

TITLE <<NOTE: Northwest Straits Marine Conservation.>> IV--NORTHWEST STRAITS MARINE CONSERVATION INITIATIVE

SEC. 401. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ``Northwest Straits Marine Conservation Initiative Act''.

SEC. 402. ESTABLISHMENT.

There is established a commission to be known as the Northwest Straits Advisory Commission (in this title referred to as the ``Commission'').

SEC. 403. ORGANIZATION AND OPERATION.

The Commission shall be organized and operated in accordance with the provisions of the Northwest Straits Citizen's Advisory Commission Report of August 20, 1998, on file with the Secretary of Commerce (in this title referred to as the ``Report'').

SEC. 404. FUNDING.

(a) In General.--The Secretary of Commerce may, from amounts available to the Secretary to carry out the work of the Commission, provide assistance for use in accordance with the Report and the priorities of the Commission--

(1) <<NOTE: Records.>> to collect marine resources data in the Northwest Straits;

(2) to coordinate Federal, State, and local marine resources protection and restoration activities in the Northwest Straits; and

(3) to carry out other activities identified in the Report as important to the protection and restoration of marine resources in the Northwest Straits.

(b) Provision.--The Secretary may provide the assistance authorized by subsection (a) through the Director of the Padilla Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, unless the Governor of the State of Washington objects. If the Governor objects, then the Secretary may provide the assistance through the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

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SEC. 405. LIMITATION.

Nothing in this title provides the Commission with the authority to implement any Federal law or regulation.

Approved November 13, 1998.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY--H.R. 3461: