

  
(Original Signature of Member)

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

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

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. WITTMAN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**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” or the “SHARKED Act”.

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

9 (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; and

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

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

8 (A) develop ways to improve coordination  
9 and communication across the fisheries man-  
10 agement community to address shark depreda-  
11 tion;

12 (B) identify research priorities and funding  
13 opportunities for such priorities, including—

14 (i) identifying shark species involved  
15 in interactions;

16 (ii) shark stock assessments;

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

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

23 (v) techniques and strategies to re-  
24 duce harmful interactions between sharks

1 and humans, including the development  
2 and use of non-lethal deterrents;

3 (C) develop recommended management  
4 strategies to address shark depredation; and

5 (D) coordinate the development and dis-  
6 tribution of educational materials to help the  
7 fishing community minimize shark interactions.

8 (4) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the  
9 date of the enactment of this section, and every 2  
10 years thereafter until the termination of the task  
11 force in accordance with paragraph (5), the task  
12 force shall submit to Congress a report regarding  
13 the findings of the task force.

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

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

19 (A) means a State of the United States in,  
20 or bordering on, the Atlantic Ocean, Pacific  
21 Ocean, Arctic Ocean, Gulf of Mexico, or Long  
22 Island Sound; and

23 (B) includes Puerto Rico, the Virgin Is-  
24 lands of the United States, Guam, the Com-

1           monwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands,  
2           and American Samoa.

3           (b) SHARK DEPREDATION RESEARCH PROJECTS.—

4 Section 318(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Con-  
5 servation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1867(e)) is  
6 amended by adding at the end the following:

7           “(6) Projects to better understand shark depre-  
8 dation, including identifying what causes increases  
9 in shark depredation and determining how to best  
10 address shark depredation.”.