

116TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 6738

To reauthorize and amend the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000, and  
for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 8, 2020

Mr. CASE (for himself, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. GABBARD, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. SABLAN, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, Mr. YOHIO, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. CRIST, and Mr. POSEY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## A BILL

To reauthorize and amend the Coral Reef Conservation Act  
of 2000, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

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

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the  
5 “Coral Reef Conservation Reauthorization Act of 2020”.

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—AMENDMENTS TO CORAL REEF CONSERVATION ACT OF  
2000

- Sec. 101. Revisions to purposes of Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000.
- Sec. 102. Revisions to national coral reef action strategy.
- Sec. 103. Revisions to Coral Reef Conservation Grant Program.
- Sec. 104. Coral reef public-private partnership.
- Sec. 105. Revisions to emergency assistance.
- Sec. 106. Revisions to national program.
- Sec. 107. Revisions to effectiveness reports.
- Sec. 108. Revisions to authorization of appropriations.
- Sec. 109. Revisions to definitions.
- Sec. 110. Establishment of United States Coral Reef Task Force.
- Sec. 111. Agreements.
- Sec. 112. Permits.
- Sec. 113. Regulations.
- Sec. 114. Use of recovered amounts.
- Sec. 115. Prize competitions to promote innovation in coral reef research and  
conservation.
- Sec. 116. Conforming and clerical amendments.

TITLE II—DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR CORAL REEF  
AUTHORITIES

- Sec. 201. Coral reef conservation and assistance.
- Sec. 202. United States Geological Survey Coral Reef Ecosystem Studies Pro-  
gram.
- Sec. 203. Use of recovered amounts.
- Sec. 204. Authorization of appropriations.
- Sec. 205. Definitions.

TITLE III—NATIONAL CORAL REEF MANAGEMENT FELLOWSHIP

- Sec. 301. Short title.
- Sec. 302. Definitions.
- Sec. 303. Fellowship program.
- Sec. 304. Fellowship awards.

TITLE IV—ASSESSING THE THREATS AND VALUES OF CORAL  
REEF ECOSYSTEMS

- Sec. 401. Definitions.
- Sec. 402. Study examining the impact of ultraviolet filters on coral reef eco-  
systems.
- Sec. 403. Study to determine the economic, societal, and ecological value of  
coral reef ecosystems in the United States and territories of  
the United States.

TITLE V—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

- Sec. 501. Stock assessments under Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation  
and Management Act.
- Sec. 502. Deep Sea Coral Research and Technology Program.

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

4 **SEC. 101. REVISIONS TO PURPOSES OF CORAL REEF CON-**  
5 **SERVATION ACT OF 2000.**

6 Section 202 of the Coral Reef Conservation Act of  
7 2000 (16 U.S.C. 6401) is amended—

8 (1) in paragraph (5), by striking “and” at the  
9 end;

10 (2) in paragraph (6), by striking the period at  
11 the end and inserting “; and”; and

12 (3) by adding at the end the following:

13 “(7) to ensure healthy and resilient coral  
14 reefs for the benefit of island and coastal com-  
15 munities and the United States.”.

16 **SEC. 102. REVISIONS TO NATIONAL CORAL REEF ACTION**  
17 **STRATEGY.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 203 of the Coral Reef  
19 Conservation Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 6402) is amended—

20 (1) in subsection (a)—

21 (A) by inserting “Natural” before “Re-  
22 sources”;

23 (B) by inserting “, in consultation with the  
24 Secretary of the Interior,” before “shall periodi-  
25 cally review and revise”;

1 (C) by striking “this national strategy”  
2 and inserting “the national coral reef action  
3 strategy or any review or revision to such strat-  
4 egy”;

5 (D) by striking “may consult” and insert-  
6 ing “shall consult”; and

7 (E) by striking “Executive Order 13089  
8 (June 11, 1998)” and inserting “section 209”;  
9 and  
10 (2) in subsection (b)—

11 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1),  
12 by striking “goals and objectives as well as an  
13 implementation plan” and inserting “goals, ob-  
14 jectives, and an implementation plan”;

15 (B) in paragraph (7), by striking “includ-  
16 ing regional fishery management councils; and”  
17 at the end;

18 (C) by amending paragraph (8) to read as  
19 follows:

20 “(8) conservation, including how the use of ma-  
21 rine protected areas to serve as replenishment zones  
22 will be developed consistent with local practices and  
23 traditions and in cooperation with, and with respect  
24 for the scientific, technical, and management exper-

1       tise and responsibilities of, State fish and wildlife  
2       management agencies;” and

3               (D) by adding at the end the following:

4               “(9) the condition of coral reefs located within  
5       maritime areas and zones subject to the jurisdiction  
6       or control of the United States;

7               “(10) emerging threats to coral health, includ-  
8       ing changes in ocean temperature and chemistry and  
9       threats identified under section 204(d)(3);

10              “(11) adaptive management approaches with  
11       clearly identifiable, measurable, and science-based  
12       goals; and

13              “(12) restoration efforts, including improving  
14       coral reef resiliency.”.

15       (b) DEADLINE.—Not later than 2 years after the  
16       date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall review  
17       and revise the national coral reef action strategy developed  
18       under such section.

19       **SEC. 103. REVISIONS TO CORAL REEF CONSERVATION**  
20               **GRANT PROGRAM.**

21       Section 204 of the Coral Reef Conservation Act of  
22       2000 (16 U.S.C. 6403) is amended—

23              (1) in the heading, by inserting “**GRANT**” be-  
24       fore “**PROGRAM**”;

25              (2) in subsection (d)—

1 (A) in the heading, by striking “GEO-  
2 GRAPHIC AND BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY” and in-  
3 serting “DISTRIBUTION OF GRANTS”;

4 (B) in the language preceding paragraph  
5 (1), by striking “subsection (b)” and inserting  
6 “subsection (a)”;

7 (C) by amending paragraph (3) to read as  
8 follows:

9 “(3) Remaining funds shall be awarded for  
10 projects that address—

11 “(A) bleaching;

12 “(B) mortality events;

13 “(C) disease outbreaks;

14 “(D) harmful algal blooms;

15 “(E) invasive or nuisance species out-  
16 breaks;

17 “(F) land-based sources of pollution;

18 “(G) overfishing;

19 “(H) ocean acidification;

20 “(I) coral reef restoration efforts;

21 “(J) regional or international priorities or  
22 threats;

23 “(K) physical impacts;

24 “(L) thermal events; and

1           “(M) such other priorities or emerging  
2           threats as the Secretary, in consultation with  
3           the United States Coral Reef Task Force, may  
4           identify.

5           “(4) To the extent practicable, the Secretary  
6           shall prioritize grants to a natural resource manage-  
7           ment authority of a State that is represented on the  
8           United States Coral Reef Task Force.”;

9           (3) in subsection (f), by adding at the end the  
10          following:

11          “(3) APPLICANTS SEEKING EMERGENCY CON-  
12          SIDERATION.—

13               “(A) REQUEST.—An applicant for assist-  
14               ance under this section may request emergency  
15               consideration of such applicant’s proposal under  
16               this subsection.

