

111TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 851

To prohibit the issuance of any lease or other authorization by the Federal Government that authorizes exploration, development, or production of oil or natural gas in any marine national monument or national marine sanctuary or in the fishing grounds known as Georges Bank in the waters of the United States.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 22, 2009

Mr. KERRY (for himself and Mr. KENNEDY) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

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## A BILL

To prohibit the issuance of any lease or other authorization by the Federal Government that authorizes exploration, development, or production of oil or natural gas in any marine national monument or national marine sanctuary or in the fishing grounds known as Georges Bank in the waters of the United States.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Georges Bank Preser-  
5 vation Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. PROHIBITION ON LEASING IN CERTAIN FEDERAL**  
2 **PROTECTED AREAS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provi-  
4 sion of Federal law, no lease or other authorization may  
5 be issued by the Federal Government that authorizes ex-  
6 ploration, development, or production of oil or natural gas  
7 in—

8 (1) any marine national monument or national  
9 marine sanctuary; or

10 (2) the fishing grounds known as Georges Bank  
11 in the waters of the United States, which is 1 of the  
12 largest and most historically important fishing  
13 grounds of the United States.

14 (b) IDENTIFICATION OF COORDINATES OF GEORGES  
15 BANK.—The Secretary of Commerce, after publication of  
16 public notice and an opportunity for public comment, shall  
17 identify the specific coordinates that delineate Georges  
18 Bank in the waters of the United States for purposes of  
19 subsection (a).

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