

**One Hundred Seventeenth Congress  
of the  
United States of America**

**AT THE SECOND SESSION**

*Begun and held at the City of Washington on Monday,  
the third day of January, two thousand and twenty-two*

**An Act**

To authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2023 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of  
the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—This Act may be cited as the “James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023”.

(b) **REFERENCES.**—Any reference in this or any other Act to the “National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023” shall be deemed to be a reference to the “James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023”.

**SEC. 2. ORGANIZATION OF ACT INTO DIVISIONS; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

(a) **DIVISIONS.**—This Act is organized into 11 divisions as follows:

- (1) Division A—Department of Defense Authorizations.
- (2) Division B—Military Construction Authorizations.
- (3) Division C—Department of Energy National Security Authorizations and Other Authorizations.
- (4) Division D—Funding Tables.
- (5) Division E—Non-Department of Defense Matters.
- (6) Division F—Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023.
- (7) Division G—Homeland Security.
- (8) Division H—Water Resources.
- (9) Division I—Department of State Authorizations.
- (10) Division J—Oceans and Atmosphere.
- (11) Division K—Don Young Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2022.

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

- Sec. 1. Short title.  
Sec. 2. Organization of Act into divisions; table of contents.  
Sec. 3. Congressional defense committees.  
Sec. 4. Budgetary effects of this Act.  
Sec. 5. Explanatory statement.

DIVISION A—DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AUTHORIZATIONS

TITLE I—PROCUREMENT

Subtitle A—Authorization of Appropriations

Sec. 101. Authorization of appropriations.

**SEC. 5587. REAUTHORIZATION OF THE TROPICAL FOREST AND CORAL REEF CONSERVATION ACT OF 1998.**

Section 806(d) of the Tropical Forest and Coral Reef Conservation Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 2431d(d)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraphs:

- “(9) \$20,000,000 for fiscal year 2023.
- “(10) \$20,000,000 for fiscal year 2024.
- “(11) \$20,000,000 for fiscal year 2025.
- “(12) \$20,000,000 for fiscal year 2026.
- “(13) \$20,000,000 for fiscal year 2027.”.

**SEC. 5588. GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2022.**

(a) **FINDINGS.**—Section 2 of the Global Food Security Act of 2016 (22 U.S.C. 9301) is amended by striking “Congress makes” and all that follows through “(3) A comprehensive” and inserting “Congress finds that a comprehensive”.

(b) **STATEMENT OF POLICY OBJECTIVES; SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—Section 3(a) of such Act (22 U.S.C. 9302(a)) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “programs, activities, and initiatives that” and inserting “comprehensive, multi-sectoral programs, activities, and initiatives that consider agriculture and food systems in their totality and that”.

(2) in paragraph (1), by striking “and economic freedom through the coordination” and inserting “, economic freedom, and security through the phasing, sequencing, and coordination”;

(3) by striking paragraphs (3) and (4) and inserting the following:

“(3) increase the productivity, incomes, and livelihoods of small-scale producers and artisanal fishing communities, especially women in these communities, by working across terrestrial and aquatic food systems and agricultural value chains, including by—

“(A) enhancing local capacity to manage agricultural resources and food systems effectively and expanding producer access to, and participation in, local, regional, and international markets;

“(B) increasing the availability and affordability of high quality nutritious and safe foods and clean water;

“(C) creating entrepreneurship opportunities and improving access to business development related to agriculture and food systems, including among youth populations, linked to local, regional, and international markets; and

“(D) enabling partnerships to facilitate the development of and investment in new agricultural technologies to support more resilient and productive agricultural practices;

“(4) build resilience to agriculture and food systems shocks and stresses, including global food catastrophes in which conventional methods of agriculture are unable to provide sufficient food and nutrition to sustain the global population, among vulnerable populations and households through inclusive growth, while reducing reliance upon emergency food and economic assistance;”;

(4) by amending paragraph (6) to read as follows:

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- Sec. 10302. Definitions.
- Sec. 10303. Ocean Policy Committee.
- Sec. 10304. National Ocean Mapping, Exploration, and Characterization Council.
- Sec. 10305. Modifications to the ocean exploration program of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.
- Sec. 10306. Repeal.
- Sec. 10307. Modifications to ocean and coastal mapping program of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.
- Sec. 10308. Modifications to Hydrographic Services Improvement Act of 1998.

TITLE CIV—MARINE MAMMAL RESEARCH AND RESPONSE

- Sec. 10401. Data collection and dissemination.
- Sec. 10402. Stranding or entanglement response agreements.
- Sec. 10403. Unusual mortality event activity funding.
- Sec. 10404. Liability.
- Sec. 10405. National Marine Mammal Tissue Bank and tissue analysis.
- Sec. 10406. Marine Mammal Rescue and Response Grant Program and Rapid Response Fund.
- Sec. 10407. Health MAP.
- Sec. 10408. Reports to Congress.
- Sec. 10409. Authorization of appropriations.
- Sec. 10410. Definitions.
- Sec. 10411. Study on marine mammal mortality.

TITLE CV—VOLCANIC ASH AND FUMES

- Sec. 10501. Modifications to National Volcano Early Warning and Monitoring System.

TITLE CVI—LEARNING EXCELLENCE AND GOOD EXAMPLES FROM NEW DEVELOPERS

- Sec. 10601. Learning excellence and good examples from new developers.

## **TITLE C—CORAL REEF CONSERVATION**

### **Subtitle A—Reauthorization of Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000**

#### **SEC. 10001. REAUTHORIZATION OF CORAL REEF CONSERVATION ACT OF 2000.**

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

#### **“SEC. 202. PURPOSES.**

“The purposes of this title are—

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

“(2) to promote the science-based management and sustainable use of coral reef ecosystems to benefit local communities and the Nation, including through improved integration and cooperation among Federal and non-Federal stakeholders responsible for managing coral reef resources;

“(3) to develop sound scientific information on the condition of coral reef ecosystems, continuing and emerging threats to such ecosystems, and the efficacy of innovative tools, technologies, and strategies to mitigate stressors and restore such ecosystems, including evaluation criteria to determine the

effectiveness of management interventions, and accurate mapping for coral reef restoration;

“(4) to assist in the preservation of coral reefs by supporting science-based, consensus-driven, and community-based coral reef management by covered States and covered Native entities, including monitoring, conservation, and restoration projects that empower local communities, small businesses, and non-governmental organizations;

“(5) to provide financial resources, technical assistance, and scientific expertise to supplement, complement, and strengthen community-based management programs and conservation and restoration projects of non-Federal reefs;

“(6) to establish a formal mechanism for collecting and allocating monetary donations from the private sector to be used for coral reef conservation and restoration projects;

“(7) to support rapid, effective, and science-based assessment and response to exigent circumstances that pose immediate and long-term threats to coral reefs, including—

“(A) coral disease outbreaks;

“(B) invasive or nuisance species;

“(C) coral bleaching;

“(D) natural disasters; and

“(E) industrial or mechanical disasters, including vessel groundings, hazardous spills, and coastal construction accidents; and

“(8) to serve as a model for advancing similar international efforts to monitor, conserve, and restore coral reef ecosystems.

**“SEC. 203. FEDERAL CORAL REEF MANAGEMENT AND RESTORATION ACTIVITIES.**

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

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

“(2) the National Coral Reef Resilience Strategy; and

“(3) coral reef action plans in effect under section 205, as applicable.

“(b) **ACTIVITIES DESCRIBED.**—Activities described in this subsection are activities to conserve, research, monitor, assess, and restore coral reefs and coral reef ecosystems in waters managed under the jurisdiction of a Federal agency specified in subsection (c) or in coordination with a State in waters managed under the jurisdiction of such State, including—

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

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

“(B) coral reef habitat quality data;

“(C) priority areas for coral reef conservation to maintain biodiversity and ecosystem structure and function, including the reef matrix, that benefit coastal communities and living marine resources;

“(D) priority areas for coral reef restoration to enhance biodiversity and ecosystem structure and function,

including the reef matrix, to benefit coastal communities and living marine resources; and

“(E) areas of concern that may require enhanced monitoring of coral health and cover;

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

“(A) the taking of coral products or species associated with coral reefs; or

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

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

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

“(5) restoring degraded coral reef ecosystems;

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

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

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

“(9) conducting scientific research that contributes to the understanding, sustainable use, and long-term conservation of coral reefs;

“(10) enhancing public awareness, understanding, and appreciation of coral reefs and coral reef ecosystems and their ecological and socioeconomic value; and

“(11) centrally archiving, managing, and distributing on a public website data sets and coral reef ecosystem assessments, including the data repositories of the Coral Reef Conservation Program of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

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

“(1) The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

“(2) The National Park Service.

“(3) The United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

“(4) The Office of Insular Affairs.

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

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

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

“(2) review and revise the strategy—

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

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

“(C) as appropriate.

“(b) ELEMENTS.—The strategy required by subsection (a) shall include the following:

“(1) A discussion addressing—

“(A) continuing and emerging threats to the resilience of United States coral reef ecosystems;

“(B) remaining gaps in coral reef ecosystem research, monitoring, and assessment;

“(C) the status of management cooperation and integration among Federal reef managers and covered reef managers;

“(D) the status of efforts to manage and disseminate critical information, and enhance interjurisdictional data sharing, related to research, reports, data sets, and maps;

“(E) areas of special focus, which may include—

“(i) improving natural coral recruitment;

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

“(iii) enhancing the resilience of coral populations;

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

“(v) developing, coordinating, and implementing watershed management plans;

“(vi) building and sustaining watershed management capacity at the local level;

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

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

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

“(x) educating the public on the importance of coral reefs, threats and solutions; and

“(xi) evaluating intervention efficacy;

“(F) the status of conservation efforts, including the use of marine protected areas to serve as replenishment zones developed consistent with local practices and traditions and in cooperation with, and with respect for the scientific, technical, and management expertise and responsibilities of, covered reef managers;

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

“(H) management of coral reef emergencies and disasters.

“(2) A statement of national goals and objectives designed to guide—

“(A) future Federal coral reef management and restoration activities authorized under section 203;

“(B) conservation and restoration priorities for grants awarded under section 211; and

“(C) research priorities for the reef research coordination institutes designated under section 213(b)(1)(B).

“(3) A designation of priority areas for conservation, and priority areas for restoration, to support the review and approval of grants under section 211(e).

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

to respond to coral reef emergencies that can be included in coral reef action plans.

