

S 381

National Ocean Exploration Act

Congress: 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Public Lands and Natural Resources

Introduced: Feb 23, 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. 117-76. (Feb 15, 2022)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/381>

Sponsor

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

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

Cosponsors (5 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Cantwell, Maria [D-WA]	D · WA		Feb 23, 2021
Sen. Murkowski, Lisa [R-AK]	R · AK		Feb 23, 2021
Sen. Schatz, Brian [D-HI]	D · HI		Feb 23, 2021
Sen. Whitehouse, Sheldon [D-RI]	D · RI		Feb 23, 2021
Sen. Hyde-Smith, Cindy [R-MS]	R · MS		Mar 5, 2021

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee	Senate	Reported By	Dec 16, 2021

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Public Lands and Natural Resources

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

National Ocean Exploration Act

This bill provides statutory authority for the National Ocean Mapping, Exploration, and Characterization Council and revises several programs at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) that support ocean and coastal mapping, hydrographic surveys, and spatial data collection.

The bill revises the national ocean exploration program to require NOAA to provide guidance to federal and state agencies, and others, on data standards, protocols for accepting data, and coordination of data collection, compilation, processing, archiving, and dissemination for data relating to ocean exploration and characterization. It also directs NOAA to conduct education and outreach efforts to disseminate information to the public on the discoveries made by the ocean exploration program and coordinate with the outreach strategies of other domestic or international ocean mapping, exploration, and characterization initiatives.

Additionally, the bill repeals the undersea research program of NOAA. It also modifies NOAA's ocean and coastal mapping program to include ecosystem approaches in decision-making for natural resource and habitat restoration, emergency response, and coastal resilience and adaptation.

NOAA must develop an integrated ocean and coastal mapping federal funding match opportunity to increase the coordinated acquisition, processing, stewardship, and archival of new ocean and coastal mapping data in U.S. waters.

The bill also revises and reauthorizes through FY2026 the hydrographic services program of NOAA.

Actions Timeline

- **Feb 15, 2022:** By Senator Cantwell from Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation filed written report. Report No. 117-76.
- **Dec 16, 2021:** Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. Reported by Senator Cantwell with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. Without written report.
- **Dec 16, 2021:** Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 195.
- **Apr 28, 2021:** Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. Ordered to be reported with an amendment in the nature of a substitute favorably.
- **Feb 23, 2021:** Introduced in Senate
- **Feb 23, 2021:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.