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117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 381

To establish the National Ocean Mapping, Exploration, and Characterization Council, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 23, 2021

Mr. WICKER (for himself, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

DECEMBER 16, 2021

Reported by Ms. CANTWELL, with an amendment

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

A BILL

To establish the National Ocean Mapping, Exploration, and Characterization Council, 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 “National Ocean Explo-
5 ration Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress makes the following findings:

3 (1) The health and resilience of the ocean are
4 vital to the security and economy of the United
5 States and to the lives of the people of the United
6 States.

7 (2) The United States depends on the ocean to
8 regulate weather and climate, to sustain and protect
9 the diversity of life, for maritime shipping, for na-
10 tional defense, and for food, energy, medicine, recre-
11 ation, and other services essential to the people of
12 the United States and all humankind.

13 (3) The prosperity, security, and well-being of
14 the United States depend on successful under-
15 standing and stewardship of the ocean.

16 (4) Interdisciplinary cooperation and engage-
17 ment among government agencies, research institu-
18 tions, nongovernmental organizations, States, and
19 the private sector are essential for successful stew-
20 ardship of ocean and coastal environments, national
21 economic growth, national security, and development
22 of agile strategies that develop, promote, and use
23 new technologies.

24 (5) Ocean exploration can help the people of the
25 United States understand how to be effective stew-

ards of the ocean and serve as catalysts and enablers
for other sectors of the economy.

(6) Mapping, exploration, and characterization
of the ocean provides basic, essential information to
protect and restore the marine environment, stimu-
late economic activity, and provide security for the
United States.

(7) A robust national ocean exploration pro-
gram engaging multiple Federal agencies, the pri-
vate sector, nongovernmental organizations, and aca-
demia is—

(A) essential to the interests of the United
States and vital to its security and economy
and the health and well-being of all people of
the United States; and

(B) critical to reestablish the United
States at the forefront of global ocean explo-
ration and stewardship.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) CHARACTERIZATION.—The term “charac-
terization” refers to activities that provide com-
prehensive data and interpretations for a specific
area of interest of the seafloor, sub-bottom, water
column, or hydrologic features, such as water masses

and currents, in direct support of specific research, environmental protection, resource management, policymaking, or applied mission objectives.

(2) **EXPLORATION.**—The term “exploration” refers to activities that provide—

(A) a multidisciplinary view of an unknown or poorly understood area of the seafloor, subbottom, or water column; and

(B) an initial assessment of the physical, chemical, geological, biological, archeological, or other characteristics of such an area.

(3) **MAPPING.**—The term “mapping” refers to activities that provide comprehensive data and information needed to understand seafloor characteristics, such as depth, topography, bottom type, sediment composition and distribution, underlying geologic structure, and benthic flora and fauna.

SEC. 4. OCEAN POLICY COMMITTEE.

(a) **SUBCOMMITTEES.**—Section 8932(c) of title 10, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“(c) **SUBCOMMITTEES.**—(1) The Committee shall include—

“(A) a subcommittee to be known as the ‘Ocean Science and Technology Subcommittee’; and

1 “(B) a subcommittee to be known as the ‘Ocean
2 Resource Management Subcommittee’.

3 ~~“(2) In discharging its responsibilities in support of~~
4 ~~agreed-upon scientific needs; and to assist in the execution~~
5 ~~of the responsibilities described in subsection (b); the~~
6 ~~Committee may delegate responsibilities to the Ocean~~
7 ~~Science and Technology Subcommittee; the Ocean Re-~~
8 ~~source Management Subcommittee; or another sub-~~
9 ~~committee of the Committee; as the Committee determines~~
10 ~~appropriate.”.~~

11 (b) INCREASED ACCESS TO GEOSPATIAL DATA FOR
12 MORE EFFICIENT AND INFORMED DECISION MAKING.—

13 (1) ESTABLISHMENT OF DOCUMENT SYSTEM.—

14 Section 8932(b) of title 10, United States Code, is
15 amended—

16 (A) in paragraph (3), by striking “and” at
17 the end;

18 (B) in paragraph (4)(F), by striking the
19 period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

20 (C) by adding at the end the following new
21 paragraph:

22 ~~“(5) establish or designate one or more systems~~
23 ~~for ocean-related documents prepared under the Na-~~
24 ~~tional Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C.~~
25 ~~4321 et seq.); in accordance with subsection (h).”.~~

1 (2) ~~ELEMENTS.~~—Section 8932 of such title is
2 amended—

3 (A) by redesignating subsection (h) as sub-
4 section (i); and

5 (B) by inserting after subsection (g) the
6 following new subsection (h):

7 “(h) ~~ELEMENTS OF DOCUMENT SYSTEM.~~—The sys-
8 tems established or designated under subsection (b)(5)
9 shall include the following:

10 “(1) A publicly accessible, centralized digital ar-
11 chive of documents described in subsection (b)(5)
12 that are finalized after the date of the enactment of
13 the National Ocean Exploration Act, including—

14 “(A) environmental impact statements;

15 “(B) environmental assessments;

16 “(C) categorical exclusions;

17 “(D) records of decision; and

18 “(E) other relevant documents as deter-
19 mined by the Committee.

20 “(2) Geospatially referenced data, if any, con-
21 tained in the documents under paragraph (1).

22 “(3) A mechanism to retrieve information
23 through geo-information tools that can map and in-
24 tegrate relevant geospatial information, such as—

25 “(A) Ocean Report Tools;

1 ~~“(B) the Environmental Studies Program~~
 2 ~~Information System;~~
 3 ~~“(C) Regional Ocean Partnerships; and~~
 4 ~~“(D) the Integrated Ocean Observing Sys-~~
 5 ~~tem.”.~~

6 **SEC. 5. NATIONAL OCEAN MAPPING, EXPLORATION, AND**
 7 **CHARACTERIZATION COUNCIL.**

8 ~~(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The President shall establish~~
 9 ~~a council, to be known as the “National Ocean Mapping,~~
 10 ~~Exploration, and Characterization Council” (in this sec-~~
 11 ~~tion referred to as the “Council”).~~

12 ~~(b) PURPOSE.—The Council shall—~~

13 ~~(1) update national priorities for ocean map-~~
 14 ~~ping, exploration, and characterization; and~~

15 ~~(2) coordinate and facilitate activities to ad-~~
 16 ~~vance those priorities.~~

17 ~~(c) REPORTING.—The Council shall report to the~~
 18 ~~Ocean Science and Technology Subcommittee of the~~
 19 ~~Ocean Policy Committee established under section 8932(c)~~
 20 ~~of title 10, United States Code.~~

21 ~~(d) MEMBERSHIP.—The Council shall be composed of~~
 22 ~~not fewer than one senior-level representative from each~~
 23 ~~of the following:~~

24 ~~(1) The Department of the Navy.~~

25 ~~(2) The Department of the Interior.~~

1 ~~(3) The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Ad-~~
 2 ~~ministration.~~

3 ~~(4) The department in which the Coast Guard~~
 4 ~~is operating.~~

5 ~~(5) The Office of Management and Budget.~~

6 ~~(6) The Office of Science and Technology Pol-~~
 7 ~~icy.~~

8 ~~(7) The National Science Foundation.~~

9 ~~(8) The National Aeronautics and Space Ad-~~
 10 ~~ministration.~~

11 ~~(9) The Marine Mammal Commission.~~

12 ~~(10) The Department of Transportation.~~

13 ~~(11) The Department of Energy.~~

14 ~~(12) The Office of the Director of National In-~~
 15 ~~telligence.~~

16 ~~(e) CO-CHAIRS.—The Council shall be co-chaired~~
 17 ~~by—~~

18 ~~(1) two senior-level representatives from the~~
 19 ~~National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration;~~
 20 ~~and~~

21 ~~(2) one senior-level representative from the De-~~
 22 ~~partment of the Interior.~~

23 ~~(f) DUTIES.—The Council shall—~~

24 ~~(1) set national ocean mapping, exploration,~~
 25 ~~and characterization priorities and strategies;~~

1 (2) cultivate and facilitate transparent and sus-
2 tained partnerships among Federal and State agen-
3 cies, private industry, academia, and nongovern-
4 mental organizations to conduct ocean mapping, ex-
5 ploration, and characterization activities and related
6 technology development;

7 (3) coordinate improved processes for data com-
8 pilation, management, access, synthesis, and visual-
9 ization with respect to ocean mapping, exploration,
10 and characterization, with a focus on building on ex-
11 isting ocean data management systems, as appro-
12 priate;

13 (4) encourage education, workforce training,
14 and public engagement activities that—

15 (A) advance interdisciplinary principles
16 that contribute to ocean mapping, exploration,
17 research, and characterization;

18 (B) improve public engagement with and
19 understanding of ocean science; and

20 (C) provide opportunities for underserved
21 populations;

22 (5) coordinate activities as appropriate with do-
23 mestic and international ocean mapping, exploration,
24 and characterization initiatives or programs; and

1 (6) establish and monitor metrics to track
2 progress in achieving the priorities set under para-
3 graph (1).

4 (g) INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP ON OCEAN EX-
5 PLORATION AND CHARACTERIZATION.—

6 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The President shall es-
7 tablish a new interagency working group to be
8 known as the “Interagency Working Group on
9 Ocean Exploration and Characterization”.

10 (2) MEMBERSHIP.—The Interagency Working
11 Group on Ocean Exploration and Characterization
12 shall be comprised of senior representatives from
13 Federal agencies with ocean exploration and charac-
14 terization responsibilities.

15 (3) FUNCTIONS.—The Interagency Working
16 Group on Ocean Exploration and Characterization
17 shall support the Council and the Ocean Science and
18 Technology Subcommittee of the Ocean Policy Com-
19 mittee established under section 8932(c) of title 10,
20 United States Code, on ocean exploration and char-
21 acterization activities and associated technology de-
22 velopment across the Federal Government, State
23 governments, private industry, nongovernmental or-
24 ganizations, and academia.

25 (h) OVERSIGHT.—The Council shall oversee—

1 (1) the Interagency Working Group on Ocean
2 Exploration and Characterization established under
3 subsection (g)(1); and

4 (2) the Interagency Working Group on Ocean
5 and Coastal Mapping under section 12203 of the
6 Ocean and Coastal Mapping Integration Act (33
7 U.S.C. 3502).

8 (i) PLAN.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after
10 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Council
11 shall develop or update and submit to the appro-
12 priate committees of Congress a plan for an inte-
13 grated cross-sectoral ocean mapping, exploration,
14 and characterization initiative.

15 (2) ELEMENTS.—The plan required by para-
16 graph (1) shall—

17 (A) discuss the utility and benefits of
18 ocean exploration and characterization;

19 (B) identify and describe national ocean
20 mapping, exploration, and characterization pri-
21 orities;

22 (C) identify and describe Federal and fed-
23 erally funded ocean mapping, exploration, and
24 characterization programs;

1 (D) facilitate and incorporate non-Federal
2 input into national ocean mapping, exploration,
3 and characterization priorities;

4 (E) ensure effective coordination of ocean
5 mapping, exploration, and characterization ac-
6 tivities among programs described in subpara-
7 graph (C);

8 (F) identify opportunities for combining
9 overlapping or complementary needs, activities,
10 and resources of Federal agencies and non-Fed-
11 eral organizations relating to ocean mapping,
12 exploration, and characterization while not re-
13 ducing benefits from existing mapping, explo-
14 rations, and characterization activities;

15 (G) promote new and existing partnerships
16 among Federal and State agencies, private in-
17 dustry, academia, and nongovernmental organi-
18 zations to conduct or support ocean mapping,
19 exploration, and characterization activities and
20 technology development needs, including
21 through coordination under section 3 of the
22 Commercial Engagement Through Ocean Tech-
23 nology Act of 2018 (33 U.S.C. 4102);

24 (H) develop a transparent and sustained
25 mechanism for non-Federal partnerships and

1 stakeholder engagement in strategic planning
2 and mission execution to be implemented not
3 later than December 31, 2022;

4 (I) establish standardized collection and
5 data management protocols, such as with re-
6 spect to metadata, for ocean mapping, explo-
7 ration, and characterization;

8 (J) encourage the development, testing,
9 demonstration, and adoption of innovative
10 ocean mapping, exploration, and characteriza-
11 tion technologies and applications;

12 (K) promote protocols for accepting data,
13 equipment, approaches, or other resources that
14 support national ocean mapping, exploration,
15 and characterization priorities;

16 (L) identify best practices for the protec-
17 tion of marine life during mapping, exploration,
18 and characterization activities;

19 (M) identify training, technology, and
20 other resource requirements for enabling the
21 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administra-
22 tion and other appropriate Federal agencies to
23 support a coordinated national ocean mapping,
24 exploration, and characterization effort;

1 (N) identify and facilitate a centralized
 2 mechanism or office for coordinating data col-
 3 lection, compilation, processing, archiving, and
 4 dissemination activities relating to ocean map-
 5 ping, exploration, and characterization that
 6 meets Federal mandates for data accuracy and
 7 accessibility;

8 (O) designate repositories responsible for
 9 archiving and managing ocean mapping, explo-
 10 ration, and characterization data;

11 (P) set forth a timetable and estimated
 12 costs for implementation and completion of the
 13 plan;

14 (Q) to the extent practicable, align ocean
 15 exploration and characterization efforts with ex-
 16 isting programs and identify key gaps; and

17 (R) identify criteria for determining the
 18 optimal frequency of observations.

19 (j) BRIEFINGS.—Not later than 1 year after the date
 20 of the enactment of this Act, and not less frequently than
 21 once every 2 years thereafter, the Council shall brief the
 22 appropriate committees of Congress on—

23 (1) progress made toward meeting the national
 24 priorities described in subsection (i)(2)(B); and

1 ~~(2)~~ recommendations for meeting such prior-
 2 ities, such as additional authorities that may be
 3 needed to develop a mechanism for non-Federal
 4 partnerships and stakeholder engagement described
 5 in subsection (i)(2)(H).

6 ~~(k)~~ APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DE-
 7 FINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate commit-
 8 tees of Congress” means—

9 ~~(1)~~ the Committee on Commerce, Science, and
 10 Transportation and the Committee on Armed Serv-
 11 ices of the Senate; and

12 ~~(2)~~ the Committee on Natural Resources, the
 13 Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and
 14 the Committee on Armed Services of the House of
 15 Representatives.

16 **SEC. 6. MODIFICATIONS TO THE OCEAN EXPLORATION**
 17 **PROGRAM OF THE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND**
 18 **ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION.**

19 ~~(a)~~ PURPOSE.—Section 12001 of the Omnibus Public
 20 Land Management Act of 2009 (33 U.S.C. 3401) is
 21 amended by striking “and the national undersea research
 22 program”.

23 ~~(b)~~ PROGRAM ESTABLISHED.—Section 12002 of such
 24 Act (33 U.S.C. 3402) is amended—

1 (1) in the first sentence, by striking “and un-
2 dersea”; and

3 (2) in the second sentence, by striking “and un-
4 dersea research and exploration” and inserting “re-
5 search and ocean exploration and characterization
6 efforts”.

7 (e) POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE ADMINIS-
8 TRATOR.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 12003(a) of such
10 Act (33 U.S.C. 3403(a)) is amended—

11 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1),
12 by inserting “, in coordination with the Ocean
13 Policy Committee established under section
14 8932 of title 10, United States Code,” after
15 “Administration”;

16 (B) in paragraph (1)—

17 (i) by striking “voyages” and insert-
18 ing “expeditions”;

19 (ii) by striking “Federal agencies”
20 and all that follows through “and survey”
21 and inserting “Federal and State agencies,
22 Tribal governments, private industry, aca-
23 demia, and nongovernmental organizations,
24 to map, explore, and characterize”; and

1 (iii) by inserting “characterize,” after
 2 “observe,”;

3 (C) in paragraph (2), by inserting “of the
 4 exclusive economic zone” after “deep ocean re-
 5 gions”;

6 (D) in paragraph (3), by striking “voy-
 7 ages” and inserting “expeditions”;

8 (E) in paragraph (4), by striking “, in con-
 9 sultation with the National Science Founda-
 10 tion,”;

11 (F) by amending paragraph (5) to read as
 12 follows:

13 “(5) support technological innovation of the
 14 United States marine science community by pro-
 15 moting the development and use of new and emerg-
 16 ing technologies for research, communication, navi-
 17 gation, and data collection, such as sensors and au-
 18 tonomous vehicles,”;

19 (G) in paragraph (6)—

20 (i) by inserting “, in collaboration
 21 with the National Ocean Mapping, Explo-
 22 ration, and Characterization Council estab-
 23 lished under section 5 of the National
 24 Ocean Exploration Act,” after “forum”;
 25 and

1 (ii) by striking the period at the end
2 and inserting “; and”; and

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

4 “~~(7)~~ provide guidance, in coordination with the
5 National Ocean Mapping, Exploration, and Charac-
6 terization Council, to Federal and State agencies,
7 Tribal governments, private industry, academia (in-
8 cluding secondary schools, community colleges, and
9 universities), and nongovernmental organizations on
10 data standards, protocols for accepting data, and co-
11 ordination of data collection, compilation, processing,
12 archiving, and dissemination for data relating to
13 ocean exploration and characterization.”.

14 (2) DONATIONS.—Section 12003(b) of such Act
15 (~~33~~ U.S.C. 3403(b)) is amended to read as follows:

16 “(b) DONATIONS.—For the purpose of mapping, ex-
17 ploring, and characterizing the oceans or increasing the
18 knowledge of the oceans, the Administrator may—

19 “(1) accept monetary donations and donations
20 of property, data, and equipment; and

21 “(2) pay all necessary expenses in connection
22 with the conveyance or transfer of a gift, devise, or
23 bequest.”.

1 ~~(3) DEFINITION OF EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC~~
 2 ~~ZONE.—Section 12003 of such Act (33 U.S.C. 3403)~~
 3 ~~is amended by adding at the end the following:~~

4 ~~“(c) DEFINITION OF EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE.—~~
 5 ~~In this section, the term ‘exclusive economic zone’ means~~
 6 ~~the zone established by Presidential Proclamation Number~~
 7 ~~5030, dated March 10, 1983 (16 U.S.C. 1453 note; relat-~~
 8 ~~ing to the exclusive economic zone of the United States~~
 9 ~~of America).”.~~

10 ~~(d) REPEAL OF OCEAN EXPLORATION AND UNDER-~~
 11 ~~SEA RESEARCH TECHNOLOGY AND INFRASTRUCTURE~~
 12 ~~TASK FORCE.—Section 12004 of such Act (33 U.S.C.~~
 13 ~~3404) is repealed.~~

14 ~~(e) EDUCATION, WORKFORCE TRAINING, AND OUT-~~
 15 ~~REACH.—~~

16 ~~(1) IN GENERAL.—Such Act is further amended~~
 17 ~~by inserting after section 12003 the following new~~
 18 ~~section 12004:~~

19 ~~“SEC. 12004. EDUCATION, WORKFORCE TRAINING, AND~~
 20 ~~OUTREACH.~~

21 ~~“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the Na-~~
 22 ~~tional Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shall—~~

23 ~~“(1) conduct education and outreach efforts in~~
 24 ~~order to broadly disseminate information to the pub-~~

1 lie on the discoveries made by the program under
 2 section 12002; and

3 “(2) to the extent possible, coordinate the ef-
 4 forts described in paragraph (1) with the outreach
 5 strategies of other domestic or international ocean
 6 mapping, exploration, and characterization initia-
 7 tives.

8 “(b) EDUCATION AND OUTREACH EFFORTS.—Ef-
 9 forts described in subsection (a)(1) may include—

10 “(1) education of the general public, teachers,
 11 students, and ocean and coastal resource managers;
 12 and

13 “(2) workforce training, reskilling, and opportu-
 14 nities to encourage development of ocean related
 15 science, technology, engineering, and mathematics
 16 (STEM) technical training programs involving sec-
 17 ondary schools, community colleges, and universities,
 18 including Historically Black Colleges or Universities
 19 (within the meaning of the term “part B institution”
 20 under section 322 of the Higher Education Act of
 21 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1061)); Tribal Colleges or Univer-
 22 sities (as defined in section 316(b) of such Act (20
 23 U.S.C. 1059e(b))), and other minority-serving insti-
 24 tutions (as described in section 371(a) of such Act
 25 (20 U.S.C. 1067q(a))).

1 “(c) ~~OUTREACH STRATEGY.~~—Not later than 180
 2 days after the date of the enactment of the National
 3 Ocean Exploration Act, the Administrator of the National
 4 Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shall develop an
 5 outreach strategy to broadly disseminate information on
 6 the discoveries made by the program under section
 7 ~~12002.~~”.

8 (2) ~~CLERICAL AMENDMENT.~~—The table of con-
 9 tents in section 1(b) of the Omnibus Public Land
 10 Management Act of 2009 (Public Law 111–11, 123
 11 Stat. 991) is amended by striking the item relating
 12 to section 12004 and inserting the following:

“Sec. 12004. Education, workforce training, and outreach.”.

13 (f) ~~OCEAN EXPLORATION ADVISORY BOARD.~~—

14 (1) ~~ESTABLISHMENT.~~—Section 12005(a)(1) of
 15 such Act (33 U.S.C. 3505(1)) is amended by insert-
 16 ing “and the National Ocean Mapping, Exploration,
 17 and Characterization Council established under sec-
 18 tion 5 of the National Ocean Exploration Act” after
 19 “advise the Administrator”.

20 (2) ~~TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.~~—Section
 21 12005(e) of such Act (33 U.S.C. 3505(e)) is amend-
 22 ed by inserting “this” before “part”.

23 (g) ~~AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.~~—Section
 24 12006 of such Act (33 U.S.C. 3406) is amended by strik-
 25 ing “this part” and all that follows and inserting “this

1 part \$60,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2021 through
 2 2030”.

3 (h) DEFINITIONS.—Such Act is further amended by
 4 inserting after section 12006 the following:

5 **“SEC. 12007. DEFINITIONS.**

6 “In this part:

7 “(1) CHARACTERIZATION.—The terms ‘charac-
 8 terization’, ‘characterize’, and ‘characterizing’ refer
 9 to activities that provide comprehensive data and in-
 10 terpretations for a specific area of interest of the
 11 seafloor, sub-bottom, water column, or hydrologic
 12 features, such as water masses and currents, in di-
 13 rect support of specific research, environmental pro-
 14 tection, resource management, policymaking, or ap-
 15 plied mission objectives.

16 “(2) EXPLORATION.—The term ‘exploration’,
 17 ‘explore’, and ‘exploring’ refer to activities that pro-
 18 vide—

19 “(A) a multidisciplinary view of an un-
 20 known or poorly understood area of the
 21 seafloor, sub-bottom, or water column; and

22 “(B) an initial assessment of the physical,
 23 chemical, geological, biological, archaeological,
 24 or other characteristics of such an area.

