House negotiators reached a deal on a measure for offshore oil and gas drilling that was then approved by the House Resources Committee yesterday by a 29 to 9 vote.

The bill would allow drilling within 100 miles of U.S. shores, force states to pass legislation every five years in order to prevent drilling closer than 50 miles to shore and give a large share of federal royalties to state governments.

Environmental groups condemned the measure for putting natural resources in danger, putting obstacles in the way of states and organizations that want to stop drilling between 50 and 100 miles from coastlines, and setting up divisive battles over billions of dollars in royalties.

"There is no justification for members of Congress representing coastal states in putting their state's environment and tourism economies at grave risk," said Mike Daulton of the National Audubon Society.

Major industry groups hailed the proposal, which would replace a moratorium
that has been approved every year since 1981.

"This is a seismic shift in a 25-year-old policy that . . . was reinstated every year with little or no debate," said Jack Gerard, president of the American Chemistry Council.

Senators are working on a limited measure to open up a large tract in the Gulf of Mexico.