through 2009, to enable those agencies to expand the summer food pilot projects established under section 18(f) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1769(f)) to all States of the United States and to all service institutions (including service institutions described in section 13(a)(7) of that Act).

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ALEXANDER). Without objection, it is so ordered.

## CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO DR. DOROTHY HEIGHT

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, before we close tonight, I wanted to make a couple of comments. One has to do with a wonderful ceremony that we had today in the Rotunda where the Congressional Gold Medal ceremony honoring Dr. Dorothy Height was conducted.

These ceremonies are a wonderful time in the sense that it allows each of us to go back as individuals and really celebrate, whether it is points in history, great leaders, icons, or pioneers, and indeed today in recognizing Dr. Dorothy Height we had all of those—a true icon, a pioneer, a leader, a hero, a woman who has had an indelible impact on not only one generation but multiple generations. In addition, today was her 92nd birthday.

It had a special meaning for me in that just about a month ago I had the opportunity to lead a delegation of 10 Senators, including the distinguished Senator who occupies the chair at this juncture, on a civil rights pilgrimage through Alabama, and it continued on up into Tennessee.

Over that period of several days, we had the opportunity to walk in the steps of true giants. I had the opportunity to spend some time today with, indeed, one of those giants of an era of which we are true beneficiaries, and that was Dr. Dorothy Height. She was the only woman among the big six who planned and led the civil rights movement, an extraordinary American, a woman who was truly fearless in a time of fear, a woman who was an optimist when the future was bleak, a woman who brought people together when others were fighting to keep society apart.

As we sat in that wonderful Rotunda today, thinking about the great history and great patriots who are portrayed in the Rotunda, with the large dome above, you could not help but think how appropriate it was for her to join those patriots in the struggle she led, in large part the struggle for equality and that endowment of that right of life and liberty and pursuit of happiness.

It was wonderful to be able to participate in that ceremony. I wanted, as we wait to close here shortly, to once again honor Dr. Dorothy Height for her tremendous leadership over many years.

She said, right before the end of that ceremony, in her closing remarks, until the Good Lord is done with her, she has a lot more to do and people can expect her to continue to do a lot along the way.

## OCEANS AND HUMAN HEALTH ACT

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, at this juncture I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to consideration of calendar No. 403, S. 1218.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1218) to provide for Presidential support and coordination of interagency ocean science programs and development and coordination of a comprehensive and integrated United States research and monitoring program.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

(Strike the part shown in black brackets and insert the part shown in italic.)

S. 1278

*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 ''Oceans and Human Health Act''.

**[SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.**

[(a) FINDINGS.—The Congress makes the following findings:

[(1) The rich biodiversity of marine organisms provides society with an essential biomedical resource, a promising source of novel compounds with therapeutic potential, and a potentially important contribution to the national economy.

[(2) The diversity of ocean life and research on the health of marine organisms, including marine mammals and other sentinel species, helps scientists in their efforts to investigate and understand human physiology and biochemical processes, as well as providing a means for monitoring the health of marine ecosystems.

[(3) The oceans drive climate and weather factors causing severe weather events and shifts in temperature and rainfall patterns that affect the density and distribution of disease-causing organisms and the ability of public health systems to address them.

[(4) The oceans act as a route of exposure for human disease and illnesses through ingestion of contaminated seafood and direct contact with seawater containing toxins and disease-causing organisms.

[(5) During the past two decades, the incidence of harmful blooms of algae has increased around the world, contaminating shellfish, causing widespread fish kills, threatening marine environmental quality and resulting in substantial economic losses to coastal communities.

[(6) Existing Federal programs and resources support research in a number of these areas, but gaps in funding, coordination, and outreach have impeded national progress in addressing ocean health issues.

[(7) National investment in a coordinated program of research and monitoring would improve understanding of marine ecosystems, allow prediction and prevention of marine public health problems and assist in realizing the potential of the oceans to contribute to the development of effective new treatments of human diseases and a greater understanding of human biology.

[(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are to provide for—

[(1) Presidential support and coordination of interagency ocean science programs; and

[(2) development and coordination of a comprehensive and integrated United States research and monitoring program that will assist this Nation and the world to understand, use and respond to the role of the oceans in human health.

**[SEC. 3. NATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL.**

[(a) DIRECTOR OF OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY TO CHAIR COUNCIL.—Section 207(a) of the National Science and Technology Policy, Organization, and Priorities Act of 1976 (42 U.S.C. 6616(a)) is amended—

[(1) by striking ''CHAIRMAN OF FEDERAL COORDINATING COUNCIL FOR SCIENCE, ENGINEERING, AND TECHNOLOGY'' in the subsection heading and inserting ''CHAIR OF THE NATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL''; and

[(2) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

[''(1) serve as Chair of the National Science and Technology Council; and''.

[(b) FUNCTIONS.—Section 401 of the National Science and Technology Policy, Organization, and Priorities Act of 1976 (42 U.S.C. 6651) is amended to read as follows:

**[''SEC. 401. FUNCTIONS OF COUNCIL.**

[''(a) IN GENERAL.—The National Science and Technology Council (hereinafter referred to as the 'Council') shall consider problems and developments in the fields of science, engineering, and technology and related activities affecting more than one Federal agency, and shall recommend policies and other measures designed to—

[''(1) provide more effective planning and administration of Federal scientific, engineering, and technology programs;

[''(2) identify research needs, including areas requiring additional emphasis;

[''(3) achieve more effective use of the scientific, engineering, and technological resources and facilities of Federal agencies, including elimination of unwarranted duplication; and

[''(4) further international cooperation in science, engineering and technology.

