

see that we as legislators are writing the laws of this country. It is just a hope and intent.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SUNUNU). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. RYAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4924.

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.

FISHERMEN'S PROTECTIVE ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1999

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 1651) to amend the Fishermen's Protective Act of 1967 to extend the period during which reimbursement may be provided to owners of United States fishing vessels for costs incurred when such a vessel is seized and detained by a foreign country, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

Senate amendment:

Page 13, line 3, strike out **[\$60,000,000.]** and insert: *\$60,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2002 and 2003.*

TITLE IV—MISCELLANEOUS

SEC. 401. USE OF AIRCRAFT PROHIBITED.

Section 7(a) of the Atlantic Tunas Convention Act of 1975 (16 U.S.C. 971e(a)) is amended—

(1) by striking "or" after the semicolon in paragraph (1);

(2) by striking "fish." in paragraph (2) and inserting "fish; or"; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

"(3) for any person, other than a person holding a valid Federal permit in the purse seine category—

"(A) to use an aircraft to locate or otherwise assist in fishing for, catching, or retaining Atlantic bluefin tuna; or

"(B) to catch, possess, or retain Atlantic bluefin tuna located by use of an aircraft."

SEC. 402. FISHERIES RESEARCH VESSEL PROCUREMENT.

Notwithstanding section 644 of title 15, United States Code, and section 19.502-2 of title 48, Code of Federal Regulations, the Secretary of Commerce shall seek to procure Fisheries Research Vessels through full and open competition from responsible United States shipbuilding companies irrespective of size.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SAXTON) and the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SAXTON).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material therein on H.R. 1651.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1651, the Fishermen's Protective Act Amendments of 1999. This bill makes a number of conservation and management improvements to several important fisheries laws.

Title I allows fishermen to be reimbursed if their vessel is illegally detained or seized by foreign countries.

Title II establishes a panel to advise the Secretaries of State and Interior on Yukon River salmon issues in Alaska. This section will provide much needed support in the conservation and management of Yukon River salmon.

Title III authorizes the Secretary of Commerce to acquire, purchase, lease, lease-purchase or charter and equip up to six fishery survey vessels. These vessels are one of the most important fishery management tools available to the Federal scientists. They allow for the collection of much-needed scientific data and to manage our Nation's fisheries.

Finally, the last title addresses the use of spotter aircraft in the New England-based Atlantic bluefin tuna fishery. This section was added in the other body which responded to concerns over use of planes which have accelerated the catch rates and closures in the general and harpoon categories.

Mr. Speaker, this is a well thought out, well drafted bill, and I urge an "aye" vote.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill, H.R. 1651, which was passed by the House last year. As my colleague on the other side has explained, it contains several provisions intended to improve the fisheries conservation, management and data collection. It was approved unanimously by the Senate last month, and I urge the Members to support passage.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Maine (Mr. ALLEN).

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1651, the Fishermen's Protective Act Amendments. H.R. 1651, as passed by the House, makes improvements in several important fisheries laws by enhancing conservation and management measures.

In the other body, this bill was amended to include a ban on the use of spotter planes to find Atlantic bluefin tuna. The Senate passed the amended bill by unanimous consent.

Mr. Speaker, I want to make clear how important this provision of the bill is to tuna fishermen in Maine.

Most of them have been shut out of the fishery this season, as well as in the recent past. Currently, the larger boats can afford the planes. They take in the allowable catch and force smaller boats to end their season. Without this ban, owners of these smaller boats will be unable to make a living and support their families.

Many strong opinions are the rule when fisheries issues are concerned. In this case, however, the Secretary of Commerce received a unanimous recommendation from the Highly Migratory Species Advisory Panel in 1998. The panel advised the Secretary to prohibit the use of spotter aircraft in the General and Harpoon categories of the Atlantic bluefin tuna fishery.

The use of these planes can increase the catch rates and closures in the general and harpoon categories. The scientific and conservation objectives of the Highly Migratory Species Fisheries Management Plan can be negatively affected by the increased catch rates. Two years ago, the National Marine Fisheries Service issued a proposed rule to adopt the Advisory Panel recommendation but the rule was not finalized. It has, therefore, become necessary to take legislative action.

