"Taken from House Conference Report 108-10 FY 2003 Omnibus Appropriations Bill Conference Report..."

GENERAL PROVISIONS--DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

The conference agreement includes the following General Provisions for the Department of Commerce:

Section 201- The conference agreement includes section 201, included in both the House and Senate, regarding certification of advanced payments.

Section 202- The conference agreement includes section 202, included in both the House and Senate, allowing funds for hire of passenger motor vehicles, and for services, uniforms and allowances as authorized by law.

Section 203- The conference agreement includes section 203, included in both the House and Senate, making permanent a provision prohibiting of funds to be used to support hurricane reconnaissance aircraft and activities that are under the control of the United States Air Force or the United States Air Force Reserve. The House section did not propose to make this section permanent.

Section 204- The conference agreement includes section 204, included in both the House and Senate, regarding transfer authority among Commerce Department appropriation accounts. The language also makes the transfers subject to the Committee's standard reprogramming procedures, including the acquisition and disposal of capital assets. The Senate did not contain a provision on the matter of capital assets.

Section 205- The conference agreement includes section 205, included in the House, requiring that any costs incurred by the Department in response to funding reductions shall be absorbed within the total budgetary resources available to the Department and shall not be subject to the reprogramming limitations in this Act. The Senate did not contain a similar provision.

Section 206- The conference agreement includes section 206, included in both the House and Senate, making permanent a provision to allow the Secretary to award contracts for certain mapping and charting activities in accordance with the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act. The House did not make the provision permanent.

Section 207- The conference agreement includes section 207, included in both the House and Senate, allowing the Department of Commerce franchise fund to retain a percentage of earnings from services provided for capital investments.

Section 208- The conference agreement includes section 208, modified from a provision in the Senate, to provide \$28,260,000 within the 'National Institute of Standards and Technology, Construction of Research Facilities' account, for five projects. The House did not contain a similar provision.

Section 209- The conference agreement includes section 209, included in the Senate, to provide \$10,000,000 for an Alaskan Seafood marketing program. The House did not contain a similar provision.

Section 210- The conference agreement includes section 210, included in the Senate, to authorize and appropriate \$50,000,000 for travel and tourism grant program. The House did not include a similar provision.

Section 211- The conference agreement includes section 211, included in the Senate, to exempt two foreign-built cruise ships to engage in service between and among the islands of Hawaii. The section is modified to prohibit vessels access.

Section 212- The conference agreement includes section 212, included in the Senate, designating requirements for a certain fishing capacity reduction program for the West Coast groundfish fishery. The House did not contain a similar provision.

Section 213- The conference agreement includes section 213, a new provision, allowing the National Weather Service to engage in a certain lease arrangement to be funded from base resources.

Section 214- The conference agreement includes section 214, a new provision, designating certain programs under the conservation category.