[''(b) COORDINATION.—The Council may be assigned responsibility for developing long-range and coordinated plans for scientific and technical research which involve the participation of more than 2 agencies. Such plans shall—

[''(1) identify research approaches and priorities which most effectively advance scientific understanding and provide a basis for policy decisions;

[''(2) provide for effective cooperation and coordination of research among Federal agencies; and

[''(3) encourage domestic and, as appropriate, international cooperation among government, industry and university scientists.

[''(c) OTHER DUTIES.—The Council shall perform such other related advisory duties as shall be assigned by the President or by the Chair of the Council.

[''(d) ASSISTANCE OF OTHER AGENCIES.—For the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this section, each Federal agency represented on the Council shall furnish necessary assistance to the Council. Such assistance may include—

[''(1) detailing employees to the Council to perform such functions, consistent with the purposes of this section, as the Chairman of the Council may assign to them; and

[''(2) undertaking upon the request of the Chair, such special studies for the Council as

come within the scope of authority of the Council.

[''(e) STANDING COMMITTEES; WORKING GROUPS.—For the purpose of developing interagency plans, conducting studies, and making reports as directed by the Chairman, standing committees and working groups of the Council may be established.''.

**[SEC. 4. INTERAGENCY OCEANS AND HUMAN HEALTH RESEARCH PROGRAM.**

[(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMITTEE.—

[(1) The National Science and Technology Council shall coordinate and support a national research program to improve understanding of the role of the oceans in human health. In planning the program, the Council shall establish a Committee on Oceans and Human Health that shall consist of representatives from those agencies with programs or missions that could contribute to or benefit from the program. The Committee shall consist of at least one representative from—

[(A) the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration;

[(B) the National Science Foundation;

[(C) the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences and other institutes within the National Institutes of Health;

[(D) the Centers for Disease Control;

[(E) the Environmental Protection Agency;

[(F) the Food and Drug Administration;

[(G) the Department of Homeland Security; and

[(H) such other agencies and departments as the Council deems appropriate.

[(2) The members of the Committee biennially shall select one of its members to serve as Chair. The Chair shall be knowledgeable and experienced with regard to the administration of scientific research programs, and shall be a representative of an agency that contributes substantially, in terms of scientific research capability and budget, to the interagency program.

[(b) IMPLEMENTATION PLAN.—Within one year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Chair of the National Science and Technology Council, through the Committee on the Oceans and Human Health, shall develop and submit to the Congress a plan for coordinated Federal activities under the program. In developing the plan, the Committee will consult with the Inter-Agency Task Force on Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia. Such plan will build on and complement the ongoing activities of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the National Science Foundation, the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, and other departments and agencies and shall—

[(1) establish, for the 10-year period beginning in the year it is submitted, the goals and priorities for Federal research which most effectively advance scientific understanding of the connections between the oceans and human health, provide usable information for the prediction and prevention of marine public health problems and use the biological potential of the oceans for development of new treatments of human diseases and a greater understanding of human biology;

[(2) describe specific activities required to achieve such goals and priorities, including establishment of national centers of excellence, the funding of competitive research grants, ocean and coastal observations, training and support for scientists, and participation in international research efforts;

[(3) identify and address, as appropriate, relevant programs and activities of the Federal agencies and departments that would contribute to the program;

[(4) consider and use, as appropriate, reports and studies conducted by Federal agencies and departments, the National Research Council, the Ocean Research Advisory Panel, the Commission on Ocean Policy and other entities;

[(5) make recommendations for the coordination of program activities with ocean and human health-related activities of other national and international organizations; and

[(6) estimate Federal funding for research activities to be conducted under the program.

[(c) PROGRAM SCOPE.—The program shall include the following activities related to the role of oceans in human health:

[(1) Interdisciplinary research among the ocean and medical sciences, and coordinated research and activities to improve understanding of processes within the ocean that may affect human health and to explore the potential contribution of marine organisms to medicine and research, including—

[(A) vector- and water-borne diseases of humans and marine organisms, including marine mammals and fish;

[(B) harmful algal blooms;

[(C) marine-derived pharmaceuticals;

[(D) marine organisms as models for biomedical research and as indicators of marine environmental health;

[(E) marine environmental microbiology;

[(F) bioaccumulative and endocrine-disrupting chemical contaminants; and

[(G) predictive models based on indicators of marine environmental health.

[(2) Coordination with the National Ocean Research Leadership Council (10 U.S.C. 7902(a)) to ensure that any integrated ocean and coastal observing system provides information necessary to monitor, predict and reduce marine public health problems including—

[(A) baseline observations of physical ocean properties to monitor climate variation;

[(B) measurement of oceanic and atmospheric variables to improve prediction of severe weather events;

[(C) compilation of global health statistics for analysis of the effects of oceanic events on human health;

[(D) documentation of harmful algal blooms; and

[(E) development and implementation of sensors to measure biological processes, acquire health-related data on biological populations and detect contaminants in marine waters and seafood.