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

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

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

“(3) engage stakeholders, including covered States, coral reef stewardship partnerships, reef research institutes and research centers described in section 213, and recipients of grants under section 211; and

“(4) solicit public review and comment regarding scoping and the draft strategy.

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

“(1) submit the strategy required by subsection (a) and any revisions to the strategy to the appropriate congressional committees; and

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

“(A) the Coral Reef Conservation Program of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; and

“(B) the Task Force.

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

“(a) PLANS PREPARED BY FEDERAL REEF MANAGERS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years after the date of the enactment of the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 and 2 years after the date of publication of each National Coral Reef Resilience Strategy, each Federal reef manager shall—

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

“(B) in the case of a reef under the jurisdiction of a Federal reef manager for which there is an action plan in effect as of such date of enactment, update that plan to comply with the requirements of this subsection.

“(2) ELEMENTS.—A plan prepared under paragraph (1) by a Federal reef manager shall include a discussion of the following:

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

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

“(C) Tools, strategies, and partnerships necessary to identify, monitor, and address pollution, water quality, and other negative impacts to coral reef ecosystems within the jurisdiction of the manager.

“(D) The status of efforts to improve coral reef ecosystem management cooperation and integration between Federal reef managers and covered reef managers, including the identification of existing research and monitoring activities that can be leveraged for coral reef status and trends assessments within the jurisdiction of the manager.

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

“(F) Contingencies for response to and recovery from emergencies and disasters.

“(G) In the case of an updated plan, annual records of significant management and restoration actions taken under the previous plan, cash and noncash resources used to undertake the actions, and the source of such resources.

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

“(I) A data management plan to ensure data, assessments, and accompanying information are appropriately preserved, curated, publicly accessible, and broadly reusable.

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

“(4) APPLICATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE ACT.—Each plan prepared under paragraph (1) shall be subject to the requirements of subchapter II of chapter 5, and chapter 7, of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the ‘Administrative Procedure Act’).

“(b) PLANS PREPARED BY COVERED REEF MANAGERS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—A covered reef manager may elect to prepare, submit to the Task Force, and maintain a coral reef action plan to guide management and restoration activities to be undertaken within the responsibilities and jurisdiction of the manager.

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

“(3) ELEMENTS.—A plan prepared under paragraph (1) by a covered reef manager—

“(A) shall contain a discussion of—

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

“(ii) estimated budgetary and resource considerations necessary to carry out the plan;

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

“(iv) contingencies for response to and recovery from emergencies and disasters; and

“(B) may contain a discussion of—

“(i) the status of efforts to improve coral reef ecosystem management cooperation and integration between Federal reef managers and covered reef managers, including the identification of existing research and monitoring activities that can be leveraged for coral reef status and trends assessments within the jurisdiction of the manager;

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



“(iii) tools, strategies, and partnerships necessary to identify, monitor, and address pollution and water quality impacts to coral reef ecosystems within the jurisdiction of the manager; and

“(iv) a data management plan to ensure data, assessments, and accompanying information are appropriately preserved, curated, publicly accessible, and broadly reusable.

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

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

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

“(a) IN GENERAL.—To further community-based stewardship of coral reefs, coral reef stewardship partnerships for Federal and non-Federal coral reefs may be established in accordance with this section.

“(b) STANDARDS AND PROCEDURES.—The Administrator shall develop and adopt—

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

“(2) processes for adjudicating multiple applicants for stewardship of the same coral reef or ecologically significant unit of a reef to ensure no geographic overlap in representation among stewardship partnerships authorized by this section.

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

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

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

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

“(4) A nongovernmental organization.

“(5) A covered Native entity culturally affiliated with the subject reef or ecologically significant unit, if any.

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

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

“(1) IN GENERAL.—A coral reef stewardship partnership that has identified, as the subject of its stewardship activities, a coral reef or ecologically significant component of a coral reef that is not under the management jurisdiction of any Federal agency specified in section 203(c) shall, at a minimum, include the following:

“(A) A State or county’s resource management agency or a covered Native entity, a representative of which shall serve as the chairperson of the coral reef stewardship partnership.

“(B) A coral reef research center designated under section 212(b).

“(C) A nongovernmental organization.

“(D) Such other members as the partnership considers appropriate, such as interested stakeholder groups.

“(2) ADDITIONAL MEMBERS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), a coral reef stewardship partnership described in paragraph (1) may also include representatives of one or more Federal agencies.

“(B) REQUESTS; APPROVAL.—A representative of a Federal agency described in subparagraph (A) may become a member of a coral reef stewardship partnership described in paragraph (1) if—

“(i) the representative submits a request to become a member to the chairperson of the partnership referred to in paragraph (1)(A); and

“(ii) the chairperson consents to the request.

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

“SEC. 207. BLOCK GRANTS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—In each fiscal year beginning in fiscal year 2023 and subject to the availability of appropriations, the Administrator shall provide block grants of financial assistance of not less than \$500,000 to each covered State to support management and restoration activities and further the implementation of coral reef action plans in effect under section 205 by covered States and non-Federal coral reef stewardship partnerships in accordance with this section. The Administrator shall review each covered State’s application for block grant funding to ensure that applications are consistent with applicable action plans and the National Coral Reef Resilience Strategy.

