

AMENDMENT NO. \_\_\_\_\_ Calendar No. \_\_\_\_\_

Purpose: In the nature of a substitute.

**IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES—117th Cong., 1st Sess.**

**S. 46**

To reauthorize the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000  
and to establish the United States Coral Reef Task  
Force, and for other purposes.

Referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_ and  
ordered to be printed

Ordered to lie on the table and to be printed

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE intended  
to be proposed by Mr. SCHATZ

Viz:

1 Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the fol-  
2 lowing:

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the  
5 “Restoring Resilient Reefs Act of 2021”.

6 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for  
7 this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—REAUTHORIZATION OF CORAL REEF CONSERVATION  
ACT OF 2000

Sec. 101. Reauthorization of Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000.

TITLE II—UNITED STATES CORAL REEF TASK FORCE

Sec. 201. Establishment.

Sec. 202. Duties.  
 Sec. 203. Membership.  
 Sec. 204. Responsibilities of Federal agency members.  
 Sec. 205. Working groups.  
 Sec. 206. Definitions.

TITLE III—DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR CORAL REEF  
 AUTHORITIES

Sec. 301. Coral reef conservation and restoration assistance.

TITLE IV—SUSAN L. WILLIAMS NATIONAL CORAL REEF  
 MANAGEMENT FELLOWSHIP

Sec. 401. Short title.  
 Sec. 402. Definitions.  
 Sec. 403. Establishment of fellowship program.  
 Sec. 404. Fellowship awards.  
 Sec. 405. Matching requirement.

1 **TITLE I—REAUTHORIZATION OF**  
 2 **CORAL REEF CONSERVATION**  
 3 **ACT OF 2000**

4 **SEC. 101. REAUTHORIZATION OF CORAL REEF CONSERVA-**  
 5 **TION ACT OF 2000.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Coral Reef Conservation Act  
 7 of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 6401 et seq.) is amended—

8 (1) by redesignating sections 209 and 210 as  
 9 sections 217 and 218, respectively;

10 (2) by striking sections 202 through 208 and  
 11 inserting the following:

12 **“SEC. 202. PURPOSES.**

13 “The purposes of this title are—

14 “(1) to conserve and restore the condition of  
 15 United States coral reef ecosystems challenged by  
 16 natural and human-accelerated changes, including  
 17 increasing ocean temperatures, ocean acidification,

1 coral bleaching, coral diseases, water quality deg-  
2 radation, invasive species, and illegal, unreported,  
3 and unregulated fishing;

4 “(2) to promote the science-based management  
5 and sustainable use of coral reef ecosystems to ben-  
6 efit local communities and the Nation, including  
7 through improved integration and cooperation  
8 among Federal and non-Federal stakeholders with  
9 coral reef equities;

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

18 “(4) to assist in the preservation of coral reefs  
19 by supporting science-based, consensus-driven, and  
20 community-based coral reef management by covered  
21 States and covered Native entities, including moni-  
22 toring, conservation, and restoration projects that  
23 empower local communities, small businesses, and  
24 nongovernmental organizations;

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

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

10           “(7) to support the rapid and effective, science-  
11           based assessment and response to exigent cir-  
12           cumstances that pose immediate and long-term  
13           threats to coral reefs, such as coral disease, invasive  
14           or nuisance species, coral bleaching, natural disas-  
15           ters, and industrial or mechanical disasters, such as  
16           vessel groundings, hazardous spills, or coastal con-  
17           struction accidents; and

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

21   **“SEC. 203. FEDERAL CORAL REEF MANAGEMENT AND RES-**  
22           **TORATION ACTIVITIES.**

23           “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator or the Sec-  
24           retary of the Interior may conduct activities described in

1 subsection (b) to conserve and restore coral reefs and coral  
2 reef ecosystems that are consistent with—

3 “(1) all applicable laws governing resource  
4 management in Federal and State waters, including  
5 this Act;

6 “(2) the national coral reef resilience strategy  
7 in effect under section 204; and

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

10 “(b) ACTIVITIES DESCRIBED.—Activities described  
11 in this subsection are activities to conserve, research, mon-  
12 itor, assess, and restore coral reefs and coral reef eco-  
13 systems in waters managed under the jurisdiction of a  
14 Federal agency specified in subsection (c) or in coordina-  
15 tion with a State in waters managed under the jurisdiction  
16 of such State, including—

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

20 “(A) current and historical live coral cover  
21 data;

22 “(B) coral reef habitat quality data;

23 “(C) priority areas for coral reef conserva-  
24 tion to maintain biodiversity and ecosystem  
25 structure and function, including the reef ma-

1           trix, that benefit coastal communities and living  
2           marine resources;

3           “(D) priority areas for coral reef restora-  
4           tion to enhance biodiversity and ecosystem  
5           structure and function, including the reef ma-  
6           trix, to benefit coastal communities and living  
7           marine resources; and

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

10          “(2) enhancing compliance with Federal laws  
11          that prohibit or regulate—

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

14                 “(B) the use and management of coral reef  
15                 ecosystems;

16          “(3) long-term ecological monitoring of coral  
17          reef ecosystems;

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

22                 “(5) restoring degraded coral reef ecosystems;

23                 “(6) promoting ecologically sound navigation  
24                 and anchorages, including through navigational aids  
25                 and expansion of reef-safe anchorages and mooring

1 buoy systems, to enhance recreational access while  
2 preventing or minimizing the likelihood of vessel im-  
3 pacts or other physical damage to coral reefs;

4 “(7) monitoring and responding to severe  
5 bleaching or mortality events, disease outbreaks,  
6 invasive species outbreaks, and significant maritime  
7 accidents, including chemical spill cleanup and the  
8 removal of grounded vessels;

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

12 “(9) enhancing public awareness, under-  
13 standing, and appreciation of coral reefs and coral  
14 reef ecosystems; and

15 “(10) centrally archiving, managing, and dis-  
16 tributing data sets and coral reef ecosystem assess-  
17 ments and publishing such information on publicly  
18 available internet websites, by means such as  
19 leveraging and partnering with existing data reposi-  
20 tories, of—

21 “(A) the Coral Reef Conservation Program  
22 of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Ad-  
23 ministration; and

24 “(B) the Task Force.

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

3 “(1) The National Oceanic and Atmospheric  
4 Administration.

5 “(2) The National Park Service.

6 “(3) The United States Fish and Wildlife Serv-  
7 ice.

8 “(4) The Office of Insular Affairs.

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

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

11 “(1) not later than 2 years after the date of the  
12 enactment of the Restoring Resilient Reefs Act of  
13 2021, develop a national coral reef resilience strat-  
14 egy; and

15 “(2) periodically thereafter, but not less fre-  
16 quently than once every 15 years (and not less fre-  
17 quently than once every 5 years, in the case of guid-  
18 ance on best practices under subsection (b)(4)), re-  
19 view and revise the strategy as appropriate.

