

STAFF SUMMARY OF FEDERAL LEGISLATION IN THE 117TH U.S. CONGRESS

A summary of recent Federal legislation is provided below. Bill status is up to date as of May 27, 2021. The full text of these bills can be found at the Library of Congress website (<http://thomas.gov>) or at <http://govtrack.us>. Also see the [new Council web page on current legislation](#). Bills discussed in the [March](#) and [April](#) Staff Summary of Federal Legislation that have not moved forward are not included in this report.

Bills introduced since April

The following bills have been introduced (or reintroduced) since the April briefing book deadline.

- H.R. 2515 (Garrett Graves, R-LA). Amends the National Environmental Policy Act to clarify ambiguous provisions, align the Act with relevant case law, reflect modern technologies to optimize interagency coordination, and facilitate a more efficient, effective, and timely environmental review process.
- HR 2519 (Jared Huffman, D-CA). Prohibits drilling in the outer Continental Shelf and prohibits coal leases on Federal land.
- HR 2533: **NEAR Act** (Bill Posey, R-FL). Requires a study by the National Academies examining the impact of ocean acidification and other stressors in estuarine environments.
- HR 2534 (Abigail Spanberger, D-VA). Provides incentives for agricultural producers to carry out climate stewardship practices, provides for increased reforestation across the United States, to establish a Coastal and Estuary Resilience Grant Program.
- HR 2750 (Suzanne Bonamici, D-OR). Establishes an Interagency Working Group on Coastal Blue Carbon.
- HR 2773 (Debbie Dingell, D-MI). Amends the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act to make supplemental funds available for management of fish and wildlife species of greatest conservation need as determined by State fish and wildlife agencies.
- HR 2811 (Gregorio Sablan, D-CNMI). Prohibit the sale of shark fins.
- HR 2865 (Suzanne Bonamici, D-OR). Amends the National Defense Authorization Act to address sexual harassment involving National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration personnel.
- HR 2872/S 1420 (Matt Cartwright, D-PA/Sheldon Whitehouse, D-RI). Establishes an integrated national approach to respond to effects of extreme weather and climate change by protecting, managing, and conserving the fish, wildlife, and plants of the United States.
- HR 3075 (Jared Huffman, D-CA). Addresses seafood slavery and combats illegal, unreported, or unregulated fishing.
- HR 3360 (Daniel Webster, R-FL)/S 1327 (Marco Rubio, R-FL). Amends and enhance the High Seas Driftnet Fishing Moratorium Protection Act to improve the conservation of sharks.
- S 1150 (Ed Markey, D-MA), **Expanding the Maritime Environmental and Technical Assistance Program**. Authorizes appropriations for the maritime environmental and technical assistance program.
- S 1484 (Richard Blumenthal, D-CT). Aims to improve the management of forage fish. (Reintroduction of the Forage Fish Conservation Act from the 116th Congress).

Bill movement since April

Of the bills presented to the Legislative Committee in March and April, the following have moved forward:

- HR 610, the **San Francisco Bay Restoration Act** (Jackie Speier, D-CA) was reported by committee on March 24. The bill amends the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to establish a grant program to support the restoration of San Francisco Bay. (2%)
- HR 587, the **Ocean Pollution Reduction Act** (Scott Peters, D-CA) was reported by committee on March 24. The bill modifies permitting requirements with respect to the discharge of pollutants from the Point Loma Wastewater Treatment Plant in certain circumstances. (18%)
- HR 1144, the **PUGET SOS Act** (Derek Kilmer, D-WA) was reported by committee on March 24. The bill amends the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to provide assistance for programs and activities to protect the water quality of Puget Sound. (14%)
- S 381, the **National Ocean Exploration Act** (Roger Wicker, R-MS) was reported by committee on April 28. The bill establishes a National Ocean Mapping, Exploration, and Characterization Council. (25%)
- S 140, the **BLUE GLOBE Act** (Sheldon Whitehouse, D-RI) was reported May 12. The bill aims to improve data collection and monitoring of the Great Lakes, oceans, bays, estuaries, and coasts. (17%)
- S 497, the **American Fisheries Advisory Committee Act** (Dan Sullivan, R-AK) was reported by committee on May 12. The bill establishes the American Fisheries Advisory Committee to assist in the awarding of fisheries research and development grants. (Companion bill: HR 3128, Don Young, R-AK). (42%)

State bills

- Oregon's **House Bill 3375** (as amended) establishes the goal of planning for development of three gigawatts of commercial scale floating offshore wind energy projects within Federal waters off Oregon Coast by 2030. The bill establishes a Task Force on Floating Offshore Wind Energy and requires the task force to develop and submit a floating offshore wind development strategic plan by September 15, 2022. The bill has passed the Oregon House of Representatives. A hearing was held May 13.
- California's **Assembly Bill 525** (as amended) requires the California Energy Commission, with others, to develop a strategic plan for offshore wind energy developments installed off the California coast in federal waters by December 31, 2022; to quantify the maximum feasible capacity of offshore wind to achieve certain goals; to work with stakeholders to identify suitable sea space for wind energy areas in Federal waters; to develop a plan to improve waterfront facilities to support a range of floating offshore wind activities; to assess transmission upgrade needs; and to convene a working group that includes relevant agencies and tribes to produce guidelines, timeframes, and milestones for an offshore wind permitting process. A hearing was held May 19 and the bill passed committee on May 20.