

1 (4) the Committee on Appropriations of the
2 House of Representatives.

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1 **TITLE C—CORAL REEF**
2 **CONSERVATION**
3 **Subtitle A—Reauthorization of**
4 **Coral Reef Conservation Act of**
5 **2000**

6 **SEC. 10001. REAUTHORIZATION OF CORAL REEF CON-**
7 **SERVATION ACT OF 2000.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Coral Reef Conservation Act
9 of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 6401 et seq.) is amended by striking
10 sections 202 through 210 and inserting the following:

1 **“SEC. 202. PURPOSES.**

2 “The purposes of this title are—

3 “(1) to conserve and restore the condition of
4 United States coral reef ecosystems challenged by
5 natural and human-accelerated changes, including
6 increasing ocean temperatures, changing ocean
7 chemistry, coral bleaching, coral diseases, water
8 quality degradation, invasive species, and illegal, un-
9 reported, and unregulated fishing;

10 “(2) to promote the science-based management
11 and sustainable use of coral reef ecosystems to ben-
12 efit local communities and the Nation, including
13 through improved integration and cooperation
14 among Federal and non-Federal stakeholders re-
15 sponsible for managing coral reef resources;

16 “(3) to develop sound scientific information on
17 the condition of coral reef ecosystems, continuing
18 and emerging threats to such ecosystems, and the
19 efficacy of innovative tools, technologies, and strate-
20 gies to mitigate stressors and restore such eco-
21 systems, including evaluation criteria to determine
22 the effectiveness of management interventions, and
23 accurate mapping for coral reef restoration;

24 “(4) to assist in the preservation of coral reefs
25 by supporting science-based, consensus-driven, and
26 community-based coral reef management by covered

1 States and covered Native entities, including moni-
2 toring, conservation, and restoration projects that
3 empower local communities, small businesses, and
4 nongovernmental organizations;

5 “(5) to provide financial resources, technical as-
6 sistance, and scientific expertise to supplement, com-
7 plement, and strengthen community-based manage-
8 ment programs and conservation and restoration
9 projects of non-Federal reefs;

10 “(6) to establish a formal mechanism for col-
11 lecting and allocating monetary donations from the
12 private sector to be used for coral reef conservation
13 and restoration projects;

14 “(7) to support rapid, effective, and science-
15 based assessment and response to exigent cir-
16 cumstances that pose immediate and long-term
17 threats to coral reefs, including—

18 “(A) coral disease outbreaks;

19 “(B) invasive or nuisance species;

20 “(C) coral bleaching;

21 “(D) natural disasters; and

22 “(E) industrial or mechanical disasters, in-
23 cluding vessel groundings, hazardous spills, and
24 coastal construction accidents; and

1 “(8) to serve as a model for advancing similar
2 international efforts to monitor, conserve, and re-
3 store coral reef ecosystems.

4 **“SEC. 203. FEDERAL CORAL REEF MANAGEMENT AND RES-**
5 **TORATION ACTIVITIES.**

6 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator, the Sec-
7 retary of the Interior, or the Secretary of Commerce may
8 conduct activities described in subsection (b) to conserve
9 and restore coral reefs and coral reef ecosystems that are
10 consistent with—

11 “(1) all applicable laws governing resource
12 management in Federal and State waters, including
13 this Act;

14 “(2) the National Coral Reef Resilience Strat-
15 egy; and

16 “(3) coral reef action plans in effect under sec-
17 tion 205, as applicable.

18 “(b) ACTIVITIES DESCRIBED.—Activities described
19 in this subsection are activities to conserve, research, mon-
20 itor, assess, and restore coral reefs and coral reef eco-
21 systems in waters managed under the jurisdiction of a
22 Federal agency specified in subsection (c) or in coordina-
23 tion with a State in waters managed under the jurisdiction
24 of such State, including—

1 “(1) developing, including through the collection
2 of requisite in situ and remotely sensed data, high-
3 quality and digitized maps reflecting—

4 “(A) current and historical live coral cover
5 data;

6 “(B) coral reef habitat quality data;

7 “(C) priority areas for coral reef conserva-
8 tion to maintain biodiversity and ecosystem
9 structure and function, including the reef ma-
10 trix, that benefit coastal communities and living
11 marine resources;

12 “(D) priority areas for coral reef restora-
13 tion to enhance biodiversity and ecosystem
14 structure and function, including the reef ma-
15 trix, to benefit coastal communities and living
16 marine resources; and

17 “(E) areas of concern that may require en-
18 hanced monitoring of coral health and cover;

19 “(2) enhancing compliance with Federal laws
20 that prohibit or regulate—

21 “(A) the taking of coral products or spe-
22 cies associated with coral reefs; or

23 “(B) the use and management of coral reef
24 ecosystems;

1 “(3) long-term ecological monitoring of coral
2 reef ecosystems;

3 “(4) implementing species-specific recovery
4 plans for listed coral species consistent with the En-
5 dangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et
6 seq.);

7 “(5) restoring degraded coral reef ecosystems;

8 “(6) reducing land-based stressors to coral reef
9 ecosystems;

10 “(7) promoting ecologically sound navigation
11 and anchorages, including through navigational aids
12 and expansion of reef-safe anchorages and mooring
13 buoy systems, to enhance recreational access while
14 preventing or minimizing the likelihood of vessel im-
15 pacts or other physical damage to coral reefs;

16 “(8) monitoring and responding to severe
17 bleaching or mortality events, disease outbreaks,
18 invasive species outbreaks, and significant maritime
19 accidents, including hazardous spill cleanup and the
20 removal of grounded vessels;

21 “(9) conducting scientific research that contrib-
22 utes to the understanding, sustainable use, and long-
23 term conservation of coral reefs;

24 “(10) enhancing public awareness, under-
25 standing, and appreciation of coral reefs and coral

1 reef ecosystems and their ecological and socio-
2 economic value; and

3 “(11) centrally archiving, managing, and dis-
4 tributing on a public website data sets and coral reef
5 ecosystem assessments, including the data reposi-
6 tories of the Coral Reef Conservation Program of
7 the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administra-
8 tion.

9 “(c) FEDERAL AGENCIES SPECIFIED.—A Federal
10 agency specified in this subsection is one of the following:

11 “(1) The National Oceanic and Atmospheric
12 Administration.

13 “(2) The National Park Service.

14 “(3) The United States Fish and Wildlife Serv-
15 ice.

16 “(4) The Office of Insular Affairs.

17 **“SEC. 204. NATIONAL CORAL REEF RESILIENCE STRATEGY.**

18 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall—

19 “(1) not later than 2 years after the date of the
20 enactment of the James M. Inhofe National Defense
21 Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023, develop a
22 national coral reef resilience strategy; and

23 “(2) review and revise the strategy—

24 “(A) not less frequently than once every 15
25 years;

1 “(B) not less frequently than once every 5
2 years, in the case of guidance on best practices
3 under subsection (b)(4); and

4 “(C) as appropriate.

5 “(b) ELEMENTS.—The strategy required by sub-
6 section (a) shall include the following:

7 “(1) A discussion addressing—

8 “(A) continuing and emerging threats to
9 the resilience of United States coral reef eco-
10 systems;

11 “(B) remaining gaps in coral reef eco-
12 system research, monitoring, and assessment;

13 “(C) the status of management coopera-
14 tion and integration among Federal reef man-
15 agers and covered reef managers;

16 “(D) the status of efforts to manage and
17 disseminate critical information, and enhance
18 interjurisdictional data sharing, related to re-
19 search, reports, data sets, and maps;

20 “(E) areas of special focus, which may in-
21 clude—

22 “(i) improving natural coral recruit-
23 ment;

24 “(ii) preventing avoidable losses of
25 corals and their habitat;

- 1 “(iii) enhancing the resilience of coral
2 populations;
- 3 “(iv) supporting a resilience-based
4 management approach;
- 5 “(v) developing, coordinating, and im-
6 plementing watershed management plans;
- 7 “(vi) building and sustaining water-
8 shed management capacity at the local
9 level;
- 10 “(vii) providing data essential for
11 coral reef fisheries management;
- 12 “(viii) building capacity for coral reef
13 fisheries management;
- 14 “(ix) increasing understanding of
15 coral reef ecosystem services;
- 16 “(x) educating the public on the im-
17 portance of coral reefs, threats and solu-
18 tions; and
- 19 “(xi) evaluating intervention efficacy;
- 20 “(F) the status of conservation efforts, in-
21 cluding the use of marine protected areas to
22 serve as replenishment zones developed con-
23 sistent with local practices and traditions and
24 in cooperation with, and with respect for the

1 scientific, technical, and management expertise
2 and responsibilities of, covered reef managers;

3 “(G) science-based adaptive management
4 and restoration efforts; and

5 “(H) management of coral reef emer-
6 gencies and disasters.

7 “(2) A statement of national goals and objec-
8 tives designed to guide—

9 “(A) future Federal coral reef management
10 and restoration activities authorized under sec-
11 tion 203;

12 “(B) conservation and restoration prior-
13 ities for grants awarded under section 211; and

14 “(C) research priorities for the reef re-
15 search coordination institutes designated under
16 section 213(b)(1)(B).

17 “(3) A designation of priority areas for con-
18 servation, and priority areas for restoration, to sup-
19 port the review and approval of grants under section
20 211(e).

21 “(4) Technical assistance in the form of general
22 templates for use by covered reef managers and
23 Federal reef managers to guide the development of
24 coral reef action plans under section 205, including
25 guidance on the best science-based practices to re-

1 spond to coral reef emergencies that can be included
2 in coral reef action plans.

3 “(c) CONSULTATIONS.—In developing all elements of
4 the strategy required by subsection (a), the Administrator
5 shall—

6 “(1) consult with the Secretary of the Interior,
7 the Task Force, covered States, and covered Native
8 entities;

9 “(2) consult with the Secretary of Defense, as
10 appropriate;

11 “(3) engage stakeholders, including covered
12 States, coral reef stewardship partnerships, reef re-
13 search institutes and research centers described in
14 section 213, and recipients of grants under section
15 211; and

16 “(4) solicit public review and comment regard-
17 ing scoping and the draft strategy.

18 “(d) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS; PUBLICATION.—
19 The Administrator shall—

20 “(1) submit the strategy required by subsection
21 (a) and any revisions to the strategy to the appro-
22 priate congressional committees; and

23 “(2) publish the strategy and any such revisions
24 on public websites of—

1 “(A) the Coral Reef Conservation Program
2 of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Ad-
3 ministration; and

4 “(B) the Task Force.

5 **“SEC. 205. CORAL REEF ACTION PLANS.**

6 “(a) PLANS PREPARED BY FEDERAL REEF MAN-
7 AGERS.—

8 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years
9 after the date of the enactment of the James M.
10 Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fis-
11 cal Year 2023 and 2 years after the date of publica-
12 tion of each National Coral Reef Resilience Strategy,
13 each Federal reef manager shall—

14 “(A) prepare a coral reef action plan to
15 guide management and restoration activities to
16 be undertaken within the responsibilities and
17 jurisdiction of the manager; or

18 “(B) in the case of a reef under the juris-
19 diction of a Federal reef manager for which
20 there is an action plan in effect as of such date
21 of enactment, update that plan to comply with
22 the requirements of this subsection.

23 “(2) ELEMENTS.—A plan prepared under para-
24 graph (1) by a Federal reef manager shall include
25 a discussion of the following:

1 “(A) Short- and medium-term coral reef
2 conservation and restoration objectives within
3 the jurisdiction of the manager.

4 “(B) A current adaptive management
5 framework to inform research, monitoring, and
6 assessment needs.

7 “(C) Tools, strategies, and partnerships
8 necessary to identify, monitor, and address pol-
9 lution, water quality, and other negative im-
10 pacts to coral reef ecosystems within the juris-
11 diction of the manager.

12 “(D) The status of efforts to improve coral
13 reef ecosystem management cooperation and in-
14 tegration between Federal reef managers and
15 covered reef managers, including the identifica-
16 tion of existing research and monitoring activi-
17 ties that can be leveraged for coral reef status
18 and trends assessments within the jurisdiction
19 of the manager.

20 “(E) Estimated budgetary and resource
21 considerations necessary to carry out the plan.

22 “(F) Contingencies for response to and re-
23 covery from emergencies and disasters.

24 “(G) In the case of an updated plan, an-
25 nual records of significant management and

1 restoration actions taken under the previous
2 plan, cash and noncash resources used to un-
3 dertake the actions, and the source of such re-
4 sources.

5 “(H) Documentation by the Federal reef
6 manager that the plan is consistent with the
7 National Coral Reef Resilience Strategy.

8 “(I) A data management plan to ensure
9 data, assessments, and accompanying informa-
10 tion are appropriately preserved, curated, pub-
11 licly accessible, and broadly reusable.

12 “(3) SUBMISSION TO TASK FORCE.—Each Fed-
13 eral reef manager shall submit a plan prepared
14 under paragraph (1) to the Task Force.

15 “(4) APPLICATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE PROCE-
16 DURE ACT.—Each plan prepared under paragraph
17 (1) shall be subject to the requirements of sub-
18 chapter II of chapter 5, and chapter 7, of title 5,
19 United States Code (commonly known as the ‘Ad-
20 ministrative Procedure Act’).

21 “(b) PLANS PREPARED BY COVERED REEF MAN-
22 AGERS.—

23 “(1) IN GENERAL.—A covered reef manager
24 may elect to prepare, submit to the Task Force, and
25 maintain a coral reef action plan to guide manage-

1 ment and restoration activities to be undertaken
2 within the responsibilities and jurisdiction of the
3 manager.

4 “(2) EFFECTIVE PERIOD.—A plan prepared
5 under this subsection shall remain in effect for 5
6 years, or until an updated plan is submitted to the
7 Task Force, whichever occurs first.

8 “(3) ELEMENTS.—A plan prepared under para-
9 graph (1) by a covered reef manager—

10 “(A) shall contain a discussion of—

11 “(i) short- and medium-term coral
12 reef conservation and restoration objectives
13 within the jurisdiction of the manager;

14 “(ii) estimated budgetary and re-
15 source considerations necessary to carry
16 out the plan;

17 “(iii) in the case of an updated plan,
18 annual records of significant management
19 and restoration actions taken under the
20 previous plan, cash and noncash resources
21 used to undertake the actions, and the
22 source of such resources; and

23 “(iv) contingencies for response to
24 and recovery from emergencies and disas-
25 ters; and

1 “(B) may contain a discussion of—

2 “(i) the status of efforts to improve
3 coral reef ecosystem management coopera-
4 tion and integration between Federal reef
5 managers and covered reef managers, in-
6 cluding the identification of existing re-
7 search and monitoring activities that can
8 be leveraged for coral reef status and
9 trends assessments within the jurisdiction
10 of the manager;

11 “(ii) a current adaptive management
12 framework to inform research, monitoring,
13 and assessment needs;

14 “(iii) tools, strategies, and partner-
15 ships necessary to identify, monitor, and
16 address pollution and water quality im-
17 pacts to coral reef ecosystems within the
18 jurisdiction of the manager; and

19 “(iv) a data management plan to en-
20 sure data, assessments, and accompanying
21 information are appropriately preserved,
22 curated, publicly accessible, and broadly
23 reusable.

24 “(c) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Administrator
25 and the Task Force shall make reasonable efforts to pro-

1 vide technical assistance upon request by a Federal reef
2 manager or covered reef manager developing a coral reef
3 action plan under this section.

4 “(d) PUBLICATION.—The Administrator shall publish
5 each coral reef action plan prepared and submitted to the
6 Task Force under this section on the public website of
7 the Coral Reef Conservation Program of the National Oce-
8 anic and Atmospheric Administration.

9 **“SEC. 206. CORAL REEF STEWARDSHIP PARTNERSHIPS.**

10 “(a) IN GENERAL.—To further community-based
11 stewardship of coral reefs, coral reef stewardship partner-
12 ships for Federal and non-Federal coral reefs may be es-
13 tablished in accordance with this section.

14 “(b) STANDARDS AND PROCEDURES.—The Adminis-
15 trator shall develop and adopt—

16 “(1) standards for identifying individual coral
17 reefs and ecologically significant units of coral reefs;
18 and

19 “(2) processes for adjudicating multiple appli-
20 cants for stewardship of the same coral reef or eco-
21 logically significant unit of a reef to ensure no geo-
22 graphic overlap in representation among stewardship
23 partnerships authorized by this section.

24 “(c) MEMBERSHIP FOR FEDERAL CORAL REEFS.—
25 A coral reef stewardship partnership that has identified,

1 as the subject of its stewardship activities, a coral reef
2 or ecologically significant unit of a coral reef that is fully
3 or partially under the management jurisdiction of any
4 Federal agency specified in section 203(c) shall, at a min-
5 imum, include the following:

6 “(1) That Federal agency, a representative of
7 which shall serve as chairperson of the coral reef
8 stewardship partnership.

9 “(2) A State or county’s resource management
10 agency to the extent that such partnership covers a
11 reef within such States or county’s jurisdiction.

12 “(3) A coral reef research center designated
13 under section 212(b).

14 “(4) A nongovernmental organization.

15 “(5) A covered Native entity culturally affili-
16 ated with the subject reef or ecologically significant
17 unit, if any.

18 “(6) Such other members as the partnership
19 considers appropriate, such as interested stakeholder
20 groups and covered Native entities.

21 “(d) MEMBERSHIP FOR NON-FEDERAL CORAL
22 REEFS.—

23 “(1) IN GENERAL.—A coral reef stewardship
24 partnership that has identified, as the subject of its
25 stewardship activities, a coral reef or ecologically sig-

1 nificant component of a coral reef that is not under
2 the management jurisdiction of any Federal agency
3 specified in section 203(c) shall, at a minimum, in-
4 clude the following:

5 “(A) A State or county’s resource manage-
6 ment agency or a covered Native entity, a rep-
7 resentative of which shall serve as the chair-
8 person of the coral reef stewardship partner-
9 ship.

10 “(B) A coral reef research center des-
11 ignated under section 212(b).

12 “(C) A nongovernmental organization.

13 “(D) Such other members as the partner-
14 ship considers appropriate, such as interested
15 stakeholder groups.

16 “(2) ADDITIONAL MEMBERS.—

17 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subpara-
18 graph (B), a coral reef stewardship partnership
19 described in paragraph (1) may also include
20 representatives of one or more Federal agen-
21 cies.

22 “(B) REQUESTS; APPROVAL.—A represent-
23 ative of a Federal agency described in subpara-
24 graph (A) may become a member of a coral reef

1 stewardship partnership described in paragraph
2 (1) if—

3 “(i) the representative submits a re-
4 quest to become a member to the chair-
5 person of the partnership referred to in
6 paragraph (1)(A); and

7 “(ii) the chairperson consents to the
8 request.

9 “(e) NONAPPLICABILITY OF FEDERAL ADVISORY
10 COMMITTEE ACT.—The Federal Advisory Committee Act
11 (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to coral reef stewardship
12 partnerships under this section.

13 **“SEC. 207. BLOCK GRANTS.**

14 “(a) IN GENERAL.—In each fiscal year beginning in
15 fiscal year 2023 and subject to the availability of appro-
16 priations, the Administrator shall provide block grants of
17 financial assistance of not less than \$500,000 to each cov-
18 ered State to support management and restoration activi-
19 ties and further the implementation of coral reef action
20 plans in effect under section 205 by covered States and
21 non-Federal coral reef stewardship partnerships in accord-
22 ance with this section. The Administrator shall review
23 each covered State’s application for block grant funding
24 to ensure that applications are consistent with applicable

1 action plans and the National Coral Reef Resilience Strat-
2 egy.

3 “(b) RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE ADMINISTRATOR.—

4 The Administrator is responsible for—

5 “(1) providing guidance on the proper docu-
6 mentation of expenditures authorized under this Act;

7 “(2) issuing annual solicitations to covered
8 States for awards under this section; and

9 “(3) determining the appropriate allocation of
10 additional amounts among covered States in accord-
11 ance with this section.

12 “(c) RESPONSIBILITIES OF COVERED STATES.—

13 Each covered State is responsible for documenting and re-
14 porting—

15 “(1) such State’s use of Federal funds received
16 under this Act; and

17 “(2) such expenditures of non-Federal funds
18 made in furtherance of coral reef management and
19 restoration as the Administrator determines appro-
20 priate.

21 “(d) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—Subject to the
22 availability of appropriations, the Administrator may seek
23 to enter into a cooperative agreement with a covered State
24 to fund coral reef conservation and restoration activities
25 in waters managed under the jurisdiction of such covered

1 State that are consistent with the National Coral Reef Re-
2 silience Strategy and any applicable action plan under sec-
3 tion 205.

4 “(e) ALL ISLANDS COMMITTEE.—The Administrator
5 may enter into a cooperative agreement with the All Is-
6 lands Committee of the Task Force to provide support for
7 its activities.

