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Offshore Fairness Act

Congress: 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Public Lands and Natural Resources

Introduced: Jan 7, 2015

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. (Jan 7, 2015)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/senate-bill/55>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Vitter, David [R-LA]

Party: Republican • **State:** LA • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (1 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Cassidy, Bill [R-LA]	R · LA		Jan 12, 2015

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Energy and Natural Resources Committee	Senate	Referred To	Jan 7, 2015

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Public Lands and Natural Resources

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Offshore Fairness Act

This bill amends the Submerged Lands Act to change the seaward boundaries of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia from a distance of three geographic miles from the coast line to a distance of three marine leagues. This change expands the offshore jurisdictions of those states.

The Department of the Interior must convey the submerged land in the Outer Continental Shelf that is within this expanded area to a state upon request. After a conveyance, states are prohibited from imposing on that land: (1) burdens or requirements on an interest owner that would be stricter than federal burdens or requirements, or (2) administrative or judicial penalties or sanctions on an interest owner that are more severe than the federal penalties or sanctions.

The submerged land within the seaward boundaries of those states are subject to federal oil and gas mineral rights and are considered to be part of the federal Outer Continental Shelf for purposes of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006, and other laws applicable to the leasing of the oil and gas resources.

Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas are given exclusive fishery management authority to manage and conserve the Gulf of Mexico red snapper in adjacent coastal waters of the applicable state and through the exclusive economic zone. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration must provide financial assistance to those states for stock assessments and data collection relating to the Gulf of Mexico red snapper.

Actions Timeline

- **Jan 7, 2015:** Introduced in Senate
- **Jan 7, 2015:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.