

I urge support for the legislation.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I have no requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I do not have any additional speakers as well, and I yield back the balance of time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3903, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 3903, the bill just passed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Alaska?

There was no objection.

OCEANS ACT OF 1998

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3445) to establish the Commission on Ocean Policy, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3445

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Oceans Act of 1998".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

As used in this Act:

(1) COMMISSION.—The term "Commission" means the Commission on Ocean Policy established under section 4.

(2) COASTAL STATE.—The term "coastal State" means a State in, or bordering on, the Atlantic, Pacific, or Arctic Ocean, the Gulf of Mexico, Long Island Sound, or one or more of the Great Lakes.

(3) MARINE ENVIRONMENT.—The term "marine environment" includes—

(A) the oceans, including coastal and offshore waters and nearshore saltwater estuaries;

(B) the continental shelf; and

(C) the Great Lakes.

(4) OCEAN AND COASTAL ACTIVITIES.—The term "ocean and coastal activities" includes activities consisting of, affecting, or otherwise related to oceanography, fisheries, or the management or use of any ocean and coastal resource. The term does not include military operations and training.

(5) OCEAN AND COASTAL RESOURCE.—The term "ocean and coastal resource" means any living or nonliving natural, historic, or cultural resource or mineral found in the marine environment.

(6) STATE.—The term "State" means any State of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto

Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and any other territory or possession of the United States.

SEC. 3. EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES.

(a) NATIONAL OCEAN AND COASTAL POLICY.—The Congress and the President, after receiving and considering the report of the Commission under section 4, shall develop and propose a coordinated, comprehensive, and long-range national policy for the responsible use and stewardship of ocean and coastal resources for the benefit of the United States, including a plan to meet the resource monitoring and assessment facilities and equipment requirements of Federal ocean and coastal programs.

(b) BIENNIAL REPORT.—Beginning in January 1999, the President shall transmit to the Congress biennially a report that shall include a detailed listing of all existing Federal programs relating to ocean and coastal activities, including a description of each program, the current funding for the program, and a projection of the funding level for the program for each of the following 5 fiscal years.

(c) BUDGET COORDINATION.—Each agency or department involved in ocean and coastal activities shall include with its annual request for appropriations a report that identifies significant elements of the proposed agency or department budget relating to ocean and coastal activities.

(d) COOPERATION AND CONSULTATION.—In carrying out responsibilities under this Act, the President—

(1) may use such staff, interagency, and advisory arrangements as the President finds necessary and appropriate; and

(2) shall consult with State and local governments and non-Federal organizations and individuals involved in ocean and coastal activities.

SEC. 4. COMMISSION ON OCEAN POLICY.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—There is hereby established the Commission on Ocean Policy.

(2) MEMBERSHIP.—(A) The Commission shall be composed of 16 members appointed by the President from among individuals who are knowledgeable in ocean and coastal activities, including individuals representing State and local governments, ocean-related industries, academic and technical institutions, and public interest organizations involved with scientific, regulatory, economic, and environmental ocean and coastal activities. The membership of the Commission shall be balanced geographically to the extent consistent with maintaining the highest level of expertise on the Commission.

(B) Of the members of the Commission appointed under this paragraph—

(i) 4 shall be appointed from a list of 8 individuals who shall be recommended by the majority leader of the Senate in consultation with the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation;

(ii) 4 shall be appointed from a list of 8 individuals who shall be recommended by the Speaker of the House of Representatives in consultation with the Chairmen of the Committees on Resources, Transportation and Infrastructure, and Science;

(iii) 2 shall be appointed from a list of 4 individuals who shall be recommended by the minority leader of the Senate in consultation with the ranking member of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation; and

(iv) 2 shall be appointed from a list of 4 individuals who shall be recommended by the by the minority leader of the House of Representatives in consultation with the ranking members of the Committees on Re-

sources, Transportation and Infrastructure, and Science.

(C) The members of the Commission shall be appointed for the life of the Commission by not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(3) FIRST MEETING.—The Commission shall hold its first meeting within 30 days after it is established.

(4) CHAIRMAN.—The Commission shall elect one of its members as Chair.

(b) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall submit to the Congress and the President, by not later than 18 months after the date of the establishment of the Commission, a final report of its findings and recommendations regarding United States ocean policy.

(2) PUBLIC AND STATE REVIEW.—Before submitting the final report to the Congress, the Commission shall—

(A) publish in the Federal Register a notice that the draft report is available for public review; and

(B) provide a copy of the draft report to the Governor of each coastal State, the Committees on Resources, Transportation and Infrastructure, and Science of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

(3) FINAL REPORT CONTENTS, GENERALLY.—Subject to paragraph (4), the final report of the Commission shall include recommendations for the responsible use and stewardship of ocean and coastal resources, including the following:

(A) Recommendations for any modifications to United States laws and regulations, and the administrative structure of the Executive agencies, that are necessary to improve the understanding, management, and conservation and use of, and access to, ocean and coastal resources.