[(3) Development through partnerships among Federal agencies, States, or academic institutions of new technologies and approaches for detecting and reducing hazards to human health from ocean sources and to strengthen understanding of the value of marine biodiversity to biomedicine, including—

[(A) genomics and proteomics to develop genetic and immunological detection approaches and predictive tools and to discover new biomedical resources;

[(B) biomaterials and bioengineering;

[(C) in situ and remote sensors to detect and quantify contaminants in marine waters and organisms and to identify new genetic resources;

[(D) techniques for supplying marine resources, including chemical synthesis, culturing and aquaculturing marine organisms, new fermentation methods and recombinant techniques; and

[(E) adaptation of equipment and technologies from human health fields.

[(4) Support for scholars, trainees and education opportunities that encourage an interdisciplinary and international approach to exploring the diversity of life in the oceans.

**[SEC. 5. NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION OCEANS AND HUMAN HEALTH PROGRAM.**

[(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—As part of the interagency program planned and coordinated under section 4, the Secretary of Commerce shall establish an Oceans and Human Health Program to coordinate and implement research and activities of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration related to the role of the oceans in human health. In establishing the program, the Secretary shall consult with other Federal agencies conducting integrated oceans and human health research and research in related areas, including the Centers for Disease Control, the National Science Foundation, and the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences. The Oceans and Human Health Program shall provide support for—

[(1) a program and research coordination office;

[(2) an advisory panel;

[(3) one or more National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration national centers of excellence;

[(4) research grants; and

[(5) distinguished scholars and traineeships.

[(b) PROGRAM OFFICE.—The Secretary shall establish a program office to identify and coordinate oceans and human health-related research and activities within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and carry out the elements of the program. The program office will provide support for administration of the program and, in cooperation with the oceans and human health advisory panel, will serve as liaison with academic institutions and other agencies participating in the interagency oceans and human health research program planned and coordinated under section 3.

[(c) ADVISORY PANEL.—The Secretary shall establish an oceans and human health advisory panel to assist in the development and implementation of the Oceans and Human Health Program. Membership of the advisory group shall provide for balanced representation of individuals with multi-disciplinary expertise in the marine and biomedical sciences. The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to the oceans and human health advisory panel.

[(d) NATIONAL CENTERS.—

[(1) The Secretary shall identify and provide financial support through a competitive process to develop, within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, for one or more centers of excellence that strengthen the capabilities of the Administration to carry out programs and activities related to the oceans' role in human health. Such centers shall complement and be in addition to the centers established by the National Science Foundation and the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences.

[(2) The centers shall focus on areas related to agency missions, including use of marine organisms as indicators for marine environmental health, ocean pollutants, marine toxins and pathogens, harmful algal blooms, seafood testing, drug discovery, and biology and pathobiology of marine mammals, and on disciplines including marine genomics, marine environmental microbiology, ecological chemistry and conservation medicine.

[(3) In selecting centers for funding, the Secretary will consider the need for geographic representation and give priority to proposals with strong interdisciplinary scientific merit that encourage educational opportunities and provide for effective partnerships among the Administration, other Federal entities, State, academic, medical, and industry participants.

[(e) RESEARCH GRANTS.—

[(1) The Secretary is authorized to provide grants of financial assistance for critical research and projects that explore the relationship between the oceans and human health and that complement or strengthen Administration programs and activities related to the ocean's role in human health. The Secretary shall consult with the oceans and human health advisory panel established under subsection (c) and the National Sea Grant College Program and may work cooperatively with other agencies participating in the interagency program under section 3 to establish joint criteria for such research and projects.

[(2) Grants under this subsection shall be awarded through a peer-review process that may be conducted jointly with other agencies participating in the interagency program established in section 3 or under the National Oceanographic Partnership Program under section 7901 of title 10, United States Code.

[(f) DISTINGUISHED SCHOLARS AND TRAINEESHIPS.—

[(1) The Secretary shall designate and provide financial assistance to support distinguished scholars from academic institutions, industry or State governments for collaborative work with scientists and facilities of the Administration.

[(2) In consultation with the Directors of the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation, the Secretary of Commerce may establish a program to provide training and experience to scientists at the beginning of their careers who are interested in the role of the oceans in human health.

**[SEC. 6. PUBLIC INFORMATION AND OUTREACH.**

[(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Commerce, in consultation with the Centers for Disease Control, the Food and Drug Administration, the Environmental Protection Agency and the States, shall design and implement a national public information and outreach program on potential ocean-related human health risks, including health hazards associated with the human consumption of seafood. Under such program, the Secretary shall—

[(1) collect and analyze information on ocean-related health hazards and illnesses, including information on the number of individuals affected, causes and geographic location of the hazard or illness;

[(2) disseminate the results of the analysis to any appropriate Federal or State agency, the public, involved industries, and other interested persons;

[(3) provide advice regarding precautions that may be taken to safeguard against the hazard or illness; and

[(4) assess and make recommendations for observing systems to support the program.

[(b) SEAFOOD SAFETY.—To address health hazards associated with human consumption of seafood, the Secretary, in consultation with the Centers for Disease Control, the Food and Drug Administration, the Environmental Protection Agency and the States, shall assess risks related to—

[(1) seafood that is domestically harvested and processed as compared with imported seafood that is harvested and processed outside the United States;

[(2) seafood that is commercially harvested and processed as compared with that harvested for recreational or subsistence purposes and not prepared commercially; and

[(3) contamination originating from certain practices that occur both prior to and after sale of seafood to consumers, especially those connected to the manner in which consumers handle and prepare seafood.

**[SEC. 7. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

[(a) NOAA OCEANS AND HUMAN HEALTH PROGRAM.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Commerce to carry out the NOAA Oceans and Human Health program established under section 5, $8,000,000 for fiscal year 2004, $15,000,000 for fiscal year 2005, and $20,000,000 annually for fiscal year 2006 through fiscal year 2008.

[(b) PUBLIC INFORMATION.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out the public information and outreach program established under section 6, $5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2004 through 2007.]

***SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.***

*This Act may be cited as the ''Oceans and Human Health Act''.*

***SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.***

*(a) FINDINGS.—The Congress makes the following findings:*

*(1) The rich biodiversity of marine organisms provides society with an essential biomedical resource, a promising source of novel compounds with therapeutic potential, and a potentially important contribution to the national economy.*

*(2) The diversity of ocean life and research on the health of marine organisms, including marine mammals and other sentinel species, helps scientists in their efforts to investigate and understand human physiology and biochemical processes, as well as providing a means for monitoring the health of marine ecosystems.*

*(3) The oceans drive climate and weather factors causing severe weather events and shifts in temperature and rainfall patterns that affect the density and distribution of disease-causing organisms and the ability of public health systems to address them.*

*(4) The oceans act as a route of exposure for human disease and illnesses through ingestion of contaminated seafood and direct contact with seawater containing toxins and disease-causing organisms.*

*(5) During the past two decades, the incidence of harmful blooms of algae and hypoxia has increased in United States coastal waters, including the Great Lakes, and around the world, contaminating shellfish, causing widespread fish kills, threatening marine environmental quality and resulting in substantial economic losses to coastal communities.*

*(6) Existing Federal programs and resources support research in a number of these areas, but gaps in funding, coordination, and outreach have impeded national progress in addressing ocean health issues.*

*(7) National investment in a coordinated program of research and monitoring would improve understanding of marine ecosystems, allow prediction and prevention of marine public health problems and assist in realizing the potential of the oceans to contribute to the development of effective new treatments of human diseases and a greater understanding of human biology.*

*(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are to provide for—*

*(1) Presidential support and coordination of interagency ocean science programs; and*

*(2) development and coordination of a comprehensive and integrated United States ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes research and monitoring program that will assist this Nation and the world to understand, use and respond to the role of the oceans in human health.*

***SEC. 3. INTERAGENCY OCEANS AND HUMAN HEALTH RESEARCH PROGRAM.***

*(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMITTEE.—*

*(1) The President, through the National Science and Technology Council, shall coordinate and support a national research program to improve understanding of the role of the oceans in human health. In planning the program, the Council shall establish or designate a Committee on Oceans and Human Health that shall consist of representatives from those agencies with programs or missions that could contribute to or benefit from the program. The Committee shall consist of at least one representative from—*

*(A) the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration;*

*(B) the National Science Foundation;*

*(C) the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences and other institutes within the National Institutes of Health;*

*(D) the Centers for Disease Control;*

*(E) the Environmental Protection Agency;*

*(F) the Food and Drug Administration;*

*(G) the Department of Defense;*

*(H) the Department of Homeland Security; and*

*(I) such other agencies and departments as the Council deems appropriate.*

*(2) The members of the Committee biennially shall select one of its members to serve as Chair. The Chair shall be knowledgeable and experienced with regard to the administration of scientific research programs, and shall be a representative of an agency that contributes, in terms of scientific research capability and budget, to the interagency program.*

*(b) IMPLEMENTATION PLAN.—Within 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Chair of the National Science and Technology Council, through the Committee on the Oceans and Human Health, shall develop and submit to the Congress a plan for coordinated Federal activities under the program. Nothing in this subsection is intended to duplicate or supersede the activities of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia established under section 603 of the Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Act of 1998 (16 U.S.C. 1451 note). In developing the plan, the Committee will consult with the Inter-Agency Task Force on Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia. Such plan will build on and complement the ongoing activities of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the National Science Foundation, the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, and other departments and agencies and shall—*

*(1) establish, for the 10-year period beginning in the year it is submitted, the goals and priorities for Federal research which most effectively advance scientific understanding of the connections between the oceans and human health, provide usable information for the prediction and prevention of marine-related public health problems and use the biological potential of the oceans for development of new treatments of human diseases and a greater understanding of human biology;*

*(2) describe specific activities required to achieve such goals and priorities, including establishment of national centers of excellence, the funding of competitive research grants, ocean and coastal observations, training and support for scientists, and participation in international research efforts;*

*(3) identify and address, as appropriate, relevant programs and activities of the Federal agencies and departments that would contribute to the program;*

*(4) consider and use, as appropriate, reports and studies conducted by Federal agencies and departments, the National Research Council, the Ocean Research Advisory Panel, the Commission on Ocean Policy and other expert scientific bodies;*

*(5) make recommendations for the coordination of program activities with ocean and human health-related activities of other national and international organizations; and*

