

**APPENDIX F**

**CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES  
AND SUBCOMMITTEES WITH  
JURISDICTION OVER OCEAN  
AND COASTAL ISSUES**

# CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES AND SUBCOMMITTEES WITH JURISDICTION OVER OCEAN AND COASTAL ISSUES

The primary institutions for policy and legislative development in Congress are the standing committees of the House and Senate. As the level of assertiveness of Congress has fluctuated over the years, its committee structure and power have also been subject to change. Congressional policy activism of the 1970s and 1980s, for example, resulted in the proliferation of the number of standing committees and subcommittees in both chambers. In the 100th Congress (1987–88), there were over 280 permanent jurisdictional entities in the House and Senate. Reform in the mid-1990s realigned and consolidated a significant portion of the committee system; in the 108th Congress (2003–04), there are slightly more than 200 standing committees and subcommittees.

Despite the reduction in the number of jurisdictional entities overall, the legislative and oversight responsibilities with respect to ocean and coastal issues in the United States Congress are spread across more than one-quarter of its committees and subcommittees. Some panels exercise more direct and broader jurisdiction over ocean policy than others, but all listed in this appendix have an important role in the collective and cumulative programmatic and budgetary decisions of Congress that define such policy.

It should be noted that the following identification and characterization of congressional committee ocean policy jurisdiction in the 108th Congress is not intended to be authoritative. Committee jurisdiction, although defined by the rules of each chamber, is an evolving concept affected by years of bill referral precedents and changing procedures occasioned by periodic reorganization and reform efforts. At a minimum, practically every Congress experiences some realignment in the subcommittee structure of one or more standing committees.

The built-in tension in the modern-day Congress between its representational role and agenda-setting and legislative responsibilities affect many different congressional processes, including the policy coher-

ence of its committee structure. This appendix is illustrative of the breadth of committee and subcommittee involvement in ocean and coastal policy oversight and management in the 108th Congress. The current distribution of authority over the laws and policies of the nation's ocean and coastal activities among a broad suite of fifty-eight congressional committees and subcommittees highlights the difficulty of policy coordination in the legislative branch of the federal government similar, perhaps, to that experienced in the executive branch.

In addition to the jurisdictional entities listed below, there are other standing committees in the Senate and House that indirectly impact ocean and coastal policy through important legislative authority over broader governmental and cross-cutting issues, such as: executive branch organization; taxes, customs, duties, and trade policies; health sciences; Indian affairs; labor standards and safety regulations; and other related matters.

There have been efforts from time to time to better coordinate ocean policy development in Congress. In the 1970s, a temporary select committee composed of members from the various standing units of jurisdiction was established in the House to rewrite the federal offshore oil and gas law. Also, around the same time, the Senate authorized the Commerce Committee to establish the National Ocean Policy Study (NOPS), a non-legislative cross-Senate entity that included ex officio representation by Members from other committees with similar jurisdictional interests. Operated in many ways as a broad ocean policy oversight subcommittee, NOPS has been inactive since 1994. A more recent initiative was the establishment in the 106th Congress of the House Oceans Caucus, composed of a broad bipartisan membership of the House of Representatives. Like other congressional caucuses, it possesses no legislative authority but provides a voice within the House for Members interested in ocean and coastal issues.

**Table F.1 Congressional Committees and Subcommittees**

Number with Ocean- and Coastal-Related Jurisdiction, 108th Congress

	Standing Committees			Subcommittees of Standing Committees			Number of Jurisdictional Entities*		
	Total	Number with ocean- and coastal-related jurisdiction	Percent with ocean- and coastal-related jurisdiction	Total	Number with ocean- and coastal-related jurisdiction	Percent with ocean- and coastal-related jurisdiction	Total	Number with ocean- and coastal-related jurisdiction	Percent with ocean- and coastal-related jurisdiction
U.S. Senate	17	7	41%	68	21	31%	85	28	33%
U.S. House	19	8	42%	98	22	22%	117	30	26%
Total	36	15	42%	166	43	26%	202	58	29%

