

Union Calendar No. 244

103^D CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 3886

[Report No. 103-441]

A BILL

To amend the boundaries of the Flower Garden
Banks National Marine Sanctuary.

MARCH 21, 1994

Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the
State of the Union and ordered to be printed

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 23, 1994

Mr. ORTIZ introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries

MARCH 21, 1994

Additional sponsors: Mr. FIELDS of Texas, Mr. WELDON, and Mr. LAUGHLIN

MARCH 21, 1994

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A BILL

To amend the boundaries of the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. FLOWER GARDEN BANKS BOUNDARY MODI-**
2 **FICATION.**

3 (a) MODIFICATION.—Notwithstanding section 304 of
4 the National Marine Sanctuaries Act (16 U.S.C. 1434),
5 the boundaries of the Flower Garden Banks National Ma-
6 rine Sanctuary, as designated by Public Law 102–251, are
7 amended to include the area described in subsection (d),
8 popularly known as Stetson Bank. This area shall be part
9 of the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary
10 and shall be managed and regulated as though it had been
11 designated by the Secretary of Commerce under the Na-
12 tional Marine Sanctuaries Act.

13 (b) DEPICTION OF SANCTUARY BOUNDARIES.—The
14 Secretary of Commerce shall—

15 (1) prepare a chart depicting the boundaries of
16 the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanc-
17 tuary, as modified by this section; and

18 (2) submit copies of this chart to the Commit-
19 tee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries of the House
20 of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce,
21 Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

22 (c) APPLICATION OF REGULATIONS.—Regulations is-
23 sued by the Secretary of Commerce to implement the des-
24 ignation of the Flower Garden Banks National Marine
25 Sanctuary shall apply to the area described in subsection
26 (d), unless modified by the Secretary. This subsection

1 shall take effect 45 days after the date of enactment of
2 this Act.

3 (d) AREA DESCRIBED.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
5 graph (2), the area referred to in subsections (a),
6 (b), and (c) is the area that is—

7 (A) generally depicted on the Department
8 of the Interior, Minerals Management Service
9 map titled “Western Gulf of Mexico, Lease Sale
10 143, September 1993, Biologically Sensitive
11 Areas, Map 3 of 3, Final”;

12 (B) labeled “Stetson” on the High Island
13 Area South Addition diagram on that map; and

14 (C) within the 52 meter isobath.

15 (2) MINOR BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS.—The
16 Secretary of Commerce may make minor adjust-
17 ments to the boundaries of the area described in
18 paragraph (1) as necessary to protect living coral re-
19 sources or to simplify administration of the Flower
20 Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary.

21 (e) PUBLICATION OF NOTICE.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Commerce
23 shall, as soon as practicable after the date of the en-
24 actment of this Act, publish in the Federal Register
25 a notice describing—

1 (A) the boundaries of the Flower Garden
2 Banks National Marine Sanctuary, as modified
3 by this section, and

4 (B) any modification of regulations appli-
5 cable to that Sanctuary that are necessary to
6 implement that modification of the boundaries
7 of the Sanctuary.

8 (2) TREATMENT AS NOTICE REQUIRED UNDER
9 NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARIES ACT.—A notice
10 published under paragraph (1) shall be considered to
11 be the notice required to be published under section
12 304(b)(1) of the National Marine Sanctuaries Act
13 (16 U.S.C. 1434).