

**Statement of Chairwoman Madeleine Z. Bordallo  
Oversight Hearing Regarding Illegal, Unregulated, and  
Unreported Fishing and a Legislative Hearing Regarding  
H.R. 5741, the Shark Conservation Act of 2008  
Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife and Oceans  
Wednesday, April 16, 2008**

**The Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife and Oceans meets this morning to hear testimony regarding Illegal, Unregulated, and Unreported Fishing—also known as IUU fishing, and on H.R. 5741, The Shark Conservation Act of 2008.**

**IUU fishing undermines the United States' conservation focused approach to fisheries management and its fishermen. Unsustainable fishing practices by foreign fishing fleets adversely affect stocks that migrate between the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone (the EEZ) and the high seas. This problem can be particularly acute in places like Guam, where the EEZ is vast, and the Coast Guard, despite their best efforts, will never have sufficient resources to patrol all of our waters.**

**As a result, IUU fishers are “free riders” who benefit unfairly from the sacrifices made by U.S. fishermen and others for the sake of proper fisheries conservation and management. Congress made some changes in the law in 2006 to help combat the growing problem of IUU Fishing, and we look forward to hearing about the implementation of those provisions today.**

**An illegal fishing practice that is of particular interest at this hearing is the practice of shark finning, currently banned under the Shark Finning Prohibition**

**Act of 2000 and by many regional fisheries management organizations. The Shark Finning Prohibition Act prohibits U.S. fishermen from removing the fins of sharks and discarding the carcass at sea, and from landing or transporting shark fins without the corresponding carcass.**

**Since the adoption of that law, several regional fisheries management organizations have also adopted similar prohibitions. Both domestically and internationally there have been challenges associated with the implementation of these prohibitions that are intended to be addressed through my bill, the Shark Conservation Act of 2008. Addressing the practice of shark finning is imperative to conserving sharks and the marine ecosystems of which they are a part.**

**I'm grateful that several colleagues who serve on this Subcommittee have cosponsored H.R. 5741, including Mr. Faleomaveaga, Mr. Abercrombie, and Mr. Pallone. I look forward to working with all of the Members of the Subcommittee to strengthen the conservation of sharks. I also look forward to hearing from our witnesses on how IUU fishing, in addition to shark finning, can be better addressed.**