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

22 “(1) A discussion addressing—

23 “(A) continuing and emerging threats to  
24 the resilience of United States coral reef eco-  
25 systems;



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

3           “(C) the status of management coopera-  
4 tion and integration among Federal reef man-  
5 agers and covered reef managers;

6           “(D) the status of efforts to manage and  
7 disseminate critical information, and enhance  
8 interjurisdictional data sharing, related to re-  
9 search, reports, datasets, and maps;

10          “(E) areas of special focus, which may in-  
11 clude—

12           “(i) improving natural coral recruit-  
13 ment;

14           “(ii) preventing avoidable losses of  
15 corals and their habitat;

16           “(iii) enhancing the resilience of coral  
17 populations;

18           “(iv) supporting a resilience-based  
19 management approach;

20           “(v) developing, coordinating, and im-  
21 plementing watershed management plans;

22           “(vi) building and sustaining water-  
23 shed management capacity at the local  
24 level;

1                   “(vii) providing data essential for  
2 coral reef fisheries management;

3                   “(viii) building capacity for coral reef  
4 fisheries management;

5                   “(ix) increasing understanding of  
6 coral reef ecosystem services;

7                   “(x) educating the public on the im-  
8 portance of coral reefs, threats and solu-  
9 tions; and

10                   “(xi) evaluating intervention efficacy;

11                   “(F) the status of conservation efforts, in-  
12 cluding the use of marine protected areas to  
13 serve as replenishment zones developed con-  
14 sistent with local practices and traditions and  
15 in cooperation with, and with respect for the  
16 scientific, technical, and management expertise  
17 and responsibilities of, covered reef managers;

18                   “(G) science-based adaptive management  
19 and restoration efforts; and

20                   “(H) management of coral reef emer-  
21 gencies and disasters.

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

1           “(A) future Federal coral reef management  
2           and restoration activities authorized under sec-  
3           tion 203;

4           “(B) conservation and restoration prior-  
5           ities for grants awarded under section 213 and  
6           cooperative agreements under section 208; and

7           “(C) research priorities for the reef re-  
8           search coordination institutes designated under  
9           section 214.

10          “(3) A designation of priority areas for con-  
11          servation, and priority areas for restoration, to sup-  
12          port the review and approval of grants under section  
13          213(e).

14          “(4) General templates for use by covered reef  
15          managers and Federal reef managers to guide the  
16          development of coral reef action plans under section  
17          205, including guidance on the best science-based  
18          practices to respond to coral reef emergencies that  
19          can be included in coral reef action plans.

20          “(c) CONSULTATIONS.—In developing all elements of  
21          the strategy required by subsection (a), the Administrator  
22          shall—

23                 “(1) consult with the Secretary of the Interior,  
24                 the Task Force, covered States, and covered Native  
25                 entities;

1           “(2) engage stakeholders, including covered  
2 States, coral reef stewardship partnerships, reef re-  
3 search coordination institutes and research centers  
4 designated under section 214, and recipients of  
5 grants under section 213; and

6           “(3) solicit public review and comment regard-  
7 ing scoping and the draft strategy.

8           “(d) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS; PUBLICATION.—  
9 The Administrator shall—

10           “(1) submit the strategy required by subsection  
11 (a) and any revisions to the strategy to the appro-  
12 priate congressional committees; and

13           “(2) publish the strategy and any such revisions  
14 on publicly available internet websites of—

15           “(A) the Coral Reef Conservation Program  
16 of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Ad-  
17 ministration; and

18           “(B) the Task Force.

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

20           “(a) PLANS PREPARED BY FEDERAL REEF MAN-  
21 AGERS.—

22           “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years  
23 after the date of the enactment of the Restoring Re-  
24 silient Reefs Act of 2021, each Federal reef manager  
25 shall—

1           “(A) prepare a coral reef action plan to  
2           guide management and restoration activities to  
3           be undertaken within the responsibilities and  
4           jurisdiction of the manager; or

5           “(B) in the case of a reef under the juris-  
6           diction of a Federal reef manager for which  
7           there is a management plan in effect as of such  
8           date of enactment, update that plan to comply  
9           with the requirements of this subsection.

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

13                 “(A) Short- and mid-term coral reef con-  
14                 servation and restoration objectives within the  
15                 jurisdiction of the manager.

16                 “(B) A current adaptive management  
17                 framework to inform research, monitoring, and  
18                 assessment needs.

19                 “(C) Tools, strategies, and partnerships  
20                 necessary to identify, monitor, and address pol-  
21                 lution and water quality impacts to coral reef  
22                 ecosystems within the jurisdiction of the man-  
23                 ager.

24                 “(D) The status of efforts to improve coral  
25                 reef ecosystem management cooperation and in-

1           tegration between Federal reef managers and  
2           covered reef managers, including the identifica-  
3           tion of existing research and monitoring activi-  
4           ties that can be leveraged for coral reef status  
5           and trends assessments within the jurisdiction  
6           of the manager.

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

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

11          “(G) In the case of an updated plan, an-  
12          nual records of significant management and  
13          restoration actions taken under the previous  
14          plan, cash and non-cash resources used to un-  
15          dertake the actions, and the source of such re-  
16          sources.

17          “(H) Documentation by the Federal reef  
18          manager that the plan is consistent with the  
19          national coral reef resilience strategy in effect  
20          under section 204.

21          “(I) A data management plan to ensure  
22          data, assessments, and accompanying informa-  
23          tion are appropriately preserved, curated, pub-  
24          licly accessible, and broadly reusable.

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

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

10          “(b) PLANS PREPARED BY COVERED REEF MAN-  
11          AGERS.—

12           “(1) IN GENERAL.—A covered reef manager  
13           may elect to prepare, submit to the Task Force, and  
14           maintain a coral reef action plan to guide manage-  
15           ment and restoration activities to be undertaken  
16           within the responsibilities and jurisdiction of the  
17           manager.

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

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

24           “(A) shall contain a discussion of—

1           “(i) short- and mid-term coral reef  
2 conservation and restoration objectives  
3 within the jurisdiction of the manager;

4           “(ii) estimated budgetary and re-  
5 source considerations necessary to carry  
6 out the plan;

7           “(iii) in the case of an updated plan,  
8 annual records of significant management  
9 and restoration actions taken under the  
10 previous plan, cash and non-cash resources  
11 used to undertake the actions, and the  
12 source of such resources; and

13           “(iv) contingencies for response to  
14 and recovery from emergencies and disas-  
15 ters; and

16           “(B) may contain a discussion of—

17           “(i) the status of efforts to improve  
18 coral reef ecosystem management coopera-  
19 tion and integration between Federal reef  
20 managers and covered reef managers, in-  
21 cluding the identification of existing re-  
22 search and monitoring activities that can  
23 be leveraged for coral reef status and  
24 trends assessments within the jurisdiction  
25 of the manager;



1                   “(ii) a current adaptive management  
2                   framework to inform research, monitoring,  
3                   and assessment needs;

4                   “(iii) tools, strategies, and partner-  
5                   ships necessary to identify, monitor, and  
6                   address pollution and water quality im-  
7                   pacts to coral reef ecosystems within the  
8                   jurisdiction of the manager; and

9                   “(iv) a data management plan to en-  
10                  sure data, assessments, and accompanying  
11                  information are appropriately preserved,  
12                  curated, publicly accessible, and broadly  
13                  reusable..

14               “(c) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Administrator  
15               and the Task Force shall make all reasonable efforts to  
16               provide technical assistance upon request by a Federal  
17               reef manager or covered reef manager developing a coral  
18               reef action plan under this section.

19               “(d) PUBLICATION.—The Administrator shall publish  
20               each coral reef action plan prepared and submitted to the  
21               Task Force under this section on publicly available inter-  
22               net websites of—

23                   “(1) the Coral Reef Conservation Program of  
24                   the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administra-  
25                   tion; and

1           “(2) the Task Force.

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

3           “(a) IN GENERAL.—To further the community-based  
4 stewardship of coral reefs, coral reef stewardship partner-  
5 ships for Federal and non-Federal coral reefs may be es-  
6 tablished in accordance with this section.

