



National Legislation (118th Congress, 2023-2024)

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Bill	Title	Sponsor(s)	Status	Notes
HOUSE BILLS				
HR 99	LIST Act of 2023	Rep Biggs (R-AZ)	2/21/23- Referred to the Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries	<i>Amend ESA to provide for improved precision in the listing, delisting, and downlisting of endangered species</i>
HR 518	Endangered Species Transparency and Reasonableness Act of 2023	Rep McClintock (R-CA)	2/21/23-Referred to the Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries	<i>Requires publication on the internet of the basis for determinations that species are endangered</i>
HR 520	Amend ESA of 1973	Rep McClintock (R-CA)	2/21/23- Referred to the Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries	<i>Amend ESA to provide that artificially propagated animals shall be treated the same under that Act as naturally propagated animals</i>
HR 614	Commercial Fishing and Seafood Business Act of 2023	Rep Wittman (R-VA)	1/27/23-Referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary	<i>Includes exemption from numerical limitations on H-2B visa workers on a commercial fishing vessel or fish processors</i>
HR 676	Coastal Communities Ocean Acidification Act of 2023	Rep Pingree (D-ME)	5/10/23-Passed House; Received in the Senate and read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation	<i>Amends Federal Ocean Acidification Research and Monitoring Act of 2009 to require NOAA to collaborate with State and local govts on vulnerability assessments related to ocean acidification, research planning, etc.</i>

Bill	Title	Sponsor(s)	Status	Notes
HR 872	FISH Act	Rep Calvert (R-CA)	2/21/23- Referred to the Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries	<i>Amend ESA to include anadromous species responsibility to Secretary of Interior</i>
HR 886	Save Our Seas 2.0 Amendments Act	Rep Bonamici (D-OR)	9/8/23-Placed on the Union Calendar	<i>Amends Marine Debris Act</i>
HR 1142	Amend ESA	Rep Fluger (R-TX)	3/22/23-Referred to the Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries	<i>Amends ESA to require economic impacts in listing decisions</i>
HR 1196	To require NOAA Administrator to establish a grant program	Rep Plaskett (D-VI)	3/22/23- Referred to the Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries	<i>Creates a coastal habitat grant program</i>
HR 1335	TAPP Act	Rep Westerman (R-AR)	3/23/23-Placed on the Union Calendar	<i>Includes offshore oil/gas, offshore wind, and NEPA</i>
HR 1461	Coastal Seaweed Farm Act of 2023	Rep Huffman (D-CA)	4/14/23-Referred to the Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries	<i>Directs NOAA to study coastal seaweed farming and establish an indigenous seaweed farming fund</i>
HR 1792	South Pacific Tuna Treaty Act of 2023	Rep Radewagen (R-AS)	7/21/23-Referred to the subcommittee on water, wildlife and fisheries	<i>Amends SPTA</i>
HR 2950	Coastal Habitat Conservation Act of 2023	Rep Huffman (D-CA)	07/27/23-Subcommittee hearings held	<i>Authorizes interior through USFWS Coastal Program, to work with partner to support and enhance coastal landscapes (See S1381)</i>
HR 3980	NOAA Act of 2023	Rep Lucas (R-OK)	06/9/23-Referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology and Committee on Natural Resources	<i>NOAA Reauthorization Bill</i>
HR 4013	AQUAA Act	Rep Cammack (R-FL)	7/28/23-Referred to the Subcommittee on Livestock, Dairy, and Poultry	<i>Establishes an offshore aquaculture regulatory system; Councils are stakeholders under this proposal</i>

Bill	Title	Sponsor(s)	Status	Notes
<u>HR 4051</u>	Supporting the Health of Aquatic Systems through Research Knowledge and Enhanced Dialogue (SHARKED) Act	Rep Wittman (R-VA)	07/27/23 Subcommittee hearings held	<i>Directs Secretary of commerce to establish a task force regarding shark depredation</i>
<u>HR 4537</u>	American Seabed Protection Act	Rep Case (D-HI)	7/11/23-Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources	<i>Prohibits mining activities on the deep seabed</i>
<u>HR 4538</u>	BLUE Pacific Act	Rep Case (D-HI)	7/11/23-Referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Natural Resources, and Ways and Means	<i>Establishes long-term US strategy and policy for the Pacific Islands</i>
<u>HR 5001</u>	Special Advisors for the Insular Areas Act	Rep Grijalva (D-AZ)	7/27/23-Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources	<i>Establishes a position of Special Advisor for the Insular Areas in each executive department</i>
<u>HR 5009</u>	WILD Act	Rep Joyce (R-OH)	7/27/23-Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources	<i>A bill to reauthorize wildlife habitat and conservation programs</i>
SENATE BILLS				
<u>S 101</u>	Fishing Equipment Tax Relief Act of 2023	Sen Rubio (R-FL)	1/26/23-Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance	<i>Reduces excise tax rate that applies to aerated bait containers</i>
<u>S 318</u>	Save Our Seas 2.0 Amendments Act	Sen Sullivan (R-Alaska)	3/22/23-Ordered to be reported with an amendment in the nature of a substitute favorably	<i>Improves administration of Marine Debris/amend Marine Debris Act</i>
<u>S 1227</u>	FISH Act of 2023	Sen Sullivan (R-AK)	4/20/23-Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation	<i>Combats IUU and unregulated fishing at its sources globally</i>
<u>S 1861</u>	AQUAA Act	Sen Wicker (R-MS)	6/7/23-Read twice and referred to Committee on Commerce, Science, and	<i>Establishes an offshore aquaculture regulatory system; Councils are stakeholders under this proposal</i>