17               “(B) CONSIDERATION.—The Secretary  
18               shall, not later than 15 days after the date of  
19               receipt of a request under subparagraph (A),  
20               conduct a preliminary review of the proposed  
21               project. The Secretary may issue not more than  
22               50 percent of the total amount of assistance for  
23               which the Secretary estimates the project will  
24               qualify.”;

25          (4) in subsection (g)—

1 (A) in paragraph (1), by inserting “and re-  
2 silient coral reef ecosystems” after “coral  
3 reefs”;

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

6 “(4) developing sound scientific information on  
7 the condition of coral reef ecosystems, threats to  
8 such ecosystems or the biodiversity of such eco-  
9 systems, the impacts of such threats, and potential  
10 interventions to address such threats;”;

11 (C) in paragraph (5), by striking “to im-  
12 plement” and inserting “the implementation  
13 of”;

14 (D) in paragraph (6), by inserting “, in-  
15 cluding how coral reefs function to protect is-  
16 land and coastal communities” after “conserva-  
17 tion”;

18 (E) by amending paragraph (7) to read as  
19 follows:

20 “(7) mapping the location, distribution, and  
21 biodiversity, including taxonomic classification and  
22 related research, of coral reefs and coral reef eco-  
23 systems;”;

24 (F) in paragraph (8), by inserting “and  
25 coral reef ecosystems” after “reefs”;



1 (G) in paragraph (9), by striking “or”;

2 (H) by amending paragraph (10) to read  
3 as follows:

4 “(10) preventing or minimizing the likelihood of  
5 vessel impacts on coral reefs, particularly those  
6 areas and any at-risk reefs identified under section  
7 207(d), including by promoting ecologically sound  
8 navigation and anchorages near coral reefs;” and

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

10 “(11) responding to, or taking action to miti-  
11 gate the effects of, coral bleaching, disease, harmful  
12 algal blooms, ocean acidification, or other changes in  
13 ocean temperature and chemistry;

14 “(12) developing and implementing innovative  
15 ecological interventions to build or maintain coral  
16 reef resistance and resilience to stressors;

17 “(13) developing and implementing innovative  
18 invasive or nuisance species capture, collection, re-  
19 moval, or trapping methods for use around coral  
20 reefs;

21 “(14) developing and implementing cost-effec-  
22 tive methods to restore degraded native coral reef  
23 ecosystems with an emphasis on techniques to ad-  
24 vance coral recovery, growth, or resiliency;

1           “(15) research on coral diseases, including the  
2       prevention and treatment of such diseases;

3           “(16) understanding and cataloging coral ge-  
4       netic diversity, including research into traits that  
5       promote resilience and applying such research to  
6       coral reef restoration efforts;

7           “(17) developing in situ native coral propaga-  
8       tion sites for use in coral reef restoration projects;

9           “(18) developing networks of ex situ coral propa-  
10      gation nurseries for conservation, including holding  
11      coral in aquarium systems and genetic banking, cap-  
12      tive breeding of rare species, and captive breeding of  
13      resilient coral populations for use in coral reef res-  
14      toration projects;

15          “(19) developing networks of improved, real-  
16      time water quality monitoring along coral reefs, es-  
17      pecially reefs impacted by land-based sources of pol-  
18      lution including coastal runoff, sediment erosion and  
19      turbidity, and harmful algal blooms;

20          “(20) implementing research and restoration  
21      projects that help ensure the population viability of  
22      coral species listed pursuant to the Endangered Spe-  
23      cies Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) in United  
24      States waters as detailed in the population-based re-  
25      covery criteria included in species-specific recovery

1 plans developed under the Endangered Species Act  
2 of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.); or

3 “(21) supporting community-based planning  
4 and management initiatives for the protection of  
5 coral reef ecosystems identified by the States, sci-  
6 entific experts, or the United States Coral Reef Task  
7 Force as a high priority that—

8 “(A) support attainment of criteria de-  
9 scribed in paragraphs (1) through (20);

10 “(B) use, where applicable, watershed-  
11 based or ecosystem-based approaches;

12 “(C) provide for coordination with Federal  
13 and State experts and managers;

14 “(D) build upon local approaches or mod-  
15 els, including traditional resource management  
16 concepts; and

17 “(E) complement local action strategies or  
18 regional plans for coral reef conservation ef-  
19 forts, as applicable.”; and

20 (5) in subsection (j), by striking “this Act” and  
21 inserting “Coral Reef Conservation Reauthorization  
22 Act of 2020”.

23 **SEC. 104. CORAL REEF PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP.**

24 Section 205 of the Coral Reef Conservation Act of  
25 2000 (16 U.S.C. 6404) is amended—

(1) in the heading, by striking “**CORAL REEF CONSERVATION FUND**” and inserting “**CORAL REEF PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP**”;

(2) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking “FUND” and inserting “PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP”;

(B) by striking “, hereafter referred to as the Fund,”; and

(C) by striking “organization solely” and all that follows and inserting “organization—

“(A) to support public-private partnerships that further the purposes of this title and are consistent with the national coral reef action strategy under section 203;

“(B) to address emergency response actions undertaken or authorized under section 206; and

“(C) to support activities that prevent damage to coral reefs, including any at-risk reefs identified under section 207(d).”; and

(3) in subsection (b);

(A) by striking “Fund” and inserting “separate interest bearing account”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:  
“The organization is encouraged to solicit dona-

tions, funding, and in-kind services from the private sector, including nongovernmental organizations, for emergency response actions under section 206 and for activities to prevent damage to coral reefs, including any at-risk reefs identified under section 207(d).”.

**SEC. 105. REVISIONS TO EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE.**

Section 206 of the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 6405) is amended to read as follows:

**“SEC. 206. CORAL EVENT OF NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE.**

“(a) RELIEF.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Upon a determination under subsection (b) that there is an event of national significance, the appropriate Federal official is authorized to provide support, including emergency grants and contracts, equipment, and technical assistance, to any State, or local government agency with jurisdiction over a coral reef, or any entity contracted to act on behalf of a State or local government agency, for the purposes of—

“(A) assessing and mitigating the detrimental environmental, economic, subsistence use, and public health effects of the event;

“(B) respond rapidly to assess, stabilize, repair, recover, or restore a coral reef that is

1 damaged, or that has lost the ability to function  
2 as an independent ecosystem;

3 “(C) remove or stabilize a vessel grounded  
4 on or in the vicinity of a coral reef; and

5 “(D) otherwise provide for rapid response  
6 to, assessment of, or monitoring of an event of  
7 national significance pertaining to a coral reef  
8 or coral reef ecosystem.

9 “(2) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—

10 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in  
11 subparagraph (C), the Federal share of the  
12 costs of an activity conducted under this section  
13 shall not exceed 75 percent of the costs for such  
14 activity.

15 “(B) IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS.—In mak-  
16 ing a calculation of the non-Federal share of  
17 the costs of an activity under subparagraph  
18 (A), the Secretary shall include in such calcula-  
19 tion the fair market value of property and serv-  
20 ices used for the activity.

21 “(C) WAIVER OF REQUIREMENTS.—The  
22 Secretary may waive the application of subpara-  
23 graph (A) if the Secretary finds that such waiv-  
24 er is necessary to support a project that the  
25 Secretary has identified as high priority.

1           “(3) WRITTEN AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary  
2           may enter into written agreements with any State in  
3           which a coral reef is located regarding the manner  
4           in which the activities authorized under this section  
5           shall be conducted within the affected State’s  
6           waters.

7           “(4) COOPERATIVE ENFORCEMENT AGREE-  
8           MENTS.—All cooperative enforcement agreements in  
9           place between the Secretary and a State affected by  
10          this title shall be updated to include enforcement of  
11          this title where appropriate.

12          “(5) DAMAGE AND COST ASSESSMENT.—In car-  
13          rying out this section, the Secretary shall assess  
14          damages to coral reefs and applicable response and  
15          restoration costs in consultation with State officials  
16          regarding response and damage assessment actions  
17          undertaken for coral reefs within State waters. The  
18          Secretary shall make such assessments, including  
19          any related data and information, readily available  
20          to the public on a public website upon completion of  
21          such assessments.

22          “(6) DETERMINATIONS.—

23                 “(A) IN GENERAL.—At the discretion of  
24                 the Secretary, or at the request of the Governor  
25                 of an affected State, an appropriate Federal of-

1           ficial shall determine whether a coral event is  
2           an event of national significance.

3           “(B) CONSIDERATIONS.—In making a de-  
4           termination under paragraph (1), the appro-  
5           priate Federal official shall consider the severity  
6           of the event or disease outbreak or bleaching,  
7           its potential to spread, the economic impact,  
8           and the geographic scope, including the poten-  
9           tial to affect several municipalities, to affect  
10          more than one State, or to cross an inter-  
11          national boundary.