8 **“SEC. 208. CORAL REEF STEWARDSHIP FUND.**

9 “(a) AGREEMENT.—The Administrator shall seek to
10 enter into an agreement with the National Fish and Wild-
11 life Foundation (in this section referred to as the ‘Founda-
12 tion’), authorizing the Foundation to receive, hold, and ad-
13 minister funds received under this section.

14 “(b) FUND.—

15 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Foundation shall es-
16 tablish an account, which shall—

17 “(A) be known as the ‘Coral Reef Steward-
18 ship Fund’ (in this section referred to as the
19 ‘Fund’); and

20 “(B) serve as the successor to the account
21 known before the date of the enactment of the
22 James M. Inhofe National Defense Authoriza-
23 tion Act for Fiscal Year 2023 as the Coral Reef
24 Conservation Fund and administered through a
25 public-private partnership with the Foundation.

1 “(2) DEPOSITS.—The Foundation shall deposit
2 funds received under this section into the Fund.

3 “(3) PURPOSES.—The Fund shall be available
4 solely to support coral reef stewardship activities
5 that—

6 “(A) further the purposes of this title; and

7 “(B) are consistent with—

8 “(i) the National Coral Reef Resil-
9 ience Strategy; and

10 “(ii) coral reef action plans in effect,
11 if any, under section 205 covering a coral
12 reef or ecologically significant component
13 of a coral reef to be impacted by such ac-
14 tivities, if applicable.

15 “(4) INVESTMENT OF AMOUNTS.—

16 “(A) INVESTMENT OF AMOUNTS.—The
17 Foundation shall invest such portion of the
18 Fund as is not required to meet current with-
19 draws in interest-bearing obligations of the
20 United States or in obligations guaranteed as to
21 both principal and interest by the United
22 States.

23 “(B) INTEREST AND PROCEEDS.—The in-
24 terest on, and the proceeds from the sale or re-
25 demption of, any obligations held in the Fund

1 shall be credited to and form a part of the
2 Fund.

3 “(5) REVIEW OF PERFORMANCE.—The Admin-
4 istrator shall conduct a continuing review of all de-
5 posits into, and disbursements from, the Fund. Each
6 review shall include a written assessment concerning
7 the extent to which the Foundation has implemented
8 the goals and requirements of—

9 “(A) this section; and

10 “(B) the National Coral Reef Resilience
11 Strategy.

12 “(c) AUTHORIZATION TO SOLICIT DONATIONS.—

13 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Pursuant to an agreement
14 entered into under subsection (a), the Foundation
15 may accept, receive, solicit, hold, administer, and use
16 any gift (including, notwithstanding section 1342 of
17 title 31, United States Code, donations of services)
18 to further the purposes of this title.

19 “(2) DEPOSITS IN FUND.—Notwithstanding
20 section 3302 of title 31, United States Code, any
21 funds received as a gift shall be deposited and main-
22 tained in the Fund.

23 “(d) ADMINISTRATION.—Under an agreement en-
24 tered into pursuant to subsection (a), and subject to the
25 availability of appropriations, the Administrator may

1 transfer funds appropriated for such purposes to carry out
2 this title to the Foundation. Amounts received by the
3 Foundation under this subsection may be used for match-
4 ing, in whole or in part, contributions (whether in money,
5 services, or property) made to the Foundation by private
6 persons, State or local government agencies, or covered
7 Native entities.

8 **“SEC. 209. EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE.**

9 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other pro-
10 vision of law, from funds appropriated pursuant to the au-
11 thorization of appropriations under section 215, the Ad-
12 ministrator may provide emergency assistance to any cov-
13 ered State or coral reef stewardship partnership to re-
14 spond to immediate harm to coral reefs or coral reef eco-
15 systems arising from any of the exigent circumstances de-
16 scribed in subsection (b).

17 “(b) CORAL REEF EXIGENT CIRCUMSTANCES.—The
18 Administrator shall develop a list of, and criteria for, cir-
19 cumstances that pose an exigent threat to coral reefs, in-
20 cluding—

- 21 “(1) new and ongoing outbreaks of disease;
22 “(2) new and ongoing outbreaks of invasive or
23 nuisance species;
24 “(3) new and ongoing coral bleaching events;
25 “(4) natural disasters;

1 “(5) industrial or mechanical incidents, such as
2 vessel groundings, hazardous spills, or coastal con-
3 struction accidents; and

4 “(6) such other circumstances as the Adminis-
5 trator determines appropriate.

6 “(c) ANNUAL REPORT ON EXIGENT CIR-
7 CUMSTANCES.—On February 1 of each year, the Adminis-
8 trator shall submit to the appropriate congressional com-
9 mittees, the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate,
10 and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of
11 Representatives a report that—

12 “(1) describes locations with exigent cir-
13 cumstances described in subsection (b) that were
14 considered but declined for emergency assistance,
15 and the rationale for the decision; and

16 “(2) with respect to each instance in which
17 emergency assistance under this section was pro-
18 vided—

19 “(A) the location and a description of the
20 exigent circumstances that prompted the emer-
21 gency assistance, the entity that received the
22 assistance, and the current and expected out-
23 comes from the assistance;

24 “(B) a description of activities of the Na-
25 tional Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

1 that were curtailed as a result of providing the
2 emergency assistance; and

3 “(C) an assessment of whether further ac-
4 tion is needed to restore the affected coral reef,
5 recommendations for such restoration, and a
6 cost estimate to implement such recommenda-
7 tions.

8 **“SEC. 210. CORAL REEF DISASTER FUND.**

9 “(a) AGREEMENTS.—The Administrator shall seek to
10 enter into an agreement with the National Fish and Wild-
11 life Foundation (in this section referred to as the ‘Founda-
12 tion’), authorizing the Foundation to receive, hold, and ad-
13 minister funds received under this section.

14 “(b) FUND.—

15 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Foundation shall es-
16 tablish an account, to be known as the ‘Coral Reef
17 Disaster Fund’ (in this section referred to as the
18 ‘Fund’).

19 “(2) DEPOSITS.—The Foundation shall deposit
20 funds received under this section into the Fund.

21 “(3) PURPOSES.—The Fund shall be available
22 solely to support the long-term recovery of coral
23 reefs from exigent circumstances described in section
24 209(b)—

1 “(A) in partnership with non-Federal
2 stakeholders; and

3 “(B) in a manner that is consistent with—

4 “(i) the National Coral Reef Resilience Strategy; and

5 “(ii) coral reef action plans in effect,
6 if any, under section 205.

7
8 “(4) INVESTMENT OF AMOUNTS.—

9 “(A) INVESTMENT OF AMOUNTS.—The
10 Foundation shall invest such portion of the
11 Fund as is not required to meet current with-
12 draws in interest-bearing obligations of the
13 United States or in obligations guaranteed as to
14 both principal and interest by the United
15 States.

16 “(B) INTEREST AND PROCEEDS.—The in-
17 terest on, and the proceeds from, the sale or re-
18 demption of, any obligations held in the Fund
19 shall be credited to and form a part of the
20 Fund.

21 “(5) REVIEW OF PERFORMANCE.—The Admin-
22 istrator shall conduct continuing reviews of all de-
23 posits into, and disbursements from, the Fund. Each
24 such review shall include a written assessment con-
25 cerning the extent to which the Foundation has im-

1 plemented the goals and requirements of this sec-
2 tion.

3 “(c) AUTHORIZATION TO SOLICIT DONATIONS.—

4 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Pursuant to an agreement
5 entered into under subsection (a), the Foundation
6 may accept, receive, solicit, hold, administer, and use
7 any gift (including, notwithstanding section 1342 of
8 title 31, United States Code, donations of services)
9 to further the purposes of this title.

10 “(2) DEPOSITS IN FUND.—Notwithstanding
11 section 3302 of title 31, United States Code, any
12 funds received as a gift shall be deposited and main-
13 tained in the Fund.

14 **“SEC. 211. RUTH D. GATES CORAL REEF CONSERVATION**
15 **GRANT PROGRAM.**

16 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability of ap-
17 propriations, the Administrator shall establish a program
18 (to be known as the ‘Ruth D. Gates Coral Reef Conserva-
19 tion Grant Program’) to provide grants for projects for
20 the conservation and restoration of coral reef ecosystems
21 (in this section referred to as ‘coral reef projects’) pursu-
22 ant to proposals approved by the Administrator in accord-
23 ance with this section.

24 “(b) MATCHING REQUIREMENTS FOR GRANTS.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
2 graph (3), Federal funds for any coral reef project
3 for which a grant is provided under subsection (a)
4 may not exceed 50 percent of the total cost of the
5 project.

6 “(2) NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—The non-Federal
7 share of the cost of a coral reef project may be pro-
8 vided by in-kind contributions and other noncash
9 support.

10 “(3) WAIVER.—The Administrator may waive
11 all or part of the matching requirement under para-
12 graph (1) if the Administrator determines that no
13 reasonable means are available through which an ap-
14 plicant can meet the matching requirement with re-
15 spect to a coral reef project and the probable benefit
16 of the project outweighs the public interest in the
17 matching requirement.

18 “(c) ELIGIBILITY.—

19 “(1) IN GENERAL.—An entity described in
20 paragraph (2) may submit to the Administrator a
21 proposal for a coral reef project.

22 “(2) ENTITIES DESCRIBED.—An entity de-
23 scribed in this paragraph is—

24 “(A) a covered reef manager or a covered
25 Native entity;

1 “(B) a regional fishery management coun-
2 cil established under the Magnuson-Stevens
3 Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16
4 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.);

5 “(C) a coral reef stewardship partnership
6 seeking to implement a coral reef action plan in
7 effect under section 205;

8 “(D) a coral reef research center des-
9 ignated under section 212(b); or

10 “(E) a nongovernmental organization or
11 research institution with demonstrated expertise
12 in the conservation or restoration of coral reefs
13 in practice or through significant contributions
14 to the body of existing scientific research on
15 coral reefs.

16 “(d) PROJECT PROPOSALS.—Each proposal for a
17 grant under this section for a coral reef project shall in-
18 clude the following:

19 “(1) The name of the individual or entity re-
20 sponsible for conducting the project.

21 “(2) A description of the qualifications of the
22 individual or entity.

23 “(3) A succinct statement of the purposes of
24 the project.

1 “(4) An estimate of the funds and time re-
2 quired to complete the project.

3 “(5) Evidence of support for the project by ap-
4 propriate representatives of States or other govern-
5 ment jurisdictions in which the project will be con-
6 ducted.

7 “(6) Information regarding the source and
8 amount of matching funding available to the appli-
9 cant.

10 “(7) A description of how the project meets one
11 or more of the criteria under subsection (e)(2).

12 “(8) In the case of a proposal submitted by a
13 coral reef stewardship partnership, a description of
14 how the project aligns with the applicable coral reef
15 action plan in effect under section 205.

16 “(9) Any other information the Administrator
17 considers to be necessary for evaluating the eligi-
18 bility of the project for a grant under this sub-
19 section.

20 “(e) PROJECT REVIEW AND APPROVAL.—

21 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall re-
22 view each coral reef project proposal submitted
23 under this section to determine if the project meets
24 the criteria set forth in subsection (f).

1 “(2) PRIORITIZATION OF CONSERVATION
2 PROJECTS.—The Administrator shall prioritize the
3 awarding of funding for projects that meet the cri-
4 teria for approval described in—

5 “(A) subparagraphs (A) through (G) of
6 subsection (f)(2) that are proposed to be con-
7 ducted within priority areas identified for coral
8 reef conservation by the Administrator under
9 the National Coral Reef Resilience Strategy;
10 and

11 “(B) subparagraphs (E) through (L) of
12 subsection (f)(2) that are proposed to be con-
13 ducted within priority areas identified for coral
14 reef restoration by the Administrator under the
15 National Coral Reef Resilience Strategy.

16 “(3) REVIEW; APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL.—
17 Not later than 180 days after receiving a proposal
18 for a coral reef project under this section, the Ad-
19 ministrator shall—

20 “(A) request and consider written com-
21 ments on the proposal from each Federal agen-
22 cy, State government, covered Native entity, or
23 other government jurisdiction, including the rel-
24 evant regional fishery management councils es-
25 tablished under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery

1 Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C.
2 1801 et seq.), or any National Marine Sanc-
3 tuary or Marine National Monument, with ju-
4 risdiction or management authority over coral
5 reef ecosystems in the area where the project is
6 to be conducted, including the extent to which
7 the project is consistent with locally established
8 priorities, unless such entities were directly in-
9 volved in the development of the project pro-
10 posal;

11 “(B) provide for the merit-based peer re-
12 view of the proposal and require standardized
13 documentation of that peer review;

14 “(C) after considering any written com-
15 ments and recommendations based on the re-
16 views under subparagraphs (A) and (B), ap-
17 prove or disapprove the proposal; and

18 “(D) provide written notification of that
19 approval or disapproval, with summaries of all
20 written comments, recommendations, and peer
21 reviews, to the entity that submitted the pro-
22 posal, and each of those States, covered Native
23 entity, and other government jurisdictions that
24 provided comments under subparagraph (A).

1 “(f) CRITERIA FOR APPROVAL.—The Administrator
2 may not approve a proposal for a coral reef project under
3 this section unless the project—

4 “(1) is consistent with—

5 “(A) the National Coral Reef Resilience
6 Strategy; and

7 “(B) any Federal or non-Federal coral reef
8 action plans in effect under section 205 cov-
9 ering a coral reef or ecologically significant unit
10 of a coral reef to be affected by the project; and

11 “(2) will enhance the conservation and restora-
12 tion of coral reefs by—

13 “(A) addressing conflicts arising from the
14 use of environments near coral reefs or from
15 the use of corals, species associated with coral
16 reefs, and coral products, including supporting
17 consensus-driven and community-based plan-
18 ning and management initiatives for the protec-
19 tion of coral reef ecosystems;

20 “(B) improving compliance with laws that
21 prohibit or regulate the taking of coral products
22 or species associated with coral reefs or regulate
23 the use and management of coral reef eco-
24 systems;

1 “(C) designing and implementing networks
2 of real-time water quality monitoring along
3 coral reefs, including data collection related to
4 turbidity, nutrient availability, harmful algal
5 blooms, and plankton assemblages, with an em-
6 phasis on coral reefs impacted by agriculture
7 and urban development;

8 “(D) promoting ecologically sound naviga-
9 tion and anchorages, including mooring buoy
10 systems to promote enhanced recreational ac-
11 cess, near coral reefs;

12 “(E) furthering the goals and objectives of
13 coral reef action plans in effect under section
14 205;

15 “(F) mapping the location and distribution
16 of coral reefs and potential coral reef habitat;

17 “(G) stimulating innovation to advance the
18 ability of the United States to understand, re-
19 search, or monitor coral reef ecosystems, or to
20 develop management or adaptation options to
21 conserve and restore coral reef ecosystems;

22 “(H) implementing research to ensure the
23 population viability of coral species in United
24 States waters listed as threatened or endan-
25 gered under the Endangered Species Act of

1 1973 as detailed in the population-based recovery
2 criteria included in species-specific recovery
3 plans established under such Act;

4 “(I) developing and implementing cost-effective
5 methods to restore degraded coral reef
6 ecosystems or to create geographically appropriate
7 coral reef ecosystems in suitable waters,
8 including by improving habitat or promoting
9 success of keystone species, with an emphasis
10 on novel restoration strategies and techniques
11 to advance coral reef recovery and growth near
12 population centers threatened by rising sea levels
13 and storm surge;

14 “(J) translating and applying coral genetics
15 research to coral reef ecosystem restoration,
16 including research related to traits that promote
17 resilience to increasing ocean temperatures,
18 changing ocean chemistry, coral bleaching,
19 coral diseases, and invasive species;

20 “(K) developing and maintaining in situ
21 native coral propagation sites; or

22 “(L) developing and maintaining ex situ
23 coral propagation nurseries and land-based
24 coral gene banks to—

1 “(i) conserve or augment genetic di-
2 versity of native coral populations;

3 “(ii) support captive breeding of rare
4 coral species; or

5 “(iii) enhance resilience of native coral
6 populations to increasing ocean tempera-
7 tures, changing ocean chemistry, coral
8 bleaching, and coral diseases through selec-
9 tive breeding, conditioning, or other ap-
10 proaches that target genes, gene expres-
11 sion, phenotypic traits, or phenotypic plas-
12 ticity.

13 “(g) FUNDING REQUIREMENTS.—To the extent prac-
14 ticable based upon proposals for coral reef projects sub-
15 mitted to the Administrator, the Administrator shall en-
16 sure that funding for grants awarded under this section
17 during a fiscal year is distributed as follows:

18 “(1) Not less than 40 percent of funds available
19 shall be awarded for projects in areas of the Pacific
20 Ocean subject to the jurisdiction or control of the
21 United States.

22 “(2) Not less than 40 percent of the funds
23 available shall be awarded for projects in areas of
24 the Atlantic Ocean, the Gulf of Mexico, or the Carib-

1 bean Sea subject to the jurisdiction or control of the
2 United States.

3 “(3) To the extent there are viable applications
4 made by eligible coral reef stewardship partners, not
5 more than 67 percent of funds distributed in each
6 region in accordance with paragraphs (1) and (2)
7 may be made exclusively available to projects that
8 are—

9 “(A) submitted by a coral reef stewardship
10 partnership; and

11 “(B) consistent with the coral reef action
12 plan in effect under section 205 by such a part-
13 nership.

14 “(4) Of the funds distributed to support
15 projects in accordance with paragraph (3), not less
16 than 20 percent and not more than 33 percent shall
17 be awarded for projects submitted by a Federal coral
18 reef stewardship partnership, to the extent there are
19 viable applications made by eligible Federal coral
20 reef stewardship partnerships.

21 “(h) TASK FORCE.—The Administrator may consult
22 with the Secretary of the Interior and the Task Force to
23 obtain guidance in establishing priorities and evaluating
24 proposals for coral reef projects under this section.

1 **“SEC. 212. CORAL REEF RESEARCH.**

2 “(a) REEF RESEARCH COORDINATION INSTI-
3 TUTES.—

4 “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Administrator
5 shall designate 2 reef research coordination insti-
6 tutes for the purpose of advancing and sustaining
7 essential capabilities in coral reef research, one each
8 in the Atlantic and Pacific basins, to be known as
9 the ‘Atlantic Reef Research Coordination Institute’
10 and the ‘Pacific Reef Research Coordination Insti-
11 tute’, respectively.

12 “(2) MEMBERSHIP.—Each institute designated
13 under paragraph (1) shall be housed within a single
14 coral reef research center designated by the Admin-
15 istrator under subsection (b).

16 “(3) FUNCTIONS.—The institutes designated
17 under paragraph (1) shall—

18 “(A) conduct federally directed research to
19 fill national and regional coral reef ecosystem
20 research gaps and improve understanding of,
21 and responses to, continuing and emerging
22 threats to the resilience of United States coral
23 reef ecosystems consistent with the National
24 Coral Reef Resilience Strategy;

25 “(B) support ecological research and moni-
26 toring to study the effects of conservation and

1 restoration activities funded by this title on pro-
2 moting more effective coral reef management
3 and restoration; and

4 “(C) through agreements—

5 “(i) collaborate directly with States,
6 covered Native entities, covered coral reef
7 managers, nonprofit organizations, and
8 other coral reef research centers des-
9 ignated under subsection (b);

10 “(ii) assist in the development and im-
11 plementation of—

12 “(I) the National Coral Reef Re-
13 siliience Strategy; and

14 “(II) coral reef action plans
15 under section 205;

16 “(iii) build capacity within non-Fed-
17 eral governmental resource management
18 agencies to establish research priorities
19 and translate and apply research findings
20 to management and restoration practices;
21 and

22 “(iv) conduct public education and
23 awareness programs for policymakers, re-
24 source managers, and the general public
25 on—

1 “(I) coral reefs and coral reef
2 ecosystems;

3 “(II) best practices for coral reef
4 ecosystem management and restora-
5 tion;

6 “(III) the value of coral reefs;
7 and

8 “(IV) the threats to the sustain-
9 ability of coral reef ecosystems.

10 “(b) CORAL REEF RESEARCH CENTERS.—

11 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall—

12 “(A) periodically solicit applications for
13 designation of qualifying institutions in covered
14 States as coral reef research centers; and

15 “(B) designate all qualifying institutions in
16 covered States as coral reef research centers.

17 “(2) QUALIFYING INSTITUTIONS.—For pur-
18 poses of paragraph (1), an institution is a qualifying
19 institution if the Administrator determines that the
20 institution—

21 “(A) is operated by an institution of higher
22 education or nonprofit marine research organi-
23 zation;

1 “(B) has established management-driven
2 national or regional coral reef research or res-
3 toration programs;

4 “(C) has demonstrated abilities to coordi-
5 nate closely with appropriate Federal and State
6 agencies, and other academic and nonprofit or-
7 ganizations; and

8 “(D) maintains significant local community
9 engagement and outreach programs related to
10 coral reef ecosystems.

