

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H.R. 4051
OFFERED BY MR. WITTMAN OF VIRGINIA**

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

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

**5 SEC. 2. SHARK DEPREDATION TASK FORCE AND RESEARCH
6 PROJECTS.**

7 (a) SHARK DEPREDATION TASK FORCE.—

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

12 (2) MEMBERSHIP.—The Secretary of Com-
13 merce shall appoint individuals to the task force, in-
14 cluding—

15 (A) 1 representative from—

16 (i) each Regional Fishery Manage-
17 ment Council established under section
18 302(a)(1) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fish-

1 ery Conservation and Management Act (16
2 U.S.C. 1852(a)(1));

3 (ii) each Marine Fisheries Commis-
4 sion, as such term is defined in section 3
5 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Con-
6 servation and Management Act (16 U.S.C.
7 1802);

8 (iii) the fish and wildlife agency of a
9 coastal State from each Regional Fishery
10 Management Council established under
11 section 302(a)(1) of the Magnuson-Stevens
12 Fishery Conservation and Management Act
13 (16 U.S.C. 1852(a)(1)); and

14 (iv) the National Marine Fisheries
15 Service;

16 (B) an individual with expertise in the
17 management of highly migratory species; and

18 (C) a researcher with expertise in shark
19 management and behavior.

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

21 (A) develop ways to improve coordination
22 and communication across the fisheries man-
23 agement community to address shark depreda-
24 tion;

1 (B) identify research priorities and funding
2 opportunities for such priorities, including—

3 (i) identifying shark species involved
4 in interactions;

5 (ii) shark stock assessments;

6 (iii) how sharks become habituated to
7 humans and thus lead to more interactions
8 between sharks and humans;

9 (iv) how angler behavior and fishery
10 regulatory frameworks may influence shark
11 interactions; and

12 (v) techniques and strategies to re-
13 duce harmful interactions between sharks
14 and humans, including the development
15 and use of non-lethal deterrents;

16 (C) develop recommended management
17 strategies to address shark depredation; and

18 (D) coordinate the development and dis-
19 tribution of educational materials to help the
20 fishing community minimize shark interactions.

21 (4) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the
22 date of the enactment of this section, and every 2
23 years thereafter until the termination of the task
24 force in accordance with paragraph (5), the task

1 force shall submit to Congress a report regarding
2 the findings of the task force.

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

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

8 (A) means a State of the United States in,
9 or bordering on, the Atlantic Ocean, Pacific
10 Ocean, Arctic Ocean, Gulf of Mexico, or Long
11 Island Sound; and

12 (B) includes Puerto Rico, the Virgin Is-
13 lands of the United States, Guam, the Com-
14 monwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands,
15 and American Samoa.

16 (b) SHARK DEPREDAATION RESEARCH PROJECTS.—
17 Section 318(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Con-
18 servation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1867(c)) is
19 amended by adding at the end the following:

20 “(6) Projects to better understand shark depre-
21 dation, including identifying what causes increases
22 in shark depredation and determining how to best
23 address shark depredation.”.