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

9           “(1) standards for identifying individual coral  
10 reefs and ecologically significant units of coral reefs;  
11 and

12           “(2) processes for adjudicating multiple appli-  
13 cants for stewardship of the same coral reef or eco-  
14 logically significant unit of a reef to ensure no geo-  
15 graphic overlap in representation among stewardship  
16 partnerships authorized by this section.

17           “(c) MEMBERSHIP FOR FEDERAL CORAL REEFS.—  
18 A coral reef stewardship partnership that has identified,  
19 as the subject of its stewardship activities, a coral reef  
20 or ecologically significant unit of a coral reef that is fully  
21 or partially under the management jurisdiction of any  
22 Federal agency specified in section 203(c) shall, at a min-  
23 imum, include the following:

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

4           “(2) A State or county’s resource management  
5           agency.

6           “(3) A coral reef research center designated  
7           under section 214(b).

8           “(4) A nongovernmental organization.

9           “(5) Such other members as the partnership  
10          considers appropriate, such as interested stakeholder  
11          groups and covered Native entities.

12          “(d) MEMBERSHIP FOR NON-FEDERAL CORAL  
13          REEFS.—

14               “(1) IN GENERAL.—A coral reef stewardship  
15               partnership that has identified, as the subject of its  
16               stewardship activities, a coral reef or ecologically sig-  
17               nificant component of a coral reef that is not under  
18               the management jurisdiction of any Federal agency  
19               specified in section 203(c) shall, at a minimum, in-  
20               clude the following:

21                       “(A) A State or county’s resource manage-  
22                       ment agency or a covered Native entity, a rep-  
23                       resentative of which shall serve as the chair-  
24                       person of the coral reef stewardship partner-  
25                       ship.

1           “(B) A coral reef research center des-  
2           ignated under section 214(b).

3           “(C) A nongovernmental organization.

4           “(D) Such other members as the partner-  
5           ship considers appropriate, such as interested  
6           stakeholder groups.

7           “(2) ADDITIONAL MEMBERS.—

8           “(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subpara-  
9           graph (B), a coral reef stewardship partnership  
10          described in paragraph (1) may also include  
11          representatives of one or more Federal agen-  
12          cies.

13          “(B) REQUESTS; APPROVAL.—A represent-  
14          ative of a Federal agency described in subpara-  
15          graph (A) may become a member of a coral reef  
16          stewardship partnership described in paragraph  
17          (1) if—

18                  “(i) the representative submits a re-  
19                  quest to become a member to the chair-  
20                  person of the partnership referred to in  
21                  paragraph (1)(A); and

22                  “(ii) the chairperson consents to the  
23                  request.

24          “(e) NONAPPLICABILITY OF FEDERAL ADVISORY  
25          COMMITTEE ACT.—The Federal Advisory Committee Act

1 (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to coral reef stewardship  
2 partnerships under this section.

3 **“SEC. 207. BLOCK GRANTS.**

4 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall provide  
5 block grants of financial assistance to covered States to  
6 support management and restoration activities and fur-  
7 ther the implementation of coral reef action plans in effect  
8 under section 205 by covered States and non-Federal coral  
9 reef stewardship partnerships in accordance with this sec-  
10 tion. The Administrator shall review each covered State’s  
11 application for block grant funding to ensure that applica-  
12 tions are consistent with applicable action plans and the  
13 national coral reef resilience strategy in effect under sec-  
14 tion 204.

15 “(b) ELIGIBILITY FOR ADDITIONAL AMOUNTS.—

16 “(1) IN GENERAL.—A covered State shall qual-  
17 ify for and receive additional grant amounts beyond  
18 the base award specified in subsection (c)(1) if there  
19 is at least one coral reef action plan in effect within  
20 the jurisdiction of the covered State developed by  
21 that covered State or a non-Federal coral reef stew-  
22 ardship partnership.

23 “(2) WAIVER FOR CERTAIN FISCAL YEARS.—

24 The Administrator may waive the requirement under  
25 paragraph (1) during fiscal years 2022 and 2023.

1           “(c) FUNDING FORMULA.—Subject to the availability  
2 of appropriations, the amount of each block grant awarded  
3 to a covered State under this section shall be the sum of—

4                   “(1) a base award of \$100,000; and

5                   “(2) if the State is eligible under subsection  
6 (b)—

7                           “(A) an amount that is equal to non-Fed-  
8 eral expenditures of up to \$3,000,000 on coral  
9 reef management and restoration activities  
10 within the jurisdiction of the State, as reported  
11 within the previous fiscal year; and

12                           “(B) an additional amount, from any  
13 funds appropriated for block grants under this  
14 section that remain after distribution under  
15 subparagraph (A) and paragraph (1), based on  
16 the proportion of the State’s share of total non-  
17 Federal expenditures on coral reef management  
18 and restoration activities, as reported within the  
19 previous fiscal year, in excess of \$3,000,000,  
20 relative to other covered States.

21           “(d) EXCLUSIONS.—For the purposes of calculating  
22 block grant amounts under subsection (c), Federal funds  
23 provided to a covered State or non-Federal coral reef stew-  
24 ardship partnership shall not be considered as qualifying  
25 non-Federal expenditures, but non-Federal matching

1 funds used to leverage Federal awards may be considered  
2 as qualifying non-Federal expenditures.

3 “(e) RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE ADMINISTRATOR.—

4 The Administrator is responsible for—

5 “(1) providing guidance on qualifying non-Fed-  
6 eral expenditures and the proper documentation of  
7 such expenditures;

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

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

13 “(f) RESPONSIBILITIES OF COVERED STATES.—Each  
14 covered State is responsible for documenting non-Federal  
15 expenditures within the jurisdiction of the State and for-  
16 mally reporting those expenditures for review in response  
17 to annual solicitations by the Administrator under sub-  
18 section (e).

19 “(g) UNOBLIGATED AMOUNTS.—Any amounts avail-  
20 able for block grants under this section that are not obli-  
21 gated by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Adminis-  
22 tration shall be transferred to the Coral Reef Stewardship  
23 Fund established under section 209.

1 **“SEC. 208. COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.**

2 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall seek to  
3 enter into cooperative agreements with covered States to  
4 fund coral reef conservation and restoration activities in  
5 waters managed under the jurisdiction of those covered  
6 States that are consistent with the national coral reef re-  
7 silience strategy in effect under section 204 and any appli-  
8 cable action plans under section 205.

9 “(b) ALL ISLANDS COMMITTEE.—The Administrator  
10 may enter into a cooperative agreement with the All Is-  
11 lands Committee of the Task Force to provide support for  
12 its activities.

13 “(c) FUNDING.—Cooperative agreements under sub-  
14 section (a) shall provide not less than \$500,000 to each  
15 covered State and are not subject to any matching require-  
16 ment.

17 “(d) UNOBLIGATED AMOUNTS.—Any amounts avail-  
18 able for cooperative agreements under this section that are  
19 not obligated by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric  
20 Administration shall be transferred to the Coral Reef  
21 Stewardship Fund established under section 209.

22 **“SEC. 209. CORAL REEF STEWARDSHIP FUND.**

23 “(a) AGREEMENT.—The Administrator shall seek to  
24 enter into an agreement with the National Fish and Wild-  
25 life Foundation (in this section referred to as the ‘Founda-



1 tion’), authorizing the Foundation to receive, hold, and ad-  
2 minister funds received under this section.

3 “(b) FUND.—

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

6 “(A) be known as the ‘Coral Reef Steward-  
7 ship Fund’ (in this section referred to as the  
8 ‘Fund’); and

9 “(B) serve as the successor to the account  
10 known before the date of the enactment of the  
11 Restoring Resilient Reefs Act of 2021 as the  
12 Coral Reef Conservation Fund and adminis-  
13 tered through a public-private partnership with  
14 the Foundation.