12          “(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

13           “(1) EVENT OF NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE.—The  
14          term ‘event of national significance’ means—

15           “(A) a coral disease outbreak or coral  
16          bleaching event that has had or will likely have  
17          a significant detrimental environmental, eco-  
18          nomic, subsistence use, or public health impact  
19          on an affected State;

20           “(B) a vessel collision that severely nega-  
21          tively impacts a coral reef ecosystem;

22           “(C) an unforeseen or disaster-related cir-  
23          cumstance that negatively impacts a coral reef  
24          ecosystem, including as a result of human ac-  
25          tivities;



1           “(D) a harmful algal bloom or invasive or  
2           nuisance species outbreak that negatively im-  
3           pacts a coral reef ecosystem; or

4           “(E) the presence of an unexploded ord-  
5           nance or similar underwater munitions that  
6           harms a coral reef ecosystem.

7           “(2) CORAL DISEASE OUTBREAK OR CORAL  
8           BLEACHING EVENT.—The term ‘coral disease out-  
9           break or coral bleaching event’ means the occurrence  
10          of a coral disease outbreak or coral bleaching as a  
11          result of a natural, anthropogenic, or undetermined  
12          cause.”.

13 **SEC. 106. REVISIONS TO NATIONAL PROGRAM.**

14          Section 207 of the Coral Reef Conservation Act of  
15          2000 (16 U.S.C. 6406) is amended—

16               (1) in subsection (b)—

17                       (A) by amending paragraph (2) to read as  
18                       follows:

19                       “(2) enhancing public awareness, education, un-  
20                       derstanding, and appreciation of coral reefs and  
21                       coral reef ecosystems, including the benefits healthy  
22                       and resilient coral reefs provide to island and coastal  
23                       communities and to the United States;”;

24                       (B) by amending paragraph (3) to read as  
25                       follows:

1           “(3) removing or otherwise addressing, and pro-  
2           viding assistance to States in removing or otherwise  
3           addressing, derelict fishing gear, marine debris, and  
4           abandoned vessels from coral reef ecosystems to con-  
5           serve living marine resources;”;

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

8           “(4) cooperative conservation, research, restora-  
9           tion, and management of coral reefs and coral reef  
10          ecosystems with local, regional, or international pro-  
11          grams and partners, including research institutions  
12          located in a State;”;

13                      (D) by adding at the end the following:

14          “(5) improving and promoting the resilience of  
15          corals, coral reefs, and coral reef ecosystems;

16          “(6) activities designed to prevent or minimize  
17          the likelihood of vessel impacts or other physical  
18          damage to coral reefs, including any at-risk reefs  
19          identified under section 207(d); and

20          “(7) centrally archiving, managing, and distrib-  
21          uting data sets and coral reef ecosystem assessments  
22          and making such information readily available on  
23          public websites, including, at the discretion of the  
24          Administrator, on the public websites of local, re-

1 regional, or international programs and partners.”;  
2 and

3 (2) by adding at the end the following:

4 “(c) VESSEL GROUNDING INVENTORY.—The Sec-  
5 retary, in coordination with other Federal agencies, shall  
6 establish and maintain an inventory of all vessel grounding  
7 incidents involving coral reefs, including a description of—

8 “(1) the impacts to such coral reefs and related  
9 natural resources;

10 “(2) vessel and ownership information;

11 “(3) an estimate of the costs for—

12 “(A) removal of the vessel; or

13 “(B) restoration of the impacted reef;

14 “(4) to the extent practicable, the actual costs,  
15 including costs estimated under section 206(e), that  
16 were incurred by each party that participated in  
17 any—

18 “(A) removal of the vessel; or

19 “(B) restoration of the impacted reef;

20 “(5) the response action taken by the vessel  
21 owner, the Secretary, the Commandant of the Coast  
22 Guard, or other Federal or State agencies;

23 “(6) the status of the response action, including  
24 the dates of vessel removal and coral reef restora-

1       tion, and any actions taken to prevent future  
2       grounding incidents; and

3               “(7) any other pertinent information the Sec-  
4       retary determines appropriate.

5       “(d) AT-RISK REEFS.—

6               “(1) INVENTORY.—The Secretary shall estab-  
7       lish and maintain a nationwide inventory of at-risk  
8       reefs, including proposed remediation to address  
9       threats or damage to at-risk reefs identified under  
10      this subsection.

11              “(2) IDENTIFICATION.—The Secretary shall use  
12      data and information collected or compiled under  
13      this title or any other available information source to  
14      identify at-risk reefs to be included in the inventory  
15      under paragraph (1).

16              “(3) REMEDIATION.—The Secretary shall iden-  
17      tify appropriate measures, including measures taken  
18      by other agencies, to remediate at-risk reefs, includ-  
19      ing—

20                      “(A) recommendations to prevent, reduce  
21                      the likelihood, or otherwise address negative im-  
22                      pacts and incidents;

23                      “(B) cooperative actions with other Fed-  
24                      eral, State, and local agencies and nongovern-  
25                      mental partners; and

1           “(C) a strategy and timetable to imple-  
2           ment such measures and recommendations.

3           “(4) MEASURES TAKEN.—To the extent prac-  
4           ticable, the Secretary shall track any measures taken  
5           to remediate at-risk reefs identified under paragraph  
6           (2), including any measures identified and taken  
7           under paragraph (3).

8           “(5) PUBLICATION.—The Secretary shall make  
9           any inventory established and maintained under this  
10          subsection, a description of the remediation meas-  
11          ures identified under paragraph (3), and a descrip-  
12          tion of any actions tracked under paragraph (4),  
13          readily available to the public on a government  
14          website.

15          “(e) DATA STEWARDSHIP AND ACCESSIBILITY.—

16               “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in coordina-  
17          tion with similar efforts at other Departments and  
18          agencies, shall provide for the long-term stewardship  
19          and public accessibility of all environmental data and  
20          information collected under this title.

21               “(2) ACTIVITIES.—The Secretary shall—

22                       “(A) archive environmental data, research,  
23                       and similar information collected under this  
24                       title with the use of Federal funds;

1 “(B) to the greatest extent practicable,  
2 make such environmental data and information  
3 readily available to the public on a government  
4 website;

5 “(C) develop standards, protocols, and pro-  
6 cedures for sharing Federal data with non-Fed-  
7 eral partner agencies and the private sector or  
8 academia; and

9 “(D) develop metadata standards for coral  
10 reef ecosystems in accordance with Federal Ge-  
11 ographic Data Committee guidelines.”.

12 **SEC. 107. REVISIONS TO EFFECTIVENESS REPORTS.**

13 Section 208 of the Coral Reef Conservation Act of  
14 2000 (16 U.S.C. 6407) is amended to read as follows:

15 **“SEC. 208. EFFECTIVENESS REPORTS.**

16 “Not less than once every 5 years, the Secretary, in  
17 cooperation with the United States Coral Reef Task  
18 Force, shall submit to the Committee on Commerce,  
19 Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Com-  
20 mittee on Natural Resources of the House of Representa-  
21 tives a report, with respect to the 5 fiscal years preceding  
22 the year in which the report is submitted, that—

23 “(1) describes the funds obligated by each Fed-  
24 eral agency to implement the national coral reef ac-  
25 tion strategy;

1           “(2) summarizes all actions taken by Federal  
2           and non-Federal entities under the national coral  
3           reef action strategy;

4           “(3) provides a State-by-State summary of Fed-  
5           eral and non-Federal contributions toward the costs  
6           of each project for which a grant was awarded under  
7           the coral reef conservation grant program under sec-  
8           tion 204;

9           “(4) provides an accounting of Federal funds  
10          transferred to a nonprofit organization and non-Fed-  
11          eral matching funds provided by such nonprofit or-  
12          ganization under the coral reef public-private part-  
13          nership under section 205;

14          “(5) summarizes emergency response actions  
15          undertaken or authorized under section 206;

16          “(6) summarizes the information contained in  
17          any vessel grounding inventory under section 207(c)  
18          and any additional authorization or funding needed  
19          for response and removal of vessels listed in such in-  
20          ventory;

21          “(7) provides a summary of any at-risk reefs  
22          identified under section 207(d) and any remediation  
23          actions recommended, underway, or taken under  
24          such section;

1           “(8) assesses the conditions of coral reefs in the  
 2           United States, accomplishments under this title, and  
 3           the effectiveness of management actions to address  
 4           threats to coral reefs and coral reef ecosystems; and  
 5           “(9) any other pertinent information the Sec-  
 6           retary determines appropriate.”.

