensation, reimbursement, or damages in connection with the modification, suspension, or revocation of any licenses, permits, stamps, or other agreements pursuant to this section.

#### SEC. 5. [16 U.S.C. 3374] FORFEITURE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) All fish or wildlife or plants bred, possessed, imported, exported, transported, sold, received, acquired, or purchased contrary to the provisions of section 3 of this Act (other than subsection 3(b)), or any regulation issued pursuant thereto, shall be subject to forfeiture to the United States notwithstanding any culpability requirements for civil penalty assessment or criminal prosecution included in section 4 of this Act.

(2) All vessels, vehicles, aircraft, and other equipment used to aid in the importing, exporting, transporting, selling, receiving, acquiring, or purchasing of fish or wildlife or plants in a criminal violation of this Act for which a felony conviction is obtained shall be subject to forfeiture to the United States if (A) the owner of such vessel, vehicle, aircraft, or equipment was at the time of the alleged illegal act a consenting party or privy thereto or in the exercise of due care should have known

December 27, 2022

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>Section 238 of the American Fisheries Promotion Act (Public Law 96–561; 94 Stat. 3301) changed (by amendment) the short title of such Act to the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act and provided that "all references to the Fishery Conservation and Management Act". Subsequently, section 211 of the Department of Commerce and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1997 (Division A, title II of P.L. 104–208; 110 Stat. 3009–41) changed (by amendment) the short title of such Act to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act and provided that "all references to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act and provided that "all references to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act shall be redesignated as references to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act shall be redesignated as references to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act". Since neither renaming provision actually amended each occurrence of either short title in law, the former short title appears here.

that such vessel, vehicle, aircraft, or equipment would be used in a criminal violation of this Act, and (B) the violation in-

volved the sale or purchase of, the offer of sale or purchase of, or the intent to sell or purchase, fish or wildlife or plants. (b) APPLICATION OF CUSTOMS LAWS.—All provisions of law re-lating to the seizure, forfeiture, and condemnation of property for violation of the customs laws, the disposition of such property or the proceeds from the sale thereof, and the remission or mitigation of such forfeiture, shall apply to the seizures and forfeitures incurred, or alleged to have been incurred, under the provisions of this Act, insofar as such provisions of law are applicable and not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act; except that all powers, rights, and duties conferred or imposed by the customs laws upon any officer or employee of the Treasury Department may, for the purposes of this Act, also be exercised or performed by the Secretary or by such persons as he may designate: *Provided*, That any warrant for search or seizure shall be issued in accordance with rule 41 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure.

(c) STORAGE COST.—Any person convicted of an offense, or assessed a civil penalty, under section 4 shall be liable for the costs incurred in the storage, care, and maintenance of any fish or wildlife or plant seized in connection with the violation concerned.

(d) CIVIL FORFEITURES.—Civil forfeitures under this section shall be governed by the provisions of chapter 46 of title 18, United States Code.

#### SEC. 6. [16 U.S.C. 3375] ENFORCEMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The provisions of this Act and any regulations issued pursuant thereto shall be enforced by the Secretary, the Secretary of Transportation, or the Secretary of the Treasury. Such Secretary may utilize by agreement, with or without reimbursement, the personnel, services, and facilities of any other Federal agency or any State agency or Indian tribe for purposes of enforcing this Act.

(b) POWERS.—Any person authorized under subsection (a) to enforce this Act may carry firearms; may, when enforcing this Act, make an arrest without a warrant, in accordance with any guidelines which may be issued by the Attorney General, for any offense under the laws of the United States committed in the person's presence, or for the commission of any felony under the laws of the United States, if the person has reasonable grounds to believe that the person to be arrested has committed or is committing a felony; may search and seize, with or without a warrant, in accordance with any guidelines which may be issued by the Attorney General; <sup>1</sup>Provided, That an arrest for a felony violation of this Act that is not committed in the presence or view of any such person and that involves only the transportation, acquisition, receipt, purchase, or sale of fish or wildlife or plants taken or possessed in violation of any law or regulation of any State shall require a warrant; may make an arrest without a warrant for a misdemeanor violation of this Act if he has reasonable grounds to believe that the person to be arrested is committing a violation in his presence or view; and may execute and serve any subpena, arrest warrant, search war-

December 27, 2022

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>So in original. The semicolon should be a colon.

#### LACEY ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1981

rant issued in accordance with rule 41 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, or other warrant of civil or criminal process issued by any officer or court of competent jurisdiction for enforcement of this Act. Any person so authorized, in coordination with the Secretary of the Treasury, may detain for inspection and inspect any vessel, vehicle, aircraft, or other conveyance or any package, crate, or other container, including its contents, upon the arrival of such conveyance or container in the United States or the customs waters of the United States from any point outside the United States or such customs waters, or, if such conveyance or container is being used for exportation purposes, prior to departure from the United States or the customs waters of the United States. Such person may also inspect and demand the production of any documents and permits required by the country of natal origin, birth, or reexport of the fish or wildlife. Any fish, wildlife, plant, property, or item seized shall be held by any person authorized by the Secretary pending disposition of civil or criminal proceedings, or the institution of an action in rem for forfeiture of such fish, wildlife, plants, property, or item pursuant to section 5 of this Act; except that the Secretary may, in lieu of holding such fish, wildlife, plant, property, or item, permit the owner or consignee to post a bond or other surety satisfactory to the Secretary.

(c) DISTRICT COURT JURISDICTION.—The several district courts of the United States, including the courts enumerated in section 460 of title 28, United States Code, shall have jurisdiction over any actions arising under this Act. The venue provisions of title 18 and title 28 of the United States Code shall apply to any actions arising under this Act. The judges of the district courts of the United States and the United States magistrates may, within their respective jurisdictions, upon proper oath or affirmation showing probable cause, issue such warrants or other process as may be required for enforcement of this Act and any regulations issued thereunder.

(d) REWARDS AND CERTAIN INCIDENTAL EXPENSES.—Beginning in fiscal year 1983, the Secretary or the Secretary of the Treasury shall pay, from sums received as penalties, fines, or forfeitures of property for any violation of this Act or any regulation issued hereunder (1) a reward to any person who furnishes information which leads to an arrest, a criminal conviction, civil penalty assessment, or forfeiture of property for any violation of this Act or any regulation issued hereunder, and (2) the reasonable and necessary costs incurred by any person in providing temporary care for any fish, wildlife, or plant pending the disposition of any civil or criminal proceeding alleging a violation of this Act with respect to that fish, wildlife, or plant. The amount of the reward, if any, is to be designated by the Secretary or the Secretary of the Treasury, as appropriate. Any officer or employee of the United States or any State or local government who furnishes information or renders service in the performance of his official duties is ineligible for payment under this subsection.

#### SEC. 7. [16 U.S.C. 3376] ADMINISTRATION.

(a) **REGULATIONS.**—

(1) The Secretary, after consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury, is authorized to issue such regulations, except as

ly, is autionized to issue such regulations, except as

December 27, 2022

provided in paragraph (2), as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of sections 3(f), 4, and 5 of this Act.

(2) The Secretaries of the Interior and Commerce shall jointly promulgate specific regulations to implement the provisions of subsection 3(b) and of this Act for the marking and labeling of containers or packages containing fish or wildlife. These regulations shall be in accordance with existing commercial practices.

(3) The Secretary shall, in consultation with other relevant Federal and State agencies, promulgate any regulations necessary to implement section 3(e).

(b) CONTRACT AUTHORITY.—Beginning in fiscal year 1983, to the extent and in the amounts provided in advance in appropriations Acts, the Secretary may enter into such contracts, leases, cooperative agreements, or other transactions with any Federal or State agency, Indian tribe, public or private institution, or other person, as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this Act.

(c) CLARIFICATION OF EXCLUSIONS FROM DEFINITION OF PLANT.-The Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior, after consultation with the appropriate agencies, shall jointly promulgate regulations to define the terms used in section 2(g)(2)(A) for the purposes of enforcement under this Act.

## SEC. 8. [16 U.S.C. 3377] EXCEPTIONS.

(a) The provisions of paragraph (1) of subsection 3(a) of this Act shall not apply to any activity regulated by a fishery management plan in effect under the Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976 (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.)<sup>1</sup>.

(b) The provisions of paragraphs (1), (2)(A), and (3)(A) of sub-

section 3(a) of this Act shall not apply to— (1) any activity regulated by the Tuna Convention Act of 1950 (16 U.S.C. 951–961) or the Atlantic Tunas Convention Act of 1975 (16 U.S.C. 971-971(h)); or

(2) any activity involving the harvesting of highly migratory species (as defined in paragraph (14) of section 3 of the Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976<sup>1</sup>) taken on the high seas (as defined in paragraph (13) of such section 3) if such species are taken in violation of the laws of a foreign nation and the United States does not recognize the jurisdiction of the foreign nation over such species.

(c) The provisions of paragraph (2) of subsection 3(a) of this Act shall not apply to the interstate shipment or transshipment through Indian country as defined in section 1151 of title 18, United States Code, or a State of any fish or wildlife or plant legally taken if the shipment is en route to a State in which the fish or wildlife or plant may be legally possessed.

#### SEC. 9. [16 U.S.C. 3378] MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS.

(a) EFFECT ON POWERS OF STATES.—Nothing in this Act shall be construed to prevent the several States or Indian tribes from making or enforcing laws or regulations not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act.

(b) REPEALS.—The following provisions of law are repealed:

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>See footnote to section 4(e).

(1) The Act of May 20, 1926 (commonly known as the Black Bass Act; 16 U.S.C. 851–856).

(2) Section 5 of the Act of May 25, 1900 (16 U.S.C. 667e), and sections 43 and 44 of title 18, United States Code (commonly known as provisions of the Lacey Act).

(3) Sections 3054 and 3112 of title 18, United States Code. (c) DISCLAIMERS.—Nothing in this Act shall be construed as—

(1) repealing, superseding, or modifying any provision of Federal law other than those specified in subsection (b);

(2) repealing, superseding, or modifying any right, privilege, or immunity granted, reserved, or established pursuant to treaty, statute, or executive order pertaining to any Indian tribe, band, or community; or

(3) enlarging or diminishing the authority of any State or Indian tribe to regulate the activities of persons within Indian reservations.

(d) HUMANE SHIPMENT.—[Amends section 42(c) of title 18, United States Code]

(e) REWARD.—[Amends subsection 11(d) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973]

\* \* \* \* \* \*

(g) The Secretary of the Interior is authorized to pay from agency appropriations the travel expense of newly appointed special agents of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the transportation expense of household goods and personal effects from place of residence at time of selection to first duty station to the extent authorized by section 5724 of title 5 for all such special agents appointed after January 1, 1977.

(h) The Secretary shall identify the funds utilized to enforce this Act and any regulations thereto as a specific appropriations item in the Department of the Interior appropriations budget proposal to the Congress.