“(b) RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE ADMINISTRATOR.—The Administrator is responsible for—

“(1) providing guidance on the proper documentation of expenditures authorized under this Act;

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

“(3) determining the appropriate allocation of additional amounts among covered States in accordance with this section.

“(c) RESPONSIBILITIES OF COVERED STATES.—Each covered State is responsible for documenting and reporting—

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

“(2) such expenditures of non-Federal funds made in furtherance of coral reef management and restoration as the Administrator determines appropriate.

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

of such covered State that are consistent with the National Coral Reef Resilience Strategy and any applicable action plan under section 205.

“(e) ALL ISLANDS COMMITTEE.—The Administrator may enter into a cooperative agreement with the All Islands Committee of the Task Force to provide support for its activities.

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

“(a) AGREEMENT.—The Administrator shall seek to enter into an agreement with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (in this section referred to as the ‘Foundation’), authorizing the Foundation to receive, hold, and administer funds received under this section.

“(b) FUND.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Foundation shall establish an account, which shall—

“(A) be known as the ‘Coral Reef Stewardship Fund’ (in this section referred to as the ‘Fund’); and

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

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

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

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

“(B) are consistent with—

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

“(ii) coral reef action plans in effect, if any, under section 205 covering a coral reef or ecologically significant component of a coral reef to be impacted by such activities, if applicable.

“(4) INVESTMENT OF AMOUNTS.—

“(A) INVESTMENT OF AMOUNTS.—The Foundation shall invest such portion of the Fund as is not required to meet current withdrawals in interest-bearing obligations of the United States or in obligations guaranteed as to both principal and interest by the United States.

“(B) INTEREST AND PROCEEDS.—The interest on, and the proceeds from the sale or redemption of, any obligations held in the Fund shall be credited to and form a part of the Fund.

“(5) REVIEW OF PERFORMANCE.—The Administrator shall conduct a continuing review of all deposits into, and disbursements from, the Fund. Each review shall include a written assessment concerning the extent to which the Foundation has implemented the goals and requirements of—

“(A) this section; and

“(B) the National Coral Reef Resilience Strategy.

“(c) AUTHORIZATION TO SOLICIT DONATIONS.—

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

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

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

“(d) ADMINISTRATION.—Under an agreement entered into pursuant to subsection (a), and subject to the availability of appropriations, the Administrator may transfer funds appropriated for such purposes to carry out this title to the Foundation. Amounts received by the Foundation under this subsection may be used for matching, in whole or in part, contributions (whether in money, services, or property) made to the Foundation by private persons, State or local government agencies, or covered Native entities.

**“SEC. 209. EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE.**

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, from funds appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations under section 215, the Administrator may provide emergency assistance to any covered State or coral reef stewardship partnership to respond to immediate harm to coral reefs or coral reef ecosystems arising from any of the exigent circumstances described in subsection (b).

“(b) CORAL REEF EXIGENT CIRCUMSTANCES.—The Administrator shall develop a list of, and criteria for, circumstances that pose an exigent threat to coral reefs, including—

“(1) new and ongoing outbreaks of disease;

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

“(3) new and ongoing coral bleaching events;

“(4) natural disasters;

“(5) industrial or mechanical incidents, such as vessel groundings, hazardous spills, or coastal construction accidents; and

“(6) such other circumstances as the Administrator determines appropriate.

“(c) ANNUAL REPORT ON EXIGENT CIRCUMSTANCES.—On February 1 of each year, the Administrator shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees, the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives a report that—

“(1) describes locations with exigent circumstances described in subsection (b) that were considered but declined for emergency assistance, and the rationale for the decision; and

“(2) with respect to each instance in which emergency assistance under this section was provided—

“(A) the location and a description of the exigent circumstances that prompted the emergency assistance, the entity that received the assistance, and the current and expected outcomes from the assistance;

“(B) a description of activities of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration that were curtailed as a result of providing the emergency assistance; and

“(C) an assessment of whether further action is needed to restore the affected coral reef, recommendations for such

restoration, and a cost estimate to implement such recommendations.

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

“(a) AGREEMENTS.—The Administrator shall seek to enter into an agreement with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (in this section referred to as the ‘Foundation’), authorizing the Foundation to receive, hold, and administer funds received under this section.

“(b) FUND.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Foundation shall establish an account, to be known as the ‘Coral Reef Disaster Fund’ (in this section referred to as the ‘Fund’).

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

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

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

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

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

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

“(4) INVESTMENT OF AMOUNTS.—

“(A) INVESTMENT OF AMOUNTS.—The Foundation shall invest such portion of the Fund as is not required to meet current withdrawals in interest-bearing obligations of the United States or in obligations guaranteed as to both principal and interest by the United States.

“(B) INTEREST AND PROCEEDS.—The interest on, and the proceeds from, the sale or redemption of, any obligations held in the Fund shall be credited to and form a part of the Fund.

“(5) REVIEW OF PERFORMANCE.—The Administrator shall conduct continuing reviews of all deposits into, and disbursements from, the Fund. Each such review shall include a written assessment concerning the extent to which the Foundation has implemented the goals and requirements of this section.

