

Summary of Key Ocean Bills

The Joint Ocean Commission Initiative is a collaborative effort by the members of the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy and the Pew Oceans Commission to advance the pace of change for meaningful ocean policy reform consistent with the two Commissions' recommendations. Since early 2005, the Joint Initiative has been engaging leaders in Congress and the Administration on critical ocean policy reform issues. It has also been working closely with Governors and other state leaders, as well as a variety of networks of people involved in local, state, and regional ocean issues, facilitating progress in the regions in order to build durable support for the Initiative's national priorities. For more information on the Joint Initiative, please visit www.jointoceancommission.org.

The following tables provide information on the status and content of key bills regarding oceans and coasts that are currently moving through the 110th United States Congress. The document focuses on legislation related to comprehensive ocean management reform, coastal zone management, offshore energy, fisheries management, an organic act for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, ocean observation and exploration, and other marine issues.

This is a living document that is updated as action is taken on existing legislation and as new bills are introduced. It is not intended to capture all legislation that might affect oceans and coasts, but instead is a highlight of the most important bills. This document was prepared by Meridian Institute, which serves as the secretariat for the Joint Ocean Commission Initiative. To facilitate periodic updates, Meridian Institute would appreciate notification of amendments or additions. Please contact Laura Cantral of Meridian Institute at 202-354-6444 or lcantral@merid.org.

Last updated: *5 March 2007*

Key Bills	Elements	Primary Sponsor & Committee Status
-----------	----------	------------------------------------

COMPREHENSIVE OCEAN BILLS

H.R. 21	<p>Ocean Conservation, Education, and National Strategy for the 21st Century Act (OCEANS 21)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Establishes a National Oceans Advisor for the President and federal advisory bodies on ocean policy. ▪ Provides guidelines for regional coordination and ecosystem planning. ▪ Establishes an ocean and Great Lakes conservation trust fund. ▪ Formally authorizes NOAA (with language from H.R. 250). 	<p>Farr (D-CA) Natural Resources, SC Fisheries Oceans Science, SC Energy and Env. 1/4/07: Introduced</p>
---------	---	---

CLIMATE CHANGE

H.R. 620	<p>Climate Stewardship Act of 2007 *</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Establishes a market-driven system of tradable allowances for greenhouse gasses. ▪ Establishes a system for managing the tradable allowances program that provides some revenues to be used for fish and wildlife habitat programs. ▪ Adds a section to the Coastal Zone Management Act that requires NOAA to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Report to Congress within 2 years and every 5 years thereafter on the possible and projected impacts of climate change on oceanic and marine ecosystems, marine fish and wildlife and their habitat, and coastal communities. ○ Provide states with technical assistance in preparing coastal residents for adaptation to climate change. <p>(The bill does not authorize additional NOAA funding for these activities.)</p> <p>* Only select provisions of this bill are summarized.</p>	<p>Olver (D-MA) Energy and Commerce Science, SC Energy and Env. Natural Resources, SC Fisheries Oceans 1/22/07: Introduced</p>
----------	---	---

CORAL REEF CONSERVATION

H.R. 1007	<p><i>No short title available.</i> To reauthorize the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000, and for other purposes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Expands the coral reef program to address boat navigation around coral reefs, local community and nongovernmental organization involvement, and emergency situations. ▪ Requires submission of a report to Congress every three years. ▪ Establishes the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force in law. 	<p>Faleomavaega (D-AS) Natural Resources Science and Technology 2/27/07: Introduced</p>
-----------	---	--

FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE

S. 533	<p>Natural Stock Conservation Act</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Amends the National Aquaculture Act of 1980 to prohibit the issuance of permits for marine aquaculture until requirements for the permits are enacted into law. 	<p>Murkowski (R-AK) Agriculture 2/8/07: Introduced</p>
--------	---	---

INVASIVE SPECIES

H.R. 260	<p>Aquatic Invasive Species Research Act</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Establishes marine and freshwater research, development, and demonstration programs to support efforts to prevent, control, and eradicate invasive species, as well as to educate citizens and stakeholders and restore ecosystems. 	<p>Ehlers (R-MI) Science, SC Energy and Env. Transportation Natural Resources, SC Fisheries Oceans Administration 1/5/07: Introduced</p>
H.R. 801	<p>Great Lakes Invasive Species Control Act</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Amends the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990 to require all vessels equipped with ballast water tanks to carry out exchange of ballast water or alternative ballast water management methods prior to entry into any port within the Great Lakes. ▪ Requires the Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Secretary of Commerce, to conduct a study of the effectiveness, feasibility of application, and environmental soundness of ballast water tank treatment methods, other than ballast water exchange, in reducing the threat of invasive species to the Great Lakes. 	<p>Kirk (R-IL) Transportation 2/5/07: Introduced</p>
H.R. 889	<p>Prevention of Aquatic Invasive Species Act</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Amends the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention Act of 1990 to establish vessel ballast water management requirements. 	<p>Miller (R-MI) Transportation Natural Resources 2/7/07: Introduced</p>

