

# Union Calendar No. 437

106<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 3919

[Report No. 106-762]

To provide assistance for the conservation of coral reefs, to coordinate Federal coral reef conservation activities, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 14, 2000

Mr. SAXTON (for himself, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. BILBRAY, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. DEUTSCH, Mr. GILCHREST, Mr. GOSS, Mr. GREENWOOD, Mr. ROMERO-BARCELO, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. SHAW, and Mr. UNDERWOOD) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Resources

JULY 19, 2000

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italic]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on March 14, 2000]

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## A BILL

To provide assistance for the conservation of coral reefs, to coordinate Federal coral reef conservation activities, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 *This Act may be cited as the “Coral Reef Conservation*  
3 *and Restoration Partnership Act of 2000”.*

4 **SEC. 2. PURPOSES.**

5 *The purposes of this Act are the following:*

6 *(1) To maintain and restore the health of coral*  
7 *reef ecosystems.*

8 *(2) To promote the wise management and long-*  
9 *term sustainable use of coral reef ecosystems to benefit*  
10 *local communities and the Nation.*

11 *(3) To promote cooperative coral reef conserva-*  
12 *tion projects that involve affected local communities*  
13 *and nongovernmental organizations.*

14 *(4) To address conflicts between coral reef uses.*

15 *(5) To enhance compliance with laws that pro-*  
16 *hibit or regulate the taking of corals, species associ-*  
17 *ated with coral reefs, and coral products or that regu-*  
18 *late the use and management of coral reef ecosystems.*

19 *(6) To develop sound scientific information on*  
20 *the condition of coral reef ecosystems and the threats*  
21 *to such ecosystems.*

22 *(7) To coordinate activities and programs re-*  
23 *lated to coral reefs that are conducted, funded, or au-*  
24 *thorized by the Federal Government, including coral*  
25 *reef conservation, research, mapping, monitoring, as-*  
26 *essment, and restoration.*

1 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

2 *In this Act:*

3 (1) *CORAL.*—*The term “coral” means species of*  
4 *the phylum Cnidaria, including—*

5 (A) *all species of the orders Antipatharia*  
6 *(black corals), Scleractinia (stony corals),*  
7 *Alcyonacea (soft corals), Gorgonacea (horny,*  
8 *pink, and bamboo corals), Stolonifera (organpipe*  
9 *corals and others), and Coenothecalia (blue*  
10 *coral), of the class Anthozoa;*

11 (B) *all species of the order Hydrocorallina*  
12 *(fire corals and hydrocorals), of the class*  
13 *Hydrozoa; and*

14 (C) *all species of the order Zoanthidae (gold*  
15 *corals).*

16 (2) *CORAL PRODUCT.*—*The term “coral product”*  
17 *means any living or dead specimen, part, or deriva-*  
18 *tive, or any product containing a specimen, part, or*  
19 *derivative, of any species referred to in paragraph*  
20 *(1).*

21 (3) *CORAL REEF.*—*The term “coral reef” means*  
22 *any reef or shoal comprised primarily of the skeletal*  
23 *material of species of one or more of the orders*  
24 *Scleractinia, Antipatharia, Gorgonacea, and*  
25 *Zoanthidae.*

1           (4) *CORAL REEF CONSERVATION.*—*The term*  
2           *“coral reef conservation” means the use of methods,*  
3           *procedures, and policies that are consistent with the*  
4           *strategy published by the Coral Reef Task Force*  
5           *under section 4(b)(1), to restore and protect coral*  
6           *reefs and to conserve and sustain diverse, viable, and*  
7           *self-perpetuating coral reef ecosystems.*

8           (5) *CORAL REEF ECOSYSTEM.*—*The term “coral*  
9           *reef ecosystem” means coral and other species of liv-*  
10          *ing organisms associated with coral reefs, and the*  
11          *non-living environmental factors that directly affect*  
12          *coral reefs, that together function as an ecological*  
13          *unit in nature.*

14          (6) *CORAL REEF TASK FORCE.*—*The term “Coral*  
15          *Reef Task Force” means such task force established by*  
16          *section 4(a).*

17          (7) *EXECUTIVE ORDER 13089.*—*The term “Execu-*  
18          *tive Order 13089” means such Executive Order issued*  
19          *by the President on June 11, 1998, pertaining to*  
20          *coral reef protection.*

21          (8) *SECRETARY.*—*The term “Secretary” means*  
22          *the Secretary of Commerce.*

23          (9) *STATE.*—*The term “State” means—*

1           (A) any State of the United States that con-  
2           tains a coral reef ecosystem within its bound-  
3           aries;

4           (B) American Samoa, Guam, the Northern  
5           Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin  
6           Islands; and

7           (C) any other territory or possession of the  
8           United States, or separate sovereign in free asso-  
9           ciation with the United States, that contains a  
10          coral reef ecosystem within its boundaries.