7   **SEC. 108. REVISIONS TO AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIA-**  
 8                           **TIONS.**

9           Section 209 of the Coral Reef Conservation Act of  
 10   2000 (16 U.S.C. 6408) is amended—

11           (1) by amending subsection (a) to read as fol-  
 12           lows:

13           “(a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be ap-  
 14           propriated to the Secretary of Commerce to carry out this  
 15           title the following amounts, which shall remain available  
 16           until expended:

17           “(1) \$38,000,000 for fiscal year 2021.

18           “(2) \$40,000,000 for fiscal year 2022.

19           “(3) \$42,000,000 for fiscal year 2023.

20           “(4) \$44,000,000 for fiscal year 2024.

21           “(5) \$45,000,000 for fiscal year 2025.”;

22           (2) in subsection (b), by striking “\$1,000,000”  
 23           and inserting “\$2,000,000”;

24           (3) by amending subsection (c) to read as fol-  
 25           lows:



1       “(c) CORAL REEF CONSERVATION GRANT PRO-  
 2 GRAM.—From the amounts appropriated under subsection  
 3 (a) for a fiscal year, there shall be made available to the  
 4 Secretary of Commerce not less than \$14,000,000 for the  
 5 coral reef conservation grant program under section  
 6 204.”; and

7               (4) by amending subsection (d) to read as fol-  
 8 lows:

9       “(d) NATIONAL PROGRAM.—From the amounts ap-  
 10 propriated under subsection (a) for a fiscal year, there  
 11 shall be made available to the Secretary of Commerce not  
 12 less than \$16,000,000 for activities conducted under sec-  
 13 tion 207.”.

14 **SEC. 109. REVISIONS TO DEFINITIONS.**

15       Section 210 of the of the Coral Reef Conservation  
 16 Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 6409) is amended to read as fol-  
 17 lows:

18 **“SEC. 210 DEFINITIONS.**

19       “In this Act:

20               “(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term ‘Adminis-  
 21 trator’ means the Administrator of the National  
 22 Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, unless  
 23 otherwise specified.

24               “(2) AT-RISK REEF.—The term ‘at-risk reef’  
 25 means a coral reef that has a high exposure to vessel

1 impacts, marine debris, harmful algal blooms, over-  
2 fishing, land-based or marine-based pollution, coast-  
3 al development, and changes in ocean temperature  
4 and chemistry.

5 “(3) BONA FIDE RESEARCH.—The term ‘bona  
6 fide research’ means scientific research on corals or  
7 coral reefs, the results of which are likely—

8 “(A) to be eligible for publication in a  
9 peer-reviewed scientific journal;

10 “(B) to contribute to the basic knowledge  
11 of coral biology or coral reef ecology;

12 “(C) to improve management of coral reefs  
13 and coral reef ecosystems; or

14 “(D) to identify, evaluate, or resolve con-  
15 servation issues or decisions.

16 “(4) CONSERVATION.—The term ‘conservation’  
17 means the use of any methods and procedures nec-  
18 essary to preserve, restore, or sustain corals, coral  
19 reefs, and associated marine species as resilient, di-  
20 verse, viable, and self-perpetuating coral reef eco-  
21 systems, including—

22 “(A) all activities associated with resource  
23 management, such as assessment, research,  
24 protection, restoration, sustainable use, and  
25 management of habitat;

1 “(B) mapping, observation, or monitoring  
2 of coral reef ecosystems;

3 “(C) scientific expertise and technical as-  
4 sistance in the development and implementation  
5 of management strategies for marine protected  
6 areas and marine resources consistent with the  
7 National Marine Sanctuaries Act (16 U.S.C.  
8 1431 et seq.) and the Magnuson-Stevens Fish-  
9 ery Conservation and Management Act (16  
10 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.), and with respect for the  
11 scientific, technical, and management expertise  
12 and responsibilities of State fish and wildlife  
13 management agencies;

14 “(D) law enforcement;

15 “(E) conflict resolution initiatives;

16 “(F) community outreach and education;

17 and

18 “(G) activities that promote safe and eco-  
19 logically sound navigation.

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

22 “(A) all species of the orders Antipatharia  
23 (black corals), Scleractinia (stony corals),  
24 Gorgonacea (horny corals), Stolonifera  
25 (organpipe corals and others), Alcyonacea (soft

1 corals), and Coenothecalia (blue coral), of the  
2 class Anthozoa; and

3 “(B) all species of the families Milleporidae  
4 (fire corals) and Stylasteridae (stylasterid  
5 hydrocorals), of the class Hydrozoa.

6 “(6) CORAL REEF.—The term ‘coral reef’  
7 means limestone structures in the form of a reef or  
8 shoal, comprised in whole or in part by living coral,  
9 skeletal remains of coral, and other associated sessile  
10 invertebrates and marine plants.

11 “(7) CORAL REEF COMPONENT.—The term  
12 ‘coral reef component’ means any part of a coral  
13 reef, including individual living coral, skeletal re-  
14 mains of coral, and other associated sessile inverte-  
15 brates or marine plants.

16 “(8) CORAL REEF ECOSYSTEM.—The term  
17 ‘coral reef ecosystem’ means the system of coral and  
18 other geographically and ecologically associated ma-  
19 rine species, habitats, and environment and the  
20 processes that control its dynamics.

21 “(9) CORAL PRODUCTS.—The term ‘coral prod-  
22 ucts’ means any living or dead specimens, parts, or  
23 derivatives, or any product containing specimens,  
24 parts, or derivatives, of any species referred to in  
25 paragraph (5).

1           “(10) DAMAGES.—The term ‘damages’ in-  
2       cludes—

3           “(A) compensation for—

4               “(i)(I) the cost of replacement, res-  
5               toration, remediation, or acquisition of the  
6               equivalent of a coral or coral reef resource;  
7               and

8               “(II) the value of the lost use or serv-  
9               ices of a coral or coral reef resource pend-  
10              ing the replacement, restoration, remedi-  
11              ation, or acquisition of the equivalent coral  
12              or coral reef resource; or

13              “(ii) the value of a coral or coral reef  
14              resource if the coral or coral reef resource  
15              cannot be replaced, restored, or remediated  
16              or if the equivalent of such resource cannot  
17              be acquired; and

18              “(B) the reasonable cost of monitoring ap-  
19              propriate to the injured, replaced, restored, or  
20              remediated coral or coral reef resource.

21           “(11) NATIONAL CORAL REEF ACTION STRAT-  
22       EGY.—The term ‘national coral reef action strategy’  
23       means the strategy developed under section 203.

24           “(12) RESILIENCE.—The term ‘resilience’  
25       means the capacity for corals, coral reefs, or coral

1 reef ecosystems to resist and recover from natural  
2 and human disturbance and maintain structure and  
3 function to allow the continued provision of eco-  
4 system goods and services, as determined by clearly  
5 identifiable, measurable, and science-based stand-  
6 ards.

