

114TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5776

To reauthorize and amend the John H. Prescott Marine Mammal Rescue and Response Grant Program, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 13, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska (for himself and Mr. HECK of Washington) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To reauthorize and amend the John H. Prescott Marine Mammal Rescue and Response Grant Program, 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.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Marine Mammal Re-
5 search and Response Act of 2016”.

6 **SEC. 2. DATA COLLECTION AND DISSEMINATION.**

7 Section 402 of the Marine Mammal Protection Act
8 of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1421a) is amended—

9 (1) in subsection (b)—

1 (A) in paragraph (1)(A), by inserting “or
2 entangled” after “stranded”;

3 (B) in paragraph (3)—

4 (i) by striking “strandings,” and in-
5 serting “strandings and entanglements, in-
6 cluding unusual mortality events,”;

7 (ii) by inserting “stranding” before
8 “region”; and

9 (iii) by striking “marine mammals;
10 and” and inserting “and entangled marine
11 mammals to allow comparison of the
12 causes of illness and deaths in stranded
13 and entangled marine mammals with phys-
14 ical, chemical, and biological environmental
15 parameters; and”; and

16 (C) in paragraph (4), by striking “anal-
17 yses, that would allow comparison of the causes
18 of illness and deaths in stranded marine mam-
19 mals with physical, chemical, and biological en-
20 vironmental parameters.” and inserting “anal-
21 yses.”; and

22 (2) by striking subsection (c) and inserting the
23 following:

24 “(c) DATA AVAILABILITY.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall develop
2 a program to make information, including any data
3 and metadata, collected under subsection (b) avail-
4 able to researchers, stranding networks, and the
5 public—

6 “(A) to improve real-time coordination of
7 response to stranding and entanglement events
8 across geographic areas and between stranding
9 coordinators;

10 “(B) to identify and quickly disseminate
11 information on potential public health risks;

12 “(C) to facilitate integrated interdiscipli-
13 nary research;

14 “(D) to facilitate peer-reviewed publica-
15 tions;

16 “(E) to archive regional data into one na-
17 tional database for future analyses; and

18 “(F) for education and outreach activities.

19 “(2) PUBLIC ACCESS.—The Secretary shall en-
20 sure that—

21 “(A) all information, including data and
22 metadata, collected under subsection (b) is
23 archived in a form that is readily accessible, un-
24 derstandable, and can be easily shared with, the
25 public, as appropriate, through the Marine

1 Mammal Health Map established under section
2 408A; and

3 “(B) not later than 60 days after the date
4 that any information, including any data and
5 metadata, collected under paragraph (1), (2), or
6 (3) of subsection (b), is made readily available
7 to stranding network participants, other quali-
8 fied scientists, employees of the Federal Gov-
9 ernment, and the public through the Marine
10 Mammal Health Map and the Integrated Ocean
11 Observation System.

12 “(d) DATA REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—The Sec-
13 retary shall require each stranding network participant to
14 submit to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Adminis-
15 tration, for inclusion in the Marine Mammal Health Map
16 established under section 408A the following:

17 “(1) NOAA Form 89–864 (OMB #0648–0178)
18 and NOAA Form 89–878 (OMB #0648–0178), or
19 similar successor form, not later than 30 days after
20 the date of a response to a stranding or entangle-
21 ment event.

22 “(2) The information, including any data and
23 metadata, described in paragraphs (1) and (2) of
24 subsection (b), not later than 30 days after the date

1 that the information is available or updated, as ap-
2 plicable.

3 “(3) The information, including any data and
4 metadata, described in paragraphs (3) and (4) of
5 subsection (b), not later than 30 days after the date
6 that the stranding network responds to a stranding
7 or entanglement event.”.