11 **SEC. 4. COORDINATION OF FEDERAL AGENCIES.**

12          (a) **CORAL REEF TASK FORCE.**—

13           (1) **ESTABLISHMENT AND MEMBERSHIP.**—There  
14          is established the Coral Reef Task Force. The Coral  
15          Reef Task Force shall, in consultation with the Gov-  
16          ernors of the States—

17           (A) coordinate all Federal activities related  
18          to coral reefs, and facilitate the resolution of  
19          interagency and intergovernmental conflicts as-  
20          sociated with the use and conservation of coral  
21          reefs;

22           (B) develop and coordinate consistent na-  
23          tional policies, strategies, plans, programs,  
24          projects, activities, and priorities for the con-

1           *servation and protection of United States coral*  
2           *reefs and coral reef ecosystems;*

3           (C) *develop and coordinate a research pro-*  
4           *gram to identify the major causes and con-*  
5           *sequences of degradation of coral reef ecosystems,*  
6           *improve the understanding of coral reef health*  
7           *and diseases, and identify solutions and proce-*  
8           *dures to repair and restore coral reefs;*

9           (D) *develop and promote strategies and ac-*  
10          *tions for the conservation and sustainable use of*  
11          *coral reef resources worldwide, including the*  
12          *sharing of information, collaborative research,*  
13          *and monitoring efforts; and*

14          (E) *develop and recommend solutions to re-*  
15          *duce or eliminate unsustainable fishing practices*  
16          *on coral reefs worldwide.*

17          (2) *MEMBERS.—The Coral Reef Task Force shall*  
18          *be composed of the following:*

19                 (A) *The Secretary, acting through the Ad-*  
20                 *ministrator of the National Oceanic and Atmos-*  
21                 *pheric Administration.*

22                 (B) *The Secretary of the Interior.*

23                 (C) *The Administrator of the Environ-*  
24                 *mental Protection Agency.*

25                 (D) *The Attorney General.*

1                   (E) *The Secretary of Agriculture.*

2                   (F) *The Secretary of Defense.*

3                   (G) *The Secretary of State.*

4                   (H) *The Secretary of Transportation.*

5                   (I) *The Director of the National Science*  
6 *Foundation.*

7                   (J) *The Administrator of the Agency for*  
8 *International Development.*

9                   (K) *The Administrator of the National Aer-*  
10 *onautics and Space Administration.*

11                   (L) *The head of any other Federal agency*  
12 *that the co-chairs of the Coral Reef Task Force*  
13 *jointly designate.*

14                   (M) *The Governor of any State that the co-*  
15 *chairs jointly designate.*

16                   (3) *CO-CHAIRS.—The Secretary and the Sec-*  
17 *retary of the Interior—*

18                   (A) *shall serve as co-chairs of the Coral Reef*  
19 *Task Force; and*

20                   (B) *may each provide administrative sup-*  
21 *port to the Coral Reef Task Force as necessary*  
22 *for it to carry out its duties under this section.*

23                   (4) *PROCEDURES.—(A) The Coral Reef Task*  
24 *Force shall meet at least annually. Meetings of the*  
25 *Coral Reef Task Force and any advisory committees*

1 *established to assist the Coral Reef Task Force shall*  
2 *be open to the public, and the Coral Reef Task Force*  
3 *shall provide notice of such meetings to the public.*

4 *(B) The Coral Reef Task Force may—*

5 *(i) establish advisory committees and work-*  
6 *ing groups as are necessary to assist it in its du-*  
7 *ties;*

8 *(ii) select as an advisory committee an ex-*  
9 *isting organization that represents a broad range*  
10 *of private and public interests related to coral*  
11 *reefs; and*

12 *(iii) consult with local governments, the sci-*  
13 *entific community, and any affected Regional*  
14 *Fishery Management Council established by the*  
15 *Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and*  
16 *Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.) on*  
17 *coral reef conservation issues.*

