

S 5053

Forage Fish Conservation Act

Congress: 116 (2019–2021, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Animals

Introduced: Dec 17, 2020

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. (Dec 17, 2020)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/5053>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]

Party: Democratic • **State:** CT • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors

No cosponsors are listed for this bill.

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee	Senate	Referred To	Dec 17, 2020

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Animals

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
116 HR 2236	Related bill	Jan 14, 2020: Subcommittee Hearings Held.

Forage Fish Conservation Act

This bill addresses the management and conservation of forage fish. (A forage fish is any fish at a low trophic level that contributes significantly to the diets of other fish, marine mammals, or birds and serves as a conduit for energy transfer to species at a higher trophic level.)

The Department of Commerce must establish guidelines to assist regional fishery management councils in (1) developing a list of unmanaged forage fish areas and prohibiting the development of any new forage fish fisheries until the potential impacts of such fisheries have been assessed; and (2) setting annual catch limits for forage fish fisheries that assess, specify, and reduce such limits by the diet needs of other fish species and marine wildlife.

The bill adds shad (American shad and hickory shad) and river herring (blueback herring and alewife) to the list of managed stocks for the New England and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council.

Actions Timeline

- **Dec 17, 2020:** Introduced in Senate
- **Dec 17, 2020:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.