

106TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. RES. 415

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that there should be established a National Ocean Day to recognize the significant role the ocean plays in the lives of the Nation's people and the important role the Nation's people must play in the continued life of the ocean.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 2, 2000

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Resources

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that there should be established a National Ocean Day to recognize the significant role the ocean plays in the lives of the Nation's people and the important role the Nation's people must play in the continued life of the ocean.

Whereas the oceans cover 71 percent of the Earth's surface and are key to the life support systems for all creatures on this planet;

Whereas the oceans contain a wondrous abundance and diversity of life, from the smallest micro-organism to the mammoth blue whale;

Whereas two-thirds of the world's people live within 50 miles of a coast and one out of six American jobs is in fishing, shipping, or tourism;

Whereas oceanic research has contributed to an understanding of global warming and the effects of the ocean on climate and weather, which inevitably impacts on safety and quality of life;

Whereas the ocean is an endless universe of exploration and discovery and a key source of life-saving medicines and treatments;

Whereas international trade will nearly triple over the next 2 decades and more than 90 percent of this trade will be transported by ocean;

Whereas the ocean's resources are limited, and nations must work together to preserve them;

Whereas poor stewardship of the oceans pollutes beaches, contaminates the food supply, and robs people of a precious resource they depend on;

Whereas the oceans are the warmest they have been in 104 years, and the 5 hottest years since 1400 have all occurred in the 1990's;

Whereas 10 percent of the ocean's coral reefs, the "rain forests of the sea", have been destroyed and another 30 percent will disappear within 20 years;

Whereas more than two-thirds of the world's fisheries are overexploited and more than a third of the world's fisheries are in a state of decline;

Whereas the ocean's shores must be saved from off-shore oil drilling, which spoils coasts, kills marine life, and destroys fragile ecosystems;

Whereas decades of pollution from industrial waste, sewage, and toxic runoff have taken their toll on the health of the oceans and on the marine life in them, with many species of fish threatened with extinction;

Whereas the Clinton Administration has announced a new \$4 million effort to conduct a comprehensive exploration of the oceans surrounding the United States, using the most advanced underwater technology to locate historical artifacts such as sunken ships, to map the ocean floor, and to discover new forms of marine life and promising sources of life-saving drugs and minerals;

Whereas the Clinton Administration has proposed a \$224 million initiative to enhance the health of the oceans;

Whereas by the year 2002, a new ocean monitoring system will be developed to give us a better understanding of the critical relationship between oceans and global warming;

Whereas a deepened understanding of the seas will enable us to track marine mammals, predict deadly storms such as those associated with El Nino, detect illegal fishing, and gain new insights into the complexities of climate change;

Whereas in the 21st century, people will look increasingly to the oceans to meet their everyday needs;

Whereas the oceans are the core of our own humanity, a treasure shared by all nations of the world, and our stewardship of this resource is our obligation to our children, grandchildren, and all of Earth's inhabitants;

Whereas the State of Hawaii has designated the first Wednesday of June as Ocean Day, in recognition of the very significant role the ocean plays in the lives of Hawaii's people, as well as Hawaii's culture, history, and traditions; and

Whereas the establishment of a National Ocean Day will raise awareness of the vital role oceans play in human life and that human beings must play in the life of the ocean: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the House of Rep-
2 resentatives that a National Ocean Day should be estab-
3 lished to recognize the significant role the ocean plays in
4 the lives of the Nation's people, and the important role
5 the Nation's people must play in the continued life of the
6 ocean.

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