

1 **SEC. 19. AUTHORITY TO USE DECOMMISSIONED OFFSHORE**
2 **OIL AND GAS PLATFORMS AND OTHER FA-**
3 **CILITIES FOR ARTIFICIAL REEF, SCIENTIFIC**
4 **RESEARCH, OR OTHER USES.**

5 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the
6 “Rigs to Reefs Act of 2006”.

7 (b) IN GENERAL.—The Outer Continental Shelf
8 Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1301 et seq.) is amended by insert-
9 ing after section 9 the following:

10 **“SEC. 10. USE OF DECOMMISSIONED OFFSHORE OIL AND**
11 **GAS PLATFORMS AND OTHER FACILITIES**
12 **FOR ARTIFICIAL REEF, SCIENTIFIC RE-**
13 **SEARCH, OR OTHER USES.**

14 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall issue regula-
15 tions under which the Secretary may authorize use of an
16 offshore oil and gas platform or other facility that is de-
17 commissioned from service for oil and gas purposes for
18 an artificial reef, scientific research, or any other use au-
19 thorized under section 8(p) or any other applicable Fed-
20 eral law.

21 “(b) TRANSFER REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary
22 shall not allow the transfer of a decommissioned offshore
23 oil and gas platform or other facility to another person
24 unless the Secretary is satisfied that the transferee is suf-
25 ficiently bonded, endowed, or otherwise financially able to
26 fulfill its obligations, including but not limited to—

1 “(1) ongoing maintenance of the platform or
2 other facility;

3 “(2) any liability obligations that might arise;

4 “(3) removal of the platform or other facility if
5 determined necessary by the Secretary; and

6 “(4) any other requirements and obligations
7 that the Secretary may deem appropriate by regula-
8 tion.

9 “(c) PLUGGING AND ABANDONMENT.—The Sec-
10 retary shall ensure that plugging and abandonment of
11 wells is accomplished at an appropriate time.

12 “(d) POTENTIAL TO PETITION TO OPT-OUT OF REG-
13 ULATIONS.—An Adjacent State acting through a resolu-
14 tion of its legislature, with concurrence of its Governor,
15 may preliminarily petition to opt-out of the application of
16 regulations promulgated under this section to platforms
17 and other facilities located in the area of its Adjacent Zone
18 within 12 miles of the coastline. Upon receipt of the pre-
19 liminary petition, the Secretary shall complete an environ-
20 mental assessment that documents the anticipated envi-
21 ronmental effects of approving the petition. The Secretary
22 shall provide the environmental assessment to the State,
23 which then has the choice of no action or confirming its
24 petition by further action of its legislature, with the con-
25 currence of its Governor. The Secretary is authorized to

1 except such area from the application of such regulations,
2 and shall approve any confirmed petition.

3 “(e) LIMITATION ON LIABILITY.—A person that had
4 used an offshore oil and gas platform or other facility for
5 oil and gas purposes and that no longer has any ownership
6 or control of the platform or other facility shall not be
7 liable under Federal law for any costs or damages arising
8 from such platform or other facility after the date the plat-
9 form or other facility is used for any purpose under sub-
10 section (a), unless such costs or damages arise from—

11 “(1) use of the platform or other facility by the
12 person for development or production of oil or gas;
13 or

14 “(2) another act or omission of the person.

15 “(f) OTHER LEASING AND USE NOT AFFECTED.—
16 This section, and the use of any offshore oil and gas plat-
17 form or other facility for any purpose under subsection
18 (a), shall not affect—

19 “(1) the authority of the Secretary to lease any
20 area under this Act; or

21 “(2) any activity otherwise authorized under
22 this Act.”.

23 (c) DEADLINE FOR REGULATIONS.—The Secretary of
24 the Interior shall issue regulations under subsection (b)

1 by not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment
2 of this Act.

3 (d) **STUDY AND REPORT ON EFFECTS OF REMOVAL**
4 **OF PLATFORMS.**—Not later than one year after the date
5 of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior,
6 in consultation with other Federal agencies as the Sec-
7 retary deems advisable, shall study and report to the Con-
8 gress regarding how the removal of offshore oil and gas
9 platforms and other facilities from the outer Continental
10 Shelf would affect existing fish stocks and coral popu-
11 lations.

12 **SEC. 20. REPEAL OF REQUIREMENT TO CONDUCT COM-**
13 **PREHENSIVE INVENTORY OF OCS OIL AND**
14 **NATURAL GAS RESOURCES.**

15 The Energy Policy Act of 2005 (Public Law 109–
16 58) is amended—

17 (1) by repealing section 357 (119 Stat. 720; 42
18 U.S.C. 15912); and

19 (2) in the table of contents in section 1(b), by
20 striking the item relating to such section 357.

21 **SEC. 21. MINING AND PETROLEUM SCHOOLS.**

22 (a) **MAINTENANCE AND RESTORATION OF EXISTING**
23 **AND HISTORIC PETROLEUM AND MINING ENGINEERING**
24 **PROGRAMS.**—Public Law 98–409 (30 U.S.C. 1221 et
25 seq.) is amended to read as follows: