

SUMMARY OF FEDERAL LEGISLATION IN THE 118TH U.S. CONGRESS

A summary of recent Federal legislation is provided below. Bill status is up to date as of February 28, 2023. The full text of these bills can be found at the Library of Congress website (<http://thomas.gov>) or at <http://govtrack.us>.

LEGISLATION

H.R. 872, (Rep. Calvert, R-California), a bill to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to vest in the Secretary of the Interior functions under that Act with respect to species of fish that spawn in fresh or estuarine waters and migrate to ocean waters and species of fish that spawn in ocean waters and migrate to fresh or estuarine waters, and for other purposes. Introduced on February 8, 2023, and referred to the House Natural Resources Committee.

H.R. 886, (Rep. Bonamici, D-Oregon), a bill to amend the Save Our Seas 2.0 Act to improve the administration of the Marine Debris Foundation, to amend the Marine Debris Act to improve the administration of the Marine Debris Program of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and for other purposes. Introduced on February 9, 2023, and referred to the to the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, and in addition to the House Natural Resources Committee, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

H.R. 897, (Rep. Carl, R-Alabama), a bill to provide for the establishment of the Alabama Underwater Forest National Marine Sanctuary, and for other purposes. Introduced February 9, 2023, and referred to the House Natural Resources Committee.

H.R. 913, (Rep. Fletcher, D-Texas), a bill to modify the disposition of certain outer Continental Shelf revenues and to open Federal financial sharing to heighten opportunities for renewable energy, and for other purposes. Introduced on February 9, 2023, and referred to the House Natural Resources Committee; and in addition to the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

H.R. 956, (Rep. Smith, R-New Jersey), a bill to prohibit oil and gas exploration, development, and production in the North Atlantic Planning Area of the Outer Continental Shelf. Introduced on February 9, 2023, and referred to the House Natural Resources Committee.

H.R. 970, (Rep. Waltz, R-Florida), a bill to establish a moratorium on energy development in certain areas of the Gulf of Mexico, and for other purposes. Introduced on February 9, 2023, and referred to the House Natural Resources Committee, and in addition to the House Armed Services Committee, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

H.R. 1043, (Rep. Rosendale Sr., R-Montana), a bill to restore onshore energy production. Introduced on February 14, 2023, and referred to the House Natural Resources Committee.

H.R. 1056, (Rep. Smith, R-New Jersey), a bill to require the Comptroller General to conduct a study to assess certain environmental review processes with regard to offshore wind projects, and for other purposes. Introduced on February 17, 2023, and referred to the House Natural Resources Committee.

H.R. 1142, (Rep. Pfluger, R-Texas), a bill to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to require consideration of economic impact in making a listing decision with respect to the list of threatened and endangered species, and for other purposes. Introduced on February 21, 2023, and referred to the House Natural Resources Committee.

H.R. 1172, (Rep. Carbajal, D-California), a bill to permanently prohibit oil and gas leasing off the coast of the State of California, and for other purposes. Introduced on February 24, 2023, and referred to the House Natural Resources Committee.

H.R. 1196, (Rep. Plaskett, D-Virgin Islands), a bill to require the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to establish a grant program to benefit coastal habitats, resiliency, and the economy, and for other purposes. Introduced on February 24, 2023, and referred to the House Natural Resources Committee, and in addition to the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

S. 318, (Sen. Sullivan, R-Alaska), a bill to amend the Save Our Seas 2.0 Act to improve the administration of the Marine Debris Foundation, to amend to Marine Debris Act to improve the administration of the Marine Debris Program of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and for other purposes. Introduced on February 9, 2023, and referred to the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee.

Magnuson-Stevens Act Legislation (legislation that reauthorizes or amend the MSA):

Marine Mammal Legislation:

H.R. 131, (Rep. Buchanan, R-Florida), a bill to designate the West Indian manatee as an endangered species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, and for other purposes. Introduced on January 9, 2023 and referred to the House Natural Resources Committee.

Other Fisheries Legislation (Sharks, Coral Reefs, Red Snapper, etc.):

Aquaculture Legislation:

Offshore Wind Legislation:

NEPA, ESA:

H.R. 520, (Rep. McClintock, R-California), a bill to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to provide that artificially propagated animals shall be treated the same under that Act as naturally propagated animals, and for other purposes. Introduced on January 25, 2023 and referred to the House Natural Resources Committee.

H.R. 518, the “Endangered Species Transparency and Reasonableness Act of 2023”, (Rep. McClintock, R-California), a bill to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to require publication on the internet of the basis for determinations that species are endangered species or threatened species, and for other purposes. Introduced on January 25, 2023, and referred to the House Natural Resources Committee.

H.R. 495, (Rep. Calvert, R-California), a bill to amend the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 to authorize assignment to States of Federal agency environmental review responsibilities, and for other purposes. Introduced on January 25, 2023, and referred to the House Natural Resources Committee.

H.R. 131, the “Manatee Protection Act of 2023”, (Rep. Buchanan, R-Florida), a bill to designate the West Indian manatee as an endangered species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, and for other purposes. Introduced on January 9, 2023 and referred to the House Natural Resources Committee.

H.R. 99, the “Less Imprecision in Species Treatment Act of 2023” or the “LIST Act of 2023”, (Rep. Biggs, R-Arizona), a bill to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to provide for improved precision in the listing, delisting, and downlisting of endangered species and potentially endangered species. Introduced on January 9, 2023, and referred to the House Natural Resources Committee.

Other Ocean Legislation:

H.R. 615, the “Protecting Access for Hunters and Anglers Act of 2023”, (Rep. Wittman, R-Virginia) a bill to prohibit the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture from prohibiting the use of lead ammunition or tackle on certain Federal land or water under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture, and for other purposes. Introduced on January 27, 2023, and referred to the House Natural Resources Committee, and in addition to the House Agriculture Committee, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

H.R. 583, the “American Shores Protection Act of 2023”, (Rep. Waltz, R-Florida), a bill to amend the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006 to extend the moratorium on drilling off the coasts of the States of Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina, and for other purposes. Introduced on January 26, 2023, and referred to the House Natural Resources Committee.

H.R. 565, the “Land Restoration and Resiliency Act of 2023”, (Rep. Neguse, D-Colorado), a bill to require the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to enter into an agreement with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to establish the Community Resilience and Restoration Fund. Introduced on January 26, 2023, and referred to the House Natural Resources Committee.

H.R. 470, the “West Coast Ocean Protection Act of 2023”, (Rep. Huffman, D-California), a bill to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to permanently prohibit the conduct of offshore drilling on the outer Continental Shelf off the coast of California, Oregon, and Washington. Introduced on January 24, 2023, and referred to the House Natural Resources Committee.

H.R. 356, the “Unleashing American Energy Act”, (Rep. Carl, R-Alabama), a bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a minimum number of oil and gas lease sales in certain areas, to prevent delays in oil and gas leasing, and for other purposes. Introduced on January 13, 2023 and referred to the House Natural Resources Committee.

H.R. 325, the “Harmful Algal Bloom Essential Forecasting Act”, (Rep. Byron, R-Florida), a bill to amend the Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Act of 1998 to clarify that during a lapse in appropriations certain services relating to the Harmful Algal Bloom Operational Forecasting System are excepted services under the Anti-Deficiency Act, and for other purposes. Introduced on January 12, 2023 and referred to the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee, and in addition to the House Natural Resources Committee, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

H.R. 210, the “Stamp Out Invasive Species Act”, (Rep. Stefanik, R-New York), a bill to provide for the issuance of a semipostal to benefit programs that combat invasive species. Introduced on January 9, 2023, and referred to the House Oversight and Accountability Committee, and in addition to the House Natural Resources Committee, and the House Agriculture Committee, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

H.R. 184, (Rep. Mann, R-Kansas), a bill to promote accountability and transparency in future executive orders. Introduced on January 9, 2023, and referred to the House Natural Resources Committee.

HEARINGS

On Tuesday, February 28, 2023 at 2:00 p.m., the House Natural Resources Committee will hold a legislative hearing on H.R. ____ (Rep. Graves, R-Louisiana), the “Building United States Infrastructure through Limited Delays and Efficient Reviews (BUILDER) Act of 2023”.

According to the Committee website, the bill (which has not been introduced yet) “would reform and streamline permitting, reduce litigation, and focus environmental reviews – helping reduce costs for Americans by speeding the development of more energy resources and innovation here at home while helping to lower global emissions.”

Witnesses:

- The Honorable Brenda Mallory, Chair, White House Council on Environmental Quality, Washington, D.C. (invited);
- Mr. Brent Ridge, President and CEO, Dairyland Power Cooperative, La Crosse, Wisconsin;
- Mr. Brian Veerkamp, President – Board of Directors, El Dorado Irrigation District, Placerville, California;

- Mr. Keith Pugh, PE, PWLF, President, American Public Works Association, Asheville, North Carolina; and
- Mr. John Beard, Jr., Founder, President and Executive Director, Port Arthur Community Action Network [Minority Witness].

Link: <https://naturalresources.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=412811>

On Wednesday, March 1, 2023, at 10:00 a.m., the Senate Budget Committee will hold an oversight hearing titled, “Rising Seas, Rising Costs: Climate Change and the Economic Risks to Coastal Communities.”

Witnesses:

- Dr. Sean Beckett, Principal, Elliott Bay Analytics;
- Mr. Matthew, Eby Founder And Chief Executive Officer, First Street Foundation;
- Ms. Kate Michaud Town, Manager, Warren, Rhode Island;
- Dr. Jessica Weinkle, Associate Professor, University of North Carolina Wilmington; and
- Dr. Marlo Lewis, Jr., Senior Fellow, Competitive Enterprise Institute.

Link: <https://www.budget.senate.gov/hearings/rising-seas-rising-costs-climate-change-and-the-economic-risks-to-coastal-communities>

Wednesday, February 1, 2023, the House Natural Resources Committee held its organizational meeting. *(Note: The name of the subcommittee with jurisdiction over fishery issues in the 118th Congress will be the Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries - in the previous Congress the name had been the Subcommittee on Water, Oceans and Wildlife.)*

The meeting can be viewed at:

<https://naturalresources.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=412738>

Tuesday, February 7, 2023, the House Natural Resources Committee held a meeting to consider the Committee Authorization and Oversight Plan for the 118th Congress.

The Oversight Plan and a link to the meeting can be found at:

<https://naturalresources.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=412759>

Thursday, February 9, 2023, the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee held an organizational business meeting to consider committee rules and an original resolution authorizing expenditures by the committee for the 118th Congress.

The meeting can be viewed at: <https://www.commerce.senate.gov/2023/2/executive-session>

Thursday, February 9, 2023, the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee held an oversight hearing to examine the state of the U.S. Territories.

The hearing can be viewed at: <https://www.energy.senate.gov/hearings>

MAGNUSON-STEVENS REAUTHORIZATION – 118th Congress

No bills amending the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act have been introduced in the 118th Congress and no hearings on Magnuson-Stevens Act issues have been announced.

APPROPRIATIONS

No hearings on upcoming appropriations have been announced at this time.