

Calendar No. 172

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1433

[Report No. 119–67]

To reauthorize the Northwest Straits Marine Conservation Initiative Act to promote the protection of the resources of the Northwest Straits, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 10, 2025

Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. CANTWELL) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

SEPTEMBER 29, 2025

Reported by Mr. CRUZ, with an amendment

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in *italic*]

A BILL

To reauthorize the Northwest Straits Marine Conservation Initiative Act to promote the protection of the resources of the Northwest Straits, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Northwest Straits Ma-
3 rine Conservation Initiative Reauthorization Act of 2025”.

4 **SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION OF NORTHWEST STRAITS MA-**
5 **RINE CONSERVATION INITIATIVE ACT.**

6 The Northwest Straits Marine Conservation Initiative
7 Act (title IV of Public Law 105–384; 112 Stat. 3458) is
8 amended—

9 (1) in section 402, by striking “Commission (in
10 this title referred to as the ‘Commission’).” and in-
11 serting “Commission.”; and

12 (2) by striking sections 403, 404, and 405 and
13 inserting the following:

14 **“SEC. 403. FINDINGS.**

15 “Congress makes the following findings:

16 “(1) The marine waters and ecosystem of the
17 Northwest Straits in Puget Sound in the State of
18 Washington represent a unique resource of enor-
19 mous environmental and economic value to the peo-
20 ple of the United States.

21 “(2) During the 20th century, the environ-
22 mental health of the Northwest Straits declined dra-
23 matically as indicated by impaired water quality, de-
24 clines in marine wildlife, collapse of harvestable ma-
25 rine species, loss of critical marine habitats, ocean
26 acidification, and sea level rise.

1 “(3) Increasingly, the Northwest Straits have
2 been threatened by sea level rise, ocean acidification,
3 and other effects of climate change.

4 “(4) This title was enacted to tap the unprece-
5 dented level of citizen stewardship demonstrated in
6 the Northwest Straits and create a mechanism to
7 mobilize public support and raise capacity for local
8 efforts to protect and restore the ecosystem of the
9 Northwest Straits.

10 “(5) The Northwest Straits Marine Conserva-
11 tion Initiative helps the National Oceanic and At-
12 mospheric Administration and other Federal agen-
13 cies with their marine missions by fostering local in-
14 terest in marine issues and involving diverse commu-
15 nities.

16 “(6) The Northwest Straits Marine Conserva-
17 tion Initiative shares many of the same goals with
18 the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administra-
19 tion, including fostering citizen stewardship of ma-
20 rine resources, general ecosystem management, and
21 protecting federally managed marine species.

22 “(7) Ocean literacy, kelp habitat conservation
23 and monitoring, Veterans Conservation Corps in-
24 ternships, and removal of marine debris projects are
25 examples of previous and ongoing partnerships be-

1 tween the Northwest Straits Marine Conservation
 2 Initiative and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric
 3 Administration. Areas of partnership may evolve
 4 with emerging opportunities.

5 **~~“SEC. 404. DEFINITIONS.~~**

6 ~~“In this title:~~

7 ~~“(1) COMMISSION.—The term ‘Commission’~~
 8 ~~means the Northwest Straits Advisory Commission~~
 9 ~~established by section 402.~~

10 ~~“(2) MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE.—The~~
 11 ~~term ‘marine resources committee’ means a county~~
 12 ~~government committee that assists in assessing ma-~~
 13 ~~rine resource and conservation needs.~~

14 ~~“(3) NORTHWEST STRAITS REGION.—The term~~
 15 ~~‘Northwest Straits region’ means the marine waters~~
 16 ~~of the Strait of Juan de Fuca and of Puget Sound~~
 17 ~~from the Canadian border to the south end of Sno-~~
 18 ~~homish County.~~

19 ~~“(4) TRIBAL GOVERNMENT.—The term ‘Tribal~~
 20 ~~government’ means the recognized governing body of~~
 21 ~~any Indian or Alaska Native tribe, band, nation,~~
 22 ~~pueblo, village, community, component band, or com-~~
 23 ~~ponent reservation individually identified (including~~
 24 ~~parenthetically) in the list published most recently as~~
 25 ~~of the date of enactment of the Northwest Straits~~

1 Marine Conservation Initiative Reauthorization Act
 2 of 2025 pursuant to section 104 of the Federally
 3 Recognized Indian Tribe List Act of 1994 (25
 4 U.S.C. 5131).

5 “(5) UNDER SECRETARY.—The term ‘Under
 6 Secretary’ means the Under Secretary of Commerce
 7 for Oceans and Atmosphere.

8 **“SEC. 405. MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMISSION.**

9 “(a) COMPOSITION.—

10 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall be
 11 composed of 14 members, except as provided in
 12 paragraph (2), who shall be appointed as follows:

13 “(A) One member appointed by a con-
 14 sensus of the members of a marine resources
 15 committee for San Juan County, Washington.

16 “(B) One member appointed by a con-
 17 sensus of the members of a marine resources
 18 committee for Island County, Washington.

19 “(C) One member appointed by a con-
 20 sensus of the members of a marine resources
 21 committee for Skagit County, Washington.

22 “(D) One member appointed by a con-
 23 sensus of the members of a marine resources
 24 committee for Whatcom County, Washington.

1 “(E) One member appointed by a con-
 2 sensus of the members of a marine resources
 3 committee for Snohomish County, Washington.

4 “(F) One member appointed by a con-
 5 sensus of the members of a marine resources
 6 committee for Clallam County, Washington.

7 “(G) One member appointed by a con-
 8 sensus of the members of a marine resources
 9 committee for Jefferson County, Washington.

10 “(H) Two members appointed by the Sec-
 11 retary of the Interior, in coordination with the
 12 Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission and in
 13 consultation with the Tribal governments af-
 14 fected by this title, to represent the interests of
 15 such Tribal governments.

16 “(I) One member appointed by the Gov-
 17 ernor of the State of Washington to represent
 18 the interests of the Puget Sound Partnership.

19 “(J) Four members appointed by the Gov-
 20 ernor of the State of Washington who—

21 “(i) are residents of the State of
 22 Washington; and

23 “(ii) are not employed by a Federal,
 24 State, or local government, excluding an
 25 institution of higher education.

1 ~~“(2) ADDITIONAL MEMBERS.—~~The Commission
 2 may, as determined necessary to improve the ability
 3 of the Commission to perform the duties of the
 4 Commission under section 406(b), appoint members
 5 in addition to those appointed under paragraph (1).
 6 Any such additional member shall be appointed by
 7 a consensus of the members of a marine resources
 8 committee that is not described in such paragraph.

9 ~~“(b) VACANCIES.—~~A vacancy in the Commission
 10 shall be filled in the manner in which the original appoint-
 11 ment was made.

12 ~~“(c) CHAIRPERSON.—~~The Commission shall select a
 13 Chairperson from among its members.

14 ~~“(d) MEETING.—~~The Commission shall meet at the
 15 call of the Chairperson, but not less frequently than quar-
 16 terly.

17 ~~“(e) LIAISON.—~~

18 ~~“(1) IN GENERAL.—~~The Under Secretary, in
 19 consultation with the Commission, shall appoint an
 20 employee of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric
 21 Administration—

22 ~~“(A) to serve as a liaison between the~~
 23 Commission and the Department of Commerce;

24 ~~“(B) to coordinate programs of the Na-~~
 25 tional Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

1 with activities related to the goal of the Com-
 2 mission described in section 406(a); and

3 “(C) to perform additional liaison func-
 4 tions benefitting the Commission and the Na-
 5 tional Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration,
 6 which may include, as agreed to by the Com-
 7 mission and the National Oceanic and Atmos-
 8 pheric Administration, attending meetings and
 9 other events of the Commission as a nonvoting
 10 participant.

11 “(2) LIMITATION.—Service as a member of the
 12 Commission by the employee appointed under para-
 13 graph (1)—

14 “(A) is limited to the employee’s service as
 15 a liaison; and

16 “(B) does not obligate the employee to per-
 17 form any duty of the Commission under section
 18 406(b).

19 “(f) ADMINISTRATION.—The Commission may enter
 20 into cooperative agreements with the State of Washington
 21 for staffing and administrative services for the purposes
 22 of supporting the duties of the Commission under section
 23 406(b).

1 **“SEC. 406. GOAL AND DUTIES OF THE COMMISSION.**

2 “(a) GOAL.—The goal of the Commission is to pro-
3 tect and restore the marine waters, habitats, and species
4 of the Northwest Straits region to achieve ecosystem
5 health and sustainable resource use by—

6 “(1) designing and recommending projects that
7 are driven by the best available science, local prior-
8 ities, community-based decisions, and the ability to
9 measure results;

10 “(2) building awareness and stewardship and
11 making recommendations to improve the health of
12 the marine resources of the Northwest Straits re-
13 gion;

14 “(3) maintaining and expanding diverse mem-
15 bership and collaboration with partner organizations;
16 such as the Puget Sound Partnership;

17 “(4) expanding partnerships with Tribal gov-
18 ernments and continuing to support Tribal treaties,
19 cultures, and subsistence and Tribal treaty rights;
20 and

21 “(5) recognizing the importance of economic
22 and social benefits that are dependent on marine en-
23 vironments and sustainable marine resources.

24 “(b) DUTIES.—The duties of the Commission are the
25 following:

1 “(1) To provide resources and technical support
2 for marine resources committees.

3 “(2) To work with such marine resources com-
4 mittees and appropriate entities of Federal, State,
5 and local governments and Tribal governments to
6 provide advice in developing regional programs to
7 monitor the overall health of the marine ecosystem
8 of the Northwest Straits region.

9 “(3) To collect marine resources data and iden-
10 tify factors adversely affecting or preventing the res-
11 toration of the health of the marine ecosystem and
12 coastal economies of the Northwest Straits region to
13 inform decisionmakers.

14 “(4) To develop scientifically sound restoration
15 and protection recommendations, informed by local
16 priorities, that address such factors.

17 “(5) To serve as a public forum for the infor-
18 mal discussion of policies and actions, with respect
19 to the marine ecosystem of the Northwest Straits re-
20 gion, of Federal, State, or local governments, Tribal
21 governments, or the Government of Canada.

22 “(6) To inform appropriate authorities and
23 local communities about the marine ecosystem of the
24 Northwest Straits region and about issues relating

1 to the marine ecosystem of the Northwest Straits re-
2 gion.

3 “(7) To consult with all affected Tribal govern-
4 ments in the Northwest Straits region to ensure that
5 the work of the Commission does not violate Tribal
6 treaty rights.

7 “(c) COORDINATION AND COLLABORATION.—The
8 Commission—

9 “(1) shall carry out the duties described in sub-
10 section (b) in coordination and collaboration, as ap-
11 propriate, with Federal, State, and local govern-
12 ments and Tribal governments, including by—

13 “(A) providing technical support and as-
14 sistance to any Tribal government seeking rep-
15 resentation and participation on the Commis-
16 sion; and

17 “(B) supporting the work and duties of the
18 liaison to the Commission under section 405(c);
19 and

20 “(2) may enter into cooperative agreements
21 with nonprofit entities, such as the Northwest
22 Straits Foundation, to provide assistance, including
23 financial assistance, in carrying out the duties de-
24 scribed in subsection (b).

1 “(d) LIMITATIONS.—Nothing in this title provides
2 the Commission with authority to issue regulations or im-
3 plement any Federal law or regulation.

4 “(e) ACCEPTANCE OF DONATIONS.—For purposes of
5 carrying out this section, the Commission may solicit, ac-
6 cept, receive, hold, administer, and use gifts, devises, and
7 bequests without any further approval or administrative
8 action.

9 “(f) ANNUAL REPORT.—

10 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Each year, the Commission
11 shall prepare, submit to the Committee on Com-
12 merce, Science, and Transportation and the Com-
13 mittee on Appropriations of the Senate, the Com-
14 mittee on Natural Resources and the Committee on
15 Appropriations of the House of Representatives, and
16 the Under Secretary, and make available to the pub-
17 lic a report describing—

18 “(A) the activities carried out by the Com-
19 mission during the preceding year; and

20 “(B) the progress in achieving the bench-
21 marks described in paragraph (2).

22 “(2) BENCHMARKS.—The benchmarks de-
23 scribed in this paragraph are the following:

1 “(A) Protection and restoration of marine,
2 coastal, and nearshore habitats within the
3 Northwest Straits region.

4 “(B) Protection and restoration of marine
5 resources populations to healthy, sustainable
6 levels.

7 “(C) Improvement of the water quality of
8 the Northwest Straits region.

9 “(D) Collection of high-quality data and
10 promotion of the use and dissemination of such
11 data for the purposes of ecosystem monitoring.

12 “(E) Promotion of stewardship and under-
13 standing of marine resources of the Northwest
14 Straits region through education and outreach,
15 including by targeted outreach to
16 underresourced communities.

17 **“SEC. 407. FUNDING.**

18 “(a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
19 are authorized to be appropriated to the Under Secretary
20 to carry out this title—

21 “(1) for each of fiscal years 2026 through
22 2031, \$10,000,000; and

23 “(2) for fiscal year 2032 and each fiscal year
24 thereafter, such sums as may be necessary.

25 “(b) ASSISTANCE.—

1 “(1) ~~IN GENERAL.~~—The Under Secretary may,
 2 from amounts made available to the Under Sec-
 3 retary to carry out this title, provide assistance to
 4 the Commission in carrying out the duties of the
 5 Commission under this title.

6 “(2) ~~PROVISION.~~—The Under Secretary may
 7 provide the assistance described in paragraph (1),
 8 and make available amounts to the Commission to
 9 carry out the duties of the Commission, through a
 10 contract with the Director of the Padilla Bay Na-
 11 tional Estuarine Research Reserve, unless the Gov-
 12 ernor of the State of Washington objects. If such
 13 Governor so objects, the Under Secretary may not
 14 provide such assistance and make available such
 15 amounts to the Commission.”.

16 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

17 *This Act may be cited as the “Northwest Straits Ma-*
 18 *rine Conservation Initiative Reauthorization Act of 2025”.*

19 **SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION OF NORTHWEST STRAITS MA-**
 20 **RINE CONSERVATION INITIATIVE ACT.**

21 *The Northwest Straits Marine Conservation Initiative*
 22 *Act (title IV of Public Law 105–384; 112 Stat. 3458) is*
 23 *amended—*

1 (1) *in section 402, by striking “Commission (in*
 2 *this title referred to as the ‘Commission’).” and in-*
 3 *serting “Commission.”; and*

4 (2) *by striking sections 403, 404, and 405 and*
 5 *inserting the following:*

6 **“SEC. 403. DEFINITIONS.**

7 *“In this title:*

8 “(1) *COMMISSION.—The term ‘Commission’*
 9 *means the Northwest Straits Advisory Commission es-*
 10 *tablished by section 402.*

11 “(2) *MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE.—The*
 12 *term ‘marine resources committee’ means a county*
 13 *government committee that assists in assessing ma-*
 14 *rine resource and conservation needs.*

15 “(3) *NORTHWEST STRAITS REGION.—The term*
 16 *‘Northwest Straits region’ means the marine waters of*
 17 *the Strait of Juan de Fuca and of Puget Sound from*
 18 *the Canadian border to the south end of Snohomish*
 19 *County.*

20 “(4) *TRIBAL GOVERNMENT.—The term ‘Tribal*
 21 *government’ means the recognized governing body of*
 22 *any Indian or Alaska Native tribe, band, nation,*
 23 *pueblo, village, community, component band, or com-*
 24 *ponent reservation individually identified (including*
 25 *parenthetically) in the list published most recently as*

1 *of the date of enactment of the Northwest Straits Ma-*
 2 *rine Conservation Initiative Reauthorization Act of*
 3 *2025 pursuant to section 104 of the Federally Recog-*
 4 *nized Indian Tribe List Act of 1994 (25 U.S.C.*
 5 *5131).*

6 “(5) *UNDER SECRETARY.*—*The term ‘Under Sec-*
 7 *retary’ means the Under Secretary of Commerce for*
 8 *Oceans and Atmosphere.*

9 **“SEC. 404. MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMISSION.**

10 “(a) *COMPOSITION.*—

11 “(1) *IN GENERAL.*—*The Commission shall be*
 12 *composed of 14 members, except as provided in para-*
 13 *graph (2), who shall be appointed as follows:*

14 “(A) *One member appointed by a consensus*
 15 *of the members of a marine resources committee*
 16 *for San Juan County, Washington.*

17 “(B) *One member appointed by a consensus*
 18 *of the members of a marine resources committee*
 19 *for Island County, Washington.*

20 “(C) *One member appointed by a consensus*
 21 *of the members of a marine resources committee*
 22 *for Skagit County, Washington.*

23 “(D) *One member appointed by a consensus*
 24 *of the members of a marine resources committee*
 25 *for Whatcom County, Washington.*

1 “(E) One member appointed by a consensus
2 of the members of a marine resources committee
3 for Snohomish County, Washington.

4 “(F) One member appointed by a consensus
5 of the members of a marine resources committee
6 for Clallam County, Washington.

7 “(G) One member appointed by a consensus
8 of the members of a marine resources committee
9 for Jefferson County, Washington.

10 “(H) Two members appointed by the Sec-
11 retary of the Interior, in coordination with the
12 Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission and in
13 consultation with the Tribal governments affected
14 by this title, to represent the interests of such
15 Tribal governments.

16 “(I) One member appointed by the Gov-
17 ernor of the State of Washington to represent the
18 interests of the Puget Sound Partnership.

19 “(J) Four members appointed by the Gov-
20 ernor of the State of Washington who—

21 “(i) are residents of the State of Wash-
22 ington; and

23 “(ii) are not employed by a Federal,
24 State, or local government, excluding an in-
25 stitution of higher education.

1 “(2) *ADDITIONAL MEMBERS.*—*The Commission*
 2 *may, as determined necessary to improve the ability*
 3 *of the Commission to perform the duties of the Com-*
 4 *mission under section 405(b), appoint members in ad-*
 5 *dition to those appointed under paragraph (1). Any*
 6 *such additional member shall be appointed by a con-*
 7 *sensus of the members of a marine resources com-*
 8 *mittee that is not described in such paragraph.*

9 “(b) *VACANCIES.*—*A vacancy in the Commission shall*
 10 *be filled in the manner in which the original appointment*
 11 *was made.*

12 “(c) *CHAIRPERSON.*—*The Commission shall select a*
 13 *Chairperson from among its members.*

14 “(d) *MEETING.*—*The Commission shall meet at the*
 15 *call of the Chairperson, but not less frequently than quar-*
 16 *terly.*

17 “(e) *LIAISON.*—

18 “(1) *IN GENERAL.*—*The Under Secretary, in*
 19 *consultation with the Commission, shall appoint an*
 20 *employee of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric*
 21 *Administration—*

22 “(A) *to serve as a liaison between the Com-*
 23 *mission and the Department of Commerce;*

24 “(B) *to coordinate programs of the National*
 25 *Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration with*

1 *activities related to the goal of the Commission*
 2 *described in section 405(a); and*

3 “(C) *to perform additional liaison functions*
 4 *benefitting the Commission and the National*
 5 *Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, which*
 6 *may include, as agreed to by the Commission*
 7 *and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Ad-*
 8 *ministration, attending meetings and other*
 9 *events of the Commission as a nonvoting partici-*
 10 *pant.*

11 “(2) *LIMITATION.—Service as a member of the*
 12 *Commission by the employee appointed under para-*
 13 *graph (1)—*

14 “(A) *is limited to the employee’s service as*
 15 *a liaison; and*

16 “(B) *does not obligate the employee to per-*
 17 *form any duty of the Commission under section*
 18 *405(b).*

19 “(f) *ADMINISTRATION.—The Commission may enter*
 20 *into cooperative agreements with the State of Washington*
 21 *for staffing and administrative services for the purposes of*
 22 *supporting the duties of the Commission under section*
 23 *405(b).*

1 **“SEC. 405. GOAL AND DUTIES OF THE COMMISSION.**

2 “(a) *GOAL.—The goal of the Commission is to protect*
 3 *and restore the marine waters, habitats, and species of the*
 4 *Northwest Straits region to achieve ecosystem health and*
 5 *sustainable resource use by—*

6 “(1) *designing and recommending projects that*
 7 *are driven by the best available science, local prior-*
 8 *ities, community-based decisions, and the ability to*
 9 *measure results;*

10 “(2) *building awareness and stewardship and*
 11 *making recommendations to improve the health of the*
 12 *marine resources of the Northwest Straits region;*

13 “(3) *maintaining and expanding collaboration*
 14 *with partner organizations, such as the Puget Sound*
 15 *Partnership;*

16 “(4) *expanding partnerships with Tribal govern-*
 17 *ments and continuing to support Tribal treaties, cul-*
 18 *tures, and subsistence and Tribal treaty rights; and*

19 “(5) *recognizing the importance of economic and*
 20 *social benefits that are dependent on marine environ-*
 21 *ments and sustainable marine resources.*

22 “(b) *DUTIES.—The duties of the Commission are the*
 23 *following:*

24 “(1) *To provide resources and technical support*
 25 *for marine resources committees.*

1 “(2) *To work with such marine resources com-*
2 *mittees and appropriate entities of Federal, State,*
3 *and local governments and Tribal governments to*
4 *provide advice in developing regional programs to*
5 *monitor the overall health of the marine ecosystem of*
6 *the Northwest Straits region.*

7 “(3) *To collect marine resources data and iden-*
8 *tify factors adversely affecting or preventing the res-*
9 *toration of the health of the marine ecosystem and*
10 *coastal economies of the Northwest Straits region to*
11 *inform decisionmakers.*

12 “(4) *To develop scientifically sound restoration*
13 *and protection recommendations, informed by local*
14 *priorities, that address such factors.*

15 “(5) *To serve as a public forum for the informal*
16 *discussion of policies and actions, with respect to the*
17 *marine ecosystem of the Northwest Straits region, of*
18 *Federal, State, or local governments, Tribal govern-*
19 *ments, or the Government of Canada.*

20 “(6) *To inform appropriate authorities and local*
21 *communities about the marine ecosystem of the North-*
22 *west Straits region and about issues relating to the*
23 *marine ecosystem of the Northwest Straits region.*

24 “(7) *To consult with all affected Tribal govern-*
25 *ments in the Northwest Straits region to ensure that*

1 *the work of the Commission does not violate Tribal*
 2 *treaty rights.*

3 “(c) *COORDINATION AND COLLABORATION.*—*The Com-*
 4 *mission—*

5 “(1) *shall carry out the duties described in sub-*
 6 *section (b) in coordination and collaboration, as ap-*
 7 *propriate, with Federal, State, and local governments*
 8 *and Tribal governments, including by—*

9 “(A) *providing technical support and as-*
 10 *sistance to any Tribal government seeking rep-*
 11 *resentation and participation on the Commis-*
 12 *sion; and*

13 “(B) *supporting the work and duties of the*
 14 *liaison to the Commission under section 404(e);*
 15 *and*

16 “(2) *may enter into cooperative agreements with*
 17 *nonprofit entities, such as the Northwest Straits*
 18 *Foundation, to provide assistance, including financial*
 19 *assistance, in carrying out the duties described in*
 20 *subsection (b).*

21 “(d) *LIMITATIONS.*—*Nothing in this title provides the*
 22 *Commission with authority to issue regulations or imple-*
 23 *ment any Federal law or regulation.*

24 “(e) *ACCEPTANCE OF DONATIONS.*—*For purposes of*
 25 *carrying out this section, the Commission may solicit, ac-*

1 *cept, receive, hold, administer, and use gifts, devises, and*
 2 *bequests without any further approval or administrative ac-*
 3 *tion.*

4 “(f) *ANNUAL REPORT.*—

5 “(1) *IN GENERAL.*—*Each year, the Commission*
 6 *shall prepare, submit to the Committee on Commerce,*
 7 *Science, and Transportation of the Senate, the Com-*
 8 *mittee on Natural Resources of the House of Rep-*
 9 *resentatives, and the Under Secretary, and make*
 10 *available to the public a report describing—*

11 “(A) *the activities carried out by the Com-*
 12 *mission during the preceding year; and*

13 “(B) *the progress in achieving the bench-*
 14 *marks described in paragraph (2).*

15 “(2) *BENCHMARKS.*—*The benchmarks described*
 16 *in this paragraph are the following:*

17 “(A) *Protection and restoration of marine,*
 18 *coastal, and nearshore habitats within the North-*
 19 *west Straits region.*

20 “(B) *Protection and restoration of marine*
 21 *resources populations to healthy, sustainable lev-*
 22 *els.*

23 “(C) *Improvement of the water quality of*
 24 *the Northwest Straits region.*

1 “(D) Collection of high-quality data and
 2 promotion of the use and dissemination of such
 3 data for the purposes of ecosystem monitoring.

4 “(E) Promotion of stewardship and under-
 5 standing of marine resources of the Northwest
 6 Straits region through education and outreach.

7 **“SEC. 406. FUNDING.**

8 “(a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
 9 are authorized to be appropriated to the Under Secretary
 10 \$3,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2031 to
 11 carry out this title.

12 “(b) ASSISTANCE.—

13 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Under Secretary may,
 14 from amounts made available to the Under Secretary
 15 to carry out this title, provide assistance to the Com-
 16 mission in carrying out the duties of the Commission
 17 under this title.

18 “(2) PROVISION.—The Under Secretary may
 19 provide the assistance described in paragraph (1),
 20 and make available amounts to the Commission to
 21 carry out the duties of the Commission, through a
 22 contract with the Director of the Padilla Bay Na-
 23 tional Estuarine Research Reserve, unless the Gov-
 24 ernor of the State of Washington objects. If such Gov-
 25 ernor so objects, the Under Secretary may not provide

- 1 *such assistance and make available such amounts to*
- 2 *the Commission.”.*

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