

LaFalce	Owens	Shuster
LaHood	Oxley	Sisisky
Lampson	Packard	Skaggs
Lantos	Parker	Skeen
Latham	Pastor	Slaughter
Lazio	Paul	Smith (MI)
Leach	Paxon	Smith (TX)
Levin	Payne	Smith, Adam
Lewis (CA)	Pease	Snyder
Lewis (GA)	Pelosi	Souder
Linder	Peterson (MN)	Spratt
Livingston	Peterson (PA)	Stabenow
Lofgren	Pickering	Stearns
Lowey	Pickett	Stenholm
Luther	Pitts	Stokes
Maloney (CT)	Porter	Strickland
Maloney (NY)	Portman	Stupak
Manton	Poshard	Sununu
Markey	Price (NC)	Tanner
Matsui	Pryce (OH)	Tauscher
McCarthy (MO)	Quinn	Tauzin
McCollum	Ramstad	Thomas
McCrery	Rangel	Thompson
McDade	Reyes	Thornberry
McDermott	Riggs	Thune
McGovern	Rodriguez	Thurman
McIntosh	Roemer	Tierney
McIntyre	Rogan	Torres
Meehan	Rogers	Turner
Meek	Rothman	Upton
Menendez	Roukema	Vento
Millender-	Roybal-Allard	Visclosky
McDonald	Sabo	Watkins
Miller (FL)	Sanchez	Watt (NC)
Minge	Sandlin	Waxman
Moakley	Sawyer	Weldon (PA)
Molinari	Schumer	Wexler
Mollohan	Scott	Weygand
Morella	Sensenbrenner	White
Murtha	Serrano	Wicker
Nadler	Shadegg	Wolf
Neal	Shaw	Woolsey
Nethercutt	Shays	Wynn
Northup	Sherman	Young (FL)
Nussle	Shimkus	

NOT VOTING—20

Andrews	Inglis	Taylor (MS)
Ballenger	Kilpatrick	Taylor (NC)
Cubin	Kingston	Towns
Deutsch	Rush	Velazquez
Diaz-Balart	Sanford	Wise
Furse	Schiff	Yates
Hoekstra	Smith (OR)	

□ 1757

The Clerk announced the following pair: On this vote:

Mrs. Cubin for, with Mr. Kingston against.

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. Are there other amendments?

If not, the question is on the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute as modified, as amended.

The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute as modified, as amended, was agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. Under the rule, the Committee rises.

□ 1800

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. KOLBE), having assumed the chair, Mr. LAHOOD, Chairman of the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill, (H.R. 400) to amend title 35, United States Code, with respect to patents, and for other purposes, pursuant to House Resolution 116, he reported the bill back to the House with an amendment adopted by the Committee of the Whole.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the rule, the previous question is ordered.

Is a separate vote demanded on any amendment to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute adopted by the Committee of the Whole? If not, the question is on the amendment.

The amendment was agreed to.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, I was unable to be present during consideration of H.R. 400 today. As a cosponsor of this bill, however, I feel it is important for me to let my intentions be known on this important matter. Therefore, I would like to state for the RECORD that, had I been present, I would have voted against all of the amendment to H.R. 400 and supported final passage of the bill.

AUTHORIZING THE CLERK TO MAKE CORRECTIONS IN ENGROSSMENT OF H.R. 400, 21ST CENTURY PATENT SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT ACT

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that in the engrossment of the bill, H.R. 400, the Clerk be authorized to correct section numbers, punctuation, and cross-references, and to make such other technical and conforming changes as may be necessary to reflect the actions of the House in amending the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 400.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

WITHDRAWAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 1062

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my name be withdrawn as a cosponsor of H.R. 1062.

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

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the provisions of clause 5 of rule I, the Chair announces that he will postpone further proceedings today on each motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and

nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 4 of rule XV.

Such rollcall votes, if postponed, will be taken on Thursday, April 24, 1997.