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

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

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

21 “(B) are consistent with—

22 “(i) the national coral reef resilience  
23 strategy in effect under section 204; and

24 “(ii) coral reef action plans in effect,  
25 if any, under section 205 covering a coral

1 reef or ecologically significant component  
2 of a coral reef to be impacted by such ac-  
3 tivities, if applicable.

4 “(4) INVESTMENT OF AMOUNTS.—

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

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

17 “(5) REVIEW OF PERFORMANCE.—The Admin-  
18 istrator shall conduct a continuing review of all de-  
19 posits into, and disbursements from, the Fund. Each  
20 review shall include a written assessment concerning  
21 the extent to which the Foundation has implemented  
22 the goals and requirements of—

23 “(A) this section; and

24 “(B) the national coral reef resilience  
25 strategy in effect under section 204.

1 “(c) AUTHORIZATION TO SOLICIT DONATIONS.—

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

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

12 “(d) ADMINISTRATION.—Under an agreement en-  
13 tered into pursuant to subsection (a), and subject to the  
14 availability of appropriations, the Administrator shall  
15 transfer funds described in sections 207(g), 208(d),  
16 213(i), and 214(c) that are not obligated by the National  
17 Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and may trans-  
18 fer funds appropriated to carry out this title, to the Foun-  
19 dation. Amounts received by the Foundation under this  
20 subsection may be used for matching, in whole or in part,  
21 contributions (whether in money, services, or property)  
22 made to the Foundation by private persons, State or local  
23 government agencies, or covered Native entities.

1 **“SEC. 210. EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE.**

2 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other pro-  
3 vision of law, from funds appropriated pursuant to the au-  
4 thorization of appropriations under section 217, the Ad-  
5 ministrator may provide emergency assistance to any cov-  
6 ered State or coral reef stewardship partnership to re-  
7 spond to immediate harm to coral reefs or coral reef eco-  
8 systems arising from any of the exigent circumstances de-  
9 scribed in subsection (b).

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

14 “(1) new and ongoing outbreaks of disease;

15 “(2) new and ongoing outbreaks of invasive or  
16 nuisance species;

17 “(3) new and ongoing coral bleaching events;

18 “(4) natural disasters;

19 “(5) industrial or mechanical incidents, such as  
20 vessel groundings, hazardous spills, or coastal con-  
21 struction accidents; and

22 “(6) other circumstances that pose an urgent  
23 threat to coral reefs.

24 “(c) ANNUAL REPORT ON EXIGENT CIR-  
25 CUMSTANCES.—On February 1 of each year, the Adminis-  
26 trator shall submit to the appropriate congressional com-

1 mittees, the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate,  
2 and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of  
3 Representatives a report that—

4           “(1) describes locations with exigent cir-  
5 cumstances described in subsection (b) that were  
6 considered but declined for emergency assistance,  
7 and the rationale for the decision; and

8           “(2) with respect to each instance in which  
9 emergency assistance under this section was pro-  
10 vided—

11           “(A) the location and a description of the  
12 exigent circumstances that prompted the emer-  
13 gency assistance, the entity that received the  
14 assistance, and the current and expected out-  
15 comes from the assistance;

16           “(B) a description of activities of the Na-  
17 tional Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
18 that were curtailed as a result of providing the  
19 emergency assistance;

20           “(C) in the case of an incident described in  
21 subsection (b)(5), a statement of whether legal  
22 action was commenced under subsection (c),  
23 and the rationale for the decision; and

24           “(D) an assessment of whether further ac-  
25 tion is needed to restore the affected coral reef,

1           recommendations for such restoration, and a  
2           cost estimate to implement such recommenda-  
3           tions.

4   **“SEC. 211. CORAL REEF DISASTER FUND.**

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

10          “(b) FUND.—

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

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

17                 “(3) PURPOSES.—The Fund shall be available  
18   solely to support the long-term recovery of coral  
19   reefs from exigent circumstances described in section  
20   210—

21                         “(A) in partnership with non-Federal  
22   stakeholders; and

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

24                                 “(i) the national coral reef resilience  
25   strategy in effect under section 204; and

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

3                   “(4) INVESTMENT OF AMOUNTS.—

4                   “(A) INVESTMENT OF AMOUNTS.—The  
5                   Foundation shall invest such portion of the  
6                   Fund as is not required to meet current with-  
7                   drawals in interest-bearing obligations of the  
8                   United States or in obligations guaranteed as to  
9                   both principal and interest by the United  
10                  States.

11                  “(B) INTEREST AND PROCEEDS.—The in-  
12                  terest on, and the proceeds from the sale or re-  
13                  demption of, any obligations held in the Fund  
14                  shall be credited to and form a part of the  
15                  Fund.

16                  “(5) REVIEW OF PERFORMANCE.—The Admin-  
17                  istrator shall conduct continuing reviews of all de-  
18                  posits into, and disbursements from, the Fund. Each  
19                  such review shall include a written assessment con-  
20                  cerning the extent to which the Foundation has im-  
21                  plemented the goals and requirements of this sec-  
22                  tion.

23                  “(c) AUTHORIZATION TO SOLICIT DONATIONS.—

24                  “(1) IN GENERAL.—Pursuant to an agreement  
25                  entered into under subsection (a), the Foundation

1        may accept, receive, solicit, hold, administer, and use  
2        any gift (including, notwithstanding section 1342 of  
3        title 31, United States Code, donations of services)  
4        to further the purposes of this title.

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

9            “(d) ADMINISTRATION.—Under an agreement en-  
10        tered into under subsection (a), and subject to the avail-  
11        ability of appropriations, the Administrator may transfer  
12        funds appropriated to carry out this title to the Founda-  
13        tion. Amounts received by the Foundation under this sub-  
14        section may be used for matching, in whole or in part,  
15        contributions (whether in money, services, or property)  
16        made to the Foundation by private persons, State or local  
17        government agencies, or covered Native entities.

18        **“SEC. 212. VESSEL GROUNDING INVENTORY.**

19            “The Administrator, in coordination with the Com-  
20        mandant of the Coast Guard, the Administrator of the  
21        Maritime Administration, and the heads of other Federal  
22        and State agencies as appropriate, shall establish and  
23        maintain an inventory of all vessel grounding incidents in-  
24        volving United States coral reefs, including a description  
25        of—



1           “(1) the location of each such incident;

2           “(2) vessel and ownership information relating  
3 to each such incident, if available;

4           “(3) the impacts of each such incident to coral  
5 reefs, coral reef ecosystems, and related natural re-  
6 sources;

7           “(4) the estimated cost of removal of the vessel,  
8 remediation, or restoration arising from each such  
9 incident;

10           “(5) any response actions taken by the owner  
11 of the vessel, the Administrator, the Commandant,  
12 or representatives of other Federal or State agen-  
13 cies;

14           “(6) the status of such response actions, includ-  
15 ing—

16           “(A) when the grounded vessel was re-  
17 moved, the costs of removal, and the how the  
18 removal was resourced;

19           “(B) a narrative and timeline of remedi-  
20 ation or restoration activities undertaken by a  
21 Federal agency or agencies;

22           “(C) any emergency or disaster assistance  
23 provided under section 210 or 211;

24           “(D) any actions taken to prevent future  
25 grounding incidents; and

1           “(7) recommendations for additional naviga-  
2           tional aids or other mechanisms for preventing fu-  
3           ture grounding incidents.