(B) An assessment of the condition and adequacy of existing and planned facilities associated with ocean and coastal activities, including human resources, vessels, computers, satellites, and other appropriate platforms and technologies, and recommendations for investments and improvements in those facilities.

(C) A review of existing and planned ocean and coastal activities of Federal entities, and recommendations for changes in such activities necessary to reduce duplication of Federal efforts.

(D) A review of the cumulative effect of Federal laws and regulations on United States ocean policy, an examination of those laws and regulations for inconsistencies and contradictions that might adversely affect the conduct of ocean and coastal activities, and recommendations for resolving any such inconsistencies. In particular, this portion of the report shall include an examination of the relationship between the fisheries development and fisheries conservation responsibilities of the National Marine Fisheries Service.

(E) A review of the known and anticipated supply of and demand for ocean and coastal resources of the United States.

(F) A review of the relationship between Federal, State, and local governments and the private sector in planning and carrying out ocean and coastal activities, and recommendations for enhancing the role of State and local governments.

(G) A review of opportunities for the development of or investment in new products, technologies, or markets related to ocean and coastal activities.

(H) A review of previous and ongoing State efforts and Federal efforts to enhance the effectiveness and integration of ocean activities, including those occurring offshore and in nearshore saltwater estuaries.

(4) **STATE COMMENTS.**—The Commission shall include in the final report comments received from the Governor of any coastal State regarding recommendations in the draft report that apply to areas within the boundaries of that coastal State.

(5) **CONSIDERATION OF FACTORS.**—In making its assessments and reviews and developing its recommendations, the Commission shall give full and balanced consideration to environmental, technical, economic, and other relevant factors, with an equal opportunity for all parties to present a fair and reasonable case for unbiased consideration by the Commission. All recommendations should consider effects on private property. To the greatest extent possible, no recommendations shall have a negative impact on local economies that are dependent on ocean and coastal resources. Any data used by the Commission in making its recommendations for regulations shall be peer reviewed.

(6) **LIMITATION ON RECOMMENDATIONS.**—The Commission shall not make any specific recommendations with respect to lands and waters within the boundary of any State located north of 51 degrees North latitude, or with respect to lands and waters within the State of Idaho.

(c) **DUTIES OF THE CHAIR.**—In carrying out the provisions of this section, the Chair of the Commission shall be responsible for—

(1) the assignment of duties and responsibilities among staff personnel and their continuing supervision; and

(2) the use and expenditures of funds available to the Commission.

(d) **COMPENSATION.**—Members of the Commission shall, subject to the availability of appropriations, when engaged in the actual performance of duties of the Commission, receive reimbursement of travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence as authorized for persons employed intermittently in the Government service under section 3109 of title 5, United States Code.

(e) **STAFF.**—

(1) **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.**—The Chair of the Commission may, with the consent of the Commission and without regard to the civil service laws and regulations, appoint and terminate an executive director who is knowledgeable in administrative management and ocean and coastal policy and such other additional personnel as may be necessary to enable the Commission to perform its duties.

(2) **COMPENSATION.**—The executive director shall, subject to the availability of appropriations, be compensated at a rate not to exceed the rate payable for Level V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of title 5, United States Code. The Chairman may fix the compensation of other personnel without regard to the provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of title 5, United States Code, relating to classification of positions and General Schedule pay rates, except that the rate of pay for such personnel may not exceed the rate payable for GS-15, step 7, of the General Schedule under section 5332 of such title.

(3) **DETAILÉES.**—Upon a request of the Chair of the Commission made after consulting with the head of any Federal agencies responsible for managing ocean and coastal resources, the head of any such Federal agency may detail appropriate personnel of the agency to the Commission to assist the Commission in carrying out its functions under this Act. Federal Government employees detailed to the Commission shall serve without reimbursement from the Commission, and shall retain the rights, status, and privileges of his or her regular employment without interruption.

(4) **EXPERTS AND CONSULTANTS.**—To the extent that funds are available, and subject to

such rules as may be prescribed by the Commission, the executive director of the Commission may procure the temporary and intermittent services of experts and consultants in accordance with section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, but at rates not to exceed the daily rate payable for GS-15, step 7, of the General Schedule under section 5332 of title 5, United States Code.

(f) **ADMINISTRATION.**—

(1) **MEETINGS.**—All meetings of the Commission shall be open to the public, except that a meeting or any portion of it may be closed to the public if it concerns matters or information described in section 552b(c) of title 5, United States Code. Interested persons shall be permitted to appear at open meetings and present written statements or oral statements at the discretion of the Commission on the subject matter of the meeting. The Commission may administer oaths or affirmations to any person appearing before it.

(2) **NOTICE OF MEETINGS.**—All open meetings of the Commission shall be preceded by timely public notice, including notice in the Federal Register, of the time, place, and subject of the meeting.

(3) **MINUTES AND OTHER RECORDS.**—(A) Minutes of each meeting shall be kept and shall contain a record of the people present, a description of the discussion that occurred, and copies of all statements filed. Subject to restrictions set forth in section 552 of title 5, United States Code, the minutes and records of all meetings and other documents that were made available to or prepared for the Commission shall be available for public inspection and copying at a single location in the offices of the Commission.

(B) The Commission shall have at least one meeting in each of the following 6 geographic regions of the United States:

(i) The Northeast.

(ii) The Southeast.

(iii) The Southwest.

(iv) The Northwest.

(v) The Great Lakes States.

(vi) The Gulf of Mexico States.

(g) **COOPERATION WITH OTHER FEDERAL ENTITIES.**—

(1) **OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES AND DEPARTMENTS.**—The Commission may secure directly from any Federal agency or department any information it considers necessary to carry out its functions under this Act. Each such agency or department may cooperate with the Commission and, to the extent permitted by law, furnish such information to the Commission, upon the request of the Chair of the Commission.

(2) **MAILS.**—The Commission may use the United States mails in the same manner and under the same conditions as departments and agencies of the United States.

(3) **ACQUISITIONS.**—The Commission may enter into contracts with Federal and State agencies, private firms, institutions, and individuals to assist the Commission in carrying out its duties. The Commission may purchase and contract without regard to section 18 of the Office of Federal Procurement Policy Act (41 U.S.C. 416) and section 8 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637), pertaining to competition and publication requirements, and may arrange for printing without regard to the provisions of title 44, United States Code. The contracting authority of the Commission under this Act is effective only to the extent that appropriations are available for contracting purposes.

(h) **TERMINATION.**—The Commission shall cease to exist 30 days after the date on which it submits its final report.

(i) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There are authorized to be appropriated to support the activities of the Commission \$2,000,000 for fiscal year 1999 and \$1,000,000 for

fiscal year 2000. Any sums appropriated may remain available without fiscal year limitation until the Commission ceases to exist.

The **SPEAKER** pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SAXTON) and the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SAXTON).

(Mr. SAXTON asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to revise and extend my remarks.

Mr. Speaker, today the House is considering H.R. 3445, a bill to establish a National Ocean Commission. Considerable effort has gone into producing the bill that is agreeable to a wide variety of parties that are interested in the conservation, management, and use of our natural, our rich and varied ocean and coastal resources.

The bill reflects an agreement reached before the full committee markup by the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG), and the gentleman from California (Mr. FARR) and other Members, and further amendments were included to satisfy the concerns of gulf State Members.

It also reflects the willingness of the Committee on Science and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure to allow us to move forward in a prompt manner and act on the measure this year, the International Year of the Ocean.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Members of the Committee on Science and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure for their consideration.

H.R. 3445 builds upon the foundation established more than 30 years ago with the enactment of the Marine Resources, Engineering and Development Act in the early 1960s. That historic legislation established a Commission on Marine Sciences, Engineering and Resources commonly referred to as the Stratton Commission, which encouraged development of a comprehensive national ocean policy.

As a direct result of the Stratton Commission and their report, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration was formed and created, and the Coastal Zone Management Act was passed by the Congress and established.

By the year 2010, it has been estimated that 127 million people or 60 percent of the American population will live along our coasts. As someone who is proud to represent a coastal district, I have dedicated myself to the health and vitality of our ocean ecosystems.

H.R. 3445 will help assure that health and vitality through the work of the new ocean policy commission. This commission will inform Congress of our current ocean programs and whether or not they are on track, whether or not they need to be changed, and will presumably recommend some improvements.

As a maritime nation, we have always been aware of how crucial oceans are to both our economic well-being and to the well-being of our environment. For instance, the commercial fishing industry alone contributes \$111 billion per year to our national GDP. There is always a need to further invigorate our ocean and coastal programs.

During the past 4 years, the Subcommittee on Fisheries Conservation, Wildlife and Oceans, which I chair, has invested a great deal of effort trying to improve U.S. coastal and ocean programs and dealing with persistent management problems facing our fishery resources.

