

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 202

Expressing the sense of Congress in support of a National Oceans Week.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 3, 2003

Mr. GREENWOOD (for himself, Mr. FARR, Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania, and Mr. ALLEN) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Resources

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of Congress in support of a National
Oceans Week.

Whereas 95 percent of the deep ocean is unexplored and unknown, and is truly the last frontier on Earth for science and civilization;

Whereas the ocean comprises nearly $\frac{3}{4}$ of the Earth's surface and sustains 80 percent of all life on Earth;

Whereas the oceans play a critical role in the global water cycle, the carbon cycle, and in regulating climate, and over 90 percent of the oxygen in the Earth's atmosphere, essential to life on Earth, comes from the world's oceans and rivers;

Whereas the oceans are an important source of food, provide a wealth of other natural products, and the oceans and

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

Whereas the United States has more than 95,000 miles of coastline and more than 50 percent of the population of the United States lives within 50 miles of the ocean or the Great Lakes;

Whereas coastal areas are regions of remarkably high biological productivity, are of considerable importance for a variety of recreational and commercial activities, and provide a vital means of transportation;

Whereas ocean resources are limited and susceptible to change as a direct and indirect result of human activities, and such changes can impact the ability of the ocean to provide the benefits upon which the Nation depends;

Whereas the rich biodiversity of marine organisms provides society with an essential biomedical resource, a promising source of novel compounds with therapeutic potential, and a potentially important contribution to the national economy;

Whereas there exists significant promise for the development of new ocean technologies for stewardship of ocean resources that will contribute to the economy through business and manufacturing innovations and the creation of new jobs;

Whereas, in its 2000 final report entitled “Discovering Earth’s Final Frontier: A United States Strategy for Ocean Exploration”, the President’s Panel on Ocean Exploration recommended to the President and to Congress a 10-year program to launch the first national plan for ocean exploration;

Whereas the Oceans Act of 2000 passed by Congress authorized the establishment of the Commission on Ocean Policy and directed it to conduct a comprehensive review of present and future ocean programs and activities and provide comprehensive ocean policy recommendations to the Congress and the President by 2003; and

Whereas the oceans are vital to national security and the national economy, and the Nation's greatest era of ocean exploration and discovery still lies ahead: 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 and
8 understanding of the ocean and the living marine re-
9 sources it contains; and

10 (3) the President should issue a proclamation
11 calling upon the people of the United States to ob-
12 serve a National Oceans Week with appropriate rec-
13 ognition, programs, ceremonies, and activities to fur-
14 ther ocean literacy, education, and exploration.

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