

HR 4576

Ensuring Access to Pacific Fisheries Act

Congress: 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Public Lands and Natural Resources

Introduced: Feb 12, 2016

Current Status: Received in the Senate.

Latest Action: Received in the Senate. (Sep 13, 2016)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/4576>

Sponsor

Name: Del. Radewagen, Aumua Amata Coleman [R-AS-At Large]

Party: Republican • **State:** AS • **Chamber:** House

Cosponsors (1 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Young, Don [R-AK-At Large]	R · AK		Feb 12, 2016

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Natural Resources Committee	House	Discharged from	Jul 12, 2016

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Public Lands and Natural Resources

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
114 HR 6452	Related bill	Dec 16, 2016: Became Public Law No: 114-327.
114 S 1335	Related bill	May 18, 2016: Held at the desk.
114 S 1336	Related bill	Apr 6, 2016: Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 419.
114 HR 3269	Related bill	Aug 31, 2015: Referred to the Subcommittee on Water, Power and Oceans.

(This measure has not been amended since it was reported to the House on September 6, 2016. The summary of that version is repeated here.)

Ensuring Access to Pacific Fisheries Act

TITLE I--NORTH PACIFIC FISHERIES CONVENTION IMPLEMENTATION

This bill authorizes the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to promulgate regulations to implement U.S. participation in the North Pacific Fisheries Convention and South Pacific Fisheries Convention. These conventions are designed to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of fishery resources and marine ecosystems in the North Pacific and South Pacific Ocean of the United States.

(Sec. 102) The United States must be represented by five commissioners on the North Pacific Fisheries Commission.

(Sec. 103) The Department of State has the authority to receive and transmit various communications concerning the North Pacific commission.

(Sec. 104) The bill details NOAA's authority in implementing this bill and measures adopted by the commission.

(Sec. 105) NOAA and the U.S. Coast Guard are required to administer and enforce this bill.

(Sec. 106) This bill lists 15 fishing and shipping activities that are prohibited in the North Pacific Ocean.

(Sec. 107) NOAA may cooperate with public and private institutions in the United States and abroad to carry out this bill. Federal agencies are authorized to cooperate with NOAA in conducting research and providing facilities and personnel to assist the commission.

(Sec. 108) The State Department must ensure that American Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands participate with the commission in the same manner as territories of other nations.

(Sec. 109) Operators of commercial fishing vessels that do not carry vessel monitoring systems capable of communicating with U.S. enforcement authorities must ensure that all fishing gear is stowed below deck and not readily available for fishing.

TITLE II--IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF HIGH SEAS FISHERY RESOURCES IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC OCEAN

(Sec. 202) The United States must be represented by no more than three commissioners on the Commission of the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organization.

(Sec. 203) The State Department has the authority to receive and transmit various communications concerning the South Pacific commission, and can approve or disapprove bylaws and rules adopted by the commission.

(Sec. 204) This bill details NOAA's authority in implementing this bill and measures adopted by the commission.

(Sec. 205) NOAA and the U.S. Coast Guard are required to administer and enforce this bill.

(Sec. 206) This bill lists 14 fishing and shipping activities that are prohibited in the South Pacific Ocean.

(Sec. 207) NOAA may cooperate with public and private institutions in the United States and abroad to carry out this bill. Federal agencies are authorized to cooperate with NOAA in conducting research and providing facilities and personnel to assist the commission.

(Sec. 208) The State Department must ensure that American Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands participate with the commission in the same manner as territories of other nations.

(Sec. 209) Operators of commercial fishing vessels that do not carry vessel monitoring systems capable of communicating with U.S. enforcement authorities must ensure that all fishing gear is stowed below deck and not readily available for fishing.

TITLE III--WESTERN AND CENTRAL PACIFIC FISHERIES COMMISSION

(Sec. 301) The bill also amends the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Convention Implementation Act to include commercial fishing as practical experience the President must consider when selecting a commissioner for the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission. The advisory committee is required to submit agenda recommendations at least 30 days prior to the annual Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission meeting. The recommendations must be considered in formulating the U.S. position for meetings and negotiations. In addition, NOAA must conduct negotiations to secure agreements with other nations to ensure access and equal treatment of United States fishing boats in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean while taking conservation and management measures into consideration.

TITLE IV--ILLEGAL, UNREGULATED, AND UNREPORTED FISHING

(Sec. 401) The bill amends the High Seas Drifnet Fishing Moratorium Protection Act to direct NOAA to submit a biennial report on international compliance with fishery agreements to Congress by June 1 of the submission year.

TITLE V--NORTHWEST ATLANTIC FISHERIES CONVENTION AMENDMENTS ACT

Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Convention Amendments Act

(Sec. 509) The bill amends the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Convention Act of 1995 to repeal the provisions requiring NOAA to establish and report a new fishing quota allocation practice in the northwestern Atlantic Ocean.

Actions Timeline

- **Sep 13, 2016:** Received in the Senate.
- **Sep 12, 2016:** Mrs. Radewagen moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.
- **Sep 12, 2016:** Considered under suspension of the rules. (consideration: CR H5280-5286)
- **Sep 12, 2016:** DEBATE - The House proceeded with forty minutes of debate on H.R. 4576.
- **Sep 12, 2016:** Passed/agreed to in House: On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended Agreed to by voice vote.(text: CR H5280-5285)
- **Sep 12, 2016:** On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended Agreed to by voice vote. (text: CR H5280-5285)
- **Sep 12, 2016:** Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.
- **Sep 6, 2016:** Reported (Amended) by the Committee on Natural Resources. H. Rept. 114-718.
- **Sep 6, 2016:** Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 557.
- **Jul 13, 2016:** Committee Consideration and Mark-up Session Held.
- **Jul 13, 2016:** Ordered to be Reported (Amended) by Unanimous Consent.
- **Jul 12, 2016:** Subcommittee on Water, Power and Oceans Discharged.
- **Jul 12, 2016:** Committee Consideration and Mark-up Session Held.
- **Mar 1, 2016:** Subcommittee Hearings Held.
- **Feb 19, 2016:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Water, Power and Oceans.
- **Feb 12, 2016:** Introduced in House
- **Feb 12, 2016:** Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.