4   **“SEC. 213. RUTH D. GATES CORAL REEF CONSERVATION**  
5           **GRANT PROGRAM.**

6           “(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability of ap-  
7           propriations, the Administrator shall establish a program  
8           (to be known as the ‘Ruth D. Gates Coral Reef Conserva-  
9           tion Grant Program’) to provide grants for projects for  
10          the conservation and restoration of coral reef ecosystems  
11          (in this section referred to as ‘coral reef projects’) pursu-  
12          ant to proposals approved by the Administrator in accord-  
13          ance with this section.

14          “(b) MATCHING REQUIREMENTS FOR GRANTS.—

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

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

24                 “(3) WAIVER.—The Administrator may waive  
25                 all or part of the matching requirement under para-

1 graph (1) if the Administrator determines that no  
2 reasonable means are available through which an ap-  
3 plicant can meet the matching requirement with re-  
4 spect to a coral reef project and the probable benefit  
5 of the project outweighs the public interest in the  
6 matching requirement.

7 “(c) ELIGIBILITY.—

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

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

13 “(A) a covered reef manager or a covered  
14 Native entity—

15 “(i) with responsibility for coral reef  
16 management; or

17 “(ii) the activities of which directly or  
18 indirectly affect coral reefs or coral reef  
19 ecosystems;

20 “(B) a regional fishery management coun-  
21 cil established under the Magnuson-Stevens  
22 Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16  
23 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.);

1           “(C) a coral reef stewardship partnership  
2 seeking to implement a coral reef action plan in  
3 effect under section 205;

4           “(D) a coral reef research center des-  
5 igned under section 214(b); or

6           “(E) another nongovernmental organiza-  
7 tion or research institution with demonstrated  
8 expertise in the conservation or restoration of  
9 coral reefs in practice or through significant  
10 contributions to the body of existing scientific  
11 research on coral reefs.

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

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

17           “(2) A description of the qualifications of the  
18 individual or entity.

19           “(3) A succinct statement of the purposes of  
20 the project.

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

23           “(5) Evidence of support for the project by ap-  
24 propriate representatives of States or other govern-

1       ment jurisdictions in which the project will be con-  
2       ducted.

3               “(6) Information regarding the source and  
4       amount of matching funding available to the appli-  
5       cant.

6               “(7) A description of how the project meets one  
7       or more of the criteria under subsection (f)(2).

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

12              “(9) Any other information the Administrator  
13      considers to be necessary for evaluating the eligi-  
14      bility of the project for a grant under this sub-  
15      section.

16      “(e) PROJECT REVIEW AND APPROVAL.—

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

21              “(2) PRIORITIZATION OF CONSERVATION  
22      PROJECTS.—The Administrator shall prioritize the  
23      awarding of funding for projects that meet the cri-  
24      teria for approval under subparagraphs (A) through  
25      (G) of subsection (f)(2) that are proposed to be con-

1 ducted within priority areas identified for coral reef  
2 conservation by the Administrator under the na-  
3 tional coral reef resilience strategy in effect under  
4 section 204.

5 “(3) PRIORITIZATION OF RESTORATION  
6 PROJECTS.—The Administrator shall prioritize the  
7 awarding of funding for projects that meet the cri-  
8 teria for approval under subparagraphs (E) through  
9 (L) of subsection (f)(2) that are proposed to be con-  
10 ducted within priority areas identified for coral reef  
11 restoration by the Administrator under the national  
12 coral reef resilience strategy in effect under section  
13 204.

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

18 “(A) request and consider written com-  
19 ments on the proposal from each Federal agen-  
20 cy, State government, covered Native entity, or  
21 other government jurisdiction, including the rel-  
22 evant regional fishery management councils es-  
23 tablished under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery  
24 Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C.  
25 1801 et seq.), or any National Marine Sanc-

1 tuary or Marine National Monument, with ju-  
2 risdiction or management authority over coral  
3 reef ecosystems in the area where the project is  
4 to be conducted, including the extent to which  
5 the project is consistent with locally established  
6 priorities, unless such entities were directly in-  
7 volved in the development of the project pro-  
8 posal;

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

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

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

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

1 “(1) is consistent with—

2 “(A) the national coral reef resilience  
3 strategy in effect under section 204; and

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

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

10 “(A) addressing conflicts arising from the  
11 use of environments near coral reefs or from  
12 the use of corals, species associated with coral  
13 reefs, and coral products, including supporting  
14 consensus-driven, community-based planning  
15 and management initiatives for the protection  
16 of coral reef ecosystems;

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

22 “(C) designing and implementing networks  
23 of real-time water quality monitoring along  
24 coral reefs, including data collection related to  
25 turbidity, nutrient availability, harmful algal



1 blooms, and plankton assemblages, with an em-  
2 phasis on coral reefs impacted by agriculture  
3 and urban development;

4 “(D) promoting ecologically sound naviga-  
5 tion and anchorages, including mooring buoy  
6 systems to promote enhanced recreational ac-  
7 cess, near coral reefs;

8 “(E) furthering the goals and objectives of  
9 coral reef action plans in effect under section  
10 205;

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

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

18 “(H) implementing research to ensure the  
19 population viability of listed coral species in  
20 United States waters as detailed in the popu-  
21 lation-based recovery criteria included in spe-  
22 cies-specific recovery plans consistent with the  
23 Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C.  
24 1531 et seq.);

1           “(I) developing and implementing cost-ef-  
2           fective methods to restore degraded coral reef  
3           ecosystems or to create geographically appro-  
4           priate coral reef ecosystems in suitable waters,  
5           including by improving habitat or promoting  
6           success of keystone species, with an emphasis  
7           on novel restoration strategies and techniques  
8           to advance coral reef recovery and growth near  
9           population centers threatened by rising sea lev-  
10          els and storm surge;

11           “(J) translating and applying coral genet-  
12          ics research to coral reef ecosystem restoration,  
13          including research related to traits that pro-  
14          mote resilience to increasing ocean tempera-  
15          tures, ocean acidification, coral bleaching, coral  
16          diseases, and invasive species;

17           “(K) developing and maintaining in situ  
18          native coral propagation sites; or

19           “(L) developing and maintaining ex situ  
20          coral propagation nurseries and land-based  
21          coral gene banks to—

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

24                   “(ii) support captive breeding of rare  
25                   coral species; or

1                   “(iii) enhance resilience of native coral  
2                   populations to increasing ocean tempera-  
3                   tures, ocean acidification, coral bleaching,  
4                   and coral diseases through selective breed-  
5                   ing, conditioning, or other approaches that  
6                   target genes, gene expression, phenotypic  
7                   traits, or phenotypic plasticity.

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

13                  “(1) Not less than 40 percent of funds available  
14                  shall be awarded for projects in the Pacific Ocean  
15                  within the maritime areas and zones subject to the  
16                  jurisdiction or control of the United States.

17                  “(2) Not less than 40 percent of the funds  
18                  available shall be awarded for projects in the Atlan-  
19                  tic Ocean, the Gulf of Mexico, or the Caribbean Sea  
20                  within the maritime areas and zones subject to the  
21                  jurisdiction or control of the United States.

22                  “(3) Not more than 67 percent of funds distrib-  
23                  uted in each region in accordance with paragraphs  
24                  (1) and (2) shall be made exclusively available to  
25                  projects that are—

1           “(A) submitted by a coral reef stewardship  
2 partnership; and

3           “(B) consistent with the coral reef action  
4 plan in effect under section 205 by such a part-  
5 nership.

6           “(4) Of the funds distributed to support  
7 projects in accordance with paragraph (3), not less  
8 than 20 percent and not more than 33 percent shall  
9 be awarded for projects submitted by a Federal coral  
10 reef stewardship partnership.

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

15          “(i) UNOBLIGATED AMOUNTS.—Any amounts avail-  
16 able for grants under this section that are not obligated  
17 by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
18 shall be transferred to the Coral Reef Stewardship Fund  
19 established under section 209.

20 **“SEC. 214. NON-FEDERAL CORAL REEF RESEARCH.**

21          “(a) REEF RESEARCH COORDINATION INSTI-  
22 TUTES.—

23           “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Administrator  
24 shall designate 2 reef research coordination insti-  
25 tutes for the purpose of advancing and sustaining

1 essential capabilities in coral reef research, one each  
2 in the Atlantic and Pacific basins, to be known as  
3 the ‘Atlantic Reef Research Coordination Institute’  
4 and the ‘Pacific Reef Research Coordination Insti-  
5 tute’, respectively.

6 “(2) MEMBERSHIP.—Each institute designated  
7 under paragraph (1) shall be housed within a single  
8 coral reef research center designated by the Admin-  
9 istrator under subsection (b) and may enter into  
10 contracts with other coral reef research centers des-  
11 igned under subsection (b) within the same basin  
12 to support the institute’s capacity and reach.

13 “(3) FUNCTIONS.—The institutes designated  
14 under paragraph (1) shall—

15 “(A) conduct federally directed research to  
16 fill national and regional coral reef ecosystem  
17 research gaps and improve understanding of,  
18 and responses to, continuing and emerging  
19 threats to the resilience of United States coral  
20 reef ecosystems consistent with the national  
21 coral reef resilience strategy in effect under sec-  
22 tion 204;

23 “(B) support ecological research and moni-  
24 toring to study the effects of conservation and  
25 restoration activities funded by this title on pro-

1 moting more effective coral reef management  
2 and restoration; and

3 “(C) through agreements—

4 “(i) collaborate directly with govern-  
5 mental resource management agencies,  
6 coral reef stewardship partnerships, non-  
7 profit organizations, and other coral reef  
8 research centers designated under sub-  
9 section (b);

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

12 “(I) the national coral reef resil-  
13 ience strategy under section 204; 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, as well as other academic and non-  
7           profit organizations; and

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

11          “(c) UNOBLIGATED AMOUNTS.—Any amounts avail-  
12          able for reef research coordination institutes under this  
13          section that are not obligated by the National Oceanic and  
14          Atmospheric Administration shall be transferred to the  
15          Coral Reef Stewardship Fund established under section  
16          209.

17          **“SEC. 215. REPORTS ON ADMINISTRATION.**

18          “Not later than 3 years after the date of the enact-  
19          ment of the Restoring Resilient Reefs Act of 2021, and  
20          every 2 years thereafter, the Administrator shall submit  
21          to the appropriate congressional committees, the Com-  
22          mittee on Appropriations of the Senate, and the Com-  
23          mittee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives  
24          a report on the administration of this title during the 2-



1 year period preceding submission of the report, includ-  
2 ing—

3 “(1) a description of all activities undertaken to  
4 implement the most recent national coral reef resil-  
5 ience strategy under section 204;

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

8 “(3) a summary, disaggregated by State, of  
9 Federal and non-Federal contributions toward the  
10 costs of each project or activity funded, in full or in  
11 part, under the authorities of this title.

12 **“SEC. 216. CORAL REEF PRIZE COMPETITIONS.**

13 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The head of any Federal agency  
14 with a representative serving on the United States Coral  
15 Reef Task Force established by Executive Order 13089  
16 (16 U.S.C. 6401 note; relating to coral reef protection),  
17 may, individually or in cooperation with one or more agen-  
18 cies, carry out a program to award prizes competitively  
19 under section 24 of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology In-  
20 novation 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 ocean  
12 acidification, temperature-related bleaching, disease,  
13 and their associated impacts on coral physiology;

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

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

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

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

1           (3) in section 217, as redesignated by para-  
2           graph (1)—

3                   (A) in subsection (c), by striking “section  
4                   204” and inserting “section 213”;

5                   (B) in subsection (d), by striking “under  
6                   section 207” and inserting “authorized under  
7                   this title”; and

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

9           “(e) BLOCK GRANTS.—There is authorized to be ap-  
10           propriated to the Administrator \$10,000,000 for each of  
11           fiscal years 2022 through 2026 to carry out section 207.

12           “(f) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—There is author-  
13           ized to be appropriated to the Administrator \$10,000,000  
14           for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2026 to carry out  
15           section 208.

16           “(g) NON-FEDERAL CORAL REEF RESEARCH.—  
17           There is authorized to be appropriated to the Adminis-  
18           trator \$4,500,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 through  
19           2026 for agreements with the reef research coordination  
20           institutes designated under section 214.”; and

21           (4) by amending section 218, as redesignated  
22           by paragraph (1), to read as follows:

23   **“SEC. 218. DEFINITIONS.**

24           “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 consistent with the  
6 National Marine Sanctuaries Act (16 U.S.C.  
7 1431 et seq.) and the Magnuson-Stevens Fish-  
8 ery Conservation and Management Act (16  
9 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.);

10 “(D) law enforcement;

11 “(E) conflict resolution initiatives;

12 “(F) community outreach and education;

13 and

14 “(G) promotion of safe and ecologically  
15 sound navigation and anchoring.

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

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

23 “(B) all species of the order Anthoathecata  
24 (fire corals and other hydrocorals) of the class  
25 Hydrozoa.

1           “(6) CORAL PRODUCTS.—The term ‘coral prod-  
2           ucts’ means any living or dead specimens, parts, or  
3           derivatives, or any product containing specimens,  
4           parts, or derivatives, of any species referred to in  
5           paragraph (5).

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

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

14                 “(A) corals and other geographically and  
15                 ecologically associated marine communities of  
16                 other reef organisms (including reef plants and  
17                 animals) associated with coral reef habitat; and

18                 “(B) the biotic and abiotic factors and  
19                 processes that control or affect coral calcifi-  
20                 cation rates, tissue growth, reproduction, re-  
21                 cruitment, abundance, coral-algal symbiosis,  
22                 and biodiversity in such habitat.

23          “(9) COVERED NATIVE ENTITY.—The term  
24          ‘covered Native entity’ means a Native entity of a

1 covered State with interests in a coral reef eco-  
2 system.

3 “(10) COVERED REEF MANAGER.—The term  
4 ‘covered reef manager’ means—

5 “(A) a management unit of a covered  
6 State with jurisdiction over a coral reef eco-  
7 system;

8 “(B) a covered State; or

9 “(C) a coral reef stewardship partnership  
10 under section 206(d).

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

16 “(12) FEDERAL REEF MANAGER.—

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

19 “(i) a management unit of a Federal  
20 agency specified in subparagraph (B) with  
21 lead management jurisdiction over a coral  
22 reef ecosystem; or

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

1                   “(B) FEDERAL AGENCIES SPECIFIED.—A  
2                   Federal agency specified in this subparagraph  
3                   is one of the following:

4                   “(i) The National Oceanic and Atmos-  
5                   pheric Administration.

6                   “(ii) The National Park Service.

7                   “(iii) The United States Fish and  
8                   Wildlife Service.

9                   “(iv) The Office of Insular Affairs.

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

14                  “(14) INTERESTED STAKEHOLDER GROUPS.—  
15                  The term ‘interested stakeholder groups’ includes  
16                  community members such as businesses, commercial  
17                  and recreational fishermen, other recreationalists,  
18                  covered Native entities, Federal, State, and local  
19                  government units with related jurisdiction, institu-  
20                  tions of higher education, and nongovernmental or-  
21                  ganizations.

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



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

4                   “(B) An Alaska Native Corporation.

5                   “(C) The Department of Hawaiian Home  
6                   Lands.

7                   “(D) The Office of Hawaiian Affairs.

8                   “(E) A Native Hawaiian organization (as  
9                   defined in section 6207 of the Elementary and  
10                  Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.  
11                  7517)).

12                  “(16) NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION.—The term  
13                  ‘nonprofit organization’ means any corporation,  
14                  trust, association, cooperative, or other organization,  
15                  not including an institutions of higher education,  
16                  that—

17                         “(A) is operated primarily for scientific,  
18                         educational, service, charitable, or similar pur-  
19                         poses in the public interest;

20                         “(B) is not organized primarily for profit;  
21                         and

22                         “(C) uses net proceeds to maintain, im-  
23                         prove, or expand the operations of the organiza-  
24                         tion.

1           “(17) RESTORATION.—The term ‘restoration’  
2 means the use of methods and procedures necessary  
3 to enhance, rehabilitate, recreate, or create a func-  
4 tioning coral reef or coral reef ecosystem, in whole  
5 or in part, within suitable waters of the historical  
6 geographic range of such ecosystems, to provide eco-  
7 logical, economic, cultural, or coastal resiliency serv-  
8 ices associated with healthy coral reefs and benefit  
9 native populations of coral reef organisms.

10           “(18) RESILIENCE.—The term ‘resilience’  
11 means the capacity for corals within their native  
12 range, coral reefs, or coral reef ecosystems to resist  
13 and recover from natural and human disturbances,  
14 and maintain structure and function to provide eco-  
15 system services, as determined by clearly identifi-  
16 able, measurable, and science-based standards.

17           “(19) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’  
18 means the Secretary of Commerce.

19           “(20) STATE.—The term ‘State’ means—

20                   “(A) any State of the United States that  
21 contains a coral reef ecosystem within its sea-  
22 ward boundaries;

23                   “(B) American Samoa, the Commonwealth  
24 of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, Puerto  
25 Rico, or the United States Virgin Islands; or

1           “(C) any other territory or possession of  
2           the United States or separate sovereign in free  
3           association with the United States that contains  
4           a coral reef ecosystem within its seaward  
5           boundaries.

6           “(21) STEWARDSHIP.—The term ‘stewardship’,  
7           with respect to a coral reef, includes conservation,  
8           restoration, and public outreach and education.

9           “(22) TASK FORCE.—The term ‘Task Force’  
10          means the United States Coral Reef Task Force es-  
11          tablished under section 201 of the Restoring Resil-  
12          ient Reefs Act of 2021.”.

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

20           **TITLE II—UNITED STATES**  
21           **CORAL REEF TASK FORCE**

22          **SEC. 201. ESTABLISHMENT.**

23          There is established a task force to lead, coordinate,  
24 and strengthen Federal Government actions to better pre-  
25 serve, conserve, and restore coral reef ecosystems, to be

1 known as the “United States Coral Reef Task Force” (in  
2 this title referred to as the “Task Force”).

3 **SEC. 202. DUTIES.**

4 The duties of the Task Force shall be—

5 (1) to coordinate, in cooperation with covered  
6 States, covered Native entities, Federal reef man-  
7 agers, covered reef managers, coral reef research  
8 centers designated under section 214(b) of the Coral  
9 Reef Conservation Act of 2000 (as amended by sec-  
10 tion 101), and other nongovernmental and academic  
11 partners as appropriate, activities regarding the  
12 mapping, monitoring, research, conservation, mitiga-  
13 tion, and restoration of coral reefs and coral reef  
14 ecosystems;

15 (2) to monitor and advise regarding implemen-  
16 tation of the policy and Federal agency responsibil-  
17 ities set forth in—

18 (A) Executive Order 13089 (63 Fed. Reg.  
19 32701; relating to coral reef protection); and

20 (B) the national coral reef resilience strat-  
21 egy developed under section 204 of the Coral  
22 Reef Conservation Act of 2000, as amended by  
23 section 101;

24 (3) to work with the Secretary of State and the  
25 Administrator of the United States Agency for

1 International Development, and in coordination with  
2 the other members of the Task Force—

3 (A) to assess the United States role in  
4 international trade and protection of coral spe-  
5 cies;

6 (B) to encourage implementation of appro-  
7 priate strategies and actions to promote con-  
8 servation and sustainable use of coral reef re-  
9 sources worldwide; and

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

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

14 (A) the national coral reef resilience strat-  
15 egy under section 204 of the Coral Reef Con-  
16 servation Act of 2000, as amended by section  
17 101; and

18 (B) coral reef action plans under section  
19 205 of that Act; and

20 (5) to produce a report each year, for submis-  
21 sion to the appropriate congressional committees  
22 and publication on a publicly available internet  
23 website of the Task Force, highlighting the status of  
24 the coral reef equities of a covered State on a rotat-  
25 ing basis, including—

1 (A) a summary of recent coral reef man-  
2 agement and restoration activities undertaken  
3 in that State; and

4 (B) updated estimates of the direct and in-  
5 direct economic activity supported by, and other  
6 benefits associated with, those coral reef equi-  
7 ties.

8 **SEC. 203. MEMBERSHIP.**

9 (a) VOTING MEMBERSHIP.—The Task Force shall  
10 have the following voting members:

11 (1) The Secretary of Commerce, acting through  
12 the Administrator of the National Oceanic and At-  
13 mospheric Administration, and the Secretary of the  
14 Interior, who shall be co-chairpersons of the Task  
15 Force.

16 (2) The Administrator of the United States  
17 Agency for International Development.

18 (3) The Secretary of Agriculture.

19 (4) The Secretary of Defense.

20 (5) The Secretary of the Army, acting through  
21 the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works.

22 (6) The Secretary of Homeland Security, acting  
23 through the Administrator of the Federal Emer-  
24 gency Management Agency.

25 (7) The Commandant of the Coast Guard.

1 (8) The Attorney General.

2 (9) The Secretary of State.

3 (10) The Secretary of Transportation.

4 (11) The Administrator of the Environmental  
5 Protection Agency.

6 (12) The Administrator of the National Aero-  
7 nautics and Space Administration.

8 (13) The Director of the National Science  
9 Foundation.

10 (14) 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:

1           (A) For the period beginning on the date  
2 of the enactment of this Act and ending on De-  
3 cember 31 of the calendar year during which  
4 such date of enactment occurs, the member  
5 shall be selected jointly by the governors of Ha-  
6 waii, American Samoa, Guam, and the Com-  
7 monwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

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

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

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

23           (B) For each calendar year thereafter, the  
24 governors of Puerto Rico and the United States



1 Virgin Islands shall, on an alternating basis,  
2 take turns selecting the member.

3 (5) A member appointed by the President of  
4 the Federated States of Micronesia.

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

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

9 **SEC. 204. RESPONSIBILITIES OF FEDERAL AGENCY MEM-**  
10 **BERS.**

11 (a) IN GENERAL.—A member of the Task Force  
12 specified in paragraphs (1) through (14) of section 203(a)  
13 shall—

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

16 (2) utilize the programs and authorities of that  
17 agency to protect and enhance the conditions of such  
18 ecosystems, including through the promotion of basic  
19 and applied scientific research;

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

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

3           (b) CO-CHAIRPERSONS.—In addition to their respon-  
4           sibilities under subsection (a), the co-chairpersons of the  
5           Task Force shall administer performance of the functions  
6           of the Task Force and facilitate the coordination of the  
7           members of the Task Force specified in paragraphs (1)  
8           through (14) of section 203(a).