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS WITH RESPECT TO SIGNIFICANCE OF MAINTAINING HEALTH AND STABILITY OF CORAL REEF ECOSYSTEMS

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H.Con. Res. 8) expressing the sense of Congress with respect to the significance of maintaining the health and stability of coral reef ecosystems, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 8

Whereas coral reefs are among the world's most biologically diverse and productive marine habitats, and are often described as the tropical rain forests of the oceans;

Whereas healthy coral reefs provide the basis for subsistence, commercial fisheries, and coastal and marine tourism and are of vital economic importance to coastal States and territories of the United States including Florida, Hawaii, Georgia, Texas, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands;

Whereas healthy coral reefs function as natural, regenerating coastal barriers, protecting shorelines and coastal areas from high waves, storm surges, and accompanying losses of human life and property;

Whereas the scientific community has long established that coral reefs are subject to a wide range of natural and anthropogenic threats;

Whereas the United States has taken measures to protect national coral reef resources through the designation and management of several marine protected areas, containing reefs of the Flower Garden Banks in the Gulf of Mexico, the Florida Keys in south Florida, and offshore Hawaii, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and American Samoa;

Whereas the United States, acting through its agencies, has established itself as a global leader in coral reef stewardship by launching the International Coral Reef Initiative and by maintaining professional networks for the purposes of sharing knowledge and information on coral reefs, furnishing near real-time data collected at coral reef sites, providing a repository for historical data relating to coral reefs, and making substantial contributions to the general fund of coral reef knowledge; and

Whereas 1997 has been declared the "International Year of the Reef" by the coral reef research community and over 40 national and international scientific, conservation, and academic organizations: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the Congress recognizes the significance of maintaining the health and stability of coral reef ecosystems, by—

(1) promoting comprehensive stewardship for coral reef ecosystems;

(2) encouraging research, monitoring, and assessment of and education on coral reef ecosystems; and

(3) improving the coordination of coral reef efforts and activities of Federal agencies, academic institutions, nongovernmental organizations, and industry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. SAXTON] and the gentleman from Hawaii [Mr. ABERCROMBIE] each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. SAXTON].

(Mr. SAXTON asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

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

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the scheduling of House Concurrent Resolution 8, the coral reef protection resolution of 1997, for consideration this afternoon.

Mr. Speaker, with the able help of my comrade in arms, the gentleman from Hawaii [Mr. ABERCROMBIE], I introduced this resolution in early January.

Mr. Speaker, in addition to their colorful beauty and ecological significance, healthy coral reefs provide numerous economic benefits to the United States and our territories. They support commercial and recreational fisheries, they are tourist attractions; they provide us with biomedicines and serve as natural protection for our coastlines. However, coral reefs are in a state of decline, not only in United States waters but worldwide. Without proper understanding of what is causing this degradation, it is difficult to determine how best to combat or reverse it.

To this end, House Concurrent Resolution 8 makes a clear and forceful statement in support of further research, monitoring, and education with regard to coral reefs. It also encourages cooperation and coordination among U.S. agencies, academic institutions, nongovernmental organizations and industry that are involved in research on reef management and conservation activities.

Finally, this legislation honors the fact that in 1997, it has been declared the Year of the International Reef by a global community of coral reef scientists, conservationists, and natural resource managers. Through the successful passage of this resolution, Congress will join this effort in promoting understanding and awareness of coral reef ecosystems. Congressional support for this resolution is bipartisan, coming from 40 Members who represent both coastal and noncoastal districts. Along with other positive environmental legislation that will be considered by Congress this year, this deserves our favorable consideration.

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

(Mr. ABERCROMBIE asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

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

Mr. Speaker, I think that the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. SAXTON], in his usual manner, has stated the case very well for the International

Year of the Reef. I would like to just simply state for the record and for the benefit of the Members who may not be fully aware of the items contained in the resolution, that this sense of the Congress statement is aimed at maintaining the health and stability of coral reef ecosystems.

We intend to do that by promoting comprehensive stewardship for coral reef systems, for encouraging research, monitoring, and assessment of and education on coral reef ecosystems, and approving the coordination of the coral reef efforts and activities of Federal agencies, academic institutions, nongovernmental organizations, and industry.

Mr. Speaker, this is truly a public-private partnership which will have benefits not only for the reef systems themselves, but for all the people on the planet with respect to continued recognition of our dependency on one another.

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I rise as one of the cosponsors of House Concurrent Resolution 8, which expresses the sense of Congress regarding the importance of maintaining the health and stability of our coral reef ecosystems. This resolution is particularly appropriate as we celebrate the International Year of the Reef in 1997.

Coral reefs, both in U.S. and international waters, face dire threats to basic functions needed to maintain them as natural and stable reef ecosystems. Pollution from chemicals and human waste disrupt normal behaviors of organisms making up coral communities in reefs. Overfishing disturbs the precarious balance in marine ecosystems of which coral reefs are an integral part. Overuse by industries using coral products in their processing and merchandise destroy and damage sections of the reef, as does indifference and careless handling of the reef during activities such as water recreation and fishing.

Statistics about the destruction of the world's coral reefs cited by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration [NOAA] should be of great concern. NOAA estimates that about two-thirds of coral reefs globally are dying, with 10 percent degraded beyond recovery, 30 percent in critical condition and predicted to die in the next 10 to 20 years, and another 30 percent forecasted to perish by 2050.

In the Central Pacific Ocean region, nuclear testing and military base construction at Eniwetok and Bikini in the Marshall Islands, and military construction and warfare at Ulithi, Kanton, Palmyra, Wake, Tarawa, Chuuk, Kwajalein, Mili, Jaluit, Johnston, and Funafuti permanently damaged coral reefs, or left them in the condition to warrant longterm recovery, according to the University of Hawaii Sea Grant College Program. Additional reports have included evidence of reef degradation by illegal or destructive harvesting of reef resources, which has also led to depletion of giant clams, sharks, other finfish, dugongs, crocodiles, sea turtles, coconut crabs, lobsters, and other shellfish coexisting with reef ecosystems.

Mitigation of threats to coral reefs are especially critical to my State of Hawaii, which is home to some of the most exquisite reefs in the world. Reef health is vital to Hawaii's

multimillion dollar tourism industry, and some efforts to practice ecotourism have been implemented by the industry. However, reef conditions around the islands need much more attention if they are to improve. For example, reefs around the island of Maui are being endangered by shoreline development and human pressures—anchoring, pollution from boats and water users, and fishing exercises—as well as fish feeding, according to the coral reef research study administered by the Pacific Whale Foundation and funded by Earthwatch annually since 1989.

During the International Year of the Reef, we must make conscientious efforts toward preservation of our coral reefs. Extensive stewardship of and research and education about coral reefs by government agencies, nongovernmental organizations, academic institutions, industry, and our own communities is necessary to save our beautiful reefs.

I strongly urge my colleagues to add their support to House Concurrent Resolution 8 and vote to pass this significant resolution.

Ms. CHRISTIAN-GREEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for yielding time to me and ask unanimous consent to revise and extend my remarks.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of House Concurrent Resolution 8 and I ask my colleagues to join with me and the proponents of this resolution in expressing the sense of Congress of the significance of maintaining the health and stability of coral reef ecosystems. I want to also commend my colleagues on the Resources Committee, the chairman and ranking member of the Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife and Oceans, Mr. SAXTON and Mr. ABERCROMBIE for their leadership in bringing this resolution to the floor today.

House Concurrent Resolution 8 recognizes that our country has taken certain measures to protect national coral reefs through the designation and management of several underwater national parks. One such national coral reef site is the Buck Island National Monument situated off the northeast coast of St. Croix in my district, the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Buck Island Reef National Monument was established in 1961 through a proclamation issued by President Kennedy to preserve "one of the finest marine gardens in the Caribbean Sea". Since that time, this and other local reef systems have been struggling against the onslaught of several major hurricanes, nonpoint source pollution and other damaging influences. To determine the present and future health of one the Caribbean's most significant coral reef ecosystems the National Park Service has established a research/monitoring program at Buck Island. Since the inception of the monitoring program, over 350 individual coral colonies have been tagged and are being monitored.

This past weekend I had the opportunity, along with two of my colleagues, to visit the Buck Island National Monument and can report firsthand of the magnificence of this priceless resource and of the healthy signs of recovery of the corals following the damage to them by the recurring hurricanes. I want to thank National Park Service Biological Technician Zandy-Marie Starr for her assistance in helping us understanding the unique features of the Buck Island Reef National Monument.

Mr. Speaker, 1997 has been declared the International Year of the Reef by the coral reef

research community and over 40 national and international scientific, conservation, and academic organizations. I urge my colleagues to join me in expressing our support for the preservation of coral reefs by voting "yes" on House Concurrent Resolution 8. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Concurrent Resolution 8, the Coral Reef Protection Resolution of 1997.

Interestingly enough, Alaska has the distinction of being the northernmost point in the Pacific which supports coral growth. A variety of corals live in the Gulf of Alaska, along the Aleutian chain, and in the Bering Sea. However, due to cold water temperatures, these corals are unable to create extensive reef structures.

House Concurrent Resolution 8 is non-controversial and has broad bipartisan support. It deserves favorable consideration in both Chambers of Congress, and I urge you to vote "aye" on this important measure.

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased that we are considering House Concurrent Resolution 8 today. The global crisis in coral reef health is an important issue that has received little recent attention in Congress. I commend the Fisheries Subcommittee Chairman, Mr. SAXTON, for introducing the resolution, of which I am an original cosponsor.

