

HR 3682

Blue Whales and Blue Skies Act

Congress: 115 (2017–2019, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Environmental Protection

Introduced: Sep 6, 2017

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation.

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation. (Sep 7, 2017)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/3682>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Lowenthal, Alan S. [D-CA-47]

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

Cosponsors (7 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Brownley, Julia [D-CA-26]	D · CA		Sep 6, 2017
Rep. Carbajal, Salud O. [D-CA-24]	D · CA		Sep 6, 2017
Rep. Khanna, Ro [D-CA-17]	D · CA		Sep 6, 2017
Rep. Barragan, Nanette Diaz [D-CA-44]	D · CA		Mar 22, 2018
Rep. Huffman, Jared [D-CA-2]	D · CA		Jun 22, 2018
Rep. DeSaulnier, Mark [D-CA-11]	D · CA		Jul 10, 2018
Rep. Lieu, Ted [D-CA-33]	D · CA		Sep 5, 2018

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee	House	Referred to	Sep 7, 2017

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Environmental Protection

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Blue Whales and Blue Skies Act

This bill requires the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to establish the Blue Whales and Blue Skies Program and annually award Blue Whales and Blue Skies Excellence Awards to owners of certain vessels for successfully participating in, and complying with, the program. The program encourages the reduction in the speed of certain vessels transiting the Greater Santa Barbara Channel Region in California in order to reduce air pollution, harmful underwater acoustic impacts, and the risk of fatal whale strikes.

The program must be modeled after the pilot Vessel Speed Reduction Program, except financial incentives for participation in the program may not be provided. The program must require, at a minimum, that each vessel of the awardee transit that region at speeds of 12 knots or lower. In addition, the program must require vessels to participate in the Port of Los Angeles or Port of Long Beach vessel speed reduction programs if the vessels call at those ports.

The Office must create an official seal to be recognized as the symbol of excellence in compliance with the program.

Within four years after this bill's enactment, the Office must consider and report on the feasibility of extending the program to encompass all shipping channels along the U.S. Pacific Coast between Canada and Mexico.

Actions Timeline

- **Sep 7, 2017:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation.
- **Sep 6, 2017:** Introduced in House
- **Sep 6, 2017:** Referred to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.