“(c) AUTHORIZATION TO SOLICIT DONATIONS.—

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

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

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

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability of appropriations, the Administrator shall establish a program (to be known as the ‘Ruth D. Gates Coral Reef Conservation Grant Program’) to provide grants for projects for the conservation and restoration of coral reef ecosystems (in this section referred to as ‘coral reef projects’) pursuant to proposals approved by the Administrator in accordance with this section.

“(b) MATCHING REQUIREMENTS FOR GRANTS.—

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

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

“(3) WAIVER.—The Administrator may waive all or part of the matching requirement under paragraph (1) if the Administrator determines that no reasonable means are available through which an applicant can meet the matching requirement with respect to a coral reef project and the probable benefit of the project outweighs the public interest in the matching requirement.

“(c) ELIGIBILITY.—

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

“(2) ENTITIES DESCRIBED.—An entity described in this paragraph is—

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

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

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

“(D) a coral reef research center designated under section 212(b); or

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

“(d) PROJECT PROPOSALS.—Each proposal for a grant under this section for a coral reef project shall include the following:

“(1) The name of the individual or entity responsible for conducting the project.

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

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

“(4) An estimate of the funds and time required to complete the project.

“(5) Evidence of support for the project by appropriate representatives of States or other government jurisdictions in which the project will be conducted.

“(6) Information regarding the source and amount of matching funding available to the applicant.

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

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

“(9) Any other information the Administrator considers to be necessary for evaluating the eligibility of the project for a grant under this subsection.

“(e) PROJECT REVIEW AND APPROVAL.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall review each coral reef project proposal submitted under this section to determine if the project meets the criteria set forth in subsection (f).

“(2) PRIORITIZATION OF CONSERVATION PROJECTS.—The Administrator shall prioritize the awarding of funding for projects that meet the criteria for approval described in—

“(A) subparagraphs (A) through (G) of subsection (f)(2) that are proposed to be conducted within priority areas identified for coral reef conservation by the Administrator under the National Coral Reef Resilience Strategy; and

“(B) subparagraphs (E) through (L) of subsection (f)(2) that are proposed to be conducted within priority areas identified for coral reef restoration by the Administrator under the National Coral Reef Resilience Strategy.

“(3) REVIEW; APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL.—Not later than 180 days after receiving a proposal for a coral reef project under this section, the Administrator shall—

“(A) request and consider written comments on the proposal from each Federal agency, State government, covered Native entity, or other government jurisdiction, including the relevant regional fishery management councils established under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.), or any National Marine Sanctuary or Marine National Monument, with jurisdiction or management authority over coral reef ecosystems in the area where the project is to be conducted, including the extent to which the project is consistent with locally established priorities, unless such entities were directly involved in the development of the project proposal;

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

“(C) after considering any written comments and recommendations based on the reviews under subparagraphs (A) and (B), approve or disapprove the proposal; and

“(D) provide written notification of that approval or disapproval, with summaries of all written comments, recommendations, and peer reviews, to the entity that submitted the proposal, and each of those States, covered Native entity, and other government jurisdictions that provided comments under subparagraph (A).

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

“(1) is consistent with—

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

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

“(2) will enhance the conservation and restoration of coral reefs by—

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

“(B) improving compliance with laws that prohibit or regulate the taking of coral products or species associated with coral reefs or regulate the use and management of coral reef ecosystems;

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

“(D) promoting ecologically sound navigation and anchorages, including mooring buoy systems to promote enhanced recreational access, near coral reefs;

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

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

“(G) stimulating innovation to advance the ability of the United States to understand, research, or monitor coral reef ecosystems, or to develop management or adaptation options to conserve and restore coral reef ecosystems;

“(H) implementing research to ensure the population viability of coral species in United States waters listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 as detailed in the population-based recovery criteria included in species-specific recovery plans established under such Act;

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

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

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

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

“(i) conserve or augment genetic diversity of native coral populations;

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

or



“(iii) enhance resilience of native coral populations to increasing ocean temperatures, changing ocean chemistry, coral bleaching, and coral diseases through selective breeding, conditioning, or other approaches that target genes, gene expression, phenotypic traits, or phenotypic plasticity.

“(g) FUNDING REQUIREMENTS.—To the extent practicable based upon proposals for coral reef projects submitted to the Administrator, the Administrator shall ensure that funding for grants awarded under this section during a fiscal year is distributed as follows:

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

“(2) Not less than 40 percent of the funds available shall be awarded for projects in areas of the Atlantic Ocean, the Gulf of Mexico, or the Caribbean Sea subject to the jurisdiction or control of the United States.

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

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

and

“(B) consistent with the coral reef action plan in effect under section 205 by such a partnership.

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

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

**“SEC. 212. CORAL REEF RESEARCH.**

“(a) REEF RESEARCH COORDINATION INSTITUTES.—

“(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Administrator shall designate 2 reef research coordination institutes for the purpose of advancing and sustaining essential capabilities in coral reef research, one each in the Atlantic and Pacific basins, to be known as the ‘Atlantic Reef Research Coordination Institute’ and the ‘Pacific Reef Research Coordination Institute’, respectively.

“(2) MEMBERSHIP.—Each institute designated under paragraph (1) shall be housed within a single coral reef research center designated by the Administrator under subsection (b).

