

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 959

To improve the conservation and management of coastal and ocean resources by authorizing National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration oceanographic programs.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 27, 2003

Mr. SAXTON introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Science, 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

A BILL

To improve the conservation and management of coastal and ocean resources by authorizing National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration oceanographic programs.

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.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “National Oceanic and
5 Atmospheric Administration Oceanography Amendments
6 Act of 2003”.

1 **SEC. 2. COASTAL OCEAN PROGRAM.**

2 Section 201 of Public Law 102–567 (106 Stat. 4280)
3 is amended by—

4 (1) striking the matter preceding “living marine
5 resources” and inserting the following:

6 **“SEC. 201. COASTAL OCEAN PROGRAM.**

7 “(a) IN GENERAL.—There shall be in the National
8 Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (in this title re-
9 ferred to as the ‘Administration’) a coastal ocean program.

10 “(b) PROGRAM ELEMENTS.—The coastal ocean pro-
11 gram shall augment and integrate existing research capa-
12 bilities of the Administration with other Federal and non-
13 Federal research capabilities. Research shall be conducted
14 under this program to improve predictions of trends in
15 Great Lakes, estuarine, and coastal ocean resources, to
16 improve the conservation and management of”; and

17 (2) striking subsections (d), (e), and (f).

18 **SEC. 3. LABORATORIES.**

19 Section 202 of Public Law 102–567 (106 Stat. 4281)
20 is amended to read as follows:

21 **“SEC. 202. LABORATORIES.**

22 “There shall be in the Administration a Great Lakes
23 Environmental Research Laboratory, a Pacific Marine
24 Environmental Laboratory, and an Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratory. These laboratories
25 shall support the Administration in carrying out its pri-
26

1 mary missions specified in section 3(b). The Great Lakes
2 Environmental Laboratory may support, in partnership
3 with the University of Michigan, a Cooperative Institute
4 for Limnology and Ecosystems Research.”.

5 **SEC. 4. NATIONAL UNDERSEA RESEARCH PROGRAM.**

6 Section 203 of Public Law 102–567 (106 Stat. 4281)
7 is amended to read as follows:

8 **“SEC. 203. NATIONAL UNDERSEA RESEARCH PROGRAM.**

9 “(a) IN GENERAL.—There shall be in the Adminis-
10 tration a national undersea research program.

11 “(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the program is to
12 increase scientific knowledge by—

13 “(1) conducting undersea research related to
14 the Administration’s coastal and ocean resource
15 management missions; and

16 “(2) maintaining operational assets and exper-
17 tise, and developing technology necessary to support
18 undersea research.

19 “(c) DIRECTOR.—The Secretary shall appoint as the
20 Director of the National Undersea Research Program a
21 qualified individual who has appropriate administrative ex-
22 perience and knowledge or expertise in fields related to
23 undersea research.

1 “(d) PROGRAM.—The program shall be conducted
2 through a national headquarters and a network of regional
3 undersea research centers.

4 “(e) COMPETITIVENESS.—All research, education,
5 and technology activities under the program shall be man-
6 aged using an open and competitive process to evaluate
7 scientific merit, relevance to the Administration’s coastal
8 and ocean resource management missions, and technical
9 feasibility.”.

10 **SEC. 5. OCEANOGRAPHY PROGRAMS.**

11 Title II of Public Law 102–567 (106 Stat. 4281) is
12 amended by adding at the end the following:

13 **“SEC. 206. OCEAN EXPLORATION PROGRAM.**

14 “(a) IN GENERAL.—There shall be in the Adminis-
15 tration an ocean exploration program.

16 “(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the program are
17 the following:

18 “(1) To explore the physical, biological, chem-
19 ical, geological, archaeological, temporal, and other
20 related characteristics of the ocean.

21 “(2) To maximize efficiency by integrating the
22 multiple scientific disciplines and by employing the
23 diverse resources of the ocean science community.

24 “(3) To create missions and scientific activities
25 of discovery and exploration for the purpose of dis-

1 covering and documenting knowledge regarding the
2 ocean.

3 “(4) In cooperation with the Coastal Ocean
4 Program and the National Undersea Research Pro-
5 gram, to promote the development and application of
6 new technologies for the exploration of the ocean.

7 “(5) To achieve a heightened scientific literacy
8 and public appreciation of the oceans.

9 “(6) To facilitate ocean exploration data and
10 information availability in a timely and consistent
11 manner.

12 “(c) AUTHORITIES.—In carrying out the program
13 under this section the Secretary may perform the fol-
14 lowing:

15 “(1) Conduct interdisciplinary exploration voy-
16 ages or other activities in conjunction with other
17 Federal agencies or academic or educational institu-
18 tions, to survey little known areas of the marine en-
19 vironment, and inventory, monitor, and assess living
20 and nonliving marine resources.

21 “(2) In cooperation with the Coastal Ocean
22 Program and the National Undersea Research Pro-
23 gram, enhance the domestic technical capability of
24 the marine science community by promoting the de-
25 velopment of improved oceanographic research, com-

1 munication, navigation, and data management and
2 dissemination platforms, equipment, instruments,
3 and techniques.

4 “(3) In conjunction with the National Sea
5 Grant College Program and the National Science
6 Foundation Centers for Ocean Science Education
7 Excellence, conduct public education and outreach
8 activities that improve the public understanding of
9 ocean science, resources, and processes.