A formal review of all these policies by a group of independent nongovernmental experts will give us a fresh look at these problems, the problems our oceans face, and suggest the potential solutions for the 21st Century.

The bill before us today establishes the National Ocean Commission consisting of 16 Members. Eight will be appointed from Republican nominations and eight from Democratic nominations, making it a true bipartisan commission.

The bill requires extensive public input, including regional public hearings, public review of the draft report, and review of the draft report by the governors of coastal states.

The bill also requires the commission to consider the effects of its recommendations on private property and local economies.

H.R. 3445 is the product of hundreds of hours of deliberation by both Members and our fine staffs. It is an appropriate congressional initiative during 1998, the International Year of the Ocean, and I obviously hope that this bill will pass by a unanimous vote.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to make a special note of the fine efforts of the gentleman from California (Mr. FARR), who together with several other Members have partnered to create a bill and an initiative which I believe is of great significance, and has gone through, frankly, a long and difficult process.

So these bills that come about as a result of a long period of consideration and conversation and dialogue and debate oftentimes produce a very, very good product. I believe that that is the case with regard to this bill, and I would like to thank the gentleman from California (Mr. FARR) for the very important and forward looking role that he played.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the gentleman from California (Mr. FARR) be permitted to manage the legislation on this side of the aisle.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from American Samoa?

There was no objection.

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate very much the role and leadership that the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SAXTON) has played in this. We are a Congress that oftentimes emphasizes our partisan differences, and I think on this bill we are emphasizing our bipartisan strengths on a common issue, which is the oceans.

This is the International Year of the Ocean, and it is interesting how that international year has played out. I am joking but I think that we have to realize that in the International Year of the Ocean who knew that the Academy Awards would honor the oceans by granting the Oscar to the movie *Titanic*? Who would have known, when we began this year, that the New York Times bestseller's nonfiction list would be for a break in the all time record of a nonfiction book about weather, called *The Perfect Storm*? Who knew, when we began this year, that we were going to have on Larry King Live two talk shows about weather, the El Nino?

So we are finishing this year with Congress responding to all of these issues by enacting a bill that really takes all of those issues into consideration, and that is a bill that puts together a commission that is to look at these Federal programs not as a single sector oriented, which is what we found in our committee discussions. Too much of what we do in the Federal Government over time ends up just trying to solve a single problem. We create a government to administer that problem. We fund the government to deal with that problem and as we grow more complex and more complicated in an area dealing with a body of water that really knows no political boundary, no State political boundary, local boundary, international boundary, these are issues where we have to take a holistic approach to dealing with the problems and that is what this commission is called upon to do. It is called upon to bring back to Congress the conflicts that are out there, the conflicts in our own law, the conflicts between State and local and Federal governments.

So I think that Congress is really putting its best foot forward in enacting this legislation because it is doing something that everybody on each side of the aisle wants to do and that is do a better job with limited resources.

So I really appreciate the bipartisan effort in this creation of this bill. I want to also thank the staff of the Committee on Resources and particularly the subcommittee of the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SAXTON), because we have worked together and everybody shared all the information. It has not always been easy because there are some interests here that are very sensitive.

So we are here on the floor with, I think, a good bill that everybody can be proud of.

I just want to point out also that it has been an effort. I represent the coast of California and I have a special

interest in it. We have a lot of marine institutions around the bay, 16 to 17 different institutions that relate to the ocean. We call ourselves the Kennedy Space Center of the ocean. A lot of other areas like to claim that title, too, whether it is Woods Hole, Massachusetts, or the San Diego area with Scripps, but we held in the Monterey Bay region the first-ever Presidential Conference on the Oceans. It was attended by Members of both sides of the aisle and they got to speak and participate.

I think we are really on a national realization that if we do not deal with the problems of the ocean, we are going to have a lot of detrimental effects for those of us who want to live on this planet. As far as economic security, national security, environmental security, food security and issues like that, this commission will bring us all together with some comprehensive recommendations to Congress of how we might move forward.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1545

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the distinguished gentleman from New York (Mr. BOEHLERT).

(Mr. BOEHLERT asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, 1998 is the Year of the Ocean. We have heard that mentioned several times. So, it is only fitting and proper that we focus on the ocean this year. And in doing so, I would like to commend the gentleman from New Jersey (Chairman SAXTON) for the outstanding leadership he has provided. He is there every step of the way. It is his inspiration, his innovation that has gotten us to this juncture today.

But, Mr. Speaker, he has not done it alone. The gentleman from California (Mr. FARR), the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. GILCHREST) and the gentleman from California (Mr. BILBRAY) have all been very active participants in this process.

I think this is very important legislation. We sometimes think that if it is not a major bill providing trillions of dollars of expenditures and a lot of controversy, it is not all that important. Let me suggest that this is very important.

Two-thirds of the world's surface is covered by water, and we have to deal with that water. I was glad to hear the gentleman from California (Mr. FARR), give that recitation of all those things that people did not know about this year; that in 1998, nobody knew that *Titanic* would get the Oscar. I think that people are properly focusing on the ocean and I think a commission to study the issue and make recommendations to all of us for further action is something that is very right and very proper.

Mr. Speaker, I am here as a colleague who was watching this debate, colloquy

more than a debate, in my office and said what they are doing over there is very important and I want to say that to them. I want to express to the gentleman from New Jersey (Chairman SAXTON) and to the gentleman from California (Mr. FARR) and the others who have been involved, "Thank you for what you are doing. I am proud of you."

Mr. Speaker, this is the type of work that day in and day out the House of Representatives is very actively engaged in. It is very important, not just for now but for future generations.

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) whose district is surrounded by water.

(Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 3445, a bill to establish a commission on ocean policy. Mr. Speaker, we all know that approximately two-thirds of the world's surface is covered by water. Our oceans should be our greatest resource, but for many years for many a number of reasons, oftentimes it has been nothing more than our greatest dumping ground.

Decades ago, the United States and other progressive nations realized that to continue our then current policy would only lead to the destruction of a vital resource. In response, we began the process of establishing a more coherent policy on management of this resource. It was obvious to all those who were involved that the United States alone could not adequately address the problem and through the efforts of the United Nations and many other concerned countries, more aggressive actions were taken worldwide.

Mr. Speaker, over the past 30 years, much progress has been made in the management and use of our oceans. International protocols continue to be developed to the benefit of all nations. This process has not gone smoothly, however, and there have been and continue to be nations which overfish dwindling stocks of fish or hunt species of whale to near extinction. But today the tides have changed, so to speak. A vast majority of the world opposes actions of this nature.

The United States continues to address the problem of overfishing of local stocks off the coast of the eastern United States. This has been a particularly difficult issue because of the long history of fishing in communities which have relied on local stocks for generations. As the yields in these stocks have dwindled over the last decade, increased concern has risen to a sense of despair. This is an ongoing problem which needs continued attention and additional resources.

Mr. Speaker, off the coast of the western United States, the issue of fishing for tuna and the associated killing of dolphins has been discussed for

years. I have spoken on this topic at length in the past and do not have the time to go into detail today, but suffice it to say that we recently entered into a new international agreement in an effort to enlist the support of our neighbors to the south to protect dolphins, yet assist them in their economic development by permitting tuna caught in compliance with this international accord to enter the United States for commercial sale. The environmental community and the domestic fishing industry was split on this new law and we will not know for years how well this new arrangement will work. This is another area which could use additional study and resources and even more the reason why we should have a national commission on oceans.

Mr. Speaker, I am most familiar with U.S. interests in the Pacific region. As the largest body of water in the world, the Pacific covers 70 million square miles of the earth's surface and borders or surrounds many countries. It is the source of food for much of the world's population and a significant portion of the world's commerce is transported across its surface.

The United States has considerable interest in this region. Our territory includes the State of Hawaii, the Territories of American Samoa, Guam, and the Northern Mariana Islands. Although now independent, we have continued close relationships with the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau. We also administer approximately a dozen other islands in the Pacific. While the total land area is relatively small, the area included in our Nation's Exclusive Economic Zone is hundreds of thousands of square miles in the Pacific Ocean.

Mr. Speaker, our Nation alone controls some 2.3 million square nautical miles of Exclusive Economic Zones. Coming from a group of islands who have lived off this natural resource for thousands of years, I welcome this piece of legislation. It is in our national interest to devote additional resources to study of ocean policy.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this great legislation. I want to commend, again, the leadership and the service of the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SAXTON) the chairman of the Subcommittee on Fisheries, Conservation, Wildlife and Oceans for his outstanding performance, not only for the management of this legislation, but certainly as a great friend.

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, how much time do we have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS). The gentleman from California (Mr. FARR) has 11½ minutes remaining.

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Guam (Mr. UNDERWOOD).

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California

(Mr. FARR) for yielding me this time, and I certainly would like to begin by congratulating my colleague, the author of H.R. 3445, for his diligent work in bringing this important piece of legislation to fruition. Also, I would like to thank the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SAXTON) of New Jersey, the distinguished chairman, for all of his efforts.

Mr. Speaker, one would find themselves hard-pressed to refute the role that the oceans contribute to our daily lives. As has been stated here already, and in other legislative bodies, at conferences and seminars and symposiums, we depend on the oceans for our livelihood. Not just in an economic sense, but also for recreational purposes for tourism and even spiritual as well.