MARINE AND COASTAL POLLUTION

H.R. 802	<p>Maritime Pollution Prevention Act of 2007</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishes limits on ship emissions of nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, and ozone-depleting chemicals, bringing the U.S. into compliance with the international shipping treaty MARPOL Annex VI. 	<p>Oberstar (D-MN) Transportation 2/5/07: Introduced 2/7/07: Reported out of committee</p>
H.R. 909	<p>Safe Water Improvement and Modernization Act of 2007</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amends the Federal Water Pollution Control Act and the Beaches Environmental Assessment and Coastal Health Act of 2000 to authorize appropriations for activities to improve the quality of coastal recreation waters. 	<p>Billbray (R-CA) Transportation 2/8/07: Introduced</p>
H.R. 1091	<p>Save our Shores Act</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reauthorizes the Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Act of 1998. 	<p>Mack (R-FL) Science, SC Energy and Env. Natural Resources 2/15/07: Introduced</p>

MARINE MAMMALS

H.R. 1007	<p><i>No short title available.</i> To amend the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reauthorizes the Marine Mammal Protection Act, removing a provision that requires fisheries managers to reduce the bycatch of marine mammals to “insignificant levels approaching a zero mortality and serious injury rate.” 	<p>Young (R-AK) Natural Resources 2/13/07: Introduced</p>
-----------	--	--

NOAA ORGANIC ACT

H.R. 250	<p>National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Act*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formally authorizes NOAA as an agency within the Department of Commerce Lays out the mission for NOAA and restructures the agency around four areas: the National Weather Service, research and education, operations and services, and resources management. Requires a reorganization of the agency within 2 years. Creates a Science Advisory Board. <p><small>*This bill is identical to H.R. 5450 from the 109th Congress.</small></p>	<p>Ehlers (R-MI) Natural Resources, SC Fisheries Oceans Science, SC Energy and Env. 2/5/07: Introduced</p>
----------	---	---

OCEAN OBSERVATION AND EXPLORATION

S. 39	<p>Ocean and Coastal Exploration and NOAA Act (OCEAN Act)</p> <p>Title I National Ocean Exploration Program Act</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Establishes a coordinated national ocean exploration program in NOAA with a focus on deep sea regions, the location of historic shipwrecks and submerged sites, and public education programs. ▪ Requires NOAA to convene an ocean technology and infrastructure task force. ▪ Authorizes NOAA, NSF, and other agencies involved in the program to participate in interagency financing and sharing of funds. <p>Title II NOAA Undersea Research Program Act of 2007</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Establishes an undersea research program to be conducted through a national headquarters, a network of regional undersea research centers, and a national technology institute. 	<p>Stevens (R-AK)</p> <p>Commerce</p> <p>1/4/07: Introduced</p> <p>2/13/07: Reported out of committee</p>
-------	--	--

OFFSHORE ENERGY

S. 151	<p>California Ocean and Coastal Protection Act</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Amends the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to prohibit oil and gas pre-leasing, leasing, and related activities off the coast of California. ▪ Amends the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to exclude such areas from oil and natural gas resources inventory and analysis requirements. 	<p>Boxer (D-CA)</p> <p>Energy and Natural Resources</p> <p>1/4/07: Introduced</p>
S. 298	<p>Renewable Energy, Fuel Reduction, and Economic Stabilization and Enhancement Act*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Requires the provision of grants for development of offshore energy, including wave, current, tidal, and thermal energy, and authorizes \$100 million for this purpose. <p>*Only select provisions of this bill are summarized.</p>	<p>Murkowski (R-AK)</p> <p>Finance</p> <p>1/16/07: Introduced</p>

<p>H.R. 6</p>	<p>Creating Long-Term Energy Alternatives for the Nation (CLEAN) Energy Act of 2007*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Rolls back certain tax reductions on the oil and gas industry that were included in the 2005 Energy Policy Act. ▪ Rolls back or eliminates some of the deepwater royalty relief provisions that Congress provided in the 2005 Energy Policy Act. ▪ Requires approval of requests by any lessee to amend a 1998 or 1999 lease to include price thresholds that had been mistakenly omitted from leases during those years. ▪ Prohibits a 1998-1999 lessee from acquiring any new leases in the Gulf of Mexico unless the company either renegotiated the lease to include price thresholds or agreed to pay a conservation of resource fee. ▪ Federal receipts generated by the bill would be deposited in a fund to offset the cost of subsequent legislation designed to promote and conduct research on renewable and alternative energy sources. <p>*Only select provisions of this bill are summarized.</p>	<p>Rahall (D-WV)</p> <p><u>House</u></p> <p>Ways and Means</p> <p>Natural Resources</p> <p>Budget</p> <p>Rules</p> <p>1/12/07: Introduced</p> <p>1/18/07: Passed the House (264-163)</p> <p><u>Senate</u></p> <p>1/22/07: Placed on Senate Calendar</p>
---------------	--	---