

S.L.C.  
*Robert J. Wicker*

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**S.** \_\_\_\_\_

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

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

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

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**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, recre-  
7 ation, and other services essential to the people of  
8 the United States and all humankind.

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

12 (4) Interdisciplinary cooperation and engage-  
13 ment among government agencies, research institu-  
14 tions, nongovernmental organizations, States, and  
15 the private sector are essential for successful stew-  
16 ards of ocean and coastal environments, national  
17 economic growth, national security, and development  
18 of agile strategies that develop, promote, and use  
19 new technologies.

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

24 (6) Mapping, exploration, and characterization  
25 of the ocean provides basic, essential information to

1 protect and restore the marine environment, stimu-  
2 late economic activity, and provide security for the  
3 United States.

4 (7) A robust national ocean exploration pro-  
5 gram engaging multiple Federal agencies, the pri-  
6 vate sector, nongovernmental organizations, and aca-  
7 demia is—

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

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

15 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

16 In this Act:

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

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

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

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

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

15 **SEC. 4. OCEAN POLICY COMMITTEE.**

16           (a) **SUBCOMMITTEES.**—Section 8932(c) of title 10,  
17           United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

18           “(c) **SUBCOMMITTEES.**—(1) The Committee shall in-  
19           clude—

20                   “(A) a subcommittee to be known as the ‘Ocean  
21                   Science and Technology Subcommittee’; and

22                   “(B) a subcommittee to be known as the ‘Ocean  
23                   Resource Management Subcommittee’.

24           “(2) In discharging its responsibilities in support of  
25           agreed-upon scientific needs, and to assist in the execution

1 of the responsibilities described in subsection (b), the  
2 Committee may delegate responsibilities to the Ocean  
3 Science and Technology Subcommittee, the Ocean Re-  
4 source Management Subcommittee, or another sub-  
5 committee of the Committee, as the Committee determines  
6 appropriate.”.

7 (b) INCREASED ACCESS TO GEOSPATIAL DATA FOR  
8 MORE EFFICIENT AND INFORMED DECISION MAKING.—

9 (1) ESTABLISHMENT OF DOCUMENT SYSTEM.—

10 Section 8932(b) of title 10, United States Code, is  
11 amended—

12 (A) in paragraph (3), by striking “and” at  
13 the end;

14 (B) in paragraph (4)(F), by striking the  
15 period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

16 (C) by adding at the end the following new  
17 paragraph:

18 “(5) establish or designate one or more systems  
19 for ocean-related documents prepared under the Na-  
20 tional Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C.  
21 4321 et seq.), in accordance with subsection (h).”.

22 (2) ELEMENTS.—Section 8932 of such title is  
23 amended—

24 (A) by redesignating subsection (h) as sub-  
25 section (i); and

1 (B) by inserting after subsection (g) the  
2 following new subsection (h):

3 “(h) ELEMENTS OF DOCUMENT SYSTEM.—The sys-  
4 tems established or designated under subsection (b)(5)  
5 shall include the following:

6 “(1) A publicly accessible, centralized digital ar-  
7 chive of documents described in subsection (b)(5)  
8 that are finalized after the date of the enactment of  
9 the National Ocean Exploration Act, including—

10 “(A) environmental impact statements;

11 “(B) environmental assessments;

12 “(C) categorical exclusions;

13 “(D) records of decision; and

14 “(E) other relevant documents as deter-  
15 mined by the Committee.

16 “(2) Geospatially referenced data, if any, con-  
17 tained in the documents under paragraph (1).

18 “(3) A mechanism to retrieve information  
19 through geo-information tools that can map and in-  
20 tegrate relevant geospatial information, such as—

21 “(A) Ocean Report Tools;

22 “(B) the Environmental Studies Program  
23 Information System;

24 “(C) Regional Ocean Partnerships; and

1                   “(D) the Integrated Ocean Observing Sys-  
2                   tem.”.

3 **SEC. 5. NATIONAL OCEAN MAPPING, EXPLORATION, AND**  
4                   **CHARACTERIZATION COUNCIL.**

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

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

10                   (1) update national priorities for ocean map-  
11                   ping, exploration, and characterization; and

12                   (2) coordinate and facilitate activities to ad-  
13                   vance those priorities.

