

PROHIBITING OIL AND GAS LEASING OFF THE ATLANTIC AND PACIFIC COASTS

Passed: 238-189

SUMMARY:

The House passed a bill prohibiting the Interior Department from conducting oil and gas leasing in the outer continental shelf off the Atlantic and Pacific coasts, preventing activities that could threaten marine wildlife. (*September 11, 2019, Roll Call No. 525*)

BACKGROUND:

The Coastal and Marine Economies Protection Act would prohibit the Department of the Interior from issuing oil and gas leases for natural gas extraction in the Atlantic and Pacific Outer Continental Shelves. 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 is still leaking barrels of oil into the Gulf of Mexico, Representative Joe Cunningham (D-SC) 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 \$65 billion dollars to clean up, and \$22 billion in loss of revenue in tourism. 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. 1941 by a vote of 238 to 189. "Yes" was the pro-conservation vote.