

107TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4618

To amend the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to provide for the conservation of stocks of Pacific highly migratory species by directing the Secretary of Commerce to prohibit pelagic longline fishing in the exclusive economic zone off the coasts of the States of California, Oregon, and Washington.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 30, 2002

Mr. HUNTER (for himself, Mr. CUNNINGHAM, and Mr. SAXTON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Resources

A BILL

To amend the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to provide for the conservation of stocks of Pacific highly migratory species by directing the Secretary of Commerce to prohibit pelagic longline fishing in the exclusive economic zone off the coasts of the States of California, Oregon, and Washington.

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 “Pacific Highly Migra-
5 tory Species Conservation Act of 2002”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.**2 (a) FINDINGS.—The Congress makes the following
3 findings:4 (1) Atlantic highly migratory species of fish
5 have been overfished by the method of pelagic
6 longlining, which led to the Standing Committee on
7 Research and Statistics of the International Com-
8 mission on the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas to
9 recommend that significant closures to use of pelagic
10 longline fishing gear should be established to pre-
11 serve those species.12 (2) Encroachment of pelagic longline fishing
13 gear into west coast waters will have a serious im-
14 pact on the economically valuable recreational and
15 commercial albacore fisheries off the coasts of the
16 States of California, Oregon, and Washington.17 (3) Pelagic longline fishing gear and the pelagic
18 longline fishing method have had a devastating im-
19 pact on Atlantic species of fish, which will be rep-
20licated in the exclusive economic zone off the coasts
21 of the States of California, Oregon, and Washington
22 at the same time the Congress is debating legislation
23 to restrict use of pelagic longline fishing gear in east
24 coast waters and the Gulf of Mexico.25 (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are the fol-
26 lowing:

(1) To ensure the conservation of Pacific highly migratory species.

6 SEC. 3. CLOSURE OF WEST COAST EEZ TO PELAGIC
7 LONGLINE FISHING.

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (g) of section 304 of
9 the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Manage-
10 ment Act (16 U.S.C. 1854(g)) is amended—

11 (1) by striking so much as precedes the text of
12 paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

13 "(g) HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES.—

14 “(1) FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN OR AMEND-
15 MENT FOR ATLANTIC, GULF, AND CARIBBEAN SPE-
16 CIES.—”; and

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

18 “(3) PROTECTION OF SPECIES IN PACIFIC
19 OCEAN.—(A) The Secretary shall issue regulations
20 that prohibit pelagic longline fishing for highly mi-
21 gratory species in the exclusive economic zone off
22 the coasts of the States of California, Oregon, and
23 Washington.

24 “(B) In this paragraph the term ‘pelagic
25 longline fishing’ means a method of fishing that uses

1 any fishing gear consisting of a length of line sus-
2 pended horizontally in the water above the bottom
3 from lines attached to surface floats and to which
4 gangions and hooks are attached and are used to
5 target pelagic species.

6 “(C) To carry out this paragraph there is au-
7 thorized to be appropriated to the Secretary
8 \$2,000,000.”.

9 (b) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary of Commerce
10 shall issue regulations under the amendment made by sub-
11 section (a) by not later than 90 days after the date of
12 the enactment of this Act.

