

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4323

To prohibit the issuance of an interim or final rule that amends, updates, modifies, or replaces the North Atlantic Right Whale vessel strike reduction rule until mitigation protocols are fully developed and deployed.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 23, 2023

Mr. CARTER of Georgia (for himself, Mrs. PELTOLA, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. RUTHERFORD, and Ms. MACE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To prohibit the issuance of an interim or final rule that amends, updates, modifies, or replaces the North Atlantic Right Whale vessel strike reduction rule until mitigation protocols are fully developed and deployed.

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 “Protecting Whales,
5 Human Safety and the Economy Act of 2023”.

1 **SEC. 2. CONDITIONS FOR RULES RELATED TO THE NORTH**
2 **ATLANTIC RIGHT WHALE VESSEL STRIKE RE-**
3 **DUCTION RULE.**

4 The Administrator of the National Oceanic and At-
5 mospheric Administration shall not issue an interim or
6 final rule that amends, updates, modifies, or replaces the
7 North Atlantic Right Whale vessel strike reduction rule
8 under section 224.105 of title 50, Code of Federal Regula-
9 tions, as in effect on January 3, 2023, until the date—

10 (1) the mitigation protocols under section
11 11303(e) of the Don Young Coast Guard Authoriza-
12 tion Act of 2022 (16 U.S.C. 1391(e)) are fully devel-
13 oped and deployed; and

14 (2) the Secretary provides a report to the Com-
15 mittee on Appropriations of the Senate, the Com-
16 mittee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of
17 the Senate, the Committee on Appropriations of the
18 House of Representatives, and the Committee on
19 Natural Resources of the House of Representatives
20 on how the mitigation protocols will inform any pro-
21 posed changes to section 224.105 of title 50, Code
22 of Federal Regulations.

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