Mr. Speaker, this is a regional issue that many in the New England delegation on both sides of the aisle support. I thank the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SAXTON) and the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) for expediting action on this bill, and I urge Members to support this legislation.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Maine (Mr. ALLEN) for his work and his support of this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SAXTON) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill, H.R. 1651.

The question was taken.

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

OCEANS ACT OF 2000

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 2327) to establish a Commission on Ocean Policy, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 2327

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 "Oceans Act of 2000".

SEC. 2. PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES.

The purpose of this Act is to establish a commission to make recommendations for coordinated and comprehensive national ocean policy that will promote—

- (1) the protection of life and property against natural and manmade hazards;
- (2) responsible stewardship, including use, of fishery resources and other ocean and coastal resources;
- (3) the protection of the marine environment and prevention of marine pollution;
- (4) the enhancement of marine-related commerce and transportation, the resolution of conflicts among users of the marine environment, and the engagement of the private sector in innovative approaches for sustainable use of living marine resources and responsible use of non-living marine resources;
- (5) the expansion of human knowledge of the marine environment including the role of the oceans in climate and global environmental change and the advancement of education and training in fields related to ocean and coastal activities;
- (6) the continued investment in and development and improvement of the capabilities, performance, use, and efficiency of technologies for use in ocean and coastal activities, including investments and technologies designed to promote national energy and food security;
- (7) close cooperation among all government agencies and departments and the private sector to ensure—
 - (A) coherent and consistent regulation and management of ocean and coastal activities;
 - (B) availability and appropriate allocation of Federal funding, personnel, facilities, and equipment for such activities;
 - (C) cost-effective and efficient operation of Federal departments, agencies, and programs involved in ocean and coastal activities; and
 - (D) enhancement of partnerships with State and local governments with respect to ocean and coastal activities, including the management of ocean and coastal resources and identification of appropriate opportunities for policy-making and decision-making at the State and local level; and
- (8) the preservation of the role of the United States as a leader in ocean and coastal activities, and, when it is in the national interest, the cooperation by the United States with other nations and international organizations in ocean and coastal activities.

SEC. 3. COMMISSION ON OCEAN POLICY.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—There is hereby established the Commission on Ocean Policy. The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.), except for sections 3, 7, and 12, does not apply to the Commission.

(b) **MEMBERSHIP.**—

(1) **APPOINTMENT.**—The Commission shall be composed of 16 members appointed by the President from among individuals described in paragraph (2) who are knowledgeable in ocean and coastal activities, including individuals representing State and local governments, ocean-related industries, academic and technical institutions, and public interest organizations involved with scientific, regulatory, economic, and environmental ocean and coastal activities. The membership of the Commission shall be balanced by area of expertise and balanced geographically to the extent consistent with maintaining the highest level of expertise on the Commission.

(2) **NOMINATIONS.**—The President shall appoint the members of the Commission, with-

in 90 days after the effective date of this Act, including individuals nominated as follows:

(A) 4 members shall be appointed from a list of 8 individuals who shall be nominated by the Majority Leader of the Senate in consultation with the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

(B) 4 members shall be appointed from a list of 8 individuals who shall be nominated by the Speaker of the House of Representatives in consultation with the Chairmen of the House Committees on Resources, Transportation and Infrastructure, and Science.

(C) 2 members shall be appointed from a list of 4 individuals who shall be nominated by the Minority Leader of the Senate in consultation with the Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

(D) 2 members shall be appointed from a list of 4 individuals who shall be nominated by the Minority Leader of the House in consultation with the Ranking Members of the House Committees on Resources, Transportation and Infrastructure, and Science.

(3) **CHAIRMAN.**—The Commission shall select a Chairman from among its members. The Chairman of the Commission shall be responsible for—

(A) the assignment of duties and responsibilities among staff personnel and their continuing supervision; and

(B) the use and expenditure of funds available to the Commission.

