

114TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 5821

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

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 14, 2016

Ms. BORDALLO 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 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.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the  
5 “Coral Reef Conservation Act Reauthorization and En-  
6 hancement Amendments of 2016”.

7 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for  
8 this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title.

Sec. 2. Amendment of Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000.

TITLE I—AMENDMENTS TO THE CORAL REEF CONSERVATION  
ACT

- Sec. 101. Expansion of Coral Reef Conservation Program.
- Sec. 102. Emergency response.
- Sec. 103. National program.
- Sec. 104. Report to Congress.
- Sec. 105. Fund; grants; grounding inventory; coordination.
- Sec. 106. Coral reef prize competitions.
- Sec. 107. Authorization of appropriations.
- Sec. 108. Clarification and addition of definitions.

TITLE II—UNITED STATES CORAL REEF TASK FORCE

- Sec. 201. United States Coral Reef Task Force.

TITLE III—DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR CORAL REEF  
AUTHORITIES

- Sec. 301. Coral reef conservation assistance.
- Sec. 302. National coral reef action strategy.

1 **SEC. 2. AMENDMENT OF CORAL REEF CONSERVATION ACT**  
2 **OF 2000.**

3 Except as otherwise expressly provided, whenever in  
4 this Act an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms  
5 of an amendment to or repeal of a section or other provi-  
6 sion, the reference shall be considered to be made to a  
7 section or other provision of the Coral Reef Conservation  
8 Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 6401 et seq.).

9 **TITLE I—AMENDMENTS TO THE**  
10 **CORAL REEF CONSERVATION**  
11 **ACT**

12 **SEC. 101. EXPANSION OF CORAL REEF CONSERVATION**  
13 **PROGRAM.**

14 (a) PROJECT DIVERSITY.—Section 204(d) (16  
15 U.S.C. 6403(d)) is amended—

1 (1) in the heading by striking “GEOGRAPHIC  
2 AND BIOLOGICAL” and inserting “PROJECT”; and

3 (2) by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the  
4 following:

5 “(3) Remaining funds shall be awarded for—

6 “(A) projects (with priority given to com-  
7 munity-based local action strategies) that ad-  
8 dress emerging priorities or threats, including  
9 international and territorial priorities, or  
10 threats identified by the Administrator in con-  
11 sultation with the United States Coral Reef  
12 Task Force; and

13 “(B) other appropriate projects, as deter-  
14 mined by the Administrator, including moni-  
15 toring and assessment, research, pollution re-  
16 duction, education, and technical support.”.

17 (b) APPROVAL CRITERIA.—Section 204(g) (16  
18 U.S.C. 6403(g)) is amended—

19 (1) by striking “or” after the semicolon in  
20 paragraph (9);

21 (2) by striking paragraph (10); and

22 (3) by inserting after paragraph (9) the fol-  
23 lowing:

24 “(10) promoting activities designed to minimize  
25 the likelihood of vessel impacts on coral reefs, par-

1 particularly those areas identified under section 210(b),  
2 including the promotion of ecologically sound naviga-  
3 tion and anchorages near coral reefs; or

4 “(11) promoting and assisting entities to work  
5 with local communities, and all appropriate govern-  
6 mental and nongovernmental organizations, to sup-  
7 port community-based planning and management  
8 initiatives for the protection of coral reef eco-  
9 systems.”.

10 **SEC. 102. EMERGENCY RESPONSE.**

11 Section 206 (16 U.S.C. 6405) is amended to read as  
12 follows:

13 **“SEC. 206. EMERGENCY RESPONSE ACTIONS.**

14 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The appropriate official may un-  
15 dertake or authorize action necessary—

16 “(1) to minimize the destruction of or injury to  
17 a coral reef, or loss of an ecosystem function of a  
18 coral reef, from—

19 “(A) vessel impacts, derelict fishing gear,  
20 vessel anchors, and anchor chains; and

21 “(B) from unforeseen or disaster-related  
22 circumstances as a result of human activities;  
23 and

24 “(2) to stabilize, repair, recover, or restore a  
25 coral reef that is destroyed or injured, or that has

1 incurred the loss of an ecosystem function, as de-  
2 scribed in paragraph (1).

3 “(b) VESSEL REMOVAL; STABILIZATION.—Action au-  
4 thorized by subsection (a) includes vessel removal and  
5 emergency stabilization of the vessel or any impacted coral  
6 reef.

7 “(c) PARTNERING WITH OTHER FEDERAL AND  
8 STATE AGENCIES.—When possible, action by the appro-  
9 priate official under this section should—

10 “(1) be conducted in partnership with other  
11 government agencies as appropriate, including—

12 “(A) the Coast Guard, the Federal Emer-  
13 gency Management Agency, the Army Corps of  
14 Engineers, the Environmental Protection Agen-  
15 cy, and the Department of the Interior; and

16 “(B) agencies of States; and

17 “(2) leverage resources of other agencies.

18 “(d) EMERGENCY RESPONSE ASSISTANCE BY OTHER  
19 FEDERAL AND STATE AGENCIES.—

20 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The head of any other Fed-  
21 eral or State agency may assist the appropriate offi-  
22 cial in emergency response actions under this sec-  
23 tion, using funds available for operations of the  
24 agency concerned.

1           “(2) REIMBURSEMENT.—The appropriate offi-  
2           cial, subject to the availability of appropriations,  
3           may reimburse a Federal or State agency for assist-  
4           ance provided under paragraph (1).

5           “(e) LIABILITY FOR COSTS AND DAMAGES TO CORAL  
6 REEFS.—

7           “(1) TREATMENT OF CORAL REEFS UNDER NA-  
8           TIONAL MARINE SANCTUARIES ACT.—For purposes  
9           of the provisions set forth in paragraph (2), and  
10          subject to paragraph (5), each of the terms ‘sanc-  
11          tuary resources’, ‘resource’, ‘sanctuary resource  
12          managed under law or regulations for that sanc-  
13          tuary’, ‘national marine sanctuary’, ‘sanctuary re-  
14          sources of the national marine sanctuary’, and ‘sanc-  
15          tuary resources of other national marine sanctuaries’  
16          is deemed to include any coral reef that is subject  
17          to the jurisdiction of the United States or any State,  
18          without regard to whether such coral reef is located  
19          in a national marine sanctuary.

20          “(2) APPLICABLE PROVISIONS OF NATIONAL  
21          MARINE SANCTUARIES ACT.—The provisions referred  
22          to in paragraph (1) are the following provisions of  
23          the National Marine Sanctuaries Act:

24                  “(A) Paragraphs (6) and (7) of section  
25                  302 (16 U.S.C. 1432).

1           “(B) Paragraphs (1), (2), (3), and (4) of  
2 section 306 (16 U.S.C. 1436).

3           “(C) Section 307 (16 U.S.C. 1437).

4           “(D) Section 312 (16 U.S.C. 1443).

5           “(3) EXEMPTIONS.—The destruction, loss, or  
6 injury of a coral reef or any component thereof is  
7 not unlawful if it was—

8           “(A) caused by the use of fishing gear in  
9 a manner that is not prohibited under the Mag-  
10 nuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Man-  
11 agement Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.) or other  
12 Federal or State law; or

13           “(B) caused by an activity that is author-  
14 ized by Federal or State law, including any law-  
15 ful discharge from a vessel of graywater, cool-  
16 ing water, engine exhaust, ballast water, or  
17 sewage from a marine sanitation device, unless  
18 the destruction, loss, or injury is a result of a  
19 vessel grounding, a vessel scraping, anchor  
20 damage, or excavation that is not authorized by  
21 a Federal or State permit;

22           “(C) the necessary result of bona fide ma-  
23 rine scientific research (including marine sci-  
24 entific research activities approved by Federal,  
25 State, or local permits), other than—

1 “(i) excessive sampling or collecting;

2 and

3 “(ii) destruction, loss, or injury that is

4 a result of a vessel grounding, a vessel

5 scraping, anchor damage, or excavation

6 that is not authorized by a Federal or

7 State permit; or

8 “(D)(i) caused by a Federal Government

9 agency in—

10 “(I) an emergency that posed an un-

11 acceptable threat to human health or safe-

12 ty or to the marine environment;

13 “(II) an emergency that posed a

14 threat to national security; or

15 “(III) an activity necessary for law

16 enforcement purposes or search and res-

17 cue; and

18 “(ii) could not be avoided.

19 “(4) CLARIFICATION OF LIABILITY.—A person

20 is not liable under this subsection if that person es-

21 tablishes that—

22 “(A) the destruction or loss of, or injury

23 to, the coral reef or coral reef ecosystem was

24 caused solely by an act of God, an act of war,



1 or an act of omission of a third party, and the  
2 person acted with due care;

3 “(B) the destruction, loss, or injury was  
4 caused by an activity authorized by Federal or  
5 State law; or

6 “(C) the destruction, loss, or injury was  
7 negligible.

8 “(5) STATE CONSENT REQUIRED.—

9 “(A) IN GENERAL.—This subsection shall  
10 not apply to any coral reef that is subject to the  
11 jurisdiction of a State, and not located within  
12 a National Park, National Wildlife Refuge, or  
13 National Marine Sanctuary, unless the Gov-  
14 ernor of that State notifies the appropriate offi-  
15 cial that the State consents to that application.

16 “(B) REVOCATION OF CONSENT.—The  
17 governor of a State may revoke consent under  
18 subparagraph (A) by notifying the appropriate  
19 official of such revocation.

20 “(6) CONSISTENCY WITH INTERNATIONAL LAWS  
21 AND TREATIES.—

22 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Any action taken  
23 under the authority of this subsection must be  
24 consistent with otherwise applicable inter-  
25 national laws and treaties.

1           “(B) ACTIONS AUTHORIZED WITH RE-  
2           SPECT TO VESSELS.—For purposes of subpara-  
3           graph (A), actions authorized under this sub-  
4           section include vessel removal, and emergency  
5           re-stabilization of a vessel and any coral reef  
6           that is impacted by a vessel.

7           “(7) LIABILITY UNDER OTHER PROVISIONS.—  
8           Nothing in this title shall alter the liability of any  
9           person under any other provision of law.

10          “(f) APPROPRIATE OFFICIAL DEFINED.—In this sec-  
11          tion, the term ‘appropriate official’—

12                  “(1) except as provided in paragraphs (2) and  
13                  (3), means the Administrator of the National Oce-  
14                  anic and Atmospheric Administration;

15                  “(2) except as provided in paragraph (3),  
16                  means the Secretary of the Interior for purposes of  
17                  application of this section to—

18                          “(A) any unit of the National Park Sys-  
19                          tem;

20                          “(B) any unit of the National Wildlife Ref-  
21                          uge System; or

22                          “(C) any Marine National Monument that  
23                          is designated under the Act of June 8, 1906  
24                          (34 Stat. 225; 16 U.S.C. 431) (popularly  
25                          known as the ‘Antiquities Act’), and that is

1 under the administrative jurisdiction of the Sec-  
2 retary of the Interior; and

3 “(3) means the Secretary of Commerce, with  
4 respect to any coral reef or component thereof that  
5 is located in any Marine National Monument des-  
6 ignated under the law referred to in paragraph  
7 (2)(C) and that is under the administrative jurisdic-  
8 tion of the Secretary of Commerce.”.

9 **SEC. 103. NATIONAL PROGRAM.**

10 (a) PURPOSE OF ACT.—Section 202 (16 U.S.C.  
11 6401) is amended—

12 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (2) through  
13 (6) as paragraphs (3) through (7), respectively, and  
14 by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

15 “(2) to promote the resilience of coral reef eco-  
16 systems;”;

17 (2) by amending paragraph (4), as so redesign-  
18 nated, to read as follows:

19 “(4) to develop sound scientific information on  
20 the condition of coral reef ecosystems and the  
21 threats to such ecosystems including large-scale  
22 threats related to climate change, such as ocean  
23 acidification, to benefit local communities and the  
24 Nation, and to the extent practicable to support and  
25 enhance management and research capabilities at

1 local management agencies and local research and  
2 academic institutions;” and

3 (3) by striking “and” after the semicolon at the  
4 end of paragraph (6), as so redesignated, by striking  
5 the period at the end of paragraph (7), as so rededesignated,  
6 and inserting “; and”, and by adding at the  
7 end the following:

8 “(8) to recognize the benefits of healthy coral  
9 reefs to island and coastal communities and to encourage  
10 Federal action to ensure, to the maximum  
11 extent practicable, the continued availability of those  
12 benefits.”.

13 (b) GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF NATIONAL CORAL  
14 REEF ACTION STRATEGY.—Section 203(b)(8) (16 U.S.C.  
15 6402(b)(8)) is amended to read as follows:

16 “(8) conservation, including resilience and the  
17 consideration of island and local traditions and practices.”.

18 (c) AMENDMENTS RELATING TO ACTIVITIES TO  
19 CONSERVE CORAL REEFS AND CORAL REEF ECOSYSTEMS.—Section 207(b) (16 U.S.C. 6406(b)) is amended—  
20 ed—

21 (1) in paragraph (3) by striking “and” after  
22 the semicolon;

23 (2) in paragraph (4)—

1 (A) by striking “cooperative conservation”  
2 and inserting “cooperative research, conserva-  
3 tion,”; and

4 (B) by striking “partners.” and inserting  
5 “partners, including academic institutions lo-  
6 cated in States;”; and

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

8 “(5) improving and promoting the resilience of  
9 coral reefs and coral reef ecosystems; and

10 “(6) activities designed to minimize the likeli-  
11 hood of vessel impacts or other physical damage to  
12 coral reefs, including those areas identified in sec-  
13 tion 210(b).”.

14 (d) CRITERIA FOR APPROVAL OF PROJECT PRO-  
15 POSALS.—Section 204(g) (16 U.S.C. 6403(g)) is further  
16 amended by striking “or” after the semicolon at the end  
17 of paragraph (10), by redesignating paragraph (11) as  
18 paragraph (12), and by inserting after paragraph (10) the  
19 following:

20 “(11) improving and promoting the resilience of  
21 coral reefs and coral reef ecosystems; or”.

22 (e) DATA ARCHIVE, ACCESS, AND AVAILABILITY.—  
23 Section 207 (16 U.S.C. 6406) is amended—

24 (1) in subsection (b) (as amended by subsection  
25 (b) of this section) by striking “and” after the semi-

1 colon at the end of paragraph (5), by striking the  
2 period at the end of paragraph (6) and inserting “;  
3 and”, and by adding at the end the following:

4 “(7) centrally archiving, managing, and distrib-  
5 uting data sets and providing coral reef ecosystem  
6 assessments and services to the general public with  
7 local, regional, or international programs and part-  
8 ners.”; and

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

10 “(c) DATA ARCHIVE, ACCESS, AND AVAILABILITY.—  
11 The Secretary, in coordination with similar efforts at other  
12 Departments and agencies shall provide for the long-term  
13 stewardship of environmental data, products, and informa-  
14 tion via data processing, storage, and archive facilities  
15 pursuant to this title. The Secretary may—

16 “(1) archive environmental data collected by  
17 Federal, State, local agencies and tribal organiza-  
18 tions and federally funded research;

19 “(2) promote widespread availability and dis-  
20 semination of environmental data and information  
21 through full and open access and exchange to the  
22 greatest extent possible, including in electronic for-  
23 mat on the Internet;

24 “(3) develop standards, protocols and proce-  
25 dures for sharing Federal data with State and local

1 government programs and the private sector or aca-  
2 demia; and

3 “(4) develop metadata standards for coral reef  
4 ecosystems in accordance with Federal Geographic  
5 Data Committee guidelines.”.

6 **SEC. 104. REPORT TO CONGRESS.**

7 Section 208 (16 U.S.C. 6407) is amended to read as  
8 follows:

9 **“SEC. 208. REPORT TO CONGRESS.**

10 “Not later than March 1, 2017, and every 5 years  
11 thereafter, the Administrator shall submit to the Com-  
12 mittee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the  
13 Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the  
14 House of Representatives a report describing all activities  
15 undertaken to implement the strategy, including—

16 “(1) a description of the funds obligated by  
17 each participating Federal agency to advance coral  
18 reef conservation during each fiscal year of the 5-fis-  
19 cal-year period preceding the fiscal year in which the  
20 report is submitted;

21 “(2) a description of Federal interagency and  
22 cooperative efforts with States and non-govern-  
23 mental partner organizations to prevent or address  
24 overharvesting, coastal runoff, or other anthropo-  
25 genic impacts on coral reef ecosystems, including

1 projects undertaken with the Department of the In-  
2 terior, the Department of Agriculture, the Environ-  
3 mental Protection Agency, and the Army Corps of  
4 Engineers;

5 “(3) a summary of the information contained in  
6 the vessel grounding inventory established under sec-  
7 tion 210, including additional authorization or fund-  
8 ing, needed for response and removal of such vessels;

9 “(4) a description of Federal disaster response  
10 actions taken pursuant to the National Response  
11 Plan to address damage to coral reefs and coral reef  
12 ecosystems; and

13 “(5) an assessment of the condition of United  
14 States coral reefs, accomplishments under this Act,  
15 and the effectiveness of management actions to ad-  
16 dress threats to coral reefs, including actions taken  
17 to address large-scale threats to coral reef eco-  
18 systems related to climate change.”.

19 **SEC. 105. FUND; GRANTS; GROUNDING INVENTORY; CO-**  
20 **ORDINATION.**

21 The Act (16 U.S.C. 6401 et seq.) is amended—

22 (1) in section 205(a) (16 U.S.C. 6404(a)), by  
23 striking “organization solely” and all that follows  
24 and inserting “organization—



1           “(1) to support partnerships between the public  
2           and private sectors that further the purposes of this  
3           Act and are consistent with the national coral reef  
4           strategy under section 203; and

5           “(2) to address emergency response actions  
6           under section 206.”;

7           (2) by adding at the end of section 205(b) (16  
8           U.S.C. 6404(b)) the following: “The organization is  
9           encouraged to solicit funding and in-kind services  
10          from the private sector, including nongovernmental  
11          organizations, for emergency response actions under  
12          section 206 and for activities to prevent damage to  
13          coral reefs, including areas identified in section  
14          210(b)(2).”;

15          (3) in section 205(e) (16 U.S.C. 6404(e)), by  
16          striking “the grant program” and inserting “any  
17          grant program or emergency response action”;

18          (4) by redesignating sections 209 and 210 as  
19          sections 217 and 218, respectively; and

20          (5) by inserting after section 208 the following:

21       **“SEC. 209. COMMUNITY-BASED PLANNING GRANTS.**

22           “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator may make  
23          grants to entities that are eligible to receive grants under  
24          section 204(c) to provide additional funds to such entities  
25          to work with local communities and through appropriate

1 Federal and State entities to prepare and implement plans  
2 for the increased protection of coral reef areas identified  
3 by the community and scientific experts as high priorities  
4 for focused attention. The plans shall—

5 “(1) support attainment of one or more of the  
6 criteria described in section 204(g);

7 “(2) be developed at the community level;

8 “(3) utilize where applicable watershed-based or  
9 ecosystem-based approaches;

10 “(4) provide for coordination with Federal and  
11 State experts and managers;

12 “(5) build upon local approaches or models, in-  
13 cluding traditional or island-based resource manage-  
14 ment concepts; and

15 “(6) complement local action strategies or re-  
16 gional plans for coral reef conservation.

17 “(b) TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The provisions of  
18 subsections (b), (d), (f), and (h) of section 204 apply to  
19 grants under subsection (a), except that, for the purpose  
20 of applying section 204(b)(1) to grants under this section,  
21 ‘75 percent’ shall be substituted for ‘50 percent’.

22 **“SEC. 210. VESSEL GROUNDING INVENTORY.**

23 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator, in coordina-  
24 tion with other Federal agencies, may maintain an inven-

1 tory of all vessel grounding incidents involving coral reefs,  
2 including a description of—

3 “(1) the impacts to such resources;

4 “(2) vessel and ownership information, if avail-  
5 able;

6 “(3) the estimated cost of removal, mitigation,  
7 or restoration;

8 “(4) the response action taken by the owner,  
9 the Administrator, the Commandant of the Coast  
10 Guard, or other Federal or State agency representa-  
11 tives;

12 “(5) the status of the response action, including  
13 the dates of vessel removal and mitigation or res-  
14 toration and any actions taken to prevent future  
15 grounding incidents; and

16 “(6) recommendations for additional naviga-  
17 tional aids or other mechanisms for preventing fu-  
18 ture grounding incidents.

19 “(b) IDENTIFICATION OF AT-RISK REEFS.—The Ad-  
20 ministrator may—

21 “(1) use information from any inventory main-  
22 tained under subsection (a) or any other available  
23 information source to identify all coral reef areas  
24 that have a high incidence of vessel impacts, includ-  
25 ing groundings and anchor damage;

1           “(2) identify appropriate measures, including  
2           action by other agencies, to reduce the likelihood of  
3           such impacts; and

4           “(3) develop a strategy and timetable to imple-  
5           ment such measures, including cooperative actions  
6           with other Government agencies and non-govern-  
7           mental partners.

8   **“SEC. 211. REGIONAL, STATE, AND TERRITORIAL COORDI-**  
9                           **NATION.**

10          “(a) REGIONAL COORDINATION.—The Secretary and  
11 other Federal members of the United States Coral Reef  
12 Task Force shall work in coordination and collaboration  
13 with other Federal agencies and States to implement the  
14 strategies developed under section 203, including regional  
15 and local strategies, to address multiple threats to coral  
16 reefs and coral reef ecosystems such as coastal runoff, ves-  
17 sel impacts, and overharvesting.

18          “(b) RESPONSE AND RESTORATION ACTIVITIES.—  
19 The Secretary shall enter into written agreements with  
20 any States in which coral reefs are located regarding the  
21 manner in which response and restoration activities will  
22 be conducted within the affected State’s waters. Nothing  
23 in this subsection shall be construed to limit Federal re-  
24 sponse and restoration activity authority before any such  
25 agreement is final.

1       “(c) COOPERATIVE ENFORCEMENT AGREEMENTS.—  
2 All cooperative enforcement agreements in place between  
3 the Secretary and States affected by this title shall be up-  
4 dated to include enforcement of this title where appro-  
5 priate.

6 **“SEC. 212. AGREEMENTS.**

7       “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator may execute  
8 and perform such contracts, leases, grants, or cooperative  
9 agreements as may be necessary to carry out the purposes  
10 of this title.

11       “(b) FUNDING.—Under an agreement entered into  
12 under subsection (a), the Secretary may fulfill the terms  
13 of the agreement by reimbursing or providing appro-  
14 priated funds to, and may receive funds or reimburse-  
15 ments from, Federal agencies, instrumentalities and lab-  
16 oratories; State and local governments; Native American  
17 tribes and organizations; international organizations; for-  
18 eign governments; universities and research centers; edu-  
19 cational institutions; nonprofit organizations; commercial  
20 organizations; and other public and private persons or en-  
21 tities, as necessary for purposes identified in section 202  
22 and actions taken under subsections (a) through (d) of  
23 section 206.

24       “(c) MULTIYEAR COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—The  
25 Administrator may enter into multiyear cooperative agree-

1 ments with the heads of other Federal agencies, States,  
2 local governments, academic institutions, including marine  
3 laboratories and coral reef institutes, and nongovern-  
4 mental organizations to carry out the activities of the na-  
5 tional coral reef action strategy developed under section  
6 203 and to implement regional strategies developed pursu-  
7 ant to section 211.

8       “(d) USE OF OTHER AGENCIES’ RESOURCES.—For  
9 purposes related to the conservation, preservation, protec-  
10 tion, restoration, or replacement of coral reefs or coral reef  
11 ecosystems and the enforcement of this title, the Adminis-  
12 trator is authorized to use, with their consent and with  
13 or without reimbursement, the land, services, equipment,  
14 personnel, and facilities of any Department, agency, or in-  
15 strumentality of the United States, or of any State, local  
16 government, or Indian tribal government, or of any polit-  
17 ical subdivision thereof, or of any foreign government or  
18 international organization.

19 **“SEC. 213. INTERNATIONAL CORAL REEF CONSERVATION**  
20 **STRATEGY.**

21       “(a) INTERNATIONAL CORAL REEF ECOSYSTEM  
22 STRATEGY.—

23               “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after  
24 the date of enactment of the Coral Reef Conserva-  
25 tion Act Reauthorization and Enhancement Amend-

1       ments of 2016, the Secretary shall submit to the  
2       Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transpor-  
3       tation of the Senate and the Committee on Natural  
4       Resources and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of  
5       the House of Representatives, and publish in the  
6       Federal Register, an international coral reef eco-  
7       system strategy, consistent with the purposes of this  
8       title and the national strategy required pursuant to  
9       section 203(a). The Secretary shall periodically re-  
10      view and revise this strategy as necessary.

11           “(2) CONTENTS.—The strategy developed by  
12      the Secretary under paragraph (1) shall—

13           “(A) identify coral reef ecosystems  
14      throughout the world that are of high value for  
15      United States marine resources, that support  
16      high-seas resources of importance to the United  
17      States such as fisheries, or that support other  
18      interests of the United States;

19           “(B) summarize existing activities by Fed-  
20      eral agencies and entities described in sub-  
21      section (b) to address the conservation of coral  
22      reef ecosystems identified pursuant to subpara-  
23      graph (A);

1           “(C) establish goals, objectives, and spe-  
2           cific targets for conservation of priority inter-  
3           national coral reef ecosystems;

4           “(D) describe appropriate activities to  
5           achieve the goals and targets for international  
6           coral reef conservation, in particular those that  
7           leverage activities already conducted under this  
8           title;

9           “(E) develop a plan to coordinate imple-  
10          mentation of the strategy with entities de-  
11          scribed in subsection (b) in order to leverage  
12          current activities under this title and other con-  
13          servation efforts globally;

14          “(F) identify appropriate partnerships,  
15          grants, or other funding and technical assist-  
16          ance mechanisms to carry out the strategy; and

17          “(G) develop criteria for prioritizing part-  
18          nerships under subsection (c).

19          “(b) COORDINATION.—In carrying out this section,  
20          the Secretary shall consult with the Secretary of State,  
21          the Administrator of the Agency for International Devel-  
22          opment, the Secretary of the Interior, and other relevant  
23          Federal agencies, and relevant United States stakeholders,  
24          and shall take into account coral reef ecosystem conserva-  
25          tion initiatives of other nations, international agreements,



1 and intergovernmental and nongovernmental organiza-  
2 tions so as to provide effective cooperation and efficiencies  
3 in international coral reef conservation. The Secretary  
4 may consult with the United States Coral Reef Task Force  
5 in carrying out this subsection.

6 “(c) INTERNATIONAL CORAL REEF ECOSYSTEM  
7 PARTNERSHIPS.—

8 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may estab-  
9 lish an international coral reef ecosystem partner-  
10 ship program to provide support, including funding  
11 and technical assistance, for activities that imple-  
12 ment the strategy developed pursuant to subsection  
13 (a).

14 “(2) MECHANISMS.—The Secretary shall pro-  
15 vide such support working in collaboration with the  
16 entities described in subsection (b).

17 “(3) CRITERIA FOR APPROVAL.—The Secretary  
18 may not approve a partnership proposal under this  
19 section unless the partnership is consistent with the  
20 international coral reef conservation strategy devel-  
21 oped pursuant to subsection (a), and meets the cri-  
22 teria specified in that strategy.

23 “(d) PRIORITY FOR CERTAIN PROJECTS CONDUCTED  
24 BY STATES.—In implementing this section, the Secretary  
25 shall give priority consideration to regional initiatives and

1 projects that States are participating in with other na-  
2 tions.

3 **“SEC. 214. PERMITS.**

4       “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator may, in ac-  
5 cordance with this section and regulations issued under  
6 this title, issue a permit authorizing the conduct of bona  
7 fide research.

8       “(b) EXEMPT ACTIVITIES.—No permit under this  
9 section is required for an activity that is exempt from li-  
10 ability under section 206(e).

11       “(c) TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The Administrator  
12 may place any terms and conditions on a permit issued  
13 under this section that the Administrator deems reason-  
14 able.

15       “(d) FEES.—

16               “(1) ASSESSMENT AND COLLECTION.—Subject  
17 to regulations issued under this title, the Adminis-  
18 trator may assess and collect fees as specified in this  
19 subsection.

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

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

1           “(B) if the permit is approved, all costs in-  
2           curred, or expected to be incurred, by the Ad-  
3           ministrator as a direct result of the conduct of  
4           the activity for which the permit is issued.

5           “(3) USE OF FEES.—Amounts collected by the  
6           Administrator in the form of fees under this section  
7           shall be collected and available for use only to the  
8           extent provided in advance in appropriations Acts  
9           and may be used by the Administrator for issuing  
10          and administering permits under this section.

11          “(4) WAIVER OR REDUCTION OF FEES.—For  
12          any fee assessed under paragraph (2) of this sub-  
13          section, the Administrator may—

14                 “(A) accept in-kind contributions in lieu of  
15                 a fee; or

16                 “(B) waive or reduce the fee.

17          “(e) FISHING.—Nothing in this section shall be con-  
18          sidered to require a person to obtain a permit under this  
19          section for the conduct of any fishing activity that is not  
20          prohibited by this title or regulations issued under this  
21          title.

1 **“SEC. 215. REGULATIONS; APPLICATION IN ACCORDANCE**  
2 **WITH INTERNATIONAL LAW.**

3 “(a) REGULATIONS.—The Administrator may issue  
4 such regulations as are necessary and appropriate to carry  
5 out the purposes of sections 206 and 214.

6 “(b) RELATIONSHIP TO INTERNATIONAL LAW.—This  
7 title and any regulations promulgated under this title shall  
8 be applied in accordance with international law. No re-  
9 strictions shall apply to or be enforced against a person  
10 who is not a citizen, national, or resident alien of the  
11 United States (including foreign flag vessels) unless in ac-  
12 cordance with international law.”.

13 **SEC. 106. CORAL REEF PRIZE COMPETITIONS.**

14 The Act (16 U.S.C. 6401 et seq.) is further amended  
15 by adding after section 215 (as added by this Act) the  
16 following:

17 **“SEC. 216. CORAL REEF PRIZE COMPETITIONS.**

18 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The head of any Federal agency  
19 with a representative serving on the U.S. Coral Reef Task  
20 Force established under Executive Order 13089 issued on  
21 June 11, 1998 (16 U.S.C. 6401 note), may, either individ-  
22 ually or in cooperation with one or more agencies, carry  
23 out a program to award prizes competitively under section  
24 24 of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of  
25 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3719).

1       “(b) PURPOSES.—Any program carried out under  
2 this section shall be for the purpose of stimulating innova-  
3 tion to advance the ability of the United States to under-  
4 stand, research, or monitor coral reef ecosystems, or to  
5 develop management or adaptation options to preserve,  
6 sustain, and restore coral reef ecosystems.

7       “(c) PRIORITY PROGRAMS.—Priority shall be given to  
8 establish programs under this section that address com-  
9 munities, environments, or industries that are in distress  
10 due to the decline or degradation of coral reef ecosystems,  
11 including—

12           “(1) scientific research and monitoring that  
13 furthers the understanding of causes behind coral  
14 reef decline and degradation and the generally slow  
15 recovery following disturbances, including ocean  
16 acidification and its impacts on coral reproduction;

17           “(2) the development of monitoring or manage-  
18 ment options for communities or industries that are  
19 experiencing significant financial hardship;

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

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

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

3 **SEC. 107. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

4           Section 217, as redesignated by section 105 of this  
5 Act (relating to authorization of appropriations; 16 U.S.C.  
6 6408), is further amended—

7           (1) by amending subsection (a) to read as fol-  
8           lows:

9           “(a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be ap-  
10          propriated to the Secretary of Commerce to carry out this  
11          title—

12           “(1) \$26,000,000 for fiscal year 2017;

13           “(2) \$28,000,000 for fiscal year 2018;

14           “(3) \$30,000,000 for fiscal year 2019; and

15           “(4) \$32,000,000 for fiscal years 2020 through  
16          2012.”;

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

19           (3) by striking subsection (c) and inserting the  
20          following:

21           “(c) MANAGEMENT AND PLANNING.—From the  
22          amounts appropriated under subsection (a), there shall be  
23          made available to the Administrator \$7,000,000 for each  
24          of fiscal years 2017 through 2021 to—

25           “(1) to provide grants under section 209; and

1           “(2) to provide grants to States to strengthen  
2 coral reef and coral reef ecosystem management ca-  
3 pabilities.”; and

4           (4) by striking subsection (d) and inserting the  
5 following:

6           “(d) DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR.—There is au-  
7 thorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of the Interior  
8 to carry out this Act \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years  
9 2013 through 2017.”.

10 **SEC. 108. CLARIFICATION AND ADDITION OF DEFINITIONS.**

11           Section 218, as redesignated by section 105 of this  
12 Act (relating to definitions; 16 U.S.C. 6409), is further  
13 amended—

14           (1) by amending paragraph (2) to read as fol-  
15 lows:

16           “(2) CONSERVATION.—The term ‘conservation’  
17 means the use of methods and procedures that are  
18 necessary to preserve or sustain coral reefs and asso-  
19 ciated species as resilient diverse, viable, and self-  
20 perpetuating coral reef ecosystems, including—

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

25                   “(B) mapping;

1           “(C) monitoring of coral reef ecosystems;

2           “(D) development and implementation of  
3 management strategies for marine protected  
4 area or networks thereof and marine resources  
5 consistent with the National Marine Sanc-  
6 tuaries Act (16 U.S.C. 1431 et seq.) and the  
7 Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and  
8 Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.);

9           “(E) law enforcement;

10          “(F) conflict resolution initiatives;

11          “(G) community outreach and education;

12          and

13          “(H) activities that promote safe and eco-  
14 logically sound navigation.”;

15          (2) by amending paragraph (3) to read as fol-  
16 lows:

17          “(3) CORAL.—The term ‘coral’ means species  
18 of the phylum Cnidaria, including—

19                 “(A) all species of the orders Antipatharia  
20 (black corals), Scleractinia (stony corals),  
21 Gorgonacea (horny corals), Stolonifera (organ-  
22 pipe corals and others), Alcyonacea (soft cor-  
23 als), and Helioporacea (blue coral), of the class  
24 Anthozoa; and



1           “(B) all species of the families Milleporidae  
2           (fire corals) and Stylasteridae (stylasterid  
3           hydrocorals), of the class Hydrozoa.”;

4           (3) by amending paragraph (4) to read as fol-  
5           lows:

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

11          (4) by amending paragraph (5) to read as fol-  
12          lows:

13          “(5) CORAL REEF ECOSYSTEM.—The term  
14          ‘coral reef ecosystem’ means a system of coral reefs  
15          and geographically associated species, habitats, and  
16          environment and the processes that control its dy-  
17          namics.”; and

18          (5) by redesignating paragraphs (7) and (8) in  
19          order as paragraphs (10) and (11), respectively, and  
20          by inserting after paragraph (6) the following:

21          “(7) CORAL REEF COMPONENT.—The term  
22          ‘coral reef component’ means any part of a coral  
23          reef, including individual living coral, skeletal re-  
24          mains of coral, and other associated sessile marine  
25          plants and animals.

1           “(8) RESILIENCE.—The term ‘resilience’ means  
2           the capacity for corals, coral reefs, or coral reef eco-  
3           systems to recover from natural and human disturb-  
4           ance as determined by clearly identifiable, measur-  
5           able, and science-based standards.

6           “(9) RESTORATION.—The term ‘restoration’  
7           means the use of methods and procedures necessary  
8           to enhance, rehabilitate, re-create, or create, a na-  
9           tive, functioning coral reef or coral reef ecosystem,  
10          in part or in full, within suitable waters of the his-  
11          torical geographic range of such ecosystems.”.

12           **TITLE II—UNITED STATES**  
13           **CORAL REEF TASK FORCE**

14          **SEC. 201. UNITED STATES CORAL REEF TASK FORCE.**

15          (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is hereby established  
16          the United States Coral Reef Task Force.

17          (b) GOAL.—The goal of the Task Force shall be to  
18          lead, coordinate, and strengthen Federal Government ac-  
19          tions to better preserve and protect coral reef ecosystems.

20          (c) DUTIES.—The duties of the Task Force shall  
21          be—

22                  (1) to coordinate, in cooperation with State and  
23                  local government partners, academic partners, and  
24                  nongovernmental partners if appropriate, activities  
25                  regarding the mapping, monitoring, research, con-

1        servation, mitigation, restoration of coral reefs and  
2        coral reef ecosystems;

3                (2) to monitor and advise regarding implemen-  
4        tation of the policy and deFederal agency respon-  
5        sibilities set forth in Executive Order 13089 and the  
6        national coral reef action strategy developed under  
7        section 203 of the Coral Reef Conservation Act of  
8        2000, as amended by this Act; and

9                (3) to work with the Secretary of State and the  
10       Administrator of the Agency for International Devel-  
11       opment, and in coordination with the other members  
12       of the Task Force, to—

13                (A) assess the United States role in inter-  
14       national trade and protection of coral species;  
15       and

16                (B) encourage implementation of appro-  
17       priate strategies and actions to promote con-  
18       servation and sustainable use of coral reef re-  
19       sources worldwide.

20       (d) MEMBERSHIP, GENERALLY.—The Task Force  
21       shall be comprised of—

22                (1) the Secretary of Commerce, acting through  
23       the Administrator of the National Oceanic and At-  
24       mospheric Administration, and the Secretary of the  
25       Interior, who shall be co-chairs of the Task Force;

- 1           (2) the Administrator of the Agency of Inter-
- 2           national Development;
- 3           (3) the Secretary of Agriculture;
- 4           (4) the Secretary of Defense;
- 5           (5) the Secretary of the Army, acting through
- 6           the Corps of Engineers;
- 7           (6) the Secretary of Homeland Security;
- 8           (7) the Attorney General;
- 9           (8) the Secretary of State;
- 10          (9) the Secretary of Transportation;
- 11          (10) the Administrator of the Environmental
- 12          Protection Agency;
- 13          (11) the Administrator of the National Aero-
- 14          nautics and Space Administration;
- 15          (12) the Director of the National Science Foun-
- 16          dation;
- 17          (13) the Governor, or a representative of the
- 18          Governor, of the Commonwealth of the Northern
- 19          Mariana Islands;
- 20          (14) the Governor, or a representative of the
- 21          Governor, of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico;
- 22          (15) the Governor, or a representative of the
- 23          Governor, of the State of Florida;
- 24          (16) the Governor, or a representative of the
- 25          Governor, of the State of Hawaii;

1           (17) the Governor, or a representative of the  
2 Governor, of the Territory of Guam;

3           (18) the Governor, or a representative of the  
4 Governor, of the Territory of American Samoa; and

5           (19) the Governor, or a representative of the  
6 Governor, of the Virgin Islands.

7           (e) NONVOTING MEMBERS.—The President, or a rep-  
8 resentative of the President, of each of the Freely Associ-  
9 ated States of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Re-  
10 public of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau  
11 may appoint a nonvoting member of the Task Force.

12           (f) RESPONSIBILITIES OF FEDERAL AGENCY MEM-  
13 BERS.—

14           (1) IN GENERAL.—The Federal agency mem-  
15 bers of the Task Force shall—

16                   (A) identify the actions of their agencies  
17 that may affect coral reef ecosystems;

18                   (B) utilize the programs and authorities of  
19 their agencies to protect and enhance the condi-  
20 tions of such ecosystems; and

21                   (C) assist in the implementation of the Na-  
22 tional Action Plan to Conserve Coral Reefs, the  
23 national coral reef action strategy developed  
24 under section 203 of the Coral Reef Conserva-  
25 tion Act of 2000, as amended by this Act, the

1 local action strategies, and any other coordi-  
2 nated efforts approved by the Task Force.

3 (2) CO-CHAIRS.—In addition to their respon-  
4 sibilities under paragraph (1), the co-chairs of the  
5 Task Force shall administer performance of the  
6 functions of the Task Force and facilitate the co-  
7 ordination of the Federal agency members of the  
8 Task Force.

9 (g) WORKING GROUPS.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—The co-chairs of the Task  
11 Force may establish working groups as necessary to  
12 meet the goals and duties of this title. The Task  
13 Force may request the co-chairs to establish such a  
14 working group.

15 (2) PARTICIPATION BY NONGOVERNMENTAL OR-  
16 GANIZATIONS.—The co-chairs may allow a non-  
17 governmental organization or academic institution to  
18 participate in such a working group.

19 (h) FACA.—The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5  
20 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to the Task Force.

21 (i) DEFINITIONS.—The definitions in section 218 of  
22 the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000, as amended by  
23 this Act, shall apply to this section.

1 **TITLE III—DEPARTMENT OF THE**  
2 **INTERIOR CORAL REEF AU-**  
3 **THORITIES**

4 **SEC. 301. CORAL REEF CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior may  
6 provide technical assistance and, subject to the availability  
7 of appropriations, financial assistance for the conservation  
8 of coral reefs.

9 (b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section each of the terms  
10 “conservation” and “coral reef” has the meaning that  
11 term has under section 218 of the Coral Reef Conservation  
12 Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 6409), amended by this Act.

13 **SEC. 302. NATIONAL CORAL REEF ACTION STRATEGY.**

14 Section 203(a) (16 U.S.C. 6402(a)) is amended by  
15 inserting “and the Secretary of the Interior” after “the  
16 Administrator”.

○