7 “(13) RESPONSE COSTS.—The term ‘response  
8 costs’ means the costs of actions that would be nec-  
9 essary to—

10 “(A) minimize destruction, loss, or taking  
11 of, or injury to a coral reef or component there-  
12 of;

13 “(B) prevent or minimize the imminent  
14 risks of such destruction, loss, or taking of, or  
15 injury to;

16 “(C) assess the reasonable costs of damage  
17 as determined under section 206(e); and

18 “(D) respond to or otherwise address an  
19 emergency pertaining a coral reef or coral reef  
20 ecosystem.

21 “(14) RESTORATION.—The term ‘restoration’  
22 means the use of methods and procedures necessary  
23 to enhance, rescue, hold in aquarium systems, reha-  
24 bilitate, recreate, or create a functioning coral reef  
25 or coral reef ecosystem, in whole or in part, within

1 suitable waters of the historical range of such eco-  
 2 systems, to benefit native populations of coral reef  
 3 organisms.

4 “(15) UNITED STATES CORAL REEF TASK  
 5 FORCE.—The term ‘United States Coral Reef Task  
 6 Force’ means the task force established under sec-  
 7 tion 209.”.

8 **SEC. 110. ESTABLISHMENT OF UNITED STATES CORAL**  
 9 **REEF TASK FORCE.**

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

12 (1) by redesignating sections 209 and 210, as  
 13 amended by this Act, as sections 215 and 216, re-  
 14 spectively; and

15 (2) by inserting after section 208 the following:

16 **“SEC. 209. UNITED STATES CORAL REEF TASK FORCE.**

17 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is hereby established  
 18 the United States Coral Reef Task Force.

19 “(b) DUTIES.—The duties of the United States Coral  
 20 Reef Task Force shall be to coordinate and strengthen  
 21 Federal, State, international, and local actions to conserve  
 22 and restore coral reef ecosystems by—

23 “(1) supporting, in cooperation with non-Fed-  
 24 eral partners as appropriate, activities regarding the  
 25 mapping, monitoring, research, conservation, mitiga-

1       tion, and restoration of coral reefs and coral reef  
2       ecosystems;

3               “(2) implementing the policy and Federal agen-  
4       cy responsibilities set forth in Executive Order  
5       13089 (63 Fed. Reg. 32701; relating to coral reef  
6       protection) (as in effect on June 11, 1998), the na-  
7       tional coral reef action strategy, and activities au-  
8       thorized by this title;

9               “(3) analyzing the United States role in inter-  
10      national trade and protection of coral species;

11              “(4) enhancing public awareness, education, un-  
12      derstanding, and appreciation of coral reefs and  
13      coral reef ecosystems, including the benefits healthy  
14      and resilient coral reefs provide to island and coastal  
15      communities and the United States;

16              “(5) supporting coral reef ecosystem research,  
17      including on the ecological and economic benefits of  
18      coral reefs, both extramurally and across govern-  
19      ment agencies; and

20              “(6) encouraging implementation of strategies  
21      and actions for the conservation and sustainable use  
22      of coral reef resources worldwide.

23      “(c) LEADERSHIP.—The Secretary of Commerce,  
24      represented ex officio by the Administrator of the National  
25      Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the Sec-



1 retary of the Interior shall lead the United States Coral  
2 Reef Task Force as co-chairs.

3 “(d) VOTING MEMBERSHIP.—The voting members of  
4 the United States Coral Reef Task Force shall be com-  
5 prised of—

6 “(1) the co-chairs designated under subsection  
7 (c);

8 “(2) the Federal agency members specified by  
9 Executive Order 13089 (63 Fed. Reg. 32701; relat-  
10 ing to coral reef protection) (as in effect on June 11,  
11 1998);

12 “(3) the Secretary of the Army, represented ex  
13 officio by the Assistant Secretary of the Army for  
14 Civil Works of the Corps of Engineers;

15 “(4) the Secretary of Homeland Security rep-  
16 resented by the United States Coast Guard and the  
17 Federal Emergency Management Agency; and

18 “(5) the Governor, if such Governor elects to  
19 participate in the United States Coral Reef Task  
20 Force, of—

21 “(A) the State of Florida;

22 “(B) the State of Hawaii;

23 “(C) American Samoa;

24 “(D) Guam;

1                   “(E) the Commonwealth of the Northern  
2                   Mariana Islands;

3                   “(F) Puerto Rico; and

4                   “(G) the Virgin Islands of the United  
5                   States.

6           “(e) NON-VOTING MEMBERSHIP.—The non-voting  
7 members of the United States Coral Reef Task Force shall  
8 be comprised of the President or a representative of the  
9 President, if such President elects to participate, of each  
10 of the Freely Associated States of—

11                   “(1) the Federated States of Micronesia;

12                   “(2) the Republic of the Marshall Islands; and

13                   “(3) the Republic of Palau.

14           “(f) RESPONSIBILITIES OF FEDERAL AGENCY MEM-  
15 BERS.—The Federal members of the United States Coral  
16 Reef Task Force shall—

17                   “(1) identify actions by their agencies that may  
18                   affect coral reef ecosystems;

19                   “(2) use the authorities and programs of their  
20                   agencies to carry out the duties of the United States  
21                   Coral Reef Task Force as defined by subsection (b);  
22                   and

23                   “(3) implement the national coral reef action  
24                   strategy and any other coordinated efforts approved  
25                   by the United States Coral Reef Task Force.

1 “(g) WORKING GROUPS.—The co-chairs of the  
2 United States Coral Reef Task Force may establish work-  
3 ing groups as necessary to advance the purposes of this  
4 title, including—

5 “(1) at the request of members of the United  
6 States Coral Reef Task Force; and

7 “(2) working groups for which vested stake-  
8 holders, including nongovernmental organizations  
9 and research institutions, such as marine labora-  
10 tories and coral reef institutes, are participants.

11 “(h) NONAPPLICATION OF FACCA.—The Federal Ad-  
12 visory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to  
13 the United States Coral Reef Task Force or working  
14 groups established by the United States Coral Reef Task  
15 Force.”.

16 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The Coral Reef  
17 Conservation Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 6401 et seq.) is  
18 amended by inserting “United States” before “Coral Reef  
19 Task Force” each place it appears where “United States”  
20 does not precede “Coral Reef Task Force”.

21 **SEC. 111. AGREEMENTS.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Coral Reef Conservation Act  
23 of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 6401 et seq.) is further amended by  
24 inserting after section 209, as added by this Act, the fol-  
25 lowing:

1   **“SEC. 210. AGREEMENTS.**

2           “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may execute and  
3 perform such contracts, leases, grants, cooperative agree-  
4 ments, or other transactions as may be necessary to carry  
5 out the purposes of this title.

6           “(b) FUNDING.—Under an agreement entered into  
7 under subsection (a), the Secretary may fulfill the terms  
8 of the agreement by reimbursing or providing appro-  
9 priated funds to, and may receive funds or reimburse-  
10 ments from—

11               “(1) Federal agencies, instrumentalities and  
12 laboratories;

13               “(2) State and local governments;

14               “(3) Federally recognized Indian Tribes and In-  
15 dian Tribal organizations;

16               “(4) international organizations;

17               “(5) foreign governments;

18               “(6) research institutions, including marine lab-  
19 oratories and coral reef institutes;

20               “(7) nongovernmental organizations;

21               “(8) nonprofit organizations;

22               “(9) commercial organizations; and

23               “(10) other public and private persons or enti-  
24 ties, as necessary for purposes identified in section  
25 202 and actions taken under section 206.

26           “(c) COOPERATIVE INSTITUTE.—

1           “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Subject to paragraph  
2           (2), the Secretary shall establish a cooperative insti-  
3           tute or cooperative institutes for the purpose of ad-  
4           vancing and sustaining essential capability in coral  
5           reef research.

