

That is why I worked with union representatives and members of the House Merchant Marines and Fisheries Committee to find an adequate resolution to the problem faced by these legal residents while addressing any legitimate concerns of U.S. citizen fishermen by including a 10-year sunset provision.

This bill is very narrowly crafted to aid legal residents who have every intention of becoming U.S. citizens and are anxious to be self-sufficient.

Recognizing that these permanent resident fishermen are, for all intents and purposes, akin to citizens by virtue of the fact that they pay taxes and support the economy, this legislation will allow them to continue pursuing their trade and supporting their families instead of being forced onto welfare.

Again, Madam Speaker, I am grateful to the distinguished gentleman from North Carolina, Chairman JONES, for his interest, hard work, and efforts in getting this legislation passed.

Mr. GOSS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, this bill permits aliens lawfully admitted to the United States for permanent residence to operate fishing vessels off the coast of California for the next 10 years. This should allow these individuals enough time to complete the citizenship process and, thus, qualify to continue to operate these vessels beyond that point. This provision passed the House earlier as part of H.R. 4009 and the minority has no objections.

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

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from North Carolina [Mr. JONES] that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4796, 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. JONES of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 4796, the bill just passed.

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

There was no objection.

FLORIDA KEYS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY AND PROTECTION ACT

Mr. HERTEL. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5909) to establish the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 5909

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 "Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary and Protection Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.—The Congress finds and declares the following:

(1) The Florida Keys extend approximately 220 miles southwest from the southern tip of the Florida peninsula.

(2) Adjacent to the Florida Keys land mass are located spectacular, unique, and nationally significant marine environments, including seagrass meadows, mangrove islands, and extensive living coral reefs.

(3) These marine environments support rich biological communities possessing extensive conservation, recreational, commercial, ecological, historical, research, educational, and esthetic values which give this area special national significance.

(4) These environments are the marine equivalent of tropical rain forests in that they support high levels of biological diversity, are fragile and easily susceptible to damage from human activities, and possess high value to human beings if properly conserved.

(5) These marine environments are subject to damage and loss of their ecological integrity from a variety of sources of disturbance.

(6) Vessel groundings along the reefs of the Florida Keys represent one of many serious threats to the continued vitality of the marine environments of the Florida Keys which must be addressed in order to protect their values.

(7) Action is necessary to provide comprehensive protection for these marine environments by establishing a Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, by restricting vessel traffic within such Sanctuary, and by requiring promulgation of a management plan and regulations to protect sanctuary resources.

(8) The agencies of the United States must cooperate fully to achieve the necessary protection of sanctuary resources.

(9) The Federal Government and the State of Florida should jointly develop and implement a comprehensive program to reduce pollution in the waters offshore the Florida Keys to protect and restore the water quality, coral reefs, and other living marine resources of the Florida Keys environment.

POLICY AND PURPOSE

SEC. 3. (a) POLICY.—It is the policy of the United States to protect and preserve living and other resources of the Florida Keys marine environment.

(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to protect the resources of the area described in section 5(b), to educate and interpret for the public regarding the Florida Keys marine environment, and to manage such human uses of the Sanctuary consistent with this Act. Nothing in this Act is intended to restrict activities that do not cause an adverse effect to the resources or

property of the Sanctuary or that do not pose harm to users of the Sanctuary.

DEFINITION

SEC. 4. As used in this Act, the term "adverse effect" means any factor, force, or action that would independently or cumulatively damage, diminish, degrade, impair, destroy, or otherwise harm—

(1) any sanctuary resource, as defined in section 302(8) of the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1432(8)); or

(2) any of those qualities, values, or purposes for which the Sanctuary is designated.

SANCTUARY DESIGNATION

SEC. 5. (a) DESIGNATION.—The area described in subsection (b) is designated as the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary (in this Act referred to as the "Sanctuary") under title III of the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1431 et seq.). The Sanctuary shall be managed and regulations enforced under all applicable provisions of such title III as if the Sanctuary had been designated under such title.

(b) AREA INCLUDED.—(1) Subject to subsections (c) and (d), the area referred to in subsection (a) consists of all submerged lands and waters, including living marine and other resources within and on those lands and waters, from the mean high water mark to the boundary described under paragraph (2), with the exception of areas within the Fort Jefferson National Monument. The Sanctuary shall be generally identified and depicted on National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration charts FKNMS 1 and 2, which shall be maintained on file and kept available for public examination during regular business hours at the Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and which shall be updated to reflect boundary modifications under this section.

