June 19, 2019

Dear Representative:

Please consider Oceana’s vote recommendations for ocean-related amendments to the FY20 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act (H.R. 3055). Votes are expected later this week.

**Please support these three amendments:**

* [**Huffman-Rooney-Cunningham-Carbajal amendment**](https://amendments-rules.house.gov/amendments/HUFFCA_042_xml_revised61419160451451.pdf) **#45**

*#44 in the Rule (revised)*

The Administration has proposed making changes to the implementation of the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) that could infringe on states’ ability to protect their coasts. The CZMA gives participating coastal states the opportunity to evaluate whether federal government actions—including permitting activities and plans for oil and gas leasing on the outer continental shelf—are “consistent” with their state plans for managing the coastal zone. In March, NOAA issued a notice that the agency is seeking to make the federal consistency process “more efficient across all stages of OCS oil and gas projects from leasing to development...” This appears to be an effort to dampen state’s opposition to offshore drilling, since the notice does not identify any current problems with the federal consistency process. This bipartisan funding limitation amendment would prevent NOAA from moving forward with changes to the consistency review process at this time. See [letter from 88 organizations](https://usa.oceana.org/sites/default/files/17335/czma_anpr_coalition_comment_letter_-_final_w_sign_ons.pdf) opposed to these potential changes.

* [**Cunningham-Rooney-Rutherford amendment**](https://amendments-rules.house.gov/amendments/CUNNSC_021_xml617191115501550.pdf) **#29**

*#54 in the Rule (revised)*

This funding limitation amendment would block harmful seismic airgun blasting for oil and gas exploration in the Atlantic Ocean--the first step toward drilling for oil off the Atlantic coast. The amendment would prevent the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) from issuing authorizations to geological and geophysical companies to harass or harm marine mammals while searching for undersea deposits of oil and gas. Scientific studies have documented that seismic airgun blasting is harmful to a wide range of ocean wildlife, including fish, sea turtles, shellfish, zooplankton, whales, and dolphins. More information on this issue is available [here](https://usa.oceana.org/our-campaigns/seismic_airgun_testing/campaign).

This bipartisan amendment is cosponsored by Representatives Rooney (FL), Rutherford (FL), Fitzpatrick (PA), Mast (FL), Huffman (CA), McEachin (VA), Lowenthal (CA), Blumenauer (OR), Wasserman Schultz (FL), Van Drew (NJ), Beyer (VA), Pappas (NH), Soto (FL), Pallone (NJ), Crist (FL), and Clyburn (SC).

* [**Moulton amendment**](https://amendments-rules.house.gov/amendments/MOULTO_044_xml6181912070878.pdf) **#111**

#58 in the Rule (revised)

This amendment increases funding for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) by $1.5M for research to conserve the highly endangered North Atlantic right whale. The North Atlantic right whale is critically endangered, with approximately 400 left on earth, and could become effectively extinct in the next few decades if we do not take action. Currently, the two greatest threats to the whale’s survival are ship strikes and entanglement in fishing gear. Rep. Moulton’s amendment provides a much-needed additional source of federal investment to help reduce these threats facing this iconic American whale.

**Please oppose this amendment:**

* [**Golden-Pingree amendment**](https://amendments-rules.house.gov/amendments/GOLDEN_024_xml617191551405140.pdf) **#103**

#70 in the Rule (revised)

This funding limitation amendment prohibits NOAA from using a science-based model to help reduce risks to the North Atlantic right whale. This restriction would severely hinder NOAA’s ability to implement recent consensus recommendations to protect the North Atlantic right whale at a time when action to save these animals is desperately needed. This amendment essentially represents an end run around a Congressionally-mandated, stakeholder-driven process for recovering this critically endangered species. See attached opposition letter from more than 40 organizations.

If you would like more information on these topics, please contact these Oceana staff:

Michael Messmer, Ocean Advocate – energy

[mmessmer@ocean.org](mailto:mmessmer@ocean.org)

**D** 202.467.1957 | **M**202.286.0667

Ariana Spawn, Ocean Advocate – fisheries/whales

[aspawn@oceana.org](mailto:aspawn@oceana.org)

**D** 202.467.1918 | **C** 202.629.6737

Lara Levison, Senior Director, Federal Policy

[llevison@oceana.org](mailto:llevison@oceana.org)

**D** 202.467.1945 **C** 202.422.9049