

## HR 897

### Alabama Underwater Forest National Marine Sanctuary and Protection Act

**Congress:** 118 (2023–2025, Ended)

**Chamber:** House

**Policy Area:** Environmental Protection

**Introduced:** Feb 9, 2023

**Current Status:** Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transp

**Latest Action:** Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. (Jul 9, 2024)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/897>

### Sponsor

**Name:** Rep. Carl, Jerry L. [R-AL-1]

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

### Cosponsors (6 total)

| Cosponsor                        | Party / State | Role | Date Joined  |
|----------------------------------|---------------|------|--------------|
| Rep. Graves, Garret [R-LA-6]     | R · LA        |      | Feb 9, 2023  |
| Rep. Moulton, Seth [D-MA-6]      | D · MA        |      | Feb 9, 2023  |
| Rep. Sewell, Terri A. [D-AL-7]   | D · AL        |      | Feb 9, 2023  |
| Rep. Wittman, Robert J. [R-VA-1] | R · VA        |      | Feb 21, 2023 |
| Rep. Doggett, Lloyd [D-TX-37]    | D · TX        |      | Aug 1, 2023  |
| Rep. Jackson, Jeff [D-NC-14]     | D · NC        |      | Oct 3, 2023  |

### Committee Activity

| Committee                                       | Chamber | Activity                   | Date         |
|---|---------|----------------------------|--------------|
| Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee | Senate  | Referred To                | Jul 9, 2024  |
| Natural Resources Committee                     | House   | Hearings By (subcommittee) | Jan 18, 2024 |

### Subjects & Policy Tags

#### Policy Area:

Environmental Protection

### Related Bills

| Bill       | Relationship | Last Action   |
|------------|--------------|---|
| 118 S 4816 | Related bill | <b>Jul 25, 2024:</b> Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. |

## Alabama Underwater Forest National Marine Sanctuary and Protection Act

This bill designates an ancient cypress forest in the Gulf of Mexico as the Alabama Underwater Forest National Marine Sanctuary under the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act of 1972.

In the sanctuary, the following activities are prohibited:

- cutting, removing, or any kind of subsurface salvage of the cypress trees;
- lowering certain devices (e.g., dredging) below the surface of the water;
- detonating explosives below the surface of the water;
- drilling or coring the seabed; and
- lowering, laying, positioning, or raising any type of seabed cable or cable-laying device.

However, the prohibitions do not apply to

- fishing, diving, mooring, or similar recreational or commercial activities;
- necessary operations of public vessels;
- construction or placement of artificial reef structures for the purpose of enhancing fishery resources, fishing opportunities, or recreational diving opportunities;
- exploration, development, or production of oil or gas projects authorized before this bill's enactment; and
- certain other activities authorized by the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) must develop a comprehensive management plan for the sanctuary. NOAA must also establish an advisory council for the sanctuary.

## Actions Timeline

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- **Jul 9, 2024:** Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.
- **Jul 8, 2024:** Mr. Westerman moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.
- **Jul 8, 2024:** Considered under suspension of the rules. (consideration: CR H4463-4464)
- **Jul 8, 2024:** DEBATE - The House proceeded with forty minutes of debate on H.R. 897.
- **Jul 8, 2024:** At the conclusion of debate, the Yeas and Nays were demanded and ordered. Pursuant to the provisions of clause 8, rule XX, the Chair announced that further proceedings on the motion would be postponed.
- **Jul 8, 2024:** Considered as unfinished business. (consideration: CR H4470-4471)
- **Jul 8, 2024:** Passed/agreed to in House: On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended Agreed to by the Yeas and Nays: (2/3 required): 349 - 19 (Roll no. 336). (text: CR H4463)
- **Jul 8, 2024:** On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended Agreed to by the Yeas and Nays: (2/3 required): 349 - 19 (Roll no. 336). (text: CR H4463)
- **Jul 8, 2024:** Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.
- **Jun 27, 2024:** Reported (Amended) by the Committee on Natural Resources. H. Rept. 118-560.
- **Jun 27, 2024:** Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 462.
- **May 7, 2024:** Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife, and Fisheries Discharged
- **May 7, 2024:** Committee Consideration and Mark-up Session Held
- **May 7, 2024:** Ordered to be Reported (Amended) by Unanimous Consent.
- **Jan 18, 2024:** Subcommittee Hearings Held
- **Feb 21, 2023:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife, and Fisheries.
- **Feb 9, 2023:** Introduced in House
- **Feb 9, 2023:** Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources. Public data belongs to the public.