18 *(5) IMPLEMENTATION.—(A) Subject to subpara-*  
19 *graph (B), the head of any agency or department of*  
20 *the Federal Government that takes an action that*  
21 *may affect a coral reef ecosystem in the United States*  
22 *shall, to the maximum extent practicable, ensure*  
23 *that—*

24 *(i) such agency or department, respectively,*  
25 *supports and implements the national coral reef*



1           *action strategy developed under subsection (b)(1);*  
2           *and*

3                   *(ii) any actions funded, authorized, or car-*  
4                   *ried out by the agency or department will not*  
5                   *degrade the condition of coral reefs.*

6           *(B) Subparagraph (A) shall not apply—*

7                   *(i) during time of war or national emer-*  
8                   *gency;*

9                   *(ii) when necessary for reasons of national*  
10                  *security, as determined by the President;*

11                  *(iii) during an emergency that poses an un-*  
12                  *acceptable threat to human health or safety or to*  
13                  *the marine environment; or*

14                  *(iv) in any case that constitutes a danger to*  
15                  *human life or a real threat to vessels, aircraft,*  
16                  *oil or gas drilling or production platforms, or*  
17                  *other man-made structures at sea, such as cases*  
18                  *of force majeure caused by stress of weather or*  
19                  *other act of God.*

20           *(6) EXECUTIVE ORDER 13089.—The Coral Reef*  
21           *Task Force shall comply with Executive Order 13089*  
22           *to the extent that such order is consistent with this*  
23           *Act. Nothing in this Act is intended to require the du-*  
24           *plication of the Coral Reef Task Force established*  
25           *under that Executive Order.*

1       **(b) ACTION STRATEGY, IMPLEMENTATION REPORT,**  
2 **AND PLAN.—**

3           **(1) NATIONAL CORAL REEF ACTION STRATEGY.—**

4       *Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment*  
5 *of this Act, the Coral Reef Task Force shall submit to*  
6 *the Committee on Resources of the House of Rep-*  
7 *resentatives and the Committee on Commerce,*  
8 *Science, and Transportation of the Senate and pub-*  
9 *lish in the Federal Register a national coral reef ac-*  
10 *tion strategy, consistent with the purposes and provi-*  
11 *sions of this Act, for waters under the jurisdiction of*  
12 *the United States. The Coral Reef Task Force shall*  
13 *periodically review and revise the strategy as nec-*  
14 *essary.*

15           **(2) REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL**  
16 **CORAL REEF ACTION STRATEGY.—***Not later than 2*  
17 *years after the date that the Coral Reef Task Force*  
18 *publishes the strategy under paragraph (1) and every*  
19 *2 years thereafter, the task force shall submit to the*  
20 *Committee on Resources of the House of Representa-*  
21 *tives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and*  
22 *Transportation of the Senate a report describing all*  
23 *activities undertaken by Federal agencies to imple-*  
24 *ment the national coral reef action strategy, including*

1 *a description of the funds obligated each fiscal year*  
2 *to advance coral reef conservation.*

3 (3) *PLAN FOR MAPPING, MONITORING, AND AS-*  
4 *SESSMENT.—(A) Not later than 1 year after the date*  
5 *of enactment of this Act, the Coral Reef Task Force*  
6 *shall submit to the Committee on Resources of the*  
7 *House of Representatives and the Committee on Com-*  
8 *merce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a*  
9 *plan to implement a coordinated United States coral*  
10 *reef mapping, monitoring, and assessment program,*  
11 *consistent with the strategy published under para-*  
12 *graph (1).*

13 (B) *The plan shall include the following:*

14 (i) *A description of existing Federal coral*  
15 *reef mapping, monitoring, and assessment pro-*  
16 *grams.*

17 (ii) *The estimated annual cost to the Fed-*  
18 *eral Government to adequately map, monitor,*  
19 *and assess coral reefs.*

20 (iii) *A process to establish data quality*  
21 *standards and standardized methods for map-*  
22 *ping, monitoring, and assessing coral reefs.*

23 (iv) *A plan to compile existing coral reef*  
24 *data and a listing of the geographical areas for*

1           *which insufficient data exists to adequately as-*  
2           *sess the condition of coral reefs.*

3                   *(v) Proposed interagency agreements needed*  
4           *to carry out a national mapping, monitoring,*  
5           *and assessment program, including agreements*  
6           *with non-Federal agencies.*

7                   *(vi) A proposal for a national pilot project*  
8           *to monitor and map coral reefs.*

9           *(c) CORAL REEF FISH MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY IN*  
10 *THE EEZ.—*

