

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. 929

Recognizing World Oceans Day and the necessity to protect, conserve,
maintain, and rebuild the ocean and its resources.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 8, 2018

Ms. BONAMICI (for herself, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. BORDALLO, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. PANNETTA, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. LANCE, Mr. CURBELO of Florida, Mr. SANFORD, Mr. ISSA, Mr. MOULTON, Ms. HANABUSA, and Mr. TED LIEU of California) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, 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

RESOLUTION

Recognizing World Oceans Day and the necessity to protect,
conserve, maintain, and rebuild the ocean and its resources.

Whereas the oceans cover more than 70 percent of our
planet;

Whereas the oceans generate the oxygen we breathe, regulate
our climate and weather patterns, and provide healthy
meals for people every day;

Whereas scientists estimate more than 95 percent of the
oceans remain unexplored;

Whereas the health of our oceans is a reflection of the health of our planet;

Whereas changes in ocean chemistry pose a very real threat to marine resources, industries, and jobs;

Whereas our oceans absorb chemical inputs, including carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, and the breakdown of organic matter, and become more acidic;

Whereas ocean acidification harms oysters, mussels, lobsters, clams, corals, and other species building shells, skeletons, and reproducing;

Whereas according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, 80 percent of pollution to the oceans comes from land;

Whereas increased temperatures and nutrient runoff can result in colonies of harmful algal blooms that grow excessively and produce toxins leaving ocean areas and waterways in a hypoxic state that threatens marine life;

Whereas Tribes have a right and a deep cultural and historical connection to the fish populations threatened by changing ocean chemistry;

Whereas according to the United Nations more than eight million tons of plastic end up in the oceans each year;

Whereas marine debris is considered a growing global crisis that requires collaborative work with partners from across the world;

Whereas we need to improve our understanding of the implications of environmental stressors, such as harmful algal blooms and hypoxia, marine debris, warming and more acidic ocean waters, overfishing, and rising sea levels;

Whereas these problems are indicators of a changing climate and threaten our economy and the livelihood of vulnerable coastal communities;

Whereas across the United States the ocean economy supports more than 3 million jobs and contributes at least \$352 billion in economic activity annually;

Whereas, in 2008, the United Nations General Assembly designated June 8 as “World Oceans Day”; and

Whereas World Oceans Day provides an opportunity to recommit to protect, conserve, maintain, and rebuild our oceans and its resources: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, that the House of Representatives—

2 (1) recognizes World Oceans Day and affirms
3 the individual and collective duty, both nationally
4 and internationally, to protect, conserve, maintain,
5 and rebuild the ocean and its resources;

6 (2) affirms the stewardship of ocean resources
7 is vital to both present and future generations; and

8 (3) commits to increasing the investment of
9 Federal funds in scientific research and monitoring
10 to better understand our changing oceans.

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