11 **“SEC. 213. CORAL REEF PRIZE COMPETITIONS.**

12 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability of ap-
13 propriations, the head of any Federal agency with a rep-
14 resentative serving on the United States Coral Reef Task
15 Force established by section 10011 of the James M.
16 Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year
17 2023, may, individually or in cooperation with one or more
18 agencies, carry out a program to award prizes competi-
19 tively under section 24 of the Stevenson-Wydler Tech-
20 nology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3719).

21 “(b) PURPOSES.—Any program carried out under
22 this section shall be for the purpose of stimulating innova-
23 tion to advance the ability of the United States to under-
24 stand, research, or monitor coral reef ecosystems, or to

1 develop management or adaptation options to preserve,
2 sustain, and restore coral reef ecosystems.

3 “(c) PRIORITY PROGRAMS.—Priority shall be given to
4 establishing programs under this section that address
5 communities, environments, or industries that are in dis-
6 tress as a result of the decline or degradation of coral reef
7 ecosystems, including—

8 “(1) scientific research and monitoring that
9 furthers the understanding of causes behind coral
10 reef decline and degradation and the generally slow
11 recovery following disturbances, including changing
12 ocean chemistry, temperature-related bleaching, dis-
13 ease, and their associated impacts on coral physi-
14 ology;

15 “(2) the development of monitoring or manage-
16 ment options for communities or industries that are
17 experiencing significant financial hardship;

18 “(3) the development of adaptation options to
19 alleviate economic harm and job loss caused by dam-
20 age to coral reef ecosystems;

21 “(4) the development of measures to help vul-
22 nerable communities or industries, with an emphasis
23 on rural communities and businesses; and

24 “(5) the development of adaptation and man-
25 agement options for impacted tourism industries.

1 **“SEC. 214. REPORTS ON ADMINISTRATION.**

2 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the
3 date of the enactment of the James M. Inhofe National
4 Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023, and
5 every 2 years thereafter, the Administrator shall submit
6 to the committees specified in subsection (b) a report on
7 the administration of this title during the 2-year period
8 preceding submission of the report, including—

9 “(1) a description of all activities undertaken to
10 implement the National Coral Reef Resilience Strat-
11 egy;

12 “(2) a statement of all funds obligated under
13 the authorities of this title; and

14 “(3) a summary, disaggregated by State, of
15 Federal and non-Federal contributions toward the
16 costs of each project or activity funded, in full or in
17 part, under this title.

18 “(b) COMMITTEES SPECIFIED.—The committees
19 specified in this subsection are—

20 “(1) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and
21 Transportation, Committee on Environment and
22 Public Works, Committee on Energy and Natural
23 Resources, and the Committee on Appropriations of
24 the Senate; and

1 “(2) the Committee on Natural Resources and
2 the Committee on Appropriations of the House of
3 Representatives.

4 **“SEC. 215. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

5 “(a) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appro-
6 priated to the Administrator \$45,000,000 for each of fis-
7 cal years 2023 through 2027 to carry out this title which
8 shall remain available until expended. Of such amounts,
9 there is authorized to be appropriated for each such fiscal
10 year—

11 “(1) \$12,000,000 to carry out section 207;

12 “(2) \$3,500,000 for activities authorized under
13 section 211; and

14 “(3) \$4,500,000 to be provided to the coopera-
15 tive institutes designated under section 212(a) to
16 carry out the functions described in such section.

17 “(b) ADMINISTRATION.—Not more than 10 percent
18 of the amounts appropriated under subsection (a) may be
19 used for program administration or overhead costs in-
20 curred by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Adminis-
21 tration or the Department of Commerce.

22 **“SEC. 216. DEFINITIONS.**

23 “In this title:

1 “(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term ‘Adminis-
2 trator’ means the Administrator of the National
3 Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

4 “(2) ALASKA NATIVE CORPORATION.—The term
5 ‘Alaska Native Corporation’ has the meaning given
6 the term ‘Native Corporation’ in section 3 of the
7 Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C.
8 1602).

9 “(3) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
10 TEES.—The term ‘appropriate congressional com-
11 mittees’ means the Committee on Commerce,
12 Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the
13 Committee on Natural Resources of the House of
14 Representatives.

15 “(4) CONSERVATION.—The term ‘conservation’
16 means the use of methods and procedures necessary
17 to preserve or sustain native corals and associated
18 species as diverse, viable, and self-perpetuating coral
19 reef ecosystems with minimal impacts from invasive
20 species, including—

21 “(A) all activities associated with resource
22 management, such as monitoring, assessment,
23 protection, restoration, sustainable use, man-
24 agement of habitat, and maintenance or aug-
25 mentation of genetic diversity;

1 “(B) mapping;

2 “(C) scientific expertise and technical as-
3 sistance in the development and implementation
4 of management strategies for marine protected
5 areas and marine resources required by Federal
6 law;

7 “(D) law enforcement;

8 “(E) conflict resolution initiatives;

9 “(F) community outreach and education;
10 and

11 “(G) promotion of safe and ecologically
12 sound navigation and anchoring.

13 “(5) CORAL.—The term ‘coral’ means species
14 of the phylum Cnidaria, including—

15 “(A) all species of the orders Antipatharia
16 (black corals), Scleractinia (stony corals),
17 Aleyonacea (soft corals, organ pipe corals,
18 gorgonians), and Helioporacea (blue coral), of
19 the class Anthozoa; and

20 “(B) all species of the order Anthoathecata
21 (fire corals and other hydrocorals) of the class
22 Hydrozoa.

23 “(6) CORAL PRODUCTS.—The term ‘coral prod-
24 ucts’ means any living or dead specimens, parts, or

1 derivatives, or any product containing specimens,
2 parts, or derivatives, of any species of coral.

3 “(7) CORAL REEF.—The term ‘coral reef’
4 means calcium carbonate structures in the form of
5 a reef or shoal, composed in whole or in part by liv-
6 ing coral, skeletal remains of coral, crustose coralline
7 algae, and other associated sessile marine plants and
8 animals.

9 “(8) CORAL REEF ECOSYSTEM.—The term
10 ‘coral reef ecosystem’ means—

11 “(A) corals and other geographically and
12 ecologically associated marine communities of
13 other reef organisms (including reef plants and
14 animals) associated with coral reef habitat; and

15 “(B) the biotic and abiotic factors and
16 processes that control or significantly affect
17 coral calcification rates, tissue growth, repro-
18 duction, recruitment, abundance, coral-algal
19 symbiosis, and biodiversity in such habitat.

20 “(9) CORAL REEF ECOSYSTEM SERVICES.—The
21 term ‘coral reef ecosystem services’ means the at-
22 tributes and benefits provided by coral reef eco-
23 systems including—

24 “(A) protection of coastal beaches, struc-
25 tures, and infrastructure;

1 “(B) habitat for organisms of economic,
2 ecological, biomedical, medicinal, and cultural
3 value;

4 “(C) serving as centers for the promulga-
5 tion, performance, and training of cultural
6 practices representative of traditional ecological
7 knowledge; and

8 “(D) aesthetic value.

9 “(10) COVERED NATIVE ENTITY.—The term
10 ‘covered Native entity’ means a Native entity with
11 interests in a coral reef ecosystem.

12 “(11) COVERED REEF MANAGER.—The term
13 ‘covered reef manager’ means—

14 “(A) a management unit of a covered
15 State with jurisdiction over a coral reef eco-
16 system;

17 “(B) a covered State; or

18 “(C) a coral reef stewardship partnership
19 under section 206.

20 “(12) COVERED STATE.—The term ‘covered
21 State’ means Florida, Hawaii, and the territories of
22 American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the North-
23 ern Mariana Islands, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the
24 United States Virgin Islands.

25 “(13) FEDERAL REEF MANAGER.—

1 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘Federal
2 reef manager’ means—

3 “(i) a management unit of a Federal
4 agency specified in subparagraph (B) with
5 lead management jurisdiction over a coral
6 reef ecosystem; or

7 “(ii) a coral reef stewardship partner-
8 ship under section 206(c).

9 “(B) FEDERAL AGENCIES SPECIFIED.—A
10 Federal agency specified in this subparagraph
11 is one of the following:

12 “(i) The National Oceanic and Atmos-
13 pheric Administration.

14 “(ii) The National Park Service.

15 “(iii) The United States Fish and
16 Wildlife Service.

17 “(iv) The Office of Insular Affairs.

18 “(14) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—
19 The term ‘institution of higher education’ has the
20 meaning given that term in section 101 of the High-
21 er Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).

22 “(15) INTERESTED STAKEHOLDER GROUPS.—
23 The term ‘interested stakeholder groups’ means any
24 of the following with interest in an applicable coral
25 reef or ecologically significant unit of a coral reef:

1 “(A) A business.

2 “(B) A commercial or recreational fisher-
3 man.

4 “(C) A recreationalist.

5 “(D) A Federal, State, Tribal, or local gov-
6 ernment unit with related jurisdiction.

7 “(E) An institution of higher education (as
8 such term is defined in section 101(a) of the
9 Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
10 1001(a)).

11 “(F) A nongovernmental organization.

12 “(16) NATIONAL CORAL REEF RESILIENCE
13 STRATEGY.—The term ‘National Coral Reef Resil-
14 ience Strategy’ means the National Coral Reef Resil-
15 ience Strategy in effect under section 204.

16 “(17) NATIVE ENTITY.—The term ‘Native enti-
17 ty’ means any of the following:

18 “(A) An Indian Tribe (as defined in sec-
19 tion 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and
20 Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304)).

21 “(B) An Alaska Native Corporation.

22 “(C) The Department of Hawaiian Home
23 Lands.

24 “(D) The Office of Hawaiian Affairs.

1 “(E) A Native Hawaiian organization (as
2 defined in section 6207 of the Elementary and
3 Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
4 7517)).

5 “(18) NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION.—The term
6 ‘nonprofit organization’ means any corporation,
7 trust, association, cooperative, or other organization,
8 not including an institution of higher education,
9 that—

10 “(A) is operated primarily for scientific,
11 educational, service, charitable, or similar pur-
12 poses in the public interest;

13 “(B) is not organized primarily for profit;
14 and

15 “(C) uses net proceeds to maintain, im-
16 prove, or expand the operations of the organiza-
17 tion.

18 “(19) RESTORATION.—The term ‘restoration’
19 means the use of methods and procedures necessary
20 to enhance, rehabilitate, recreate, or create a func-
21 tioning coral reef or coral reef ecosystem, in whole
22 or in part, within suitable waters of the historical
23 geographic range of such ecosystems, to provide eco-
24 logical, economic, cultural, or coastal resiliency serv-

1 ices associated with healthy coral reefs and benefit
2 native populations of coral reef organisms.

3 “(20) RESILIENCE.—The term ‘resilience’
4 means the capacity for corals within their native
5 range, coral reefs, or coral reef ecosystems to resist
6 and recover from natural and human disturbances,
7 and maintain structure and function to provide coral
8 reef ecosystem services, as determined by clearly
9 identifiable, measurable, and science-based stand-
10 ards.

11 “(21) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’
12 means the Secretary of Commerce.

13 “(22) STATE.—The term ‘State’ means—

14 “(A) any State of the United States that
15 contains a coral reef ecosystem within its sea-
16 ward boundaries;

17 “(B) American Samoa, the Commonwealth
18 of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, Puerto
19 Rico, or the United States Virgin Islands; or

20 “(C) any other territory or possession of
21 the United States or separate sovereign in free
22 association with the United States that contains
23 a coral reef ecosystem within its seaward
24 boundaries.

1 “(23) STEWARDSHIP.—The term ‘stewardship’,
2 with respect to a coral reef, includes conservation,
3 restoration, and public outreach and education.

4 “(24) TASK FORCE.—The term ‘Task Force’
5 means the United States Coral Reef Task Force es-
6 tablished under section 10011 of the James M.
7 Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fis-
8 cal Year 2023.”.

9 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT TO NATIONAL
10 OCEANS AND COASTAL SECURITY ACT.—Section 905(a)
11 of the National Oceans and Coastal Security Act (16
12 U.S.C. 7504(a)) is amended by striking “and coastal in-
13 frastructure” and inserting “, coastal infrastructure, and
14 ecosystem services provided by natural systems such as
15 coral reefs”.

16 (c) COMPTROLLER GENERAL REVIEW OF CORAL
17 REEF CONSERVATION PROGRAMS AT THE NATIONAL
18 OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION.—The
19 Comptroller General of the United States shall, not later
20 than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act,
21 submit to Congress and the National Oceanic and Atmos-
22 pheric Administration a report that—

23 (1) examines the budget and accounting prac-
24 tices of the coral reef conservation programs of such

1 Administration, including expenditure tracking
2 across line and program offices;

3 (2) examines the process for determining appro-
4 priate project goals and funding priorities; and

5 (3) includes recommendations on policies or
6 best practices that may improve the transparency
7 and accountability of coral reef conservation pro-
8 grams.

9 (d) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—None of the amendments
10 made by or provisions of this title may be construed to
11 enlarge the management authority of a Federal agency or
12 coral reef stewardship partnership to coral reefs and coral
13 reef ecosystems outside the boundaries of such agency’s
14 or partnership’s jurisdiction.

15 **Subtitle B—United States Coral** 16 **Reef Task Force**

17 **SEC. 10011. ESTABLISHMENT.**

18 There is established a task force to lead, coordinate,
19 and strengthen Federal Government actions to better pre-
20 serve, conserve, and restore coral reef ecosystems, to be
21 known as the “United States Coral Reef Task Force” (in
22 this subtitle referred to as the “Task Force”).

23 **SEC. 10012. DUTIES.**

24 The duties of the Task Force shall be—

1 (1) to coordinate, in cooperation with covered
2 States, covered Native entities, Federal reef man-
3 agers, covered reef managers, coral reef research
4 centers designated under section 212(b) of the Coral
5 Reef Conservation Act of 2000 (as added by this di-
6 vision), and other nongovernmental and academic
7 partners as appropriate, activities regarding the
8 mapping, monitoring, research, conservation, mitiga-
9 tion, and restoration of coral reefs and coral reef
10 ecosystems;

11 (2) to monitor and advise regarding implemen-
12 tation of the policy and Federal agency responsibil-
13 ities set forth in—

14 (A) Executive Order 13089 (63 Fed. Reg.
15 32701; relating to coral reef protection); and

16 (B) the National Coral Reef Resilience
17 Strategy;

18 (3) to work in coordination with the other mem-
19 bers of the Task Force—

20 (A) to assess the United States role in
21 international trade and protection of coral spe-
22 cies;

23 (B) to encourage implementation of appro-
24 priate strategies and actions to promote con-

1 servation and sustainable use of coral reef re-
2 sources worldwide; and

3 (C) to collaborate with international com-
4 munities successful in managing coral reefs;

5 (4) to provide technical assistance for the devel-
6 opment and implementation, as appropriate, of—

7 (A) the National Coral Reef Resilience
8 Strategy; and

9 (B) coral reef action plans under section
10 205 of that Act; and

11 (5) to produce a report each year, for submis-
12 sion to the appropriate congressional committees
13 and publication on the public website of the Task
14 Force, highlighting the status of the coral reef re-
15 sources of a covered State on a rotating basis, in-
16 cluding—

17 (A) a summary of recent coral reef man-
18 agement and restoration activities undertaken
19 in that State; and

20 (B) updated estimates of the direct and in-
21 direct economic activity supported by, and other
22 benefits associated with, those coral reef re-
23 sources.

1 **SEC. 10013. MEMBERSHIP.**

2 (a) VOTING MEMBERSHIP.—The voting members of
3 the Task Force shall be—

4 (1) the Under Secretary of Commerce for
5 Oceans and Atmosphere and the Secretary of Inte-
6 rior, who shall be co-chairpersons of the Task Force;

7 (2) such representatives from other Federal
8 agencies as the President, in consultation with the
9 Under Secretary, determines appropriate; and

10 (3) the Governor, or a representative of the
11 Governor, of each covered State.

12 (b) NONVOTING MEMBERS.—The Task Force shall
13 have the following nonvoting members:

14 (1) A member of the South Atlantic Fishery
15 Management Council who is designated by the Gov-
16 ernor of Florida under section 302(b)(1) of the Mag-
17 nuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Manage-
18 ment Act (16 U.S.C. 1852(b)(1)).

19 (2) A member of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery
20 Management Council who is designated by the Gov-
21 ernor of Florida under such section.

22 (3) A member of the Western Pacific Fishery
23 Management Council who is designated under such
24 section and selected as follows:

25 (A) For the period beginning on the date
26 of the enactment of this Act and ending on De-

1 cember 31 of the calendar year during which
2 such date of enactment occurs, the member
3 shall be selected jointly by the Governors of Ha-
4 waii, American Samoa, Guam, and the Com-
5 monwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

6 (B) For each calendar year thereafter, the
7 Governors of Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam,
8 and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mar-
9 iana Islands shall, on a rotating basis, take
10 turns selecting the member.

11 (4) A member of the Caribbean Fishery Man-
12 agement Council who is designated under such sec-
13 tion and selected as follows:

14 (A) For the period beginning on the date
15 of the enactment of this Act and ending on De-
16 cember 31 of the calendar year during which
17 such date of enactment occurs, the member
18 shall be selected jointly by the Governors of
19 Puerto Rico and the United States Virgin Is-
20 lands.

21 (B) For each calendar year thereafter, the
22 Governors of Puerto Rico and the United
23 States Virgin Islands shall, on an alternating
24 basis, take turns selecting the member.

1 (5) A member appointed by the President of
2 the Federated States of Micronesia.

3 (6) A member appointed by the President of
4 the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

5 (7) A member appointed by the President of
6 the Republic of Palau.

7 **SEC. 10014. RESPONSIBILITIES OF FEDERAL AGENCY MEM-**
8 **BERS.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—A member of the Task Force de-
10 scribed in section 10013(a) shall—

11 (1) identify the actions of the agency that mem-
12 ber represents that may affect coral reef ecosystems;

13 (2) use the programs and authorities of that
14 agency to protect and enhance the conditions of such
15 ecosystems, including through the promotion of basic
16 and applied scientific research;

17 (3) collaborate with the Task Force to appro-
18 priately reflect budgetary needs for coral reef con-
19 servation and restoration activities in all agency
20 budget planning and justification documents and
21 processes; and

22 (4) engage in any other coordinated efforts ap-
23 proved by the Task Force.

24 (b) CO-CHAIRPERSONS.—In addition to their respon-
25 sibilities under subsection (a), the co-chairpersons of the

1 Task Force shall perform the administrative functions of
2 the Task Force and facilitate the coordination of the mem-
3 bers of the Task Force described in section 10013(a).

4 (c) BRIEFING.—Not less than 30 days before each
5 meeting of the Task Force, the program offices of the Na-
6 tional Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration respon-
7 sible for implementing this title shall provide a briefing
8 to the relevant congressional committees on efforts and
9 spending associated with such implementation.

10 **SEC. 10015. WORKING GROUPS.**

11 (a) IN GENERAL.—The co-chairpersons of the Task
12 Force may establish working groups as necessary to meet
13 the goals and carry out the duties of the Task Force.

14 (b) REQUESTS FROM MEMBERS.—The members of
15 the Task Force may request that the co-chairpersons es-
16 tablish a working group under subsection (a).

17 (c) PARTICIPATION BY NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANI-
18 ZATIONS.—The co-chairpersons may allow nongovern-
19 mental organizations as appropriate, including academic
20 institutions, conservation groups, and commercial and rec-
21 reational fishing associations, to participate in a working
22 group established under subsection (a).

23 (d) NONAPPLICABILITY OF FEDERAL ADVISORY
24 COMMITTEE ACT.—The Federal Advisory Committee Act

1 (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to working groups estab-
2 lished under this section.

3 **SEC. 10016. DEFINITIONS.**

4 In this subtitle:

5 (1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
6 TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-
7 mittees” means—

8 (A) the Committee on Commerce, Science,
9 and Transportation of the Senate;

10 (B) the Committee on Environment and
11 Public Works of the Senate;

12 (C) the Committee on Energy and Natural
13 Resources of the Senate; and

14 (D) the Committee on Natural Resources
15 of the House of Representatives.

16 (2) CONSERVATION, CORAL, CORAL REEF,
17 ETC.—The terms “conservation”, “coral”, “coral
18 reef”, “coral reef ecosystem”, “covered reef man-
19 ager”, “covered State”, “Federal reef manager”,
20 “National Coral Reef Resilience Strategy”, “restora-
21 tion”, “resilience”, and “State” have the meanings
22 given those terms in section 216 of the Coral Reef
23 Conservation Act of 2000, as added by this division.

1 **Subtitle C—Department of the**
2 **Interior Coral Reef Authorities**

3 **SEC. 10021. CORAL REEF CONSERVATION AND RESTORA-**
4 **TION ASSISTANCE.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior may
6 provide scientific expertise and technical assistance, and
7 subject to the availability of appropriations, financial as-
8 sistance for the conservation and restoration of coral reefs
9 consistent with all applicable laws governing resource
10 management in Federal, State, and Tribal waters, includ-
11 ing—

12 (1) the National Coral Reef Resilience Strategy;

13 and

14 (2) coral reef action plans in effect under sec-
15 tion 205 of the Coral Reef Conservation Act of
16 2000, as added by this division, as applicable.

17 (b) CORAL REEF INITIATIVE.—The Secretary may
18 establish a Coral Reef Initiative Program—

19 (1) to provide grant funding to support local
20 management, conservation, and protection of coral
21 reef ecosystems in—

22 (A) coastal areas of covered States; and

23 (B) Freely Associated States;

24 (2) to enhance resource availability of National
25 Park Service and National Wildlife Refuge System

1 management units to implement coral reef conserva-
2 tion and restoration activities;

3 (3) to complement the other conservation and
4 assistance activities conducted under this Act or the
5 Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000, as amended
6 by section 10001; and

7 (4) to provide other technical, scientific, and fi-
8 nancial assistance and conduct conservation and res-
9 toration activities that advance the purposes of this
10 title and the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000,
11 as amended by this division.

12 (c) CONSULTATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF
13 COMMERCE.—

14 (1) CORAL REEF CONSERVATION AND RESTORA-
15 TION ACTIVITIES.—The Secretary of the Interior
16 may consult with the Secretary of Commerce regard-
17 ing the conduct of any activities to conserve and re-
18 store coral reefs and coral reef ecosystems in waters
19 managed under the jurisdiction of the Federal agen-
20 cies specified in paragraphs (2) and (3) of section
21 203(c) of the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000,
22 as added by this division.

23 (2) AWARD OF CORAL REEF MANAGEMENT FEL-
24 LOWSHIP.—The Secretary of the Interior shall con-
25 sult with the Secretary of Commerce to award the

1 Susan L. Williams Coral Reef Management Fellow-
2 ship under subtitle D.

3 (d) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—Subject to the
4 availability of appropriations, the Secretary of the Interior
5 may enter into cooperative agreements with covered reef
6 managers to fund coral reef conservation and restoration
7 activities in waters managed under the jurisdiction of such
8 managers that—

9 (1) are consistent with the National Coral Reef
10 Resilience Strategy; and

11 (2) support and enhance the success of coral
12 reef action plans in effect under section 205 of the
13 Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000, as added by
14 this division.

15 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

16 (1) CONSERVATION, CORAL, CORAL REEF,
17 ETC.—The terms “conservation”, “coral reef”, “cov-
18 ered reef manager”, “covered State”, “National
19 Coral Reef Resilience Strategy”, “restoration”, and
20 “State” have the meanings given those terms in sec-
21 tion 216 of the Coral Reef Conservation Act of
22 2000, as added by this division.

23 (2) TRIBE; TRIBAL.—The terms “Tribe” and
24 “Tribal” refer to Indian Tribes (as defined in sec-

1 tion 102 of the Federally Recognized Indian Tribe
2 List Act of 1994 (25 U.S.C. 5130)).

3 **Subtitle D—Susan L. Williams Na-**
4 **tional Coral Reef Management**
5 **Fellowship**

6 **SEC. 10031. SUSAN L. WILLIAMS NATIONAL CORAL REEF**
7 **MANAGEMENT FELLOWSHIP.**

8 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

9 (1) ALASKA NATIVE CORPORATION.—The term
10 “Alaska Native Corporation” has the meaning given
11 the term “Native Corporation” in section 3 of the
12 Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C.
13 1602).

14 (2) FELLOW.—The term “fellow” means a Na-
15 tional Coral Reef Management Fellow.

16 (3) FELLOWSHIP.—The term “fellowship”
17 means the National Coral Reef Management Fellow-
18 ship established in subsection (c).

19 (4) COVERED NATIVE ENTITY.—The term “cov-
20 ered Native entity” has the meaning given the term
21 in section 216 of the Coral Reef Conservation Act of
22 2000, as added by this division.

23 (5) COVERED STATE.—The term “covered
24 State” has the meaning given the term in section

1 216 of the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000, as
2 added by this division.

3 (6) NATIVE ENTITY.—The term “Native entity”
4 has the meaning given the term in section 216 of the
5 Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000, as added by
6 this division.

7 (7) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
8 the Secretary of Commerce.

9 (b) ESTABLISHMENT OF FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—There is established a Na-
11 tional Coral Reef Management Fellowship Program.

12 (2) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the fellowship
13 are—

14 (A) to encourage future leaders of the
15 United States to develop additional coral reef
16 management capacity in States and local com-
17 munities with coral reefs;

18 (B) to provide management agencies of
19 covered States and covered Native entities with
20 highly qualified candidates whose education and
21 work experience meet the specific needs of each
22 covered State or covered Native entity; and

23 (C) to provide fellows with professional ex-
24 perience in management of coastal and coral
25 reef resources.

1 (c) FELLOWSHIP AWARDS.—

2 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consulta-
3 tion with the Secretary of the Interior, shall award
4 a fellowship in accordance with this subsection.

5 (2) TERM OF FELLOWSHIP.—A fellowship
6 awarded under this subsection shall be for a term of
7 not more than 2 years.

8 (3) QUALIFICATIONS.—The Secretary, in con-
9 sultation with the Secretary of the Interior, shall
10 award a fellowship to individuals who have dem-
11 onstrated—

12 (A) an intent to pursue a career in marine
13 services and outstanding potential for such a
14 career;

15 (B) leadership potential, actual leadership
16 experience, or both;

17 (C) possession of a college or graduate de-
18 gree in biological science, a college or graduate
19 degree in resource management with experience
20 that correlates with aptitude and interest for
21 marine management, or both;

22 (D) proficient writing and speaking skills;
23 and

1 (E) such other attributes as the Secretary,
2 in consultation with the Secretary of the Inte-
3 rior, considers appropriate.

4 (d) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
6 graph (2), the non-Federal share of the costs of a
7 fellowship under this section shall be 25 percent of
8 such costs.

9 (2) WAIVER OF MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—

10 The Secretary may waive the application of para-
11 graph (1) to a fellowship if the Secretary finds that
12 such waiver is necessary to support a project that
13 the Secretary has identified as a high priority.

14 **TITLE CI—BOLSTERING LONG-**
15 **TERM UNDERSTANDING AND**
16 **EXPLORATION OF THE GREAT**
17 **LAKES, OCEANS, BAYS, AND**
18 **ESTUARIES**

19 **SEC. 10101. PURPOSE.**

20 The purpose of this title is to promote and support—

21 (1) the monitoring, understanding, and explo-
22 ration of the Great Lakes, oceans, bays, estuaries,
23 and coasts; and

24 (2) the collection, analysis, synthesis, and shar-
25 ing of data related to the Great Lakes, oceans, bays,

1 estuaries, and coasts to facilitate scientific research
2 and operational decisionmaking.

3 **SEC. 10102. DEFINITIONS.**

4 In this title:

5 (1) ADMINISTRATION.—The term “Administra-
6 tion” means the National Oceanic and Atmospheric
7 Administration.

8 (2) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Adminis-
9 trator” means the Under Secretary of Commerce for
10 Oceans and Atmosphere in the capacity as Adminis-
11 trator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Ad-
12 ministration.

13 (3) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term “Indian Tribe”
14 has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the
15 Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance
16 Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

17 **SEC. 10103. WORKFORCE STUDY.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 303(a) of the America
19 COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010 (33 U.S.C.
20 893c(a)) is amended—

21 (1) by striking “Secretary of Commerce” and
22 inserting “Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans
23 and Atmosphere”;

24 (2) in paragraph (2), by inserting “, skillsets,
25 or credentials” after “degrees”;

1 (3) in paragraph (3), by inserting “or highly
2 qualified technical professionals and tradespeople”
3 after “atmospheric scientists”;

4 (4) in paragraph (4), by inserting “, skillsets,
5 or credentials” after “degrees”;

6 (5) in paragraph (5)—

7 (A) by striking “scientist”; and

8 (B) by striking “; and” and inserting “,
9 observations, and monitoring;”

10 (6) in paragraph (6), by striking “into Federal”
11 and all that follows and inserting “, technical profes-
12 sionals, and tradespeople into Federal career posi-
13 tions;”

14 (7) by redesignating paragraphs (2) through
15 (6) as paragraphs (3) through (7), respectively;

16 (8) by inserting after paragraph (1) the fol-
17 lowing:

18 “(2) whether there is a shortage in the number
19 of individuals with technical or trade-based degrees,
20 skillsets, or credentials suited to a career in oceanic
21 and atmospheric data collection, processing, satellite
22 production, or satellite operations;”; and

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

1 “(8) workforce diversity and actions the Fed-
2 eral Government can take to increase diversity in the
3 scientific workforce; and

4 “(9) actions the Federal Government can take
5 to shorten the hiring backlog for such workforce.”.

6 (b) COORDINATION.—Section 303(b) of such Act (33
7 U.S.C. 893c(b)) is amended by striking “Secretary of
8 Commerce” and inserting “Under Secretary of Commerce
9 for Oceans and Atmosphere”.

10 (c) REPORT.—Section 303(c) of such Act (33 U.S.C.
11 893c(c)) is amended—

12 (1) by striking “the date of enactment of this
13 Act” and inserting “the date of the enactment of the
14 James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization
15 Act for Fiscal Year 2023”;

16 (2) by striking “Secretary of Commerce” and
17 inserting “Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans
18 and Atmosphere”; and

19 (3) by striking “to each committee” and all
20 that follows through “section 302 of this Act” and
21 inserting “to the Committee on Commerce, Science,
22 and Transportation of the Senate and the Com-
23 mittee on Natural Resources and the Committee on
24 Science, Space, and Technology of the House of
25 Representatives”.

1 (d) PROGRAM AND PLAN.—Section 303(d) of such
2 Act (33 U.S.C. 893c(d)) is amended—

3 (1) by striking “Administrator of the National
4 Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration” and in-
5 serting “Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans
6 and Atmosphere”; and

7 (2) by striking “academic partners” and all
8 that follows and inserting “academic partners.”.

9 **SEC. 10104. ACCELERATING INNOVATION AT COOPERATIVE**
10 **INSTITUTES.**

11 (a) FOCUS ON EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES.—The Ad-
12 ministrator shall consider evaluating the goals of 1 or
13 more Cooperative Institutes of the Administration to in-
14 clude focusing on advancing or applying emerging tech-
15 nologies, which may include—

16 (1) applied uses and development of real-time
17 and other advanced genetic technologies and applica-
18 tions, including such technologies and applications
19 that derive genetic material directly from environ-
20 mental samples without any obvious signs of biologi-
21 cal source material;

22 (2) deployment of, and improvements to the du-
23 rability, maintenance, and other lifecycle concerns
24 of, advanced unmanned vehicles, regional small re-

1 search vessels, and other research vessels that sup-
2 port and launch unmanned vehicles and sensors; and

3 (3) supercomputing and big data management,
4 including data collected through model outputs, elec-
5 tronic monitoring, and remote sensing.

6 (b) COORDINATION WITH OTHER PROGRAMS.—The
7 Cooperative Institutes shall work with the Interagency
8 Ocean Observation Committee, the regional associations
9 of the Integrated Ocean Observing System, and other
10 ocean observing programs to coordinate technology needs
11 and the transition of new technologies from research to
12 operations.

13 **SEC. 10105. BLUE ECONOMY VALUATION.**

14 (a) MEASUREMENT OF INDUSTRIES.—The Adminis-
15 trator, in consultation with the heads of other relevant
16 Federal agencies and subject to the availability of appro-
17 priations, shall establish a program to improve the collec-
18 tion, aggregation, and analysis of data to measure the
19 value and impact of industries related to the Great Lakes,
20 oceans, bays, estuaries, and coasts on the economy of the
21 United States, including military uses, living resources,
22 marine construction, marine transportation, offshore en-
23 ergy development and siting including for renewable en-
24 ergy, offshore mineral production, ship and boat building,
25 tourism, recreation, subsistence, commercial, recreational,

1 and charter fishing, seafood processing, and other fishery-
2 related businesses, aquaculture such as kelp and shellfish,
3 and other industries the Administrator determines appro-
4 priate.

5 (b) COLLABORATION.—In carrying out subsection
6 (a), the Administrator shall—

7 (1) work with the Director of the Bureau of
8 Economic Analysis and the heads of other relevant
9 Federal agencies to develop a Coastal and Ocean
10 Economy Satellite Account that includes national,
11 Tribal, and State-level statistics to measure the con-
12 tribution of the Great Lakes, oceans, bays, estuaries,
13 and coasts to the overall economy of the United
14 States; and

15 (2) collaborate with national and international
16 organizations and governments to promote consist-
17 ency of methods, measurements, and definitions to
18 ensure comparability of results between countries.

19 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date
20 of the enactment of this section, and not less frequently
21 than every 2 years thereafter until the date that is 20
22 years after the date of the enactment of this section, the
23 Administrator, in consultation with the heads of other rel-
24 evant Federal agencies, shall publish a report that—

1 (1) defines the Blue Economy in consultation
2 with Indian Tribes and with input from academia,
3 the private sector, nongovernmental organizations,
4 and other relevant experts;

5 (2) makes recommendations for updating North
6 American Industry Classification System reporting
7 codes to reflect the Blue Economy; and

8 (3) provides a comprehensive estimate of the
9 value and impact of the Blue Economy with respect
10 to each State and territory of the United States, in-
11 cluding—

12 (A) the value and impact of—

13 (i) economic activities that are de-
14 pendent upon the resources of the Great
15 Lakes, oceans, bays, estuaries, and coasts;

16 (ii) the population and demographic
17 characteristics of the population along the
18 coasts;

19 (iii) port and shoreline infrastructure;

20 (iv) the volume and value of cargo
21 shipped by sea or across the Great Lakes;

22 (v) data collected from the Great
23 Lakes, oceans, bays, estuaries, and coasts,
24 including such data collected by businesses
25 that purchase and commodify the data, in-

1 cluding weather prediction and seasonal
2 agricultural forecasting; and

3 (vi) military uses; and

4 (B) to the extent possible, the qualified
5 value and impact of the natural capital of the
6 Great Lakes, oceans, bays, estuaries, and coasts
7 with respect to tourism, recreation, natural re-
8 sources, and cultural heritage, including other
9 indirect values.

10 (d) CENTRALIZED WEBSITE FOR RESILIENCY
11 GRANTS.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
13 after the date of the enactment of this section, the
14 Administrator, in coordination with the heads of
15 other relevant Federal agencies, shall create and reg-
16 ularly update a public website to improve education,
17 outreach, and public information regarding grants
18 and other public funding opportunities of the Ad-
19 ministration related to resiliency.

20 (2) CONTENTS OF WEBSITE.—The website cre-
21 ated under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

22 (A) Hyperlinks, descriptions, deadlines,
23 and resources to support applicants including
24 technical assistance and other information as

1 the Administrator determines appropriate relat-
2 ing to resilience grants administered by—

3 (i) the Administration;

4 (ii) other relevant Federal agencies; or

5 (iii) foundations in coordination with
6 the Administration.

7 (B) Information described in subparagraph
8 (A) that is specific to supporting Tribal Govern-
9 ments and Tribal Colleges and Universities,
10 and, with respect to each such grant described
11 in paragraph (1), the contact information for
12 an individual of the Administration who can as-
13 sist Tribal Governments and Tribal Colleges
14 and Universities in applying for such grants.

15 (C) Information described in subparagraph
16 (A) that is specific to supporting Historically
17 Black Colleges and Universities, and, with re-
18 spect to each such grant described in paragraph
19 (1), the contact information for an individual of
20 the Administration who can assist Historically
21 Black Colleges and Universities in applying for
22 such grants.

23 (3) OUTREACH.—The Administrator shall con-
24 duct outreach activities to inform State, Tribal, and
25 local governments of resiliency, adaptation, and miti-

1 gation grants that are available to such govern-
2 ments.

3 (4) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

4 (A) HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND
5 UNIVERSITIES.—The term “Historically Black
6 Colleges and Universities” has the meaning
7 given the term “part B institution” in section
8 322 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20
9 U.S.C. 1061).

10 (B) TRIBAL COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY.—
11 The term “Tribal College or University” has
12 the meaning given the term in section 316 of
13 the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
14 1059c).

15 **SEC. 10106. NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS AUTHORIZED.**

16 Funds to carry out this title may, as provided in ad-
17 vance in appropriations Acts, only come from within
18 amounts authorized to be appropriated to the National
19 Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

20 **TITLE CII—REGIONAL OCEAN**
21 **PARTNERSHIPS**

22 **SEC. 10201. FINDINGS; PURPOSES.**

23 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following find-
24 ings:

1 (1) The ocean and coastal waters and the Great
2 Lakes of the United States are foundational to the
3 economy, security, global competitiveness, and well-
4 being of the United States and continuously serve
5 the people of the United States and other countries
6 as an important source of food, energy, economic
7 productivity, recreation, beauty, and enjoyment.

8 (2) Over many years, the resource productivity
9 and water quality of the ocean, coastal, and Great
10 Lakes areas of the United States have been dimin-
11 ished by pollution, increasing population demands,
12 economic development, and natural and man-made
13 hazard events, both acute and chronic.

14 (3) The ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes areas
15 of the United States are managed by State and Fed-
16 eral resource agencies and Indian Tribes and regu-
17 lated on an interstate and regional scale by various
18 overlapping Federal authorities, thereby creating a
19 significant need for interstate coordination to en-
20 hance regional priorities, including the ecological and
21 economic health of those areas.

22 (4) Indian Tribes have unique expertise and
23 knowledge important for the stewardship of the
24 ocean and coastal waters and the Great Lakes of the
25 United States.

1 (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this title are as fol-
2 lows:

3 (1) To complement and expand cooperative vol-
4 untary efforts intended to manage, conserve, and re-
5 store ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes areas span-
6 ning across multiple State and Indian Tribe jurisdic-
7 tions.

8 (2) To expand Federal support for monitoring,
9 data management, restoration, research, and con-
10 servation activities in ocean, coastal, and Great
11 Lakes areas.

12 (3) To commit the United States to a com-
13 prehensive cooperative program to achieve improved
14 water quality in, and improvements in the produc-
15 tivity of living resources of, oceans, coastal, and
16 Great Lakes ecosystems.

17 (4) To authorize Regional Ocean Partnerships
18 as intergovernmental coordinators for shared re-
19 gional priorities among States and Indian Tribes re-
20 lating to the collaborative management of the large
21 marine ecosystems, thereby reducing duplication of
22 efforts and maximizing opportunities to leverage
23 support in the ocean and coastal regions.

24 (5) To empower States to take a lead role in
25 managing oceans, coastal, and Great Lakes areas.

1 (6) To incorporate rights of Indian Tribes in
2 the management of oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes
3 resources and provide resources to support Indian
4 Tribe participation in and engagement with Regional
5 Ocean Partnerships.

6 (7) To enable Regional Ocean Partnerships, or
7 designated fiscal management entities of such part-
8 nerships, to receive Federal funding to conduct the
9 scientific research, conservation, and restoration ac-
10 tivities, and priority coordination on shared regional
11 priorities necessary to achieve the purposes described
12 in paragraphs (1) through (6).

13 **SEC. 10202. REGIONAL OCEAN PARTNERSHIPS.**

14 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

15 (1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Adminis-
16 trator” means the Administrator of the National
17 Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

18 (2) COASTAL STATE.—The term “coastal
19 State” has the meaning given the term “Coastal
20 state” in section 304 of the Coastal Zone Manage-
21 ment Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1453).

22 (3) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term “Indian Tribe”
23 has the meaning given that term in section 4 of the
24 Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance
25 Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

1 (4) REGIONAL OCEAN PARTNERSHIP.—The
2 term “Regional Ocean Partnership” means a Re-
3 gional Ocean Partnership designated under sub-
4 section (b).

5 (b) REGIONAL OCEAN PARTNERSHIPS.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—A coastal State or Indian
7 Tribe may form a partnership with—

8 (A) a coastal State that shares a common
9 ocean or coastal area with the coastal State,
10 without regard to whether the coastal States
11 are contiguous; and

12 (B) States—

13 (i) that share a common ocean, coast-
14 al area, or watershed with the coastal
15 State, without regard to whether the coast-
16 al States are contiguous; or

17 (ii) that would contribute to the prior-
18 ities of the partnership; and

19 (C) Indian Tribes.

20 (2) REQUIREMENTS.—A partnership formed
21 under paragraph (1) may apply for designation as a
22 Regional Ocean Partnership in such time and man-
23 ner as determined appropriate by the Secretary if
24 the partnership—

1 (A) is established to coordinate the man-
2 agement of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes re-
3 sources among the members of the partnership;

4 (B) focuses on the environmental issues af-
5 fecting the ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes
6 areas of the members participating in the part-
7 nership;

8 (C) complements existing coastal and
9 ocean management efforts of States and Indian
10 Tribes on an interstate scale, focusing on
11 shared regional priorities;

12 (D) does not have a regulatory function;
13 and

14 (E) is not duplicative of an existing Re-
15 gional Ocean Partnership designated under
16 paragraph (3), as determined by the Secretary.

