

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**S.** \_\_\_\_\_

To direct the Secretary of Commerce to establish a task force regarding  
shark depredation, and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

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Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself and Mr. SCHATZ) introduced the following  
bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

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**A BILL**

To direct the Secretary of Commerce to establish a task  
force regarding shark depredation, and for other purposes.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Supporting the Health  
5       of Aquatic systems through Research Knowledge and En-  
6       hanced Dialogue Act of 2025” or the “SHARKED Act  
7       of 2025”.

8       **SEC. 2. SHARK DEPREDATION TASK FORCE AND RESEARCH**  
9               **PROJECTS.**

10       (a) SHARK DEPREDATION TASK FORCE.—

1           (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Commerce  
2           shall establish a task force (referred to in this sub-  
3           section as the “task force”) to identify and address  
4           critical needs with respect to shark depredation.

5           (2) MEMBERSHIP.—The Secretary of Com-  
6           merce shall appoint individuals to the task force, in-  
7           cluding—

8           (A) 1 representative from—

9                   (i) each Regional Fishery Manage-  
10                  ment Council established under section  
11                  302(a)(1) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fish-  
12                  ery Conservation and Management Act (16  
13                  U.S.C. 1852(a)(1));

14                  (ii) each Marine Fisheries Commis-  
15                  sion, as such term is defined in section 3  
16                  of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Con-  
17                  servation and Management Act (16 U.S.C.  
18                  1802);

19                  (iii) the fish and wildlife agency of a  
20                  coastal State from each Regional Fishery  
21                  Management Council established under  
22                  section 302(a)(1) of the Magnuson-Stevens  
23                  Fishery Conservation and Management Act  
24                  (16 U.S.C. 1852(a)(1)); and

1 (iv) the National Marine Fisheries  
2 Service;

3 (B) an individual with expertise in the  
4 management of highly migratory species;

5 (C) a researcher with expertise in shark  
6 management and behavior; and

7 (D) a researcher with expertise in shark  
8 ecology.

9 (3) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The task force shall—

10 (A) develop ways to improve coordination  
11 and communication across the fisheries man-  
12 agement community and shark research com-  
13 munity to address shark depredation;

14 (B) identify research priorities and funding  
15 opportunities for such priorities, including—

16 (i) identifying shark species involved  
17 in interactions;

18 (ii) shark stock assessments;

19 (iii) how sharks become habituated to  
20 humans and thus lead to more interactions  
21 between sharks and humans;

22 (iv) how angler behavior and fishery  
23 regulatory frameworks may influence shark  
24 interactions;

1 (v) techniques and strategies to re-  
2 duce harmful interactions between sharks  
3 and humans, including the development  
4 and use of non-lethal deterrents;

5 (vi) the role of healthy shark popu-  
6 lations in the ocean food web; and

7 (vii) climate change impacts on shift-  
8 ing shark populations, prey, and shark be-  
9 havior;

10 (C) develop recommended management  
11 strategies to address shark depredation; and

12 (D) coordinate the development and dis-  
13 tribution of educational materials to help the  
14 fishing community minimize shark interactions,  
15 including through changed angler behavior and  
16 expectations.

17 (4) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the  
18 date of enactment of this section, and every 2 years  
19 thereafter until the termination of the task force in  
20 accordance with paragraph (5), the task force shall  
21 submit to Congress a report regarding the findings  
22 of the task force.

23 (5) SUNSET.—The task force shall terminate  
24 not later than 7 years after the date on which the  
25 Secretary of Commerce establishes the task force.

1           (6) COASTAL STATE DEFINED.—In this sub-  
2           section, the term “coastal State”—

3                   (A) means a State of the United States in,  
4                   or bordering on, the Atlantic Ocean, Pacific  
5                   Ocean, Arctic Ocean, Gulf of Mexico, or Long  
6                   Island Sound; and

7                   (B) includes Puerto Rico, the Virgin Is-  
8                   lands of the United States, Guam, the Com-  
9                   monwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands,  
10                  and American Samoa.

11          (b) SHARK DEPREDATION RESEARCH PROJECTS.—  
12          Section 318(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Con-  
13          servation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1867(c)) is  
14          amended by adding at the end the following:

15                 “(6) Projects to better understand shark depre-  
16                 dation, including identifying what causes increases  
17                 in shark depredation and determining how to best  
18                 address shark depredation.”.

19          (c) EFFECT.—Nothing in this section shall be con-  
20          strued to affect the authority and responsibility of the Sec-  
21          retary of Commerce in carrying out the Endangered Spe-  
22          cies Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) or the Magnu-  
23          son-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act  
24          (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.).