Bill	Title	Sponsor(s)	Status	Notes
			Transportation	
S 2086	Sea Turtle Rescue Assistance Act of 2023	Sen Markey (D-MA)	6/21/23-Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation	<i>Establishes a Sea Turtle Rescue Assistance Grant Program</i>
S 2935	Wildlife Innovation and Longevity Driver Reauthorization (WILD) Act	Sen Carper (D-DE)	07/26/23-Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders	<i>Reauthorize wildlife habitat and conservation programs</i>
S 1381	Coastal Habitat Conservation Act of 2023	Sen Cardin (D-MD)	07/26/23-Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders	<i>Authorizes interior through USFWS Coastal Program, to work with partner to support and enhance coastal landscapes (See HR2950)</i>
S 1421	Country of Origin Labeling Online Act (COOL Online Act)	Sen Baldwin (D-WI)	07/27/23-Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation. Ordered to be reported with an amendment in the nature of a substitute favorably	<i>Requires origin and location disclosure for new products of foreign origin offered for sale on the internet</i>

PREVIOUS BILLS PASSED IN 117th CONGRESS

Bill	Title	Sponsor(s)	Status	Notes
HOUSE BILLS				
HR 5376	Inflation Reduction Act of 2022	Rep Yarmuth (D-KY)	8/16/22-signed by the President	<i>Provides funding for insular areas and coastal areas</i>
HR 4521	America COMPETES Act	Rep Johnson (D-TX)	Passed House; Passed Senate; 5/05/22-Message on Senate action sent to the House (resolving differences)	<i>Includes shark fin elimination act (HR2811); also includes IUU and forced labor prevention aspects</i>
HR 7776	National Defense Authorization Act	Rep Defazio (D-OR)	12/23/22-Became public law No: 117-263	<i>Reauthorizes coral reef conservation act; establishes regional ocean partnerships</i>
SENATE BILLS				

Bill	Title	Sponsor(s)	Status	Notes
<u>S 497</u>	American Fisheries Advisory committee	Sen Sullivan (R-AK)	5/12/22-Became Public Law No. 117-121	<i>Creates advisory committee to assist in the awarding of fisheries research and development grants</i>

Hearings of Interest

Thursday, July 27, 2023, the House Natural Resources Committee’s Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries held a legislative hearing on a number of bills including:

- **H.R. 1792, the “South Pacific Tuna Treaty Act of 2023”, (Rep. Radewagen, R-American Samoa) a bill to amend the South Pacific Tuna Act of 1988, and for other purposes;**
- **H.R. 2950 the “Coastal Habitat Conservation Act of 2023”, (Rep. Huffman, D-California), a bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior, through the Coastal Program of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, to work with willing partners and provide support to efforts to assess, protect, restore, and enhance important coastal landscapes that provide fish and wildlife habitat on which certain Federal trust species depend, and for other purposes;**
- **H.R. 4051, the “Supporting the Health of Aquatic Systems through Research Knowledge and Enhanced Dialogue Act” or “SHARKED Act”, (Rep. Wittman, R-Virginia), a bill to direct the Secretary of Commerce to establish a task force regarding shark depredation, and for other purposes;**

Thursday, July 27, 2023, the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee held a business meeting to consider a number of bills including:

- **S.1421, the “Country Of Origin Labeling Online Act” or the “COOL Online Act”, (Sen. Baldwin, D-Wisconsin), a bill to require origin and location disclosure for new products of foreign origin offered for sale on the internet;**
- **S.2086, the “Sea Turtle Rescue Assistance Act of 2023”, (Sen. Markey, D-Massachusetts), a bill to require the Secretary of Commerce to establish the Sea Turtle Rescue Assistance Grant Program;**

Wednesday, July 26, 2023, the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee held a business meeting to consider a number of bills including:

- **S.2395, the “Wildlife Innovation and Longevity Driver Reauthorization Act” or the “WILD Act”, (Sen. Carper, D-Delaware) a bill to reauthorize wildlife habitat and conservation programs;**

- **S.1381, the “Coastal Habitat Conservation Act of 2023”, (Sen. Cardin, D-Maryland), a bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior, through the Coastal Program of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, to work with willing partners and provide support to efforts to assess, protect, restore, and enhance important coastal landscapes that provide fish and wildlife habitat on which certain Federal trust species depend;**

Tuesday, July 18, 2023, the Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries held an oversight hearing titled “ESA at 50: The Destructive Cost of the ESA.”

Tuesday, July 18, 2023, the House Natural Resources Committee’s Indo-Pacific Task Force held an oversight hearing titled “The Biden’s Administration’s Proposed Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2023”.

Thursday, July 13, 2023, the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee’s Subcommittee on Oceans, Fisheries, Climate Change and Manufacturing held a hearing titled “Budget Oversight of the United States Coast Guard”.

Thursday, July 13, 2023, the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee held a hearing to examine the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2023, a joint resolution proposed by the Secretary of State and the Secretary of the Interior, to approve agreements concluded with the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of Palau (and an agreement with the Republic of the Marshall Islands upon its conclusion) to amend the Compacts of Free Association with the Freely Associated States.