The Resolution we are submitting today urges the President to issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe the week of June 9, 2003, with appropriate recognition, programs, and activities to further ocean literacy, education, and exploration. During this week on Capitol Hill, I am pleased to be an Honorary Co-host of Capitol Hill Oceans Week, a series of events and discussions designed to facilitate awareness of the oceans within the Congress. As a country, we have recognized the need for a national ethic. Our continuous and increasing effort to establish National Oceans Week, a series of events and discussions, and as a co-host of Capitol Hill Oceans Week, I am pleased to be an Honorary Co-host of Capitol Hill Oceans Week, a series of events and discussions, to further expand our awareness of the oceans and engage in discussions and activities that will help ocean resource conservation.

I would like to thank my fellow Senators who are joining me in this effort to establish National Oceans Week, and I hope that this week will help to contribute to a better awareness of and appreciation for the oceans. It is through such efforts that ocean stewardship can expand and take hold as an important effort that ocean stewardship can expand and take hold as an important such efforts that ocean stewardship can expand and take hold as an important reed and take hold as an important such efforts that ocean stewardship can expand and take hold as an important such efforts that ocean stewardship can expand and take hold as an important.

At the request of Mr. DASCHLE, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.

Mr. KERRY, President, I am proud to cosponsor this resolution with Senators SNOWE, HOLLINGS, and MCCAIN. In 1998 we recognized the International Year of the Oceans, and it is time we underscore the importance of oceans in our daily lives through an annual celebration of National Oceans Week. The global oceans need our attention now more than ever. Today, we are faced with the challenge of sustainably managing our interactions with the marine environment, in the face of increasing pressures from population growth and a global economy. While we have been making significant progress in this arena, there are constant reminders that we have not yet achieved our goal of supporting ocean-related industries while maintaining high ecological standards.

The recent oil spill of the Bouchard barge in Buzzard’s Bay, MA, vividly demonstrates that we must be ever vigilant in striving for the balance between ecological protection and economic growth—as well as the need to balance competing economic interests—in this case, an important local seafood industry with our need for energy. Whether we have seen a marked improvement in the safe marine transportation of oil since the passage of the Oil Pollution Act in 1990, all possible care must be taken to ensure that we have a system in place that adequately protects our marine environment.

Marine fisheries are also a vitally important component of our coastal economies and culture, especially in the Bay State. We are making progress in restoring our overfished stocks to sustainable levels and we are committed to staying the course to reduce mortality, improve water quality and restore habitat. But we must press forward to ensure all nations are pulling their weight in providing sustainable fisheries management. Recent reports show international fleets have had a dramatic impact that appears to go largely unchecked. Living marine resources, particularly highly migratory species like tuna and swordfish, know no national borders, and we cannot tolerate lawlessness by any nation in the management of these stocks.

The Marine Mammal Protection Act has proved to be a very successful conservation tool, bringing numerous species back from the brink of extinction. However, there is still much more to be done. I am particularly familiar with the example of the North Atlantic right whales, one of the most endangered species of marine mammals in the world, with a population of approximately 300 individuals. Unfortunately, our local New England waters are often the areas where these endangered whales literally collide with the fishing industry and the marine transportation industry. The plight of the right whales highlights the importance of working with a wide variety of interests to find solutions that will make a difference.

Congress has already asked a panel of experts to develop a plan of action for our oceans in the Oceans Act of 2000. The federal mandated U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy will help us understand what steps are needed to advance our knowledge and improve our management of the marine environment. Later this fall, the Commission will make recommendations on how we can improve our ocean governance, investment and implementation, research, education and marine operations, and stewardship. Despite these great efforts, there is much more to do. Increased public attention to our Nation’s ocean issues is essential if we are to make further headway. This is why, today, I am honored to join Senator SNOWE in introducing this resolution to declare the week of June 9, 2003, as National Oceans Week.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED & PROPOSED

SA 847. Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. McCAIN, Mr. REID, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. INHOFE, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. KERRY, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. CORZINE, Mrs. SUNUNU, and Mr. HAGEL) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 1588, supra, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2004 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

Subtitle F—Naturalization and Family Protection for Military Members

SEC. 661. SHORT TITLE. This subtitle may be cited as the “Naturalization and Family Protection for Military Members Act of 2003.”

SEC. 662. REQUIREMENTS FOR NATURALIZATION THROUGH SERVICE IN THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES.

(a) REDUCTION OF PERIOD FOR REQUIRED SERVICE—Section 328(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1439(a)) is amended by striking “three years” and inserting “2 years”.

(b) PROHIBITION ON IMPOSITION OF FEES RELATING TO NATURALIZATION—Section 328 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1438 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 328(b)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking “honorable” the and inserting “honorable (the); and

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 847. Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. McCAIN, Mr. REID, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. INHOFE, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. KERRY, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. CORZINE, Mrs. SUNUNU, and Mr. HAGEL) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 1588, supra, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2004 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

Subtitle F—Naturalization and Family Protection for Military Members

SEC. 661. SHORT TITLE. This subtitle may be cited as the “Naturalization and Family Protection for Military Members Act of 2003.”

SEC. 662. REQUIREMENTS FOR NATURALIZATION THROUGH SERVICE IN THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES.

(a) REDUCTION OF PERIOD FOR REQUIRED SERVICE—Section 328(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1439(a)) is amended by striking “three years” and inserting “2 years”.

(b) PROHIBITION ON IMPOSITION OF FEES RELATING TO NATURALIZATION—Section 328 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1438 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 328(b)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking “honorable” the and inserting “honorable (the); and

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—SENATE

S7405

June 4, 2003