

HR 3429

Rigs to Reefs Habitat Protection Act

Congress: 112 (2011–2013, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Energy

Introduced: Nov 15, 2011

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans, and Insular Affairs.

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans, and Insular Affairs. (Nov 29, 2011)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/112th-congress/house-bill/3429>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Palazzo, Steven M. [R-MS-4]

Party: Republican • **State:** MS • **Chamber:** House

Cosponsors (10 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Scalise, Steve [R-LA-1]	R · LA		Nov 15, 2011
Rep. Bonner, Jo [R-AL-1]	R · AL		May 30, 2012
Rep. Harper, Gregg [R-MS-3]	R · MS		Jun 7, 2012
Rep. Kissell, Larry [D-NC-8]	D · NC		Jun 26, 2012
Rep. Nunnelee, Alan [R-MS-1]	R · MS		Jun 26, 2012
Rep. Farenthold, Blake [R-TX-27]	R · TX		Jul 10, 2012
Rep. Cassidy, Bill [R-LA-6]	R · LA		Jul 17, 2012
Rep. Southerland, Steve II [R-FL-2]	R · FL		Jul 17, 2012
Rep. Carter, John R. [R-TX-31]	R · TX		Jul 26, 2012
Rep. Nugent, Richard B. [R-FL-5]	R · FL		Jul 31, 2012

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Natural Resources Committee	House	Referred to	Nov 29, 2011
Natural Resources Committee	House	Referred to	Nov 29, 2011

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Energy

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
112 S 1555	Identical bill	Sep 14, 2011: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Rigs to Reefs Habitat Protection Act - Directs the Secretary of the Interior to assess each offshore oil and gas platform in the Gulf of Mexico that is no longer useful for operations, and has become critical for a marine fisheries habitat, to: (1) determine whether there are coral populations or other protected species in the platform's vicinity, and (2) identify any species in the vicinity that have recreational or commercial value.

Prohibits the removal of any such platforms until the Secretary has completed each assessment.

Requires suspension of the decommissioning of a platform if a substantial reef ecosystem is in the vicinity until the Secretary determines that decommissioning would not harm the ecosystem.

Exempts from certain platform removal deadlines any lessees who: (1) commit to entering a particular platform in the artificial reef program under the National Fishing Enhancement Act of 1984, and (2) initiate discussions with applicable states regarding potential artificial reef sites.

Allows a lessee to provide for reefing in place under the artificial reef program.

Permits states with a state rig-to-reef program to enter agreements with any appropriate entities to assume liability in federal water for a structure covered by the state program.

Establishes a Reef Maintenance Fund. Requires the owner of a rig enrolled in the artificial reef program to: (1) maintain a rig anode system, and (2) pay into the Fund 50% of the estimated platform removal costs for which the owner would have been responsible if it had not participated in the program.

Actions Timeline

- **Nov 29, 2011:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources.
- **Nov 29, 2011:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans, and Insular Affairs.
- **Nov 15, 2011:** Introduced in House
- **Nov 15, 2011:** Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.