

S 1748

Southern Sea Otter Recovery and Research Act

Congress: 111 (2009–2011, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Animals

Introduced: Oct 1, 2009

Current Status: Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 686.

Latest Action: Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 686. (Dec 10, 2010)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/111th-congress/senate-bill/1748>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Boxer, Barbara [D-CA]

Party: Democratic • **State:** CA • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (1 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Feinstein, Dianne [D-CA]	D · CA		Oct 26, 2009

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee	Senate	Reported By	Dec 10, 2010

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Animals

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
111 HR 556	Related bill	Jul 29, 2009: Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Southern Sea Otter Recovery and Research Act - (Sec. 3) Requires the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the United States Geological Survey (USGS), to carry out a Recovery and Research Program for southern sea otter populations along the coast of California that includes: (1) monitoring, analysis, and assessment of population demographics, health, mortality, and life history parameters; and (2) implementation of measures to reduce or eliminate potential factors limiting populations that relate to marine ecosystem health or human activities.

Requires the Secretary to: (1) appoint persons to a southern sea otter recovery implementation team as authorized under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 within a year of commencement of the recovery and research program; (2) establish a peer-reviewed, merit-based process to award competitive grants for research regarding such otters and for projects assisting the recovery of otter populations; and (3) establish a peer review panel to provide scientific advice and guidance to prioritize proposals for grants.

Authorizes research grant topics to include: (1) causes of sea otter mortality; (2) southern sea otter demographics and natural history; (3) effects and sources of poor water quality; (4) effects and sources of infectious diseases and parasites; (5) limitations on the availability of food resources and the impacts of food limitation on southern sea otter carrying capacity; (6) interactions between southern sea otters and coastal fisheries and other human activities in the marine environment; (7) assessment of the keystone ecological role of sea otters in southern and central California's coastal marine ecosystems; and (8) assessment of the adequacy of emergency response and contingency plans.

Authorizes funded recovery projects to include projects to: (1) protect and recover southern sea otters; (2) reduce, mitigate, or eliminate potential factors limiting such populations that are related to human activities; and (3) implement emergency response and contingency plans.

Requires the Secretary to report to Congress on: (1) the status of southern sea otter populations; (2) implementation of the recovery and research and grant programs; and (3) endangered species consultations regarding southern sea otters.

Requires the Secretary to report to Congress and the public on: (1) an evaluation of southern sea otter health, causes of mortality, and the interactions of southern sea otters with California's coastal marine ecosystems; (2) an evaluation of actions taken to improve otter health, reduce mortality, and improve habitat; (3) recommendations for actions to improve otter health, reduce the occurrence of human-related mortality, and improve the health of such coastal marine ecosystems; (4) recommendations for funding to implement this Act; and (5) a description of formal consultations that the Secretary determines are relevant to the research and recovery program established under this Act that are conducted in accordance with interagency cooperation requirements of the Endangered Species Act of 1973.

(Sec. 4) Authorizes appropriations for each of FY2011-FY2016.

(Sec. 5) Terminates this Act on the date the Secretary publishes a determination that the southern sea otter should be removed from the endangered species and threatened species lists.

Actions Timeline

- **Dec 10, 2010:** Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. Reported by Senator Rockefeller with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. With written report No. 111-362.
- **Dec 10, 2010:** Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 686.
- **Jun 9, 2010:** Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. Ordered to be reported with an amendment in the nature of a substitute favorably.
- **Oct 1, 2009:** Introduced in Senate
- **Oct 1, 2009:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR S10067)
- **Oct 1, 2009:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.