(2) The boundary referred to in paragraph (1)—

(A) begins at the northeasternmost point of Biscayne National Park located at approximately 25 degrees 39 minutes north latitude, 80 degrees 5 minutes west longitude, then runs eastward to the 300-foot isobath located at approximately 25 degrees 39 minutes north latitude, 80 degrees 4 minutes west longitude;

(B) then runs southward and connects in succession the points at the following coordinates:

(i) 25 degrees 34 minutes north latitude, 80 degrees 4 minutes west longitude,

(ii) 25 degrees 28 minutes north latitude, 80 degrees 5 minutes west longitude, and

(iii) 25 degrees 21 minutes north latitude, 80 degrees 7 minutes west longitude;

(C) then runs southward to the northeastern corner of the existing Key Largo National Marine Sanctuary located at 25 degrees 16 minutes north latitude, 80 degrees 8 minutes west longitude;

(D) then runs southwesterly approximately to the 300-foot isobath and connects in succession the points at the following coordinates:

(i) 25 degrees 7 minutes north latitude, 80 degrees 13 minutes west longitude,

(ii) 24 degrees 57 minutes north latitude, 80 degrees 21 minutes west longitude,

(iii) 24 degrees 39 minutes north latitude, 80 degrees 52 minutes west longitude,

(iv) 24 degrees 30 minutes north latitude, 81 degrees 23 minutes west longitude,

(v) 24 degrees 25 minutes north latitude, 81 degrees 50 minutes west longitude,
 (vi) 24 degrees 22 minutes north latitude, 82 degrees 48 minutes west longitude,
 (vii) 24 degrees 37 minutes north latitude, 83 degrees 6 minutes west longitude,
 (viii) 24 degrees 40 minutes north latitude, 83 degrees 6 minutes west longitude,
 (ix) 24 degrees 46 minutes north latitude, 82 degrees 54 minutes west longitude,
 (x) 24 degrees 44 minutes north latitude, 81 degrees 55 minutes west longitude,
 (xi) 24 degrees 51 minutes north latitude, 81 degrees 26 minutes west longitude, and
 (xii) 24 degrees 55 minutes north latitude, 80 degrees 56 minutes west longitude;

(E) then follows the boundary of Everglades National Park in a southerly then northeasterly direction through Florida Bay, Buttonwood Sound, Tarpon Basin, and Blackwater Sound;

(F) after Division Point, then departs from the boundary of Everglades National Park and follows the western shoreline of Manatee Bay, Barnes Sound, and Card Sound;

(G) then follows the southern boundary of Biscayne National Park and the northern boundary of Key Largo National Marine Sanctuary to the southeasternmost point of Biscayne National Park; and

(H) then follows the eastern boundary of the Biscayne National Park to the beginning point specified in subparagraph (A).

(C) **AREAS WITHIN STATE OF FLORIDA.**—The designation under subsection (a) shall not take effect for any area located within the waters of the State of Florida if, not later than 45 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Governor of the State of Florida objects in writing to the Secretary of Commerce.

(d) **BOUNDARY MODIFICATIONS.**—No later than the issuance of the draft environmental impact statement for the Sanctuary under section 304(a)(1)(C)(vii) of the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1434(a)(1)(C)(vii)), in consultation with the Governor of the State of Florida, if appropriate, the Secretary of Commerce may make minor modifications to the boundaries of the Sanctuary as necessary to properly protect sanctuary resources. The Secretary of Commerce shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries of the House of Representatives a written notification of such modifications. Any boundary modification made under this subsection shall be reflected on the charts referred to in subsection (b)(1).

PROHIBITION OF CERTAIN USES

SEC. 6. (a) VESSEL TRAFFIC.—(1) Consistent with generally recognized principles of international law, a person may not operate a tank vessel (as that term is defined in section 2101 of title 46, United States Code) or a vessel greater than 50 meters in length in the area to be avoided described in the Federal Register notice of May 9, 1990 (55 Fed. Reg. 19418-19419).

