

111TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3569

To improve the ability of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to respond to releases of subsea oil and gas, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 12, 2010

Mr. NELSON of Florida introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

A BILL

To improve the ability of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to respond to releases of subsea oil and gas, 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 “Subsea Hydrocarbon
5 Imagery and Planning Act of 2010”.

6 **SEC. 2. IMPROVEMENTS TO NATIONAL OCEANIC AND AT-**
7 **MOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION OIL SPILL RE-**
8 **SPONSE.**

9 (a) SUBSEA HYDROCARBON REVIEW.—Not later
10 than 45 days after the date of the enactment of this Act,

1 the Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere shall
2 conduct a comprehensive review of the current state of the
3 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and
4 the capacity of the Administration to monitor, map, and
5 track subsea hydrocarbons.

6 (b) ELEMENTS.—The review conducted under sub-
7 section (a) shall include the following:

8 (1) A review of protocol for application of
9 dispersants that contemplates the variables of tem-
10 perature, pressure, and depth of the site of release
11 of hydrocarbons.

12 (2) A review of technological capabilities to de-
13 tect the presence of subsea hydrocarbons at various
14 concentrations and at various depths within a water
15 column resulting from releases of oil and natural gas
16 after a spill.

17 (3) A review of technological capabilities for ex-
18 peditiously identifying the source (known as
19 “fingerprinting”) of subsea hydrocarbons.

20 (4) A review of coastal and ocean current mod-
21 eling as it relates to predicting the trajectory of oil
22 and natural gas.

23 (5) A review of the effect of subsea hydro-
24 carbons (all concentrations including down to hydro-
25 carbon chains in solution) on all levels of the food

1 web, including evaluations of seafood safety, toxicity
2 to individuals, negative impacts to reproduction, bio-
3 accumulation, growth, and such other matters as the
4 Under Secretary considers appropriate.

5 (6) Development of recommendations on prior-
6 ities for improving forecasting of movement of
7 subsea hydrocarbons.

8 (7) Development of recommendations for long-
9 term remote monitoring of subsea hydrocarbons
10 after a spill, including dissolved oxygen impacts.

11 (8) Development of recommendations for imple-
12 mentation of a Subsea Hydrocarbon Monitoring and
13 Assessment program within the Office of Response
14 and Restoration.

15 (c) PROGRAM REQUIRED.—Not later than 1 year
16 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Under
17 Secretary shall establish a hydrocarbon monitoring and
18 assessment program. Such program shall be based on the
19 recommendations developed under the comprehensive re-
20 view required by subsection (a).

21 (d) FUNDING.—Not later than 30 days after the date
22 of the enactment of this Act, out of any funds in the Oil
23 Spill Liability Trust Fund established by section 9509 of
24 the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 not otherwise appro-
25 priated, the Secretary of the Treasury shall transfer to

1 the Secretary of Commerce to carry out the provisions of
2 this section \$15,000,000 to remain available until ex-
3 pended.

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