(4) **VACANCIES.**—Any vacancy on the Commission shall be filled in the same manner as the original incumbent was appointed.

(c) **RESOURCES.**—In carrying out its functions under this section, the Commission—

(1) is authorized to secure directly from any Federal agency or department any information it deems necessary to carry out its functions under this Act, and each such agency or department is authorized to cooperate with the Commission and, to the extent permitted by law, to furnish such information (other than information described in section 552(b)(1)(A) of title 5, United States Code) to the Commission, upon the request of the Commission;

(2) may enter into contracts, subject to the availability of appropriations for contracting, and employ such staff experts and consultants as may be necessary to carry out the duties of the Commission, as provided by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code; and

(3) in consultation with the Ocean Studies Board of the National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences, shall establish a multidisciplinary science advisory panel of experts in the sciences of living and non-living marine resources to assist the Commission in preparing its report, including ensuring that the scientific information considered by the Commission is based on the best scientific information available.

(d) **STAFFING.**—The Chairman of the Commission may, without regard to the civil service laws and regulations, appoint and terminate an Executive Director and such other additional personnel as may be necessary for the Commission to perform its duties. The Executive Director shall be compensated at a rate not to exceed the rate payable for Level V of the Executive Schedule under section 5136 of title 5, United States Code. The employment and termination of an Executive Director shall be subject to confirmation by a majority of the members of the Commission.

(e) **MEETINGS.**—

(1) **ADMINISTRATION.**—All meetings of the Commission shall be open to the public, ex-

cept that a meeting or any portion of it may be closed to the public if it concerns matters or information described in section 552b(c) of title 5, United States Code. Interested persons shall be permitted to appear at open meetings and present oral or written statements on the subject matter of the meeting. The Commission may administer oaths or affirmations to any person appearing before it:

(A) All open meetings of the Commission shall be preceded by timely public notice in the Federal Register of the time, place, and subject of the meeting.

(B) Minutes of each meeting shall be kept and shall contain a record of the people present, a description of the discussion that occurred, and copies of all statements filed. Subject to section 552 of title 5, United States Code, the minutes and records of all meetings and other documents that were made available to or prepared for the Commission shall be available for public inspection and copying at a single location in the offices of the Commission.

(2) **INITIAL MEETING.**—The Commission shall hold its first meeting within 30 days after all 16 members have been appointed.

(3) **REQUIRED PUBLIC MEETINGS.**—The Commission shall hold at least one public meeting in Alaska and each of the following regions of the United States:

(A) The Northeast (including the Great Lakes).

(B) The Southeast (including the Caribbean).

(C) The Southwest (including Hawaii and the Pacific Territories).

(D) The Northwest.

(E) The Gulf of Mexico.

(f) **REPORT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Within 18 months after the establishment of the Commission, the Commission shall submit to Congress and the President a final report of its findings and recommendations regarding United States ocean policy.

(2) **REQUIRED MATTER.**—The final report of the Commission shall include the following assessment, reviews, and recommendations:

(A) An assessment of existing and planned facilities associated with ocean and coastal activities including human resources, vessels, computers, satellites, and other appropriate platforms and technologies.

(B) A review of existing and planned ocean and coastal activities of Federal entities, recommendations for changes in such activities necessary to improve efficiency and effectiveness and to reduce duplication of Federal efforts.

(C) A review of the cumulative effect of Federal laws and regulations on United States ocean and coastal activities and resources and an examination of those laws and regulations for inconsistencies and contradictions that might adversely affect those ocean and coastal activities and resources, and recommendations for resolving such inconsistencies to the extent practicable. Such review shall also consider conflicts with State ocean and coastal management regimes.

(D) A review of the known and anticipated supply of, and demand for, ocean and coastal resources of the United States.

(E) A review of and recommendations concerning the relationship between Federal, State, and local governments and the private sector in planning and carrying out ocean and coastal activities.

(F) A review of opportunities for the development of or investment in new products, technologies, or markets related to ocean and coastal activities.

(G) A review of previous and ongoing State and Federal efforts to enhance the effectiveness and integration of ocean and coastal activities.

(H) Recommendations for any modifications to United States laws, regulations, and the administrative structure of Executive agencies, necessary to improve the understanding, management, conservation, and use of, and access to, ocean and coastal resources.

(I) A review of the effectiveness and adequacy of existing Federal interagency ocean policy coordination mechanisms, and recommendations for changing or improving the effectiveness of such mechanisms necessary to respond to or implement the recommendations of the Commission.

(3) **CONSIDERATION OF FACTORS.**—In making its assessment and reviews and developing its recommendations, the Commission shall give equal consideration to environmental, technical feasibility, economic, and scientific factors.

(4) **LIMITATIONS.**—The recommendations of the Commission shall not be specific to the lands and waters within a single State.

(g) **PUBLIC AND COASTAL STATE REVIEW.**—

(1) **NOTICE.**—Before submitting the final report to the Congress, the Commission shall—

(A) publish in the Federal Register a notice that a draft report is available for public review; and

(B) provide a copy of the draft report to the Governor of each coastal State, the Committees on Resources, Transportation and Infrastructure, and Science of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

(2) **INCLUSION OF GOVERNORS' COMMENTS.**—The Commission shall include in the final report comments received from the Governor of a coastal State regarding recommendations in the draft report.

(h) **ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE FOR REPORT AND REVIEW.**—Chapter 5 and chapter 7 of title 5, United States Code, do not apply to the preparation, review, or submission of the report required by subsection (e) or the review of that report under subsection (f).

(i) **TERMINATION.**—The Commission shall cease to exist 30 days after the date on which it submits its final report.

(j) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section a total of \$6,000,000 for the 3 fiscal-year period beginning with fiscal year 2001, such sums to remain available until expended.

SEC. 4. NATIONAL OCEAN POLICY.

(a) **NATIONAL OCEAN POLICY.**—Within 120 days after receiving and considering the report and recommendations of the Commission under section 3, the President shall submit to Congress a statement of proposals to implement or respond to the Commission's recommendations for a coordinated, comprehensive, and long-range national policy for the responsible use and stewardship of ocean and coastal resources for the benefit of the United States. Nothing in this Act authorizes the President to take any administrative or regulatory action regarding ocean or coastal policy, or to implement a reorganization plan, not otherwise authorized by law in effect at the time of such action.

(b) **COOPERATION AND CONSULTATION.**—In the process of developing proposals for submission under subsection (a), the President shall consult with State and local governments and non-Federal organizations and individuals involved in ocean and coastal activities.

SEC. 5. BIENNIAL REPORT.

Beginning in September, 2001, the President shall transmit to the Congress biennially a report that includes a detailed listing of all existing Federal programs related to ocean and coastal activities, including a description of each program, the current funding for the program, linkages to other Federal programs, and a projection of the funding level for the program for each of the next 5 fiscal years beginning after the report is submitted.

SEC. 6. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **MARINE ENVIRONMENT.**—The term "marine environment" includes—

(A) the oceans, including coastal and offshore waters;

(B) the continental shelf; and

(C) the Great Lakes.

(2) **OCEAN AND COASTAL RESOURCE.**—The term "ocean and coastal resource" means any living or non-living natural, historic, or cultural resource found in the marine environment.

(3) **COMMISSION.**—The term "Commission" means the Commission on Ocean Policy established by section 3.

SEC. 7. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Act shall become effective on January 20, 2001.

The **SPEAKER** pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SAXTON) and the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SAXTON).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material therein on S. 2327.

The **SPEAKER** pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, S. 2327 establishes a Commission on Ocean Policy and requires that the President submit a biennial report to the Congress detailing Federal ocean and coastal activities. Both the House and Senate adopted similar legislation in the 105th Congress, but no final measure was cleared for the President's signature.

In this Congress, I joined with the gentleman from California (Mr. FARR), the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GREENWOOD), and others to introduce H.R. 4410, the House companion bill to this bill.

The commission which will be created will consist of 16 members, 12 of which are members nominated by the House and Senate leadership. Members must be knowledgeable in coastal and ocean activities and represent geographically diverse districts. The commission will hold public meetings in coastal regions and gather input on a draft report from the public, the governors of coastal States, and the appropriate congressional committees.

The commission will prepare a report that includes a review of existing and planned ocean and coastal activities of Federal entities and make recommendations for modifications to the United States laws, regulations, and administrative structure of executive agencies necessary to improve the understanding, management, conservation, and use of, and access to, ocean and coastal resources.

After a final report is submitted to the Congress and the President, the President is directed to submit to the Congress a statement of proposals to implement or respond to the commission's recommendations for coordinated, comprehensive, and long-term national policy for the responsible use and stewardship of the ocean and coastal resources for the benefit of the United States.

The President may not take any administrative or regulatory action or implement a reorganization plan not otherwise authorized by law in effect at the time of such action.

The Stratton Commission conducted a comprehensive review of national ocean policy and reported to Congress in 1969. Today, many of that commission's recommendations have been implemented, but no further comprehensive review of national ocean policy has been conducted. In light of the enormous growth of the population in coastal areas; our vastly improved understanding of physical, chemical, and biological oceanography; the tremendous technical advances in equipment available to explore and exploit ocean resources; and the number and complexity of Federal oceanographic and ocean and coastal resources conservation and management programs, it is time to conduct another comprehensive review of U.S. ocean policy. That is what this commission's purpose will be.

Mr. Speaker, I urge an "aye" vote on S. 2327.

Mr. Speaker, I include the following exchange of letters for the RECORD:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE,
Washington, DC, July 25, 2000.

Hon. DON YOUNG,
Chairman, Committee on Resources, Longworth
HOB, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN YOUNG: I am in receipt of your letter of July 25, 2000 regarding S. 2327, the "Oceans Act of 2000."

As you state S. 2327 has provisions which fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Science. Given your desire to bring S. 2327 to the floor an expeditious manner, the Committee on Science will not object to its consideration.

We will request an appropriate number of conferees should a conference be convened on S. 2327 or similar legislation. I would ask that our exchange of letters be entered into the Congressional Record.

Sincerely,

F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, Jr.,

Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND
INFRASTRUCTURE, HOUSE OF REP-
RESENTATIVES,

Washington, DC, July 25, 2000.

Hon. DON YOUNG,
Chairman, Committee on Resources, Longworth
House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I understand that the Committee on Resources intends to seek House passage of S. 2327, the Oceans Act of 2000, with an amendment, so as to clear the measure for the President.

The Transportation and Infrastructure Committee has a right to a referral of S. 2327. As you know, this legislation is based on previous bills establishing a Commission on Ocean Policy, including S. 1213, the Oceans Act of 1997, which was referred to our Committee, and H.R. 3445, the Oceans Act of 1998, which would have been referred to our Committee in the absence of an exchange of letters.

In view of your desire to move S. 2327 expeditiously, I will not insist on a referral that could delay consideration of this bill. This action should in no way be considered a waiver of the jurisdiction of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure over S. 2327. In addition, I would appreciate your inclusion of this letter in any Floor debate accompanying House consideration of S. 2327.

Thank you for your cooperation and that of your staff.

Sincerely,

BUD SHUSTER,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES,
Washington, DC, July 25, 2000.

Hon. BUD SHUSTER,
Chairman, Committee on Transportation and
Infrastructure, Rayburn HOB, Washington,
DC.

Hon. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.,
Chairman, Committee on Science, Rayburn
HOB, Washington, DC.

DEAR MESSRS. CHAIRMEN: Thank you for your letters regarding S. 2327, the Oceans Act of 2000. I agree that the bill contain provisions within your respective committees' jurisdiction and I appreciate your willingness to waive a referral of the bill to expedite its consideration by the House of Representatives this week.

I will be pleased to put your letters and this response in the Congressional Record when the bill is called up on the House Floor.

Thank you again for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

DON YOUNG,
Chairman.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of S. 2327, and I want to thank the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SAXTON), the gentleman from California (Mr. FARR), the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GREENWOOD), and others who have worked hard on this legislation.

It is very clear that, as a Nation, we must consider comprehensively the challenges and the opportunities that lie ahead in the 21st century to ensure that we manage our ocean environment in the way that is both integrated and sustainable in the long term. I believe

that this legislation moves us toward that goal.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. FARR).

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I embarked on a sea odyssey over 4 years ago to pass the Oceans Act to establish a commission modeled after the Stratton Commission, which was a commission that met over 30 years ago.

If one thinks about it, most of the instrumentation we use to measure weather, measure the ocean, measure fisheries management has all been invented since the Stratton Commission desolved. We know a lot more now than we did then. Yet, we do not have a national policy on how this country ought to look into the 21st century about an ocean strategy. That is what this bill does. It really is a tribute to the hard work, bipartisan work of the gentleman from New Jersey (Chairman SAXTON); members of the Committee on Resources, including the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER), ranking member; and others on that committee.

Let me just say in one quick statement what is of interest here. We just sent satellites, we sent astronauts around the globe to photograph the earth. They photographed the surface of the planet, not the bottom of the ocean. We know a lot about the surface of the Earth than the bottom of the sea. We know everything there is to know about the Moon, the entire Moon, the back side, top side, front side. We know very, very little, very, very little, less than 5 percent of what the ocean floor of the world is.

The ocean floor of the Earth is 76 percent of the Earth. That is unknown: the canyons, the rivers, the volcanoes, the sulfuric vents, the depths, the heights. That is what this 21st century exploration is all about is to explore and to learn ways in which this Earth's resources can be properly managed. So that we shall not perish, so that we can manage to survive as a healthy planet.

As we know, we cannot just continue to dump everything we do not like into our oceans. All the excesses of which we do not know what to do with on land, we just dump them in the sea. We think they just sort of disappear. They do not. They integrate with the life of the ocean. They can kill it. We have people fishing with cyanide. We have people fishing with dynamite in some parts of the world. We have runoff with toxic wastes, and so on.

So now is the time in the development of a society that we need to have a better look at how we manage these resources. This commission that we will vote on will do that. The President is required to bring back to Congress a report on how we should legislate within the next 18 months.

This is a very good bill. I ask for an "aye" vote.

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 2327, the Oceans Act of 2000. As chairman of the Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, I can attest to the importance of this legislation and the need to develop a comprehensive approach to our nation's oceans. Our Subcommittee held a hearing on comparable legislation in 1998 and since then has been active in reviewing and passing related bills advancing ocean and coastal protection efforts.

Like its predecessors (such as H.R. 3445 and S. 1213 in the 105th Congress), S. 2327 takes an important step towards a coordinated, comprehensive, and long-range national ocean policy. Clearly, there is a need for a renewed, comprehensive effort to develop such a policy. A lot has changed since the Stratton Commission was established in 1966. We have learned more about ocean and coastal problems and solutions and we have seen the enactment of laws such as the Clean Water Act, the Ocean Dumping Act, and the Oil Pollution Act. We also continue to witness the importance of shore protection and hurricane response programs of the Army Corps of Engineers and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Mr. Speaker, the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee was entitled to a referral of this legislation. However, in order to expedite House consideration of this important measure, the Committee agreed not to seek a referral. I appreciate the leadership and cooperation of Chairman SHUSTER, Chairman SENSENBRENNER of the Science Committee, and, of course, Chairman YOUNG of the Resources Committee. I also want to congratulate Rep. SAXTON, Rep. FARR, and others for their tireless efforts to move this legislation forward. Many of S. 2327's provisions are the result of negotiations among the House Committees and the Senate in 1998 and beyond.

Mr. Speaker, a vote for this bill is a vote for the responsible use and stewardship of ocean and coastal resources. I urge all of my colleagues to support S. 2327.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I have no more requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SAXTON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 2327.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1530

JARYD ATADERO LEGACY TRAIL

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3817) to redesignate the Big South Trail in the Comanche Peak Wilderness Area of Roosevelt National