



H.R. 5741 – SHARK CONSERVATION ACT OF 2008

FLOOR SITUATION

H.R. 5741 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Madeleine Bordallo (D-GU) on April 9, 2008. The House Committee on Natural Resources agreed to the bill, as amended, by voice vote on June 11, 2008.

H.R. 5741 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on July 8, 2008.

SUMMARY

H.R. 5741 prohibits the removal of a shark's fins while at sea and prohibits having possession of shark fins (including the tail) aboard a vessel unless the fins are naturally attached to the corresponding carcass. The bill also prohibits the landing of fins that are not naturally attached to their corresponding carcass as well as the transfer of fins, while at sea, that are not naturally attached to the shark.

Additionally, the bill directs the Secretary of Commerce to include in a biennial report to Congress any nation whose vessels currently or within the previous year have engaged in fishing activities that catch sharks and has not adopted a shark conservation program comparable to that of the United States. This includes prohibiting the practice of removing the fins of the shark and discarding the remaining carcass while at sea.

BACKGROUND

Shark finning is the removal of a shark's fins while at sea and then returning the remaining carcass of the shark back into the sea. The Shark Finning Prohibition Act of 2000 prohibits any person under U.S. jurisdiction from practicing shark finning.

According to a 2007 report to Congress by the U.S. Department of Commerce and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, many shark species are characterized by slow growth and reproductive rates. These factors, along with the increased demand for the shark fins of certain species over the past decade have given rise to concern about the impact of finning on world shark populations and the Shark Finning Prohibition Act.

COST

The Congressional Budget Office "estimates that implementing H.R. 5741 would cost \$5 million over the 2009-2013 period."

[Full CBO cost estimate for H.R. 5741](#)

STAFF CONTACT

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