Coral reefs are one of nature's wonders. While they provide important physical habitat for ecologically and economically important species, the reef itself is also a living structure. And, as a living structure, thousands—perhaps millions—of individual coral animals are dying and others are taking their place on the reef at any one time.

The problem is that now human activities have shifted that balance and coral reefs are dying off at an alarming rate worldwide. Corals are very sensitive to water pollution, sedimentation, damage from boat groundings, and even simple physical contact by divers. Coral reefs are, in a sense, the canary in the coal mine of the oceans.

A great deal of injury is being inflicted on coral reefs, mainly in southeast Asia, through easily preventable, largely illegal fishing techniques. Cyanide and other poisons are being used to stun and capture fish for the aquarium trade and for the live food fish trade. These chemicals kill nearby coral, and divers scrambling to get fish out of nooks and crannies in the reef often inflict further damage on the reef.

Most of the aquarium fish captured in this way end up in hobbyists' tanks in the United States. So this is not just a foreign problem; we have to take some responsibility for our consumer actions that are driving these practices.

I have introduced legislation myself, House Resolution 87, to address the specific problem of unsustainable coral reef fisheries. I understand that the Fisheries Subcommittee will hold a hearing on that resolution next month, and I hope that it will be marked up shortly thereafter.

Both of these resolutions share a common purpose. They are intended to bring the global plight of coral reefs before Congress, raise the level of awareness of policy makers, and ask us to do more. The scientific and environmental communities have declared 1997 the International Year of the Reef. What better

time for us to pay attention to the many problems plaguing coral reefs, and seek practical solutions to those threats? If we don't do something soon, there may not be any reefs left to save.

I urge the House to support the resolution and I hope we will continue in the coming months to take action to address the coral reef crisis.

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my strong support for House Concurrent Resolution 8, the Protect Coral Reef Ecosystems resolution.

I am particularly moved to speak on this subject because, my State, Florida, is the only State in the continental United States with natural coral reef communities.

This resolution seeks to preserve this natural marine resource by providing comprehensive protection from natural and manmade destruction.

This measure articulates Congress' recognition of the importance of maintaining the health and stability of coral reef ecosystems.

The bill also encourages research, education, and management efforts by Federal agencies, academic institutions, nongovernmental organizations, and private industry to further this effort.

Although most people know that coral reefs are one of our most precious and fragile marine resources, the benefits derived from coral reefs are probably less known.

Coral reefs are valuable sources of biomedical chemicals. The use of coral reefs as a source of new chemicals for anticancer treatments is especially promising.

The life of coral reefs are at once fragile and dynamic. It takes 100 years to grow one inch of coral reef—and decades to rehabilitate damaged reefs. This kind of sustained instability is further justification for strong protective measures.

We are now certain that the loss of these natural wonders has implications for other organisms. Without coral reefs, many lesser organisms would disappear. Likewise the abundance of other valuable marine species would also be substantially affected.

The world's coral reefs are subject to a myriad of threats including natural damage caused by humans and extreme weather conditions, as well as damage resulting from tourism activities, commercial harvests, vessel groundings, and pollution.

Even though underwater national parks have been established by Congress in the Gulf of Mexico and the Florida Keys, it is still critical that we move decisively to protect this vital natural resource.

The protection of coral reefs is good for tourism, biomedical research, pharmaceutical production, and good for the future of our children.

I urge support for this measure.

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

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I have no further 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 agree to the concurrent resolution, House Concurrent Resolution 8, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

The title of the concurrent resolution was amended so as to read: "Concurrent resolution recognizing the significance of maintaining the health and stability of coral reef ecosystems."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

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 matter on the concurrent resolution just agreed to.

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

There was no objection.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 1031

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to have my name removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 1031.

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

There was no objection.

AFRICAN ELEPHANT CONSERVATION REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 1997

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 39) to reauthorize the African Elephant Conservation Act.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 39

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 "African Elephant Conservation Reauthorization Act of 1997".

SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION OF AFRICAN ELEPHANT CONSERVATION ACT.

Section 2306 of the African Elephant Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 4245) is amended by striking "fiscal years" and all that follows through "1998" and inserting "fiscal years 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, and 2002".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. SAXTON] and the gentleman from Hawaii [Mr. ABERCROMBIE] each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. SAXTON].

(Mr. SAXTON asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

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

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise in support of this bill. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 39 was introduced by our full committee chairman, the gentleman from