

111TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 5313

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to require offshore oil rigs to install acoustic control systems, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 13, 2010

Mr. SCHOCK (for himself and Mr. PUTNAM) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, 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

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## A BILL

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to require offshore oil rigs to install acoustic control systems, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Offshore Safety and  
5 Response Improvement Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. ACOUSTIC CONTROL SYSTEM REQUIREMENT FOR**  
2 **OFFSHORE OIL RIGS.**

3 The Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the  
4 Secretary of Energy, shall study the use, effectiveness, and  
5 specifications of acoustic control systems for offshore oil  
6 rigs, and, not later than one year after the date of the  
7 enactment of this Act, shall—

8 (1) promulgate, and publish in the Federal  
9 Register, regulations for carrying out the leasing  
10 provisions of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act  
11 (43 U.S.C. 1331 et seq.) that—

12 (A) identify approved acoustic control sys-  
13 tems for offshore oil rigs; and

14 (B) require any lessee under that Act  
15 using an offshore oil rig to install an acoustic  
16 control system identified under subparagraph  
17 (A) not later than two years after the date on  
18 which the Secretary publishes the regulations;  
19 or

20 (2) submit to Congress, and make available to  
21 the public, a report describing in detail the reasons  
22 acoustic control systems are not necessary for off-  
23 shore oil rigs.

1 **SEC. 3. NATIONAL OIL AND HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES POL-**  
2 **LUTION CONTINGENCY PLAN REVISION.**

3 Not later than one year after the date of the enact-  
4 ment of this Act, the President, acting through the Ad-  
5 ministrator of the Environmental Protection Agency and  
6 in consultation with the Secretary of the department in  
7 which the Coast Guard is operating, shall revise the Na-  
8 tional Contingency Plan developed under section 311(d)  
9 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C.  
10 1321(d)) to include specific response procedures for var-  
11 ious predetermined scenarios and conditions relating to  
12 discharges of oil, including the location and amount of a  
13 discharge, and the length of time that has elapsed since  
14 a discharge occurred. In revising the National Contin-  
15 gency Plan under this section, the President shall solicit  
16 comments from the Secretary of the Interior, the Gov-  
17 ernors of coastal States, and owners or operators of off-  
18 shore oil rigs or oil transportation services.

19 **SEC. 4. OIL SPILL REMOVAL TECHNOLOGY REVIEW.**

20 Not later than one year after the date of the enact-  
21 ment of this Act, the Administrator of the Environmental  
22 Protection Agency and the Secretary of the Interior shall  
23 jointly review and submit to Congress a report regarding  
24 the following:

1           (1) Technologies and methods for removal of oil  
2           from an oil spill that are used in Federal responses  
3           to such spills.

4           (2) The length of time each of the technologies  
5           and methods described in paragraph (1) has been in  
6           use in such responses.

7           (3) Technologies and methods for removal of oil  
8           from an oil spill that are available world-wide.

9           (4) Technologies and methods for removal of oil  
10          from an oil spill that are in development.

11          (5) The investments being made by the Envi-  
12          ronmental Protection Agency and the Department of  
13          the Interior in the development of improved tech-  
14          nologies and methods for the removal of oil from an  
15          oil spill, including the amount of funds obligated for  
16          such purpose using amounts appropriated for the  
17          fiscal year or years covered by the 12-month period  
18          preceding the date of submission to Congress of the  
19          report required by this section.

20   **SEC. 5. DEFINITIONS.**

21       In this Act:

22           (1) ACOUSTIC CONTROL SYSTEM.—The term  
23           “acoustic control system” means a remote-control  
24           emergency shut-off system for an offshore oil rig, as  
25           further defined by the Secretary of the Interior.

1           (2) OFFSHORE OIL RIG.—The term “offshore  
2       oil rig” means any vessel or facility that is used for  
3       the drilling of oil or gas in exploration, development,  
4       or production on the outer Continental Shelf (as  
5       those terms are used in section 2 of the Outer Conti-  
6       nental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1331)).

7           (3) OIL SPILL.—The term “oil spill” means any  
8       discharge of oil into navigable waters (as those  
9       terms are defined in section 1001 of the Oil Pollu-  
10      tion Act of 1990 (33 U.S.C. 2701)).

11          (4) REMOVAL.—The term “removal” has the  
12      meaning given that term in section 1001 of the Oil  
13      Pollution Act of 1990 (33 U.S.C. 2701).

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