1 “(3) MAPPING.—The terms ‘map’ and ‘map-
 2 ping’ refer to activities that provide comprehensive
 3 data and information needed to understand seafloor
 4 characteristics, such as depth, topography, bottom
 5 type, sediment composition and distribution, under-
 6 lying geologic structure, and benthic flora and
 7 fauna.”.

8 (i) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents
 9 in section 1(b) of the Omnibus Public Land Management
 10 Act of 2009 (Public Law 111–11; 123 Stat. 991) is
 11 amended by inserting after the item relating to section
 12 12006 the following:

 “Sec. 12007. Definitions.”.

13 **SEC. 7. REPEAL.**

14 (a) IN GENERAL.—The NOAA Undersea Research
 15 Program Act of 2009 (part II of subtitle A of title XII
 16 of Public Law 111–11; 33 U.S.C. 3421 et seq.) is re-
 17 pealed.

18 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents
 19 in section 1(b) of the Omnibus Public Land Management
 20 Act of 2009 (Public Law 111–11; 123 Stat. 991) is
 21 amended by striking the items relating to part II of sub-
 22 title A of title XII of such Act.

1 **SEC. 8. MODIFICATIONS TO OCEAN AND COASTAL MAPPING**
 2 **PROGRAM OF THE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND**
 3 **ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION.**

4 (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 12202(a) of the
 6 Ocean and Coastal Mapping Integration Act (~~33~~
 7 U.S.C. 3501(a)) is amended—

8 (A) by striking “establish a program to de-
 9 velop a coordinated and” and inserting “estab-
 10 lish and maintain a program to coordinate”;

11 (B) by striking “plan” and inserting “ef-
 12 forts”; and

13 (C) by striking “that enhances” and all
 14 that follows and inserting “that—

15 “(1) enhances ecosystem approaches in deci-
 16 sion-making for natural resource and habitat man-
 17 agement restoration and conservation; emergency re-
 18 sponse; and coastal resilience and adaptation;

19 “(2) establishes research and mapping prior-
 20 ities;

21 “(3) supports the siting of research and other
 22 platforms; and

23 “(4) advances ocean and coastal science.”.

24 (2) MEMBERSHIP.—Section 12202 of such Act
 25 (~~33~~ U.S.C. 3501) is amended by striking subsection

1 (b) and redesignating subsection (c) as subsection
2 (b).

3 ~~(3) PROGRAM PARAMETERS.~~—Subsection (b) of
4 section ~~12202~~ of such Act (~~33~~ U.S.C. ~~3501~~), as re-
5 designated by paragraph (2), is amended—

6 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1),
7 by striking “developing” and inserting “main-
8 taining”;

9 (B) in paragraph (2), by inserting “and
10 for leveraging existing Federal geospatial serv-
11 ices capacities and contract vehicles for effi-
12 ciencies” after “coastal mapping”;

13 (C) in paragraph (7), by striking “with
14 coastal state and local government programs”
15 and inserting “with mapping programs, in con-
16 junction with Federal and State agencies, Trib-
17 al governments, private industry, academia, and
18 nongovernmental organizations”;

19 (D) in paragraph (8), by striking “of real-
20 time tide data and the development” and insert-
21 ing “of tide data and water-level data and the
22 development and dissemination”;

23 (E) in paragraph (9), by striking “; and”
24 and inserting a semicolon;

1 (F) in paragraph (10), by striking the pe-
 2 riod at the end and inserting “; and”; and

3 (G) by adding at the end the following:
 4 “(11) support—

5 “(A) the Ocean Science and Technology
 6 Subcommittee of the Ocean Policy Committee
 7 established under section 8932(e) of title 10,
 8 United States Code; and

9 “(B) the National Ocean Mapping, Explo-
 10 ration, and Characterization Council established
 11 under section 5 of the National Ocean Explo-
 12 ration Act.”.

13 (b) INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP ON OCEAN AND
 14 COASTAL MAPPING.—

15 (1) NAME CHANGE.—The Ocean and Coastal
 16 Mapping Integration Act (33 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.) is
 17 amended—

18 (A) in section 12202 (33 U.S.C. 3501)—

19 (i) in subsection (a), by striking
 20 “Interagency Committee on Ocean and
 21 Coastal Mapping” and inserting “Inter-
 22 agency Working Group on Ocean and
 23 Coastal Mapping under section 12203”;
 24 and

1 (ii) in subsection (b), as redesignated
 2 by subsection (a)(2), by striking “Com-
 3 mittee” and inserting “Working Group”;

4 (B) in section 12203 (33 U.S.C. 3502)—

5 (i) in the section heading, by striking
 6 “**COMMITTEE**” and inserting “**WORKING**
 7 **GROUP**”;

8 (ii) in subsection (b), in the first sen-
 9 tence, by striking “committee” and insert-
 10 ing “Working Group”;

11 (iii) in subsection (c), by striking
 12 “committee” and inserting “Working
 13 Group”; and

14 (iv) in subsection (f), by striking
 15 “committee” and inserting “Working
 16 Group”; and

17 (C) in section 12208 (33 U.S.C. 3507), by
 18 amending paragraph (3) to read as follows:

19 “(3) **WORKING GROUP.**—The term ‘Working
 20 Group’ means the Interagency Working Group on
 21 Ocean and Coastal Mapping under section 12203.”.

22 (2) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 12203(a) of such
 23 Act (33 U.S.C. 3502(a)) is amended by striking
 24 “within 30 days” and all that follows and inserting
 25 “not later than 30 days after the date of the enact-

1 ment of the National Ocean Exploration Act, shall
 2 use the Interagency Working Group on Ocean and
 3 Coastal Mapping in existence as of the date of the
 4 enactment of such Act to implement section
 5 12202.”.

6 ~~(3)~~ MEMBERSHIP.—Section 12203(b) of such
 7 Act ~~(33 U.S.C. 3502(b))~~ is amended—

8 (A) in the first sentence, by striking “sen-
 9 ior” both places it appears and inserting “sen-
 10 ior-level”;

11 (B) in the third sentence, by striking “the
 12 Minerals Management Service” and inserting
 13 “the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management of
 14 the Department of the Interior, the Office of
 15 the Assistant Secretary, Fish and Wildlife and
 16 Parks of the Department of the Interior”; and

17 (C) by striking the second sentence.

18 ~~(4)~~ CO-CHAIRS.—Section 12203(e) of such Act
 19 ~~(33 U.S.C. 3502(e))~~ is amended to read as follows:

20 “(e) CO-CHAIRS.—The Working Group shall be co-
 21 chaired by one representative from each of the following:

22 “(1) The National Oceanic and Atmospheric
 23 Administration.

24 “(2) The Department of the Interior.

1 ~~“(3) The United States Army Corps of Engi-~~
 2 ~~neers.”.~~

3 ~~(5) SUBORDINATE GROUPS.—Section 12203(d)~~
 4 ~~of such Act (33 U.S.C. 3502(d)) is amended to read~~
 5 ~~as follows:~~

6 ~~“(d) SUBORDINATE GROUPS.—The co-chairs may es-~~
 7 ~~tablish such permanent or temporary subordinate groups~~
 8 ~~as determined appropriate by the Working Group.”.~~

9 ~~(6) MEETINGS.—Section 12203(e) of such Act~~
 10 ~~(33 U.S.C. 3502(e)) is amended by striking “each~~
 11 ~~subcommittee and each working group” and insert-~~
 12 ~~ing “each subordinate group”.~~

13 ~~(7) COORDINATION.—Section 12203(f) of such~~
 14 ~~Act (33 U.S.C. 3502(f)) is amended by striking~~
 15 ~~paragraphs (1) through (5) and inserting the fol-~~
 16 ~~lowing:~~

17 ~~“(1) other Federal efforts, such as the Digital~~
 18 ~~Coast, the Federal Geographic Data Committee,~~
 19 ~~GeoPlatform, the Integrated Ocean Observing Sys-~~
 20 ~~tem, the Hydrographic Services Review Panel of the~~
 21 ~~National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration,~~
 22 ~~the Ocean Exploration Advisory Board of the Na-~~
 23 ~~tional Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the~~
 24 ~~National Geospatial Advisory Committee of the De-~~
 25 ~~partment of the Interior, the advisory committee for~~

1 the National Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observa-
 2 tion System, and the Technical Mapping Advisory
 3 Council of the Federal Emergency Management
 4 Agency;

5 “(2) international mapping activities;

6 “(3) coastal states;

7 “(4) coastal Indian Tribes;

8 “(5) data acquisition and user groups through
 9 workshops, partnerships, and other appropriate
 10 mechanisms; and

11 “(6) representatives of nongovernmental enti-
 12 ties.”.

13 (8) ~~ADVISORY PANEL.~~—Section ~~12203~~ of such
 14 Act (~~33~~ U.S.C. ~~3502~~) is amended by striking sub-
 15 section (g).

16 (9) ~~FUNCTIONS.~~—Section ~~12203~~ of such Act
 17 (~~33~~ U.S.C. ~~3502~~), as amended by paragraph (8), is
 18 further amended by adding at the end the following:

19 “(g) ~~SUPPORT FUNCTIONS.~~—The Working Group
 20 shall support the National Ocean Mapping, Exploration,
 21 and Characterization Council established under section 5
 22 of the National Ocean Exploration Act and the Ocean
 23 Science and Technology Subcommittee of the Ocean Policy
 24 Committee established under section ~~8932(c)~~ of title 10,
 25 United States Code, on ocean mapping activities and asso-

1 ciated technology development across the Federal Govern-
 2 ment, State governments, private industry, nongovern-
 3 mental organizations, and academia.”.

4 (10) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of
 5 contents in section 1(b) of the Omnibus Public Land
 6 Management Act of 2009 (Public Law 111–11; 123
 7 Stat. 991) is amended by striking the item relating
 8 to section 12203 and inserting the following:

“Sec. 12203. Interagency working group on ocean and coastal mapping.”.

