

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 778

To direct the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, to conduct coastal community vulnerability assessments related to ocean acidification, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 13, 2019

Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. PETERS, and Ms. COLLINS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

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## A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, to conduct coastal community vulnerability assessments related to ocean acidification, 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 “Coastal Communities  
5 Ocean Acidification Act of 2019”.

1 **SEC. 2. COASTAL COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY ASSESS-**  
2 **MENT.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 12406 of the Federal  
4 Ocean Acidification Research And Monitoring Act of 2009  
5 (33 U.S.C. 3705) is amended—

6 (1) by redesignating subsection (b) as sub-  
7 section (d); and

8 (2) by inserting after subsection (a) the fol-  
9 lowing:

10 “(b) COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT.—

11 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, through the  
12 program established under subsection (a), shall con-  
13 duct an ocean acidification coastal community vul-  
14 nerability assessment, and issue a corresponding  
15 public report, which shall be updated at least once  
16 every 7 years.

17 “(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The assessment con-  
18 ducted under paragraph (1) shall—

19 “(A) identify the United States coastal  
20 communities, including island communities, low-  
21 population rural communities, and subsistence  
22 communities, that are most dependent on coast-  
23 al and ocean resources that may be impacted by  
24 ocean acidification;

25 “(B) assess the nature of the social and  
26 economic vulnerabilities of those communities;

1           “(C) identify the ocean acidification im-  
2           pacts that might harm those communities, in-  
3           cluding impacts from changes in ocean and  
4           coastal marine resources that are not managed  
5           by the Federal Government;

6           “(D) identify key knowledge gaps where  
7           research could be devoted to better understand  
8           the possible impacts of ocean acidification on  
9           those communities, the risks and threats facing  
10          those communities, and possible adaptation  
11          strategies for those communities; and

12          “(E) be conducted in collaboration with ex-  
13          perts, indigenous knowledge groups, and stake-  
14          holders who are familiar with the unique eco-  
15          nomic, social, ecological, geographic, and re-  
16          source concerns of coastal communities in the  
17          United States, including representatives of—

18                 “(i) the National Marine Fisheries  
19                 Service and the Office for Coastal Manage-  
20                 ment of the National Oceanic and Atmos-  
21                 pheric Administration;

22                 “(ii) National Integrated Coastal and  
23                 Ocean Observation System regional infor-  
24                 mation coordination entities established  
25                 under section 12304(c)(4) of the Inte-

1           grated Coastal and Ocean Observation  
2           System Act of 2009 (33 U.S.C.  
3           3603(e)(4));

4           “(iii) regional ocean acidification net-  
5           works; and

6           “(iv) State sea grant programs (as de-  
7           fined in section 203 of the National Sea  
8           Grant College Program Act (33 U.S.C.  
9           1122)).

10       “(c) SUPPORT FOR STATE AND LOCAL VULNER-  
11       ABILITY ASSESSMENTS AND STRATEGIC RESEARCH  
12       PLANNING.—In carrying out the program established  
13       under subsection (a), the Secretary shall collaborate with  
14       State, local, and tribal government entities that are con-  
15       ducting or have completed vulnerability assessments, stra-  
16       tegic research planning, or other similar activities related  
17       to ocean acidification and its impacts on coastal commu-  
18       nities, for the purpose of—

19           “(1) determining whether such activities can be  
20           used as a model for other communities; and

21           “(2) identifying opportunities for the National  
22           Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and other  
23           relevant Federal agencies to support such activi-  
24           ties.”.

1 (b) ONGOING INPUT MECHANISM.—Section  
2 12404(b)(5) of the Federal Ocean Acidification Research  
3 And Monitoring Act of 2009 (33 U.S.C. 3703(b)(5)) is  
4 amended—

5 (1) by striking “including information” and in-  
6 serting the following: “including—

7 “(A) information”;

8 (2) by striking the period at the end and insert-  
9 ing “; and”; and

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

11 “(B) an ongoing mechanism that allows af-  
12 fected industry members, coastal stakeholders,  
13 non-Federal resource managers, community  
14 acidification networks, indigenous knowledge  
15 groups, and scientific experts not employed by  
16 the Federal Government to provide input on re-  
17 search, data, and monitoring that is necessary  
18 to support on-the-ground management, deci-  
19 sionmaking, and adaptation related to ocean  
20 acidification and its impacts.”.

21 (c) STRATEGIC RESEARCH PLAN.—Section 12405 of  
22 the Federal Ocean Acidification Research And Monitoring  
23 Act of 2009 (33 U.S.C. 3704) is amended—

24 (1) in subsection (b)—

1 (A) in paragraph (8), by striking “and”  
2 after the semicolon;

3 (B) in paragraph (9), by striking the pe-  
4 riod at the end and inserting “; and”; and

5 (C) by adding at the end the following:

6 “(10) make recommendations for research that  
7 should be conducted, including in the social sciences  
8 and economics, to address the key knowledge gaps  
9 identified in the community vulnerability assessment  
10 report conducted under section 12406(b).”; and

11 (2) in subsection (e), by inserting “, tribal gov-  
12 ernments, indigenous knowledge groups,” after “in-  
13 dustry”.

14 (d) REPORT ON SUPPORT FOR STATE AND LOCAL  
15 VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENTS AND STRATEGIC RE-  
16 SEARCH PLANNING.—Not later than 180 days after the  
17 date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator of  
18 the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
19 shall submit to Congress a report on the efforts of the  
20 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to sup-  
21 port State, local, and tribal community vulnerability as-  
22 sessments, strategic research and planning, and moni-  
23 toring needs, pursuant to section 12406(c) of the Federal

- 1 Ocean Acidification Research And Monitoring Act of 2009
- 2 (as added by subsection (a) of this section).

