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Regional Ocean Partnership Act

Congress: 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Public Lands and Natural Resources

Introduced: May 27, 2021

Current Status: By Senator Cantwell from Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation filed written report. Re

Latest Action: By Senator Cantwell from Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation filed written report.

Report No. 117-78. (Feb 15, 2022)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/1894>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Wicker, Roger F. [R-MS]

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

Cosponsors (1 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Hassan, Margaret Wood [D-NH]	D · NH		Jun 24, 2021

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee	Senate	Reported By	Dec 17, 2021

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Public Lands and Natural Resources

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
117 HR 3817	Related bill	Jun 22, 2021: Committee Hearings Held.

Regional Ocean Partnership Act

This bill allows the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to designate and support Regional Ocean Partnerships between coastal states that share a common ocean or coastal area or border the Great Lakes. It also allows partnerships between coastal states and non-coastal states that share a common watershed or would contribute to the priorities of the partnership.

Specifically, NOAA may designate a partnership as a Regional Ocean Partnership if it (1) is established to coordinate the management of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources among state governments and Indian tribes; (2) focuses on the environmental issues affecting the ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes areas of the coastal states participating in the partnership; (3) complements existing coastal and ocean management efforts of states and Indian tribes on an interstate scale, focusing on shared regional priorities; (4) does not have a regulatory function; and (5) is not duplicative of an existing Regional Ocean Partnership.

The bill designates the following entities as Regional Ocean Partnerships:

- the Gulf of Mexico Alliance,
- the Northeast Regional Ocean Council,
- the Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean, and
- the West Coast Ocean Alliance.

Each partnership must maintain mechanisms for coordination, consultation and engagement with the federal government, Indian tribes, nongovernmental entities, and other federally mandated regional entities.

A partnership may use provided federal funds to award grants and enter into contracts for certain purposes, including to monitor the water quality and living resources of multistate ocean and coastal ecosystems.

Actions Timeline

- **Feb 15, 2022:** By Senator Cantwell from Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation filed written report. Report No. 117-78.
- **Dec 17, 2021:** Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. Reported by Senator Cantwell with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. Without written report.
- **Dec 17, 2021:** Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 217.
- **Jun 16, 2021:** Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. Ordered to be reported with an amendment in the nature of a substitute favorably.
- **May 27, 2021:** Introduced in Senate
- **May 27, 2021:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.