6           “(2) MEMBERSHIP.—To be eligible to designed  
7           as a cooperative institute under paragraph (1), an  
8           institution shall include a coral research center, des-  
9           ignated by the administrator, that—

10                 “(A) is operated by an institution of higher  
11                 education (as such term is defined in section  
12                 101(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965  
13                 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a));

14                 “(B) has established management-driven  
15                 national or regional coral reef research or res-  
16                 toration programs;

17                 “(C) is located in a State;

18                 “(D) has demonstrated the ability to co-  
19                 ordinate closely with appropriate Federal and  
20                 State agencies, as well as other academic and  
21                 nonprofit organizations; and

22                 “(E) maintains significant local community  
23                 engagement and outreach programs related to  
24                 coral reef ecosystems.

1           “(3) FUNCTIONS.—The cooperative institute or  
2       institutes established under this section shall—

3           “(A) conduct bona fide research, observa-  
4       tion, and monitoring of coral reef ecosystems  
5       aimed at building capacity for more effective re-  
6       source management and coral reef restoration;  
7       and

8           “(B) through agreements with centers re-  
9       ferred to in paragraph (1)—

10           “(i) collaborate directly with govern-  
11       mental resource management agencies,  
12       nonprofit organizations, academic research  
13       institutions, and other research organiza-  
14       tions;

15           “(ii) build capacity within resource  
16       management agencies to establish research  
17       priorities, plan interdisciplinary research  
18       projects, and make effective use of re-  
19       search results; and

20           “(iii) conduct public education and  
21       awareness programs for policymakers, re-  
22       source managers, and the general public on  
23       coral reef ecosystems, best practices for  
24       coral reef and ecosystem management, con-

1                   servation, and restoration, their value, and  
2                   threats to their sustainability.

3           “(d) MULTIYEAR COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—The  
4 Secretary may enter into, extend, or renegotiate multiyear  
5 cooperative agreements with the heads of other Federal,  
6 State, and local government agencies and other vested  
7 stakeholders, including nongovernmental organizations  
8 and research institutions, such as marine laboratories and  
9 coral reef institutes, to further the purposes of this title  
10 consistent with the national coral reef action strategy de-  
11 veloped under section 203.

12          “(e) OTHER USE OF AGENCIES’ RESOURCES.—For  
13 purposes related to the conservation, preservation, protec-  
14 tion, restoration, or replacement of coral reefs or coral reef  
15 ecosystems and the enforcement of this title, the Secretary  
16 is authorized to use, with their consent and with or with-  
17 out reimbursement, the land, services, equipment, per-  
18 sonnel, and facilities of any Department, agency, or in-  
19 strumentality of the United States, or of any State, local  
20 government, or Indian tribal government, or of any polit-  
21 ical subdivision thereof, or of any foreign government or  
22 international organization.”.

1 **SEC. 112. PERMITS.**

2       The Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C.  
3 6401 et seq.) is further amended by inserting after section  
4 210, as added by this Act, the following:

5 **“SEC. 211. PERMITS.**

6       “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may, in accord-  
7 ance with this section and regulations promulgated under  
8 this title, issue a permit authorizing the conduct of bona  
9 fide research or other activities compatible with one or  
10 more of the purposes in section 202 of this title.

11       “(b) TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The Secretary may  
12 place any terms and conditions on a permit issued under  
13 this section that the Secretary deems reasonable.

14       “(c) FEES.—

15               “(1) ASSESSMENT AND COLLECTION.—Subject  
16 to regulations promulgated under this title, the Sec-  
17 retary may assess and collect fees as specified in this  
18 subsection.

19               “(2) AMOUNT.—Any fee assessed shall be equal  
20 to the sum of—

21                       “(A) all costs incurred, or expected to be  
22 incurred, by the Secretary in processing the  
23 permit application, including indirect costs; and

24                       “(B) if the permit is approved, all costs in-  
25 curred, or expected to be incurred, by the Sec-



1           retary as a direct result of the conduct of the  
2           activity for which the permit is issued.

3           “(3) USE OF FEES.—Amounts collected by the  
4       Secretary in the form of fees under this section may  
5       be used by the Secretary for issuing and admin-  
6       istering permits under this section.

7           “(4) WAIVER OR REDUCTION OF FEES.—For  
8       any fee assessed under paragraph (2) of this sub-  
9       section, the Secretary may—

10           “(A) accept in-kind contributions in lieu of  
11       a fee; or

12           “(B) waive or reduce the fee.

13       “(d) FISHING.—Nothing in this section shall be con-  
14       sidered to require a person to obtain a permit under this  
15       section for the conduct of any fishing activities not prohib-  
16       ited by this title or regulations promulgated thereunder.”.

17   **SEC. 113. REGULATIONS.**

18       The Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C.  
19       6401 et seq.) is further amended by inserting after section  
20       211, as added by this Act, the following:

21   **“SEC. 212. REGULATIONS.**

22       “The Secretary may issue such regulations as are  
23       necessary and appropriate to carry out the purposes of  
24       this title. This title and any regulations promulgated  
25       thereunder shall be applied in accordance with inter-

1 national law. No restrictions shall apply to or be enforced  
2 against a person who is not a citizen, national, or resident  
3 alien of the United States (including foreign-flag vessels)  
4 unless in accordance with international law.”.

5 **SEC. 114. USE OF RECOVERED AMOUNTS.**

6 The Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C.  
7 6401 et seq.) is further amended by inserting after section  
8 212, as added by this Act, the following:

9 **“SEC. 213. USE OF RECOVERED AMOUNTS.**

10 “Any amounts available to the Secretary of Com-  
11 merce that are attributable to fines, penalties, or forfeit-  
12 ures of property (including proceeds from the sale of such  
13 forfeited property) imposed for violations of any marine  
14 resource law enforced by such Secretary, or regulations  
15 implementing such law, for damages to corals, coral reefs,  
16 or coral reef ecosystems shall be used by such Secretary—

17 “(1) for the benefit of the coral reef ecosystem  
18 impacted by the applicable violation, to the extent  
19 practicable;

20 “(2) to carry out emergency response activities  
21 authorized under section 206, including to reimburse  
22 any Federal, State or local government agency for  
23 response costs incurred; or

1           “(3) to carry out the purposes of this title, in-  
2           cluding grants of financial assistance for coral reef  
3           conservation projects.”.

4   **SEC. 115. PRIZE COMPETITIONS TO PROMOTE INNOVATION**  
5                   **IN CORAL REEF RESEARCH AND CONSERVA-**  
6                   **TION.**

7           The Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C.  
8   6401 et seq.) is further amended by inserting after section  
9   213, as added by this Act, the following:

10   **“SEC. 214. CORAL REEF PRIZE COMPETITIONS.**

11           “(a) IN GENERAL.—The head of any Federal agency  
12   with a representative serving on the U.S. Coral Reef Task  
13   Force established under Executive Order 13089 issued on  
14   June 11, 1998 (16 U.S.C. 6401 note), may, either individ-  
15   ually or in cooperation with one or more agencies, carry  
16   out a program to award prizes competitively under section  
17   24 of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of  
18   1980 (15 U.S.C. 3719).

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

1       “(c) PRIORITY PROGRAMS.—Priority shall be given to  
2 establish programs under this section that address com-  
3 munities, environments, or industries that are in distress  
4 due to the decline or degradation of coral reef ecosystems,  
5 including—

6           “(1) scientific research and monitoring that  
7 furthers the understanding of causes behind coral  
8 reef decline and degradation and the generally slow  
9 recovery following disturbances, including ocean  
10 acidification and its impacts on coral reproduction;

11          “(2) the development of monitoring or manage-  
12 ment options for communities or industries that are  
13 experiencing significant financial hardship;

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

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

20          “(5) the development of adaptation and man-  
21 agement options for impacted tourism industries.”.

22 **SEC. 116. CONFORMING AND CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.**

23       (a) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—The Coral Reef  
24 Conservation Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 6401 et seq.) is  
25 amended by striking “Administrator” each place it ap-

1 pears and inserting “Secretary” in the following sub-  
2 sections.

