

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 167

Commending the Georges Bank Review Panel on the recent report recommending extension of the moratorium on oil and gas exploration on Georges Bank, commending the Government of Canada for extending the moratorium on oil and gas exploration on Georges Bank, and urging the Government of Canada to adopt a longer-term moratorium.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 27, 1999

Ms. COLLINS submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the
Committee on Foreign Relations

RESOLUTION

Commending the Georges Bank Review Panel on the recent report recommending extension of the moratorium on oil and gas exploration on Georges Bank, commending the Government of Canada for extending the moratorium on oil and gas exploration on Georges Bank, and urging the Government of Canada to adopt a longer-term moratorium.

Whereas the unusual underwater topography and tidal activity of Georges Bank create an almost self-contained ecosystem, unique within the ocean that surrounds it;

Whereas Georges Bank is one of the most productive fisheries in the world;

Whereas people of both Canada and the United States harvest cod, haddock, yellowtail flounder, scallops, lobsters, swordfish, and herring from Georges Bank;

Whereas significant economic sacrifices have been made by fishermen from both Canada and the United States to work toward sustainable and healthy fish stocks;

Whereas hundreds of small communities in New England and the maritime provinces of Canada depend on fish from Georges Bank for economic support and their maritime-based way of life;

Whereas an oil spill on Georges Bank would have catastrophic effects on the Georges Bank ecosystem and the economies of the coastal communities of New England and the maritime provinces of Canada;

Whereas Georges Bank experiences some of the most severe weather in the world, and the frequent storms, strong currents, and high winds would cripple any post-spill cleanup effort;

Whereas many scientists, fishermen, and other persons concerned with and knowledgeable about the unique ecosystem of Georges Bank have urged the Government of Canada to extend the moratorium on oil and gas activity;

Whereas the Georges Bank Review Panel issued a report recommending an extension of the moratorium on oil and gas activity; and

Whereas the Government of the United States has established a moratorium on oil and gas activity in Georges Bank until the year 2012: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

1 (1) commends the Georges Bank Review Panel
2 on the recent report recommending extension of the
3 moratorium on oil and gas exploration on Georges
4 Bank;

5 (2) commends the Government of Canada for
6 extending the moratorium on oil and gas activity on
7 Georges Bank through 1999; and

8 (3) urges the Government of Canada to extend
9 the moratorium until the year 2012.

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