8 **SEC. 3. STRANDING OR ENTANGLEMENT RESPONSE AGREE-**
9 **MENTS.**

10 Section 403 of the Marine Mammal Protection Act
11 of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1421b) is amended—

12 (1) in the section heading by inserting “**OR EN-**
13 **TANGLEMENT**” before “**RESPONSE**”; and

14 (2) in subsection (a), by striking the period at
15 the end and inserting “or entanglement.”.

16 **SEC. 4. UNUSUAL MORTALITY EVENT ACTIVITY FUNDING.**

17 (a) **USES OF THE MARINE MAMMAL UNUSUAL MOR-**
18 **TALITY EVENT FUND.**—Subsection (b) of section 405 of
19 the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C.
20 1421d) is amended to read as follows:

21 “(b) **USES.**—Amounts in the Fund—

22 “(1) shall be available only for use by the Sec-
23 retary, in consultation with the Secretary of the In-
24 terior and dispersed among claimants based on

1 budgets approved by the Secretary prior to expendi-
2 ture—

3 “(A) to make advance, partial, or progress
4 payments under contracts or other funding
5 mechanisms for property, supplies, salaries,
6 services, and travel costs incurred in acting in
7 accordance with the contingency plan issued
8 under section 404(b) or under the direction of
9 an Onsite Coordinator for an unusual mortality
10 event;

11 “(B) for reimbursing any stranding net-
12 work participant for costs incurred in the prep-
13 aration, analysis, and transportation of marine
14 mammal tissues collected with respect to an un-
15 usual mortality event, including such transpor-
16 tation, for the Tissue Bank; and

17 “(C) for care and maintenance of marine
18 mammal seized under section 104(c)(2)(D); and

19 “(2) shall remain available until expended.”.

20 (b) DEPOSITS INTO THE FUND.—Subsection (c) of
21 section 405 of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972
22 (16 U.S.C. 1421d) is amended—

23 (1) in paragraph (2), by striking “and” at the
24 end;

1 (2) in paragraph (3), by striking the period at
2 the end and inserting a semicolon; and

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

4 “(4) sums received for marine mammal con-
5 servation, including assessment costs, fines, pen-
6 alties, restitution, natural resource damages, and
7 forfeitures of property for violations of any provision
8 of this Act or other environmental statute and sums
9 received from emergency declaration grants for ma-
10 rine mammal conservation; and

11 “(5) up to \$750,000 per fiscal year, as deter-
12 mined by the Secretary of Commerce and the Sec-
13 retary of the Interior, from amounts appropriated to
14 the Secretary for carrying out this title and other ti-
15 tles of this Act.”.

16 **SEC. 5. LIABILITY.**

17 Section 406(a) of the Marine Mammal Protection Act
18 of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1421e(a)) is amended by inserting “or
19 entanglement” after “to a stranding”.

20 **SEC. 6. NATIONAL MARINE MAMMAL TISSUE BANK AND TIS-**
21 **SUE ANALYSIS.**

22 Section 407 of the Marine Mammal Protection Act
23 of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1421f) is amended—

24 (1) in subsection (c)(2)(A), by striking “the
25 health of marine mammals” and inserting “marine

1 mammal health and mortality and the health of”;
2 and

3 (2) in subsection (d), by inserting “public” be-
4 fore “access”.

5 **SEC. 7. JOHN H. PRESCOTT MARINE MAMMAL RESCUE AND**
6 **RESPONSE GRANT PROGRAM AND RAPID RE-**
7 **SPONSE FUND.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 408 of the Marine Mam-
9 mal Protection Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1421f–1) is
10 amended to read as follows:

11 **“SEC. 408. JOHN H. PRESCOTT MARINE MAMMAL RESCUE**
12 **AND RESPONSE GRANT PROGRAM AND RAPID**
13 **RESPONSE FUND.**

14 “(a) JOHN H. PRESCOTT MARINE MAMMAL RESCUE
15 AND RESPONSE GRANT PROGRAM.—

16 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability
17 of appropriations, the Secretary shall conduct a
18 grant program to be known as the John H. Prescott
19 Marine Mammal Rescue and Response Grant Pro-
20 gram (hereinafter in this section referred to as the
21 ‘Grant Program’) to award grants to eligible strand-
22 ing network participants or stranding network col-
23 laborators as described in this subsection.

24 “(2) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the Grant
25 Program are to provide for—

1 “(A) the recovery or treatment of sick, in-
2 jured, or entangled marine mammals;

3 “(B) marine mammal stranding events
4 that require emergency assistance;

5 “(C) the collection of data and samples
6 from living or dead stranded marine mammals
7 for scientific research regarding marine mam-
8 mal health;

9 “(D) facility operating costs that are di-
10 rectly related to activities described in subpara-
11 graph (A), (B), or (C); and

12 “(E) development of Stranding Network
13 capacity, including training for emergency re-
14 sponse, where facilities do not exist or are
15 sparse.

16 “(3) CONTRACT, GRANT, AND COOPERATIVE
17 AGREEMENT AUTHORITY.—The Secretary may enter
18 into a contract, grant, or cooperative agreement with
19 any person, as the Secretary determines appropriate,
20 for the purposes described in paragraph (2).

21 “(4) EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS.—

22 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
23 ensure, to the extent practicable, that funds
24 awarded under the Grant Program are distrib-
25 uted equitably among the stranding regions.

1 “(B) PREFERENCES.—The Secretary shall
2 give preference to awarding funds under the
3 Grant Program in each stranding region to any
4 facility with an established record of marine
5 mammal rescue and rehabilitation, or of sci-
6 entific data collection and research on sick,
7 stranded, or entangled marine mammals where
8 such facilities exist.

9 “(C) CONSIDERATIONS.—In determining
10 priorities among the stranding regions under
11 this paragraph, the Secretary may consider—

12 “(i) any episodic stranding, entangle-
13 ment, or mortality event, except for an un-
14 usual mortality event, that occurred in any
15 stranding region in the preceding year;

16 “(ii) any data regarding average an-
17 nual stranding, entanglements, and mor-
18 tality events per stranding region;

19 “(iii) the size of the marine mammal
20 populations inhabiting a geographic area
21 within a stranding region; and

22 “(iv) the conservation of threatened or
23 endangered marine mammal species.

1 “(5) APPLICATION.—To apply for a grant
2 under the Grant Program a stranding network par-
3 ticipant shall—

4 “(A) submit an application in such form
5 and manner as the Secretary prescribes; and

6 “(B) comply with the data reporting re-
7 quirements of section 402(d).

8 “(6) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary shall con-
9 sult with the Marine Mammal Commission, a rep-
10 resentative from each of the stranding regions, and
11 other individuals who represent public and private
12 organizations that are actively involved in rescue, re-
13 habilitation, release, scientific research, marine con-
14 servation, and forensic science regarding stranded
15 marine mammals to develop criteria for awarding
16 grants under the Grant Program.

17 “(7) LIMITATIONS.—

18 “(A) MAXIMUM GRANT AMOUNT.—No
19 grant made under the Grant Program for a sin-
20 gle project may exceed \$200,000 in any 12-
21 month period.

22 “(B) UNEXPENDED FUNDS.—Any funds
23 awarded under the Grant Program that are un-
24 expended or unobligated at the end of a 12-
25 month period—

1 “(i) shall remain available until ex-
2 ended; and

3 “(ii) shall not be taken into account
4 for any other 12-month period for the pur-
5 poses of subparagraph (A).

6 “(8) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—The non-Fed-
7 eral share of the costs of an activity conducted with
8 funds awarded under the Grant Program shall be 25
9 percent of such costs.

10 “(9) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS AND EXPENSES.—
11 Of the amounts available each fiscal year to carry
12 out the Grant Program, the Secretary may expend
13 not more than 6 percent or \$80,000, whichever is
14 greater, to pay the administrative costs and expenses
15 related to reviewing and awarding grants under the
16 Grant Program.