10 “(4) Accept donations of property, data, and
11 equipment to be applied for the purpose of exploring
12 the oceans or increasing knowledge of the oceans.

13 **“SEC. 207. COASTAL OBSERVATION TECHNOLOGY SYSTEM.**

14 “(a) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term ‘coastal
15 observation technology system’ means a system of marine
16 sensors and other devices, personnel, and products, that—

17 “(1) collects remotely sensed and in situ obser-
18 vations in the coastal waters of a given region or
19 subregion in a routine manner, including continuous
20 observations;

21 “(2) transmits the data to users including, as
22 appropriate, in real time or near real time;

23 “(3) produces forecasts and other appropriate
24 products representing ocean conditions for users;
25 and

1 “(4) manages the collected data to best prac-
2 tices for archiving and future use.

3 “(b) DESIGNATION OF UNITS.—Before designating a
4 regional coastal observation technology system as a unit
5 of the national coastal observation technology system
6 under subsection (c), the Secretary shall—

7 “(1) establish, in consultation with the National
8 Ocean Research Leadership Council, standards and
9 protocols for the collection and distribution of data
10 by regional coastal observation technology systems;

11 “(2) establish management, quality control, and
12 assessment systems for data collected and distrib-
13 uted by regional coastal observation technology sys-
14 tems; and

15 “(3) determine that the regional coastal obser-
16 vation technology system has adequate technical ex-
17 pertise to collect and distribute data in accordance
18 with standards and protocols established under para-
19 graph (1).

20 “(c) DATA COLLECTION.—The Secretary may des-
21 ignate units of and coordinate a coastal observation tech-
22 nology system to collect data necessary to carry out the
23 primary missions of the Administration.

24 “(d) DATA USE.—The Secretary shall, in conjunction
25 with Federal, State, and local agencies and academic insti-

1 tutions, use data collected under subsection (b) to develop
2 forecast models to support coastal and fishery manage-
3 ment, safe and efficient marine navigation, weather and
4 climate prediction, and other appropriate activities.

5 “(e) ASSISTANCE.—

6 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may enter
7 into contracts or cooperative agreements or make
8 grants to units designated under subsection (c) to
9 carry out coastal observation technology activities.

10 “(2) COST SHARE.—The Federal share of any
11 assistance provided under paragraph (1) may not ex-
12 ceed 50 percent of the costs of those activities.

13 **“SEC. 208. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

14 “For operations, research, and facilities of the Ad-
15 ministration relating to ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes
16 research, there are authorized to be appropriated to the
17 Secretary the following:

18 “(1) For ARGO floats, \$9,000,000 for each of
19 fiscal years 2004 through 2008.

20 “(2) For ocean and coastal research activities
21 of laboratories and joint institutes, other than activi-
22 ties related to the Great Lakes Environmental Re-
23 search Laboratory, \$12,000,000 for each of fiscal
24 years 2004 through 2008, of which up to

1 \$3,000,000 may be expended each fiscal year for
2 VENTS.

3 “(3) For activities related to the Great Lakes
4 Environmental Research Laboratory and associated
5 cooperative institutes, \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal
6 years 2004 through 2008.

7 “(4) For activities related to the coastal ocean
8 program, \$35,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2004
9 through 2008.

10 “(5) For activities related to the national un-
11 dersea research program—

12 “(A) \$20,000,000 for fiscal year 2004;

13 “(B) \$21,000,000 for fiscal year 2005;

14 “(C) \$22,000,000 for fiscal year 2006;

15 “(D) \$23,000,000 for fiscal year 2007;

16 and

17 “(E) \$24,000,000 for fiscal year 2008.

18 “(6) For activities related to the ocean explo-
19 ration program, \$25,000,000 for each of fiscal years
20 2004 through 2008.

21 “(7) For tsunami hazard mitigation activities,
22 \$3,500,000 for each of fiscal years 2004 through
23 2008.

24 “(8) For Arctic research partnership programs,
25 \$4,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2004 through

1 2008, of which up to \$2,000,000 may used for the
2 Study of Environmental Arctic Change.

3 “(9) For activities related to coastal environ-
4 mental health and biomolecular research,
5 \$11,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2004 through
6 2008.

7 “(10) For coastal observing technologies—
8 “(A) \$15,000,000 for fiscal year 2004;
9 “(B) \$17,500,000 for fiscal year 2005;
10 “(C) \$20,000,000 for fiscal year 2006;
11 “(D) \$22,500,000 for fiscal year 2007;
12 and
13 “(E) \$25,000,000 for fiscal year 2008.

14 **“SEC. 209. SHORT TITLE.**

15 “This title may be cited as the ‘National Oceanic and
16 Atmospheric Administration Oceanography Act of
17 2003’.”.

18 **SEC. 6. OCEAN EXPLORATION REPORT.**

19 Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment
20 of this section, the National Ocean Research Leadership
21 Council (established by section 7902 of title 10, United
22 States Code) shall provide to the Committee on Resources,
23 the Committee on Science, and the Committee on Armed
24 Services of the House of Representatives, and to the Com-
25 mittee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the

1 Committee on Armed Services of the Senate, a plan for
2 implementing the report of the President's Panel on Ocean
3 Exploration transmitted on October 10, 2000, including
4 a recommendation for a dedicated multiyear, multidisci-
5 plinary voyage of discovery.

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