

Calendar No. 396

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2166

[Report No. 116–185]

To designate Regional Ocean Partnerships of the National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 18, 2019

Mr. WICKER (for himself, Mr. JONES, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. MURPHY, and Mr. MERKLEY) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate

DECEMBER 19, 2019

Reported by Mr. WICKER, with an amendment

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

A BILL

To designate Regional Ocean Partnerships of the National
Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, 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 “Regional Ocean Part-
3 nership Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS; SENSE OF CONGRESS; PURPOSES.**

5 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following find-
6 ings:

7 (1) The ocean and coastal waters of the United
8 States are foundational to the economy, security,
9 global competitiveness, and well-being of the United
10 States and continuously serve the people of the
11 United States and other countries as an important
12 source of food, energy, economic productivity, recre-
13 ation, beauty, and enjoyment.

14 (2) Over many years, the resource productivity
15 and water quality of the ocean and coastal areas of
16 the United States have been diminished by pollution,
17 increasing population demands, economic develop-
18 ment, and natural and man-made hazard events,
19 both acute and chronic.

20 (3) Ocean and coastal areas of the United
21 States are managed by State and Federal resource
22 agencies and regulated by various overlapping au-
23 thorities, thereby creating a significant need for co-
24 ordination to enhance the ecological and economic
25 health of those areas.

1 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
2 gress that the United States should seek to attain coordi-
3 nation of the efforts relating to the management, con-
4 servation, resilience, and restoration of ocean and coastal
5 areas to reduce duplication of efforts and maximize effi-
6 ciencies through collaborative regional efforts by Regional
7 Ocean Partnerships, in consultation with Federal agencies
8 and State and local authorities.

9 (c) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are as fol-
10 lows:

11 (1) To expand and strengthen cooperative vol-
12 untary efforts intended to manage and restore ocean
13 and coastal areas spanning across multiple State
14 boundaries.

15 (2) To expand Federal support for monitoring,
16 data management, and restoration activities in ocean
17 and coastal areas.

18 (3) To commit the United States to a com-
19 prehensive cooperative program to achieve improved
20 water quality in, and improvements in the produc-
21 tivity of living resources of, all coastal ecosystems.

22 (4) To authorize Regional Ocean Partnerships
23 as coordinators of Federal and State authorities re-
24 lating to voluntary efforts for the collaborative man-
25 agement of the large marine ecosystems, thereby re-

1 ducing duplication of efforts and maximizing oppor-
 2 tunities to leverage support in the ocean and coastal
 3 regions.

4 (5) To enable Regional Ocean Partnerships to
 5 receive Federal funding to conduct the scientific re-
 6 search, conservation and restoration management,
 7 and priority coordination necessary to achieve the
 8 purposes described in paragraphs (1) through (4).

9 **SEC. 3. REGIONAL OCEAN PARTNERSHIPS.**

10 (a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

11 (1) **ADMINISTRATOR.**—The term “Adminis-
 12 trator” means the Administrator of the National
 13 Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

14 (2) **COASTAL STATE.**—The term “coastal state”
 15 has the meaning given that term in section 304 of
 16 the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16
 17 U.S.C. 1453).

18 (3) **INDIAN TRIBE.**—The term “Indian Tribe”
 19 means an Indian tribe, as defined in section 4 of the
 20 Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance
 21 Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

22 (b) **REGIONAL OCEAN PARTNERSHIPS.**—

23 (1) **IN GENERAL.**—A coastal state may partici-
 24 pate in a Regional Ocean Partnership with one or

1 more other coastal states that share a common
2 ocean or coastal area with the coastal state.

3 ~~(2) APPLICATION.~~—The Governor of a coastal
4 state or the Governors of a group of coastal states
5 may apply to the Secretary of Commerce, on behalf
6 of a partnership, for the partnership to receive des-
7 ignation as a Regional Ocean Partnership if the
8 partnership—

9 ~~(A)~~ meets the requirements under para-
10 graph ~~(3)~~; and

11 ~~(B)~~ submits an application for such des-
12 ignation in such manner, in such form, and
13 containing such information as the Secretary
14 may require.

15 ~~(3) REQUIREMENTS.~~—A partnership is eligible
16 for designation as a Regional Ocean Partnership by
17 the Secretary under paragraph ~~(2)~~ if the partner-
18 ship—

19 ~~(A)~~ is established to coordinate the man-
20 agement of coastal resources;

21 ~~(B)~~ focuses on the environmental issues af-
22 fecting the ocean and coastal areas of the coast-
23 al states participating in the partnership;

24 ~~(C)~~ does not have a regulatory function;
25 and

1 (D) is not duplicative of an existing Re-
2 gional Ocean Partnership designated under
3 paragraph (4), as determined by the Secretary.