11                   *(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the other provisions*  
12           *of this subsection, the Secretary has exclusive author-*  
13           *ity to manage coral reef ecosystem fish in the exclu-*  
14           *sive economic zone as provided by the Magnuson-Ste-*  
15           *vens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16*  
16           *U.S.C. 1801 et seq.).*

17                   *(2) DELEGATION.—The Secretary may delegate*  
18           *the authority referred to in paragraph (1) to any*  
19           *other Federal official.*

20                   *(3) AUTHORITIES OF SECRETARY OF INTERIOR*  
21           *NOT AFFECTED.—(A) Paragraph (1) does not affect*  
22           *any authority vested in the Secretary of the Interior*  
23           *on the date of enactment of this Act by the National*  
24           *Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966*  
25           *(16 U.S.C. 668dd et seq.) with respect to any area—*

1           *(i) that was in the National Wildlife Refuge*  
2           *System before the date of the enactment of this*  
3           *Act; or*

4           *(ii) that is added to the National Wildlife*  
5           *Refuge System after the date of enactment of this*  
6           *Act and for which there is no fishery manage-*  
7           *ment plan in effect under the Magnuson-Stevens*  
8           *Fishery Conservation and Management Act.*

9           *(B) Nothing in this Act shall be construed to au-*  
10          *thorize the Secretary of the Interior to designate any*  
11          *National Wildlife Refuge or other unit of the National*  
12          *Wildlife Refuge System.*

13          (4) *CONSULTATION.*—*The Secretary shall consult*  
14          *with the Secretary of the Interior during the develop-*  
15          *ment and implementation of any fishery management*  
16          *plan under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conserva-*  
17          *tion and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.)*  
18          *that will apply to any area in the National Wildlife*  
19          *Refuge System, including any area added to such sys-*  
20          *tem after the date of enactment of this Act.*

21          (5) *REGIONAL COUNCILS.*—*Nothing in this Act*  
22          *affects the authority of the Regional Fishery Manage-*  
23          *ment Councils established under the Magnuson-Ste-*  
24          *vens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16*  
25          *U.S.C. 1801 et seq.).*

1           (6) *DEFINITIONS.*—*In this subsection, the terms*  
2           *“exclusive economic zone” and “fish” have the mean-*  
3           *ing of those terms under section 3 of the Magnuson-*  
4           *Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act*  
5           *(16 U.S.C. 1802).*

6 **SEC. 5. CORAL REEF CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE.**

7           (a) *IN GENERAL.*—*The Secretary, subject to the avail-*  
8           *ability of appropriations, shall provide grants to carry out*  
9           *projects that provide for coral reef conservation and are ap-*  
10          *proved by the Secretary in accordance with this section.*

11          (b) *ELIGIBLE PROJECT PARTNERS.*—*The Secretary*  
12          *may accept a coral reef conservation project proposal from*  
13          *any of the following:*

14               (1) *Any State or local government with jurisdic-*  
15               *tion over coral reefs and whose activities directly or*  
16               *indirectly affect coral reefs.*

17               (2) *Any educational institution with a dem-*  
18               *onstrated expertise in coral reef conservation.*

19               (3) *Any nonprofit organization with dem-*  
20               *onstrated expertise in coral reef conservation.*

21          (c) *ELIGIBLE PROJECTS.*—*The Secretary may not ap-*  
22          *prove a coral reef conservation project under this section*  
23          *unless the project is consistent with the coral reef action*  
24          *strategy established by the Coral Reef Task Force under sec-*

1 *tion 4(b)(1) and will accomplish at least one of the fol-*  
2 *lowing objectives:*

3           (1) *Implement measures to conserve and restore*  
4 *coral reef ecosystems.*

5           (2) *Develop and implement cost-effective methods*  
6 *to restore degraded coral reef ecosystems.*

7           (3) *Map the location and distribution of coral*  
8 *reefs.*

9           (4) *Develop and implement techniques to mon-*  
10 *itor and assess the status and condition of coral reefs.*

11           (5) *Research factors that cause coral disease and*  
12 *the loss of coral reefs.*

13           (6) *Support State and local community law en-*  
14 *forcement efforts related to coral products and coral*  
15 *reefs.*

16           (7) *Assist with conflict resolution initiatives and*  
17 *local community outreach related to coral reefs.*

18           (8) *Promote ecologically sound navigation and*  
19 *anchorage near coral reefs.*

20           (d) *PROJECT PROPOSAL.—Any applicant for a grant*  
21 *to carry out a coral reef conservation project shall submit*  
22 *to the Secretary the following:*

23           (1) *The names of the persons responsible for con-*  
24 *ducting the project and a description of their quali-*  
25 *fications.*

1           (2) *A description of the project.*

2           (3) *A description of how the project fulfills the*  
3 *requirements of subsection (c).*

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

6           (5) *Evidence of support of the project by appro-*  
7 *priate representatives of the State and local govern-*  
8 *ment jurisdictions in which the project will be con-*  
9 *ducted, if the project will be conducted by a non-*  
10 *governmental partner.*

11           (6) *Information regarding the source and*  
12 *amount of matching funding available to the appli-*  
13 *cant.*

14           (7) *Any other information the Secretary con-*  
15 *siders to be necessary for evaluating the eligibility of*  
16 *the project.*

17           *(e) PROJECT REVIEW AND APPROVAL.—*

18           (1) *IN GENERAL.—(A) The Secretary shall re-*  
19 *view and approve or disapprove each coral reef con-*  
20 *servation project proposal submitted under this sec-*  
21 *tion.*

22           (B) *The Secretary may approve a project pro-*  
23 *posal and provide coral reef conservation assistance*  
24 *under this section for a project only if, after review-*  
25 *ing the proposal and any comments received pursuant*



1       to paragraph (2), the Secretary determines that the  
2       project meets the requirements of this section.

3               (2) *REVIEW.*—Before approving or disapproving  
4       a project, the Secretary shall—

5               (A) request and consider written comments  
6               on the proposal from each Federal agency, State,  
7               or local government that will be affected by the  
8               project or that has jurisdiction over the area  
9               within which the project will be conducted, in-  
10              cluding the relevant regional fishery manage-  
11              ment councils established under the Magnuson-  
12              Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management  
13              Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.);

14             (B) provide for the merit-based peer review  
15             of the proposal, require standardized documenta-  
16             tion of that peer review, and consider any com-  
17             ments or recommendations resulting from such  
18             review; and

19             (C) consider the proportion of non-Federal  
20             matching funds that will be used for the project  
21             so as to maximize Federal grants for the greatest  
22             number of meritorious projects.

23             (3) *NOTIFICATION.*—The Secretary shall—

24             (A) not later than 6 months after receiving  
25             a project proposal under this section, provide

1           *written notification of the approval or dis-*  
2           *approval of the project to the applicant; and*

3                   *(B) in the case of an approved project, pub-*  
4           *lish notice of project approval in the Federal*  
5           *Register prior to making a grant under this sec-*  
6           *tion for the project.*

7           *(f) MATCHING FUNDS.—*

8                   *(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-*  
9           *graph (2), the Secretary may not approve a project*  
10          *under this section unless the Secretary determines*  
11          *that there are non-Federal contributions available to*  
12          *cover at least 50 percent of the total cost of the*  
13          *project. The non-Federal contribution may be made*  
14          *in the form of in-kind contribution of goods and serv-*  
15          *ices.*

16                   *(2) EXCEPTION.—(A) Of amounts appropriated*  
17          *for grants under this section, the Secretary may re-*  
18          *serve up to 5 percent for grants for small projects for*  
19          *which less than 50 percent of the cost will be covered*  
20          *by non-Federal contributions.*

21                   *(B) The Secretary may make a grant of funds*  
22          *under this paragraph for a small project only if—*

23                           *(i) the project is proposed by and will be*  
24                   *carried out by a local or State government;*

1                   (ii) the total cost of the project is less than  
2                   \$20,000; and

3                   (iii) the Secretary determines that the  
4                   grantee does not have the ability to provide at  
5                   least 50 percent matching funds or in-kind con-  
6                   tributions.

7           (g) *IMPLEMENTATION REGULATIONS OR GUIDE-*  
8 *LINES.*—Within 180 days after the date that the Coral Reef  
9 *Task Force publishes the national coral reef action strategy*  
10 *under section 4(b)(1), the Secretary shall promulgate any*  
11 *regulations or guidelines necessary to implement this sec-*  
12 *tion. In developing such regulations and guidelines, the Sec-*  
13 *retary shall provide for appropriate public notice and com-*  
14 *ment.*

15           (h) *PROJECT REPORTING.*—The Secretary shall re-  
16 *quire that each grantee under this section submit periodic*  
17 *reports, as the Secretary considers necessary, to document*  
18 *and evaluate the success of coral reef conservation projects*  
19 *funded under this Act.*

20           (i) *GRANT PROGRAM EFFECTIVENESS REPORT.*—Not  
21 *later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act,*  
22 *the Secretary, in consultation with the Coral Reef Task*  
23 *Force, shall submit to the Congress a report that documents*  
24 *the effectiveness of the grant program under this section in*  
25 *implementing the national coral reef action strategy pub-*

1 lished pursuant to section 4(b)(1). The report shall include  
2 a State-by-State summary of projects funded under this sec-  
3 tion and a summary of Federal and non-Federal contribu-  
4 tions toward the costs of each project.

