

div. C of Pub. L. 116-92, Dec. 20, 2019, 133 Stat. 1997, known as the Maritime Security and Fisheries Enforcement Act and also as the Maritime SAFE Act, which is classified principally to this chapter. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out below and Tables.

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

SHORT TITLE

Pub. L. 116-92, div. C, title XXXV, §3531, Dec. 20, 2019, 133 Stat. 1997, provided that: “This subtitle [subtitle C (§§3531-3572) of title XXXV of div. C of Pub. L. 116-92, enacting this chapter and amending section 7103 of Title 22, Foreign Relations and Intercourse] may be cited as the ‘Maritime Security and Fisheries Enforcement Act’ or the ‘Maritime SAFE Act’.”

§ 8002. Purposes

The purposes of this chapter are—

(1) to support a whole-of-government approach across the Federal Government to counter IUU fishing and related threats to maritime security;

(2) to improve data sharing that enhances surveillance, enforcement, and prosecution against IUU fishing and related activities at a global level;

(3) to support coordination and collaboration to counter IUU fishing within priority regions;

(4) to increase and improve global transparency and traceability across the seafood supply chain as—

(A) a deterrent to IUU fishing; and

(B) a tool for strengthening fisheries management and food security;

(5) to improve global enforcement operations against IUU fishing through a whole-of-government approach by the United States; and

(6) to prevent the use of IUU fishing as a financing source for transnational organized groups that undermine United States and global security interests.

(Pub. L. 116-92, div. C, title XXXV, §3533, Dec. 20, 2019, 133 Stat. 1999.)

Editorial Notes

REFERENCES IN TEXT

This chapter, referred to in text, was in the original “this subtitle”, meaning subtitle C of title XXXV of div. C of Pub. L. 116-92, Dec. 20, 2019, 133 Stat. 1997, known as the Maritime Security and Fisheries Enforcement Act and also as the Maritime SAFE Act, which is classified principally to this chapter. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 8001 of this title and Tables.

§ 8003. Statement of policy

It is the policy of the United States¹

(1) to take action to curtail the global trade in seafood and seafood products derived from IUU fishing, including its links to forced labor and transnational organized illegal activity;

(2) to develop holistic diplomatic, military, law enforcement, economic, and capacity-building tools to counter IUU fishing;

(3) to provide technical assistance to countries in priority regions and priority flag states to combat IUU fishing, including assistance—

(A) to increase local, national, and regional level capacities to counter IUU fishing through the engagement of law enforcement and security forces;

(B) to enhance port capacity and security, including by supporting other countries in working toward the adoption and implementation of the Port State Measures Agreement;

(C) to combat corruption and increase transparency and traceability in fisheries management and trade;

(D) to enhance information sharing within and across governments and multilateral organizations through the development and use of agreed standards for information sharing; and

(E) to support effective, science-based fisheries management regimes that promote legal and safe fisheries and act as a deterrent to IUU fishing;

(4) to promote global maritime security through improved capacity and technological assistance to support improved maritime domain awareness;

(5) to engage with priority flag states to encourage the use of high quality vessel tracking technologies where existing enforcement tools are lacking;

(6) to engage with multilateral organizations working on fisheries issues, including Regional Fisheries Management Organizations and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, to combat and deter IUU fishing;

(7) to advance information sharing across governments and multilateral organizations in areas that cross multiple jurisdictions, through the development and use of an agreed standard for information sharing;

(8) to continue to use existing and future trade agreements to combat IUU fishing;

(9) to employ appropriate assets and resources of the United States Government in a coordinated manner to disrupt the illicit networks involved in IUU fishing;

(10) to continue to declassify and make available, as appropriate and practicable, technologies developed by the United States Government that can be used to help counter IUU fishing;

(11) to recognize the ties of IUU fishing to transnational organized illegal activity, including human trafficking and illegal trade in narcotics and arms, and as applicable, to focus on illicit activity in a coordinated, cross-cutting manner;

(12) to recognize and respond to poor working conditions, labor abuses, and other violent crimes in the fishing industry;

(13) to increase and improve global transparency and traceability along the seafood supply chain as—

(A) a deterrent to IUU fishing; and

(B) an approach for strengthening fisheries management and food security; and

(14) to promote technological investment and innovation to combat IUU fishing.

(Pub. L. 116-92, div. C, title XXXV, §3534, Dec. 20, 2019, 133 Stat. 2000.)