4 (4) DESIGNATION OF CERTAIN ENTITIES AS RE-
5 GIONAL OCEAN PARTNERSHIPS.—Notwithstanding
6 paragraph (2) or (3), the following entities are des-
7 ignated as Regional Ocean Partnerships:

8 (A) The Gulf of Mexico Alliance, rep-
9 resenting the ocean and coastal area shared by
10 the States of Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mis-
11 sissippi, and Texas.

12 (B) The Northeast Regional Ocean Coun-
13 cil, representing the ocean and coastal area
14 shared by the States of Maine, Vermont, New
15 Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and
16 Rhode Island.

17 (C) The Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on
18 the Ocean, representing the ocean and coastal
19 area shared by the States of New York, New
20 Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia.

21 (D) The West Coast Ocean Alliance, in-
22 cluding the States of California, Oregon, and
23 Washington and the Indian Tribes in those
24 States.

1 (c) GOVERNING BODIES OF REGIONAL OCEAN PART-
2 NERSHIPS.—

3 (1) IN GENERAL.—A Regional Ocean Partner-
4 ship designated under subsection (b) shall be gov-
5 erned by a governing body.

6 (2) MEMBERSHIP.—A governing body described
7 in paragraph (1)—

8 (A) shall be comprised, at a minimum, of
9 voting members from each coastal state partici-
10 pating in the Regional Ocean Partnership, des-
11 ignated by the Governor of the coastal state;
12 and

13 (B) may include such other members as
14 the partnership considers appropriate.

15 (d) FUNCTIONS.—A Regional Ocean Partnership des-
16 ignated under subsection (b) may perform the following
17 functions:

18 (1) Promote coordination of the actions of the
19 agencies of coastal states participating in the part-
20 nership with the actions of the appropriate officials
21 of Federal agencies and other authorities in devel-
22 oping strategies—

23 (A) to conserve living resources, increase
24 valuable habitats, enhance coastal resilience,
25 and address such other issues related to the

1 shared ocean or coastal area as are determined
2 to be a priority by those states;

3 ~~(B)~~ to manage regional data portals and
4 develop associated data products for purposes
5 that support the priorities of those states; and

6 ~~(C)~~ to obtain the support of appropriate
7 officials for such strategies.

8 ~~(2)~~ In cooperation with appropriate Federal
9 agencies and State and local authorities, develop and
10 implement specific action plans to carry out coordi-
11 nation goals.

12 ~~(3)~~ Coordinate and implement priority plans
13 and projects, and facilitate science, research, mod-
14 eling, monitoring, data collection, and other activi-
15 ties that support the goals of the partnership
16 through the provision of grants and contracts under
17 subsection (c).

18 ~~(4)~~ Engage and collaborate with stakeholders to
19 address ocean and coastal related matters that re-
20 quire interagency or intergovernmental solutions.

21 ~~(5)~~ Implement outreach programs for public in-
22 formation, education, and participation to foster
23 stewardship of the resources of the ocean and coast-
24 al areas.

1 (6) Develop and make available, through publi-
 2 cations, technical assistance, and other appropriate
 3 means, information pertaining to cross-jurisdictional
 4 issues being addressed through the coordinated ac-
 5 tivities of the partnership.

6 (7) Serve as the liaison with, and provide infor-
 7 mation to, international counterparts, as appro-
 8 priate.

9 (c) GRANTS AND CONTRACTS.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—A Regional Ocean Partner-
 11 ship designated under subsection (b) may, from
 12 amounts made available to the partnership by the
 13 Administrator or the head of another Federal agen-
 14 cy—

15 (A) provide grants to eligible persons de-
 16 scribed in paragraph (2) for the purposes de-
 17 scribed in paragraph (3); and

18 (B) enter into contracts with such persons
 19 for such purposes.

20 (2) ELIGIBLE PERSONS.—The eligible persons
 21 described in this paragraph are the following:

22 (A) Indian Tribes.

23 (B) State and local governments.

24 (C) Nongovernmental organizations.

25 (D) Institutions of higher education.