(2) The prohibition in paragraph (1) shall not apply to necessary operations of public vessels. For the purposes of this paragraph, necessary operations of public vessels shall include operations essential for national defense, law enforcement, and responses to emergencies that threaten life, property, or the environment.

(3) The provisions of paragraphs (1) and (2), including the area in which vessel operations are prohibited under paragraph (1), may be modified by regulations issued joint-

ly by the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating and the Secretary of Commerce.

(4) This subsection shall be effective on the earliest of the following:

(A) the date that is six months after the date of enactment of this Act,

(B) the date of publication of a notice to mariners consistent with this section, or

(C) the date of publication of new nautical charts consistent with this section.

(b) **MINERAL AND HYDROCARBON LEASING, EXPLORATION, DEVELOPMENT, AND PRODUCTION.**—No leasing, exploration, development, or production of minerals or hydrocarbons shall be permitted within the Sanctuary.

COMPREHENSIVE MANAGEMENT PLAN

SEC. 7. (a) PREPARATION OF PLAN.—The Secretary of Commerce, in consultation with appropriate Federal, State, and local government authorities and with the Advisory Council established under section 208, shall develop a comprehensive management plan and implementing regulations to achieve the policy and purpose of this Act. The Secretary of Commerce shall complete such comprehensive management plan and final regulations for the Sanctuary not later than 30 months after the date of enactment of this Act. In developing the plan and regulations, the Secretary of Commerce shall follow the procedures specified in sections 303 and 304 of the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1433 and 1434), except those procedures requiring the delineation of Sanctuary boundaries and development of a resource assessment report. Such comprehensive management plan shall—

(1) facilitate all public and private uses of the Sanctuary consistent with the primary objective of Sanctuary resource protection;

(2) consider temporal and geographical zoning, to ensure protection of sanctuary resources;

(3) incorporate regulations necessary to enforce the elements of the comprehensive water quality protection program developed under section 8 unless the Secretary of Commerce determines that such program does not meet the purpose for which the Sanctuary is designated or is otherwise inconsistent or incompatible with the comprehensive management plan developed under this section;

(4) identify needs for research and establish a long-term ecological monitoring program;

(5) identify alternative sources of funding needed to fully implement the plan's provisions and supplement appropriations under section 9 of this Act and section 313 of the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1444);

(6) ensure coordination and cooperation between Sanctuary managers and other Federal, State, and local authorities with jurisdiction within or adjacent to the Sanctuary;

(7) promote education, among users of the Sanctuary, about coral reef conservation and navigational safety; and

(8) incorporate the existing Looe Key and Key Largo National Marine Sanctuaries into the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary except that Looe Key and Key Largo Sanctuaries shall continue to be operated until completion of the comprehensive management plan for the Florida Keys Sanctuary.

(b) **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.**—The Secretary of Commerce shall provide for participation by the general public in development of the comprehensive management plan.

(c) **TERMINATION OF STUDIES.**—On the date of enactment of this Act, all congressionally mandated studies of existing areas in the Florida Keys for designation as National Marine Sanctuaries shall be terminated.

FLORIDA KEYS WATER QUALITY

SEC. 8. (a) WATER QUALITY PROTECTION PROGRAM.—(1) Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency and the Governor of the State of Florida, in consultation with the Secretary of Commerce, shall develop a comprehensive water quality protection program for the Sanctuary. If the Secretary of Commerce determines that such comprehensive water quality protection program does not meet the purpose for which the Sanctuary is designated or is otherwise inconsistent or incompatible with the comprehensive management plan prepared under section 7, such water quality program shall not be included in the comprehensive management plan. The purposes of such water quality program shall be to—

(A) recommend priority corrective actions and compliance schedules addressing point and nonpoint sources of pollution to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Sanctuary, including restoration and maintenance of a balanced, indigenous population of corals, shellfish, fish and wildlife, and recreational activities in and on the water; and

(B) assign responsibilities for the implementation of the program among the Governor, the Secretary of Commerce, and the Administrator in accordance with applicable Federal and State laws.