\* total of full committees and subcommittees

## United States Senate Committees And Subcommittees With Ocean- And Coastal-Related Jurisdiction: 108th Congress

In the 108th Congress, of the seventeen standing committees and sixty-eight subcommittees in the Senate, seven committees and twenty-one subcommittees are involved in ocean- and coastal-related policy and legislative issues. Selective examples of ocean-related programs, activities, and agencies under the jurisdiction of the applicable full authorizing committees and appropriations subcommittees are provided for illustrative purposes.

### Authorizing Committees

#### Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

*Jurisdiction includes ocean and atmospheric policy, generally: NOAA, NASA, U.S. Coast Guard, MARAD, and Marine Mammal Commission programs and activities; coastal zone management; marine fisheries; merchant marine and ocean navigation, including transportation and safety; science, engineering, and technology research, development, and policy; transportation and commerce aspects of outer Continental Shelf lands; and elements of climate change.*

- Subcommittee on Oceans, Fisheries, and Coast Guard
- Subcommittee on Science, Technology and Space
- Subcommittee on Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine

#### Committee on Environment and Public Works

*Jurisdiction includes environmental protection, generally: EPA; CEQ; FEMA (Hazards Mitigation); USACE civil works programs for navigation, environmental restoration, and shoreline protection; DOI wildlife and fisheries programs, including endangered species; air and water pollution and water resources; environmental aspects of outer Continental Shelf lands; environmental policy (including NEPA), regulation and research; and ocean dumping.*

- Subcommittee on Clean Air, Climate Change, and Nuclear Safety
- Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife and Water
- Subcommittee on Transportation and Infrastructure

#### Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

*Jurisdiction includes energy resource development, generally: DOI leasing program for oil, gas, and other minerals on the outer Continental Shelf and deep seabed; national parks, refuges, forests, and the Land and Water Conservation Fund; DOE and energy policy, research, development and regulation (including hydroelectric and renewable energy); energy-related aspects of deep-water ports; and U.S. territorial possessions.*

- Subcommittee on Energy
- Subcommittee on Public Lands and Forests
- Subcommittee on Water and Power

#### Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

*Jurisdiction includes: USDA Forest Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service programs, including watershed conservation on agricultural lands and non-point source pollution activities as they relate to agriculture practices; and inspection of marine mammals in captivity.*

- Subcommittee on Forestry, Conservation and Rural Revitalization
- Subcommittee on Research, Nutrition, and General Legislation

#### Committee on Armed Services

*Jurisdiction includes: DOD naval operations, research and development, and related environmental issues.*

- Subcommittee on Seapower

#### Committee on Foreign Relations

*Jurisdiction includes: DOS oceans and international environmental and scientific affairs, including treaties and agreements; boundaries of the United States; and U.S. activities related to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.*

### Appropriations Committee

#### Committee on Appropriations

*Jurisdiction of the full Committee includes appropriation of the revenue and the provision of new spending authority for the support of the government.*

- Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, and Related Agencies  
*Funding for USDA and FDA*
- Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, State and the Judiciary  
*Funding for NOAA, DOS, and MMC*
- Subcommittee on Defense  
*Funding for the Navy*
- Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development  
*Funding for USACE Civil Works and DOI/BOR*
- Subcommittee on Foreign Operations  
*Funding for USAID and DOS*
- Subcommittee on Homeland Security  
*Funding for USCG and FEMA*
- Subcommittee on the Interior and Related Agencies  
*Funding for DOI agencies (USGS, MMS, FWS, NPS) and LWCF*
- Subcommittee on Transportation/Treasury and General Government  
*Funding for Executive Office of the President, MARAD and FMC*
- Subcommittee on Veterans Affairs, Housing and Urban Development and Independent Agencies  
*Funding for NSF, EPA, NASA, NIH/NIEHS, CEQ, and OSTP*

## United States House Of Representatives Committees And Subcommittees With Ocean- And Coastal-Related Jurisdiction: 108th Congress

Of the nineteen standing committees and ninety-eight subcommittees in the U.S. House of Representatives, eight committees and twenty-two subcommittees are involved in ocean- and coastal-related policy and legislative issues. Selective examples of ocean-related programs, activities, and agencies under the jurisdiction of the applicable full authorizing committees and appropriations subcommittees are provided for illustrative purposes.

### Authorizing Committees

#### Committee on Resources

*Jurisdiction includes: most of NOAA's marine related activities, such as living marine resource management, conservation, and regulation; coastal zone management; marine sanctuaries and oceanography; DOS' international fisheries agreements; MMS' conservation and development of oil and gas resources on the outer Continental Shelf; management of federal lands in the coastal zone (national parks, refuges, and forests); and relations with federally-recognized Indian tribes and U.S territorial possessions.*

- Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources
- Subcommittee on Fisheries Conservation, Wildlife and Oceans
- Subcommittee on National Parks, Recreation and Public Lands

#### Committee on Science

*Jurisdiction includes: oceanic, atmospheric, environmental, and climatic research and development activities of NOAA, NSF, EPA, NASA, DOE, and USGS, including water and air pollution, renewable energy and fossil energy; ocean science policy and technology; earth remote sensing research and policy; and science education.*

- Subcommittee on Environment, Technology and Standards
- Subcommittee on Research

**Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure**  
*Jurisdiction includes: Coast Guard safety, enforcement and environmental protection programs; FMC and merchant marine and navigation matters; USACE civil works programs for navigation, environmental restoration, and shoreline protection; water and oil pollution; ocean dumping; and FEMA (hazards mitigation).*

- Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings and Emergency Management
- Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Marine Transportation
- Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment

#### **Committee on Energy and Commerce**

*Jurisdiction includes: national energy policy, generally, including renewable energy resources; environmental regulatory programs of EPA, generally; air pollution; clean-up of hazardous wastes; public health; and travel and tourism.*

- Subcommittee on Energy and Air Quality
- Subcommittee on Environment and Hazardous Materials

#### **Committee on Agriculture**

*Jurisdiction includes: USDA Forest Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service programs, including watershed conservation on agricultural lands and non-point source pollution activities as they relate to agriculture practices; seafood inspection; and inspection of marine mammals in captivity.*

- Subcommittee on Conservation, Credit, Rural Development and Research
- Subcommittee on Livestock and Horticulture

#### **Committee on Armed Services**

*Jurisdiction includes: naval operations, research, and development, and related environmental issues; and MARAD.*

- Subcommittee on Projection Forces

#### **Committee on International Relations**

*Jurisdiction includes: DOS oceans and international environmental and scientific affairs, including treaties and agreements other than international fisheries agreements; boundaries of the United States; and U.S. activities related to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.*

## **Appropriations Committee**

#### **Committee on Appropriations**

*Jurisdiction of the full Committee includes appropriation of the revenue and the provision of new spending authority for the support of the government.*

- Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies  
*Funding for USDA and FDA*
- Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and Related Agencies  
*Funding for NOAA, DOS, DOJ, and MARAD*
- Subcommittee on Defense  
*Funding for the Navy*
- Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development  
*Funding for USACE Civil Works and DOI/BOR*
- Subcommittee on Foreign Operations, Exported Financing, and Related Programs  
*Funding for USAID and DOS*
- Subcommittee on Homeland Security  
*Funding for USCG and FEMA*
- Subcommittee on Interior and Related Agencies  
*Funding for DOI agencies (USGS, MMS, FWS, NPS) and LWCF*
- Subcommittee on Transportation and Treasury, and Independent Agencies  
*Funding for Executive Office of the President and FMC*
- Subcommittee on Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies  
*Funding for NSF, EPA, NASA, NIH/NIEHS, CEQ, and OSTP*