

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6890

To prohibit Russian vessels from operating in the navigable waters of the United States, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 1, 2022

Mr. YOUNG (for himself, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Ms. STRICKLAND, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. HUIZENGA, and Mr. PALAZZO) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, 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

A BILL

To prohibit Russian vessels from operating in the navigable waters of the United States, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Bringing Oligarch Ac-
5 countability Through Seizure Act” or the “BOATS Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. PROHIBITION ON ENTRY AND OPERATION.**

7 (a) PROHIBITION.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise pro-
2 vided in this section, no vessel described in sub-
3 section (b) may enter or operate in the navigable
4 waters of the United States or transfer cargo in any
5 port or place under the jurisdiction of the United
6 States.

7 (2) LIMITATIONS ON APPLICATION.—

8 (A) IN GENERAL.—The prohibition under
9 paragraph (1) shall not apply with respect to a
10 vessel described in subsection (b)(1) if the Sec-
11 retary of State determines that—

12 (i) the vessel is owned or operated by
13 a Russian national or operated by the gov-
14 ernment of the Russian Federation; and

15 (ii) it is in the national security inter-
16 est not to apply the prohibition to such
17 vessel.

18 (B) NOTICE.—Not later than 15 days
19 after making a determination under subpara-
20 graph (A), the Secretary of State shall submit
21 to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the
22 Committee on Transportation and Infrastruc-
23 ture of the House of Representatives and the
24 Committee on Foreign Relations and the Com-
25 mittee on Commerce, Science, and Transpor-

1 tation of the Senate written notice of the deter-
2 mination and the basis upon which the deter-
3 mination was made.

4 (C) PUBLICATION.—The Secretary of
5 State shall publish a notice in the Federal Reg-
6 ister of each determination made under sub-
7 paragraph (A).

8 (b) VESSELS DESCRIBED.—A vessel referred to in
9 subsection (a) is a vessel owned or operated by a Russian
10 national or operated by the Government of the Russian
11 Federation.

12 (c) INFORMATION AND PUBLICATION.—The Sec-
13 retary of the department in which the Coast Guard is op-
14 erating, with the concurrence of the Secretary of State,
15 shall—

16 (1) maintain timely information on the registra-
17 tions of all foreign vessels owned or operated by or
18 on behalf of the Government of the Russian Federa-
19 tion, a Russian national, or a entity organized under
20 the laws of the Russian Federation or any jurisdic-
21 tion within the Russian Federation; and

22 (2) periodically publish in the Federal Register
23 a list of the vessels described in paragraph (1).

24 (d) NOTIFICATION OF GOVERNMENTS.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State shall
2 notify each government, the agents or instrumental-
3 ities of which are maintaining a registration of a for-
4 eign vessel that is included on a list published under
5 subsection (c)(2), not later than 30 days after such
6 publication, that all vessels registered under such
7 government’s authority are subject to subsection (a).

8 (2) ADDITIONAL NOTIFICATION.—In the case of
9 a government that continues to maintain a registra-
10 tion for a vessel that is included on such list after
11 receiving an initial notification under paragraph (1),
12 the Secretary shall issue an additional notification to
13 such government not later than 120 days after the
14 publication of a list under subsection (c)(2).

15 (e) NOTIFICATION OF VESSELS.—Upon receiving a
16 notice of arrival under section 70001(a)(5) of title 46,
17 United States Code, from a vessel described in subsection
18 (b), the Secretary of the department in which the Coast
19 Guard is operating shall notify the master of such vessel
20 that the vessel may not enter or operate in the navigable
21 waters of the United States or transfer cargo in any port
22 or place under the jurisdiction of the United States, un-
23 less—

24 (1) the Secretary of State has made a deter-
25 mination under subsection (a)(2); or

1 (2) the Secretary of the department in which
2 the Coast Guard is operating allows provisional
3 entry of the vessel, or transfer of cargo from the ves-
4 sel, under subsection (f).

5 (f) PROVISIONAL ENTRY OR CARGO TRANSFER.—
6 Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, the
7 Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is
8 operating may allow provisional entry of, or transfer of
9 cargo from, a vessel, if such entry or transfer is necessary
10 for the safety of the vessel or persons aboard.

11 **SEC. 3. SEIZURE AND FORFEITURE OF VESSEL; FINE AND**
12 **IMPRISONMENT.**

13 If any owner, agent, master, officer, or person in
14 charge, or any member of the crew of any such vessel fails
15 to comply with any regulation or rule issued or order given
16 under the provisions of this subtitle, or obstructs or inter-
17 feres with the exercise of any power conferred by this sub-
18 title—

19 (1) the vessel, together with the tackle, apparel,
20 furniture, and equipment, shall be subject to seizure
21 and forfeiture to the United States in the same
22 manner as merchandise is forfeited for violation of
23 the customs revenue laws; and

24 (2) the person guilty of such failure, obstruc-
25 tion, or interference shall be punished by imprison-

1 ment for not more than 50 years and fined not more
2 than \$10,000,000,000.

3 **SEC. 4. AUCTION AND PROCEEDS OF VESSEL SEIZURE.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Any vessel seized and forfeited
5 under section 422 shall be sold at auction to any entity
6 that is not the Government of the Russian Federation, a
7 Russian national, or a entity organized under the laws of
8 the Russian Federation or any jurisdiction within the Rus-
9 sian Federation. The proceeds of any such auction may
10 only be used for humanitarian aid to Ukraine that is pro-
11 vided by a state that is a member of the North Atlantic
12 Treaty Organization.

13 (b) APPLICABILITY.—Paragraph (1) shall be effective
14 until the earlier of—

15 (1) 1 year after the date of enactment of this
16 Act; and

17 (2) the date on which the President certifies
18 that the conflict between the Russian Federation
19 and Ukraine has concluded.

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