3 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—Section 201 of the  
4 Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 6401 et  
5 seq.) is amended to read as follows:

6 **“SEC. 201. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

7 “(a) SHORT TITLE.—This title may be cited as the  
8 ‘Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000’.

9 “(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents  
10 for this title is as follows:

“Sec. 201. Short title; table of contents.  
“Sec. 202. Purposes.  
“Sec. 203. National coral reef action strategy.  
“Sec. 204. National Coral Reef Conservation Grant Program.  
“Sec. 205. Coral Reef Conservation Grant Program.  
“Sec. 206. Coral Reef Public-Private Partnership.  
“Sec. 207. National Program.  
“Sec. 208. Effectiveness reports.  
“Sec. 209. United States Coral Reef Task Force.  
“Sec. 210. Agreements.  
“Sec. 211. Permits.  
“Sec. 212. Regulations.  
“Sec. 213. Use of recovered amounts.  
“Sec. 214. Coral Reef Prize Competitions  
“Sec. 215. Authorization of appropriations.  
“Sec. 216. Definitions.”.

11 **TITLE II—DEPARTMENT OF THE**  
12 **INTERIOR CORAL REEF AU-**  
13 **THORITIES**

14 **SEC. 201. CORAL REEF CONSERVATION AND ASSISTANCE.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior may  
16 conduct activities to conserve coral reefs and coral reef  
17 ecosystems within—

18 (1) any unit of the National Park System;

1           (2) any unit of the National Wildlife Refuge  
2       System;

3           (3) any National Monument or Marine National  
4       Monument designated by an Act of Congress or  
5       under section 320301 of title 54, United States  
6       Code, under the administrative jurisdiction of the  
7       Secretary; or

8           (4) any other Federal land unit or any terri-  
9       torial waters under the administration of the Sec-  
10      retary.

11      (b) ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary may provide tech-  
12      nical assistance, scientific expertise, and financial assist-  
13      ance grants for the conservation of coral reefs in proximity  
14      to the Federal land and waters described in paragraph (a)  
15      to—

16           (1) entities eligible to receive a grant under sec-  
17      tion 204 of the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000  
18      (16 U.S.C. 6403);

19           (2) territories of the United States; and

20           (3) federally recognized Indian Tribes.

21      (c) REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary shall ensure that  
22      any action taken by the Secretary under this title is con-  
23      sistent with the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000 (16  
24      U.S.C. 6401), as amended by this Act, including the na-

1 tional coral reef action strategy developed under section  
 2 203 of such Act (16 U.S.C. 6402).

3 (d) OFFICE OF INSULAR AFFAIRS CORAL REEF INI-  
 4 TIATIVE.—The Secretary shall establish within the Office  
 5 of Insular Affairs a Coral Reef Initiative Program to—

6 (1) provide grant funding to support local man-  
 7 agement, conservation, and protection of coral reef  
 8 ecosystems in—

9 (A) insular areas; and

10 (B) freely associated states;

11 (2) complement the other conservation and as-  
 12 sistance activities conducted under this title; and

13 (3) provide other technical, scientific, and fi-  
 14 nancial assistance and conduct conservation activi-  
 15 ties that advance the purposes of this title.

16 **SEC. 202. UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY CORAL**  
 17 **REEF ECOSYSTEM STUDIES PROGRAM.**

18 The Secretary shall establish within the United  
 19 States Geological Survey a program to be known at the  
 20 Coral Reef Ecosystem Studies Program to—

21 (1) research, monitor, and map coral reef eco-  
 22 systems to understand coral reef processes and as-  
 23 sess coral reef health, including the effects of  
 24 changes in ocean temperature and chemistry, ocean  
 25 acidification, land-based sources of pollution includ-

1       ing coastal runoff, sediment erosion and turbidity,  
2       and harmful algal blooms;

3           (2) develop science and tools to assess and help  
4       address the consequences of changing coral reef  
5       structure on tourism, recreation, community vulner-  
6       ability and resilience to storms, erosion, and inunda-  
7       tion, and to inform the management of coral reefs  
8       and coral reef ecosystems;

9           (3) complement the other conservation and as-  
10      sistance activities conducted under this title;

11          (4) provide technical assistance, subject to the  
12      availability of appropriations, for research on coral  
13      reefs and coral reef ecosystems to—

14           (A) entities eligible to receive a grant  
15      under section 204 of the Coral Reef Conserva-  
16      tion Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 6403); and

17           (B) territories of the United States;

18          (5) coordinate United States Geological Survey  
19      activities relating to coral reefs, including the Na-  
20      tional Wildlife Health Center; and

21          (6) carry out other scientific and conservation  
22      activities that advance the purposes of this title, as  
23      considered appropriate by the Secretary.



1 **SEC. 203. USE OF RECOVERED AMOUNTS.**

2 All amounts available to the Secretary of the Interior  
3 that are attributable to fines, penalties, and forfeitures of  
4 property (or proceeds from the sale of such forfeited prop-  
5 erty) imposed for violations of any law for which the Sec-  
6 retary of the Interior is an enforcement agency, including  
7 the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et  
8 seq.) and the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 (16 U.S.C.  
9 3371 et seq.), and regulations implementing such law, for  
10 damages to corals, coral reefs, or coral reef ecosystems,  
11 shall be used by the Secretary of the Interior—

12 (1) for the benefit of the coral reef ecosystem  
13 impacted by the applicable violation, to the extent  
14 practicable;

15 (2) to carry out emergency response activities  
16 authorized under section 206 of the Coral Reef Con-  
17 servation Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 6405), including  
18 to reimburse any Federal, State or local government  
19 agency for response costs incurred; or

20 (3) to carry out the purposes of this title, in-  
21 cluding grants of financial assistance for coral reef  
22 conservation projects.

23 **SEC. 204. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

24 (a) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appro-  
25 priated to the Secretary of the Interior to carry out this

1 title \$12,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2021 through  
2 2025, which may remain available until expended.

3 (b) OFFICE OF INSULAR AFFAIRS CORAL REEF INI-  
4 TIATIVE PROGRAM.—From the amounts appropriated  
5 under subsection (a) for a fiscal year, there shall be made  
6 available to the Secretary of the Interior, acting through  
7 the Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Insular Areas,  
8 not less than \$3,000,000 for the grant program under sec-  
9 tion 201(d).

10 (c) UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY CORAL  
11 REEF ECOSYSTEM STUDIES PROGRAM.—From the  
12 amounts appropriated under subsection (a) for a fiscal  
13 year, there shall be made available to the Secretary of the  
14 Interior, acting through the Director of the United States  
15 Geological Survey, not less than \$4,000,000 for the Coral  
16 Reef Ecosystem Studies Program under section 203.

17 **SEC. 205. DEFINITIONS.**

18 In this title:

19 (1) CONSERVATION.—The term “conservation”  
20 has the meaning given such term in section 215 of  
21 the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000, as redesign-  
22 nated by this Act.

23 (2) CORAL REEF.—The term “coral reef” has  
24 the meaning given such term in section 215 of the

1 Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000, as redesign-  
2 nated by this Act.

3 (3) CORAL REEF ECOSYSTEM.—The term  
4 “coral reef ecosystem” has the meaning given such  
5 term in section 215 of the Coral Reef Conservation  
6 Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 6409), as redesignated by  
7 this Act.

8 (4) FREELY ASSOCIATED STATE.—The term  
9 “Freely Associated State” means each of the Repub-  
10 lic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of  
11 Micronesia, and the Republic of Palau in an applica-  
12 ble Compact of Free Association with the United  
13 States.

14 (5) INSULAR AREA.—The term “Insular Area”  
15 means each of American Samoa, Guam, the Com-  
16 monwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and  
17 the Virgin Islands of the United States.

18 (6) RESILIENCE.—The term “resilience” has  
19 the same meaning given such term in section 215 of  
20 the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000, as redesign-  
21 nated by this Act.

1 **TITLE III—NATIONAL CORAL**  
2 **REEF MANAGEMENT FELLOW-**  
3 **SHIP**

4 **SEC. 301. SHORT TITLE.**

5 This title may be cited as the “National Coral Reef  
6 Management Fellowship Act of 2020”.

7 **SEC. 302. DEFINITIONS.**

8 In this title:

9 (1) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
10 the Secretary of Commerce.

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

13 (3) FELLOWSHIP.—The term “fellowship”  
14 means the National Coral Reef Management Fellow-  
15 ship established in section 303.

16 **SEC. 303. FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM.**

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—There is established the Na-  
18 tional Coral Reef Management Fellowship Program.

19 (2) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the Fellow-  
20 ship Program is to encourage future leaders of the  
21 United States—

22 (A) to develop additional coral reef man-  
23 agement capacity in States and Territories with  
24 coral reefs;

1 (B) provide State and Territorial coral reef  
2 management agencies with highly qualified can-  
3 didates whose education and work experience  
4 meet the specific needs of each State and terri-  
5 tory; and

6 (C) provide the individual fellows with pro-  
7 fessional experience in coastal and coral reef re-  
8 sources management.

9 (3) ADMINISTRATION.—The Secretary shall  
10 offer to provide a grant to the National Oceanic and  
11 Atmospheric Administration's National Ocean Serv-  
12 ice to administer the Fellowship.

13 **SEC. 304. FELLOWSHIP AWARDS.**

14 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall make avail-  
15 able National Coral Reef Management Fellowship in ac-  
16 cordance with this subsection.

17 (b) PERIOD OF FELLOWSHIP.—National Coral Reef  
18 Management Fellowship awarded under this section shall  
19 be for not more than 24 months.

20 (c) QUALIFICATIONS.—A successful program appli-  
21 cant shall be an individual who has demonstrated—

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

24 (2) leadership potential or actual leadership ex-  
25 perience;

- 1 (3) diverse life experience;
- 2 (4) proficient writing and speaking skills; and
- 3 (5) such other attributes as are considered to
- 4 be appropriate by the Director.

5 (d) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—

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

- 10 (2) WAIVER OF REQUIREMENTS.—The Sec-
- 11 retary may waive the application of paragraph (1) if
- 12 the Secretary finds that such waiver is necessary to
- 13 support a project that the Secretary has identified
- 14 as of high priority.

- 15 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
- 16 are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary such
- 17 sums as are necessary to carry out this section, to remain
- 18 available until expended.

19 **TITLE IV—ASSESSING THE**  
 20 **THREATS AND VALUES OF**  
 21 **CORAL REEF ECOSYSTEMS**

22 **SEC. 401. DEFINITIONS.**

23 In this title:

- 24 (1) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
- 25 the Secretary of Commerce.

1           (2) NATIONAL ACADEMY.—The term “National  
2       Academy” means the National Academies of  
3       Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine.

4           (3) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CON-  
5       GRESS.—The term “appropriate committees of Con-  
6       gress” means—

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

9                   (B) the Committee on Natural Resources  
10                  of the House of Representatives.

11          (4) CORAL REEF ECOSYSTEM.—The term  
12       “coral reef ecosystem” means the corals and the ani-  
13       mals, plants, and other living organisms that are  
14       supported by coral reefs for food, shelter, reproduc-  
15       tion, and rearing.

16          (5) ULTRAVIOLET FILTERS.—The term “ultra-  
17       violet filters” means chemical compounds commonly  
18       used in sunscreen formula.

19 **SEC. 402. STUDY EXAMINING THE IMPACT OF ULTRA-**  
20 **VIOLET FILTERS ON CORAL REEF ECO-**  
21 **SYSTEMS.**

22       (a) AGREEMENT.—The Secretary shall, not more  
23       than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, enter  
24       into an agreement with the National Academy of Sciences  
25       to conduct a study and submit to the appropriate commit-

tees of Congress a report examining the impact of ultraviolet filters on coral reef ecosystems, including—

(1) an assessment of the impacts of common ultraviolet filters on coral reef ecosystems including regional, longitudinal, and long-term chronic impacts;

(2) an assessment of the bioconcentration and bioaccumulation potential of ultraviolet filters in coral reef ecosystems;

(3) an assessment of the interaction effects of ultraviolet filters between predicted temperature and ocean acidification conditions;

(4) considerations of the ecological, conservation, economic, and social factors involved in a ban of specific ultraviolet filters; and

(5) recommendations for ultraviolet filters that are safe and ultraviolet filters that pose a threat to healthy coral reef ecosystems.

(b) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—Not more than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit the final report of the National Academy containing the results of the study carried out under subsection (a) to the appropriate committees.

(c) PUBLICATION.—Not more than 30 days after the completion of the report produced pursuant to subsection



1 (a), the Secretary shall make such report available on a  
2 public website.

3 **SEC. 403. STUDY TO DETERMINE THE ECONOMIC, SOCI-**  
4 **ETAL, AND ECOLOGICAL VALUE OF CORAL**  
5 **REEF ECOSYSTEMS IN THE UNITED STATES**  
6 **AND TERRITORIES OF THE UNITED STATES.**

7 (a) AGREEMENT.—The Secretary shall, not more  
8 than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, enter  
9 into an agreement with the National Academy of Sciences  
10 to conduct a study evaluating the economic, societal, and  
11 ecological value of coral reef ecosystems in the United  
12 States and Territories of the United States, including—

13 (1) an assessment of the economic, societal, and  
14 ecological value of coral reef ecosystems at national,  
15 regional, and site-specific scales with respect to—

16 (A) tourism;

17 (B) fisheries;

18 (C) coastal protection including against  
19 storm surge, flooding, and other natural  
20 threats;

21 (D) biodiversity; and

22 (E) carbon sequestration; and

23 (2) an assessment of the economic costs of deg-  
24 radation and loss of coral reef with respect to the

1 matter described in paragraph (1) over the next 50  
2 years.

3 (b) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 3  
4 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Sec-  
5 retary shall submit the final report of the National Acad-  
6 emy containing the results of the study carried out under  
7 subsection (a) to the appropriate committees.

8 (c) PUBLICATION.—Not more than 30 days after the  
9 completion of the report produced pursuant to subsection  
10 (a), the Secretary shall make such report available on a  
11 public website.

## 12 **TITLE V—MISCELLANEOUS** 13 **PROVISIONS**

### 14 **SEC. 501. STOCK ASSESSMENTS UNDER MAGNUSON-STE-** 15 **VENS FISHERY CONSERVATION AND MAN-** 16 **AGEMENT ACT.**

17 Title IV of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conserva-  
18 tion and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1881 et seq.) is  
19 amended by adding at the end the following:

### 20 **“SEC. 409. STOCK ASSESSMENTS FOR FISHERIES ASSOCI-** 21 **ATED WITH CORAL REEFS.**

22 “In preparing stock assessments under this Act, the  
23 Secretary shall, to the extent practicable, place emphasis  
24 on such assessments for economically important fisheries  
25 associated with coral reefs.”.

1   **SEC. 502. DEEP SEA CORAL RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY**  
2                   **PROGRAM.**

3           (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 408(a) of the Magnuson-  
4   Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16  
5   U.S.C. 1884(a)) is amended—

6               (1) by striking “federal” and inserting “Fed-  
7       eral”;

8               (2) by striking “subject to the availability of  
9       appropriations,”; and

10              (3) by adding at the end the following:

11           “(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
12   is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry  
13   out this title \$3,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2021  
14   through 2025, which may remain available until ex-  
15   pended.”.

16           (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents  
17   in the first section of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Con-  
18   servation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1881 et seq.)  
19   is amended by adding at the end of the items relating to  
20   title IV the following:

“Sec. 408. Deep sea coral research and technology program.

“Sec. 409. Stock assessments for fisheries associated with coral reefs.”.

○