(2) The program required by paragraph (1) shall, under applicable Federal and State laws, provide for measures to achieve the purposes described under paragraph (1), including—

(A) adoption or revision, under applicable Federal and State laws, by the State and the Administrator of applicable water quality standards for the Sanctuary, based on water quality criteria which may utilize biological monitoring or assessment methods, to assure protection and restoration of the water quality, coral reefs, and other living marine resources of the Sanctuary;

(B) adoption under applicable Federal and State laws of enforceable pollution control measures (including water quality-based effluent limitations and best management practices) and methods to eliminate or reduce pollution from point and nonpoint sources;

(C) establishment of a comprehensive water quality monitoring program to (i) determine the sources of pollution causing or contributing to existing or anticipated pollution problems in the Sanctuary, (ii) evaluate the effectiveness of efforts to reduce or eliminate those sources of pollution, and (iii) evaluate progress toward achieving and maintaining water quality standards and toward protecting and restoring the coral reefs and other living marine resources of the Sanctuary;

(D) provision of adequate opportunity for public participation in all aspects of developing and implementing the program; and

(E) identification of funding for implementation of the program, including appropriate Federal and State cost sharing arrangements.

(b) **COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT.**—The Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, the Secretary of Commerce, and the Governor of the State of Florida

shall ensure compliance with the program required by this section, consistent with applicable Federal and State laws.

(c) **CONSULTATION.**—In the development and implementation of the program required by paragraph (1), appropriate State and local government officials shall be consulted.

ADVISORY COUNCIL

SEC. 9. (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Commerce, in consultation with the Governor of the State of Florida and the Board of County Commissioners of Monroe County, Florida, shall establish an Advisory Council to assist the Secretary in the development and implementation of the comprehensive management plan for the Sanctuary.

(b) **MEMBERSHIP.**—Members of the Advisory Council may be appointed from among (1) Sanctuary managers, (2) members of other government agencies with overlapping management responsibilities for the Florida Keys marine environment, and (3) representatives of local industries, commercial users, conservation groups, the marine scientific and educational community, recreational user groups, or the general public.

(c) **EXPENSES.**—Members of the Advisory Council shall not be paid compensation for their service as members and shall not be reimbursed for actual and necessary traveling and subsistence expenses incurred by them in the performance of their duties as such members.

(d) **ADMINISTRATION.**—The Advisory Council shall elect a chairperson and may establish subcommittees, and adopt by-laws, rules, and such other administrative requirements and procedures as are necessary for the administration of its functions.

(e) **STAFFING AND OTHER ASSISTANCE.**—The Secretary of Commerce shall make available to the Advisory Council such staff, information, and administrative services and assistance as the Secretary of Commerce determines are reasonably required to enable the Advisory Council to carry out its functions.

AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS

SEC. 9. (a) AUTHORIZATION FOR SECRETARY OF COMMERCE.—Section 313(2)(C) of the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1444(2)(C)) is amended by striking "\$3,000,000" and inserting in lieu thereof "\$4,000,000".

(b) **AUTHORIZATION FOR EPA ADMINISTRATOR.**—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency \$750,000 for each of the fiscal years 1991 and 1992.

(c) **REPORT.**—The Secretary of Commerce shall, not later than March 1, 1991, submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries of the House of Representatives a report on the future requirements for funding the Sanctuary through fiscal year 1999 under title III of the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 14321 et seq.).

The **SPEAKER** pro tempore. Is a second demanded?

Mr. **GOSS**. Madam Speaker, I demand a second.

The **SPEAKER** pro tempore. Without objection, a second will be considered as ordered.

There was no objection.

The **SPEAKER** pro tempore. The gentleman from Michigan [Mr. **HERTEL**] will be recognized for 20 min-

utes, and the gentleman from Florida [Mr. **Goss**] will be recognized for 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. **HERTEL**].

Mr. **HERTEL**. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise to ask my colleague's support for H.R. 5909, the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary and Protection Act.

Many of you may recall that a similar measure, H.R. 3719 was reported favorably by this House earlier in the session. While the bill before you is very similar to that original bill, this measure represents a compromise between the House and Senate positions on the bill.

This compromise legislation expands the National Marine Sanctuary Program to include more than 2,600 square nautical miles of the newly established Florida Keys Marine Sanctuary. The original bill established sanctuary boundaries encompassing approximately 1,600 square nautical miles. The bill also provides for the development and implementation of a comprehensive management plan for the sanctuary, one which incorporates public input into the process. Finally, H.R. 5909 contains measures that will ensure better land based pollution management practices to improve the water quality around the coral reefs and thereby, ensure the long-term health of the reefs.

My colleagues, I urge your strong support of H.R. 5909, a bill that will set aside and preserve the most precious of all underwater treasures, Florida's coral reefs, from vessel groundings, water pollution, and commercial exploitation. Protecting the coral reefs of the Florida Keys will ensure that this national treasure is available for the benefit and enjoyment of the American people for generations to come.

The Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee supports this bill wholeheartedly and we urge the House to endorse this important environmental legislation.

Mr. **GOSS**. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 5909, which a revised version of H.R. 3719, the Florida Keys Protection Act. The legislation we are considering today, like its predecessor, would begin the process for offering genuine protection of the Florida Keys coral reef.

Our colleague **DANTE FASCELL**, as well as Senator **BOB GRAHAM** in the other body, deserve special congratulations and thanks. Without their leadership and hard work, the effort to protect this resource would never have proceeded to this point.

The Florida Keys Protection Act would create the Florida Keys Nation-

al Marine Sanctuary. Such a step has become necessary to protect the reef in light of the increasing stress placed upon it due to pollution and vessel traffic.

Coral reefs have been called the oceans' rainforests because of the diversity and spectacular nature of their marine life. As the world's third-largest, the Keys reef is a unique national treasure.

National treasures carry special stewardship responsibilities; unfortunately, these stewardship responsibilities are not currently being met. A June 1988 workshop convened by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration concluded that the reef is in serious trouble. Without timely action, we could face its permanent loss.

H.R. 5909 would provide immediate help, not just from the Federal Government, but from all levels of government and citizens groups alike. It would ban oil and gas drilling and channelize commercial traffic away from the reef by codifying the Coast Guard's designated "area to be avoided." Perhaps most importantly, the management plan would require the development of a water quality plan to protect the reef against its greatest threat: water pollution.

This bill is a model of cooperative governing. It allows ample opportunity for public comment, and it has the strong support of the State Government. Moreover, it is a bill which has been negotiated with the Senate and is acceptable to the other body.

The time to act is now. Rather than watching its destruction, we can help preserve the Florida Keys reef's vitality. I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

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Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. **HERTEL**. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Florida [Mr. **SMITH**].

Mr. **SMITH** of Florida. Madam Speaker, south Florida is home to some of our Nation's most unique natural resources, resources that are in need of Federal protection. Last year, Congress approved legislation to expand the Everglades National Park in an effort to protect these precious wetlands. Today, the House can approve a bill establishing a Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, an action that will help permanently preserve the only living coral reefs in North America.

We in Florida were horrified last fall when, during one 3-week span, three commercial freighters ran aground on the Keys' coral reefs. As luck would have it, the release of oil was minimal and the reefs escaped catastrophic

damage. An important lesson, however, did not escape us. Without Federal protection, these coral reefs are doomed.

I have often had the pleasure of driving down one of the Nation's most beautiful highways, the one connecting Miami and Key West. As you drive the length of the Keys, you see beautiful shores and witness numerous commercial and recreational activities that are dependent on the coastal environment. Oil washing up on these shores or reefs damaged beyond repair are images that should be painful to all Americans.

H.R. 5909 will provide the Keys several essential protections. Oil drilling will be banned in the waters surrounding the Keys and tankers will no longer be permitted to travel dangerously close to the sensitive reefs. With the threat of oil spills and tanker grounding removed, the Keys will be preserved for future generations to enjoy.

I commend my colleague, Mr. FASCELL, the distinguished chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, for his hard work on this legislation and I urge my colleagues to support this important environmental initiative.

Mr. HERTEL. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I just want to thank the gentleman from Florida [Mr. Goss] and the gentleman from Florida [Mr. SMITH] for all their hard work and really congratulate the gentleman from Florida [Mr. FASCELL], the sponsor of this bill, for all that he has done all of these many years in working on this.

Mr. STANGELAND. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5909, a bill to protect the Florida Keys.

This legislation reflects changes agreed to by various House and Senate committees. This includes our Committee on Public Works and Transportation. Because of our jurisdiction over the pollution of navigable waters, we have worked on and reviewed the water quality components of this bill as well as those of its predecessor, H.R. 3719, which passed the House on July 23, 1990.

With few exceptions, we've retained the same water quality provisions contained in H.R. 3719. For example, H.R. 5909 includes provisions the Public Works and Transportation Committee added relating to existing laws such as the Federal Water Pollution Control Act. Nothing in the bill provides authority inconsistent with or in addition to existing authority under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act. For example, we are not giving EPA or NOAA any new authority to regulate point source and nonpoint source pollution not already addressed in Federal law. This is not a mandate for Federal land use planning.

We depart from H.R. 3719, however, by revising the role of NOAA in establishing and approving the water quality plan and by au-

thorizing \$1.5 million for EPA to develop and help implement the water quality plan.

Madam Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to make these comments and commend the bill's sponsors for their commitment to protecting the keys.

Mr. FASCELL. Madam Speaker, I rise to urge our colleagues to support H.R. 5909, the Florida Keys Sanctuary and Protection Act. This bill is very similar to H.R. 3719, legislation which the House of Representatives passed on July 23, but takes into account concerns raised by the other body. It is expected that if we pass this bill today, the other body will take it up quickly and send it to the President for his signature.

I wish to thank Chairman WALTER JONES, who has cosponsored this measure, and the chairman of the two subcommittees of jurisdiction, DENNIS HERTEL and GERRY STUDDS, for their assistance in bringing this measure to the floor. I would also like to thank members of the Public Works and Transportation Committee and the Water Resources Subcommittee, particularly Chairman GLENN ANDERSON and Chairman HENRY NOWAK, and ranking members JOHN PAUL HAMMERSCHMIDT and ARLAN STANGELAND for their assistance in developing the provision which addressed water quality; and the chairman of the Subcommittee on Water, Power, and Offshore Energy Resources, GEORGE MILLER, for his assistance on the provision which will prohibit oil drilling in the sanctuary. Finally, I also want to thank the able staff whose hard work and cooperation has allowed us to take substantial steps to protect the coral reefs.

This legislation still creates a unified Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary; it still bans oil drilling in the sanctuary; it still calls for the development and implementation of a comprehensive management plan; it still calls for the creation of an advisory council to assist the sanctuary's managers; it still codifies an International Maritime Organization's area to be avoided to keep large commercial freighters from running aground on the reefs; and it still calls for the development and implementation to protect and restore the water quality in the sanctuary.

The one major change from the bill that the House previously passed is the boundary of the sanctuary. It now includes a narrow strip that is seaward of Biscayne National Park and reaches south to the Dry Tortugas to protect areas of coral reef that were not in the original bill. It also includes the backwaters north of the keys in order to protect seagrass communities that serve as vital fish hatcheries.

A year ago yesterday, the *Alec Owen Maitland* ran aground in the Key Largo National Marine Sanctuary. In the following 17 days, two more freighters would run aground on coral reefs in the Florida Keys. These incidents brought into focus just how threatened the reef system is from a variety of sources. This bill represents a real effort by many of our colleagues to address these threats in a prompt and expeditious effort to save the only living coral reef system in North America. I urge our colleagues to support H.R. 5909.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I would like to offer my strongest support for H.R. 5909, the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary and Protection Act.

This bill is very similar to H.R. 3719, which passed the House in July.

H.R. 5909 would designate the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary and provide comprehensive protection for the nationally significant marine resources of the Florida Keys.

The virtues of that bill were well stated by a bipartisan group of my colleagues at that time and I will not belabor those points here.

I would like to point out that the water quality protection package in H.R. 5909 has been revised to the satisfaction of the committees under whose jurisdiction this legislation falls in the other body.

We are passing the Florida Keys marine sanctuary bill again today to convey to the other body our strong desire for its enactment, and to assist the other body in sending this bill quickly to the President.

I urge the House to support this important legislation to protect and preserve the marine environment offshore the Florida Keys.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. (Mrs. UNSOELD). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. HERTEL] that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5909.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HERTEL. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 5909, the bill just passed.

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

There was no objection.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION WAIVING POINTS OF ORDER AGAINST CONFERENCE REPORT ON S. 1630, CLEAN AIR ACT AMENDMENTS, AND AGAINST ITS CONSIDERATION

Mr. BONIOR, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 101-954) on the resolution (H. Res. 535) waiving certain points of order against consideration of the conference report on the bill (S. 1630) to amend the Clean Air Act to provide for attainment and maintenance of health protective national ambient air quality standards, and for other purposes, and against its consideration, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.