

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 790

To prohibit issuance of any lease or other authorization by the Federal Government that authorizes exploration, development, or production of oil or natural gas in any marine national monument or national marine sanctuary or in the fishing grounds known as Georges Bank in the waters of the United States.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 2, 2009

Mr. MARKEY of Massachusetts (for himself, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. TIERNEY, Mr. WELCH, Mr. HODES, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Ms. PINGREE of Maine, Mr. HINCHEY, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. KENNEDY, and Mr. LYNCH) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To prohibit issuance of any lease or other authorization by the Federal Government that authorizes exploration, development, or production of oil or natural gas in any marine national monument or national marine sanctuary or in the fishing grounds known as Georges Bank in the waters of the United States.

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

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Georges Bank Preser-
3 vation Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. PROHIBITION ON LEASING IN CERTAIN FEDERAL**
5 **PROTECTED AREAS.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provi-
7 sion of Federal law, no lease or other authorization may
8 be issued by the Federal Government that authorizes ex-
9 ploration, development, or production of oil or natural gas
10 in—

11 (1) any marine national monument or national
12 marine sanctuary; or

13 (2) the fishing grounds known as Georges Bank
14 in the waters of the United States, which is one of
15 the largest and historically important fishing
16 grounds of the United States.

17 (b) IDENTIFICATION OF COORDINATES OF GEORGES
18 BANK.—The Secretary of Commerce, after publication of
19 public notice and an opportunity for public comment, shall
20 identify the specific coordinates that delineate Georges
21 Bank in the waters of the United States for purposes of
22 subsection (a).

○