

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION**S.** _____

To establish the National Ocean Mapping, Exploration, and Characterization Council, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. WICKER (for himself, Ms. CANTWELL, and Mr. SCHATZ) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

A BILL

To establish the National Ocean Mapping, Exploration, and Characterization Council, and for other purposes.

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 “National Ocean Explo-
5 ration Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress makes the following findings:

8 (1) The health and resilience of the ocean are
9 vital to the security and economy of the United

1 States and to the lives of the people of the United
2 States.

3 (2) The United States depends on the ocean to
4 regulate weather and climate, to sustain and protect
5 the diversity of life, for maritime shipping, for na-
6 tional defense, and for food, energy, medicine, and
7 other services essential to the people of the United
8 States and all humankind.

9 (3) The prosperity, security, and well-being of
10 the United States depend on successful stewardship
11 of the ocean.

12 (4) Interdisciplinary cooperation and engage-
13 ment among government agencies, research institu-
14 tions, foundations, and the private sector are essen-
15 tial for successful stewardship of ocean and coastal
16 environments, for national economic growth, and for
17 development of agile strategies that promote and use
18 new technologies.

19 (5) Ocean exploration can help the people of the
20 United States understand how to be effective stew-
21 ards of the ocean and serve as catalysts and enablers
22 for other sectors of the economy.

23 (6) Mapping, exploration, and characterization
24 of the ocean provides basic, essential information to
25 protect and restore the marine environment, stimu-

1 late economic activity, and provide security for the
2 United States.

3 (7) A robust national ocean exploration pro-
4 gram engaging multiple Federal agencies, the pri-
5 vate sector, and academia is—

6 (A) essential to the interests of the United
7 States and vital to its security and economy
8 and the health and well-being of all people of
9 the United States; and

10 (B) critical to reestablish the United
11 States at the forefront of global ocean explo-
12 ration and stewardship.

13 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

14 In this Act:

15 (1) CHARACTERIZATION.—The term “charac-
16 terization” refers to activities that provide com-
17 prehensive data and interpretations for a specific
18 area of interest of the seafloor, sub-bottom, water
19 column, or hydrologic features, such as water masses
20 and currents, in direct support of specific research,
21 environmental protection, resource management, pol-
22 icymaking, or applied mission objectives.

23 (2) EXPLORATION.—The term “exploration” re-
24 fers to activities that provide—

1 (A) a multidisciplinary view of an unknown
2 or poorly understood area of the seafloor, sub-
3 bottom, or water column; and

4 (B) an initial assessment of the physical,
5 chemical, geological, biological, archeological, or
6 other characteristics of such an area.

7 (3) **MAPPING.**—The term “mapping” refers to
8 activities that provide comprehensive data and infor-
9 mation needed to understand seafloor characteris-
10 tics, such as depth, topography, bottom type, sedi-
11 ment composition and distribution, underlying geo-
12 logic structure, and benthic flora and fauna.

13 **SEC. 4. OCEAN POLICY COMMITTEE.**

14 (a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—There is established in the
15 Executive Office of the President a committee, to be
16 known as the “Ocean Policy Committee” (in this section
17 referred to as the “Committee”).

18 (b) **SUBCOMMITTEES.**—The Committee shall in-
19 clude—

20 (1) a subcommittee to be known as the “Ocean
21 Science and Technology Subcommittee”; and

22 (2) a subcommittee to be known as the “Ocean
23 Resource Management Subcommittee”.

24 (c) **INCREASED ACCESS TO GEOSPATIAL DATA FOR**
25 **MORE EFFICIENT AND INFORMED DECISION MAKING.**—

1 (1) ESTABLISHMENT OF DOCUMENT SYSTEM.—

2 The Committee shall establish or designate one or
3 more systems for ocean-related documents prepared
4 under the National Environmental Policy Act of
5 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

6 (2) ELEMENTS.—The systems established or
7 designated under paragraph (1) shall include the fol-
8 lowing:

9 (A) A publicly accessible, centralized dig-
10 ital archive of documents described in para-
11 graph (1) that are finalized after the date of
12 enactment of this Act, including—

13 (i) environmental impact statements;

14 (ii) environmental assessments;

15 (iii) categorical exclusions;

16 (iv) records of decision; and

17 (v) other relevant documents as deter-
18 mined by the Committee.

19 (B) Geospatially referenced data, if any,
20 contained in the documents under subpara-
21 graph (A).

22 (C) A mechanism to retrieve information
23 through geo-information tools that can map and
24 integrate relevant geospatial information, such
25 as—

- 1 (i) Ocean Report Tools;
2 (ii) the Environmental Studies Pro-
3 gram Information System;
4 (iii) Regional Ocean Partnerships; and
5 (iv) the Integrated Ocean Observing
6 System.

7 **SEC. 5. NATIONAL OCEAN MAPPING, EXPLORATION, AND**
8 **CHARACTERIZATION COUNCIL.**

9 (a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—The President shall establish
10 a council, to be known as the “National Ocean Mapping,
11 Exploration, and Characterization Council” (in this sec-
12 tion referred to as the “Council”).

13 (b) **PURPOSE.**—The Council shall—

- 14 (1) update national priorities for ocean map-
15 ping, exploration, and characterization; and
16 (2) coordinate and facilitate activities to ad-
17 vance those priorities.

18 (c) **REPORTING.**—The Council shall report to the
19 Ocean Science and Technology Subcommittee of the
20 Ocean Policy Committee established under section 4(b)(1).

21 (d) **MEMBERSHIP.**—The Council shall be composed of
22 not fewer than one senior-level representative from each
23 of the following:

- 24 (1) The Department of the Navy.
25 (2) The Department of the Interior.

1 (3) The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Ad-
2 ministration.

3 (4) The department in which the Coast Guard
4 is operating.

5 (5) The Office of Management and Budget.

6 (6) The Council on Environmental Quality.

7 (7) The Office of Science and Technology Pol-
8 icy.

9 (8) The Department of State.

10 (9) The National Science Foundation.

11 (10) The National Aeronautics and Space Ad-
12 ministration.

13 (11) The Marine Mammal Commission.

14 (e) CO-CHAIRS.—The Council shall be co-chaired
15 by—

16 (1) two senior-level representatives from the
17 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration;
18 and

19 (2) one senior-level representative from the De-
20 partment of the Interior.

21 (f) DUTIES.—The Council shall—

22 (1) set national ocean mapping, exploration,
23 and characterization priorities and strategies;

24 (2) cultivate and facilitate partnerships among
25 Federal and State agencies, private industry, aca-

1 demia, and nongovernmental organizations to con-
2 duct ocean mapping, exploration, and characteriza-
3 tion activities and related technology development;

4 (3) coordinate improved processes for data
5 management, access, synthesis, and visualization
6 with respect to ocean mapping, exploration, and
7 characterization;

8 (4) encourage education, workforce training,
9 and public engagement activities that—

10 (A) advance interdisciplinary principles
11 that contribute to ocean mapping, exploration,
12 and characterization; and

13 (B) improve public engagement with ocean
14 science;

15 (5) coordinate activities as appropriate with
16 international ocean mapping, exploration, and char-
17 acterization initiatives; and

18 (6) establish and monitor metrics to track
19 progress in achieving the priorities set under para-
20 graph (1).

21 (g) INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUPS.—

22 (1) INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP ON OCEAN
23 EXPLORATION AND CHARACTERIZATION.—

1 (A) ESTABLISHMENT.—The President
2 shall establish a new interagency working group
3 on ocean exploration and characterization.

4 (B) FUNCTIONS.—The interagency work-
5 ing group established under subparagraph (A)
6 shall support the Council and the Ocean
7 Science and Technology Subcommittee of the
8 Ocean Policy Committee established under sec-
9 tion 4(b)(1) on ocean exploration and charac-
10 terization activities and associated technology
11 development across the Federal Government.

12 (2) INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP ON OCEAN
13 AND COASTAL MAPPING.—The Interagency Working
14 Group on Ocean and Coastal Mapping under section
15 12203 of the Ocean and Coastal Mapping Integra-
16 tion Act (33 U.S.C. 3502) shall support the Council
17 and the Ocean Science and Technology Sub-
18 committee of the Ocean Policy Committee estab-
19 lished under section 4(b)(1) on ocean mapping ac-
20 tivities and associated technology development across
21 the Federal Government.

22 (3) OVERSIGHT.—The Council shall oversee—

23 (A) the interagency working group on
24 ocean exploration and characterization estab-
25 lished under paragraph (1)(A); and

1 (B) the Interagency Working Group on
2 Ocean and Coastal Mapping under section
3 12203 of the Ocean and Coastal Mapping Inte-
4 gration Act (33 U.S.C. 3502).

5 (h) PLAN.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after
7 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Council
8 shall develop and submit to the appropriate commit-
9 tees of Congress a plan for an integrated ocean
10 mapping, exploration, and characterization initiative.

11 (2) ELEMENTS.—The plan required by para-
12 graph (1) shall—

13 (A) identify and describe national ocean
14 mapping, exploration, and characterization pri-
15 orities;

16 (B) identify and describe Federal and fed-
17 erally funded ocean mapping, exploration, and
18 characterization programs;

19 (C) facilitate non-Federal input into na-
20 tional ocean mapping, exploration, and charac-
21 terization priorities;

22 (D) ensure effective coordination of ocean
23 mapping, exploration, and characterization ac-
24 tivities among programs described in subpara-
25 graph (B);

1 (E) identify opportunities for combining
2 overlapping or complementary needs, activities,
3 and resources of Federal agencies relating to
4 ocean mapping, exploration, and characteriza-
5 tion while not reducing benefits from existing
6 mapping, explorations, and characterization ac-
7 tivities;

8 (F) promote new and existing partnerships
9 among Federal and State agencies, private in-
10 dustry, academia, and nongovernmental organi-
11 zations to conduct or support ocean mapping,
12 exploration, and characterization activities and
13 technology development needs, including
14 through coordination under section 3 of the
15 Commercial Engagement Through Ocean Tech-
16 nology Act of 2018 (33 U.S.C. 4102);

17 (G) establish standardized collection and
18 data management protocols for ocean mapping,
19 exploration, and characterization;

20 (H) encourage the development of innova-
21 tive ocean mapping, exploration, and character-
22 ization technologies and applications;

23 (I) promote protocols for accepting data,
24 equipment, or other resources that support na-

1 tional ocean mapping, exploration, and charac-
2 terization priorities;

3 (J) identify best practices for the protec-
4 tion of marine life during mapping, exploration,
5 and characterization activities;

6 (K) identify training, technology, and other
7 resource requirements for enabling the National
8 Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and
9 other appropriate Federal agencies to support a
10 coordinated national ocean mapping, explo-
11 ration, and characterization effort;

12 (L) identify a centralized mechanism or of-
13 fice for—

14 (i) coordinating data collection, proc-
15 essing, archiving, and dissemination activi-
16 ties relating to ocean mapping, exploration,
17 and characterization that meets Federal
18 mandates for data accuracy and accessi-
19 bility; and

20 (ii) coordinating partnerships that
21 support such activities;

22 (M) designate repositories responsible for
23 archiving and managing ocean mapping, explo-
24 ration, and characterization data; and

1 (N) set forth a timetable and estimated
2 costs for implementation and completion of the
3 plan.

4 (i) BRIEFINGS.—Not less frequently than every 2
5 years, the Council shall brief the appropriate committees
6 of Congress on—

7 (1) progress made toward meeting the national
8 priorities described in subsection (h)(2)(A); and

9 (2) recommendations for meeting such prior-
10 ities.

11 (j) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DE-
12 FINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate commit-
13 tees of Congress” means—

14 (1) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and
15 Transportation and the Committee on Armed Serv-
16 ices of the Senate; and

17 (2) the Committee on Natural Resources, the
18 Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and
19 the Committee on Armed Services of the House of
20 Representatives.

21 **SEC. 6. MODIFICATIONS TO THE OCEAN EXPLORATION**
22 **PROGRAM OF THE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND**
23 **ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION.**

24 (a) PURPOSE.—Section 12001 of the Omnibus Public
25 Land Management Act of 2009 (33 U.S.C. 3401) is

1 amended by striking “and the national undersea research
2 program”.

3 (b) PROGRAM ESTABLISHED.—Section 12002 of such
4 Act (33 U.S.C. 3402) is amended—

5 (1) in the first sentence, by striking “and un-
6 dersea”; and

7 (2) in the second sentence—

8 (A) by inserting “ocean exploration and
9 characterization efforts and” before “ocean and
10 coastal resources”; and

11 (B) by striking “and undersea”.

12 (c) POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE ADMINIS-
13 TRATOR.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 12003(a) of such
15 Act (33 U.S.C. 3403(a)) is amended—

16 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1),
17 by inserting “, in coordination with the Ocean
18 Policy Committee established under section 4 of
19 the National Ocean Exploration Act,” after
20 “Administration”;

21 (B) in paragraph (1)—

22 (i) by striking “Federal agencies” and
23 all that follows through “and survey” and
24 inserting “Federal and State agencies,
25 Tribal governments, private industry, aca-

1 demia, and nongovernmental organizations,
2 to map, explore, and characterize”; and

3 (ii) by inserting “characterize,” after
4 “observe,”;

5 (C) in paragraph (5), by striking “; and”
6 and inserting a semicolon;

7 (D) in paragraph (6)—

8 (i) by inserting “, in collaboration
9 with the National Ocean Mapping, Explo-
10 ration, and Characterization Council estab-
11 lished under section 5 of the National
12 Ocean Exploration Act,” after “forum”;
13 and

14 (ii) by striking the period at the end
15 and inserting “; and”; and

16 (E) by adding at the end the following:

17 “(7) provide guidance to Federal and State
18 agencies, Tribal governments, private industry, aca-
19 demia (including secondary schools, community col-
20 leges, and universities), and nongovernmental orga-
21 nizations on data standards, protocols for accepting
22 data, and coordination of data collection, processing,
23 archiving, and dissemination for data relating to
24 ocean exploration and characterization.”.

1 (2) DONATIONS.—Section 12003(b) of such Act
2 (33 U.S.C. 3403(b)) is amended to read as follows:

3 “(b) DONATIONS.—For the purpose of exploring the
4 oceans or increasing the knowledge of the oceans, the Ad-
5 ministrator may—

6 “(1) accept monetary donations and donations
7 of property, data, and equipment; and

8 “(2) pay all necessary expenses in connection
9 with the conveyance or transfer of a gift, devise, or
10 bequest.”.

11 (d) REPEAL OF OCEAN EXPLORATION AND UNDER-
12 SEA RESEARCH TECHNOLOGY AND INFRASTRUCTURE
13 TASK FORCE.—Section 12004 of such Act (33 U.S.C.
14 3404) is repealed.

15 (e) EDUCATION, WORKFORCE TRAINING, AND OUT-
16 REACH.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—Such Act is further amended
18 by inserting after section 12003 the following new
19 section 12004:

20 **“SEC. 12004. EDUCATION, WORKFORCE TRAINING, AND**
21 **OUTREACH.**

22 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the Na-
23 tional Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shall con-
24 duct education and outreach efforts in order to broadly

1 disseminate information to the public on the discoveries
2 made by the program under section 12002.

3 “(b) EDUCATION AND OUTREACH EFFORTS.—Ef-
4 forts described in subsection (a) may include—

5 “(1) education of the general public, teachers,
6 students, and ocean and coastal resource managers;
7 and

8 “(2) workforce training, reskilling, and opportu-
9 nities to encourage development of ocean related
10 science, technology, engineering, and mathematics
11 (STEM) technical training programs involving sec-
12 ondary schools, community colleges, and universities.

13 “(c) OUTREACH STRATEGY.—Not later than 120
14 days after the date of the enactment of the National
15 Ocean Exploration Act, the Administrator of the National
16 Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shall develop an
17 outreach strategy to broadly disseminate information on
18 the discoveries made by the program under section
19 12002.”.

20 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of con-
21 tents in section 1(b) of the Omnibus Public Land
22 Management Act of 2009 (Public Law 111–11; 123
23 Stat. 991) is amended by striking the item relating
24 to section 12004 and inserting the following:

“Sec. 12004. Education, workforce training, and outreach.”.

25 (f) OCEAN EXPLORATION ADVISORY BOARD.—

1 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Section 12005(a)(1) of
2 such Act (33 U.S.C. 3505(1)) is amended by insert-
3 ing “and the National Ocean Mapping, Exploration,
4 and Characterization Council established under sec-
5 tion 5 of the National Ocean Exploration Act” after
6 “advise the Administrator”.

7 (2) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—Section
8 12005(c) of such Act (33 U.S.C. 3505(c)) is amend-
9 ed by inserting “this” before “part”.

10 (g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section
11 12006 of such Act (33 U.S.C. 3406) is amended by strik-
12 ing “this part” and all that follows and inserting “this
13 part \$60,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2021 through
14 2030”.

15 (h) DEFINITIONS.—Such Act is further amended by
16 inserting after section 12006 the following:

17 **“SEC. 12007. DEFINITIONS.**

18 “In this part:

19 “(1) CHARACTERIZATION.—The terms ‘charac-
20 terization’ and ‘characterize’ refer to activities that
21 provide comprehensive data and interpretations for a
22 specific area of interest of the seafloor, sub-bottom,
23 water column, or hydrologic features, such as water
24 masses and currents, in direct support of specific re-

1 search, environmental protection, resource manage-
2 ment, policymaking, or applied mission objectives.

3 “(2) EXPLORATION.—The term ‘exploration’
4 and ‘explore’ refer to activities that provide—

5 “(A) a multidisciplinary view of an un-
6 known or poorly understood area of the
7 seafloor, sub-bottom, or water column; and

8 “(B) an initial assessment of the physical,
9 chemical, geological, biological, archaeological,
10 or other characteristics of such an area.

11 “(3) MAPPING.—The terms ‘map’ and ‘map-
12 ping’ refer to activities that provide comprehensive
13 data and information needed to understand seafloor
14 characteristics, such as depth, topography, bottom
15 type, sediment composition and distribution, under-
16 lying geologic structure, and benthic flora and
17 fauna.”.

18 (i) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents
19 in section 1(b) of the Omnibus Public Land Management
20 Act of 2009 (Public Law 111–11; 123 Stat. 991) is
21 amended by inserting after the item relating to section
22 12006 the following:

“Sec. 12007. Definitions.”.

23 **SEC. 7. REPEAL.**

24 (a) IN GENERAL.—The NOAA Undersea Research
25 Program Act of 2009 (part II of subtitle A of title XII

1 of Public Law 111–11; 33 U.S.C. 3421 et seq.) is re-
2 pealed.

3 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents
4 in section 1(b) of the Omnibus Public Land Management
5 Act of 2009 (Public Law 111–11; 123 Stat. 991) is
6 amended by striking the items relating to part II of sub-
7 title A of title XII of such Act.

8 **SEC. 8. MODIFICATIONS TO OCEAN AND COASTAL MAPPING**

9 **PROGRAM OF THE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND**
10 **ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION.**

11 (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 12202(a) of the
13 Ocean and Coastal Mapping Integration Act (33
14 U.S.C. 3501(a)) is amended—

15 (A) by striking “establish a program to de-
16 velop a coordinated and” and inserting “estab-
17 lish and maintain a program to coordinate”;

18 (B) by striking “plan” and inserting “ef-
19 forts”; and

20 (C) by striking “that enhances” and all
21 that follows and inserting “that—

22 “(1) enhances ecosystem approaches in deci-
23 sion-making for natural resource and habitat man-
24 agement restoration and conservation, emergency re-
25 sponse, and coastal resilience and adaptation;

1 “(2) establishes research and mapping prior-
2 ities;

3 “(3) supports the siting of research and other
4 platforms; and

5 “(4) advances ocean and coastal science.”.

6 (2) MEMBERSHIP.—Section 12202 of such Act
7 (33 U.S.C. 3501) is amended by striking subsection
8 (b) and redesignating subsection (c) as subsection
9 (b).

10 (3) PROGRAM PARAMETERS.—Subsection (b) of
11 section 12202 of such Act (33 U.S.C. 3501), as re-
12 designated by paragraph (2), is amended—

13 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1),
14 by striking “developing” and inserting “main-
15 taining”;

16 (B) in paragraph (2), by inserting “and
17 for leveraging existing Federal geospatial serv-
18 ices capacities and contract vehicles for effi-
19 ciencies” after “coastal mapping”;

20 (C) in paragraph (7), by striking “with
21 coastal state and local government programs”
22 and inserting “with mapping programs, in con-
23 junction with Federal and State agencies, Trib-
24 al governments, private industry, academia, and
25 nongovernmental organizations”;

1 (D) in paragraph (8), by striking “of real-
2 time tide data and the development” and insert-
3 ing “of tide data and water-level data and the
4 development and dissemination”;

5 (E) in paragraph (9), by striking “; and”
6 and inserting a semicolon;

7 (F) in paragraph (10), by striking the pe-
8 riod at the end and inserting “; and”; and

9 (G) by adding at the end the following:

10 “(11) support—

11 “(A) the Ocean Science and Technology
12 Subcommittee of the Ocean Policy Committee
13 established under section 4(b)(1) of the Na-
14 tional Ocean Exploration Act; and

15 “(B) the National Ocean Mapping, Explo-
16 ration, and Characterization Council established
17 under section 5 of such Act.”.

18 (b) INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP ON OCEAN AND
19 COASTAL MAPPING.—

20 (1) NAME CHANGE.—The Ocean and Coastal
21 Mapping Integration Act (33 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.) is
22 amended—

23 (A) in section 12202 (33 U.S.C. 3501)—

24 (i) in subsection (a), by striking
25 “Interagency Committee on Ocean and

1 Coastal Mapping” and inserting “Inter-
2 agency Working Group on Ocean and
3 Coastal Mapping under section 12203”;
4 and

5 (ii) in subsection (b), as redesignated
6 by subsection (a)(2), by striking “Com-
7 mittee” and inserting “Working Group”;

8 (B) in section 12203 (33 U.S.C. 3502)—

9 (i) in the section heading, by striking
10 “**COMMITTEE**” and inserting “**WORKING**
11 **GROUP**”;

12 (ii) in subsection (b), in the first sen-
13 tence, by striking “committee” and insert-
14 ing “Working Group”;

15 (iii) in subsection (e), by striking
16 “committee” and inserting “Working
17 Group”;

18 (iv) in subsection (f), by striking
19 “committee” and inserting “Working
20 Group”; and

21 (C) in section 12208 (33 U.S.C. 3507), by
22 amending paragraph (3) to read as follows:

23 “(3) **WORKING GROUP.**—The term ‘Working
24 Group’ means the Interagency Working Group on
25 Ocean and Coastal Mapping under section 12203.”.

1 (2) IN GENERAL.—Section 12203(a) of such
2 Act (33 U.S.C. 3502(a)) is amended by striking
3 “within 30 days” and all that follows and inserting
4 “not later than 30 days after the date of the enact-
5 ment of the National Ocean Exploration Act, shall
6 use the Interagency Working Group on Ocean and
7 Coastal Mapping in existence as of the date of the
8 enactment of this Act to implement section 12202.”.

9 (3) MEMBERSHIP.—Section 12203(b) of such
10 Act (33 U.S.C. 3502(b)) is amended—

11 (A) in the first sentence, by striking “sen-
12 ior” both places it appears and inserting “sen-
13 ior-level”;

14 (B) in the third sentence, by striking “the
15 Minerals Management Service” and inserting
16 “the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management of
17 the Department of the Interior, the Office of
18 the Assistant Secretary, Fish and Wildlife and
19 Parks of the Department of the Interior”; and

20 (C) by striking the second sentence.

21 (4) CO-CHAIRS.—Section 12203(e) of such Act
22 (33 U.S.C. 3502(e)) is amended to read as follows:

23 “(e) CO-CHAIRS.—The Working Group shall be co-
24 chaired by one representative from each of the following:

1 “(1) The National Oceanic and Atmospheric
2 Administration.

3 “(2) The Department of the Interior.

4 “(3) The United States Army Corps of Engi-
5 neers.”.

6 (5) SUBORDINATE GROUPS.—Section 12203(d)
7 of such Act (33 U.S.C. 3502(d)) is amended to read
8 as follows:

9 “(d) SUBORDINATE GROUPS.—The co-chairs may es-
10 tablish such permanent or temporary subordinate groups
11 as determined appropriate by the Working Group.”.

12 (6) MEETINGS.—Section 12203(e) of such Act
13 (33 U.S.C. 3502(e)) is amended by striking “each
14 subcommittee and each working group” and insert-
15 ing “each subordinate group”.

16 (7) COORDINATION.—Section 12203(f) of such
17 Act (33 U.S.C. 3502(f)) is amended by striking
18 paragraphs (1) through (5) and inserting the fol-
19 lowing:

20 “(1) other Federal efforts, such as the Digital
21 Coast, the Federal Geographic Data Committee,
22 GeoPlatform, the Hydrographic Services Review
23 Panel of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Ad-
24 ministration, the Ocean Exploration Advisory Board
25 of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Adminis-

1 tration, and the Technical Mapping Advisory Council
2 of the Federal Emergency Management Agency;

3 “(2) international mapping activities;

4 “(3) coastal states;

5 “(4) coastal Indian Tribes;

6 “(5) user groups through workshops and other
7 appropriate mechanisms; and

8 “(6) representatives of nongovernmental enti-
9 ties.”.

10 (8) **ADVISORY PANEL.**—Section 12203 of such
11 Act (33 U.S.C. 3502) is amended by striking sub-
12 section (g).

13 (9) **FUNCTIONS.**—Section 12203 of such Act
14 (33 U.S.C. 3502), as amended by paragraph (8), is
15 further amended by adding at the end the following:

16 “(g) **FUNCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO NATIONAL**
17 **OCEAN MAPPING, EXPLORATION, AND CHARACTERIZA-**
18 **TION COUNCIL.**—The Working Group shall support the
19 National Ocean Mapping, Exploration, and Characteriza-
20 tion Council established under section 5 of the National
21 Ocean Exploration Act and the Ocean Science and Tech-
22 nology Subcommittee of the Ocean Policy Committee es-
23 tablished under section 4(b)(1) of such Act on ocean map-
24 ping activities.”.

1 (10) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of
2 contents in section 1(b) of the Omnibus Public Land
3 Management Act of 2009 (Public Law 111–11; 123
4 Stat. 991) is amended by striking the item relating
5 to section 12203 and inserting the following:

“Sec. 12203. Interagency working group on ocean and coastal mapping.”.

6 (c) BIENNIAL REPORTS.—Section 12204 of such Act
7 (33 U.S.C. 3503) is amended—

8 (1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by
9 striking “No later” and all that follows through
10 “House of Representatives” and inserting “Not later
11 than 18 months after the date of the enactment of
12 the National Ocean Exploration Act, and biennially
13 thereafter until 2040, the co-chairs of the Working
14 Group, in coordination with the National Ocean
15 Mapping, Exploration, and Characterization Council
16 established under section 5 of such Act, shall submit
17 to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Trans-
18 portation and the Committee on Energy and Natural
19 Resources of the Senate, and the Committee on Nat-
20 ural Resources and the Committee on Science,
21 Space, and Technology of the House of Representa-
22 tives,”

23 (2) in paragraph (1), by inserting “, including
24 the data maintained by the National Centers for En-
25 vironmental Information of the National Oceanic

1 and Atmospheric Administration,” after “mapping
2 data”;

3 (3) in paragraph (3), by inserting “, including
4 a plan to map the coasts of the United States on a
5 requirements-based cycle, with mapping agencies
6 and partners coordinating on a unified approach
7 that factors in recent related studies, meets multiple
8 user requirements, and identifies gaps” after “ac-
9 complished”;

10 (4) by striking paragraph (10) and redesign-
11 ating paragraphs (11), (12), and (13) as para-
12 graphs (10), (11), and (12), respectively;

13 (5) in paragraph (10), as so redesignated, by
14 striking “with coastal state and local government
15 programs” and inserting “with international, coastal
16 state, and local government and nongovernmental
17 mapping programs”;

18 (6) in paragraph (11), as redesignated by para-
19 graph (4)—

20 (A) by striking “increase” and inserting
21 “streamline and expand”;

22 (B) by inserting “for the purpose of ful-
23 filling Federal mapping and charting respon-
24 sibilities, plans, and strategies” after “entities”;
25 and

1 (C) by striking “; and” and inserting a
2 semicolon;

3 (7) in paragraph (12), as redesignated by para-
4 graph (4), by striking the period at the end and in-
5 serting a semicolon; and

6 (8) by adding at the end the following:

7 “(13) a progress report on the development of
8 new and innovative technologies and applications
9 through research and development, including cooper-
10 ative or other agreements with joint or cooperative
11 research institutes and centers and other nongovern-
12 mental entities;

13 “(14) a description of best practices in data
14 processing and distribution and leveraging opportu-
15 nities among agencies represented on the Working
16 Group and with coastal states, coastal Indian Tribes,
17 and nongovernmental entities;

18 “(15) an identification of any training, tech-
19 nology, or other requirements for enabling Federal
20 mapping programs, vessels, and aircraft to support
21 a coordinated ocean and coastal mapping program;
22 and

23 “(16) a timetable for implementation and com-
24 pletion of the plan described in paragraph (3), in-

1 eluding recommendations for integrating new ap-
2 proaches into the program.”.

3 (d) NOAA JOINT OCEAN AND COASTAL MAPPING
4 CENTERS.—

5 (1) CENTERS.—Section 12205(c) of such Act
6 (33 U.S.C. 3504(c)) is amended—

7 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1),
8 by striking “3” and inserting “three”; and

9 (B) in paragraph (4), by inserting “and
10 unmanned” after “sensing”.

11 (2) PLAN.—Section 12205 of such Act (33
12 U.S.C. 3504) is amended—

13 (A) in the section heading, by striking
14 “PLAN” and inserting “NOAA JOINT OCEAN
15 AND COASTAL MAPPING CENTERS”;

16 (B) by striking subsections (a), (b), and
17 (d); and

18 (C) in subsection (c), by striking “(c)
19 NOAA JOINT OCEAN AND COASTAL MAPPING
20 CENTERS.—”.

21 (3) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of con-
22 tents in section 1(b) of the Omnibus Public Land
23 Management Act of 2009 (Public Law 111–11; 123
24 Stat. 991) is amended by striking the item relating
25 to section 12205 and inserting the following:

“Sec. 12205. NOAA joint ocean and coastal mapping centers.”.

1 (e) OCEAN AND COASTAL MAPPING FEDERAL FUND-
2 ING OPPORTUNITY.—Such Act (33. U.S.C. 3501 et seq.)
3 is amended—

4 (1) by redesignating sections 12206, 12207,
5 and 12208 as sections 12208, 12209, and 12210,
6 respectively; and

7 (2) by inserting after section 12205 the fol-
8 lowing:

9 **“SEC. 12206. OCEAN AND COASTAL MAPPING FEDERAL**
10 **FUNDING OPPORTUNITY.**

11 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the
12 date of the enactment of the National Ocean Exploration
13 Act, the Administrator shall develop an integrated ocean
14 and coastal mapping Federal funding match opportunity
15 within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administra-
16 tion with Federal, State, Tribal, local, nonprofit, or aca-
17 demic partners in order to increase the coordinated acqui-
18 sition, processing, stewardship, and archival of new ocean
19 and coastal mapping data in United States waters.

20 “(b) RULES.—The Administrator shall develop ad-
21 ministrative and procedural rules for the ocean and coastal
22 mapping Federal funding match opportunity developed
23 under subsection (a), to include—

24 “(1) specific and detailed criteria that must be
25 addressed by an applicant, such as geographic over-

1 lap with pre-established priorities, number and type
2 of project partners, benefit to the applicant, coordi-
3 nation with other funding opportunities, and benefit
4 to the public;

5 “(2) determination of the appropriate funding
6 match amounts and mechanisms to use, such as
7 grants, agreements, or contracts; and

8 “(3) other funding award criteria as are nec-
9 essary or appropriate to ensure that evaluations of
10 proposals and decisions to award funding under this
11 section are based on objective standards applied fair-
12 ly and equitably to those proposals.

13 “(c) GEOSPATIAL SERVICES AND CONTRACT VEHI-
14 CLES.—The ocean and coastal mapping Federal funding
15 match opportunity developed under subsection (a) shall le-
16 verage Federal expertise and capacities for geospatial
17 services and Federal geospatial contract vehicles using the
18 private sector for acquisition efficiencies.

19 **“SEC. 12207. COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS, CONTRACTS,**
20 **AND GRANTS.**

21 “(a) IN GENERAL.—To carry out interagency activi-
22 ties under this subtitle, the heads of agencies represented
23 on the Working Group may enter into cooperative agree-
24 ments, or any other agreement with each other, and trans-
25 fer, receive, and expend funds made available by any Fed-

1 eral agency, any State or subdivision thereof, or any public
2 or private organization or individual, for ocean and coastal
3 mapping investigations, surveys, studies, and other
4 geospatial collaborations authorized by this subtitle or
5 agreements authorized by section 5 of the Act entitled ‘An
6 Act to define the functions and duties of the Coast and
7 Geodetic Survey, and for other purposes’, approved Au-
8 gust 6, 1947 (33 U.S.C. 883e).

9 “(b) GRANTS.—The Administrator may make grants
10 to any State or subdivision thereof or any public or private
11 organization or individual to carry out the purposes of this
12 subtitle.”.

13 (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section
14 12209 of such Act, as redesignated by subsection (e)(1),
15 is amended—

16 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “this subtitle”
17 and all that follows and inserting “this subtitle
18 \$45,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2021 through
19 2030.”; and

20 (2) in subsection (b), by striking “this subtitle”
21 and all that follows and inserting “this subtitle
22 \$15,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2021 through
23 2030.”;

24 (3) by striking subsection (c); and

1 (4) by inserting after subsection (b) the fol-
2 lowing:

3 “(c) OCEAN AND COASTAL MAPPING FEDERAL
4 FUNDING OPPORTUNITY.—Of amounts appropriated pur-
5 suant to subsection (a), \$20,000,000 is authorized to
6 carry out section 12206.”.

7 (g) DEFINITIONS.—

8 (1) OCEAN AND COASTAL MAPPING.—Para-
9 graph (5) of section 12210 of such Act, as redesign-
10 ated by subsection (e)(1), is amended by striking
11 “processing, and management” and inserting “proc-
12 essing, management, maintenance, interpretation,
13 certification, and dissemination”.

14 (2) COASTAL INDIAN TRIBE.—Section 12210 of
15 such Act, as redesignated by subsection (e)(1), is
16 amended by adding at the end the following:

17 “(9) COASTAL INDIAN TRIBE.—The term
18 ‘coastal Indian Tribe’ means an ‘Indian tribe’, as de-
19 fined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination
20 and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304), the
21 land of which is located in a coastal state.”.

22 (h) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—The table of contents
23 in section 1(b) of the Omnibus Public Land Management
24 Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-11; 123 Stat. 991) is

1 amended by striking the items relating to sections 12206
2 through 12208 and inserting the following:

“Sec. 12206. Ocean and coastal mapping Federal funding opportunity.

“Sec. 12207. Cooperative agreements, contracts, and grants.

“Sec. 12208. Effect on other laws.

“Sec. 12209. Authorization of appropriations.

“Sec. 12210. Definitions.”

3 **SEC. 9. MODIFICATIONS TO HYDROGRAPHIC SERVICES IM-**
4 **PROVEMENT ACT OF 1998.**

5 (a) **DEFINITIONS.**—Section 302(4)(A) of the Hydro-
6 graphic Services Improvement Act of 1998 (33 U.S.C.
7 892(4)(A)) is amended by inserting “hydrodynamic fore-
8 cast and datum transformation models,” after “nautical
9 information databases,”.

10 (b) **FUNCTIONS OF THE ADMINISTRATOR.**—Section
11 303(b) of such Act (33 U.S.C. 892a(b)) is amended—

12 (1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by
13 inserting “precision navigation,” after “promote”;
14 and

15 (2) in paragraph (2)—

16 (A) by inserting “and hydrodynamic fore-
17 cast models” after “monitoring systems”;

18 (B) by inserting “and provide foundational
19 information and services required to support
20 coastal resilience planning for coastal transpor-
21 tation and other infrastructure, coastal protec-
22 tion and restoration projects, and related activi-
23 ties” after “efficiency”; and

1 (C) by striking “; and” and inserting a
2 semicolon.

3 (c) QUALITY ASSURANCE PROGRAM.—Section 304(a)
4 of such Act (33 U.S.C. 892b(a)) is amended by striking
5 “product produced” and inserting “product or service pro-
6 duced or disseminated”.

7 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section
8 306(a) of such Act (33 U.S.C. 892d(a)) is amended—

9 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “\$70,814,000
10 for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023” and in-
11 serting “\$71,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2021
12 through 2030”;

13 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking “\$25,000,000
14 for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023” and in-
15 serting “\$34,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2021
16 through 2030”;

17 (3) in paragraph (3), by striking “\$29,932,000
18 for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023” and in-
19 serting “\$38,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2021
20 through 2030”;

21 (4) in paragraph (4), by striking “\$26,800,000
22 for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023” and in-
23 serting “\$45,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2021
24 through 2030”; and

1 (5) in paragraph (5), by striking “\$30,564,000
2 for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023” and in-
3 serting “\$35,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2021
4 through 2030”.