

103D CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1564

To save Florida Bay.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 31, 1993

Mr. SHAW (for himself, Mr. DEUTSCH, Mr. LEWIS of Florida, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. STEARNS, Mr. MCCOLLUM, Mr. GOSS, Mr. GIBBONS, Mr. BACCHUS of Florida, Mr. JOHNSTON of Florida, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. HUTTO, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. MICA, Mr. PETERSON of Florida, Mrs. THURMAN, Mrs. FOWLER, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. CANADY, Mr. YOUNG of Florida, and Mrs. MEEK of Florida) introduced the following bill; which was referred jointly to the Committees on Merchant Marine and Fisheries and Natural Resources

A BILL

To save Florida Bay.

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 “Save Florida Bay Act
5 of 1993”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds the following:

8 (1) Florida Bay is vitally important to both the
9 economy and ecology of the State of Florida.

1 (2) Florida Bay's environmental health has
2 been deteriorating at a rapid rate, which for un-
3 known reasons is presently accelerating.

4 (3) Florida Bay is the principal nursery for
5 Florida's largest commercial and sport fishing fish-
6 eries.

7 (4) 55 square miles of seagrasses in Florida
8 Bay have died since 1987.

9 (5) The number of pink shrimp caught after
10 maturing in Florida Bay is near a 30-year low.

11 (6) Mangroves and sponges in Florida Bay are
12 dying at an alarming rate.

13 (7) Florida Bay is currently abnormally saline
14 and warm, causing an unhealthy habitat for juvenile
15 shrimp, lobster, fish, and other creatures.

16 (8) The nearby coral reefs, the only living coral
17 reefs in the Nation, are endangered by the changes
18 occurring in Florida Bay.

19 (9) The most massive plankton bloom ever
20 found in Florida Bay was recorded in the summer
21 of 1992 and still exists.

22 (10) A dearth of knowledge exists on how Flor-
23 ida Bay's ecosystem functions.

1 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMITTEE.**

2 Not later than 30 days after the date of the enact-
3 ment of this Act, the Chairman of the Council on Environ-
4 mental Quality (in this Act referred to as the “Chair-
5 man”) shall establish and thereafter coordinate an inter-
6 agency committee, including representatives from the De-
7 partment of the Interior, the Environmental Protection
8 Agency, the Corps of Engineers, and the National Marine
9 Fisheries Service, to develop a program for facilitating the
10 restoration of Florida Bay and to define the roles and re-
11 sponsibilities of each of those agencies in facilitating that
12 restoration.

13 **SEC. 4. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING INCLUSION OF**
14 **FLORIDA BAY IN COASTAL AMERICA PRO-**
15 **GRAM.**

16 It is the sense of the Congress that not later than
17 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
18 Chairman should include Florida Bay as part of the
19 Coastal America program.

20 **SEC. 5. FLORIDA BAY ELIGIBLE FOR PRIORITY CONSIDER-**
21 **ATION UNDER NATIONAL ESTUARY PRO-**
22 **GRAM.**

23 Section 320(a)(2)(B) of the Federal Water Pollution
24 Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1330(a)(2)(B)) is amended by in-
25 serting “Florida Bay, Florida;” after “Sarasota Bay,
26 Florida;”.

1 **SEC. 6. STUDY.**

2 (a) STUDY REQUIRED.—Not later than 30 days after
3 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of
4 the Interior shall direct the superintendent of the Ever-
5 glades National Park to conduct a study of the problems
6 plaguing Florida Bay, including an assessment of the im-
7 pact of Hurricane Andrew. Such study shall be completed
8 no later than September 30, 1993, and upon completion
9 the Secretary of the Interior shall submit a report to the
10 Congress describing the findings, conclusions, and rec-
11 ommendations of the study.

12 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
13 authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of the Inte-
14 rior for the study under subsection (a) \$3,000,000 for fis-
15 cal year 1994, to remain available until expended.

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