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

“(A) conduct federally directed research to fill national and regional coral reef ecosystem research gaps and improve understanding of, and responses to, continuing and emerging threats to the resilience of United States

coral reef ecosystems consistent with the National Coral Reef Resilience Strategy;

“(B) support ecological research and monitoring to study the effects of conservation and restoration activities funded by this title on promoting more effective coral reef management and restoration; and

“(C) through agreements—

“(i) collaborate directly with States, covered Native entities, covered coral reef managers, nonprofit organizations, and other coral reef research centers designated under subsection (b);

“(ii) assist in the development and implementation of—

“(I) the National Coral Reef Resilience Strategy; and

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

“(iii) build capacity within non-Federal governmental resource management agencies to establish research priorities and translate and apply research findings to management and restoration practices; and

“(iv) conduct public education and awareness programs for policymakers, resource managers, and the general public on—

“(I) coral reefs and coral reef ecosystems;

“(II) best practices for coral reef ecosystem management and restoration;

“(III) the value of coral reefs; and

“(IV) the threats to the sustainability of coral reef ecosystems.

“(b) CORAL REEF RESEARCH CENTERS.—

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

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

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

“(2) QUALIFYING INSTITUTIONS.—For purposes of paragraph (1), an institution is a qualifying institution if the Administrator determines that the institution—

“(A) is operated by an institution of higher education or nonprofit marine research organization;

“(B) has established management-driven national or regional coral reef research or restoration programs;

“(C) has demonstrated abilities to coordinate closely with appropriate Federal and State agencies, and other academic and nonprofit organizations; and

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

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

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability of appropriations, the head of any Federal agency with a representative serving on the United States Coral Reef Task Force established by section 10011 of the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023, may, individually or in cooperation with

one or more agencies, carry out a program to award prizes competitively under section 24 of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3719).

“(b) PURPOSES.—Any program carried out under this section shall be for the purpose of stimulating innovation to advance the ability of the United States to understand, research, or monitor coral reef ecosystems, or to develop management or adaptation options to preserve, sustain, and restore coral reef ecosystems.

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

“(1) scientific research and monitoring that furthers the understanding of causes behind coral reef decline and degradation and the generally slow recovery following disturbances, including changing ocean chemistry, temperature-related bleaching, disease, and their associated impacts on coral physiology;

“(2) the development of monitoring or management options for communities or industries that are experiencing significant financial hardship;

“(3) the development of adaptation options to alleviate economic harm and job loss caused by damage to coral reef ecosystems;

“(4) the development of measures to help vulnerable communities or industries, with an emphasis on rural communities and businesses; and

“(5) the development of adaptation and management options for impacted tourism industries.

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

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

“(1) a description of all activities undertaken to implement the National Coral Reef Resilience Strategy;

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

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

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

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

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

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

“(a) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Administrator \$45,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2023 through 2027 to carry out this title which shall remain available until

expended. Of such amounts, there is authorized to be appropriated for each such fiscal year—

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

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

and

“(3) \$4,500,000 to be provided to the cooperative institutes designated under section 212(a) to carry out the functions described in such section.

“(b) ADMINISTRATION.—Not more than 10 percent of the amounts appropriated under subsection (a) may be used for program administration or overhead costs incurred by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration or the Department of Commerce.

**“SEC. 216. DEFINITIONS.**

“In this title:

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

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

“(3) 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.

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

“(A) all activities associated with resource management, such as monitoring, assessment, protection, restoration, sustainable use, management of habitat, and maintenance or augmentation of genetic diversity;

“(B) mapping;

“(C) scientific expertise and technical assistance in the development and implementation of management strategies for marine protected areas and marine resources required by Federal law;

“(D) law enforcement;

“(E) conflict resolution initiatives;

“(F) community outreach and education; and

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

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

“(A) all species of the orders Antipatharia (black corals), Scleractinia (stony corals), Alcyonacea (soft corals, organ pipe corals, gorgonians), and Helioporacea (blue coral), of the class Anthozoa; and

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

“(6) CORAL PRODUCTS.—The term ‘coral products’ means any living or dead specimens, parts, or derivatives, or any

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

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

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

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

“(B) the biotic and abiotic factors and processes that control or significantly affect coral calcification rates, tissue growth, reproduction, recruitment, abundance, coral-algal symbiosis, and biodiversity in such habitat.

“(9) CORAL REEF ECOSYSTEM SERVICES.—The term ‘coral reef ecosystem services’ means the attributes and benefits provided by coral reef ecosystems including—

“(A) protection of coastal beaches, structures, and infrastructure;

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

“(C) serving as centers for the promulgation, performance, and training of cultural practices representative of traditional ecological knowledge; and

“(D) aesthetic value.

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

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

“(A) a management unit of a covered State with jurisdiction over a coral reef ecosystem;

“(B) a covered State; or

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

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

“(13) FEDERAL REEF MANAGER.—

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

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

“(ii) a coral reef stewardship partnership under section 206(c).

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

“(i) The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

“(ii) The National Park Service.

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

“(iv) The Office of Insular Affairs.

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

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

“(A) A business.

“(B) A commercial or recreational fisherman.

“(C) A recreationalist.

“(D) A Federal, State, Tribal, or local government unit with related jurisdiction.

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

“(F) A nongovernmental organization.

“(16) NATIONAL CORAL REEF RESILIENCE STRATEGY.—The term ‘National Coral Reef Resilience Strategy’ means the National Coral Reef Resilience Strategy in effect under section 204.

“(17) NATIVE ENTITY.—The term ‘Native entity’ means any of the following:

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

“(B) An Alaska Native Corporation.

“(C) The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

“(D) The Office of Hawaiian Affairs.

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

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

“(A) is operated primarily for scientific, educational, service, charitable, or similar purposes in the public interest;

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

“(C) uses net proceeds to maintain, improve, or expand the operations of the organization.

“(19) RESTORATION.—The term ‘restoration’ means the use of methods and procedures necessary to enhance, rehabilitate, recreate, or create a functioning coral reef or coral reef ecosystem, in whole or in part, within suitable waters of the historical geographic range of such ecosystems, to provide ecological, economic, cultural, or coastal resiliency services associated with healthy coral reefs and benefit native populations of coral reef organisms.

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

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

“(22) STATE.—The term ‘State’ means—

“(A) any State of the United States that contains a coral reef ecosystem within its seaward boundaries;

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

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

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

“(24) TASK FORCE.—The term ‘Task Force’ means the United States Coral Reef Task Force established under section 10011 of the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023.”

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

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

(1) examines the budget and accounting practices of the coral reef conservation programs of such Administration, including expenditure tracking across line and program offices;

(2) examines the process for determining appropriate project goals and funding priorities; and

(3) includes recommendations on policies or best practices that may improve the transparency and accountability of coral reef conservation programs.

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

## **Subtitle B—United States Coral Reef Task Force**

### **SEC. 10011. ESTABLISHMENT.**

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

**SEC. 10012. DUTIES.**

The duties of the Task Force shall be—

(1) to coordinate, in cooperation with covered States, covered Native entities, Federal reef managers, covered reef managers, coral reef research centers designated under section 212(b) of the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000 (as added by this division), and other nongovernmental and academic partners as appropriate, activities regarding the mapping, monitoring, research, conservation, mitigation, and restoration of coral reefs and coral reef ecosystems;

(2) to monitor and advise regarding implementation of the policy and Federal agency responsibilities set forth in—

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

(B) the National Coral Reef Resilience Strategy;

(3) to work in coordination with the other members of the Task Force—

(A) to assess the United States role in international trade and protection of coral species;

(B) to encourage implementation of appropriate strategies and actions to promote conservation and sustainable use of coral reef resources worldwide; and

(C) to collaborate with international communities successful in managing coral reefs;

(4) to provide technical assistance for the development and implementation, as appropriate, of—

(A) the National Coral Reef Resilience Strategy; and

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

(5) to produce a report each year, for submission to the appropriate congressional committees and publication on the public website of the Task Force, highlighting the status of the coral reef resources of a covered State on a rotating basis, including—

(A) a summary of recent coral reef management and restoration activities undertaken in that State; and

(B) updated estimates of the direct and indirect economic activity supported by, and other benefits associated with, those coral reef resources.

**SEC. 10013. MEMBERSHIP.**

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

(1) the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and the Secretary of Interior, who shall be co-chairpersons of the Task Force;

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

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

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

(1) A member of the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council who is designated by the Governor of Florida under section 302(b)(1) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1852(b)(1)).



(2) A member of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council who is designated by the Governor of Florida under such section.

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

(A) For the period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act and ending on December 31 of the calendar year during which such date of enactment occurs, the member shall be selected jointly by the Governors of Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

(B) For each calendar year thereafter, the Governors of Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands shall, on a rotating basis, take turns selecting the member.

(4) A member of the Caribbean Fishery Management Council who is designated under such section and selected as follows:

(A) For the period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act and ending on December 31 of the calendar year during which such date of enactment occurs, the member shall be selected jointly by the Governors of Puerto Rico and the United States Virgin Islands.

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

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

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

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

**SEC. 10014. RESPONSIBILITIES OF FEDERAL AGENCY MEMBERS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—A member of the Task Force described in section 10013(a) shall—

(1) identify the actions of the agency that member represents that may affect coral reef ecosystems;

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

(3) collaborate with the Task Force to appropriately reflect budgetary needs for coral reef conservation and restoration activities in all agency budget planning and justification documents and processes; and

(4) engage in any other coordinated efforts approved by the Task Force.

(b) CO-CHAIRPERSONS.—In addition to their responsibilities under subsection (a), the co-chairpersons of the Task Force shall perform the administrative functions of the Task Force and facilitate the coordination of the members of the Task Force described in section 10013(a).

(c) BRIEFING.—Not less than 30 days before each meeting of the Task Force, the program offices of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration responsible for implementing this title

shall provide a briefing to the relevant congressional committees on efforts and spending associated with such implementation.

**SEC. 10015. WORKING GROUPS.**

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

(b) **REQUESTS FROM MEMBERS.**—The members of the Task Force may request that the co-chairpersons establish a working group under subsection (a).

(c) **PARTICIPATION BY NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS.**—The co-chairpersons may allow nongovernmental organizations as appropriate, including academic institutions, conservation groups, and commercial and recreational fishing associations, to participate in a working group established under subsection (a).

(d) **NONAPPLICABILITY OF FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT.**—The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to working groups established under this section.