1 ~~(E) Individuals.~~

2 ~~(F) Private entities.~~

3 ~~(3) PURPOSES.—The purposes described in this~~
 4 ~~paragraph are the following:~~

5 ~~(A) Monitoring the water quality and living~~
 6 ~~resources of multi-State ocean and coastal eco-~~
 7 ~~systems.~~

8 ~~(B) Researching and addressing the effects~~
 9 ~~of natural and human-induced environmental~~
 10 ~~changes to ocean and coastal ecosystems.~~

11 ~~(C) Developing and executing cooperative~~
 12 ~~strategies that—~~

13 ~~(i) address regional data issues identi-~~
 14 ~~fied by the partnership; and~~

15 ~~(ii) will result in more effective man-~~
 16 ~~agement of common ocean and coastal~~
 17 ~~areas.~~

18 ~~(f) REPORTS AND ASSESSMENTS.—~~

19 ~~(1) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than 1 year~~
 20 ~~after the date of the enactment of this Act, and an-~~
 21 ~~nually thereafter, each Regional Ocean Partnership~~
 22 ~~designated under subsection (b) shall submit to the~~
 23 ~~Administrator, and make available to the public, a~~
 24 ~~report that describes the following:~~

1 (A) Each project and activity for which the
2 partnership received funding under this section
3 during the previous fiscal year.

4 (B) The goals and objectives of those
5 projects and activities.

6 (C) The net benefits of the projects and
7 activities funded under this section during pre-
8 vious fiscal years.

9 (D) The collaborative efforts of the part-
10 nership.

11 (2) ASSESSMENTS AND REPORTS.—

12 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 5 years
13 after the date of the enactment of this Act, and
14 every 5 years thereafter, the Administrator, in
15 coordination with the Regional Ocean Partner-
16 ships designated under subsection (b), shall—

17 (i) assess the effectiveness of the part-
18 nerships in coordinating regional priorities
19 relating to the management of common
20 ocean and coastal areas; and

21 (ii) submit to Congress a report on
22 that assessment.

23 (B) REPORT REQUIREMENTS.—The report
24 required under subparagraph (A)(ii) shall in-
25 clude the following:

1 (i) An assessment of the overall status
2 of coordinated efforts in regional eco-
3 systems covered by the Regional Ocean
4 Partnerships designated under subsection
5 (b):

6 (ii) An assessment of the effectiveness
7 of the management strategies that such
8 partnerships are implementing and the ex-
9 tent to which the priority needs of the re-
10 gions covered by such partnerships are
11 being met through such strategies:

12 (iii) Such recommendations as the Ad-
13 ministrator may have for the improved co-
14 ordination among the regulatory and non-
15 regulatory programs operating in the re-
16 gions covered by such partnerships, includ-
17 ing recommendations for strengthening the
18 strategies being implemented or adopting
19 improved strategies:

20 (g) AVAILABILITY OF FEDERAL FUNDS.—In addition
21 to amounts made available to Regional Ocean Partner-
22 ships designated under subsection (b) by the Adminis-
23 trator under this section, the head of any other Federal
24 agency may provide grants to, enter into contracts with,
25 or otherwise provide funding to such partnerships.

1 (h) ~~AUTHORITIES.~~—Nothing in this section estab-
 2 lishes any new legal or regulatory authority of the Na-
 3 tional Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration or of the
 4 Regional Ocean Partnerships designated under subsection
 5 (b); other than—

6 (1) the authority of the Administrator to pro-
 7 vide amounts to the partnerships; and

8 (2) the authority of the partnerships to provide
 9 grants and enter into contracts under subsection (c).

10 (i) ~~FUNDING.~~—

11 (1) ~~IN GENERAL.~~—Of amounts authorized to be
 12 appropriated to the National Oceanic and Atmos-
 13 pheric Administration, the Administrator may make
 14 the following amounts available to Regional Ocean
 15 Partnerships designated under subsection (b) to
 16 carry out activities of the partnerships under this
 17 Act:

18 (A) ~~\$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2020.~~

19 (B) ~~\$10,100,000 for fiscal year 2021.~~

20 (C) ~~\$10,202,000 for fiscal year 2022.~~

21 (D) ~~\$10,306,040 for fiscal year 2023.~~

22 (E) ~~\$10,412,160 for fiscal year 2024.~~

23 (F) ~~\$10,520,404 for fiscal year 2025.~~

24 (2) ~~DISTRIBUTION OF AMOUNTS.~~—Amounts
 25 made available under paragraph (1) shall be divided

1 evenly among the Regional Ocean Partnerships des-
 2 ignated under subsection (b).

3 ~~(3) AVAILABILITY OF AMOUNTS.—Amounts~~
 4 made available under paragraph (1) shall remain
 5 available until expended.