9 (e) BIENNIAL REPORTS.—Section 12204 of the
 10 Ocean and Coastal Mapping Integration Act (33 U.S.C.
 11 3503) is amended—

12 (1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by
 13 striking “No later” and all that follows through
 14 “House of Representatives” and inserting “Not later
 15 than 18 months after the date of the enactment of
 16 the National Ocean Exploration Act, and biennially
 17 thereafter until 2040, the co-chairs of the Working
 18 Group, in coordination with the National Ocean
 19 Mapping, Exploration, and Characterization Council
 20 established under section 5 of such Act, shall submit
 21 to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Trans-
 22 portation and the Committee on Energy and Natural
 23 Resources of the Senate, and the Committee on Nat-
 24 ural Resources and the Committee on Science,

1 Space, and Technology of the House of Representa-
 2 tives,”;

3 (2) in paragraph (1), by inserting “, including
 4 the data maintained by the National Centers for En-
 5 vironmental Information of the National Oceanic
 6 and Atmospheric Administration,” after “mapping
 7 data”;

8 (3) in paragraph (3), by inserting “, including
 9 a plan to map the coasts of the United States on a
 10 requirements-based cycle, with mapping agencies
 11 and partners coordinating on a unified approach
 12 that factors in recent related studies, meets multiple
 13 user requirements, and identifies gaps” after “ac-
 14 complished”;

15 (4) by striking paragraph (10) and redesign-
 16 ating paragraphs (11), (12), and (13) as para-
 17 graphs (10), (11), and (12), respectively;

18 (5) in paragraph (10), as so redesignated, by
 19 striking “with coastal state and local government
 20 programs” and inserting “with international, coastal
 21 state, and local government and nongovernmental
 22 mapping programs”;

23 (6) in paragraph (11), as redesignated by para-
 24 graph (4)—

1 (A) by striking “increase” and inserting
2 “streamline and expand”;

3 (B) by inserting “for the purpose of ful-
4 filling Federal mapping and charting respon-
5 sibilities, plans, and strategies” after “entities”;
6 and

7 (C) by striking “; and” and inserting a
8 semicolon;

9 (7) in paragraph (12), as redesignated by para-
10 graph (4), by striking the period at the end and in-
11 serting a semicolon; and

12 (8) by adding at the end the following:

13 “(13) a progress report on the development of
14 new and innovative technologies and applications
15 through research and development, including cooper-
16 ative or other agreements with joint or cooperative
17 research institutes and centers and other nongovern-
18 mental entities;

19 “(14) a description of best practices in data
20 processing and distribution and leveraging opportu-
21 nities among agencies represented on the Working
22 Group and with coastal states, coastal Indian Tribes,
23 and nongovernmental entities;

24 “(15) an identification of any training, tech-
25 nology, or other requirements for enabling Federal

1 mapping programs, vessels, and aircraft to support
 2 a coordinated ocean and coastal mapping program;
 3 and

4 “(16) a timetable for implementation and com-
 5 pletion of the plan described in paragraph (3), in-
 6 cluding recommendations for integrating new ap-
 7 proaches into the program.”.

8 (d) NOAA JOINT OCEAN AND COASTAL MAPPING
 9 CENTERS.—

10 (1) CENTERS.—Section 12205(c) of such Act
 11 (33 U.S.C. 3504(c)) is amended—

12 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1),
 13 by striking “3” and inserting “three”; and

14 (B) in paragraph (4), by inserting “and
 15 uncrewed” after “sensing”.

16 (2) PLAN.—Section 12205 of such Act (33
 17 U.S.C. 3504) is amended—

18 (A) in the section heading, by striking
 19 “PLAN” and inserting “NOAA JOINT OCEAN
 20 AND COASTAL MAPPING CENTERS”;

21 (B) by striking subsections (a), (b), and
 22 (d); and

23 (C) in subsection (c), by striking “(c)
 24 NOAA JOINT OCEAN AND COASTAL MAPPING
 25 CENTERS.—”.

1 ~~(3) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.~~—The table of con-
 2 tents in section 1(b) of the Omnibus Public Land
 3 Management Act of 2009 (Public Law 111–11; 123
 4 Stat. 991) is amended by striking the item relating
 5 to section 12205 and inserting the following:

“Sec. 12205. NOAA joint ocean and coastal mapping centers.”.

6 ~~(e) OCEAN AND COASTAL MAPPING FEDERAL FUND-~~
 7 ~~ING OPPORTUNITY.~~—The Ocean and Coastal Mapping In-
 8 tegration Act (~~33~~ U.S.C. 3501 et seq.) is amended—

9 (1) by redesignating sections 12206, 12207,
 10 and 12208 as sections 12208, 12209, and 12210,
 11 respectively; and

12 (2) by inserting after section 12205 the fol-
 13 lowing:

14 **“SEC. 12206. OCEAN AND COASTAL MAPPING FEDERAL**
 15 **FUNDING OPPORTUNITY.**

16 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the
 17 date of the enactment of the National Ocean Exploration
 18 Act, the Administrator shall develop an integrated ocean
 19 and coastal mapping Federal funding match opportunity
 20 within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administra-
 21 tion with Federal, State, Tribal, local, nonprofit, private
 22 industry, or academic partners in order to increase the co-
 23 ordinated acquisition, processing, stewardship, and archi-
 24 val of new ocean and coastal mapping data in United
 25 States waters.

1 “(b) RULES.—The Administrator shall develop ad-
 2 ministrative and procedural rules for the ocean and coastal
 3 mapping Federal funding match opportunity developed
 4 under subsection (a); to include—

5 “(1) specific and detailed criteria that must be
 6 addressed by an applicant, such as geographic over-
 7 lap with pre-established priorities; number and type
 8 of project partners; benefit to the applicant; coordi-
 9 nation with other funding opportunities; and benefit
 10 to the public;

11 “(2) determination of the appropriate funding
 12 match amounts and mechanisms to use, such as
 13 grants, agreements, or contracts; and

14 “(3) other funding award criteria as are nec-
 15 essary or appropriate to ensure that evaluations of
 16 proposals and decisions to award funding under this
 17 section are based on objective standards applied fair-
 18 ly and equitably to those proposals.

19 “(c) GEOSPATIAL SERVICES AND CONTRACT VEHIC-
 20 LES.—The ocean and coastal mapping Federal funding
 21 match opportunity developed under subsection (a) shall le-
 22 verage Federal expertise and capacities for geospatial
 23 services and Federal geospatial contract vehicles using the
 24 private sector for acquisition efficiencies.

1 **“SEC. 12207. COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS, CONTRACTS,**
 2 **AND GRANTS.**

3 “(a) IN GENERAL.—To carry out interagency activi-
 4 ties under this subtitle, the heads of agencies represented
 5 on the Working Group may enter into cooperative agree-
 6 ments, or any other agreement with each other, and trans-
 7 fer, receive, and expend funds made available by any Fed-
 8 eral agency, any State or subdivision thereof, or any public
 9 or private organization or individual, for ocean and coastal
 10 mapping investigations, surveys, studies, and other
 11 geospatial collaborations authorized by this subtitle or
 12 agreements authorized by section 5 of the Act entitled ‘An
 13 Act to define the functions and duties of the Coast and
 14 Geodetic Survey, and for other purposes’, approved Au-
 15 gust 6, 1947 (33 U.S.C. 883e).

16 “(b) GRANTS.—The Administrator may make grants
 17 to any State or subdivision thereof or any public or private
 18 organization or individual to carry out the purposes of this
 19 subtitle.”.

20 (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section
 21 12209 of such Act, as redesignated by subsection (e)(1),
 22 is amended—

23 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “this subtitle”
 24 and all that follows and inserting “this subtitle
 25 \$45,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2021 through
 26 2030.”;

1 (2) in subsection (b), by striking “this subtitle”
 2 and all that follows and inserting “this subtitle
 3 \$15,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2021 through
 4 2030.”;

5 (3) by striking subsection (c); and

6 (4) by inserting after subsection (b) the fol-
 7 lowing:

8 “(c) OCEAN AND COASTAL MAPPING FEDERAL
 9 FUNDING OPPORTUNITY.—Of amounts appropriated pur-
 10 suant to subsection (a), \$20,000,000 is authorized to
 11 carry out section 12206.”.

12 (g) DEFINITIONS.—

13 (1) OCEAN AND COASTAL MAPPING.—Para-
 14 graph (5) of section 12210 of such Act, as redesign-
 15 ated by subsection (c)(1), is amended by striking
 16 “processing, and management” and inserting “proc-
 17 essing, management, maintenance, interpretation,
 18 certification, and dissemination”.

19 (2) COASTAL INDIAN TRIBE.—Section 12210 of
 20 such Act, as redesignated by subsection (c)(1), is
 21 amended by adding at the end the following:

22 “(9) COASTAL INDIAN TRIBE.—The term
 23 ‘coastal Indian Tribe’ means an ‘Indian tribe’, as de-
 24 fined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination

1 and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304), the
2 land of which is located in a coastal state.”.

3 (h) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—The table of contents
4 in section 1(b) of the Omnibus Public Land Management
5 Act of 2009 (Public Law 111–11; 123 Stat. 991) is
6 amended by striking the items relating to sections 12206
7 through 12208 and inserting the following:

“Sec. 12206. Ocean and coastal mapping Federal funding opportunity.

“Sec. 12207. Cooperative agreements, contracts, and grants.

“Sec. 12208. Effect on other laws.

“Sec. 12209. Authorization of appropriations.

“Sec. 12210. Definitions.”.

8 **SEC. 9. MODIFICATIONS TO HYDROGRAPHIC SERVICES IM-**
9 **PROVEMENT ACT OF 1998.**

10 (a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 302(4)(A) of the Hydro-
11 graphic Services Improvement Act of 1998 (33 U.S.C.
12 892(4)(A)) is amended by inserting “hydrodynamic fore-
13 cast and datum transformation models,” after “nautical
14 information databases,”.

15 (b) FUNCTIONS OF THE ADMINISTRATOR.—Section
16 303(b) of such Act (33 U.S.C. 892a(b)) is amended—

17 (1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by
18 inserting “precision navigation,” after “promote”;
19 and

20 (2) in paragraph (2)—

21 (A) by inserting “and hydrodynamic fore-
22 cast models” after “monitoring systems”;

(B) by inserting “and provide foundational information and services required to support coastal resilience planning for coastal transportation and other infrastructure, coastal protection and restoration projects, and related activities” after “efficiency”; and

(C) by striking “; and” and inserting a semicolon.

(c) QUALITY ASSURANCE PROGRAM.—Section 304(a) of such Act (33 U.S.C. 892b(a)) is amended by striking “product produced” and inserting “product or service produced or disseminated”.

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 306(a) of such Act (33 U.S.C. 892d(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “\$70,814,000 for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023” and inserting “\$71,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2021 through 2030”;

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking “\$25,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023” and inserting “\$34,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2021 through 2030”;

(3) in paragraph (3), by striking “\$29,932,000 for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023” and in-

1 serting “\$38,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2021
2 through 2030”;

3 (4) in paragraph (4), by striking “\$26,800,000
4 for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023” and in-
5 serting “\$45,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2021
6 through 2030”; and

7 (5) in paragraph (5), by striking “\$30,564,000
8 for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023” and in-
9 serting “\$35,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2021
10 through 2030”.

11 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

12 *This Act may be cited as the “National Ocean Explo-*
13 *ration Act”.*

14 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

15 *Congress makes the following findings:*

16 (1) *The health and resilience of the ocean are*
17 *vital to the security and economy of the United States*
18 *and to the lives of the people of the United States.*

19 (2) *The United States depends on the ocean to*
20 *regulate weather and climate, to sustain and protect*
21 *the diversity of life, for maritime shipping, for na-*
22 *tional defense, and for food, energy, medicine, recre-*
23 *ation, and other services essential to the people of the*
24 *United States and all humankind.*

1 (3) *The prosperity, security, and well-being of*
 2 *the United States depend on successful understanding*
 3 *and stewardship of the ocean.*

4 (4) *Interdisciplinary cooperation and engage-*
 5 *ment among government agencies, research institu-*
 6 *tions, nongovernmental organizations, States, Indian*
 7 *Tribes, and the private sector are essential for success-*
 8 *ful stewardship of ocean and coastal environments,*
 9 *national economic growth, national security, and de-*
 10 *velopment of agile strategies that develop, promote,*
 11 *and use new technologies.*

12 (5) *Ocean exploration can help the people of the*
 13 *United States understand how to be effective stewards*
 14 *of the ocean and serve as catalysts and enablers for*
 15 *other sectors of the economy.*

16 (6) *Mapping, exploration, and characterization*
 17 *of the ocean provides basic, essential information to*
 18 *protect and restore the marine environment, stimulate*
 19 *economic activity, and provide security for the United*
 20 *States.*

21 (7) *A robust national ocean exploration program*
 22 *engaging multiple Federal agencies, Indian Tribes,*
 23 *the private sector, nongovernmental organizations,*
 24 *and academia is—*

1 (A) *essential to the interests of the United*
 2 *States and vital to its security and economy and*
 3 *the health and well-being of all people of the*
 4 *United States; and*

5 (B) *critical to reestablish the United States*
 6 *at the forefront of global ocean exploration and*
 7 *stewardship.*

8 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

9 *In this Act:*

10 (1) *CHARACTERIZATION.*—*The term “character-*
 11 *ization” refers to activities that provide comprehen-*
 12 *sive data and interpretations for a specific area of in-*
 13 *terest of the seafloor, sub-bottom, water column, or hy-*
 14 *drologic features, such as water masses and currents,*
 15 *in direct support of specific research, environmental*
 16 *protection, resource management, policymaking, or*
 17 *applied mission objectives.*

18 (2) *EXPLORATION.*—*The term “exploration” re-*
 19 *fers to activities that provide—*

20 (A) *a multidisciplinary view of an un-*
 21 *known or poorly understood area of the seafloor,*
 22 *sub-bottom, or water column; and*

23 (B) *an initial assessment of the physical,*
 24 *chemical, geological, biological, archeological, or*
 25 *other characteristics of such an area.*

1 (3) *INDIAN TRIBE*.—The term “Indian Tribe”
 2 has the meaning given that term in section 4 of the
 3 *Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance*
 4 *Act* (25 U.S.C. 5304).

5 (4) *MAPPING*.—The term “mapping” refers to
 6 activities that provide comprehensive data and infor-
 7 mation needed to understand seafloor characteristics,
 8 such as depth, topography, bottom type, sediment
 9 composition and distribution, underlying geologic
 10 structure, and benthic flora and fauna.

11 **SEC. 4. OCEAN POLICY COMMITTEE.**

12 (a) *SUBCOMMITTEES*.—Section 8932(c) of title 10,
 13 *United States Code*, is amended to read as follows:

14 “(c) *SUBCOMMITTEES*.—(1) The Committee shall in-
 15 clude—

16 “(A) a subcommittee to be known as the ‘Ocean
 17 Science and Technology Subcommittee’; and

18 “(B) a subcommittee to be known as the ‘Ocean
 19 Resource Management Subcommittee’.

20 “(2) In discharging its responsibilities in support of
 21 agreed-upon scientific needs, and to assist in the execution
 22 of the responsibilities described in subsection (b), the Com-
 23 mittee may delegate responsibilities to the Ocean Science
 24 and Technology Subcommittee, the Ocean Resource Man-

1 *agement Subcommittee, or another subcommittee of the*
 2 *Committee, as the Committee determines appropriate.”.*

3 *(b) INCREASED ACCESS TO GEOSPATIAL DATA FOR*
 4 *MORE EFFICIENT AND INFORMED DECISION MAKING.—*

5 *(1) ESTABLISHMENT OF DOCUMENT SYSTEM.—*

6 *Section 8932(b) of title 10, United States Code, is*
 7 *amended—*

8 *(A) in paragraph (3), by striking “and” at*
 9 *the end;*

10 *(B) in paragraph (4)(F), by striking the pe-*
 11 *riod at the end and inserting “; and”; and*

12 *(C) by adding at the end the following new*
 13 *paragraph:*

14 *“(5) establish or designate one or more systems*
 15 *for ocean-related documents prepared under the Na-*
 16 *tional Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C.*
 17 *4321 et seq.), in accordance with subsection (h).”.*

18 *(2) ELEMENTS.—Section 8932 of such title is*
 19 *amended—*

20 *(A) by redesignating subsection (h) as sub-*
 21 *section (i); and*

22 *(B) by inserting after subsection (g) the fol-*
 23 *lowing new subsection (h):*

1 “(h) *ELEMENTS OF DOCUMENT SYSTEM.*—*The systems*
 2 *established or designated under subsection (b)(5) shall in-*
 3 *clude the following:*

4 “(1) *A publicly accessible, centralized digital ar-*
 5 *chive of documents described in subsection (b)(5) that*
 6 *are finalized after the date of the enactment of the*
 7 *National Ocean Exploration Act, including—*

8 “(A) *environmental impact statements;*

9 “(B) *environmental assessments;*

10 “(C) *categorical exclusions;*

11 “(D) *records of decision; and*

12 “(E) *other relevant documents as deter-*
 13 *mined by the Committee.*

14 “(2) *Geospatially referenced data, if any, con-*
 15 *tained in the documents under paragraph (1).*

16 “(3) *A mechanism to retrieve information*
 17 *through geo-information tools that can map and inte-*
 18 *grate relevant geospatial information, such as—*

19 “(A) *Ocean Report Tools;*

20 “(B) *the Environmental Studies Program*
 21 *Information System;*

22 “(C) *Regional Ocean Partnerships; and*

23 “(D) *the Integrated Ocean Observing Sys-*
 24 *tem.*”.

1 **SEC. 5. NATIONAL OCEAN MAPPING, EXPLORATION, AND**
 2 **CHARACTERIZATION COUNCIL.**

3 (a) *ESTABLISHMENT.*—*The President shall establish a*
 4 *council, to be known as the “National Ocean Mapping, Ex-*
 5 *ploration, and Characterization Council” (in this section*
 6 *referred to as the “Council”).*

7 (b) *PURPOSE.*—*The Council shall—*

8 (1) *update national priorities for ocean map-*
 9 *ping, exploration, and characterization; and*

10 (2) *coordinate and facilitate activities to ad-*
 11 *vance those priorities.*

12 (c) *REPORTING.*—*The Council shall report to the*
 13 *Ocean Science and Technology Subcommittee of the Ocean*
 14 *Policy Committee established under section 8932(c) of title*
 15 *10, United States Code.*

16 (d) *MEMBERSHIP.*—*The Council shall be composed of*
 17 *not fewer than one senior-level representative from each of*
 18 *the following:*

19 (1) *The Department of the Navy.*

20 (2) *The Department of the Interior.*

21 (3) *The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Ad-*
 22 *ministration.*

23 (4) *The department in which the Coast Guard is*
 24 *operating.*

25 (5) *The Office of Management and Budget.*

26 (6) *The Office of Science and Technology Policy.*

1 (7) *The National Science Foundation.*

2 (8) *The National Aeronautics and Space Admin-*
3 *istration.*

4 (9) *The Marine Mammal Commission.*

5 (10) *The Department of Transportation.*

6 (11) *The Department of Energy.*

7 (12) *The Office of the Director of National Intel-*
8 *ligence.*

9 (e) *CO-CHAIRS.—The Council shall be co-chaired by—*

10 (1) *two senior-level representatives from the Na-*
11 *tional Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; and*

12 (2) *one senior-level representative from the De-*
13 *partment of the Interior.*

14 (f) *DUTIES.—The Council shall—*

15 (1) *set national ocean mapping, exploration, and*
16 *characterization priorities and strategies;*

17 (2) *cultivate and facilitate transparent and sus-*
18 *tained partnerships among Federal and State agen-*
19 *cies, Indian Tribes, private industry, academia, and*
20 *nongovernmental organizations to conduct ocean*
21 *mapping, exploration, and characterization activities*
22 *and related technology development;*

23 (3) *coordinate improved processes for data com-*
24 *pilation, management, access, synthesis, and visual-*
25 *ization with respect to ocean mapping, exploration,*

1 *and characterization, with a focus on building on ex-*
 2 *isting ocean data management systems, as appro-*
 3 *priate;*

4 *(4) encourage education, workforce training, and*
 5 *public engagement activities that—*

6 *(A) advance interdisciplinary principles*
 7 *that contribute to ocean mapping, exploration,*
 8 *research, and characterization;*

9 *(B) improve public engagement with and*
 10 *understanding of ocean science; and*

11 *(C) provide opportunities for underserved*
 12 *populations;*

13 *(5) coordinate activities as appropriate with do-*
 14 *mestic and international ocean mapping, exploration,*
 15 *and characterization initiatives or programs; and*

16 *(6) establish and monitor metrics to track*
 17 *progress in achieving the priorities set under para-*
 18 *graph (1).*

19 *(g) INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP ON OCEAN EXPLO-*
 20 *RATION AND CHARACTERIZATION.—*

21 *(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The President shall estab-*
 22 *lish a new interagency working group to be known as*
 23 *the “Interagency Working Group on Ocean Explo-*
 24 *ration and Characterization”.*

1 (2) *MEMBERSHIP.*—*The Interagency Working*
 2 *Group on Ocean Exploration and Characterization*
 3 *shall be comprised of senior representatives from Fed-*
 4 *eral agencies with ocean exploration and character-*
 5 *ization responsibilities.*

6 (3) *FUNCTIONS.*—*The Interagency Working*
 7 *Group on Ocean Exploration and Characterization*
 8 *shall support the Council and the Ocean Science and*
 9 *Technology Subcommittee of the Ocean Policy Com-*
 10 *mittee established under section 8932(c) of title 10,*
 11 *United States Code, on ocean exploration and charac-*
 12 *terization activities and associated technology devel-*
 13 *opment across the Federal Government, State govern-*
 14 *ments, Indian Tribes, private industry, nongovern-*
 15 *mental organizations, and academia.*

16 (h) *OVERSIGHT.*—*The Council shall oversee—*

17 (1) *the Interagency Working Group on Ocean*
 18 *Exploration and Characterization established under*
 19 *subsection (g)(1); and*

20 (2) *the Interagency Working Group on Ocean*
 21 *and Coastal Mapping under section 12203 of the*
 22 *Ocean and Coastal Mapping Integration Act (33*
 23 *U.S.C. 3502).*

24 (i) *PLAN.*—

1 (1) *IN GENERAL.*—Not later than 1 year after
 2 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Council shall
 3 develop or update and submit to the appropriate com-
 4 mittees of Congress a plan for an integrated cross-sec-
 5 toral ocean mapping, exploration, and characteriza-
 6 tion initiative.

7 (2) *ELEMENTS.*—The plan required by para-
 8 graph (1) shall—

9 (A) discuss the utility and benefits of ocean
 10 exploration and characterization;

11 (B) identify and describe national ocean
 12 mapping, exploration, and characterization pri-
 13 orities;

14 (C) identify and describe Federal and feder-
 15 ally funded ocean mapping, exploration, and
 16 characterization programs;

17 (D) facilitate and incorporate non-Federal
 18 input into national ocean mapping, exploration,
 19 and characterization priorities;

20 (E) ensure effective coordination of ocean
 21 mapping, exploration, and characterization ac-
 22 tivities among programs described in subpara-
 23 graph (C);

24 (F) identify opportunities for combining
 25 overlapping or complementary needs, activities,

1 *and resources of Federal agencies and non-Fed-*
2 *eral organizations relating to ocean mapping,*
3 *exploration, and characterization while not re-*
4 *ducing benefits from existing mapping, explo-*
5 *rations, and characterization activities;*

6 *(G) promote new and existing partnerships*
7 *among Federal and State agencies, Indian*
8 *Tribes, private industry, academia, and non-*
9 *governmental organizations to conduct or sup-*
10 *port ocean mapping, exploration, and character-*
11 *ization activities and technology development*
12 *needs, including through coordination under sec-*
13 *tion 3 of the Commercial Engagement Through*
14 *Ocean Technology Act of 2018 (33 U.S.C. 4102)*
15 *and the National Oceanographic Partnership*
16 *Program under section 8931 of title 10, United*
17 *States Code;*

18 *(H) develop a transparent and sustained*
19 *mechanism for non-Federal partnerships and*
20 *stakeholder engagement in strategic planning*
21 *and mission execution to be implemented not*
22 *later than December 31, 2022;*

23 *(I) establish standardized collection and*
24 *data management protocols, such as with respect*

1 *to metadata, for ocean mapping, exploration,*
 2 *and characterization;*

3 *(J) encourage the development, testing, dem-*
 4 *onstration, and adoption of innovative ocean*
 5 *mapping, exploration, and characterization tech-*
 6 *nologies and applications;*

7 *(K) promote protocols for accepting data,*
 8 *equipment, approaches, or other resources that*
 9 *support national ocean mapping, exploration,*
 10 *and characterization priorities;*

11 *(L) identify best practices for the protection*
 12 *of marine life during mapping, exploration, and*
 13 *characterization activities;*

14 *(M) identify training, technology, and other*
 15 *resource requirements for enabling the National*
 16 *Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and*
 17 *other appropriate Federal agencies to support a*
 18 *coordinated national ocean mapping, explo-*
 19 *ration, and characterization effort;*

20 *(N) identify and facilitate a centralized*
 21 *mechanism or office for coordinating data collec-*
 22 *tion, compilation, processing, archiving, and dis-*
 23 *semination activities relating to ocean mapping,*
 24 *exploration, and characterization that meets*

1 *Federal mandates for data accuracy and accessi-*
 2 *bility;*

3 *(O) designate repositories responsible for*
 4 *archiving and managing ocean mapping, explo-*
 5 *ration, and characterization data;*

6 *(P) set forth a timetable and estimated costs*
 7 *for implementation and completion of the plan;*

8 *(Q) to the extent practicable, align ocean ex-*
 9 *ploration and characterization efforts with exist-*
 10 *ing programs and identify key gaps; and*

11 *(R) identify criteria for determining the op-*
 12 *timal frequency of observations.*

13 *(j) BRIEFINGS.—Not later than 1 year after the date*
 14 *of the enactment of this Act, and not less frequently than*
 15 *once every 2 years thereafter, the Council shall brief the ap-*
 16 *propriate committees of Congress on—*

17 *(1) progress made toward meeting the national*
 18 *priorities described in subsection (i)(2)(B); and*

19 *(2) recommendations for meeting such priorities,*
 20 *such as additional authorities that may be needed to*
 21 *develop a mechanism for non-Federal partnerships*
 22 *and stakeholder engagement described in subsection*
 23 *(i)(2)(H).*

1 (k) *APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DE-*
 2 *FINED.*—*In this section, the term “appropriate committees*
 3 *of Congress” means—*

4 (1) *the Committee on Commerce, Science, and*
 5 *Transportation and the Committee on Armed Services*
 6 *of the Senate; and*

7 (2) *the Committee on Natural Resources, the*
 8 *Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and*
 9 *the Committee on Armed Services of the House of*
 10 *Representatives.*

11 **SEC. 6. MODIFICATIONS TO THE OCEAN EXPLORATION PRO-**
 12 **GRAM OF THE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND AT-**
 13 **MOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION.**

14 (a) *PURPOSE.*—*Section 12001 of the Omnibus Public*
 15 *Land Management Act of 2009 (33 U.S.C. 3401) is amend-*
 16 *ed by striking “and the national undersea research pro-*
 17 *gram”.*

18 (b) *PROGRAM ESTABLISHED.*—*Section 12002 of such*
 19 *Act (33 U.S.C. 3402) is amended—*

20 (1) *in the first sentence, by striking “and under-*
 21 *sea”; and*

22 (2) *in the second sentence, by striking “and un-*
 23 *dersea research and exploration” and inserting “re-*
 24 *search and ocean exploration and characterization ef-*
 25 *forts”.*

1 (c) *POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE ADMINISTRATOR.*—

2 (1) *IN GENERAL.*—Section 12003(a) of such Act
3 (33 U.S.C. 3403(a)) is amended—

4 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1),
5 by inserting “, in coordination with the Ocean
6 Policy Committee established under section 8932
7 of title 10, United States Code,” after “Adminis-
8 tration”;

9 (B) in paragraph (1)—

10 (i) by striking “voyages” and inserting
11 “expeditions”;

12 (ii) by striking “Federal agencies” and
13 all that follows through “and survey” and
14 inserting “Federal and State agencies, Trib-
15 al governments, private industry, academia,
16 and nongovernmental organizations, to
17 map, explore, and characterize”; and

18 (iii) by inserting “characterize,” after
19 “observe,”;

20 (C) in paragraph (2), by inserting “of the
21 exclusive economic zone” after “deep ocean re-
22 gions”;

23 (D) in paragraph (3), by striking “voyages”
24 and inserting “expeditions”;

1 (E) in paragraph (4), by striking “, in con-
 2 sultation with the National Science Founda-
 3 tion,”;

4 (F) by amending paragraph (5) to read as
 5 follows:

6 “(5) support technological innovation of the
 7 United States marine science community by pro-
 8 moting the development and use of new and emerging
 9 technologies for research, communication, navigation,
 10 and data collection, such as sensors and autonomous
 11 vehicles;”;

12 (G) in paragraph (6)—

13 (i) by inserting “, in collaboration
 14 with the National Ocean Mapping, Explo-
 15 ration, and Characterization Council estab-
 16 lished under section 5 of the National Ocean
 17 Exploration Act,” after “forum”; and

18 (ii) by striking the period at the end
 19 and inserting “; and”; and

20 (H) by adding at the end the following:

21 “(7) provide guidance, in coordination with the
 22 National Ocean Mapping, Exploration, and Charac-
 23 terization Council, to Federal and State agencies,
 24 Tribal governments, private industry, academia (in-
 25 cluding secondary schools, community colleges, and

1 *universities), and nongovernmental organizations on*
 2 *data standards, protocols for accepting data, and co-*
 3 *ordination of data collection, compilation, processing,*
 4 *archiving, and dissemination for data relating to*
 5 *ocean exploration and characterization.”.*

6 (2) *DONATIONS.—Section 12003(b) of such Act*
 7 *(33 U.S.C. 3403(b)) is amended to read as follows:*

8 “(b) *DONATIONS.—For the purpose of mapping, ex-*
 9 *ploring, and characterizing the oceans or increasing the*
 10 *knowledge of the oceans, the Administrator may—*

11 “(1) *accept monetary donations and donations of*
 12 *property, data, and equipment; and*

13 “(2) *pay all necessary expenses in connection*
 14 *with the conveyance or transfer of a gift, devise, or*
 15 *bequest.”.*

16 (3) *DEFINITION OF EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC*
 17 *ZONE.—Section 12003 of such Act (33 U.S.C. 3403)*
 18 *is amended by adding at the end the following:*

19 “(c) *DEFINITION OF EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE.—*
 20 *In this section, the term ‘exclusive economic zone’ means*
 21 *the zone established by Presidential Proclamation Number*
 22 *5030, dated March 10, 1983 (16 U.S.C. 1453 note; relating*
 23 *to the exclusive economic zone of the United States of Amer-*
 24 *ica).”.*

1 (d) *REPEAL OF OCEAN EXPLORATION AND UNDERSEA*
 2 *RESEARCH TECHNOLOGY AND INFRASTRUCTURE TASK*
 3 *FORCE.*—Section 12004 of such Act (33 U.S.C. 3404) is re-
 4 *pealed.*

5 (e) *EDUCATION, WORKFORCE TRAINING, AND OUT-*
 6 *REACH.*—

7 (1) *IN GENERAL.*—Such Act is further amended
 8 by inserting after section 12003 the following new sec-
 9 tion 12004:

10 **“SEC. 12004. EDUCATION, WORKFORCE TRAINING, AND OUT-**
 11 **REACH.**

12 “(a) *IN GENERAL.*—The Administrator of the National
 13 *Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shall—*

14 “(1) *conduct education and outreach efforts in*
 15 *order to broadly disseminate information to the pub-*
 16 *lic on the discoveries made by the program under sec-*
 17 *tion 12002; and*

18 “(2) *to the extent possible, coordinate the efforts*
 19 *described in paragraph (1) with the outreach strate-*
 20 *gies of other domestic or international ocean map-*
 21 *ping, exploration, and characterization initiatives.*

22 “(b) *EDUCATION AND OUTREACH EFFORTS.*—Efforts
 23 *described in subsection (a)(1) may include—*

1 “(1) education of the general public, teachers,
2 students, and ocean and coastal resource managers;
3 and

4 “(2) workforce training, reskilling, and opportu-
5 nities to encourage development of ocean related
6 science, technology, engineering, and mathematics
7 (STEM) technical training programs involving sec-
8 ondary schools, community colleges, and universities,
9 including Historically Black Colleges or Universities
10 (within the meaning of the term “part B institution”
11 under section 322 of the Higher Education Act of
12 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1061)), Tribal Colleges or Univer-
13 sities (as defined in section 316(b) of such Act (20
14 U.S.C. 1059c(b))), and other minority-serving institu-
15 tions (as described in section 371(a) of such Act (20
16 U.S.C. 1067q(a))).

17 “(c) OUTREACH STRATEGY.—Not later than 180 days
18 after the date of the enactment of the National Ocean Explo-
19 ration Act, the Administrator of the National Oceanic and
20 Atmospheric Administration shall develop an outreach
21 strategy to broadly disseminate information on the discov-
22 eries made by the program under section 12002.”.

23 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of con-
24 tents in section 1(b) of the Omnibus Public Land
25 Management Act of 2009 (Public Law 111–11; 123

1 *Stat. 991) is amended by striking the item relating*
 2 *to section 12004 and inserting the following:*

“Sec. 12004. Education, workforce training, and outreach.”.

3 (f) *OCEAN EXPLORATION ADVISORY BOARD.*—

4 (1) *ESTABLISHMENT.*—*Section 12005(a)(1) of*
 5 *such Act (33 U.S.C. 3505(1)) is amended by inserting*
 6 *“and the National Ocean Mapping, Exploration, and*
 7 *Characterization Council established under section 5*
 8 *of the National Ocean Exploration Act” after “advise*
 9 *the Administrator”.*

10 (2) *TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.*—*Section 12005(c)*
 11 *of such Act (33 U.S.C. 3505(c)) is amended by insert-*
 12 *ing “this” before “part”.*

13 (g) *AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.*—*Section*
 14 *12006 of such Act (33 U.S.C. 3406) is amended by striking*
 15 *“this part” and all that follows and inserting “this part*
 16 *\$60,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2021 through 2026”.*

17 (h) *DEFINITIONS.*—*Such Act is further amended by in-*
 18 *serting after section 12006 the following:*

19 **“SEC. 12007. DEFINITIONS.**

20 *“In this part:*

21 (1) *CHARACTERIZATION.*—*The terms ‘character-*
 22 *ization’, ‘characterize’, and ‘characterizing’ refer to*
 23 *activities that provide comprehensive data and inter-*
 24 *pretations for a specific area of interest of the*
 25 *seafloor, sub-bottom, water column, or hydrologic fea-*

1 *tures, such as water masses and currents, in direct*
 2 *support of specific research, environmental protection,*
 3 *resource management, policymaking, or applied mis-*
 4 *sion objectives.*

5 *“(2) EXPLORATION.—The term ‘exploration’, ‘ex-*
 6 *plore’, and ‘exploring’ refer to activities that pro-*
 7 *vide—*

8 *“(A) a multidisciplinary view of an un-*
 9 *known or poorly understood area of the seafloor,*
 10 *sub-bottom, or water column; and*

11 *“(B) an initial assessment of the physical,*
 12 *chemical, geological, biological, archaeological, or*
 13 *other characteristics of such an area.*

14 *“(3) MAPPING.—The terms ‘map’ and ‘mapping’*
 15 *refer to activities that provide comprehensive data*
 16 *and information needed to understand seafloor char-*
 17 *acteristics, such as depth, topography, bottom type,*
 18 *sediment composition and distribution, underlying*
 19 *geologic structure, and benthic flora and fauna.”.*

20 *(i) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in*
 21 *section 1(b) of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act*
 22 *of 2009 (Public Law 111–11; 123 Stat. 991) is amended*
 23 *by inserting after the item relating to section 12006 the fol-*
 24 *lowing:*

“Sec. 12007. Definitions.”.

1 **SEC. 7. REPEAL.**

2 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—*The NOAA Undersea Research Pro-*
 3 *gram Act of 2009 (part II of subtitle A of title XII of Public*
 4 *Law 111–11; 33 U.S.C. 3421 et seq.) is repealed.*

5 (b) *CLERICAL AMENDMENT.*—*The table of contents in*
 6 *section 1(b) of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act*
 7 *of 2009 (Public Law 111–11; 123 Stat. 991) is amended*
 8 *by striking the items relating to part II of subtitle A of*
 9 *title XII of such Act.*

10 **SEC. 8. MODIFICATIONS TO OCEAN AND COASTAL MAPPING**
 11 **PROGRAM OF THE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND**
 12 **ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION.**

13 (a) *ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.*—

14 (1) *IN GENERAL.*—*Section 12202(a) of the Ocean*
 15 *and Coastal Mapping Integration Act (33 U.S.C.*
 16 *3501(a)) is amended—*

17 (A) *by striking “establish a program to de-*
 18 *velop a coordinated and” and inserting “estab-*
 19 *lish and maintain a program to coordinate”;*

20 (B) *by striking “plan” and inserting “ef-*
 21 *forts”;* and

22 (C) *by striking “that enhances” and all that*
 23 *follows and inserting “that—*

24 *“(1) enhances ecosystem approaches in decision-*
 25 *making for natural resource and habitat management*

1 *restoration and conservation, emergency response, and*
 2 *coastal resilience and adaptation;*

3 *“(2) establishes research and mapping priorities;*

4 *“(3) supports the siting of research and other*
 5 *platforms; and*

6 *“(4) advances ocean and coastal science.”.*

7 *(2) MEMBERSHIP.—Section 12202 of such Act*
 8 *(33 U.S.C. 3501) is amended by striking subsection*
 9 *(b) and redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (b).*

10 *(3) PROGRAM PARAMETERS.—Subsection (b) of*
 11 *section 12202 of such Act (33 U.S.C. 3501), as redes-*
 12 *ignated by paragraph (2), is amended—*

13 *(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1),*
 14 *by striking “developing” and inserting “main-*
 15 *taining”;*

16 *(B) in paragraph (2), by inserting “and for*
 17 *leveraging existing Federal geospatial services*
 18 *capacities and contract vehicles for efficiencies”*
 19 *after “coastal mapping”;*

20 *(C) in paragraph (7), by striking “with*
 21 *coastal state and local government programs”*
 22 *and inserting “with mapping programs, in con-*
 23 *junction with Federal and State agencies, Tribal*
 24 *governments, private industry, academia, and*
 25 *nongovernmental organizations”;*

1 (D) in paragraph (8), by striking “of real-
 2 time tide data and the development” and insert-
 3 ing “of tide data and water-level data and the
 4 development and dissemination”;

5 (E) in paragraph (9), by striking “; and”
 6 and inserting a semicolon;

7 (F) in paragraph (10), by striking the pe-
 8 riod at the end and inserting “; and”; and

9 (G) by adding at the end the following:
 10 “(11) support—

11 “(A) the Ocean Science and Technology
 12 Subcommittee of the Ocean Policy Committee es-
 13 tablished under section 8932(c) of title 10,
 14 United States Code; and

15 “(B) the National Ocean Mapping, Explo-
 16 ration, and Characterization Council established
 17 under section 5 of the National Ocean Explo-
 18 ration Act.”.

19 (b) *INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP ON OCEAN AND*
 20 *COASTAL MAPPING.*—

21 (1) *NAME CHANGE.*—*The Ocean and Coastal*
 22 *Mapping Integration Act (33 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.) is*
 23 *amended—*

24 (A) in section 12202 (33 U.S.C. 3501)—

1 (i) in subsection (a), by striking
 2 “Interagency Committee on Ocean and
 3 Coastal Mapping” and inserting “Inter-
 4 agency Working Group on Ocean and
 5 Coastal Mapping under section 12203”; and

6 (ii) in subsection (b), as redesignated
 7 by subsection (a)(2), by striking “Com-
 8 mittee” and inserting “Working Group”;
 9 (B) in section 12203 (33 U.S.C. 3502)—

10 (i) in the section heading, by striking
 11 “**COMMITTEE**” and inserting “**WORKING**
 12 **GROUP**”;

13 (ii) in subsection (b), in the first sen-
 14 tence, by striking “committee” and insert-
 15 ing “Working Group”;

16 (iii) in subsection (e), by striking
 17 “committee” and inserting “Working
 18 Group”; and

19 (iv) in subsection (f), by striking “com-
 20 mittee” and inserting “Working Group”;
 21 and

22 (C) in section 12208 (33 U.S.C. 3507), by
 23 amending paragraph (3) to read as follows:

1 “(3) *WORKING GROUP*.—The term ‘Working
2 Group’ means the Interagency Working Group on
3 Ocean and Coastal Mapping under section 12203.”.

4 (2) *IN GENERAL*.—Section 12203(a) of such Act
5 (33 U.S.C. 3502(a)) is amended by striking “within
6 30 days” and all that follows and inserting “not later
7 than 30 days after the date of the enactment of the
8 National Ocean Exploration Act, shall use the Inter-
9 agency Working Group on Ocean and Coastal Map-
10 ping in existence as of the date of the enactment of
11 such Act to implement section 12202.”.

12 (3) *MEMBERSHIP*.—Section 12203(b) of such Act
13 (33 U.S.C. 3502(b)) is amended—

14 (A) in the first sentence, by striking “sen-
15 ior” both places it appears and inserting “sen-
16 ior-level”;

17 (B) in the third sentence, by striking “the
18 Minerals Management Service” and inserting
19 “the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management of the
20 Department of the Interior, the Office of the As-
21 sistant Secretary, Fish and Wildlife and Parks
22 of the Department of the Interior”; and

23 (C) by striking the second sentence.

24 (4) *CO-CHAIRS*.—Section 12203(c) of such Act
25 (33 U.S.C. 3502(c)) is amended to read as follows:

1 “(c) *CO-CHAIRS.—The Working Group shall be co-*
 2 *chaired by one representative from each of the following:*

3 “(1) *The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Ad-*
 4 *ministration.*

5 “(2) *The Department of the Interior.*

6 “(3) *The United States Army Corps of Engi-*
 7 *neers.”.*

8 “(5) *SUBORDINATE GROUPS.—Section 12203(d) of*
 9 *such Act (33 U.S.C. 3502(d)) is amended to read as*
 10 *follows:*

11 “(d) *SUBORDINATE GROUPS.—The co-chairs may es-*
 12 *tablish such permanent or temporary subordinate groups*
 13 *as determined appropriate by the Working Group.”.*

14 “(6) *MEETINGS.—Section 12203(e) of such Act*
 15 *(33 U.S.C. 3502(e)) is amended by striking “each*
 16 *subcommittee and each working group” and inserting*
 17 *“each subordinate group”.*

18 “(7) *COORDINATION.—Section 12203(f) of such*
 19 *Act (33 U.S.C. 3502(f)) is amended by striking para-*
 20 *graphs (1) through (5) and inserting the following:*

21 “(1) *other Federal efforts, such as the Digital*
 22 *Coast, the Federal Geographic Data Committee,*
 23 *GeoPlatform, the Integrated Ocean Observing System,*
 24 *the Hydrographic Services Review Panel of the Na-*
 25 *tional Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the*

1 *Ocean Exploration Advisory Board of the National*
 2 *Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Na-*
 3 *tional Geospatial Advisory Committee of the Depart-*
 4 *ment of the Interior, the advisory committee for the*
 5 *National Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation*
 6 *System, and the Technical Mapping Advisory Council*
 7 *of the Federal Emergency Management Agency;*

8 “(2) *international mapping activities;*

9 “(3) *coastal states;*

10 “(4) *coastal Indian Tribes;*

11 “(5) *data acquisition and user groups through*
 12 *workshops, partnerships, and other appropriate mech-*
 13 *anisms; and*

14 “(6) *representatives of nongovernmental enti-*
 15 *ties.*”.

16 (8) *ADVISORY PANEL.*—Section 12203 of such
 17 *Act (33 U.S.C. 3502) is amended by striking sub-*
 18 *section (g).*

19 (9) *FUNCTIONS.*—Section 12203 of such Act (33
 20 *U.S.C. 3502), as amended by paragraph (8), is fur-*
 21 *ther amended by adding at the end the following:*

22 “(g) *SUPPORT FUNCTIONS.*—The Working Group shall
 23 *support the National Ocean Mapping, Exploration, and*
 24 *Characterization Council established under section 5 of the*
 25 *National Ocean Exploration Act and the Ocean Science and*

1 *Technology Subcommittee of the Ocean Policy Committee*
 2 *established under section 8932(c) of title 10, United States*
 3 *Code, on ocean mapping activities and associated tech-*
 4 *nology development across the Federal Government, State*
 5 *governments, coastal Indian Tribes, private industry, non-*
 6 *governmental organizations, and academia.”.*

7 (10) *CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of con-*
 8 *tents in section 1(b) of the Omnibus Public Land*
 9 *Management Act of 2009 (Public Law 111–11; 123*
 10 *Stat. 991) is amended by striking the item relating*
 11 *to section 12203 and inserting the following:*

“Sec. 12203. *Interagency working group on ocean and coastal mapping.*”.

12 (c) *BIENNIAL REPORTS.—Section 12204 of the Ocean*
 13 *and Coastal Mapping Integration Act (33 U.S.C. 3503) is*
 14 *amended—*

15 (1) *in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by*
 16 *striking “No later” and all that follows through*
 17 *“House of Representatives” and inserting “Not later*
 18 *than 18 months after the date of the enactment of the*
 19 *National Ocean Exploration Act, and biennially*
 20 *thereafter until 2040, the co-chairs of the Working*
 21 *Group, in coordination with the National Ocean*
 22 *Mapping, Exploration, and Characterization Council*
 23 *established under section 5 of such Act, shall submit*
 24 *to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Trans-*
 25 *portation and the Committee on Energy and Natural*

1 *Resources of the Senate, and the Committee on Nat-*
 2 *ural Resources and the Committee on Science, Space,*
 3 *and Technology of the House of Representatives,”;*

4 (2) in paragraph (1), by inserting “, including
 5 *the data maintained by the National Centers for En-*
 6 *vironmental Information of the National Oceanic and*
 7 *Atmospheric Administration,” after “mapping data”;*

8 (3) in paragraph (3), by inserting “, including
 9 *a plan to map the coasts of the United States on a*
 10 *requirements-based cycle, with mapping agencies and*
 11 *partners coordinating on a unified approach that fac-*
 12 *tors in recent related studies, meets multiple user re-*
 13 *quirements, and identifies gaps” after “accom-*
 14 *plished”;*

15 (4) by striking paragraph (10) and redesign-
 16 *ating paragraphs (11), (12), and (13) as paragraphs*
 17 *(10), (11), and (12), respectively;*

18 (5) in paragraph (10), as so redesignated, by
 19 striking “with coastal state and local government pro-
 20 grams” and inserting “with international, coastal
 21 state, and local government and nongovernmental
 22 mapping programs”;

23 (6) in paragraph (11), as redesignated by para-
 24 graph (4)—

1 (A) by striking “increase” and inserting
2 “streamline and expand”;

3 (B) by inserting “for the purpose of ful-
4 filling Federal mapping and charting respon-
5 sibilities, plans, and strategies” after “entities”;
6 and

7 (C) by striking “; and” and inserting a
8 semicolon;

9 (7) in paragraph (12), as redesignated by para-
10 graph (4), by striking the period at the end and in-
11 serting a semicolon; and

12 (8) by adding at the end the following:

13 “(13) a progress report on the development of
14 new and innovative technologies and applications
15 through research and development, including coopera-
16 tive or other agreements with joint or cooperative re-
17 search institutes and centers and other nongovern-
18 mental entities;

19 “(14) a description of best practices in data
20 processing and distribution and leveraging opportuni-
21 ties among agencies represented on the Working
22 Group and with coastal states, coastal Indian Tribes,
23 and nongovernmental entities;

24 “(15) an identification of any training, tech-
25 nology, or other requirements for enabling Federal

1 mapping programs, vessels, and aircraft to support a
 2 coordinated ocean and coastal mapping program; and
 3 “(16) a timetable for implementation and com-
 4 pletion of the plan described in paragraph (3), in-
 5 cluding recommendations for integrating new ap-
 6 proaches into the program.”.

7 (d) *NOAA JOINT OCEAN AND COASTAL MAPPING CEN-*
 8 *TERS.*—

9 (1) *CENTERS.*—Section 12205(c) of such Act (33
 10 U.S.C. 3504(c)) is amended—

11 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1),
 12 by striking “3” and inserting “three”; and

13 (B) in paragraph (4), by inserting “and
 14 uncrewed” after “sensing”.

15 (2) *PLAN.*—Section 12205 of such Act (33 U.S.C.
 16 3504) is amended—

17 (A) in the section heading, by striking
 18 “**PLAN**” and inserting “**NOAA JOINT OCEAN**
 19 **AND COASTAL MAPPING CENTERS**”;

20 (B) by striking subsections (a), (b), and (d);
 21 and

22 (C) in subsection (c), by striking “(c)
 23 NOAA JOINT OCEAN AND COASTAL MAPPING
 24 CENTERS.—”.

1 (3) *CLERICAL AMENDMENT.*—*The table of con-*
 2 *tents in section 1(b) of the Omnibus Public Land*
 3 *Management Act of 2009 (Public Law 111–11; 123*
 4 *Stat. 991) is amended by striking the item relating*
 5 *to section 12205 and inserting the following:*

“Sec. 12205. NOAA joint ocean and coastal mapping centers.”.

6 (i) *OCEAN AND COASTAL MAPPING FEDERAL FUNDING*
 7 *OPPORTUNITY.*—*The Ocean and Coastal Mapping Integra-*
 8 *tion Act (33. U.S.C. 3501 et seq.) is amended—*

9 (1) *by redesignating sections 12206, 12207, and*
 10 *12208 as sections 12208, 12209, and 12210, respec-*
 11 *tively; and*

12 (2) *by inserting after section 12205 the fol-*
 13 *lowing:*

14 **“SEC. 12206. OCEAN AND COASTAL MAPPING FEDERAL**
 15 **FUNDING OPPORTUNITY.**

16 “(a) *IN GENERAL.*—*Not later than one year after the*
 17 *date of the enactment of the National Ocean Exploration*
 18 *Act, the Administrator shall develop an integrated ocean*
 19 *and coastal mapping Federal funding match opportunity*
 20 *within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administra-*
 21 *tion with Federal, State, Tribal, local, nonprofit, private*
 22 *industry, or academic partners in order to increase the co-*
 23 *ordinated acquisition, processing, stewardship, and archi-*
 24 *val of new ocean and coastal mapping data in United*
 25 *States waters.*

1 “(b) *RULES.*—*The Administrator shall develop admin-*
 2 *istrative and procedural rules for the ocean and coastal*
 3 *mapping Federal funding match opportunity developed*
 4 *under subsection (a), to include—*

5 “(1) *specific and detailed criteria that must be*
 6 *addressed by an applicant, such as geographic overlap*
 7 *with pre-established priorities, number and type of*
 8 *project partners, benefit to the applicant, coordina-*
 9 *tion with other funding opportunities, and benefit to*
 10 *the public;*

11 “(2) *determination of the appropriate funding*
 12 *match amounts and mechanisms to use, such as*
 13 *grants, agreements, or contracts; and*

14 “(3) *other funding award criteria as are nec-*
 15 *essary or appropriate to ensure that evaluations of*
 16 *proposals and decisions to award funding under this*
 17 *section are based on objective standards applied fairly*
 18 *and equitably to those proposals.*

19 “(c) *GEOSPATIAL SERVICES AND CONTRACT VEHI-*
 20 *CLES.*—*The ocean and coastal mapping Federal funding*
 21 *match opportunity developed under subsection (a) shall le-*
 22 *verage Federal expertise and capacities for geospatial serv-*
 23 *ices and Federal geospatial contract vehicles using the pri-*
 24 *vate sector for acquisition efficiencies.*

1 **“SEC. 12207. COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS, CONTRACTS, AND**
 2 **GRANTS.**

3 “(a) *IN GENERAL.*—To carry out interagency activi-
 4 ties under this subtitle, the heads of agencies represented
 5 on the Working Group may enter into cooperative agree-
 6 ments, or any other agreement with each other, and trans-
 7 fer, receive, and expend funds made available by any Fed-
 8 eral agency, any State or subdivision thereof, or any public
 9 or private organization or individual, for ocean and coastal
 10 mapping investigations, surveys, studies, and other
 11 geospatial collaborations authorized by this subtitle or
 12 agreements authorized by section 5 of the Act entitled ‘An
 13 Act to define the functions and duties of the Coast and Geo-
 14 detic Survey, and for other purposes’, approved August 6,
 15 1947 (33 U.S.C. 883e).

16 “(b) *GRANTS.*—The Administrator may make grants
 17 to any State or subdivision thereof or any public or private
 18 organization or individual to carry out the purposes of this
 19 subtitle.”.

20 (f) *AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.*—Section
 21 12209 of such Act, as redesignated by subsection (e)(1), is
 22 amended—

23 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “this subtitle”
 24 and all that follows and inserting “this subtitle
 25 \$45,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2021 through
 26 2026.”;

1 (2) *in subsection (b), by striking “this subtitle”*
 2 *and all that follows and inserting “this subtitle*
 3 *\$15,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2021 through*
 4 *2026.”;*

5 (3) *by striking subsection (c); and*

6 (4) *by inserting after subsection (b) the fol-*
 7 *lowing:*

8 “(c) *OCEAN AND COASTAL MAPPING FEDERAL FUND-*
 9 *ING OPPORTUNITY.—Of amounts appropriated pursuant to*
 10 *subsection (a), \$20,000,000 is authorized to carry out sec-*
 11 *tion 12206.”.*

12 (g) *DEFINITIONS.—*

13 (1) *OCEAN AND COASTAL MAPPING.—Paragraph*
 14 *(5) of section 12210 of such Act, as redesignated by*
 15 *subsection (e)(1), is amended by striking “processing,*
 16 *and management” and inserting “processing, man-*
 17 *agement, maintenance, interpretation, certification,*
 18 *and dissemination”.*

19 (2) *COASTAL INDIAN TRIBE.—Section 12210 of*
 20 *such Act, as redesignated by subsection (e)(1), is*
 21 *amended by adding at the end the following:*

22 “(9) *COASTAL INDIAN TRIBE.—The term ‘coastal*
 23 *Indian Tribe’ means an ‘Indian tribe’, as defined in*
 24 *section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Edu-*

1 *cation Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304), the land of*
 2 *which is located in a coastal state.”.*

3 *(h) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—The table of contents in*
 4 *section 1(b) of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act*
 5 *of 2009 (Public Law 111–11; 123 Stat. 991) is amended*
 6 *by striking the items relating to sections 12206 through*
 7 *12208 and inserting the following:*

“Sec. 12206. Ocean and coastal mapping Federal funding opportunity.

“Sec. 12207. Cooperative agreements, contracts, and grants.

“Sec. 12208. Effect on other laws.

“Sec. 12209. Authorization of appropriations.

“Sec. 12210. Definitions.”.

8 **SEC. 9. MODIFICATIONS TO HYDROGRAPHIC SERVICES IM-**
 9 **PROVEMENT ACT OF 1998.**

10 *(a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 302(4)(A) of the Hydro-*
 11 *graphic Services Improvement Act of 1998 (33 U.S.C.*
 12 *892(4)(A)) is amended by inserting “hydrodynamic forecast*
 13 *and datum transformation models,” after “nautical infor-*
 14 *mation databases,”.*

15 *(b) FUNCTIONS OF THE ADMINISTRATOR.—Section*
 16 *303(b) of such Act (33 U.S.C. 892a(b)) is amended—*

17 *(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by*
 18 *inserting “precision navigation,” after “promote”;*
 19 *and*

20 *(2) in paragraph (2)—*

21 *(A) by inserting “and hydrodynamic fore-*
 22 *cast models” after “monitoring systems”;*

1 (B) by inserting “and provide foundational
 2 information and services required to support
 3 coastal resilience planning for coastal transpor-
 4 tation and other infrastructure, coastal protec-
 5 tion and restoration projects, and related activi-
 6 ties” after “efficiency”; and

7 (C) by striking “; and” and inserting a
 8 semicolon.

9 (c) *QUALITY ASSURANCE PROGRAM.*—Section 304(a)
 10 of such Act (33 U.S.C. 892b(a)) is amended by striking
 11 “product produced” and inserting “product or service pro-
 12 duced or disseminated”.

13 (d) *AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.*—Section
 14 306(a) of such Act (33 U.S.C. 892d(a)) is amended—

15 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “\$70,814,000
 16 for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023” and in-
 17 serting “\$71,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2021
 18 through 2026”;

19 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking “\$25,000,000
 20 for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023” and in-
 21 serting “\$34,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2021
 22 through 2026”;

23 (3) in paragraph (3), by striking “\$29,932,000
 24 for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023” and in-

1 serting “\$38,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2021
2 through 2026”;

3 (4) in paragraph (4), by striking “\$26,800,000
4 for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023” and in-
5 serting “\$45,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2021
6 through 2026”; and

7 (5) in paragraph (5), by striking “\$30,564,000
8 for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023” and in-
9 serting “\$35,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2021
10 through 2026”.

Calendar No. 195

117TH CONGRESS
1ST Session

S. 381

A BILL

To establish the National Ocean Mapping, Exploration, and Characterization Council, and for other purposes.

DECEMBER 16, 2021

Reported with an amendment