Coastal cities and towns rely on the waters of the sea. Some use it for tourism, others for the transshipment of goods, while other retain a long history perhaps as fishing villages.

As the delegate from the Island of Guam, an island community, our people and our leaders use the surrounding ocean for all these reasons and more. The ocean represents our historical ties with our ancestors and also provides us with an opportunity for future growth and maintaining and sustaining our way of life in the present.

In all the attention that has been drawn to oceans this year, people have been fond of saying that over half of the country's population lives within 50 miles of the water. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to say that I come from a community where 100 percent of our people live within 4 miles of the ocean. And so we fully recognize the impact and the importance of the ocean in our lives.

Often we overlook what benefits the oceans bring to our communities when we spend most of our time on land. I know, as the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA), my esteemed colleague here, and I go and crisscross the ocean and we see the great expanse of ocean, we also see the opportunities. We imagine the history of our own islands' peoples, but we also see the economic opportunities and the necessity to protect the resources and the opportunities that the Pacific provides this country and to the world.

The Stratton Commission convened in the 1960s to assess the Nation's marine resources was a good beginning, because it helped bring about a policy that created the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. It provided our country a method to use the ocean and its resources for our gain. However, in our pursuit to travel faster on ocean routes and establish economic advantages and to feed our Nation and the world, I think we have neglected a sound international policy to preserve and sustain the valued resources that the ocean provides.

The formulation of this commission on ocean policy, patterned somewhat after the Stratton Commission, is an opportunity to step forward in the

right direction. It helps to establish a new ocean policy focused around properly managing the oceans to produce a healthy, abundant ecosystem. It is a serious approach to create a plan that will ensure the survival of a viable and abundant ocean in the 21st century.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to take this opportunity to express my support for ratification of the Convention of the Law of the Sea Treaty. This international arrangement, and collaboration with other developed nations that this treaty represents, goes hand in hand with the national policy we are seeking to create. It is possible to have one without the other, but to only develop a national policy and not address the need for international cooperation in our new global village is not quite responsible. The Law of the Sea helps to ensure economic prosperity and military security while preserving and sustaining ocean resources with the cooperation of other countries.

As leaders for the Nation, we carry the burden providing for the present and planning for the future. H.R. 3445, the Oceans Act of 1998, ensures that this responsibility is met. I encourage all of my colleagues to support this measure.

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I think that it is important to point out that there is some major overhaul of Federal law in this bill. This commission, which the President shall appoint with recommendations from Congress, is going to do some things that I think are absolutely essential to us positioning ourselves for the 21st century.

The bill says, and I quote, "A review of all existing or planned ocean or coastal activities of Federal entities and recommendations for changes in such activities necessary to reduce duplication of Federal efforts."

The bill also calls for, "a review of the cumulative effect of Federal laws and regulations on the United States ocean policy and examination of those laws and regulations for inconsistencies and contradictions that might adversely affect the conduct of ocean and coastal activities, and recommendations for resolving the inconsistencies."

This is a good way of setting some Federal policy that gets us away from just trying to administer item by item, as we have historically.

Then, "a review of all known and anticipated supply of and demand for ocean and coastal resources in the United States, and a review of the relationship between Federal, State, and local governments and the private sector in planning and carrying out ocean and coastal policy recommendations."

Probably even the most controversial area of all is to examine the relationship between the fisheries development and fisheries conservation responsibilities of the National Marine Fisheries

so that we do not really just legislate in crisis. We can legislate sound management practices. All of these recommendations will come back to Congress for enactment in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I want to also say that a person on my staff who was here as a Sea Grant Fellow and had to go back to school, but I wanted to point out that but for her work we would not be this far long: Jennifer Newton. Chris Mann on our committee staff, and also the minority staff of John Rayfield, Harry Burroughs, and Sharon McKenna all made this bill possible, and I want to thank them for their effort.

Lastly, wholeheartedly my thanks and appreciation and professional respect goes out to the gentleman from New Jersey (Chairman SAXTON). We have had a wonderful time working together on this bill because we mutually had a vision of where we ought to be going and we stuck with that vision and did whatever was necessary to try to bring it to fruition.

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So I have a great deal of appreciation for the gentleman's leadership and he serves his district well.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time and would like to thank the gentleman for his kind remarks.

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the many efforts to bring an oceans policy bill before the House of Representatives today. This is certainly an issue which is extremely important to the future of the United States and deserves our attention.