9           **SEC. 205. WORKING GROUPS.**

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

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

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

22          (d) NONAPPLICABILITY OF FEDERAL ADVISORY  
23          COMMITTEE ACT.—The Federal Advisory Committee Act  
24          (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to working groups estab-  
25          lished under this section.

1 **SEC. 206. DEFINITIONS.**

2 In this title:

3 (1) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.**—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives.

9 (2) **CONSERVATION, CORAL, CORAL REEF, ETC.**—The terms “conservation”, “coral”, “coral reef”, “coral reef ecosystem”, “covered Native entity”, “covered reef manager”, “covered State”, “Federal reef manager”, “Native entity”, “restoration”, “resilience”, and “State” have the meanings given those terms in section 218 of the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000, as amended by section 101.

17 **TITLE III—DEPARTMENT OF THE**  
18 **INTERIOR CORAL REEF AU-**  
19 **THORITIES**

20 **SEC. 301. CORAL REEF CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION**  
21 **ASSISTANCE.**

22 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of the Interior may  
23 provide scientific expertise and technical assistance, and  
24 subject to the availability of appropriations, financial as-  
25 sistance for the conservation and restoration of coral reefs  
26 consistent with all applicable laws governing resource

1 management in Federal, State, and Tribal waters, includ-  
2 ing—

3 (1) the national coral reef resilience strategy in  
4 effect under section 204 of the Coral Reef Conserva-  
5 tion Act of 2000, as amended by section 101; and

6 (2) coral reef action plans in effect under sec-  
7 tion 205 of that Act, as applicable.

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

10 (1) to provide grant funding to support local  
11 management, conservation, and protection of coral  
12 reef ecosystems in—

13 (A) coastal areas of covered States; and

14 (B) Freely Associated States;

15 (2) to enhance resource availability of National  
16 Park Service and National Wildlife Refuge System  
17 management units to implement coral reef conserva-  
18 tion and restoration activities;

19 (3) to complement the other conservation and  
20 assistance activities conducted under this Act or the  
21 Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000, as amended  
22 by section 101; and

23 (4) to provide other technical, scientific, and fi-  
24 nancial assistance and conduct conservation and res-  
25 toration activities that advance the purposes of this

1 Act and the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000,  
2 as amended by section 101.

3 (c) CONSULTATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF  
4 COMMERCE.—

5 (1) CORAL REEF CONSERVATION AND RESTORA-  
6 TION ACTIVITIES.—The Secretary of the Interior  
7 may consult with the Secretary of Commerce regard-  
8 ing the conduct of any activities to conserve and re-  
9 store coral reefs and coral reef ecosystems in waters  
10 managed under the jurisdiction of the Federal agen-  
11 cies specified in paragraphs (2) and (3) of section  
12 203(c) of the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000,  
13 as amended by section 101.

14 (2) AWARD OF CORAL REEF MANAGEMENT FEL-  
15 LOWSHIP.—The Secretary of the Interior shall con-  
16 sult with the Secretary of Commerce to award the  
17 Susan L. Williams Coral Reef Management Fellow-  
18 ship under title IV.

19 (d) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—Subject to the  
20 availability of appropriations, the Secretary of the Interior  
21 may enter into cooperative agreements with covered reef  
22 managers to fund coral reef conservation and restoration  
23 activities in waters managed under the jurisdiction of such  
24 managers that—

1           (1) are consistent with the national coral reef  
2 resilience strategy in effect under section 204 of the  
3 Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000, as amended  
4 by section 101; and

5           (2) support and enhance the success of coral  
6 reef action plans in effect under section 205 of that  
7 Act.

8 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

9           (1) CONSERVATION, CORAL, CORAL REEF,  
10 ETC.—The terms “conservation”, “coral reef”, “cov-  
11 ered reef manager”, “covered State”, “restoration”,  
12 and “State” have the meanings given those terms in  
13 section 218 of the Coral Reef Conservation Act of  
14 2000, as amended by section 101.

15           (2) TRIBE; TRIBAL.—The terms “Tribe” and  
16 “Tribal” refer to Indian Tribes (as defined in sec-  
17 tion 102 of the Federally Recognized Indian Tribe  
18 List Act of 1994 (25 U.S.C. 5130)).

19 **TITLE IV—SUSAN L. WILLIAMS**  
20 **NATIONAL CORAL REEF MAN-**  
21 **AGEMENT FELLOWSHIP**

22 **SEC. 401. SHORT TITLE.**

23           This title may be cited as the “Susan L. Williams  
24 National Coral Reef Management Fellowship Act of  
25 2021”.

1 **SEC. 402. DEFINITIONS.**

2 In this title:

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

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

10 (3) **FELLOWSHIP.**—The term “fellowship”  
11 means the National Coral Reef Management Fellow-  
12 ship established in section 403.

13 (4) **COVERED NATIVE ENTITY.**—The term “cov-  
14 ered Native entity” means a Native entity of a cov-  
15 ered State with interests in a coral reef ecosystem.

16 (5) **COVERED STATE.**—The term “covered  
17 State” means Florida, Hawaii, and the territories of  
18 American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the North-  
19 ern Mariana Islands, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the  
20 United States Virgin Islands.

21 (6) **NATIVE ENTITY.**—The term “Native entity”  
22 means any of the following:

23 (A) An Indian Tribe (as defined in section  
24 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Edu-  
25 cation Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304)).

26 (B) An Alaska Native Corporation.

1 (C) The Department of Hawaiian Home  
2 Lands.

3 (D) The Office of Hawaiian Affairs.

4 (E) A Native Hawaiian organization (as  
5 defined in section 6207 of the Elementary and  
6 Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.  
7 7517)).

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

10 **SEC. 403. ESTABLISHMENT OF FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM.**

11 (a) IN GENERAL.—There is established a National  
12 Coral Reef Management Fellowship Program.

13 (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the fellowship  
14 are—

15 (1) to encourage future leaders of the United  
16 States to develop additional coral reef management  
17 capacity in States and local communities with coral  
18 reefs;

19 (2) to provide management agencies of covered  
20 States or covered Native entities with highly quali-  
21 fied candidates whose education and work experience  
22 meet the specific needs of each covered State or cov-  
23 ered Native entity; and



1           (3) to provide fellows with professional experi-  
2           ence in management of coastal and coral reef re-  
3           sources.

4 **SEC. 404. FELLOWSHIP AWARDS.**

5           (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in partnership  
6 with the Secretary of the Interior, shall award the fellow-  
7 ship in accordance with this section.

8           (b) TERM OF FELLOWSHIP.—A fellowship awarded  
9 under this section shall be for a term of not more than  
10 24 months.

11          (c) QUALIFICATIONS.—The Secretary shall award the  
12 fellowship to individuals who have demonstrated—

13           (1) an intent to pursue a career in marine serv-  
14           ices and outstanding potential for such a career;

15           (2) leadership potential, actual leadership expe-  
16           rience, or both;

17           (3) a college or graduate degree in biological  
18           science, a resource management college or graduate  
19           degree with experience that correlates with aptitude  
20           and interest for marine management, or both;

21           (4) proficient writing and speaking skills; and

22           (5) such other attributes as the Secretary con-  
23           siders appropriate.

1 **SEC. 405. MATCHING REQUIREMENT.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection  
3 (b), the non-Federal share of the costs of a fellowship  
4 under this section shall be 25 percent of such costs.

5 (b) WAIVER OF REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary  
6 may waive the application of subsection (a) if the Sec-  
7 retary finds that such waiver is necessary to support a  
8 project that the Secretary has identified as a high priority.