¹ So in original. Probably should be “States—”.

**SUBCHAPTER I—PROGRAMS TO COMBAT
IUU FISHING AND INCREASE MARITIME
SECURITY**

**§ 8011. Coordination with international organiza-
tions**

The Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Commerce, shall coordinate with Regional Fisheries Management Organizations and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and may coordinate with other relevant international governmental or nongovernmental organizations, or the private sector, as appropriate, to enhance regional responses to IUU fishing and related transnational organized illegal activities.

(Pub. L. 116–92, div. C, title XXXV, § 3541, Dec. 20, 2019, 133 Stat. 2001.)

**§ 8012. Engagement of diplomatic missions of the
United States**

Not later than 1 year after December 20, 2019, each chief of mission (as defined in section 3902 of title 22) to a relevant country in a priority region or to a priority flag state may, if the Secretary of State determines such action is appropriate—

(1) convene a working group, led by Department of State officials, to examine IUU fishing, which may include stakeholders such as—

(A) United States officials from relevant agencies participating in the interagency Working Group identified in section 8031 of this title, foreign officials, nongovernmental organizations, the private sector, and representatives of local fishermen in the region; and

(B) experts on IUU fishing, law enforcement, criminal justice, transnational organized illegal activity, defense, intelligence, vessel movement monitoring, and international development operating in or with knowledge of the region; and

(2) designate a counter-IUU Fishing Coordinator from among existing personnel at the mission if the chief of mission determines such action is appropriate.

(Pub. L. 116–92, div. C, title XXXV, § 3542, Dec. 20, 2019, 133 Stat. 2001.)

**§ 8013. Assistance by Federal agencies to improve
law enforcement within priority regions and
priority flag states**

(a) In general

The Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Commerce and the Commandant of the Coast Guard when the Coast Guard is not operating as a service in the Department of the Navy, as well as any other relevant department or agency, shall provide assistance, as appropriate, in accordance with this section.

**(b) Law enforcement training and coordination
activities**

The officials referred to in subsection (a) shall evaluate opportunities to provide assistance, as appropriate, to countries in priority regions and priority flag states to improve the effectiveness

of IUU fishing enforcement, with clear and measurable targets and indicators of success, including—

(1) by assessing and using existing resources, enforcement tools, and legal authorities to coordinate efforts to combat IUU fishing with efforts to combat other illegal trade, including weapons, drugs, and human trafficking;

(2) by expanding existing IUU fishing enforcement training;

(3) by providing targeted, country- and region-specific training on combating IUU fishing, including in those countries that have not adopted the Port State Measures Agreement;

(4) by supporting increased effectiveness and transparency of the fisheries enforcement sectors of the governments of such countries; and

(5) by supporting increased outreach to stakeholders in the affected communities as key partners in combating and prosecuting IUU fishing.

(c) Implementation of Port State Measures

The officials referred to in subsection (a) shall evaluate opportunities to provide assistance, as appropriate, to countries in priority regions and priority flag states to help those states implement programs related to port security and capacity for the purposes of preventing IUU fishing products from entering the global seafood market, including by supporting other countries in working toward the adoption and implementation of the Port State Measures Agreement.

**(d) Capacity building for investigations and
prosecutions**

The officials referred to in subsection (a), in collaboration with the governments of countries in priority regions and of priority flag states, shall evaluate opportunities to assist those countries in designing and implementing programs in such countries, to increase the capacity of IUU fishing enforcement and customs and border security officers to improve their ability—

(1) to conduct effective investigations, including using law enforcement techniques such as undercover investigations and the development of informer networks and actionable intelligence;

(2) to conduct vessel boardings and inspections at sea and associated enforcement actions;

(3) to exercise existing shiprider agreements and to enter into and implement new shiprider agreements, for all priority regions identified by the Working Group, including in those countries that have not adopted the Port State Measures Agreement;

(4) to conduct vessel inspections at port and associated enforcement actions;

(5) to assess technology needs and promote the use of technology to improve monitoring, enforcement, and prosecution of IUU fishing;

(6) to conduct DNA-based and forensic identification of seafood used in trade;

(7) to conduct training on techniques, such as collecting electronic evidence and using computer forensics, for law enforcement personnel involved in complex investigations related to international matters, financial issues, and government corruption that include IUU fishing;