17 “(b) JOHN H. PRESCOTT MARINE MAMMAL RESCUE
18 AND RAPID RESPONSE FUND.—

19 “(1) IN GENERAL.—There is established in the
20 Treasury of the United States an interest-bearing
21 fund to be known as the ‘John H. Prescott Marine
22 Mammal Rescue and Rapid Response Fund’ (herein-
23 after in this section referred to as the ‘Fund’).

1 “(2) USE OF FUNDS.—Amounts in the Fund
2 shall be available only for use by the Secretary to
3 provide emergency assistance.

4 “(3) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—

5 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in
6 subparagraph (B), the non-Federal share of the
7 costs of an activity conducted with amounts
8 from the Fund shall be 25 percent of such
9 costs.

10 “(B) WAIVER.—The Secretary may waive
11 the matching requirement under subparagraph
12 (A) for activities to provide emergency assist-
13 ance.

14 “(C) IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS.—The Sec-
15 retary may apply to the non-Federal share of
16 an activity conducted with amounts from the
17 Fund, the amount of funds and the fair market
18 value of property and services provided by non-
19 Federal sources and used for the activity.

20 “(c) EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE DEFINED.—In this
21 section:

22 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘emergency as-
23 sistance’ means—

24 “(A) financial assistance provided for a
25 stranding event or entangling event that—

1 “(i) causes an immediate increase in
2 the cost of a response, recovery, or reha-
3 bilitation that is greater than the usual or
4 allocated cost of a response, recovery, or
5 rehabilitation;

6 “(ii) is cyclical or endemic; and

7 “(iii) involves a marine mammal that
8 is out of the normal habitat for that ma-
9 rine mammal; or

10 “(B) financial assistance provided for a
11 stranding event or an entanglement event that
12 the Secretary considers to be an emergency.

13 “(2) EXCLUSIONS.—The term ‘emergency as-
14 sistance’ does not include financial assistance to re-
15 spond to an unusual mortality event.

16 “(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

17 “(1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be
18 appropriated to carry out the Grant Program
19 \$7,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2017 through
20 2022, to remain available until expended, of which
21 for each fiscal year—

22 “(A) \$6,000,000 may be available to the
23 Secretary of Commerce; and

24 “(B) \$1,000,000 may be available to the
25 Secretary of the Interior.

1 “(2) JOHN H. PRESCOTT MARINE MAMMAL RES-
2 CUE AND RAPID RESPONSE FUND.—

3 “(A) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIA-
4 TIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated
5 to the Fund \$500,000 for each of fiscal years
6 2016 through 2021.

7 “(B) TRANSFER OF FUNDS.—In addition
8 to amounts appropriated pursuant to an au-
9 thorization of appropriations in subparagraph
10 (A), there shall be deposited into the Fund up
11 to \$500,000 for each fiscal year (as determined
12 by the Secretary) from amounts appropriated to
13 the Secretary for carrying out this title and
14 other titles of this Act.

15 “(C) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Amounts
16 in the Fund shall remain available until ex-
17 pended without regard to any law related to the
18 negotiation, award, or administration of any
19 contract, grant, or cooperative agreement.

20 “(e) ACCEPTANCE OF DONATIONS.—For purposes of
21 carrying out this section, the Secretary may solicit, accept,
22 receive, hold, administer, and use gifts, devises, and be-
23 quests without any further approval or administrative ac-
24 tion.”.

1 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS AMENDMENT.—The table
2 of contents in the first section of the Marine Mammal Pro-
3 tection Act of 1972 is amended by striking the item re-
4 lated to section 408 and inserting the following:

“Sec. 408. John H. Prescott Marine Mammal Rescue and Response Grant Pro-
gram and Rapid Response Fund.”.

5 **SEC. 8. MARINE MAMMAL HEALTH MAP.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Marine Mammal Protection
7 Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1361 et seq.) is amended by in-
8 serting after section 408 the following:

9 **“SEC. 408A. MARINE MAMMAL HEALTH MAP.**

10 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the
11 date of the enactment of the Marine Mammal Research
12 and Response Act of 2016, the Secretary, acting through
13 the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmos-
14 pheric Administration, in consultation with the Secretary
15 of the Interior and the Marine Mammal Commission,
16 shall—

17 “(1) establish a national marine mammal health
18 and stranding observing system referred to as the
19 Marine Mammal Health Map;

20 “(2) incorporate the Marine Mammal Health
21 Map into the National Integrated Coastal and Ocean
22 Observation System established under section 12304
23 of the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation
24 System Act of 2009 (33 U.S.C. 3603); and

1 “(3) make the Marine Mammal Health Map—

2 “(A) publically accessible through the Inte-
3 grated Coastal and Ocean Observation System’s
4 Web portal; and

5 “(B) interoperable with other national data
6 systems or for management or research pur-
7 poses, as practicable.

8 “(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the Marine Mam-
9 mal Health Map are to promote—

10 “(1) interdisciplinary research among individ-
11 uals with knowledge and experience in marine mam-
12 mal science, marine mammal veterinary and hus-
13 bandry practices, and medical science, oceanog-
14 raphers, and other marine scientists;

15 “(2) the timely and sustained dissemination
16 and availability of marine mammal health, strand-
17 ing, entanglement, and mortality data;

18 “(3) the identification of spatial and temporal
19 patterns of marine mammal mortality, disease, and
20 stranding;

21 “(4) the evaluation of marine mammal health in
22 terms of mortality as well as sublethal marine mam-
23 mal health impacts;

1 “(5) the improved collaboration and forecasting
2 of marine mammal and larger ecosystem health
3 events;

4 “(6) rapid communication and dissemination of
5 marine mammal strandings that may have implica-
6 tions for human health, such as harmful algal
7 blooms;

8 “(7) the increased accessibility of data in a user
9 friendly visual interface for public education and
10 outreach activities; and

11 “(8) the contribution to an ocean health index
12 which incorporates marine mammal health data.

13 “(c) REQUIREMENTS.—The Marine Mammal Health
14 Map shall—

15 “(1) integrate in situ, remote, and other marine
16 mammal health, stranding, and mortality data, in-
17 cluding visualization and metadata, from persons au-
18 thorized to collect data on marine mammals, includ-
19 ing the stranding network, Federal, State, and tribal
20 governments, private partners, and academia;

21 “(2) be designed to enhance data and informa-
22 tion availability, including data sharing between
23 stranding network participants, scientists, and the
24 public across stranding network regions;

1 “(3) be designed to facilitate data and informa-
2 tion access across scientific disciplines, scientists,
3 and managers; and

4 “(4) be designed to facilitate public access to
5 national and regional marine mammal health,
6 stranding, entanglement, and mortality data, includ-
7 ing visualizations and metadata, through the Inte-
8 grated Coastal and Ocean Observation System’s na-
9 tional and regional data portals.

10 “(d) PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES.—The Sec-
11 retary shall implement policies, protocols, and standards
12 for—

13 “(1) the reporting requirements for marine
14 mammal health data collected by stranding networks
15 consistent with subsections (c) and (d) of section
16 402;

17 “(2) the timely transmission of health data
18 from the stranding networks and other appropriate
19 data providers to the Marine Mammal Health Map;

20 “(3) the timely and sustained dissemination
21 and availability to the public of marine mammal
22 health, stranding, entanglement, and mortality data;
23 and

1 “(4) the integration of other marine mammal
2 health, stranding, or other data as the Secretary de-
3 termines appropriate.

4 “(e) COORDINATION.—The Administrator of the Na-
5 tional Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shall
6 carry out the Marine Mammal Health Map in consultation
7 with the Secretary of the Interior, the Marine Mammal
8 Commission, and the National Ocean Research Leadership
9 Council.

10 “(f) CONTRIBUTIONS.—For purposes of carrying out
11 this section, the Secretary may solicit, accept, receive,
12 hold, administer, and use gifts, devises, and bequests with-
13 out any further approval or administrative action.”.

14 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS AMENDMENT.—The table
15 of contents in the first section of the Marine Mammal Pro-
16 tection Act of 1972, as amended by section 7(b), is amend-
17 ed further by inserting after the item related to section
18 408 the following:

 “Sec. 408A. Marine Mammal Health Map.”.

19 **SEC. 9. REPORTS TO CONGRESS.**

20 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Marine Mammal Protection
21 Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1361 et seq.), as amended by sec-
22 tion 8(a), is further amended by inserting after section
23 408A the following:

1 **“SEC. 408B. REPORTS TO CONGRESS.**

2 “(a) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—In
3 this section, the term ‘appropriate committees of Con-
4 gress’ means the Committee on Commerce, Science, and
5 Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Nat-
6 ural Resources and the Committee on Science, Space, and
7 Technology of the House of Representatives.

8 “(b) MARINE MAMMAL HEALTH MAP STATUS RE-
9 PORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enact-
10 ment of the Marine Mammal Research and Response Act
11 of 2016, the Administrator of the National Oceanic and
12 Atmospheric Administration, in consultation with the Ma-
13 rine Mammal Commission, the Secretary of the Interior,
14 and the National Ocean Research Leadership Council,
15 shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress
16 a report on the status of the Marine Mammal Health Map.
17 Such report shall include the following:

18 “(1) A detailed evaluation of the data made
19 publically available through the Marine Mammal
20 Health Map.

21 “(2) A detailed list of any gaps in data col-
22 lected pursuant to the Marine Mammal Health Map,
23 a description of the reasons for such gaps, and rec-
24 ommendations to close such gaps.

25 “(3) An analysis of the effectiveness of using
26 the Web site of the Integrated Coastal and Ocean

1 Observation System as a tool to collect, organize,
2 visualize, archive, and disseminate marine mammal
3 stranding and health data.

4 “(4) A list of publications, presentations, or
5 other relevant work product resulting from, or in
6 collaboration with, such Marine Mammal Health
7 Map.

8 “(5) A description of emerging marine mammal
9 health concerns and the applicability of such con-
10 cerns to human health.

11 “(6) An analysis of the feasibility of the Inte-
12 grated Coastal and Ocean Observation System to be
13 used as an alert during stranding events, entangle-
14 ment events, and unusual mortality events for the
15 stranding network, Integrated Coastal and Ocean
16 Observation System partners, Marine Mammal
17 Health Map partners, Federal and State agencies,
18 and local and tribal governments.

19 “(7) An evaluation of the use of Marine Mam-
20 mal Health Map data to predict broader ecosystem
21 events and changes that may impact marine mam-
22 mal or human health and specific examples of prov-
23 en or potential uses of Integrated Coastal and Ocean
24 Observation System data for these purposes.

1 “(8) Recommendations for the Marine Mammal
2 Health Map related to—

3 “(A) filling any identified data gaps;

4 “(B) data standards that could be used to
5 improve data accessibility, transmission, inter-
6 operability, and sharing;

7 “(C) any other strategies that would con-
8 tribute to the effectiveness and usefulness of
9 the Marine Mammal Health Map; and

10 “(D) the funding levels needed to carry out
11 the Marine Mammal Health Map.

12 “(c) DATA GAP ANALYSIS.—Not later than 5 years
13 after date that the report required by subsection (b) is
14 submitted, and every 5 years thereafter, the Administrator
15 of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration,
16 in consultation with the Marine Mammal Commission and
17 the Secretary of the Interior, shall submit to the appro-
18 priate committees of Congress a data gap analysis. Such
19 analysis shall include the following:

20 “(1) An overview of existing participants within
21 the Marine Mammal Stranding Network.

22 “(2) An identification of participant gaps with-
23 in the Network.

24 “(3) An identification of data and reporting
25 gaps from members of the Network.

1 “(4) An analysis of how stranding and health
2 data is shared and made available to scientists, aca-
3 demics, State, local, and tribal governments, and the
4 public.”.

5 “(d) RESCUE AND RESPONSE CAPABILITIES IN THE
6 ARCTIC.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the en-
7 actment of the Marine Mammal Research and Response
8 Act of 2016, the Administrator of the National Oceanic
9 and Atmospheric Administration, in consultation with the
10 Marine Mammal Commission and the Director of the
11 United States Fish and Wildlife Service, shall submit to
12 the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the
13 response capabilities for sick and injured marine mammals
14 in the Arctic regions of the United States. Such report
15 shall include the following:

16 “(1) A description of all stranding agreements
17 in place in the Arctic regions of the United States,
18 including species covered, response capabilities, fa-
19 cilities, and data collection and analysis capabilities.

20 “(2) A list of State and local government agen-
21 cies that have personnel trained to respond to
22 strandings in the Arctic regions of the United
23 States.

24 “(3) An assessment of potential response and
25 data collection partners and sources of local infor-

1 mation and knowledge, including Alaska Native peo-
2 ple and villages.

3 “(4) An analysis of spatial and temporal trends
4 in strandings over time in response to changing envi-
5 ronmental conditions in the Arctic regions of the
6 United States and the relationships to other unusual
7 mortality events, including birds and fish.

8 “(5) A description of training and other re-
9 source needs to meet emerging response require-
10 ments in the Arctic regions of the United States.

11 “(6) An analysis of oiled marine mammal and
12 bird response and rehabilitation capabilities in the
13 Arctic regions of the United States, including equip-
14 ment, facilities, training, and husbandry capabilities,
15 and an assessment of likely success rates.

16 “(7) Recommendations for future stranding re-
17 sponse needs in the Arctic regions of the United
18 States.”.

19 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS AMENDMENT.—The table
20 of contents in the first section of the Marine Mammal Pro-
21 tection Act of 1972, as amended by section 8(b), is amend-
22 ed further by inserting after the item related to section
23 408A the following:

“Sec. 408B. Reports to Congress.”.

1 **SEC. 10. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

2 Section 409 of the Marine Mammal Protection Act
3 of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1421g) is amended—

4 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “1993 and
5 1994;” and inserting “2017 through 2022;”;

6 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking “1993 and
7 1994;” and inserting “2017 through 2022;” and

8 (3) in paragraph (3), by striking “fiscal year
9 1993.” and inserting “for each of the fiscal years
10 2017 through 2022.”.

11 **SEC. 11. DEFINITIONS.**

12 Section 410 of the Marine Mammal Protection Act
13 of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1421h) is amended—

14 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (5) and (6) as
15 paragraphs (7) and (8), respectively;

16 (2) by redesignating paragraphs (1), (2), (3),
17 and (4) as paragraphs (2), (3), (4), and (5), respec-
18 tively;

19 (3) by inserting before paragraph (2), as redес-
20 igned, the following:

21 “(1) The term ‘entangle’ or ‘entanglement’
22 means an event in the wild in which a living or dead
23 marine mammal has gear, rope, line, net, or other
24 material wrapped around or attached to the marine
25 mammal and is—

1 “(A) on a beach or shore of the United
2 States; or

3 “(B) in navigable waters of the United
4 States.”; and

5 (4) by inserting after paragraph (5), as redesignated,
6 the following:

7 “(6) STRANDING REGION.—The term ‘strand-
8 ing region’ means a geographic region designated by
9 the Secretary for purposes of administration of this
10 Act.”.

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