

HR 3282

Protecting Honest Fishermen Act of 2015

Congress: 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Agriculture and Food

Introduced: Jul 29, 2015

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Water, Power and Oceans.

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Water, Power and Oceans. (Aug 31, 2015)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/3282>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Farenthold, Blake [R-TX-27]

Party: Republican • State: TX • Chamber: House

Cosponsors (1 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Lynch, Stephen F. [D-MA-8]	D · MA		Jul 29, 2015

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Agriculture Committee	House	Referred to	Aug 25, 2015
Energy and Commerce Committee	House	Referred to	Jul 31, 2015
Natural Resources Committee	House	Referred to	Aug 31, 2015
Ways and Means Committee	House	Referred to	Aug 12, 2015

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Agriculture and Food

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Protecting Honest Fishermen Act of 2015

This bill requires the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to ensure that its seafood inspection activities are coordinated with the national sea grant college program to provide outreach on seafood safety to states, local health agencies, consumers, and the seafood industry.

The Department of Commerce and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) must ensure that seafood inspections and tests collect information for seafood fraud detection and prevention. "Seafood fraud" is defined as the mislabeling or misrepresentation of seafood information.

Seafood imported into the United States or distributed or offered for sale in interstate commerce must display (on its packaging or otherwise accompanying the seafood) through processing, distribution, and final sale: (1) the market and scientific species names, (2) whether the seafood was harvested wild or was farm-raised, (3) the harvest method and date of the catch, and (4) the weight or number of product for an individual fish or lot. Additional information is required for seafood that was: (1) previously frozen, treated with substances affecting weight, or processed in a country other than that in which it was landed or harvested; or (2) farm-raised. The bill exempts importers, processors, distributors, or retailers from violations for unknowingly selling a product that was already mislabeled upon receipt, provided that such entities can produce the appropriate product traceability documentation.

As an alternative to the disclosure requirements for certain categories of information, an importer, processor, distributor, or retailer (including a restaurant) may make the information available upon request to federal, state, or local officials authorized to conduct inspections of: (1) seafood, or (2) any facility that processes or sells seafood.

Persons engaging in fishing on a U.S. vessel in the exclusive economic zone under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act are deemed to be in compliance with traceability requirements if they disclose data required for a fishery management plan.

Seafood imports from an exporter shall be refused admission if any shipment of such seafood appears to be in violation of such seafood traceability requirements or other applicable federal laws or regulations. An exception is provided for individual shipments if the exporter presents evidence of compliance from an accredited laboratory.

HHS and Commerce must post on their public websites a list that: (1) includes, by country, each exporter whose seafood is imported or offered for import into the United States; and (2) tracks, for each exporter, the timing, type, and frequency of violations.

Commerce is required to: (1) increase the number of shipments inspected for seafood fraud by NOAA inspectors and authorized officers, (2) prevent the percentage of seafood shipments inspected from declining in a subsequent year, and (3) ensure that inspections for fraud prevention also collect seafood safety information.

The bill also authorizes states to bring civil actions for seafood fraud violations.

Actions Timeline

- **Aug 31, 2015:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Water, Power and Oceans.
- **Aug 25, 2015:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Livestock and Foreign Agriculture.
- **Aug 12, 2015:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Trade.
- **Jul 31, 2015:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.
- **Jul 29, 2015:** Introduced in House
- **Jul 29, 2015:** Referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.