

PROHIBITING OIL AND GAS LEASING OFF FLORIDA'S GULF COAST

Passed: 248-180

SUMMARY:

The House passed a bill permanently extending a moratorium on oil and gas leasing off the Florida Gulf Coast to reduce threats to marine wildlife. (*September 11, 2019, Roll Call No. 521*)

BACKGROUND:

The Protecting and Securing Florida's Coastline Act of 2019 would prohibit the Department of Interior from issuing oil and gas leases for natural gas extraction on the Florida Gulf Coast Outer Continental Shelf. Oil spills and activities associated with natural gas extraction in the ocean have negative ramifications for marine mammals, fish and marine flora. Following the nation's most perverse oil spill, Deepwater Horizon, which continues to leak barrels of oil into the Gulf of Mexico, Representative Francis Rooney (R-Fla.) introduced this legislation.

The Deepwater Horizon oil spill was responsible for the death of approximately one million birds and thousands of marine mammals, totaling over \$3 billion in court settlements to aid recovery of Florida's marine habitat, and \$2 billion in economic losses for Florida's tourism and seafood industries. This legislation would provide marine mammals, plant species and fish with greater protections for their habitats.

OUTCOME:

On September 11, 2019, the House passed H.R. 205 by a vote of 248 to 180. "Yes" was the pro-conservation vote.