

House Calendar No. 93

105TH CONGRESS
1ST Session

H. CON. RES. 131

[Report No. 105-262]

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of Congress regarding the
ocean.

SEPTEMBER 23, 1997

Reported with amendments, referred to the House
Calendar and ordered to be printed

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H. CON. RES. 131

[Report No. 105-262]

Expressing the sense of Congress regarding the ocean.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 29, 1997

Mr. SAXTON (for himself and Mr. ABERCROMBIE) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Resources

SEPTEMBER 23, 1997

Additional sponsors: Mr. CUNNINGHAM, Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania, Mrs. MINK of Hawaii, Mr. FARR of California, Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. HORN, Ms. WOOLSEY, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. GREEN, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. DAVIS of Florida, Mr. BILBRAY, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island, and Mr. PORTER

SEPTEMBER 23, 1997

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[Strike out the preamble and insert the part printed in *italic*]

[Strike out all after the resolving clause and insert the part printed in *italic*]

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of Congress regarding the ocean.

Whereas the ocean comprises nearly three quarters of the surface of the Earth;

Whereas the ocean contains diverse species of fish and other living organisms which form the largest ecosystem on Earth;

Whereas these living marine resources provide important food resources to the United States and the world; and unsustainable use of these resources has unacceptable economic, environmental, and cultural consequences;

Whereas the ocean and sea floor contain vast energy and mineral resources which are critical to the economy of the United States and the world;

Whereas the ocean largely controls global weather and climate, and is the ultimate source of all water resources;

Whereas the vast majority of the deep ocean is unexplored and unknown, and the ocean is truly the last frontier on Earth for science and civilization;

Whereas the ocean is the common means of transportation between coastal nations and carries the majority of the United States foreign trade;

Whereas any nation's use or misuse of ocean resources has effects far beyond that nation's borders; and

Whereas the United Nations has declared 1998 to be the International Year of the Ocean, and in order to observe such celebration, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and other Federal agencies, in cooperation with organizations concerned with ocean science and marine resources, have resolved to promote exploration, utilization, conservation, and public awareness of the ocean: Now, therefore, be it

Whereas the ocean comprises nearly three quarters of the surface of the Earth;

Whereas the ocean contains diverse species of fish and other living organisms which form the largest ecosystem on Earth;

Whereas these living marine resources provide important food resources to the United States and the world, and unsustainable use of these resources has unacceptable economic, environmental, and cultural consequences;

Whereas the ocean and sea floor contain vast energy and mineral resources which are critical to the economy of the United States and the world;

Whereas the ocean largely controls global weather and climate, and is the ultimate source of all water resources;

Whereas the vast majority of the deep ocean is unexplored and unknown, and the ocean is truly the last frontier on Earth for science and civilization;

Whereas the ocean is the common means of transportation between coastal nations and carries the majority of the United States foreign trade;

Whereas any nation's use or misuse of ocean resources has effects far beyond that nation's borders;

Whereas it has been 30 years since the Commission on Marine Science, Engineering, and Resources (popularly known as the Stratton Commission) met to examine the state of United States ocean and coastal policy, and issued recommendations which led to the present Federal structure for oceanography and marine resource management; and

Whereas 1998 has been declared the International Year of the Ocean, and in order to observe such celebration, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and other Federal agencies, in cooperation with orga-

nizations concerned with ocean science and marine resources, have resolved to promote exploration, utilization, conservation, and public awareness of the ocean: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring), That it is the sense of the Congress that—*

3 (1) the ocean is of paramount importance to
4 the economic future, environmental quality, and na-
5 tional security of the United States;

6 (2) the United States has a responsibility to ex-
7 ercise and promote comprehensive stewardship of the
8 ocean and the living marine resources it contains;
9 and

10 (3) the agencies of the United States Govern-
11 ment, and all other public and private organizations,
12 are encouraged to strive toward a better understand-
13 ing of the ocean, communicate this understanding to
14 the people of the United States, and thereby pro-
15 mote the exploration of the ocean, the sustainable
16 use of ocean resources, and the conservation of these
17 resources for future generations.

18 *That it is the sense of the Congress that—*

19 (1) *the ocean is of paramount importance to the*
20 *economic future, environmental quality, and national*
21 *security of the United States;*

1 (2) *the United States has a responsibility to ex-*
2 *ercise and promote comprehensive stewardship of the*
3 *ocean and the living marine resources it contains;*
4 *and*

5 (3) *Federal agencies are encouraged to take ad-*
6 *vantage of the United States and international focus*
7 *on the oceans in 1998, to—*

8 (A) *review United States oceanography and*
9 *marine resource management policies and pro-*
10 *grams;*

11 (B) *identify opportunities to streamline,*
12 *better direct, and increase interagency coopera-*
13 *tion in oceanographic research and marine re-*
14 *source management policies and programs; and*

15 (C) *develop scientific, educational, and re-*
16 *source management programs which will ad-*
17 *vance the exploration of the ocean and the sus-*
18 *tainable use of ocean resources.*