*(6) estimate Federal funding for research activities to be conducted under the program.*

*(c) PROGRAM SCOPE.—The program shall include the following activities related to the role of oceans in human health:*

*(1) Interdisciplinary research among the ocean and medical sciences, and coordinated research and activities to improve understanding of processes within the ocean that may affect human health and to explore the potential contribution of marine organisms to medicine and research, including—*

*(A) vector- and water-borne diseases of humans and marine organisms, including marine mammals and fish;*

*(B) harmful algal blooms and hypoxia;*

*(C) marine-derived pharmaceuticals;*

*(D) marine organisms as models for biomedical research and as indicators of marine environmental health;*

*(E) marine environmental microbiology;*

*(F) bioaccumulative and endocrine-disrupting chemical contaminants; and*

*(G) predictive models based on indicators of marine environmental health or public health threats.*

*(2) Coordination with the National Ocean Research Leadership Council (10 U.S.C. 7902(a)) to ensure that any integrated ocean and coastal observing system provides information necessary to monitor, predict and reduce marine public health problems including—*

*(A) baseline observations of physical ocean properties to monitor climate variation;*

*(B) measurement of oceanic and atmospheric variables to improve prediction of severe weather events;*

*(C) compilation of global health statistics for analysis of the effects of oceanic events on human health;*

*(D) documentation of harmful algal blooms and hypoxia; and*

*(E) development and implementation of sensors to measure biological processes, acquire health-related data on biological populations and detect contaminants in marine waters and seafood.*

*(3) Development through partnerships among Federal agencies, States, or academic institutions of new technologies and approaches for detecting and reducing hazards to human health from ocean sources and to strengthen understanding of the value of marine biodiversity to biomedicine, including—*

*(A) genomics and proteomics to develop genetic and immunological detection approaches and predictive tools and to discover new biomedical resources;*

*(B) biomaterials and bioengineering;*

*(C) in situ and remote sensors to detect and quantify contaminants in marine waters and organisms and to identify new genetic resources;*

*(D) techniques for supplying marine resources, including chemical synthesis, culturing and aquaculturing marine organisms, new fermentation methods and recombinant techniques; and*

*(E) adaptation of equipment and technologies from human health fields.*

*(4) Support for scholars, trainees and education opportunities that encourage an interdisciplinary and international approach to exploring the diversity of life in the oceans.*

***SEC. 4. NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION OCEANS AND HUMAN HEALTH INITIATIVE.***

*(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—As part of the interagency program planned and coordinated under section 3, the Secretary of Commerce shall establish an Oceans and Human Health Initiative to coordinate and implement research and activities of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration related to the role of the oceans in human health. In carrying out this section, the Secretary shall consult with other Federal agencies conducting integrated oceans and human health research and research in related areas, including the Centers for Disease Control, the National Science Foundation, and the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences. The Oceans and Human Health Initiative shall provide support for—*

*(1) program and research coordination;*

*(2) an advisory panel;*

*(3) one or more National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration national centers of excellence;*

*(4) research grants; and*

*(5) distinguished scholars and traineeships.*

*(b) ADVISORY PANEL.—The Secretary shall establish an oceans and human health advisory panel to assist in the development and implementation of the Oceans and Human Health Initiative. Membership of the advisory group shall provide for balanced representation of individuals with multi-disciplinary expertise in the marine and biomedical sciences. The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to the oceans and human health advisory panel.*

*(c) NATIONAL CENTERS.—*

*(1) The Secretary shall identify and provide financial support through a competitive process to develop, within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, for one or more centers of excellence that strengthen the capabilities of the Administration to carry out programs and activities related to the oceans' role in human health. Such centers shall complement and be in addition to the centers established by the National Science Foundation and the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences.*

*(2) The centers shall focus on areas related to agency missions, including use of marine organisms as indicators for marine environmental health, ocean pollutants, marine toxins and pathogens, harmful algal blooms, hypoxia, seafood testing, drug discovery, and biology and pathobiology of marine mammals, and on disciplines including marine genomics, marine environmental microbiology, ecological chemistry and conservation medicine.*

*(3) In selecting centers for funding, the Secretary will consider the need for geographic representation and give priority to proposals with strong interdisciplinary scientific merit that encourage educational opportunities and provide for effective partnerships among the Administration, other Federal entities, State, academic, medical, and industry participants.*

*(d) RESEARCH GRANTS.—*

*(1) The Secretary is authorized to provide grants of financial assistance for critical research and projects that explore the relationship between the oceans and human health and that complement or strengthen Administration programs and activities related to the ocean's role in human health. The Secretary shall consult with the oceans and human health advisory panel established under subsection (b) and the National Sea Grant College Program and may work cooperatively with other agencies participating in the interagency program under section 3 to establish joint criteria for such research and projects.*

*(2) Grants under this subsection shall be awarded through a peer-review process that may be conducted jointly with other agencies participating in the interagency program established in section 3 or under the National Oceanographic Partnership Program under section 7901 of title 10, United States Code.*

*(e) DISTINGUISHED SCHOLARS AND TRAINEESHIPS.—*

*(1) The Secretary shall designate and provide financial assistance to support distinguished scholars from academic institutions, industry or State governments for collaborative work with scientists and facilities of the Administration.*

*(2) In consultation with the Directors of the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation, the Secretary of Commerce may establish a program to provide training and experience to scientists at the beginning of their careers who are interested in the role of the oceans in human health.*

***SEC. 5. PUBLIC INFORMATION AND OUTREACH.***

*(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Commerce, in consultation with the Centers for Disease Control, the Food and Drug Administration, the Environmental Protection Agency and the States, shall design and implement a national public information and outreach program on potential ocean-related human health risks, including health hazards associated with the human consumption of seafood. Under such program, the Secretary shall—*

*(1) collect and analyze information on ocean-related health hazards and illnesses, including information on the number of individuals affected, causes and geographic location of the hazard or illness;*

*(2) disseminate the results of the analysis to any appropriate Federal or State agency, the public, involved industries, and other interested persons;*

*(3) provide advice regarding precautions that may be taken to safeguard against the hazard or illness; and*

*(4) assess and make recommendations for observing systems to support the program.*

*(b) SEAFOOD SAFETY.—To address health hazards associated with human consumption of seafood, the Secretary, in consultation with the Centers for Disease Control, the Food and Drug Administration, the Environmental Protection Agency and the States, shall perform a coordinated assessment of risks and benefits associated with seafood handling and consumption.*

***SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.***

*(a) NOAA OCEANS AND HUMAN HEALTH INITIATIVE.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Commerce to carry out the NOAA Oceans and Human Health Initiative established under section 4, $10,000,000 for fiscal year 2004, $12,000,000 for fiscal year 2005, $15,000,000 for fiscal year 2006, and $20,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2007 and 2008.*

*(b) PUBLIC INFORMATION.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out the public information and outreach program established under section 5, $3,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2004 through 2007.*

Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, I rise in support of S. 1218, the Oceans and Human Health Act, legislation being considered by the Senate today. This bill, which Senator STEVENS and I introduced last year, was reported unanimously from the Commerce Committee, will spur the development of an exciting new field of research, one that explores the role of the oceans in human health. Senators INOUYE, BREAUX, KERRY, CANTWELL, BILL NELSON, LAUTENBERG, DEWINE, LEVIN, and KENNEDY have all lent their considerable support to the bill as cosponsors. I am also pleased to have worked closely with the distinguished chairman and ranking member of the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, HELP, Committee, Senators JUDD GREGG and TED KENNEDY, in crafting the final manager's amendment to the bill.

The U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy, established pursuant to the Oceans Act of 2000, is poised to issue its draft report with recommendations for a new national ocean policy. The draft report is likely to recommend increased Federal support for integrated and innovative ocean research initiatives such as in oceans and human health in order to focus attention on the increasingly complex interaction between humans and the sea. The Cceans and Human Health Act would establish a national interagency program that will coordinate research into oceans and human health and ensure the availability of an adequate Federal investment in this critical area. It also would authorize such a program at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, NOAA, to strengthen its work in this important field of study.

Throughout history, society has turned to the oceans for food, transport, commerce and recreation. This

tremendous resource has enriched and sustained our existence. It is no coincidence that today, over 50 percent of the U.S. population lives in the coastal zone, and this number is increasing. In addition, over 95 percent of U.S. overseas trade moves through our Nation's ports and this volume is expected to more than double by 2020. Our oceans are inextricably linked to our personal and economic well-being.

In recent years, the rich biodiversity of the world's seas has generated considerable interest. Scientists believe the oceans represent a promising source of novel compounds with therapeutic and/or disease-fighting capabilities. A 1999 National Research Council report, ''From Monsoons to Microbes,'' noted that nature has been the traditional source of new pharmaceuticals and found that over half of marketed drugs are extracted or produced from natural sources. Our oceans account for over 80 percent of the planet's biological productivity, yet little of it has been catalogued or studied. At present, there are only three marine compounds in clinical use—and these were developed in the 1950s. While there are some new compounds in the pipeline, we need to speed research efforts to ensure we get more products approved.

I am encouraged by research suggesting that sea sponges contain compounds which show promise in treating pancreatic cancer. And recently, a scientist analyzing a water sample from the Sargasso Sea, off Bermuda, discovered at least 1,800 new microbial species and more than 1.2 million genes in that sample. Imagine what new drug discoveries await researchers and the medical community.

Pioneering scientists are also needed to tackle marine environmental issues that affect human and marine life alike, such as ocean pollution and marine pathogens. Our marine resources are under growing environmental stresses. Signs of these stresses include ''dead zones,'' loss of coastal wetlands, changes in ocean salinity, contamination of fish and marine life, and increases in extreme weather events associated with global climate change. Over the past 2 weeks, over 60 dolphin carcasses have been found along Florida's panhandle beaches and bays. Preliminary test results point to one or more biotoxins that are associated with red tides. Certain biotoxins have been known to produce eye and respiratory irritation in humans. Dolphins are an important indicator species of environmental pollution and their unusually high mortality rates in Florida raise the issue of potential risks to human health.

Because oceans act as a route of exposure for human disease through ingestion of contaminated seafood or direct contact with saltwater containing toxins and disease-causing organisms, it is vital that we learn more about how public health is affected by the marine environment. We must ensure that the sea maintains its capacity to sustain itself without becoming a ''dead zone.'' We must find ways to monitor and reduce the occurrence of ocean toxins that kill marine mammals and taint seafood. As with cancer, our goal must be understanding and prevention, rather than relying exclusively on treatment.

Many research programs and laboratories perform research and related activities that could contribute significantly to a national research effort, but such efforts have not always realized their potential. To be successful, research into oceans and human health must integrate disciplines, bringing together oceanographers and biomedical researchers to better understand marine processes, reduce public health risks and enhance our biomedical capabilities.

The Oceans and Human Health initiative recently established at NOAA, and a joint program between the National Science Foundation, NSF, and the National Institute for Environmental Health Sciences, NIEHS, already show tremendous promise, and this legislation provides further support for a coordinated Federal effort. The NIEHS and NSF initiative provides $6 million annually to establish centers of excellence focusing on harmful algal blooms, water and vectorborne diseases, and marine pharmaceuticls and probes. In addition, we provided NOAA with appropriations of $8 million in Fiscal Year 2003 and $10 million in Fiscal Year 2004 for an oceans and human health initiative focused on strengthening important oceans and human health research within NOAA's areas of focus, including health coasts and marine life.

Within NOAA, an interdisciplinary and medically oriented approach to ocean research can be found at two marine laboratories in Charleston, SC. The NOAA labs have partnered with the National Institute for Standards and Technology, the State of South Carolina, the Medical University of South Carolina, and the College of Charleston and are on the front lines of discovery and prevention, particularly in the emerging field of marine genomics. They are hard at work on todays' important public and marine environmental health issues. For instance, they are conducting research into dolphin health that will for the first time utilize a traditional medical approach to help us learn more about the health of dolphins in the wild.

This NOAA research collaboration epitomizes the variety of important disciplines that must work side by side if we are to make progress in understanding the connections between oceans and human health. It is home to cutting-edge research involving algal toxins, natural products with potential pharmaceutical applications, and viral and bacterial pathogens that cause disease in marine animals, with potential links to human illness, disease processes and natural product chemistry. The scientists use unique medical tools such as nuclear magnetic resonators to help map the cellular and genetic structure of marine organisms and have developed methods for detecting pesticides in water, sediments, fish, and marine mammals that may potentially affect both the health of the marine environment and human health. The scientists are also developing exposure, toxicology and disease models to assess pollution's effects on a variety of marine organisms. Their work will better define ocean health and bridge the gap with existing human health models.

Taken together, the NIEHS–NSF and NOAA research initiatives offer an excellent basis for building a comprehensive national program. In addition, a number of other Federal agencies are poised to make significant contributions.

The Oceans and Human Health Act provides the legislative framework for coordinated, national investment to improve understanding of marine ecosystems, address marine public health problems and tap into the ocean's potential contribution to new biomedical treatments and advances. At the heart of this legislation—and key to its success—is our commitment to building new partnerships among Federal health, science and ocean agencies, diverse scientific disciplines, and academic researchers.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have a more detailed summary of the legislation printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS OF OCEANS AND HUMAN HEALTH ACT

The Oceans and Human Health Act would authorize the establishment of a coordinated Federal research program to aid in understanding and responding to the role of oceans in human health. The bill would establish a Federal interagency Oceans and Human Health initiative coordinated through the National Science and Technology Council (NSTC) as well as establish an Oceans and Human Health initiative at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The bill also directs the Secretary of Commerce to establish a coordinated public information and outreach program with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the States to provide information on potential ocean-related human health risks.

*Section 1. Short Title*

Section 1 provides the short title of the Act, which is to be cited as the ''Oceans and Human health Act.''

*Section 2. Findings and Purposes*

Section 2 sets forth findings and purposes for the Act.

*Section 3. Interagency Oceans and Human Health Research Program*

Section 3 provides for the coordination of Federal national research activities to improve the understanding of the role of the oceans in human health. Subsection (a) directs the President to coordinate this research program through the National Science and Technology Council (NSTC).

10-Year Implementation Plan. Subsection (b) directs the NSTC, through the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, to submit to Congress within one year of enactment a 10-year implementation plan for coordinated Federal activities under the program. In developing the plan, the Committee is required to consult with the Inter-Agency Task Force on Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia. The implementation plan will complement the ongoing activities of NOAA, NSF, and other departments and agencies, and: (1) Establish the goals and priorities for Federal research related to oceans and human health; (2) describe specific activities required to achieve such goals; (3) identify relevant Federal programs and activities that would contribute to the program; (4) consider and use reports and studies conducted by Federal agencies and departments, the National Research Council, the Ocean Research Advisory Panel, the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy and other entities; (5) make recommendations for the coordination of national and international programs; and (6) estimate Federal funding for research activities to be conducted under the program.

Program Scope. Subsection (c) outlines the scope of the coordinated research program, as follows:

(1) Interdisciplinary and coordinated research and activities to improve our understanding of how ocean processes and marine organisms can relate to human health and contribute to medicine and research;

(2) Coordination with the National Ocean Leadership Council (established under 10 U.S.C. 7902(a)) to ensure any ocean and coastal observing system provides information necessary to monitor, predict and reduce marine public health problems;

(3) Development of new technologies and approaches for detecting and reducing hazards to human health from ocean sources and to strengthen understanding of the value of marine biodiversity to biomedicine; and

(4) Support for scholars, trainees and education opportunities that encourage a multidisciplinary approach to exploring the diversity of life in the oceans.

Annual Report. Subsection (d) stipulates that beginning with the first year occurring more than 24 months after enactment of the Act, the National Science and Technology Council will submit an annual report to the President and Congress on the previous year's activities conducted pursuant to the Act.

*Section 4. NOAA Oceans and Human Health Initiative*

Establishment. Section 4 would establish a NOAA Oceans and Human Health Initiative.

Subsection (a) directs the Secretary of Commerce to develop an Oceans and Human Health initiative that will coordinate and implement NOAA research and activities related to the role of the oceans in human health. In establishing the program, the Secretary is required to consult with other Federal agencies conducting integrated ocean health research or research in related areas, including NSF. The NOAA Oceans and Human Health Initiative will provide support for the following components:

(1) centralized program and research coordination;

(2) an Advisory Panel;

(3) National Center(s) of Excellence;

(4) Research grants; and

(5) Distinguished scholars and traineeships.

Advisory Panel. Under subsection (b), the Secretary will establish an Oceans and Human Health Advisory Panel to assist in the development and implementation of the NOAA Oceans and Human Health Initiative. Membership of the Advisory Group will include a balanced representation of individuals with multi-disciplinary expertise in the marine and biomedical sciences. The subsection provides that Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App. 1) shall not apply to the Panel.

National Centers of Excellence. Subsection (c) provides that the Secretary shall, through a competitive process, establish and support NOAA Centers of Excellence that strengthen NOAA's capabilities to carry out programs and activities related to the ocean's role in human health. Centers selected for funding and support under Section 4 would focus on areas related to NOAA missions, including: (1) use of marine organisms as indicators for marine environmental health; (2) ocean pollutants; (3) marine toxins and pathogens, harmful algal blooms, seafood testing, drug discovery, biology and pathobiology of marine mammals; and (4) such disciplines as marine geomics, marine environmental microbiology, ecological chemistry and conservation medicine. The Secretary will encourage proposals that have strong scientific and interdisciplinary merit.

Extramural Research Grants. Subsection (d) authorizes the Secretary of Commerce to provide grants for research and projects that explore the relationship between the oceans and human health, and that complement or strengthen NOAA-related programs and activities. In implementing this subsection, the Secretary is directed to consult with the Oceans and Human Health Advisory Panel and may work cooperatively with other agencies to establish joint criteria for such research projects. This subsection specifies that the grants shall be awarded through a competitive peer-reviewed, merit-based process and that such a process may be conducted jointly with other agencies participating in the program or under the National Oceanographic Partnership Program (10 U.S.C. 7901).

Distinguished Scholars. Subsection (e) directs the Secretary to provide financial assistance to support distinguished scholars working in collaboration with NOAA scientists and facilities. The Secretary is also authorized to establish a training program for scientists early in their careers who are interested in oceans and human health.

*Section 5. Public Information and Outreach*

This section directs the Secretary of Commerce, in consultation with other Federal agencies, to design and implement a national public information and outreach program on potential ocean-related human health risks. The outreach program will collect and analyze information, disseminate the results (to appropriate Federal, State, public, industry or other interested parties), and make recommendations on observing systems that would support the program.

*Section 6. Authorization of Appropriations*

Section 6 provides the authorization of appropriations for the NOAA Oceans and Human Health Initiative established under Section 4, and the public information and risk assessment program established under Section 5.

Subsection (a) provides that there are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Commerce to carry out the program under Section 5, $12,000,000 for fiscal year 2005, $15,000,000 for fiscal year 2006, and $20,000,000 for fiscal years 2007–2008.

Subsection (b) provides authorizations of appropriations of $3,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2005 through 2007 for the public information and outreach program established under Section 5.

Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, I am extremely proud to sponsor this legislation, and hope that this will mark the beginning of a new century of ocean research that will reveal how integral and important the oceans are to our daily lives and our health, whether we live by the edge of the sea or in the heartland.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Hollings amendment at the desk be agreed to, the committee substitute, as amended, be agreed to, the bill, as amended, be read the third time and passed, the motions to reconsider be laid on the table en bloc, and any statements be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 2933) was agreed to.

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under ''Text of Amendments.'')

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

The bill (S. 1218), as amended, was read the third time and passed, as follows:

(The bill will be printed in a future edition of the RECORD.)

## TO PROVIDE FOR THE CONVEYANCE TO THE UTROK ATOLL LOCAL GOVERNMENT OF A DECOMMISSIONED NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION SHIP

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Commerce Committee be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 2584, and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2584) to provide for the conveyance to the Utrok Atoll local government of a decommissioned National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration ship, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent the Collins and McCain amendments at the desk be agreed to en bloc, the bill as amended be read a third time and passed, and the motions to reconsider be laid on the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 2934) was agreed to as follows:

AMENDMENT NO. 2934

(Purpose: To repeal section 105 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2004)

At the appropriate place, insert the following;

**SEC. 305. REBUILDING FISH STOCKS.**

Section 105 of division H of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2004, is repealed.

The amendment (No. 2935) was agreed to as follows:

AMENDMENT NO. 2935

(Purpose: To provide for implementation of the Pacific Albacore Tuna Treaty, and for other purposes)

On page 2, between lines 17 and 18, insert the following: