

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1277

To provide for ocean acidification collaborative research grant opportunities.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 4, 2015

Mrs. CAPPS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

A BILL

To provide for ocean acidification collaborative research grant opportunities.

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 “Ocean Acidification
5 Research Partnerships Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. OCEAN ACIDIFICATION COLLABORATIVE RE-**
7 **SEARCH GRANTS.**

8 The Federal Ocean Acidification Research and Moni-
9 toring Act of 2009 (33 U.S.C. 3701 et seq.) is amended
10 by inserting after section 12406 the following:

1 **“SEC. 12406A. OCEAN ACIDIFICATION COLLABORATIVE RE-**
2 **SEARCH GRANTS.**

3 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

4 “(1) ACADEMIC COMMUNITY.—The term ‘aca-
5 demic community’ includes faculty and other rep-
6 resentatives of institutions of higher education and
7 other schools, researchers, scientists, and natural re-
8 source managers.

9 “(2) SEAFOOD INDUSTRY.—The term ‘seafood
10 industry’ includes shellfish growers, shellfish har-
11 vesters, commercial fishermen, recreational fisher-
12 men, other members of the seafood harvesting or
13 supply chain, and organizations representing any of
14 such groups.

15 “(b) GRANTS.—The Secretary shall provide grants
16 for collaborative research projects on ocean acidification
17 developed and conducted through partnerships between
18 the seafood industry and the academic community.

19 “(c) CRITERIA FOR APPROVAL.—The Secretary may
20 not provide a grant for a project under this section unless
21 the project is—

22 “(1) consistent with the themes identified under
23 the strategic research plan developed by the Sub-
24 committee under section 12405; and

25 “(2) designed to—

1 “(A) develop and support partnerships,
2 communications, and shared understanding be-
3 tween the seafood industry and the academic
4 community;

5 “(B) include the seafood industry in re-
6 search on ocean acidification;

7 “(C) deliver research, monitoring, or adap-
8 tation results which will benefit both the sea-
9 food industry and the academic community;

10 “(D) incorporate into the research agenda
11 the expertise of both the seafood industry, in-
12 cluding their unique understanding of the nat-
13 ural environment, and the academic community;

14 “(E) promote better understanding of sea-
15 food industry research questions and priorities
16 within the academic community;

17 “(F) promote wider understanding of
18 ocean acidification among the academic commu-
19 nity, the seafood industry, and other stake-
20 holders as appropriate; and

21 “(G) include appropriately balanced sup-
22 port from both the seafood industry and the
23 academic community.

24 “(d) PRIORITY.—The Secretary shall prioritize fund-
25 ing under this section to projects which—

1 “(1) address ecosystems and communities vul-
2 nerable to the impacts of ocean acidification;

3 “(2) demonstrate support from local stake-
4 holders, such as representatives of States or other
5 governmental jurisdictions, community organiza-
6 tions, tribes, or educational institutions, as appro-
7 priate, located within the region in which the project
8 will be undertaken; or

9 “(3) utilize seafood industry assets as research
10 and monitoring platforms.

11 “(e) IMPLEMENTATION GUIDELINES.—Not later
12 than 180 days after the date of enactment of this section,
13 the Secretary, in collaboration with the Subcommittee,
14 shall issue implementation guidelines under this section,
15 including criteria and priorities for grants. Those guide-
16 lines shall be developed in consultation, as appropriate,
17 with—

18 “(1) State, regional, and local decisionmakers
19 with ocean acidification experience;

20 “(2) the seafood industry and other marine-de-
21 pendent industries;

22 “(3) formal and informal educators, including
23 both those within academia and those who are not;

24 “(4) tribes;

1 “(5) nongovernmental organizations involved in
2 ocean acidification research, prevention, or adapta-
3 tion; and

4 “(6) any other appropriate community stake-
5 holders.

6 “(f) CONTENTS OF PROPOSALS.—Each proposal for
7 a grant under this section shall include—

8 “(1) a description of the qualifications of the
9 individuals or entities who will conduct the project;

10 “(2) a plan for ensuring full participation and
11 engagement of both industry and academic commu-
12 nity participants, including a description of how each
13 partner will contribute expertise to the project in
14 terms of design, execution, and interpretation of re-
15 sults;

16 “(3) a plan for the dissemination of the results
17 of the research project, which may include—

18 “(A) educational programs;

19 “(B) presentations to members of the sea-
20 food industry, the academic community, and
21 community stakeholders;

22 “(C) scientific publication; and

23 “(D) delivery to appropriate representa-
24 tives of States or other government jurisdictions
25 who would use the information;

1 “(4) a description of how the project is con-
2 sistent with the program elements described in sec-
3 tion 12405(c); and

4 “(5) any other information the Secretary con-
5 siders necessary for evaluating the eligibility of the
6 project for funding under this section.

7 “(g) ALTERNATIVE PARTICIPANTS.—The Secretary
8 may make a grant under this section to a partnership in
9 which a marine-dependent industry is substituted for the
10 seafood industry if the proposed project serves the pur-
11 poses of this section. In such a case, the participation and
12 interests of that marine-dependent industry shall be sub-
13 stituted for those of the seafood industry in applying the
14 requirements of this section.

15 “(h) PROJECT REPORTING.—Each grantee under
16 this section shall provide periodic reports as required by
17 the Secretary. Each such report shall include all informa-
18 tion required by the Secretary for evaluating the progress
19 and success of the project.

20 “(i) MATCHING REQUIREMENTS.—

21 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
22 graph (2), the total amount of Federal funding for
23 a collaborative research project supported under this
24 section may not exceed 85 percent of the total cost
25 of such project. For purposes of this paragraph, the

1 non-Federal share of project costs may be provided
2 by in-kind contributions and other noncash support.

3 “(2) WAIVER.—The Secretary may waive all or
4 part of the matching requirement under paragraph
5 (1) if the Secretary determines that no reasonable
6 means are available through which applicants can
7 meet the matching requirement and the probable
8 benefit of such project outweighs the public interest
9 in such matching requirement.

10 “(j) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
11 are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary for car-
12 rying out this section \$5,000,000 for each of the fiscal
13 years 2016 through 2020.”.

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