5 **SEC. 6. CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES BY SECRETARY OF**  
6 **COMMERCE.**

7 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—Subject to the availability of appro-  
8 priations, the Secretary may conduct activities to conserve  
9 coral reefs and coral reef ecosystems, that are consistent  
10 with this Act, the strategy published by the Coral Reef Task  
11 Force under section 4(b)(1), and the National Marine Sanc-  
12 tuaries Act, the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, and  
13 the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Manage-  
14 ment Act.

15 (b) *AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.*—Activities authorized  
16 under subsection (a) include—

17 (1) mapping, monitoring, assessment, restora-  
18 tion, and scientific research that benefits the under-  
19 standing, sustainable use, and long-term conservation  
20 of coral reefs and coral reef ecosystems;

21 (2) enhancing public awareness, education, un-  
22 derstanding, and appreciation of coral reefs and coral  
23 reef ecosystems; and

24 (3) providing assistance to States in imple-  
25 menting conservation measures and removing aban-

1        *doned fishing gear, marine debris, and abandoned*  
2        *vessels from coral reefs to conserve living marine re-*  
3        *sources.*

4        **SEC. 7. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

5        *(a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appro-*  
6        *priated to the Secretary to carry out this Act \$14,000,000*  
7        *for each of fiscal years 2001, 2002, 2003, and 2004.*

8        *(b) CORAL REEF CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE*  
9        *GRANTS.—Amounts appropriated under subsection (a) and*  
10       *used for coral reef conservation assistance under section 5*  
11       *may remain available until expended. The Secretary shall*  
12       *ensure that coral reef conservation assistance provided*  
13       *under section 5 is distributed so that—*

14                *(1) not less than 40 percent of the funds avail-*  
15                *able for each fiscal year are awarded for coral reef*  
16                *conservation projects in the Pacific Ocean; and*

17                *(2) not less than 40 percent of the funds avail-*  
18                *able for each fiscal year are awarded for coral reef*  
19                *conservation projects in the Atlantic Ocean, the Gulf*  
20                *of Mexico, and the Caribbean Sea.*

21        *(c) ADMINISTRATION.—Of the amounts appropriated*  
22        *under subsection (a), not more than the lesser of \$1,000,000,*  
23        *or 10 percent of the amounts appropriated, may be used*  
24        *for program administration or for overhead costs incurred*  
25        *by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration*

1 *or the Department of Commerce and assessed as an admin-*  
2 *istrative charge.*

3 (d) *NATIONAL CORAL REEF ACTIVITIES.*—*Of the*  
4 *amounts appropriated under subsection (a), no more than*  
5 *25 percent may be used by the Secretary for activities under*  
6 *section 6(b).*

7 (e) *CORAL REEF TASK FORCE.*—*There are authorized*  
8 *to be appropriated to each of the Secretary and the Sec-*  
9 *retary of the Interior \$500,000 for each of fiscal years 2001*  
10 *through 2004 to carry out the responsibilities of the Coral*  
11 *Reef Task Force under section 4.*

12 (f) *CORAL DISEASE CENTER.*—*There are authorized to*  
13 *be appropriated to the Secretary \$1,000,000 for each of fis-*  
14 *cal years 2001 through 2004 to establish a Coral Disease*  
15 *Center in the United States Virgin Islands in cooperation*  
16 *with the Institute of Caribbean Marine Studies and other*  
17 *Federal agencies. Such Center shall focus on coral health*  
18 *issues and shall coordinate scientific efforts throughout the*  
19 *United States to characterize, understand, and control coral*  
20 *diseases.*



**Union Calendar No. 437**

106TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

**H. R. 3919**

**[Report No. 106-762]**

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**A BILL**

To provide assistance for the conservation of coral reefs, to coordinate Federal coral reef conservation activities, and for other purposes.

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JULY 19, 2000

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed