

**AMENDMENT TO THE RULES COMMITTEE PRINT
OF H.R. 2838
OFFERED BY MR. FARR OF CALIFORNIA**

At the end of the committee print, add the following:

1 **TITLE VIII—MARINE DEBRIS**

2 **SEC. 801. SHORT TITLE.**

3 This title may be cited as the “Marine Debris Act
4 Reauthorization Amendments of 2011”.

5 **SEC. 802. PURPOSES.**

6 Section 2 of the Marine Debris Research, Prevention,
7 and Reduction Act (33 U.S.C. 1951) is amended to read
8 as follows:

9 **“SEC. 2. PURPOSES.**

10 “The purposes of this Act are—

11 “(1) to address the adverse impacts of marine
12 debris to the marine environment, navigation safety,
13 and the economy through investigation and source
14 identification, assessment, reduction, removal, and
15 prevention;

16 “(2) to continue the Interagency Marine Debris
17 Coordinating Committee; and

18 “(3) to develop and maintain the Federal ma-
19 rine debris information clearinghouse.”.

1 **SEC. 803. NOAA MARINE DEBRIS PROGRAM.**

2 Section 3 of the Marine Debris Research, Prevention,
3 and Reduction Act (33 U.S.C. 1952) is amended by strik-
4 ing so much as precedes subsection (c) and inserting the
5 following:

6 **“SEC. 3. NOAA MARINE DEBRIS PROGRAM.**

7 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.—There is es-
8 tablished, within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric
9 Administration, a Marine Debris Program to—

10 “(1) investigate, identify sources of, assess, re-
11 duce, remove, and prevent the occurrence of marine
12 debris; and

13 “(2) address, and where practicable prevent,
14 adverse impacts of marine debris on the marine en-
15 vironment, navigation safety, and the economy.

16 “(b) PROGRAM COMPONENTS.—

17 “(1) INVESTIGATIONS AND ASSESSMENT.—The
18 Administrator shall, in consultation with relevant
19 Federal agencies, undertake marine debris investiga-
20 tion and assessment efforts, with a focus on marine
21 debris posing a threat to the marine environment,
22 navigation safety, and the economy, including—

23 “(A) investigation, analysis, and assess-
24 ment of derelict fishing gear;

1 “(B) investigation, analysis, and assess-
2 ment of marine debris, as pertains to the health
3 of the marine environment;

4 “(C) the establishment of a process for
5 maintaining an inventory of marine debris types
6 and their impacts found in the navigable waters
7 of the United States and the United States ex-
8 clusive economic zone, including impacts on the
9 marine environment, navigation safety, and the
10 economy; and

11 “(D) measures to identify the source, loca-
12 tion, and projected movement of marine debris
13 within United States navigable waters, the
14 United States exclusive economic zone, and the
15 high seas, including the use of oceanographic,
16 atmospheric, satellite, and remote sensing data.

17 “(2) PREVENT, REDUCE, AND REMOVE OCCUR-
18 RENCE AND IMPACTS.—The Administrator shall im-
19 prove efforts to prevent, reduce, and remove marine
20 debris, including activities to address the adverse im-
21 pacts of derelict fishing gear, including—

22 “(A) working with other Federal agencies
23 to address land-based sources of marine debris;

1 “(B) developing fishing gear modifications
2 or alternatives to conventional fishing gear pos-
3 ing a threat to the marine environment;

4 “(C) developing effective nonregulatory
5 measures and incentives to cooperatively reduce
6 the volume of lost and discarded fishing gear
7 and to aid in its recovery; and

8 “(D) developing and implementing strate-
9 gies, methods, priorities, and a plan for pre-
10 venting and removing marine debris in or likely
11 to enter United States navigable waters or the
12 United States exclusive economic zone, includ-
13 ing development of local or regional protocols
14 for removal of derelict fishing gear and other
15 marine debris.

16 “(3) NATIONAL AND REGIONAL COORDINA-
17 TION.—The Administrator shall undertake national
18 and regional coordination to assist States, Indian
19 tribes, and regional organizations to address marine
20 debris issues that are particular to their areas, in-
21 cluding—

22 “(A) facilitating information exchange
23 within and among States and Indian tribes on
24 issues relating to marine debris investigation

1 and assessment, prevention, reduction, and re-
2 moval activities; and

3 “(B) serving as an expert resource to
4 State, tribal, and local governments, nongovern-
5 ment organizations, fishing communities, indus-
6 try, and other entities with an interest in ma-
7 rine debris.

8 “(4) DEVELOPMENT OF TOOLS AND PROD-
9 UCTS.—The Administrator shall develop tools and
10 products to improve efforts to address marine de-
11bris, and make these available to researchers, the
12 marine debris community, and the general public.
13 The tools and products may include—

14 “(A) best practices;

15 “(B) protocols for monitoring marine de-
16bris;

17 “(C) technology; and

18 “(D) reporting methods.

19 “(5) INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION.—The Ad-
20ministrator, acting through the Marine Debris Pro-
21gram, may lead the development and implementation
22of a strategy, in coordination with other relevant
23programs, that may be pursued by the United States
24with other nations and in appropriate international

1 and regional forums, to promote international action
2 to reduce the incidence of marine debris, including—

3 “(A) the adoption of effective marine de-
4bris prevention and removal measures in inter-
5national and regional agreements, including
6fisheries agreements and maritime agreements;

7 “(B) the development of standardized na-
8tional reporting and information guidelines that
9will assist in improving information collection
10and identification and monitoring of marine de-
11bris;

12 “(C) consistent with the information clear-
13inghouse established under section 6, the pro-
14motion of ‘best practices to address marine de-
15bris’;

16 “(D) the establishment of public-private
17partnerships and funding sources for pilot pro-
18grams that will assist in implementation of ma-
19rine debris prevention and removal measures in
20international agreements and guidelines;

21 “(E) when appropriate, provision of assist-
22ance to the responsible Federal agency in bilat-
23eral and multilateral efforts to effectively ad-
24dress marine debris prevention; and

1 “(F) actions to implement the relevant rec-
2 ommendations of the National Research Council
3 report entitled ‘Tackling Marine Debris in the
4 21st Century’ and dated 2008.”.

5 **SEC. 804. DEFINITION OF MARINE DEBRIS.**

6 Section 7 of the Marine Debris Research, Prevention,
7 and Reduction Act (33 U.S.C. 1956) is amended—

8 (1) by moving paragraph (3) (relating to the
9 definition of “United States exclusive economic
10 zone”) to appear as the last paragraph of the sec-
11 tion;

12 (2) by moving paragraph (6) (relating to the
13 definition of “territorial sea”) to appear immediately
14 before such last paragraph, as so moved;

15 (3) by amending the paragraphs after para-
16 graph (2) as paragraphs (4) through (10);

17 (4) by redesignating paragraph (2) as para-
18 graph (3);

19 (5) by inserting after paragraph (1) the fol-
20 lowing new paragraph:

21 “(2) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term ‘Indian tribe’
22 has the meaning given that term in section 4 of the
23 Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance
24 Act (25 U.S.C. 450b).”; and

1 (6) by inserting after paragraph (3), as so re-
2 designated, the following new paragraph:

3 “(4) MARINE DEBRIS.—The term ‘marine de-
4 bris’ means any persistent solid material that is
5 manufactured or processed and directly or indirectly,
6 intentionally or unintentionally, disposed of or aban-
7 doned into the marine environment or the Great
8 Lakes.”.

9 **SEC. 805. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

10 Section 9 of the Marine Debris Research, Prevention,
11 and Reduction Act (33 U.S.C. 1958) is amended by strik-
12 ing “for each fiscal year 2006 through 2010” and insert-
13 ing “for each of fiscal years 2012 through 2016”.