14           (c) **REPORTING.**—The Council shall report to the  
15 Ocean Science and Technology Subcommittee of the  
16 Ocean Policy Committee established under section 8932(c)  
17 of title 10, United States Code.

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

21                   (1) The Department of the Navy.

22                   (2) The Department of the Interior.

23                   (3) The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Ad-  
24                   ministration.

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

3           (5) The Office of Management and Budget.

4           (6) The Office of Science and Technology Pol-  
5 icy.

6           (7) The National Science Foundation.

7           (8) The National Aeronautics and Space Ad-  
8 ministration.

9           (9) The Marine Mammal Commission.

10          (10) The Department of Transportation.

11          (11) The Department of Energy.

12          (12) The Office of the Director of National In-  
13 telligence.

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 transparent and sus-  
25 tained partnerships among Federal and State agen-



1       cies, private industry, academia, and nongovern-  
2       mental organizations to conduct ocean mapping, ex-  
3       ploration, and characterization activities and related  
4       technology development;

5           (3) coordinate improved processes for data com-  
6       pilation, management, access, synthesis, and visual-  
7       ization with respect to ocean mapping, exploration,  
8       and characterization, with a focus on building on ex-  
9       isting ocean data management systems, as appro-  
10      prium;

11          (4) encourage education, workforce training,  
12      and public engagement activities that—

13           (A) advance interdisciplinary principles  
14      that contribute to ocean mapping, exploration,  
15      research, and characterization;

16           (B) improve public engagement with and  
17      understanding of ocean science; and

18           (C) provide opportunities for underserved  
19      populations;

20          (5) coordinate activities as appropriate with do-  
21      mestic and international ocean mapping, exploration,  
22      and characterization initiatives or programs; and

23          (6) establish and monitor metrics to track  
24      progress in achieving the priorities set under para-  
25      graph (1).

1 (g) INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP ON OCEAN EX-  
2 PLORATION AND CHARACTERIZATION.—

3 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The President shall es-  
4 tablish a new interagency working group to be  
5 known as the “Interagency Working Group on  
6 Ocean Exploration and Characterization”.

7 (2) MEMBERSHIP.—The Interagency Working  
8 Group on Ocean Exploration and Characterization  
9 shall be comprised of senior representatives from  
10 Federal agencies with ocean exploration and charac-  
11 terization responsibilities.

12 (3) FUNCTIONS.—The Interagency Working  
13 Group on Ocean Exploration and Characterization  
14 shall support the Council and the Ocean Science and  
15 Technology Subcommittee of the Ocean Policy Com-  
16 mittee established under section 8932(c) of title 10,  
17 United States Code, on ocean exploration and char-  
18 acterization activities and associated technology de-  
19 velopment across the Federal Government, State  
20 governments, private industry, nongovernmental or-  
21 ganizations, and academia.

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

23 (1) the Interagency Working Group on Ocean  
24 Exploration and Characterization established under  
25 subsection (g)(1); and

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

5           (i) 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 or update and submit to the appro-  
9 priate committees of Congress a plan for an inte-  
10 grated cross-sectoral ocean mapping, exploration,  
11 and characterization initiative.

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

14           (A) discuss the utility and benefits of  
15 ocean exploration and characterization;

16           (B) identify and describe national ocean  
17 mapping, exploration, and characterization pri-  
18 orities;

19           (C) identify and describe Federal and fed-  
20 erally funded ocean mapping, exploration, and  
21 characterization programs;

22           (D) facilitate and incorporate non-Federal  
23 input into national ocean mapping, exploration,  
24 and characterization priorities;

1           (E) ensure effective coordination of ocean  
2 mapping, exploration, and characterization ac-  
3 tivities among programs described in subpara-  
4 graph (C);

5           (F) identify opportunities for combining  
6 overlapping or complementary needs, activities,  
7 and resources of Federal agencies and non-Fed-  
8 eral organizations relating to ocean mapping,  
9 exploration, and characterization while not re-  
10 ducing benefits from existing mapping, explo-  
11 rations, and characterization activities;

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

21           (H) develop a transparent and sustained  
22 mechanism for non-Federal partnerships and  
23 stakeholder engagement in strategic planning  
24 and mission execution to be implemented not  
25 later than December 31, 2022;

1 (I) establish standardized collection and  
2 data management protocols, such as with re-  
3 spect to metadata, for ocean mapping, explo-  
4 ration, and characterization;

5 (J) encourage the development, testing,  
6 demonstration, and adoption of innovative  
7 ocean mapping, exploration, and characteriza-  
8 tion technologies and applications;

9 (K) promote protocols for accepting data,  
10 equipment, approaches, or other resources that  
11 support national ocean mapping, exploration,  
12 and characterization priorities;

13 (L) identify best practices for the protec-  
14 tion of marine life during mapping, exploration,  
15 and characterization activities;

16 (M) identify training, technology, and  
17 other resource requirements for enabling the  
18 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administra-  
19 tion and other appropriate Federal agencies to  
20 support a coordinated national ocean mapping,  
21 exploration, and characterization effort;

22 (N) identify and facilitate a centralized  
23 mechanism or office for coordinating data col-  
24 lection, compilation, processing, archiving, and  
25 dissemination activities relating to ocean map-

1           ping, exploration, and characterization that  
2           meets Federal mandates for data accuracy and  
3           accessibility;

4           (O) designate repositories responsible for  
5           archiving and managing ocean mapping, explo-  
6           ration, and characterization data;

7           (P) set forth a timetable and estimated  
8           costs for implementation and completion of the  
9           plan;

10          (Q) to the extent practicable, align ocean  
11          exploration and characterization efforts with ex-  
12          isting programs and identify key gaps; and

13          (R) identify criteria for determining the  
14          optimal frequency of observations.

15          (j) BRIEFINGS.—Not later than 1 year after the date  
16          of the enactment of this Act, and not less frequently than  
17          once every 2 years thereafter, the Council shall brief the  
18          appropriate committees of Congress on—

19                 (1) progress made toward meeting the national  
20                 priorities described in subsection (i)(2)(B); and

21                 (2) recommendations for meeting such prior-  
22                 ities, such as additional authorities that may be  
23                 needed to develop a mechanism for non-Federal  
24                 partnerships and stakeholder engagement described  
25                 in subsection (i)(2)(H).

1 (k) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DE-  
2 FINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate commit-  
3 tees of Congress” means—

4 (1) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and  
5 Transportation and the Committee on Armed Serv-  
6 ices of the Senate; and

7 (2) the Committee on Natural Resources, the  
8 Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and  
9 the Committee on Armed Services of the House of  
10 Representatives.

11 **SEC. 6. MODIFICATIONS TO THE OCEAN EXPLORATION**  
12 **PROGRAM OF THE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND**  
13 **ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION.**

14 (a) PURPOSE.—Section 12001 of the Omnibus Public  
15 Land Management Act of 2009 (33 U.S.C. 3401) is  
16 amended by striking “and the national undersea research  
17 program”.

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

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

22 (2) in the second sentence, by striking “and un-  
23 dersea research and exploration” and inserting “re-  
24 search and ocean exploration and characterization  
25 efforts”.

1 (c) POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE ADMINIS-  
2 TRATOR.—

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

5 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1),  
6 by inserting “, in coordination with the Ocean  
7 Policy Committee established under section  
8 8932 of title 10, United States Code,” after  
9 “Administration”;

10 (B) in paragraph (1)—

11 (i) by striking “voyages” and insert-  
12 ing “expeditions”;

13 (ii) by striking “Federal agencies”  
14 and all that follows through “and survey”  
15 and inserting “Federal and State agencies,  
16 Tribal governments, private industry, aca-  
17 demia, and nongovernmental organizations,  
18 to map, explore, and characterize”; and

19 (iii) by inserting “characterize,” after  
20 “observe,”;

21 (C) in paragraph (2), by inserting “of the  
22 exclusive economic zone” after “deep ocean re-  
23 gions”;

24 (D) in paragraph (3), by striking “voy-  
25 ages” and inserting “expeditions”;



1           (E) in paragraph (4), by striking “, in con-  
2           sultation with the National Science Founda-  
3           tion,”;

4           (F) by amending paragraph (5) to read as  
5           follows:

6           “(5) support technological innovation of the  
7           United States marine science community by pro-  
8           moting the development and use of new and emerg-  
9           ing technologies for research, communication, navi-  
10          gation, and data collection, such as sensors and au-  
11          tonomous vehicles;”;

12          (G) in paragraph (6)—

13           (i) by inserting “, in collaboration  
14           with the National Ocean Mapping, Explo-  
15           ration, and Characterization Council estab-  
16           lished under section 5 of the National  
17           Ocean Exploration Act,” after “forum”;  
18           and

19           (ii) by striking the period at the end  
20           and inserting “; and”; and

21          (H) by adding at the end the following:

22           “(7) provide guidance, in coordination with the  
23           National Ocean Mapping, Exploration, and Charac-  
24           terization Council, to Federal and State agencies,  
25           Tribal governments, private industry, academia (in-

1 cluding secondary schools, community colleges, and  
2 universities), and nongovernmental organizations on  
3 data standards, protocols for accepting data, and co-  
4 ordination of data collection, compilation, processing,  
5 archiving, and dissemination for data relating to  
6 ocean exploration and characterization.”.

7 (2) DONATIONS.—Section 12003(b) of such Act  
8 (33 U.S.C. 3403(b)) is amended to read as follows:

9 “(b) DONATIONS.—For the purpose of mapping, ex-  
10 ploring, and characterizing the oceans or increasing the  
11 knowledge of the oceans, the Administrator may—

12 “(1) accept monetary donations and donations  
13 of property, data, and equipment; and

14 “(2) pay all necessary expenses in connection  
15 with the conveyance or transfer of a gift, devise, or  
16 bequest.”.

17 (3) DEFINITION OF EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC  
18 ZONE.—Section 12003 of such Act (33 U.S.C. 3403)  
19 is amended by adding at the end the following:

20 “(c) DEFINITION OF EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE.—  
21 In this section, the term ‘exclusive economic zone’ means  
22 the zone established by Presidential Proclamation Number  
23 5030, dated March 10, 1983 (16 U.S.C. 1453 note; relat-  
24 ing to the exclusive economic zone of the United States  
25 of America).”.

1 (d) REPEAL OF OCEAN EXPLORATION AND UNDER-  
2 SEA RESEARCH TECHNOLOGY AND INFRASTRUCTURE  
3 TASK FORCE.—Section 12004 of such Act (33 U.S.C.  
4 3404) is repealed.

5 (e) EDUCATION, WORKFORCE TRAINING, AND OUT-  
6 REACH.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—Such Act is further amended  
8 by inserting after section 12003 the following new  
9 section 12004:

10 **“SEC. 12004. EDUCATION, WORKFORCE TRAINING, AND**  
11 **OUTREACH.**

12 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the Na-  
13 tional Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shall—

14 “(1) conduct education and outreach efforts in  
15 order to broadly disseminate information to the pub-  
16 lic on the discoveries made by the program under  
17 section 12002; and

18 “(2) to the extent possible, coordinate the ef-  
19 forts described in paragraph (1) with the outreach  
20 strategies of other domestic or international ocean  
21 mapping, exploration, and characterization initia-  
22 tives.

23 “(b) EDUCATION AND OUTREACH EFFORTS.—Ef-  
24 forts described in subsection (a)(1) may include—

1           “(1) education of the general public, teachers,  
2           students, and ocean and coastal resource managers;  
3           and

4           “(2) workforce training, reskilling, and opportu-  
5           nities to encourage development of ocean related  
6           science, technology, engineering, and mathematics  
7           (STEM) technical training programs involving sec-  
8           ondary schools, community colleges, and universities,  
9           including Historically Black Colleges or Universities  
10          (within the meaning of the term “part B institution”  
11          under section 322 of the Higher Education Act of  
12          1965 (20 U.S.C. 1061)), Tribal Colleges or Univer-  
13          sities (as defined in section 316(b) of such Act (20  
14          U.S.C. 1059c(b)), and other minority-serving insti-  
15          tutions (as described in section 371(a) of such Act  
16          (20 U.S.C. 1067q(a)).

17          “(e) OUTREACH STRATEGY.—Not later than 180  
18          days after the date of the enactment of the National  
19          Ocean Exploration Act, the Administrator of the National  
20          Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shall develop an  
21          outreach strategy to broadly disseminate information on  
22          the discoveries made by the program under section  
23          12002.”.

24                 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of con-  
25          tents in section 1(b) of the Omnibus Public Land

1 Management Act of 2009 (Public Law 111–11; 123  
2 Stat. 991) is amended by striking the item relating  
3 to section 12004 and inserting the following:

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

4 (f) OCEAN EXPLORATION ADVISORY BOARD.—

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

11 (2) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—Section  
12 12005(c) of such Act (33 U.S.C. 3505(c)) is amend-  
13 ed by inserting “this” before “part”.

14 (g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section  
15 12006 of such Act (33 U.S.C. 3406) is amended by strik-  
16 ing “this part” and all that follows and inserting “this  
17 part \$60,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2021 through  
18 2030”.

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

21 **“SEC. 12007. DEFINITIONS.**

22 “In this part:

23 “(1) CHARACTERIZATION.—The terms ‘charac-  
24 terization’, ‘characterize’, and ‘characterizing’ refer  
25 to activities that provide comprehensive data and in-

1       terpretations for a specific area of interest of the  
2       seafloor, sub-bottom, water column, or hydrologic  
3       features, such as water masses and currents, in di-  
4       rect support of specific research, environmental pro-  
5       tection, resource management, policymaking, or ap-  
6       plied mission objectives.

7               “(2) **EXPLORATION.**—The term ‘exploration’,  
8       ‘explore’, and ‘exploring’ refer to activities that pro-  
9       vide—

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

13               “(B) an initial assessment of the physical,  
14       chemical, geological, biological, archaeological,  
15       or other characteristics of such an area.

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

23               (i) **CLERICAL AMENDMENT.**—The table of contents  
24       in section 1(b) of the Omnibus Public Land Management  
25       Act of 2009 (Public Law 111–11; 123 Stat. 991) is

1 amended by inserting after the item relating to section  
2 12006 the following:

“Sec. 12007. Definitions.”.

3 **SEC. 7. REPEAL.**

4 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—The NOAA Undersea Research  
5 Program Act of 2009 (part II of subtitle A of title XII  
6 of Public Law 111–11; 33 U.S.C. 3421 et seq.) is re-  
7 pealed.

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

13 **SEC. 8. MODIFICATIONS TO OCEAN AND COASTAL MAPPING**  
14 **PROGRAM OF THE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND**  
15 **ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION.**

16 (a) **ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.**—

17 (1) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 12202(a) of the  
18 Ocean and Coastal Mapping Integration Act (33  
19 U.S.C. 3501(a)) is amended—

20 (A) by striking “establish a program to de-  
21 velop a coordinated and” and inserting “estab-  
22 lish and maintain a program to coordinate”;

23 (B) by striking “plan” and inserting “ef-  
24 forts”; and

1 (C) by striking “that enhances” and all  
2 that follows and inserting “that—

3 “(1) enhances ecosystem approaches in deci-  
4 sion-making for natural resource and habitat man-  
5 agement restoration and conservation, emergency re-  
6 sponse, and coastal resilience and adaptation;

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

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

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

12 (2) MEMBERSHIP.—Section 12202 of such Act  
13 (33 U.S.C. 3501) is amended by striking subsection  
14 (b) and redesignating subsection (c) as subsection  
15 (b).

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

19 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1),  
20 by striking “developing” and inserting “main-  
21 taining”;

22 (B) in paragraph (2), by inserting “and  
23 for leveraging existing Federal geospatial serv-  
24 ices capacities and contract vehicles for effi-  
25 ciencies” after “coastal mapping”;



1           (C) in paragraph (7), by striking “with  
2           coastal state and local government programs”  
3           and inserting “with mapping programs, in con-  
4           junction with Federal and State agencies, Trib-  
5           al governments, private industry, academia, and  
6           nongovernmental organizations”;

7           (D) in paragraph (8), by striking “of real-  
8           time tide data and the development” and insert-  
9           ing “of tide data and water-level data and the  
10          development and dissemination”;

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

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

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

16          “(11) support—

17                 “(A) the Ocean Science and Technology  
18                 Subcommittee of the Ocean Policy Committee  
19                 established under section 8932(c) of title 10,  
20                 United States Code; and

21                 “(B) the National Ocean Mapping, Explo-  
22                 ration, and Characterization Council established  
23                 under section 5 of the National Ocean Explo-  
24                 ration Act.”.

1 (b) INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP ON OCEAN AND  
2 COASTAL MAPPING.—

3 (1) NAME CHANGE.—The Ocean and Coastal  
4 Mapping Integration Act (33 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.) is  
5 amended—

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

7 (i) in subsection (a), by striking  
8 “Interagency Committee on Ocean and  
9 Coastal Mapping” and inserting “Inter-  
10 agency Working Group on Ocean and  
11 Coastal Mapping under section 12203”;  
12 and

13 (ii) in subsection (b), as redesignated  
14 by subsection (a)(2), by striking “Com-  
15 mittee” and inserting “Working Group”;

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

17 (i) in the section heading, by striking  
18 “**COMMITTEE**” and inserting “**WORKING**  
19 **GROUP**”;

20 (ii) in subsection (b), in the first sen-  
21 tence, by striking “committee” and insert-  
22 ing “Working Group”;

23 (iii) in subsection (e), by striking  
24 “committee” and inserting “Working  
25 Group”;

1 (iv) in subsection (f), by striking  
2 “committee” and inserting “Working  
3 Group”; and

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

6 “(3) WORKING GROUP.—The term ‘Working  
7 Group’ means the Interagency Working Group on  
8 Ocean and Coastal Mapping under section 12203.”.

9 (2) IN GENERAL.—Section 12203(a) of such  
10 Act (33 U.S.C. 3502(a)) is amended by striking  
11 “within 30 days” and all that follows and inserting  
12 “not later than 30 days after the date of the enact-  
13 ment of the National Ocean Exploration Act, shall  
14 use the Interagency Working Group on Ocean and  
15 Coastal Mapping in existence as of the date of the  
16 enactment of such Act to implement section  
17 12202.”.

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

20 (A) in the first sentence, by striking “sen-  
21 ior” both places it appears and inserting “sen-  
22 ior-level”;

23 (B) in the third sentence, by striking “the  
24 Minerals Management Service” and inserting  
25 “the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management of

1 the Department of the Interior, the Office of  
2 the Assistant Secretary, Fish and Wildlife and  
3 Parks of the Department of the Interior”; and

4 (C) by striking the second sentence.

5 (4) CO-CHAIRS.—Section 12203(c) of such Act  
6 (33 U.S.C. 3502(c)) is amended to read as follows:

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

9 “(1) The National Oceanic and Atmospheric  
10 Administration.

11 “(2) The Department of the Interior.

12 “(3) The United States Army Corps of Engi-  
13 neers.”.

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

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

20 (6) MEETINGS.—Section 12203(e) of such Act  
21 (33 U.S.C. 3502(e)) is amended by striking “each  
22 subcommittee and each working group” and insert-  
23 ing “each subordinate group”.

24 (7) COORDINATION.—Section 12203(f) of such  
25 Act (33 U.S.C. 3502(f)) is amended by striking

1 paragraphs (1) through (5) and inserting the fol-  
2 lowing:

3 “(1) other Federal efforts, such as the Digital  
4 Coast, the Federal Geographic Data Committee,  
5 GeoPlatform, the Integrated Ocean Observing Sys-  
6 tem, the Hydrographic Services Review Panel of the  
7 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration,  
8 the Ocean Exploration Advisory Board of the Na-  
9 tional Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the  
10 National Geospatial Advisory Committee of the De-  
11 partment of the Interior, the advisory committee for  
12 the National Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observa-  
13 tion System, and the Technical Mapping Advisory  
14 Council of the Federal Emergency Management  
15 Agency;

16 “(2) international mapping activities;

17 “(3) coastal states;

18 “(4) coastal Indian Tribes;

19 “(5) data acquisition and user groups through  
20 workshops, partnerships, and other appropriate  
21 mechanisms; and

22 “(6) representatives of nongovernmental enti-  
23 ties.”.

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

4           (9) **FUNCTIONS.**—Section 12203 of such Act  
5 (33 U.S.C. 3502), as amended by paragraph (8), is  
6 further amended by adding at the end the following:

7           “(g) **SUPPORT FUNCTIONS.**—The Working Group  
8 shall support the National Ocean Mapping, Exploration,  
9 and Characterization Council established under section 5  
10 of the National Ocean Exploration Act and the Ocean  
11 Science and Technology Subcommittee of the Ocean Policy  
12 Committee established under section 8932(c) of title 10,  
13 United States Code, on ocean mapping activities and asso-  
14 ciated technology development across the Federal Govern-  
15 ment, State governments, private industry, nongovern-  
16 mental organizations, and academia.”.

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

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

22           (e) **BIENNIAL REPORTS.**—Section 12204 of the  
23 Ocean and Coastal Mapping Integration Act (33 U.S.C.  
24 3503) is amended—

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

16           (2) in paragraph (1), by inserting “, including  
17 the data maintained by the National Centers for En-  
18 vironmental Information of the National Oceanic  
19 and Atmospheric Administration,” after “mapping  
20 data”;

21           (3) in paragraph (3), by inserting “, including  
22 a plan to map the coasts of the United States on a  
23 requirements-based cycle, with mapping agencies  
24 and partners coordinating on a unified approach  
25 that factors in recent related studies, meets multiple

1 user requirements, and identifies gaps” after “ac-  
2 complished”;

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

6 (5) in paragraph (10), as so redesignated, by  
7 striking “with coastal state and local government  
8 programs” and inserting “with international, coastal  
9 state, and local government and nongovernmental  
10 mapping programs”;

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

13 (A) by striking “increase” and inserting  
14 “streamline and expand”;

15 (B) by inserting “for the purpose of ful-  
16 filling Federal mapping and charting respon-  
17 sibilities, plans, and strategies” after “entities”;

18 and

19 (C) by striking “; and” and inserting a  
20 semicolon;

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

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



1           “(13) a progress report on the development of  
2           new and innovative technologies and applications  
3           through research and development, including cooper-  
4           ative or other agreements with joint or cooperative  
5           research institutes and centers and other nongovern-  
6           mental entities;

7           “(14) a description of best practices in data  
8           processing and distribution and leveraging opportu-  
9           nities among agencies represented on the Working  
10          Group and with coastal states, coastal Indian Tribes,  
11          and nongovernmental entities;

12          “(15) an identification of any training, tech-  
13          nology, or other requirements for enabling Federal  
14          mapping programs, vessels, and aircraft to support  
15          a coordinated ocean and coastal mapping program;  
16          and

17          “(16) a timetable for implementation and com-  
18          pletion of the plan described in paragraph (3), in-  
19          cluding recommendations for integrating new ap-  
20          proaches into the program.”.

21          (d) NOAA JOINT OCEAN AND COASTAL MAPPING  
22          CENTERS.—

23                 (1) CENTERS.—Section 12205(e) of such Act  
24                 (33 U.S.C. 3504(e)) is amended—

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

3 (B) in paragraph (4), by inserting “and  
4 uncrewed” after “sensing”.

5 (2) **PLAN.**—Section 12205 of such Act (33  
6 U.S.C. 3504) is amended—

7 (A) in the section heading, by striking  
8 “**PLAN**” and inserting “**NOAA JOINT OCEAN**  
9 **AND COASTAL MAPPING CENTERS**”;

10 (B) by striking subsections (a), (b), and  
11 (d); and

12 (C) in subsection (c), by striking “(c)  
13 NOAA JOINT OCEAN AND COASTAL MAPPING  
14 CENTERS.—”.

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

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

20 (e) **OCEAN AND COASTAL MAPPING FEDERAL FUND-**  
21 **ING OPPORTUNITY.**—The Ocean and Coastal Mapping In-  
22 tegration Act (33. U.S.C. 3501 et seq.) is amended—

23 (1) by redesignating sections 12206, 12207,  
24 and 12208 as sections 12208, 12209, and 12210,  
25 respectively; and

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

3           **“SEC. 12206. OCEAN AND COASTAL MAPPING FEDERAL**  
4                                   **FUNDING OPPORTUNITY.**

5           “(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the  
6           date of the enactment of the National Ocean Exploration  
7           Act, the Administrator shall develop an integrated ocean  
8           and coastal mapping Federal funding match opportunity  
9           within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administra-  
10          tion with Federal, State, Tribal, local, nonprofit, private  
11          industry, or academic partners in order to increase the co-  
12          ordinated acquisition, processing, stewardship, and archi-  
13          val of new ocean and coastal mapping data in United  
14          States waters.

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

19                 “(1) specific and detailed criteria that must be  
20                 addressed by an applicant, such as geographic over-  
21                 lap with pre-established priorities, number and type  
22                 of project partners, benefit to the applicant, coordi-  
23                 nation with other funding opportunities, and benefit  
24                 to the public;

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

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

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

15 **“SEC. 12207. COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS, CONTRACTS,**  
16 **AND GRANTS.**

17           “(a) IN GENERAL.—To carry out interagency activi-  
18 ties under this subtitle, the heads of agencies represented  
19 on the Working Group may enter into cooperative agree-  
20 ments, or any other agreement with each other, and trans-  
21 fer, receive, and expend funds made available by any Fed-  
22 eral agency, any State or subdivision thereof, or any public  
23 or private organization or individual, for ocean and coastal  
24 mapping investigations, surveys, studies, and other  
25 geospatial collaborations authorized by this subtitle or

1 agreements authorized by section 5 of the Act entitled ‘An  
2 Act to define the functions and duties of the Coast and  
3 Geodetic Survey, and for other purposes’, approved Au-  
4 gust 6, 1947 (33 U.S.C. 883e).

5 “(b) GRANTS.—The Administrator may make grants  
6 to any State or subdivision thereof or any public or private  
7 organization or individual to carry out the purposes of this  
8 subtitle.”.

9 (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section  
10 12209 of such Act, as redesignated by subsection (e)(1),  
11 is amended—

12 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “this subtitle”  
13 and all that follows and inserting “this subtitle  
14 \$45,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2021 through  
15 2030.”; and

16 (2) in subsection (b), by striking “this subtitle”  
17 and all that follows and inserting “this subtitle  
18 \$15,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2021 through  
19 2030.”;

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

21 (4) by inserting after subsection (b) the fol-  
22 lowing:

23 “(c) OCEAN AND COASTAL MAPPING FEDERAL  
24 FUNDING OPPORTUNITY.—Of amounts appropriated pur-

1 suant to subsection (a), \$20,000,000 is authorized to  
2 carry out section 12206.”.

3 (g) DEFINITIONS.—

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

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

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

18 (h) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—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 striking the items relating to sections 12206  
22 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.”.

1 **SEC. 9. MODIFICATIONS TO HYDROGRAPHIC SERVICES IM-**  
2 **PROVEMENT ACT OF 1998.**

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

8 (b) **FUNCTIONS OF THE ADMINISTRATOR.**—Section  
9 303(b) of such Act (33 U.S.C. 892a(b)) is amended—

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

13 (2) in paragraph (2)—

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

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

22 (C) by striking “; and” and inserting a  
23 semicolon.

24 (c) **QUALITY ASSURANCE PROGRAM.**—Section 304(a)  
25 of such Act (33 U.S.C. 892b(a)) is amended by striking

1 “product produced” and inserting “product or service pro-  
2 duced or disseminated”.

3 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section  
4 306(a) of such Act (33 U.S.C. 892d(a)) is amended—

5 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “\$70,814,000  
6 for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023” and in-  
7 serting “\$71,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2021  
8 through 2030”;

9 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking “\$25,000,000  
10 for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023” and in-  
11 serting “\$34,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2021  
12 through 2030”;

13 (3) in paragraph (3), by striking “\$29,932,000  
14 for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023” and in-  
15 serting “\$38,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2021  
16 through 2030”;

17 (4) in paragraph (4), by striking “\$26,800,000  
18 for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023” and in-  
19 serting “\$45,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2021  
20 through 2030”; and

21 (5) in paragraph (5), by striking “\$30,564,000  
22 for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023” and in-  
23 serting “\$35,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2021  
24 through 2030”.