

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 individ-

uals 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:

(c) Within 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Utrok Atoll local government, in consultation with the Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, shall submit a plan for the use of the vessel to be conveyed under subsection (a) to the House of Representatives Committee on Resources, the House of Representatives Committee on Science, the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, and the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

On page 4, after line 6, add the following:

TITLE IV—PACIFIC ALBACORE TUNA
TREATY

SEC. 401. IMPLEMENTATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in section 201, 204, or 307(2) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1821, 1824, and 1857(2)), foreign fishing may be conducted pursuant to the Treaty between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of Canada on Pacific Coast Albacore Tuna Vessels and Port Privileges, signed at Washington May 28, 1981, including its Annexes and any amendments thereto.

(b) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary of Commerce, with the concurrence of the Secretary of State, may—

(1) promulgate regulations necessary to discharge the obligations of the United States under the Treaty and its Annexes; and

(2) provide for the application of any such regulation to any person or vessel subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, wherever that person or vessel may be located.

(c) ENFORCEMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.) shall be enforced as if subsection (a) were a provision of that Act. Any reference in the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.) to “this Act” or to any provision of that Act, shall be considered to be a reference to that Act as it would be in effect if subsection (a) were a provision of that Act.

(2) REGULATIONS.—The regulations promulgated under subsection (b), shall be enforced as if—

(A) subsection (a) were a provision of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.); and

(B) the regulations were promulgated under that Act.

SEC. 402. SOUTH PACIFIC TUNA TREATY ACT
AMENDMENT.

Section 6 of the South Pacific Tuna Act of 1988 (16 U.S.C. 973d(a)) is amended by striking “outside of the 200 nautical mile fisheries zones of the Pacific Island Parties.” and inserting “or to fishing by vessels using the longline method in the high seas areas of the Treaty area.”.

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I rise today in support of an amendment included in the package of amendments offered by the managers of H.R. 2584, a bill to provide for the conveyance to the Utrok Atoll local government of a decommissioned National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration ship, and for other purposes.

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, by virtue of its jurisdiction for the U.S. territories, has a long history in dealing with the islands of the former Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. Utrok Atoll is one such group of islands located in the northern Marshall Islands, about 2500 miles southwest of Hawaii. One distinction of

these islands is that they were affected by fallout from our Nation's first thermonuclear bomb test—the “Bravo” test held at Bikini Atoll in 1954. Since that time, the U.S. Government has been monitoring the health of the individuals affected, providing healthcare, and monitoring the radiation levels on the islands. All Americans should recognize the impact that the development of our nation's nuclear deterrent had on Utrok and the other affected communities at Enewetak, Bikini, and Rongelap. We have a continuing interest in their welfare.

This legislation, H.R. 2584, serves that continuing interest by authorizing the transfer of a decommissioned NOAA vessel to the Utrok local government to assist the community by improving transportation to the capital at Majuro. One reason to visit Majuro is to use the U.S. Department of Energy's whole-body counting facility located there. Members of the affected communities can get whole-body counts and reassure themselves about the efficacy of their radiation clean-up and remediation efforts.

One concern regarding the transfer of this vessel, however, is whether the community has properly planned for its use and operation. Over the years, the Energy Committee has been involved in several vessel transfers. Two common problems with these projects are that the vessels are found to be ill-suited to the needs of the community or the community lacks the resources to operate and maintain them.

I commend the managers of this bill for including an amendment that would require the Utrok government to submit a plan for the use of the vessel, including the identification of sources of funding for operations and maintenance. I understand that NOAA had an annual operating budget for this vessel of \$2.9 million. While there would be economies available to reduce these costs, such as hiring a non-U.S. citizen crew, operation and maintenance costs will certainly be beyond the capacity of the Utrok local government. It is my hope that the Utrok local government will work with the Marshall Islands government and with other communities in the area to find the resources needed to make this project a success. If, in the end, the resources are not found, it may be necessary, as it has been in other cases, to sell the vessel in order to purchase a more suitable one, or to use the proceeds to meet the community's needs in other ways.

I thank the managers of this bill for including this amendment, and I look forward to reviewing with them, and with the Utrok community, the plan for this vessel's use.

The bill (H.R. 2584), as amended, was read the third time and passed.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, MARCH
25, 2004

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Sen-

ate completes its business today, it adjourn until 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, March 25. I further ask that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate then begin a period of morning business until 10:30 a.m., with the first half of the time under the control of the majority leader or his designee and the second half of the time under the control of the Democratic leader or his designee; provided that at 10:30 a.m. the Senate begin consideration of H.R. 1997, the Unborn Victims of Violence bill, as provided under the previous order.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, tomorrow, following morning business as just outlined, the Senate will begin consideration of the Unborn Victims of Violence bill. We had previously worked out a unanimous consent agreement and under that agreement there will only be two amendments in order, one by Senator FEINSTEIN and one by Senator MURRAY. In addition, there will be a total of 6½ hours of debate on the amendments and underlying bill. Senators should expect several rollcall votes during tomorrow's session as the Senate completes action on the Unborn Victims of Violence bill.

Mr. President, I will turn to the assistant leader if he has any comments to make.

Before we close, I do want to say I was disappointed in the earlier cloture vote today. As has been outlined, the sanctions have begun. They began on March 1 and will continue with each passing day, just underscoring the urgency that we must address this JOBS bill, the FSC/ETI bill, the bill we know now will jumpstart jobs.

I did enter a motion to reconsider that vote. I hope Members will all rethink their desire to offer unrelated amendments and bring unrelated issues to the floor which have stalled the measure. If we are unable to come to some resolution, we will do what we are doing now and proceed to other Senate business with the Unborn Victims of Violence Act. If we are able to refocus—and I pledge to work with the Democratic leadership over the ensuing hours and days—our attention on the underlying measure, then we will return to that bill and finish it as expeditiously as possible.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, if the distinguished majority leader will yield for a brief comment, we recognize, as has been stated by this Senator and other Senators on this side of the aisle, this is a bill which we have been on for 3 days. As the distinguished majority leader has stated, he wants Members to reconsider having cast their vote against cloture. We would also ask that