17 (3) DESIGNATION OF CERTAIN ENTITIES AS RE-
18 GIONAL OCEAN PARTNERSHIPS.—The following enti-
19 ties are designated as Regional Ocean Partnerships:

20 (A) The Gulf of Mexico Alliance, comprised
21 of the States of Alabama, Florida, Louisiana,
22 Mississippi, and Texas.

23 (B) The Northeast Regional Ocean Coun-
24 cil, comprised of the States of Maine, Vermont,

1 New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut,
2 and Rhode Island.

3 (C) The Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on
4 the Ocean, comprised of the States of New
5 York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, and
6 Virginia.

7 (D) The West Coast Ocean Alliance, com-
8 prised of the States of California, Oregon, and
9 Washington and the coastal Indian Tribes
10 therein.

11 (4) GREAT LAKES.—A partnership established
12 under this section for the purposes described in sub-
13 section (d) with respect to a Great Lake may be
14 known as a “Regional Coastal Partnership” or a
15 “Regional Great Lakes Partnership”.

16 (c) GOVERNING BODIES OF REGIONAL OCEAN PART-
17 NERSHIPS.—A Regional Ocean Partnership shall have a
18 governing body that—

19 (1) shall be comprised, at a minimum, of voting
20 members from each coastal state participating in the
21 Regional Ocean Partnership, designated by the Gov-
22 ernor of the coastal state; and

23 (2) may include such other members as the
24 partnership considers appropriate.

1 (d) FUNCTIONS.—A Regional Ocean Partnership
2 may perform the following functions:

3 (1) Promote coordination of the actions of the
4 agencies of governments participating in the part-
5 nership with the actions of the appropriate officials
6 of Federal agencies, State governments, and Indian
7 Tribes in developing strategies—

8 (A) to conserve living resources, increase
9 valuable habitats, enhance coastal resilience and
10 ocean management, promote ecological and eco-
11 nomic health, and address such other issues re-
12 lated to the shared ocean, coastal, or Great
13 Lakes areas as are determined to be a shared,
14 regional priority by those states; and

15 (B) to manage regional data portals and
16 develop associated data products for purposes
17 that support the priorities of the partnership.

18 (2) In cooperation with appropriate Federal and
19 State agencies, Indian Tribes, and local authorities,
20 develop and implement specific action plans to carry
21 out coordination goals.

22 (3) Coordinate and implement priority plans
23 and projects, and facilitate science, research, mod-
24 eling, monitoring, data collection, and other activi-
25 ties that support the goals of the partnership

1 through the provision of grants and contracts under
2 subsection (f).

3 (4) Engage, coordinate, and collaborate with
4 relevant governmental entities and stakeholders to
5 address ocean and coastal related matters that re-
6 quire interagency or intergovernmental solutions.

7 (5) Implement outreach programs for public in-
8 formation, education, and participation to foster
9 stewardship of the resources of the ocean, coastal,
10 and Great Lakes areas, as relevant.

11 (6) Develop and make available, through publi-
12 cations, technical assistance, and other appropriate
13 means, information pertaining to cross-jurisdictional
14 issues being addressed through the coordinated ac-
15 tivities of the partnership.

16 (7) Serve as a liaison with, and provide infor-
17 mation to, international counterparts, as appropriate
18 on priority issues for the partnership.

19 (e) COORDINATION, CONSULTATION, AND ENGAGE-
20 MENT.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—A Regional Ocean Partner-
22 ship shall maintain mechanisms for coordination,
23 consultation, and engagement with the following:

24 (A) The Federal Government.

25 (B) Indian Tribes.

1 (C) Nongovernmental entities, including
2 academic organizations, nonprofit organizations,
3 and private sector entities.

4 (D) Other federally mandated regional en-
5 tities, including the Regional Fishery Manage-
6 ment Councils, the regional associations of the
7 National Integrated Coastal and Ocean Obser-
8 vation System, and relevant Marine Fisheries
9 Commissions.

10 (2) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in
11 paragraph (1)(B) may be construed as affecting any
12 requirement to consult with Indian Tribes under Ex-
13 ecutive Order 13175 (25 U.S.C. 5301 note; relating
14 to consultation and coordination with Indian Tribal
15 Governments) or any other applicable law or policy.

16 (f) GRANTS AND CONTRACTS.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—A Regional Ocean Partner-
18 ship may, in coordination with existing Federal,
19 State, and Tribal management programs, from
20 amounts made available to the partnership by the
21 Administrator or the head of another Federal agen-
22 cy, subject to appropriations for such purpose, pro-
23 vide grants and enter into contracts for the purposes
24 described in paragraph (2).

1 (2) PURPOSES.—The purposes described in this
2 paragraph include any of the following:

3 (A) Monitoring the water quality and living
4 resources of multistate ocean and coastal eco-
5 systems and coastal communities.

6 (B) Researching and addressing the effects
7 of natural and human-induced environmental
8 changes on—

9 (i) ocean and coastal ecosystems; and

10 (ii) coastal communities.

11 (C) Developing and executing cooperative
12 strategies that—

13 (i) address regional data issues identi-
14 fied by the partnership; and

15 (ii) will result in more effective man-
16 agement of common ocean and coastal
17 areas.

18 (g) REPORT REQUIRED.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 5 years after
20 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Adminis-
21 trator, in coordination with the Regional Ocean
22 Partnerships, shall submit to Congress a report on
23 the partnerships.

24 (2) REPORT REQUIREMENTS.—The report re-
25 quired by paragraph (1) shall include the following:

1 (A) An assessment of the overall status of
2 the work of the Regional Ocean Partnerships.

3 (B) An assessment of the effectiveness of
4 the partnerships in supporting regional prior-
5 ities relating to the management of common
6 ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes areas.

7 (C) An assessment of the effectiveness of
8 the strategies that the partnerships are sup-
9 porting or implementing and the extent to
10 which the priority needs of the regions covered
11 by the partnerships are being met through such
12 strategies.

13 (D) An assessment of how the efforts of
14 the partnerships support or enhance Federal
15 and State efforts consistent with the purposes
16 of this title.

17 (E) Such recommendations as the Admin-
18 istrator may have for improving—

19 (i) efforts of the partnerships to sup-
20 port the purposes of this title; and

21 (ii) collective strategies that support
22 the purposes of this title in coordination
23 with all relevant Federal and State entities
24 and Indian Tribes.

1 (F) The distribution of funds from each
2 partnership for each fiscal year covered by the
3 report.

4 (h) AVAILABILITY OF FEDERAL FUNDS.—In addition
5 to amounts made available to the Regional Ocean Partner-
6 ships by the Administrator under this section, the head
7 of any other Federal agency may provide grants to, enter
8 into contracts with, or otherwise provide funding to such
9 partnerships, subject to availability of appropriations for
10 such purposes.

11 (i) AUTHORITIES.—Nothing in this section estab-
12 lishes any new legal or regulatory authority of the Na-
13 tional Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration or of the
14 Regional Ocean Partnerships, other than—

15 (1) the authority of the Administrator to pro-
16 vide amounts to the partnerships; and

17 (2) the authority of the partnerships to provide
18 grants and enter into contracts under subsection (f).

19 (j) AUTHORIZATIONS.—

20 (1) REGIONAL OCEAN PARTNERSHIPS.—There
21 are authorized to be appropriated to the Adminis-
22 trator the following amounts to be made available to
23 the Regional Ocean Partnerships or designated fiscal
24 management entities of such partnerships to carry
25 out activities of such partnerships under this title:

1 (A) \$10,100,000 for fiscal year 2023.

2 (B) \$10,202,000 for fiscal year 2024.

3 (C) \$10,306,040 for fiscal year 2025.

4 (D) \$10,412,160 for fiscal year 2026.

5 (E) \$10,520,404 for fiscal year 2027.

6 (2) DISTRIBUTION OF AMOUNTS.—Amounts
7 made available under this subsection shall be divided
8 evenly among the Regional Ocean Partnerships.

9 (3) TRIBAL GOVERNMENT PARTICIPATION.—
10 There is authorized to be appropriated to the Ad-
11 ministrator \$1,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2023
12 through 2027 to be distributed to Indian Tribes for
13 purposes of participation in or engagement with the
14 Regional Ocean Partnerships.

15 **TITLE CIII—NATIONAL OCEAN** 16 **EXPLORATION**

17 **SEC. 10301. FINDINGS.**

18 Congress makes the following findings:

19 (1) The health and resilience of the ocean are
20 vital to the security and economy of the United
21 States and to the lives of the people of the United
22 States.

23 (2) The United States depends on the ocean to
24 regulate weather and climate, to sustain and protect
25 the diversity of life, for maritime shipping, for na-

1 tional defense, and for food, energy, medicine, recre-
2 ation, and other services essential to the people of
3 the United States and all humankind.

4 (3) The prosperity, security, and well-being of
5 the United States depend on successful under-
6 standing and stewardship of the ocean.

7 (4) Interdisciplinary cooperation and engage-
8 ment among government agencies, research institu-
9 tions, nongovernmental organizations, States, Indian
10 Tribes, and the private sector are essential for suc-
11 cessful stewardship of ocean and coastal environ-
12 ments, national economic growth, national security,
13 and development of agile strategies that develop,
14 promote, and use new technologies.

15 (5) Ocean exploration can help the people of the
16 United States understand how to be effective stew-
17 ards of the ocean and serve as catalysts and enablers
18 for other sectors of the economy.

19 (6) Mapping, exploration, and characterization
20 of the ocean provides basic, essential information to
21 protect and restore the marine environment, stimu-
22 late economic activity, and provide security for the
23 United States.

24 (7) A robust national ocean exploration pro-
25 gram engaging multiple Federal agencies, Indian

1 Tribes, the private sector, nongovernmental organi-
2 zations, and academia is—

3 (A) essential to the interests of the United
4 States and vital to its security and economy
5 and the health and well-being of all people of
6 the United States; and

7 (B) critical to reestablish the United
8 States at the forefront of global ocean explo-
9 ration and stewardship.

10 **SEC. 10302. DEFINITIONS.**

11 In this title:

12 (1) CHARACTERIZATION.—The term “charac-
13 terization” means activities that provide comprehen-
14 sive data and interpretations for a specific area of
15 interest of the sea floor, sub-bottom, water column,
16 or hydrologic features, including water masses and
17 currents, in direct support of specific research, envi-
18 ronmental protection, resource management, policy-
19 making, or applied mission objectives.

20 (2) EXPLORATION.—The term “exploration”
21 means activities that provide—

22 (A) a multidisciplinary view of an unknown
23 or poorly understood area of the seafloor, sub-
24 bottom, or water column; and

1 (B) an initial assessment of the physical,
2 chemical, geological, biological, archeological, or
3 other characteristics of such an area.

4 (3) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term “Indian Tribe”
5 has the meaning given that term in section 4 of the
6 Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance
7 Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

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

14 **SEC. 10303. OCEAN POLICY COMMITTEE.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

6 (b) INCREASED ACCESS TO GEOSPATIAL DATA FOR
7 MORE EFFICIENT AND INFORMED DECISIONMAKING.—

8 (1) ESTABLISHMENT OF DOCUMENT SYSTEM.—

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

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

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

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

17 “(5) for projects under the purview of the Com-
18 mittee, establish or designate one or more systems
19 for ocean-related and ocean-mapping-related docu-
20 ments prepared under the National Environmental
21 Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), in ac-
22 cordance with subsection (h).”.

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

1 (A) by redesignating subsection (h) as sub-
2 section (i); and

3 (B) by inserting after subsection (g) the
4 following new subsection (h):

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

8 “(1) A publicly accessible, centralized digital ar-
9 chive of documents described in subsection (b)(5)
10 that are finalized after the date of the enactment of
11 the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authoriza-
12 tion Act for Fiscal Year 2023, including—

13 “(A) environmental impact statements;

14 “(B) environmental assessments;

15 “(C) records of decision; and

16 “(D) other relevant documents as deter-
17 mined by the lead agency on a project.

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

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

23 “(A) Ocean Report Tools;

24 “(B) the Environmental Studies Program
25 Information System;

1 “(C) Regional Ocean Partnerships; and
2 “(D) the Integrated Ocean Observing Sys-
3 tem.
4 “(4) Appropriate safeguards on the public ac-
5 cessibility of data to protect national security equi-
6 ties.”.

7 **SEC. 10304. NATIONAL OCEAN MAPPING, EXPLORATION,**
8 **AND 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 8932(c)
21 of title 10, United States Code.

22 (d) **MEMBERSHIP.**—The Council shall be composed of
23 senior-level representatives from the appropriate Federal
24 agencies.

1 (e) CO-CHAIRS.—The Council shall be co-chaired
2 by—

3 (1) two senior-level representatives from the
4 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration;
5 and

6 (2) one senior-level representative from the De-
7 partment of the Interior.

8 (f) DUTIES.—The Council shall—

9 (1) set national ocean mapping, exploration,
10 and characterization priorities and strategies;

11 (2) cultivate and facilitate transparent and sus-
12 tained partnerships among Federal and State agen-
13 cies, Indian Tribes, private industry, academia, and
14 nongovernmental organizations to conduct ocean
15 mapping, exploration, and characterization activities
16 and related technology development;

17 (3) coordinate improved processes for data com-
18 pilation, management, access, synthesis, and visual-
19 ization with respect to ocean mapping, exploration,
20 and characterization, with a focus on building on ex-
21 isting ocean data management systems and with ap-
22 propriate safeguards on the public accessibility of
23 data to protect national security equities, as appro-
24 priate;

1 (4) encourage education, workforce training,
2 and public engagement activities that—

3 (A) advance interdisciplinary principles
4 that contribute to ocean mapping, exploration,
5 research, and characterization;

6 (B) improve public engagement with and
7 understanding of ocean science; and

8 (C) provide opportunities for underserved
9 populations;

10 (5) coordinate activities as appropriate with do-
11 mestic and international ocean mapping, exploration,
12 and characterization initiatives or programs; and

13 (6) establish and monitor metrics to track
14 progress in achieving the priorities set under para-
15 graph (1).

16 (g) INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP ON OCEAN EX-
17 PLORATION AND CHARACTERIZATION.—

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

22 (2) MEMBERSHIP.—The Interagency Working
23 Group on Ocean Exploration and Characterization
24 shall be comprised of senior representatives from

1 Federal agencies with ocean exploration and charac-
2 terization responsibilities.

3 (3) FUNCTIONS.—The Interagency Working
4 Group on Ocean Exploration and Characterization
5 shall support the Council and the Ocean Science and
6 Technology Subcommittee of the Ocean Policy Com-
7 mittee established under section 8932(c) of title 10,
8 United States Code, on ocean exploration and char-
9 acterization activities and associated technology de-
10 velopment across the Federal Government, State
11 governments, Indian Tribes, private industry, non-
12 governmental organizations, and academia.

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

14 (1) the Interagency Working Group on Ocean
15 Exploration and Characterization established under
16 subsection (g)(1); and

17 (2) the Interagency Working Group on Ocean
18 and Coastal Mapping under section 12203 of the
19 Ocean and Coastal Mapping Integration Act (33
20 U.S.C. 3502).

21 (i) PLAN.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after
23 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Council
24 shall develop or update and submit to the appro-
25 priate committees of Congress a plan for an inte-

1 grated cross-sectoral ocean mapping, exploration,
2 and characterization initiative.

3 (2) ELEMENTS.—The plan required by para-
4 graph (1) shall—

5 (A) discuss the utility and benefits of
6 ocean exploration and characterization;

7 (B) identify and describe national ocean
8 mapping, exploration, and characterization pri-
9 orities;

10 (C) identify and describe Federal and fed-
11 erally funded ocean mapping, exploration, and
12 characterization programs;

13 (D) facilitate and incorporate non-Federal
14 input into national ocean mapping, exploration,
15 and characterization priorities;

16 (E) ensure effective coordination of ocean
17 mapping, exploration, and characterization ac-
18 tivities among programs described in subpara-
19 graph (C);

20 (F) identify opportunities for combining
21 overlapping or complementary needs, activities,
22 and resources of Federal agencies and non-Fed-
23 eral organizations relating to ocean mapping,
24 exploration, and characterization while not re-

1 ducing benefits from existing mapping, explo-
2 rations, and characterization activities;

3 (G) promote new and existing partnerships
4 among Federal and State agencies, Indian
5 Tribes, private industry, academia, and non-
6 governmental organizations to conduct or sup-
7 port ocean mapping, exploration, and character-
8 ization activities and technology development
9 needs, including through coordination under
10 section 3 of the Commercial Engagement
11 Through Ocean Technology Act of 2018 (33
12 U.S.C. 4102) and the National Oceanographic
13 Partnership Program under section 8931 of
14 title 10, United States Code;

15 (H) develop a transparent and sustained
16 mechanism for non-Federal partnerships and
17 stakeholder engagement in strategic planning
18 and mission execution to be implemented not
19 later than December 31, 2023, for coordinating
20 such activities with—

21 (i) institutions of higher education (as
22 such term is defined in section 101(a) of
23 the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20
24 U.S.C. 1001(a)), the private sector, philan-
25 thropic organizations, and nonprofits; and

1 (ii) international partners for activi-
2 ties relating to maritime areas (including
3 the sea floor) beyond the jurisdiction of the
4 Federal Government;

5 (I) establish standardized collection and
6 data management protocols, including with re-
7 spect to metadata, for ocean mapping, explo-
8 ration, and characterization which—

9 (i) are publicly accessible and
10 locatable via appropriate Federal reposi-
11 tories;

12 (ii) can facilitate the integration of
13 ocean data into products and use innova-
14 tions from non-Federal partners; and

15 (iii) have appropriate safeguards on
16 the public accessibility of data to protect
17 national security;

18 (J) encourage the development, testing,
19 demonstration, and adoption of innovative
20 ocean mapping, exploration, and characteriza-
21 tion technologies and applications;

22 (K) promote protocols for accepting data,
23 equipment, approaches, or other resources that
24 support national ocean mapping, exploration,
25 and characterization priorities;

1 (L) identify best practices for the protec-
2 tion of marine life during mapping, exploration,
3 and characterization activities;

4 (M) identify training, technology, and
5 other resource requirements for enabling the
6 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administra-
7 tion and other appropriate Federal agencies to
8 support a coordinated national ocean mapping,
9 exploration, and characterization effort;

10 (N) identify and facilitate a centralized
11 mechanism or office for coordinating data col-
12 lection, compilation, processing, archiving, and
13 dissemination activities relating to ocean map-
14 ping, exploration, and characterization that
15 meets Federal mandates for data accuracy and
16 accessibility;

17 (O) designate repositories responsible for
18 archiving and managing ocean mapping, explo-
19 ration, and characterization data;

20 (P) set forth a timetable and estimated
21 costs for implementation and completion of the
22 plan;

23 (Q) to the extent practicable, align ocean
24 exploration and characterization efforts with ex-
25 isting programs and identify key gaps; and

1 (R) identify criteria for determining the
2 optimal frequency of observations; and

3 (S) provide recommendations, developed in
4 coordination with the private sector, to improve
5 incentives, access, and processes for the private
6 sector to share ocean-related data with the pub-
7 lic and Federal Government.

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

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

14 (2) recommendations for meeting such prior-
15 ities, such as additional authorities that may be
16 needed to develop a mechanism for non-Federal
17 partnerships and stakeholder engagement described
18 in subsection (i)(2)(H).

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

22 (1) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and
23 Transportation and the Committee on Armed Serv-
24 ices of the Senate; and

1 (2) the Committee on Natural Resources, the
2 Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and
3 the Committee on Armed Services of the House of
4 Representatives.

5 **SEC. 10305. MODIFICATIONS TO THE OCEAN EXPLORATION**
6 **PROGRAM OF THE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND**
7 **ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION.**

8 (a) **PURPOSE.**—Section 12001 of the Omnibus Public
9 Land Management Act of 2009 (33 U.S.C. 3401) is
10 amended by striking “and the national undersea research
11 program”.

12 (b) **PROGRAM ESTABLISHED.**—Section 12002 of such
13 Act (33 U.S.C. 3402) is amended—

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

16 (2) in the second sentence, by striking “and un-
17 dersea research and exploration” and inserting “re-
18 search and ocean exploration and characterization
19 efforts”.

20 (c) **POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE ADMINIS-**
21 **TRATOR.**—

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

24 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1),
25 by inserting “, in consultation with the Ocean

1 Policy Committee established under section
2 8932 of title 10, United States Code,” after
3 “Administration”;

4 (B) in paragraph (1)—

5 (i) by striking “voyages” and insert-
6 ing “expeditions”;

7 (ii) by striking “Federal agencies”
8 and all that follows through “and survey”
9 and inserting “Federal and State agencies,
10 Tribal Governments, private industry, aca-
11 demia (including secondary schools, com-
12 munity colleges, and universities), and non-
13 governmental organizations, to map, ex-
14 plore, and characterize”; and

15 (iii) by inserting “characterize,” after
16 “observe,”;

17 (C) in paragraph (2), by inserting “of the
18 exclusive economic zone” after “deep ocean re-
19 gions”;

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

22 (E) in paragraph (4), by striking “, in con-
23 sultation with the National Science Founda-
24 tion,”;

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

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

9 (G) in paragraph (6), by inserting “, in
10 consultation with the National Ocean Mapping,
11 Exploration, and Characterization Council es-
12 tablished under section 5405 of the James M.
13 Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for
14 Fiscal Year 2023,” after “forum”;

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

16 “(7) provide guidance, in consultation with the
17 National Ocean Mapping, Exploration, and Charac-
18 terization Council, to Federal and State agencies,
19 Tribal Governments, private industry, academia (in-
20 cluding secondary schools, community colleges, and
21 universities), and nongovernmental organizations on
22 data standards, protocols for accepting data, and co-
23 ordination of data collection, compilation, processing,
24 archiving, and dissemination for data relating to
25 ocean exploration and characterization; and

1 “(8) coordinate with applicable ocean mapping,
2 ocean monitoring, and ocean observation programs
3 to maximize coordination and collaboration opportu-
4 nities, prevent duplication of such activities and
5 identify gaps in data.”.

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

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

11 “(1) accept monetary donations, which shall be
12 credited as discretionary offsetting collections to the
13 currently applicable appropriation, account, or fund
14 of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Adminis-
15 tration and shall be made available for such pur-
16 poses only to the extent and in the amounts provided
17 in advance in appropriations Acts;

18 “(2) accept donations of property, data, and
19 equipment; and

20 “(3) pay all necessary expenses in connection
21 with the conveyance or transfer of a gift, devise, or
22 bequest.”.

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

1 “(c) DEFINITION OF EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE.—
2 In this section, the term ‘exclusive economic zone’ means
3 the zone established by Presidential Proclamation Number
4 5030, dated March 10, 1983 (16 U.S.C. 1453 note).”.

5 (d) REPEAL OF OCEAN EXPLORATION AND UNDER-
6 SEA RESEARCH TECHNOLOGY AND INFRASTRUCTURE
7 TASK FORCE.—Section 12004 of such Act (33 U.S.C.
8 3404) is repealed.

9 (e) EDUCATION, WORKFORCE TRAINING, AND OUT-
10 REACH.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—Such Act is further amended
12 by inserting after section 12003 the following new
13 section 12004:

14 **“SEC. 12004. EDUCATION, WORKFORCE TRAINING, AND**
15 **OUTREACH.**

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

18 “(1) conduct education and outreach efforts in
19 order to broadly disseminate information to the pub-
20 lic on the discoveries made by the program under
21 section 12002;

22 “(2) to the extent possible, coordinate the ef-
23 forts described in paragraph (1) with the outreach
24 strategies of other domestic or international ocean

1 mapping, exploration, and characterization initia-
2 tives; and

3 “(3) establish a fellowship program at the Na-
4 tional Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to
5 provide year-long fellowships to undergraduate stu-
6 dents from institutions described in section 371(a)
7 of the Higher Education Act of 1965.

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

10 “(1) education of the general public, teachers,
11 students, and ocean and coastal resource managers;
12 and

13 “(2) workforce training, reskilling, and opportu-
14 nities to encourage development of ocean-related
15 science, technology, engineering, and mathematics
16 technical training programs involving secondary
17 schools, community colleges, and universities, includ-
18 ing institutions described in section 371(a) of the
19 Higher Education Act of 1965.

20 “(c) OUTREACH STRATEGY.—Not later than 180
21 days after the date of the enactment of the National
22 Ocean Exploration Act, the Administrator of the National
23 Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shall develop an
24 outreach strategy to broadly disseminate information on

1 the discoveries made by the program under section
2 12002.”.

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

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

8 (f) OCEAN EXPLORATION ADVISORY BOARD.—

9 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Section 12005(a) of
10 such Act (33 U.S.C. 3505(a)) is amended—

11 (A) by inserting “, including representa-
12 tives from academic, commercial, nonprofit,
13 philanthropic, policy, and Tribal entities” after
14 “relevant fields”;

15 (B) by amending paragraph (1) to read as
16 follows:

17 “(1) to advise the Administrator on priority
18 areas for survey, discovery, and opportunities for ex-
19 tramural collaboration and partnerships;”;

20 (C) by redesignating paragraph (4) as
21 paragraph (6); and

22 (D) by inserting after paragraph (3) the
23 following:

24 “(4) to identify market barriers to development
25 or commercialization of novel ocean mapping, explo-

1 ration, and characterization products, processes, and
2 tools;

3 “(5) to identify best practices to improve data
4 management, processing, storage, and archiving
5 standards; and”.

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

9 (g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section
10 12006 of such Act (33 U.S.C. 3406) is amended by strik-
11 ing “this part” and all that follows and inserting “this
12 part \$60,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2023 through
13 2028”.

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

16 **“SEC. 12007. DEFINITIONS.**

17 “In this part:

18 “(1) CHARACTERIZATION.—The terms ‘charac-
19 terization’, ‘characterize’, and ‘characterizing’ mean
20 activities that provide comprehensive data and inter-
21 pretations for a specific area of interest of the sea
22 floor, sub-bottom, water column, or hydrologic fea-
23 tures, such as water masses and currents, in direct
24 support of specific research, environmental protec-

1 tion, resource management, policymaking, or applied
2 mission objectives.

3 “(2) EXPLORATION.—The term ‘exploration’,
4 ‘explore’, and ‘exploring’ means activities that pro-
5 vide—

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

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

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

19 (i) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents
20 in section 1(b) of the Omnibus Public Land Management
21 Act of 2009 (Public Law 111–11; 123 Stat. 991) is
22 amended by inserting after the item relating to section
23 12006 the following:

 “Sec. 12007. Definitions.”.

1 **SEC. 10306. REPEAL.**

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

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

11 **SEC. 10307. MODIFICATIONS TO OCEAN AND COASTAL MAP-**
12 **PING PROGRAM OF THE NATIONAL OCEANIC**
13 **AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION.**

14 (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.—

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

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

21 (B) by striking “plan” and inserting “ef-
22 forts”; and

23 (C) by striking “that enhances” and all
24 that follows and inserting “that—

25 “(1) enhances ecosystem approaches in deci-
26 sionmaking for natural resource and habitat man-

1 agement restoration and conservation, emergency re-
2 sponse, and coastal resilience and adaptation;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

22 (C) in paragraph (7), by striking “with
23 coastal state and local government programs”
24 and inserting “with mapping programs, in con-
25 junction with Federal and State agencies, Trib-

1 al governments, private industry, academia, and
2 nongovernmental organizations”;

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

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

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

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

12 “(11) support—

13 “(A) the Ocean Science and Technology
14 Subcommittee of the Ocean Policy Committee
15 established under section 8932(e) of title 10,
16 United States Code; and

17 “(B) the National Ocean Mapping, Explo-
18 ration, and Characterization Council established
19 under section 5405 of the National Ocean Ex-
20 ploration Act.”.

21 (b) INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP ON OCEAN AND
22 COASTAL MAPPING.—

23 (1) NAME CHANGE.—The Ocean and Coastal
24 Mapping Integration Act (33 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.) is
25 amended—

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

2 (i) in subsection (a), by striking

3 “Interagency Committee on Ocean and

4 Coastal Mapping” and inserting “Inter-

5 agency Working Group on Ocean and

6 Coastal Mapping under section 12203”;

7 and

8 (ii) in subsection (b), as redesignated

9 by subsection (a)(2), by striking “Com-

10 mittee” and inserting “Working Group”;

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

12 (i) in the section heading, by striking

13 “**COMMITTEE**” and inserting “**WORKING**

14 **GROUP**”;

15 (ii) in subsection (b), in the first sen-

16 tence, by striking “committee” and insert-

17 ing “Working Group”;

18 (iii) in subsection (e), by striking

19 “committee” and inserting “Working

20 Group”; and

21 (iv) in subsection (f), by striking

22 “committee” and inserting “Working

23 Group”; and

24 (C) in section 12208 (33 U.S.C. 3507), by

25 amending paragraph (3) to read as follows:

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

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

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

15 (A) by striking “senior” both places it ap-
16 pears and inserting “senior-level”;

17 (B) by striking the second sentence;

18 (C) by striking “the Minerals Management
19 Service” and inserting “the Bureau of Ocean
20 Energy Management of the Department of the
21 Interior, the Office of the Assistant Secretary,
22 Fish and Wildlife and Parks of the Department
23 of the Interior”; and

1 (D) by striking “the Chief of Naval Oper-
2 ations” and inserting “the Department of the
3 Navy”.

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

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

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

10 “(2) The Department of the Interior.”.

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

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

17 (6) MEETINGS.—Section 12203(e) of such Act
18 (33 U.S.C. 3502(e)) is amended by striking “each
19 subcommittee and each working group” and insert-
20 ing “each subordinate group”.

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

25 “(1) other Federal efforts;

1 “(2) international mapping activities;

2 “(3) coastal States;

3 “(4) coastal Indian Tribes;

4 “(5) data acquisition and user groups through
5 workshops, partnerships, and other appropriate
6 mechanisms; and

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

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

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

15 “(g) SUPPORT FUNCTIONS.—The Working Group
16 shall support the National Ocean Mapping, Exploration,
17 and Characterization Council established under section
18 5405 of the National Ocean Exploration Act and the
19 Ocean Science and Technology Subcommittee of the
20 Ocean Policy Committee established under section 8932(c)
21 of title 10, United States Code, on ocean mapping activi-
22 ties and associated technology development across the
23 Federal Government, State governments, coastal Indian
24 Tribes, private industry, nongovernmental organizations,
25 and academia.”.

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 the
7 Ocean and Coastal Mapping Integration Act (33 U.S.C.
8 3503) is amended—

9 (1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by
10 striking “No later” and all that follows through
11 “House of Representatives” and inserting “Not later
12 than 18 months after the date of the enactment of
13 the National Ocean Exploration Act, and biennially
14 thereafter until 2040, the co-chairs of the Working
15 Group, in coordination with the National Ocean
16 Mapping, Exploration, and Characterization Council
17 established under section 5405 of such Act, shall
18 submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and
19 Transportation and the Committee on Energy and
20 Natural Resources of the Senate, and the Committee
21 on Natural Resources and the Committee on
22 Science, Space, and Technology of the House of
23 Representatives,”;

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

1 vironmental Information of the National Oceanic
2 and Atmospheric Administration,” after “mapping
3 data”;

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

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

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

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

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

23 (B) by inserting “for the purpose of ful-
24 filling Federal mapping and charting respon-

1 sibilities, plans, and strategies” after “entities”;
2 and

3 (C) by striking “; and” and inserting a
4 semicolon;

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

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

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

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

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

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

5 (d) **NOAA JOINT OCEAN AND COASTAL MAPPING**
6 **CENTERS.—**

7 (1) **CENTERS.—**Section 12205(c) of such Act
8 (33 U.S.C. 3504(c)) is amended—

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

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

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

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

18 (B) by striking subsections (a), (b), and
19 (d); and

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

23 (3) **CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—**The table of con-
24 tents in section 1(b) of the Omnibus Public Land
25 Management Act of 2009 (Public Law 111–11; 123

1 Stat. 991) is amended by striking the item relating
2 to section 12205 and inserting the following:

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

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

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

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

11 **“SEC. 12206. OCEAN AND COASTAL MAPPING FEDERAL**
12 **FUNDING OPPORTUNITY.**

13 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the
14 date of the enactment of the National Ocean Exploration
15 Act, the Administrator shall develop an integrated ocean
16 and coastal mapping Federal funding match opportunity,
17 to be known as the ‘Brennan Ocean Mapping Fund’ in
18 memory of Rear Admiral Richard T. Brennan, within the
19 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration with
20 Federal, State, Tribal, local, nonprofit, private industry,
21 or academic partners in order to increase the coordinated
22 acquisition, processing, stewardship, and archival of new
23 ocean and coastal mapping data in United States waters.

24 “(b) RULES.—The Administrator shall develop ad-
25 ministrative and procedural rules for the ocean and coastal

1 mapping Federal funding match opportunity developed
2 under subsection (a), to include—

3 “(1) specific and detailed criteria that must be
4 addressed by an applicant, such as geographic over-
5 lap with preestablished priorities, number and type
6 of project partners, benefit to the applicant, coordi-
7 nation with other funding opportunities, and benefit
8 to the public;

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

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

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

23 **“SEC. 12207. AGREEMENTS AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.**

24 “(a) AGREEMENTS.—Subject to the availability of ap-
25 propriations for such purpose, the head of a Federal agen-

1 cy that is represented on the Interagency Committee on
2 Ocean and Coastal Mapping may enter into agreements
3 with any other agency that is so represented to provide,
4 on a reimbursable or nonreimbursable basis, facilities,
5 equipment, services, personnel, and other support services
6 to carry out the purposes of this subtitle.

7 “(b) FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—The Administrator
8 may make financial assistance awards (grants of coopera-
9 tive agreements) to any State or subdivision thereof or any
10 public or private organization or individual to carry out
11 the purposes of this subtitle.”.

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

15 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “this subtitle”
16 and all that follows and inserting “this subtitle
17 \$45,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2023 through
18 2028.”;

19 (2) in subsection (b), by striking “this subtitle”
20 and all that follows and inserting “this subtitle
21 \$15,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2023 through
22 2028.”;

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

24 (4) by inserting after subsection (b) the fol-
25 lowing:

1 “(c) OCEAN AND COASTAL MAPPING FEDERAL
2 FUNDING OPPORTUNITY.—Of amounts authorized pursu-
3 ant to subsection (a), \$20,000,000 is authorized to carry
4 out section 12206.”.

5 (g) DEFINITIONS.—

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

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

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

20 (h) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—The table of contents
21 in section 1(b) of the Omnibus Public Land Management
22 Act of 2009 (Public Law 111–11; 123 Stat. 991) is
23 amended by striking the items relating to sections 12206
24 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. 10308. MODIFICATIONS TO HYDROGRAPHIC SERVICES**
2 **IMPROVEMENT 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.

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

5 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section
6 306(a) of such Act (33 U.S.C. 892d(a)) is amended—

7 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “\$70,814,000
8 for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023” and in-
9 serting “\$71,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2023
10 through 2028”;

11 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking “\$25,000,000
12 for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023” and in-
13 serting “\$34,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2023
14 through 2028”;

15 (3) in paragraph (3), by striking “\$29,932,000
16 for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023” and in-
17 serting “\$38,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2023
18 through 2028”;

19 (4) in paragraph (4), by striking “\$26,800,000
20 for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023” and in-
21 serting “\$45,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2023
22 through 2028”; and

23 (5) in paragraph (5), by striking “\$30,564,000
24 for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023” and in-

1 serting “\$35,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2023
2 through 2028”.

3 **TITLE CIV—MARINE MAMMAL**
4 **RESEARCH AND RESPONSE**

5 **SEC. 10401. DATA COLLECTION AND DISSEMINATION.**

6 Section 402 of the Marine Mammal Protection Act
7 of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1421a) is amended—

8 (1) in subsection (b)—

9 (A) in paragraph (1)(A), by inserting “or
10 entangled” after “stranded”;

11 (B) in paragraph (3)—

12 (i) by striking “strandings,” and in-
13 serting “strandings and entanglements, in-
14 cluding unusual mortality events,”;

15 (ii) by inserting “stranding” before
16 “region”; and

17 (iii) by striking “marine mammals;
18 and” and inserting “marine mammals and
19 entangled marine mammals to allow com-
20 parison of the causes of illness and deaths
21 in stranded marine mammals and entan-
22 gled marine mammals with physical, chem-
23 ical, and biological environmental param-
24 eters; and”;

1 (C) in paragraph (4), by striking “anal-
2 yses, that would allow comparison of the causes
3 of illness and deaths in stranded marine mam-
4 mals with physical, chemical, and biological en-
5 vironmental parameters.” and inserting “anal-
6 yses.”; and

7 (2) by striking subsection (c) and inserting the
8 following:

9 “(c) INFORMATION REQUIRED TO BE SUBMITTED
10 AND COLLECTED.—

11 “(1) IN GENERAL.—After each response to a
12 stranding or entanglement event, the Secretary shall
13 collect (including from any staff of the National
14 Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration that re-
15 spond directly to such an event), and shall require
16 each stranding network participant who responds to
17 that stranding or entanglement to submit to the Ad-
18 ministrator of the National Oceanic and Atmos-
19 pheric Administration or the Director of the United
20 States Fish and Wildlife Service—

21 “(A) data on the stranding event, includ-
22 ing NOAA Form 89–864 (OMB #0648–0178),
23 NOAA Form 89–878 (OMB #0648–0178),
24 similar successor forms, or similar information
25 in an appropriate format required by the

1 United States Fish and Wildlife Service for spe-
2 cies under its management authority;

3 “(B) supplemental data to the data de-
4 scribed in subparagraph (A), which may in-
5 clude, as available, relevant information
6 about—

7 “(i) weather and tide conditions;

8 “(ii) offshore human, predator, or
9 prey activity;

10 “(iii) morphometrics;

11 “(iv) behavior;

12 “(v) health assessments;

13 “(vi) life history samples; or

14 “(vii) stomach and intestinal contents;

15 and

16 “(C) data and results from laboratory
17 analysis of tissues, which may include, as ap-
18 propriate and available—

19 “(i) histopathology;

20 “(ii) toxicology;

21 “(iii) microbiology;

22 “(iv) virology; or

23 “(v) parasitology.

24 “(2) TIMELINE.—A stranding network partici-
25 pant shall submit—

1 “(A) the data described in paragraph
2 (1)(A) not later than 30 days after the date of
3 a response to a stranding or entanglement
4 event;

5 “(B) the compiled data described in para-
6 graph (1)(B) not later than 30 days after the
7 date on which the data is available to the
8 stranding network participant; and

9 “(C) the compiled data described in para-
10 graph (1)(C) not later than 30 days after the
11 date on which the laboratory analysis has been
12 reported to the stranding network participant.

13 “(3) ONLINE DATA INPUT SYSTEM.—The Sec-
14 retary, acting through the Under Secretary of Com-
15 merce for Oceans and Atmosphere, in consultation
16 with the stranding network and the Office of Eval-
17 uation Sciences of the General Services Administra-
18 tion, shall establish an online system for the pur-
19 poses of efficient and timely submission of data de-
20 scribed in paragraph (1).

21 “(d) AVAILABILITY OF DATA.—

22 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall develop
23 a program to make information, including any data
24 and metadata collected under paragraph (3) or (4)
25 of subsection (b) or subsection (c), available to re-

1 searchers, stranding network participants, and the
2 public—

3 “(A) to improve real-time coordination of
4 response to stranding and entanglement events
5 across geographic areas and between stranding
6 coordinators;

7 “(B) to identify and quickly disseminate
8 information on potential public health risks;

9 “(C) to facilitate integrated interdiscipli-
10 nary research;

11 “(D) to facilitate peer-reviewed publica-
12 tions;

13 “(E) to archive regional data into 1 na-
14 tional database for future analyses; and

15 “(F) for education and outreach activities.

16 “(2) ACCESS TO DATA.—The Secretary shall
17 ensure that any data or metadata collected under
18 subsection (c)—

19 “(A) by staff of the National Oceanic and
20 Atmospheric Administration or the United
21 States Fish and Wildlife Service that responded
22 directly to a stranding or entanglement event is
23 available to the public through the Health MAP
24 and the Observation System not later than 30

1 days after that data or metadata is collected by,
2 available to, or reported to the Secretary; and

3 “(B) by a stranding network participant
4 that responded directly to a stranding or entan-
5 glement event is made available to the public
6 through the Health MAP and the Observation
7 System 2 years after the date on which that
8 data are submitted to the Secretary under sub-
9 section (c).

10 “(3) EXCEPTIONS.—

11 “(A) WRITTEN RELEASE.—Notwith-
12 standing paragraph (2)(B), the Secretary may
13 make data described in paragraph (2)(B) pub-
14 licly available earlier than 2 years after the date
15 on which that data are submitted to the Sec-
16 retary under subsection (c), if the stranding
17 network participant has completed a written re-
18 lease stating that such data may be made pub-
19 licly available.

20 “(B) LAW ENFORCEMENT.—Notwith-
21 standing paragraph (2), the Secretary may
22 withhold data for a longer period than the pe-
23 riod of time described in paragraph (2) in the
24 event of a law enforcement action or legal ac-
25 tion that may be related to that data.

1 “(e) STANDARDS.—The Secretary, in consultation
2 with the marine mammal stranding community, shall—

3 “(1) make publicly available guidance about
4 uniform data and metadata standards to ensure that
5 data collected in accordance with this section can be
6 archived in a form that is readily accessible and un-
7 derstandable to the public through the Health MAP
8 and the Observation System; and

9 “(2) periodically update such guidance.

10 “(f) MANAGEMENT POLICY.—In collaboration with
11 the regional stranding networks, the Secretary shall de-
12 velop, and periodically update, a data management and
13 public outreach collaboration policy for stranding or en-
14 tanglement events.

15 “(g) AUTHORSHIP AGREEMENTS AND ACKNOWLEDG-
16 MENT POLICY.—The Secretary, acting through the Under
17 Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere, shall
18 include authorship agreements or other acknowledgment
19 considerations for use of data by the public, as determined
20 by the Secretary.

21 “(h) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—The Secretary shall not re-
22 quire submission of research data that are not described
23 in subsection (c).”.

1 **SEC. 10402. STRANDING OR ENTANGLEMENT RESPONSE**
2 **AGREEMENTS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 403 of the Marine Mam-
4 mal Protection Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1421b) is amend-
5 ed—

6 (1) in the section heading by inserting “**OR EN-**
7 **TANGLEMENT**” before “**RESPONSE**”;

8 (2) in subsection (a), by striking the period at
9 the end and inserting “or entanglement.”; and

10 (3) in subsection (b)—

11 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “and”
12 after the semicolon;

13 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking the pe-
14 riod at the end and inserting “; and”; and

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

16 “(3) include a description of the data manage-
17 ment and public outreach policy established under
18 section 402(f).”.

19 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS AMENDMENT.—The table
20 of contents in the first section of the Marine Mammal Pro-
21 tection Act of 1972 (Public Law 92–522; 86 Stat. 1027)
22 is amended by striking the item related to section 403 and
23 inserting the following:

“Sec. 403. Stranding or entanglement response agreements.”.

1 **SEC. 10403. UNUSUAL MORTALITY EVENT ACTIVITY FUND-**
2 **ING.**

3 Section 405(b) the Marine Mammal Protection Act
4 of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1421d(b)) is amended to read as fol-
5 lows:

6 “(b) USES.—Amounts in the Fund shall be available
7 only for use by the Secretary, in consultation with the Sec-
8 retary of the Interior, and dispersed among claimants
9 based on budgets approved by the Secretary prior to ex-
10 penditure—

11 “(1) to make advance, partial, or progress pay-
12 ments under contracts or other funding mechanisms
13 for property, supplies, salaries, services, and travel
14 costs incurred in acting in accordance with the con-
15 tingency plan issued under section 404(b) or under
16 the direction of an Onsite Coordinator for an un-
17 usual mortality event designated under section
18 404(a)(2)(B)(iii);

19 “(2) for reimbursing any stranding network
20 participant for costs incurred in the collection, prep-
21 aration, analysis, and transportation of marine
22 mammal tissues and samples collected with respect
23 to an unusual mortality event for the Tissue Bank;
24 and

25 “(3) for the care and maintenance of a marine
26 mammal seized under section 104(c)(2)(D); and”.

1 **SEC. 10404. LIABILITY.**

2 Section 406(a) of the Marine Mammal Protection Act
3 of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1421e(a)) is amended, in the matter
4 preceding paragraph (1)—

5 (1) by inserting “or entanglement” after “to a
6 stranding”; and

7 (2) by striking “government” and inserting
8 “Government”.

9 **SEC. 10405. NATIONAL MARINE MAMMAL TISSUE BANK AND**
10 **TISSUE ANALYSIS.**

11 Section 407 of the Marine Mammal Protection Act
12 of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1421f) is amended—

13 (1) in subsection (c)(2)(A), by striking “the
14 health of marine mammals and” and inserting “ma-
15 rine mammal health and mortality and the health
16 of”; and

17 (2) in subsection (d), in the matter preceding
18 paragraph (1), by inserting “public” before “ac-
19 cess”.

20 **SEC. 10406. MARINE MAMMAL RESCUE AND RESPONSE**
21 **GRANT PROGRAM AND RAPID RESPONSE**
22 **FUND.**

23 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 408 of the Marine Mam-
24 mal Protection Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1421f–1) is
25 amended—

1 (1) by striking the section heading and insert-
2 ing “**MARINE MAMMAL RESCUE AND RESPONSE**
3 **GRANT PROGRAM AND RAPID RESPONSE**
4 **FUND**”;

5 (2) by striking subsections (a) through (d) and
6 subsections (f) through (h);

7 (3) by redesignating subsection (e) as sub-
8 section (f); and

9 (4) by inserting before subsection (f), as redес-
10 igned by paragraph (3), the following:

11 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

12 “(1) EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE.—

13 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘emergency
14 assistance’ means—

15 “(i) financial assistance provided to
16 respond to, or that results from, a strand-
17 ing event or entanglement event that—

18 “(I) causes an immediate in-
19 crease in the cost of a response, recov-
20 ery, or rehabilitation that is greater
21 than the usual cost of a response, re-
22 covery, or rehabilitation;

23 “(II) is cyclical or endemic; or

1 “(III) involves a marine mammal
2 that is out of the normal range for
3 that marine mammal; or

4 “(ii) financial assistance provided to
5 respond to, or that results from, a strand-
6 ing event or an entanglement event that—

7 “(I) the applicable Secretary con-
8 siders to be an emergency; or

9 “(II) with the concurrence of the
10 applicable Secretary, a State, terri-
11 torial, or Tribal Government considers
12 to be an emergency.

13 “(B) EXCLUSIONS.—The term ‘emergency
14 assistance’ does not include financial assistance
15 to respond to an unusual mortality event.

16 “(2) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’ has
17 the meaning given that term in section 3(12)(A).

18 “(3) STRANDING REGION.—The term ‘strand-
19 ing region’ means a geographic region designated by
20 the applicable Secretary for purposes of administra-
21 tion of this title.

22 “(b) JOHN H. PRESCOTT MARINE MAMMAL RESCUE
23 AND RESPONSE GRANT PROGRAM.—

24 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The applicable Secretary
25 shall carry out a grant program, to be known as the

1 ‘John H. Prescott Marine Mammal Rescue and Re-
2 sponse Grant Program’ (referred to in this section
3 as the ‘grant program’), to award grants to eligible
4 stranding network participants or stranding network
5 collaborators, as described in this subsection.

6 “(2) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the grant
7 program are to provide for—

8 “(A) the recovery, care, or treatment of
9 sick, injured, or entangled marine mammals;

10 “(B) responses to marine mammal strand-
11 ing events that require emergency assistance;

12 “(C) the collection of data and samples
13 from living or dead stranded marine mammals
14 for scientific research or assessments regarding
15 marine mammal health;

16 “(D) facility operating costs that are di-
17 rectly related to activities described in subpara-
18 graph (A), (B), or (C); and

19 “(E) development of stranding network ca-
20 pacity, including training for emergency re-
21 sponse, where facilities do not exist or are
22 sparse.

23 “(3) CONTRACT, GRANT, AND COOPERATIVE
24 AGREEMENT AUTHORITY.—

1 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The applicable Sec-
2 retary may enter into a contract, grant, or co-
3 operative agreement with any eligible stranding
4 network participant or stranding network col-
5 laborator, as the Secretary determines to be ap-
6 propriate, for the purposes described in para-
7 graph (2).

8 “(B) EMERGENCY AWARD FLEXIBILITY.—
9 Following a request for emergency award flexi-
10 bility and analysis of the merits of and neces-
11 sity for such a request, the applicable Secretary
12 may—

13 “(i) amend any contract, grant, or co-
14 operative agreement entered into under
15 this paragraph, including provisions con-
16 cerning the period of performance; or

17 “(ii) waive the requirements under
18 subsection (f) for grant applications sub-
19 mitted during the provision of emergency
20 assistance.

21 “(4) EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS.—

22 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
23 ensure, to the extent practicable, that funds
24 awarded under the grant program are distrib-
25 uted equitably among the stranding regions.

1 “(B) CONSIDERATIONS.—In determining
2 priorities among the stranding regions under
3 this paragraph, the Secretary may consider—

4 “(i) equitable distribution within the
5 stranding regions, including the subregions
6 (including, but not limited to, the Gulf of
7 Mexico);

8 “(ii) any episodic stranding, entangle-
9 ment, or mortality events, except for un-
10 usual mortality events, that occurred in
11 any stranding region in the preceding year;

12 “(iii) any data with respect to average
13 annual stranding, entanglements, and mor-
14 tality events per stranding region;

15 “(iv) the size of the marine mammal
16 populations inhabiting a stranding region;

17 “(v) the importance of the region’s
18 marine mammal populations to the well-
19 being of indigenous communities; and

20 “(vi) the conservation of protected,
21 depleted, threatened, or endangered marine
22 mammal species.

23 “(C) STRANDINGS.—For the purposes of
24 this program, priority is to be given to applica-
25 tions focusing on marine mammal strandings.

1 “(5) APPLICATION.—To be eligible for a grant
2 under the grant program, a stranding network par-
3 ticipant shall—

4 “(A) submit an application in such form
5 and manner as the applicable Secretary pre-
6 scribes; and

7 “(B) be in compliance with the data re-
8 porting requirements under section 402(d) and
9 any applicable reporting requirements of the
10 United States Fish and Wildlife Service for spe-
11 cies under its management jurisdiction.

12 “(6) GRANT CRITERIA.—The Secretary shall, in
13 consultation with the Marine Mammal Commission,
14 a representative from each of the stranding regions,
15 and other individuals who represent public and pri-
16 vate organizations that are actively involved in res-
17 cue, rehabilitation, release, scientific research, ma-
18 rine conservation, and forensic science with respect
19 to stranded marine mammals under that Depart-
20 ment’s jurisdiction, develop criteria for awarding
21 grants under their respective grant programs.

22 “(7) MAXIMUM GRANT AMOUNT.—No grant
23 made under the grant program for a single award
24 may exceed \$150,000 in any 12-month period.

1 “(8) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS AND EXPENSES.—
2 The Secretary’s administrative costs and expenses
3 related to reviewing and awarding grants under the
4 grant program, in any fiscal year may not exceed
5 the greater of—

6 “(A) 6 percent of the amounts made avail-
7 able each fiscal year to carry out the grant pro-
8 gram; or

9 “(B) \$80,000.

10 “(9) TRANSPARENCY.—The Secretary shall
11 make publicly available a list of grant proposals for
12 the upcoming fiscal year, funded grants, and re-
13 quests for grant flexibility under this subsection.

14 “(c) JOSEPH R. GERACI MARINE MAMMAL RESCUE
15 AND RAPID RESPONSE FUND.—

16 “(1) IN GENERAL.—There is established in the
17 Treasury of the United States an interest-bearing
18 fund, to be known as the ‘Joseph R. Geraci Marine
19 Mammal Rescue and Rapid Response Fund’ (re-
20 ferred to in this section as the ‘Rapid Response
21 Fund’).

22 “(2) USE OF FUNDS.—Amounts in the Rapid
23 Response Fund shall be available only for use by the
24 Secretary to provide emergency assistance.

25 “(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—

2 “(A) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIA-
3 TIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated
4 to carry out the grant program \$7,000,000 for
5 each of fiscal years 2023 through 2028, to re-
6 main available until expended, of which for each
7 fiscal year—

8 “(i) \$6,000,000 shall be made avail-
9 able to the Secretary of Commerce; and

10 “(ii) \$1,000,000 shall be made avail-
11 able to the Secretary of the Interior.

12 “(B) DERIVATION OF FUNDS.—Funds to
13 carry out the activities under this section shall
14 be derived from amounts authorized to be ap-
15 propriated pursuant to subparagraph (A) that
16 are enacted after the date of enactment of the
17 James M. Inhofe National Defense Authoriza-
18 tion Act for Fiscal Year 2023.

19 “(2) JOSEPH R. GERACI MARINE MAMMAL RES-
20 CUE AND RAPID RESPONSE FUND.—There is author-
21 ized to be appropriated to the Rapid Response Fund
22 \$500,000 for each of fiscal years 2023 through
23 2028.

24 “(e) ACCEPTANCE OF DONATIONS.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—For the purposes of car-
2 rying out this section, the Secretary may solicit, ac-
3 cept, receive, hold, administer, and use gifts, devises,
4 and bequests without any further approval or admin-
5 istrative action.

6 “(2) MONETARY DONATIONS.—A monetary gift,
7 devise, or bequest accepted by the Secretary under
8 paragraph (1) shall be credited as discretionary off-
9 setting collections to the currently applicable appro-
10 piation, account, or fund of the Department of
11 Commerce and shall be made available for such pur-
12 poses only to the extent and in the amounts provided
13 in advance in appropriations Acts.”.

14 (b) TECHNICAL EDITS.—Section 408 of the Marine
15 Mammal Protection Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1421f–1), as
16 amended by subsection (a), is further amended in sub-
17 section (f), as redesignated by subsection (a)(3)—

18 (1) in paragraph (1)—

19 (A) by striking “the costs of an activity
20 conducted with a grant under this section shall
21 be” and inserting “a project conducted with
22 funds awarded under the grant program under
23 this section shall be not less than”; and

24 (B) by striking “such costs” and inserting
25 “such project”; and

1 (2) in paragraph (2)—

2 (A) by striking “an activity” and inserting
3 “a project”; and

4 (B) by striking “the activity” and inserting
5 “the project”.

6 (c) TABLE OF CONTENTS AMENDMENT.—The table
7 of contents in the first section of the Marine Mammal Pro-
8 tection Act of 1972 (Public Law 92–522; 86 Stat. 1027)
9 (as amended by section 5503(b)) is amended by striking
10 the item related to section 408 and inserting the following:

“Sec. 408. Marine Mammal Rescue and Response Grant Program and Rapid
Response Fund.”.

11 **SEC. 10407. HEALTH MAP.**

12 (a) IN GENERAL.—Title IV of the Marine Mammal
13 Protection Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1421 et seq.) is amend-
14 ed by inserting after section 408 the following:

15 **“SEC. 408A. MARINE MAMMAL HEALTH MONITORING AND**
16 **ANALYSIS PLATFORM (HEALTH MAP).**

17 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the
18 date of enactment of the James M. Inhofe National De-
19 fense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023, the Sec-
20 retary, acting through the Administrator of the National
21 Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, in consultation
22 with the Secretary of the Interior and the Marine Mammal
23 Commission, shall—

1 “(1) establish a marine mammal health moni-
2 toring and analysis platform (referred to in this Act
3 as the ‘Health MAP’);

4 “(2) incorporate the Health MAP into the Ob-
5 servation System; and

6 “(3) make the Health MAP—

7 “(A) publicly accessible through the web
8 portal of the Observation System; and

9 “(B) interoperable with other national data
10 systems or other data systems for management
11 or research purposes, as practicable.

12 “(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the Health MAP
13 are—

14 “(1) to promote—

15 “(A) interdisciplinary research among indi-
16 viduals with knowledge and experience in ma-
17 rine mammal science, marine mammal veteri-
18 nary and husbandry practices, medical science,
19 and oceanography, and with other marine sci-
20 entists;

21 “(B) timely and sustained dissemination
22 and availability of marine mammal health,
23 stranding, entanglement, and mortality data;

1 “(C) identification of spatial and temporal
2 patterns of marine mammal mortality, disease,
3 and stranding;

4 “(D) evaluation of marine mammal health
5 in terms of mortality, as well as sublethal ma-
6 rine mammal health impacts;

7 “(E) improved collaboration and fore-
8 casting of marine mammal and larger eco-
9 system health events;

10 “(F) rapid communication and dissemina-
11 tion of information regarding marine mammal
12 strandings that may have implications for
13 human health, such as those caused by harmful
14 algal blooms; and

15 “(G) increased accessibility of data in a
16 user friendly visual interface for public edu-
17 cation and outreach; and

18 “(2) to contribute to an ocean health index that
19 incorporates marine mammal health data.

20 “(c) REQUIREMENTS.—The Health MAP shall—

21 “(1) integrate in situ, remote, and other marine
22 mammal health, stranding, and mortality data, in-
23 cluding visualizations and metadata, collected by
24 marine mammal stranding networks, Federal, State,

1 local, and Tribal governments, private partners, and
2 academia; and

3 “(2) be designed—

4 “(A) to enhance data and information
5 availability, including data sharing among
6 stranding network participants, scientists, and
7 the public within and across stranding network
8 regions;

9 “(B) to facilitate data and information ac-
10 cess across scientific disciplines, scientists, and
11 managers;

12 “(C) to facilitate public access to national
13 and regional marine mammal health, stranding,
14 entanglement, and mortality data, including vis-
15 ualizations and metadata, through the national
16 and regional data portals of the Observation
17 System; and

18 “(D) in collaboration with, and with input
19 from, States and stranding network partici-
20 pants.

21 “(d) PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES.—The Sec-
22 retary shall establish and implement policies, protocols,
23 and standards for—

1 “(1) reporting marine mammal health data col-
2 lected by stranding networks consistent with sub-
3 sections (c) and (d) of section 402;

4 “(2) promptly transmitting health data from
5 the stranding networks and other appropriate data
6 providers to the Health MAP;

7 “(3) disseminating and making publicly avail-
8 able data on marine mammal health, stranding, en-
9 tanglement, and mortality data in a timely and sus-
10 tained manner; and

11 “(4) integrating additional marine mammal
12 health, stranding, or other relevant data as the Sec-
13 retary determines appropriate.

14 “(e) CONSULTATION.—The Administrator of the Na-
15 tional Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shall
16 maintain and update the Health MAP in consultation with
17 the Secretary of the Interior and the Marine Mammal
18 Commission.

19 “(f) ACCEPTANCE OF DONATIONS.—

20 “(1) IN GENERAL.—For the purposes of car-
21 rying out this section, the Secretary may solicit, ac-
22 cept, receive, hold, administer, and use gifts, devises,
23 and bequests without any further approval or admin-
24 istrative action.

1 “(2) MONETARY DONATIONS.—A monetary gift,
2 devise, or bequest accepted by the Secretary under
3 paragraph (1) shall be credited as discretionary off-
4 setting collections to the currently applicable appro-
5 priation, account, or fund of the Department of
6 Commerce and shall be made available for such pur-
7 poses only to the extent and in the amounts provided
8 in advance in appropriations Acts.”.

9 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS AMENDMENT.—The table
10 of contents in the first section of the Marine Mammal Pro-
11 tection Act of 1972 (Public Law 92–522; 86 Stat. 1027)
12 (as amended by section 5507(b)) is amended by inserting
13 after the item related to section 408 the following:

 “Sec. 408A. Marine Mammal Health Monitoring and Analysis Platform
 (Health MAP).”.

14 **SEC. 10408. REPORTS TO CONGRESS.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—Title IV of the Marine Mammal
16 Protection Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1421 et seq.) (as
17 amended by section 5508(a)) is amended by inserting
18 after section 408A the following:

19 **“SEC. 408B. REPORTS TO CONGRESS.**

20 “(a) DEFINITION OF APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF
21 CONGRESS.—In this section, the term ‘appropriate com-
22 mittees of Congress’ means—

23 “(1) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and
24 Transportation of the Senate;

1 “(2) the Committee on Environment and Public
2 Works of the Senate;

3 “(3) the Committee on Natural Resources of
4 the House of Representatives; and

5 “(4) the Committee on Science, Space, and
6 Technology of the House of Representatives.

7 “(b) HEALTH MAP STATUS REPORT.—

8 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years
9 after the date of enactment of the James M. Inhofe
10 National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year
11 2023, the Administrator of the National Oceanic
12 and Atmospheric Administration, in consultation
13 with the Marine Mammal Commission, the Secretary
14 of the Interior, and the National Ocean Research
15 Leadership Council, shall submit to the appropriate
16 committees of Congress a report describing the sta-
17 tus of the Health MAP.

18 “(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The report under para-
19 graph (1) shall include—

20 “(A) a detailed evaluation of the data
21 made publicly available through the Health
22 MAP;

23 “(B) a detailed list of any gaps in data col-
24 lected pursuant to the Health MAP, a descrip-

1 tion of the reasons for those gaps, and rec-
2 ommended actions to close those gaps;

3 “(C) an analysis of the effectiveness of
4 using the website of the Observation System as
5 the platform to collect, organize, visualize, ar-
6 chive, and disseminate marine mammal strand-
7 ing and health data;

8 “(D) a list of publications, presentations,
9 or other relevant work product resulting from,
10 or produced in collaboration with, the Health
11 MAP;

12 “(E) a description of emerging marine
13 mammal health concerns and the applicability
14 of those concerns to human health;

15 “(F) an analysis of the feasibility of the
16 Observation System being used as an alert sys-
17 tem during stranding events, entanglement
18 events, and unusual mortality events for the
19 stranding network, Observation System part-
20 ners, Health MAP partners, Federal and State
21 agencies, and local and Tribal governments;

22 “(G) an evaluation of the use of Health
23 MAP data to predict broader ecosystem events
24 and changes that may impact marine mammal
25 or human health and specific examples of prov-

1 en or potential uses of Observation System data
2 for those purposes; and

3 “(H) recommendations for the Health
4 MAP with respect to—

5 “(i) filling any identified data gaps;

6 “(ii) standards that could be used to
7 improve data quality, accessibility, trans-
8 mission, interoperability, and sharing;

9 “(iii) any other strategies that would
10 contribute to the effectiveness and useful-
11 ness of the Health MAP; and

12 “(iv) the funding levels needed to
13 maintain and improve the Health MAP.

14 “(c) DATA GAP ANALYSIS.—

15 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 5 years
16 after the date on which the report required under
17 subsection (b)(1) is submitted, and every 10 years
18 thereafter, the Administrator of the National Oce-
19 anic and Atmospheric Administration, in consulta-
20 tion with the Marine Mammal Commission and the
21 Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife
22 Service, shall—

23 “(A) make publicly available a report on
24 the data gap analysis described in paragraph
25 (2); and

1 “(B) provide a briefing to the appropriate
2 committees of Congress concerning that data
3 gap analysis.

4 “(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The data gap analysis
5 under paragraph (1) shall include—

6 “(A) an overview of existing participants
7 within a marine mammal stranding network;

8 “(B) an identification of coverage needs
9 and participant gaps within a network;

10 “(C) an identification of data and report-
11 ing gaps from members of a network; and

12 “(D) an analysis of how stranding and
13 health data are shared and made available to
14 scientists, academics, State, local, and Tribal
15 governments, and the public.

16 “(d) MARINE MAMMAL RESPONSE CAPABILITIES IN
17 THE ARCTIC.—

18 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after
19 the date of enactment of the James M. Inhofe Na-
20 tional Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year
21 2023, the Administrator of the National Oceanic
22 and Atmospheric Administration, the Director of the
23 United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Di-
24 rector of the United States Geologic Survey, in con-

1 sultation with the Marine Mammal Commission,
2 shall—

3 “(A) make publicly available a report de-
4 scribing the response capabilities for sick and
5 injured marine mammals in the Arctic regions
6 of the United States; and

7 “(B) provide a briefing to the appropriate
8 committees of Congress on that report.

9 “(2) ARCTIC.—The term ‘Arctic’ has the mean-
10 ing given the term in section 112 of the Arctic Re-
11 search and Policy Act of 1984 (15 U.S.C. 4111).

12 “(3) REQUIREMENTS.—The report under para-
13 graph (1) shall include—

14 “(A) a description, developed in consulta-
15 tion with the Fish and Wildlife Service of the
16 Department of the Interior, of all marine mam-
17 mal stranding agreements in place for the Arc-
18 tic region of the United States, including spe-
19 cies covered, response capabilities, facilities and
20 equipment, and data collection and analysis ca-
21 pabilities;

22 “(B) a list of State and local government
23 agencies that have personnel trained to respond
24 to marine mammal strandings in the Arctic re-
25 gion of the United States;

1 “(C) an assessment of potential response
2 and data collection partners and sources of
3 local information and knowledge, including
4 Alaska Native people and villages;

5 “(D) an analysis of spatial and temporal
6 trends in marine mammal strandings and un-
7 usual mortality events that are correlated with
8 changing environmental conditions in the Arctic
9 region of the United States;

10 “(E) a description of training and other
11 resource needs to meet emerging response re-
12 quirements in the Arctic region of the United
13 States;

14 “(F) an analysis of oiled marine mammal
15 response and rehabilitation capabilities in the
16 Arctic region of the United States, including
17 personnel, equipment, facilities, training, and
18 husbandry capabilities, and an assessment of
19 factors that affect response and rehabilitation
20 success rates; and

21 “(G) recommendations to address future
22 stranding response needs for marine mammals
23 in the Arctic region of the United States.”.

24 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS AMENDMENT.—The table
25 of contents in the first section of the Marine Mammal Pro-

1 tecton Act of 1972 (Public Law 92–522; 86 Stat. 1027)
2 (as amended by section 5508(b)) is amended by inserting
3 after the item related to section 408A the following:

“Sec. 408B. Reports to Congress.”.

4 **SEC. 10409. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

5 Section 409 of the Marine Mammal Protection Act
6 of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1421g) is amended—

7 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “1993 and
8 1994;” and inserting “2023 through 2028;”;

9 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking “1993 and
10 1994;” and inserting “2023 through 2028;”; and

11 (3) in paragraph (3), by striking “fiscal year
12 1993.” and inserting “for each of fiscal years 2023
13 through 2028.”.

14 **SEC. 10410. DEFINITIONS.**

15 Section 410 of the Marine Mammal Protection Act
16 of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1421h) is amended—

17 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through
18 (6) as paragraphs (2), (5), (6), (7), (8), and (9), re-
19 spectively;

20 (2) by inserting before paragraph (2) (as so re-
21 designated) the following:

22 “(1) The term ‘entangle’ or ‘entanglement’
23 means an event in the wild in which a living or dead
24 marine mammal has gear, rope, line, net, or other

1 material wrapped around or attached to the marine
2 mammal and is—

3 “(A) on lands under the jurisdiction of the
4 United States, including beaches and shorelines;
5 or

6 “(B) in waters under the jurisdiction of
7 the United States, including any navigable
8 waters.”;

9 (3) in paragraph (2) (as so redesignated) by
10 striking “The term” and inserting “Except as used
11 in section 408, the term”;

12 (4) by inserting after paragraph (2) (as so re-
13 designated) the following:

14 “(3) The term ‘Health MAP’ means the Marine
15 Mammal Health Monitoring and Analysis Platform
16 established under section 408A(a)(1).

17 “(4) The term ‘Observation System’ means the
18 National Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation
19 System established under section 12304 of the Inte-
20 grated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act
21 of 2009 (33 U.S.C. 3603).”.

22 **SEC. 10411. STUDY ON MARINE MAMMAL MORTALITY.**

23 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 12 months after
24 the date of enactment of this Act, the Undersecretary of
25 Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere shall, in consulta-

1 tion with the Secretary of the Interior and the Marine
2 Mammal Commission, conduct a study evaluating the con-
3 nections among marine heat waves, frequency and inten-
4 sity of harmful algal blooms, prey availability, and habitat
5 degradation, and the impacts of these conditions on ma-
6 rine mammal mortality.

7 (b) REPORT.—The Undersecretary of Commerce for
8 Oceans and Atmosphere, in consultation with the Sec-
9 retary of the Interior and the Marine Mammal Commis-
10 sion, shall prepare, post to a publicly available website,
11 and brief the appropriate committees of Congress on, a
12 report containing the results of the study described in sub-
13 section (a). The report shall identify priority research ac-
14 tivities, opportunities for collaboration, and current gaps
15 in effort and resource limitations related to advancing sci-
16 entific understanding of how ocean heat waves, harmful
17 algae blooms, availability of prey, and habitat degradation
18 impact marine mammal mortality. The report shall include
19 recommendations for policies needed to mitigate and re-
20 spond to mortality events.

1 **TITLE CV—VOLCANIC ASH AND**
2 **FUMES**

3 **SEC. 10501. MODIFICATIONS TO NATIONAL VOLCANO**
4 **EARLY WARNING AND MONITORING SYSTEM.**

5 (a) DEFINITIONS.—Subsection (a) of section 5001 of
6 the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and
7 Recreation Act (43 U.S.C. 31k) is amended—

8 (1) by redesignating paragraph (2) as para-
9 graph (3);

10 (2) by inserting after paragraph (1) the fol-
11 lowing:

12 “(2) SECRETARY OF COMMERCE.—The term
13 ‘Secretary of Commerce’ means the Secretary of
14 Commerce, acting through the Under Secretary of
15 Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere.”; and

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

17 “(4) VOLCANIC ASH ADVISORY CENTER.—The
18 term ‘Volcanic Ash Advisory Center’ means an enti-
19 ty designated by the International Civil Aviation Or-
20 ganization that is responsible for informing aviation
21 interests about the presence of volcanic ash in the
22 airspace.”.

23 (b) PURPOSES.—Subsection (b)(1)(B) of such section
24 is amended—

25 (1) in clause (i), by striking “and” at the end;

1 (2) in clause (ii), by striking the period at the
2 end and inserting “; and”; and

3 (3) by adding at the end the following:

4 “(iii) to strengthen the warning and
5 monitoring systems of volcano observ-
6 atories in the United States by integrating
7 relevant capacities of the National Oceanic
8 and Atmospheric Administration, including
9 with the Volcanic Ash Advisory Centers lo-
10 cated in Anchorage, Alaska, and Wash-
11 ington, D.C., to observe and model emis-
12 sions of gases, aerosols, and ash, atmos-
13 pheric dynamics and chemistry, and ocean
14 chemistry resulting from volcanic erup-
15 tions.”.

16 (c) SYSTEM COMPONENTS.—Subsection (b)(2) of
17 such section is amended—

18 (1) in subparagraph (B)—

19 (A) by striking “and” before “spectrom-
20 etry”; and

21 (B) by inserting “, and unoccupied aerial
22 vehicles” after “emissions”; and

23 (2) by adding at the end the following:

24 “(C) MEMORANDUM OF UNDER-
25 STANDING.—The Secretary and the Secretary

1 of Commerce shall develop and execute a memo-
2 randum of understanding to establish coopera-
3 tive support for the activities of the System
4 from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric
5 Administration, including environmental obser-
6 vations, modeling, and temporary duty assign-
7 ments of personnel to support emergency activi-
8 ties, as necessary or appropriate.”.

9 (d) MANAGEMENT.—Subsection (b)(3) of such sec-
10 tion is amended—

11 (1) in subparagraph (A), by adding at the end
12 the following:

13 “(iii) UPDATE.—

14 “(I) NATIONAL OCEANIC AND AT-
15 MOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION COST
16 ESTIMATES.—The Secretary of Com-
17 merce shall submit to the Secretary
18 annual cost estimates for moderniza-
19 tion activities and support of the Sys-
20 tem for the National Oceanic and At-
21 mospheric Administration.

22 “(II) UPDATE OF MANAGEMENT
23 PLAN.—The Secretary shall update
24 the management plan submitted
25 under clause (i) to include the cost es-

1 estimates submitted under subclause
2 (I).”; and

3 (2) by adding at the end the following:

4 “(E) COLLABORATION.—The Secretary of
5 Commerce shall collaborate with the Secretary
6 to implement activities carried out under this
7 section related to the expertise of the National
8 Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, in-
9 cluding observations and modeling of emissions
10 of gases, aerosols, and ash, atmospheric dynam-
11 ics and chemistry, and ocean chemistry result-
12 ing from volcanic eruptions.”.

13 (e) FUNDING.—Subsection (c) of such section is
14 amended—

15 (1) in paragraph (1)—

16 (A) in the paragraph heading, by inserting
17 “, UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY” after
18 “APPROPRIATIONS”; and

19 (B) by inserting “to the United States Ge-
20 ological Survey” after “appropriated”;

21 (2) by redesignating paragraph (2) as para-
22 graph (3);

23 (3) by inserting after paragraph (1) the fol-
24 lowing:

1 “(2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS, NA-
2 TIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRA-
3 TION.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the
4 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
5 to carry out this section such sums as may be nec-
6 essary for the period of fiscal years 2023 through
7 2024.”; and

8 (4) in paragraph (3), as redesignated by para-
9 graph (2)—

10 (A) by striking “United States Geological
11 Survey”; and

12 (B) by inserting “of the United States Ge-
13 ological Survey and the National Oceanic and
14 Atmospheric Administration” after “programs”.

15 (f) IMPLEMENTATION PLAN.—

16 (1) DEVELOPMENT OF PLAN.—Not later than
17 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act,
18 the Secretary of Commerce, in consultation with the
19 Secretary of the Interior, shall develop a plan to im-
20 plement the amendments made by this Act during
21 the 5-year period beginning on the date on which the
22 plan is developed.

23 (2) ELEMENTS.—The plan developed under
24 paragraph (1) shall include an estimate of the cost

1 and schedule required for the implementation de-
2 scribed in such paragraph.

3 (3) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—Upon completion
4 of the plan developed under paragraph (1), the Sec-
5 retary of Commerce shall make the plan publicly
6 available.

7 **TITLE CVI—LEARNING EXCEL-**
8 **LENCE AND GOOD EXAMPLES**
9 **FROM NEW DEVELOPERS**

10 **SEC. 10601. LEARNING EXCELLENCE AND GOOD EXAMPLES**
11 **FROM NEW DEVELOPERS.**

12 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

13 (1) ADMINISTRATION.—The term “Administra-
14 tion” means the National Oceanic and Atmospheric
15 Administration.

16 (2) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Adminis-
17 trator” means the Under Secretary of Commerce for
18 Oceans and Atmosphere and Administrator of the
19 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

20 (3) EARTH PREDICTION INNOVATION CEN-
21 TER.—The term “Earth Prediction Innovation Cen-
22 ter” means the community global weather research
23 modeling system described in paragraph (5)(E) of
24 section 102(b) of the Weather Research Forecasting

1 and Innovation Act of 2017 (15 U.S.C. 8512(b)), as
2 redesignated by this section.

3 (4) MODEL.—The term “model” means any
4 vetted numerical model and associated data assimila-
5 tion of the Earth’s system or its components—

6 (A) developed, in whole or in part, by sci-
7 entists and engineers employed by the Adminis-
8 tration; or

9 (B) otherwise developed, in whole or in
10 part, using Federal funds.

11 (5) OPEN LICENSE.—The term “open license”
12 has the same meaning given such term in section
13 3502(21) of title 44, United States Code.

14 (6) OPERATIONAL MODEL.—The term “oper-
15 ational model” means any model that has an output
16 used by the Administration for operational func-
17 tions.

18 (7) SUITABLE MODEL.—The term “suitable
19 model” means a model that meets the requirements
20 described in paragraph (5)(E)(ii) of section 102(b)
21 of the Weather Research Forecasting and Innovation
22 Act of 2017 (15 U.S.C. 8512(b)), as redesignated by
23 this title, as determined by the Administrator.

24 (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this section are—

1 (1) to support innovation in modeling by allow-
2 ing interested stakeholders to have easy and com-
3 plete access to operational model codes and to other
4 models, as the Administrator determines appro-
5 priate; and

6 (2) to use vetted innovations arising from ac-
7 cess described in paragraph (1) to improve modeling
8 by the Administration.

9 (c) PLAN AND IMPLEMENTATION OF PLAN TO MAKE
10 CERTAIN MODELS AND DATA AVAILABLE TO THE PUB-
11 LIC.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall de-
13 velop and implement a plan to make available to the
14 public, at no cost and with no restrictions on copy-
15 ing, publishing, distributing, citing, adapting, or oth-
16 erwise using under an open license, the following:

17 (A) Operational models developed by the
18 Administration.

19 (B) Models that are not operational mod-
20 els, including experimental and developmental
21 models, as the Administrator determines appro-
22 priate.

23 (C) Applicable information and documenta-
24 tion for models described in subparagraphs (A)

1 and (B), including a description of intended
2 model outputs.

3 (D) Subject to subsection (f), all data
4 owned by the Federal Government and data
5 that the Administrator has the legal right to re-
6 distribute that are associated with models made
7 available to the public pursuant to the plan and
8 used in operational forecasting by the Adminis-
9 tration, including—

10 (i) relevant metadata; and

11 (ii) data used for operational models
12 used by the Administration as of the date
13 of the enactment of this Act.

14 (2) ACCOMMODATIONS.—In developing and im-
15 plementing the plan under paragraph (1), the Ad-
16 ministrator may make such accommodations as the
17 Administrator considers appropriate to ensure that
18 the public release of any model, information, docu-
19 mentation, or data pursuant to the plan do not jeop-
20 ardize—

21 (A) national security;

22 (B) intellectual property or redistribution
23 rights, including under titles 17 and 35, United
24 States Code;

1 (C) any trade secret or commercial or fi-
2 nancial information subject to section 552(b)(4)
3 of title 5, United States Code;

4 (D) any models or data that are otherwise
5 restricted by contract or other written agree-
6 ment; or

7 (E) the mission of the Administration to
8 protect lives and property.

9 (3) PRIORITY.—In developing and imple-
10 menting the plan under paragraph (1), the Adminis-
11 trator shall prioritize making available to the public
12 the models described in paragraph (1)(A).

13 (4) PROTECTIONS FOR PRIVACY AND STATIS-
14 TICAL INFORMATION.—In developing and imple-
15 menting the plan under subsection (a), the Adminis-
16 trator shall ensure that all requirements incor-
17 porated into any models described in paragraph
18 (1)(A) ensure compliance with statistical laws and
19 other relevant data protection requirements, includ-
20 ing the protection of any personally identifiable in-
21 formation.

22 (5) EXCLUSION OF CERTAIN MODELS.—In de-
23 veloping and implementing the plan under para-
24 graph (1), the Administrator may exclude models
25 that the Administrator determines will be retired or

1 superseded in fewer than 5 years after the date of
2 the enactment of this Act.

3 (6) PLATFORMS.—In carrying out paragraphs
4 (1) and (2), the Administrator may use government
5 servers, contracts or agreements with a private ven-
6 dor, or any other platform consistent with the pur-
7 pose of this title.

8 (7) SUPPORT PROGRAM.—The Administrator
9 shall plan for and establish a program to support in-
10 frastructure, including telecommunications and tech-
11 nology infrastructure of the Administration and the
12 platforms described in paragraph (6), relevant to
13 making operational models and data available to the
14 public pursuant to the plan under subsection (a).

15 (8) TECHNICAL CORRECTION.—Section 102(b)
16 of the Weather Research Forecasting and Innovation
17 Act of 2017 (15 U.S.C. 8512(b)) is amended by re-
18 designating the second paragraph (4) (as added by
19 section 4(a) of the National Integrated Drought In-
20 formation System Reauthorization Act of 2018
21 (Public Law 115–423; 132 Stat. 5456)) as para-
22 graph (5).

23 (d) REQUIREMENT TO REVIEW MODELS AND LEVER-
24 AGE INNOVATIONS.—The Administrator shall—

1 (1) consistent with the mission of the Earth
2 Prediction Innovation Center, periodically review in-
3 novations and improvements made by persons not
4 employed by the Administration as Federal employ-
5 ees to the operational models made available to the
6 public pursuant to the plan under subsection (c)(1)
7 in order to improve the accuracy and timeliness of
8 forecasts of the Administration; and

9 (2) if the Administrator identifies an innovation
10 for a suitable model, develop and implement a plan
11 to use the innovation to improve the model.

12 (e) REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after
14 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Adminis-
15 trator shall submit to the appropriate congressional
16 committees a report on the implementation of this
17 section that includes a description of—

18 (A) the implementation of the plan re-
19 quired by subsection (c);

20 (B) the process of the Administration
21 under subsection (d)—

22 (i) for engaging with interested stake-
23 holders to learn what innovations those
24 stakeholders have found;

1 (ii) for reviewing those innovations;

2 and

3 (iii) for operationalizing innovations to
4 improve suitable models; and

5 (C) the use of any Federal financial assist-
6 ance, including under section 24 of the Steven-
7 son-Wylder Technology Innovation Act of 1990
8 (15 U.S.C. 3719) or the Crowdsourcing and
9 Citizen Science Act (15 U.S.C. 3724), in order
10 to facilitate and incentivize the sharing of exter-
11 nally developed improvements for testing, eval-
12 uation, validation, and application to further
13 improve the mission of the Administration, and
14 any other Administration priorities.

15 (2) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
16 TEES DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term “ap-
17 propriate congressional committees” means—

18 (A) the Committee on Commerce, Science,
19 and Transportation and the Committee on Ap-
20 propriations of the Senate; and

21 (B) the Committee on Science, Space, and
22 Technology and the Committee on Appropria-
23 tions of the House of Representatives.

24 (f) PROTECTION OF NATIONAL SECURITY INTER-
25 ESTS.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other
2 provision of this section, for models developed in
3 whole or in part with the Department of Defense,
4 the Administrator, in consultation with the Sec-
5 retary of Defense, as appropriate, shall withhold any
6 model or data if the Administrator or the Secretary
7 of Defense determines doing so to be necessary to
8 protect the national security interests of the United
9 States.

10 (2) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this
11 section shall be construed to supersede any other
12 provision of law governing the protection of the na-
13 tional security interests of the United States.

14 (g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
15 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
16 \$2,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2023 through 2027.

17 **DIVISION K—DON YOUNG COAST**
18 **GUARD AUTHORIZATION ACT**
19 **OF 2022**

20 **SEC. 11001. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

21 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This division may be cited as the
22 “Don Young Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2022”.

23 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for
24 this division is as follows:

- Sec. 11001. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 11002. Definitions.
- Sec. 11003. Rule of construction.