**SEC. 10016. DEFINITIONS.**

In this subtitle:

(1) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.**—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

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

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

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

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

(2) **CONSERVATION, CORAL, CORAL REEF, ETC.**—The terms “conservation”, “coral”, “coral reef”, “coral reef ecosystem”, “covered reef manager”, “covered State”, “Federal reef manager”, “National Coral Reef Resilience Strategy”, “restoration”, “resilience”, and “State” have the meanings given those terms in section 216 of the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000, as added by this division.

## **Subtitle C—Department of the Interior Coral Reef Authorities**

**SEC. 10021. CORAL REEF CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION ASSISTANCE.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of the Interior may provide scientific expertise and technical assistance, and subject to the availability of appropriations, financial assistance for the conservation and restoration of coral reefs consistent with all applicable laws governing resource management in Federal, State, and Tribal waters, including—

(1) the National Coral Reef Resilience Strategy; and

(2) coral reef action plans in effect under section 205 of the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000, as added by this division, as applicable.

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

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

- (A) coastal areas of covered States; and
- (B) Freely Associated States;

(2) to enhance resource availability of National Park Service and National Wildlife Refuge System management units to implement coral reef conservation and restoration activities;

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

(4) to provide other technical, scientific, and financial assistance and conduct conservation and restoration activities that advance the purposes of this title and the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000, as amended by this division.

(c) CONSULTATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE.—

(1) CORAL REEF CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION ACTIVITIES.—The Secretary of the Interior may consult with the Secretary of Commerce regarding the conduct of any activities to conserve and restore coral reefs and coral reef ecosystems in waters managed under the jurisdiction of the Federal agencies specified in paragraphs (2) and (3) of section 203(c) of the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000, as added by this division.

(2) AWARD OF CORAL REEF MANAGEMENT FELLOWSHIP.—The Secretary of the Interior shall consult with the Secretary of Commerce to award the Susan L. Williams Coral Reef Management Fellowship under subtitle D.

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

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

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

(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) CONSERVATION, CORAL, CORAL REEF, ETC.—The terms “conservation”, “coral reef”, “covered reef manager”, “covered State”, “National Coral Reef Resilience Strategy”, “restoration”, and “State” have the meanings given those terms in section 216 of the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000, as added by this division.

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

## **Subtitle D—Susan L. Williams National Coral Reef Management Fellowship**

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

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ALASKA NATIVE CORPORATION.—The term “Alaska Native Corporation” has the meaning given the term “Native

Corporation” in section 3 of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1602).

(2) FELLOW.—The term “fellow” means a National Coral Reef Management Fellow.

(3) FELLOWSHIP.—The term “fellowship” means the National Coral Reef Management Fellowship established in subsection (c).

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

(5) COVERED STATE.—The term “covered State” has the meaning given the term in section 216 of the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000, as added by this division.

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

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

(b) ESTABLISHMENT OF FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM.—

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

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

(A) to encourage future leaders of the United States to develop additional coral reef management capacity in States and local communities with coral reefs;

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

(C) to provide fellows with professional experience in management of coastal and coral reef resources.

(c) FELLOWSHIP AWARDS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior, shall award a fellowship in accordance with this subsection.

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

(3) QUALIFICATIONS.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior, shall award a fellowship to individuals who have demonstrated—

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

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

(C) possession of a college or graduate degree in biological science, a college or graduate degree in resource management with experience that correlates with aptitude and interest for marine management, or both;

(D) proficient writing and speaking skills; and

(E) such other attributes as the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior, considers appropriate.

(d) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—

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

(2) **WAIVER OF MATCHING REQUIREMENT.**—The Secretary may waive the application of paragraph (1) to a fellowship if the Secretary finds that such waiver is necessary to support a project that the Secretary has identified as a high priority.

## **TITLE CI—BOLSTERING LONG-TERM UNDERSTANDING AND EXPLORATION OF THE GREAT LAKES, OCEANS, BAYS, AND ESTUARIES**

### **SEC. 10101. PURPOSE.**

The purpose of this title is to promote and support—

- (1) the monitoring, understanding, and exploration of the Great Lakes, oceans, bays, estuaries, and coasts; and
- (2) the collection, analysis, synthesis, and sharing of data related to the Great Lakes, oceans, bays, estuaries, and coasts to facilitate scientific research and operational decisionmaking.

### **SEC. 10102. DEFINITIONS.**

In this title:

- (1) **ADMINISTRATION.**—The term “Administration” means the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.
- (2) **ADMINISTRATOR.**—The term “Administrator” means the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere in the capacity as Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.
- (3) **INDIAN TRIBE.**—The term “Indian Tribe” has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

### **SEC. 10103. WORKFORCE STUDY.**

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

- (1) by striking “Secretary of Commerce” and inserting “Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere”;
- (2) in paragraph (2), by inserting “, skillsets, or credentials” after “degrees”;
- (3) in paragraph (3), by inserting “or highly qualified technical professionals and tradespeople” after “atmospheric scientists”;
- (4) in paragraph (4), by inserting “, skillsets, or credentials” after “degrees”;
- (5) in paragraph (5)—
  - (A) by striking “scientist”; and
  - (B) by striking “; and” and inserting “, observations, and monitoring”;
- (6) in paragraph (6), by striking “into Federal” and all that follows and inserting “, technical professionals, and tradespeople into Federal career positions”;
- (7) by redesignating paragraphs (2) through (6) as paragraphs (3) through (7), respectively;
- (8) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following: