

Committee on Resources

Chairman Saxton's Statement

The Honorable Jim Saxton (R-AK), Chairman,
Subcommittee on Fisheries Conservation, Wildlife and Oceans
Hearing Concerning H.R. 437, The Marine Resources Revitalization Act of 1997
February 27, 1997.

Good morning. We have exactly one hour to complete this morning's hearing because the Congress is hosting the President of Chile for a joint session. I will keep my opening remarks brief.

By way of background, the National Sea Grant College Program was established by Congress in 1966 to improve our Nation's marine resource conservation efforts, to better manage those resources and to enhance their proper utilization.

H.R. 437, the Marine Resources Revitalization Act of 1997, authorizes funding for Sea Grant through Fiscal Year 2000; simplifies the definition of issues under Sea Grant's authority; clarifies the responsibilities of State and national programs; consolidates and clarifies the requirements for the designation of Sea Grant colleges and regional groups; repeals the post-doctoral fellowship and international programs, both of which have never been funded; and makes several minor clerical and conforming amendments.

I would like to acknowledge three of my distinguished colleagues -- Don Young of Alaska, Neil Abercrombie of Hawaii, and Sam Farr of California -- who joined me in introducing what I believe is an inherently noncontroversial bill. By enacting this legislation, we will be sending a clear message supporting the protection and wise use of our marine and coastal resources. Thank you.

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