As H.R. 3445, the Oceans Act of 1998, comes to the floor of the House of Representatives, I am concerned there has not been adequate debate on provisions rejected for inclusion in this legislation which would protect the objective and fair consideration of all interests in offshore resources. It is my desire that we would continue to work to bring a compromise bill on ocean policy to the floor of the House. This is an extremely important issue with far ranging effects which Congress should address thoroughly.

Since we initially considered this issue in the Committee on Resources, I have not heard anyone say that we should not protect our oceans. We all are aware of the inimitable role our oceans play in our future and know we must insure the sustainability of oceanic resources. At the same time, these resources contribute daily to the economies of our communities and support a large segment of our population, both directly and indirectly. While we work to protect the future of these resources, we must insure we adequately protect the diverse interests we have in our oceans.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3445, the Oceans Act of 1998, establishes a commission to help develop a national ocean policy.

Through its jurisdiction over law and programs regarding the ocean, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure has a strong interest in this legislative proposal.

In order to allow this legislation to be brought to the floor today, the Committee on

Transportation and Infrastructure agreed to a sequential referral of very limited duration.

However, this action should in no way be considered a waiver of the jurisdiction of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure over H.R. 3445.

If this legislation goes to a House-Senate conference, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure reserves the right to request to be included as conferees.

In addition, the chairman of the Resources Committee has assured me that he is willing to work with our committee on any differences the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure may have with this bill in such a conference, or in the event that there is no formal House-Senate conference on this bill.

I would like to thank the leadership of the Resources Committee for these assurances and for their cooperation throughout the process.

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the substitute amendment for H.R. 3445. The amendment is, with minor changes, essentially the bill that was reported from the Resources Committee.

It establishes a commission on ocean policy to assess the status of ocean and coastal resources and make recommendations on how we, as a nation, can make the best use of these resources while ensuring their availability to future generations. It calls for the President and Congress, after reviewing the commission's report, to develop a national policy to guide our ocean and coastal activities to those ends.

While I support the bill before the House today, I remain concerned that restrictions placed on the scope of the commission's review may fetter the commission in making a comprehensive assessment of marine resources and the activities that affect them. If this is the result, then the ocean policy to be developed from the commission's recommendations will be the poorer for it. After all, the commission established by this bill will only make recommendations which Congress and the Administration are free to ignore.

Yet up until the last minute there were attempts to further restrict the scope of review, thus restricting the intellectual freedom of the commissioners appointed, because of their expertise, to study our ocean and coastal resources. Particularly disturbing was an attempt to revisit issues dealt with unambiguously and decisively in Committee. Clearly there are those that would prefer that this bill not become law. Afraid to oppose it outright, they have tried to inflict the death of a thousand cuts.

But as a result of the perseverance of Mr. FARR and the gentleman from New Jersey, Mr. SAXTON, those attempts have so far failed. The compromise before the House today preserves the fundamental principles of the bill that was introduced, while going the extra mile to address the concerns of some members about the breadth of the commission's authority.

1998 is the Year of the Ocean and this is bipartisan legislation to promote responsible use and stewardship of these resources. It's been 30 years since the United States had a thorough review of the oceans and Congress should take the lead in establishing an oceans policy for the 21st century.

Again, I commend Mr. FARR and Mr. SAXTON for all their hard work trying to keep this bill on track against long odds.

This is good legislation and I urge the House to support it.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues today in supporting the passage of H.R. 3445, the Oceans Act. As the world celebrates the International Year of the Ocean, we have an excellent opportunity to initiate a major review of ocean policies in this Nation and to take actions to improve our understanding of ocean systems and the ocean environment as a whole.

As a coastal member and co-chair of the Coastal Caucus, I've always been supportive of protecting our oceans and coasts and realize the tremendous benefits they offer all Americans. Our oceans provide us with jobs, food, recreational as well as education opportunities, medicine, and transportation. Each year an estimated 180 million Americans visit the coast and nearly one third of our nation's Gross National Product is produced in coastal areas. Our oceans also play an important role in determining climate.

But all is not well with our oceans. Today, more than half of all 265 million Americans live within 50 miles of our shores. This has put tremendous pressure on our estuaries, coastal zone, and near and offshore areas. In 1996, nearly 2,200 health advisories were issued against the consumption of contaminated fish. In 1997, over 4,000 beach closings or warnings were issued due to pollution. Harmful algal blooms, like red tides and *pfisteria*, have been responsible for over \$1 billion in economic damages over the last decade. A 1997 National Marine Fisheries Service report to Congress stated that of the federally managed species for which sufficient data was available, 31% are "overfished." The list goes on and on.

H.R. 3445 attempts to rectify some of these problems by establishing a Commission on Ocean Policy. This Commission, which is similar to the original Stratton Commission of the late 1960's, will report to Congress and the President policy recommendations for how to do better with respect to our oceans, ultimately resulting in a coordinated National Ocean Policy.

While I support H.R. 3445, I am deeply disappointed that the bill before us today is much weaker than what was passed unanimously by the Fisheries Conservation, Wildlife and Oceans subcommittee. Nevertheless, I applaud the efforts of Mr. FARR, Mr. SAXTON, and others for working so hard to bring this bill to the floor today.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to vote in favor of this legislation so that we can go to conference and have it signed into law before the end of the session. Cast a vote for the oceans! Vote yes on the Oceans Act!

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3445, the Oceans Act of 1998. In my capacity as chairman of the National Security R&D subcommittee, I have spent the last several years working to promote ocean protection. I have continued to address the issue of the protection of our seas at the international level through my work as the Chairman of the Global Legislators for a Balanced Environment (GLOBE) Task Force on Oceans, and as the U.S. Vice President for the Advisory Committee on Protection of the Seas.

1998 has been declared the International Year of the Ocean in recognition of the importance of our ocean resources—the ocean's

fundamental importance to our economic well being, safety, health, and quality of life. We must continue to work to discover and to learn more about our oceans in order to achieve the long-term goals of fostering an increased awareness of the criticality of the ocean environment and assuring the sustainable use of the ocean for our continued national vitality.

It is clear that we need to get smarter about the ocean. For more than half of the American population, it is truly in our back yards. For the military, it is the primary platform for defense. For the economy, it produces one out of every three dollars of the Gross National Product. We can track the spread of cholera by understanding ocean circulation and we may find a cure for cancer in the biology of the sea. The seabed may be the next place for large-scale mining of precious ores.

We are surrounded by a medium about which we know less than we know about the moon! It is time to change this, and to enlarge our view of the ocean. We have mapped the entire sphere of the moon at resolutions sufficient to reveal geographic characteristics the size of a football field, as well as objects the size of bicycles within those fields. Yet, we have mapped less than seven percent of the ocean floor. Such mapping has been done at resolutions as much as ten thousand times poorer than the precision used for the Moon and Mars. We have yet to image at any resolution vast mountain chains, earthquake faults, shipwrecks, and a multitude of other features that would help us understand major features of the 197 million square miles of planet on which we live.

Clearly, the ocean is more than a beautiful vista for recreation. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 3445 to establish a Commission on Ocean Policy. In this way, we can be more committed to better understanding and protecting our interests in this incredible resource.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SAXTON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3445, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 3445, the bill just passed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

COLLECTION OF FEES FOR MAKING OF MOTION PICTURES, TELEVISION PRODUCTIONS, AND SOUND TRACKS IN NATIONAL PARK AND NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2993) to provide for the collection of fees for the making of motion pictures, television productions, and sound tracks in the National Park System and National Wildlife Refuge System units, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2993

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. FEE AUTHORITY AND REPEAL OF PROHIBITION.

(a) AUTHORITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior (in this section referred to as the "Secretary") may permit, under terms and conditions considered necessary by the Secretary, the use of lands and facilities administered by the Secretary for the making of any motion picture, television production, sound-track, or similar project, if the Secretary determines that such use is appropriate and will not impair the values and resources of the lands and facilities.

(2) FEES.—(A) Any permit under this section shall require the payment of fees to the Secretary in an amount determined to be appropriate by the Secretary sufficient to provide a fair return to the government in accordance with subparagraph (B), except as provided in subparagraph (C). The amount of the fee shall be not less than the direct and indirect costs to the Government for processing the application for the permit and the use of lands and facilities under the permit, including any necessary costs of cleanup and restoration, except as provided in subparagraph (C).

(B) The authority of the Secretary to establish fees under this paragraph shall include, but not be limited to, authority to issue regulations that establish a schedule of rates for fees under this paragraph based on such factors as—

(i) the number of people on site under a permit;

(ii) the duration of activities under a permit;

(iii) the conduct of activities under a permit in areas designated by statute or regulations as special use areas, including wilderness and research natural areas; and

(iv) surface disturbances authorized under a permit.

(C) The Secretary may, under the terms of the regulations promulgated under paragraph (4), charge a fee below the amount referred to in subparagraph (A) if the activity for which the fee is charged provides clear educational or interpretive benefits for the Department of the Interior.

(3) BONDING AND INSURANCE.—The Secretary may require a bond, insurance, or such other means as may be necessary to protect the interests of the United States in activities arising under such a permit.

(4) REGULATIONS.—(A) The Secretary shall issue regulations implementing this subsection by not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(B) Within 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall review and, as appropriate, revise regulations issued under this paragraph. After that time, the