6 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

7 *This Act may be cited as the “Regional Ocean Partner-*
 8 *ship Act”.*

9 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS; SENSE OF CONGRESS; PURPOSES.**

10 (a) *FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:*

11 (1) *The ocean and coastal waters of the United*
 12 *States are foundational to the economy, security, glob-*
 13 *al competitiveness, and well-being of the United*
 14 *States and continuously serve the people of the United*
 15 *States and other countries as an important source of*
 16 *food, energy, economic productivity, recreation, beau-*
 17 *ty, and enjoyment.*

18 (2) *Over many years, the resource productivity*
 19 *and water quality of the ocean and coastal areas of*
 20 *the United States have been diminished by pollution,*
 21 *increasing population demands, economic develop-*
 22 *ment, and natural and man-made hazard events, both*
 23 *acute and chronic.*

24 (3) *Ocean and coastal areas of the United States*
 25 *are managed by State and Federal resource agencies*

1 *and regulated on an interstate and regional scale by*
2 *various overlapping Federal authorities, thereby cre-*
3 *ating a significant need for interstate coordination to*
4 *enhance regional priorities, including the ecological*
5 *and economic health of those areas.*

6 **(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—*It is the sense of Congress*
7 *that—*

8 *(1) the United States should seek to support*
9 *interstate coordination of shared regional priorities*
10 *relating to the management, conservation, resilience,*
11 *and restoration of ocean and coastal areas to maxi-*
12 *mize efficiencies through collaborative regional efforts*
13 *by Regional Ocean Partnerships, in consultation with*
14 *Federal and State agencies, Tribal governments, and*
15 *local authorities; and*

16 *(2) such efforts would enhance existing and effec-*
17 *tive State coastal management efforts based on shared*
18 *regional priorities.*

19 **(c) PURPOSES.**—*The purposes of this Act are as fol-*
20 *lows:*

21 *(1) To complement and expand cooperative vol-*
22 *untary efforts intended to manage and restore ocean*
23 *and coastal areas spanning across multiple State*
24 *boundaries.*

1 (2) *To expand Federal support for monitoring,*
 2 *data management, and restoration activities in ocean*
 3 *and coastal areas.*

4 (3) *To commit the United States to a com-*
 5 *prehensive cooperative program to achieve improved*
 6 *water quality in, and improvements in the produc-*
 7 *tivity of living resources of, all coastal ecosystems.*

8 (4) *To authorize Regional Ocean Partnerships as*
 9 *intergovernmental coordinators for shared interstate*
 10 *and regional priorities relating to the collaborative*
 11 *management of the large marine ecosystems, thereby*
 12 *reducing duplication of efforts and maximizing op-*
 13 *portunities to leverage support in the ocean and*
 14 *coastal regions.*

15 (5) *To enable Regional Ocean Partnerships, or*
 16 *designated fiscal management entities of such part-*
 17 *nerships, to receive Federal funding to conduct the*
 18 *scientific research, conservation and restoration ac-*
 19 *tivities, and priority coordination on shared regional*
 20 *priorities necessary to achieve the purposes described*
 21 *in paragraphs (1) through (4).*

22 **SEC. 3. REGIONAL OCEAN PARTNERSHIPS.**

23 (a) *DEFINITIONS.—In this section:*

1 (1) *ADMINISTRATOR.*—The term “Adminis-
 2 trator” means the Administrator of the National Oce-
 3 anic and Atmospheric Administration.

4 (2) *COASTAL STATE.*—The term “coastal state”
 5 has the meaning given that term in section 304 of the
 6 Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C.
 7 1453).

8 (3) *INDIAN TRIBE.*—The term “Indian Tribe”
 9 means an Indian tribe, as defined in section 4 of the
 10 Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance
 11 Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

12 (b) *REGIONAL OCEAN PARTNERSHIPS.*—

13 (1) *IN GENERAL.*—A coastal state may partici-
 14 pate in a Regional Ocean Partnership with one or
 15 more other coastal states that share a common ocean
 16 or coastal area with the coastal state, without regard
 17 to whether the coastal states are contiguous.

18 (2) *APPLICATION.*—The Governor of a coastal
 19 state or the Governors of a group of coastal states
 20 may apply to the Secretary of Commerce, on behalf
 21 of a partnership, for the partnership to receive des-
 22 ignation as a Regional Ocean Partnership if the
 23 partnership—

24 (A) meets the requirements under para-
 25 graph (3); and

1 (B) submits an application for such des-
 2 ignation in such manner, in such form, and con-
 3 taining such information as the Secretary may
 4 require.

5 (3) *REQUIREMENTS.*—A partnership is eligible
 6 for designation as a Regional Ocean Partnership by
 7 the Secretary under paragraph (2) if the partner-
 8 ship—

9 (A) is established to coordinate the inter-
 10 state management of ocean and coastal resources;

11 (B) focuses on the environmental issues af-
 12 fecting the ocean and coastal areas of the mem-
 13 bers participating in the partnership;

14 (C) complements existing State coastal and
 15 ocean management efforts on an interstate scale,
 16 focusing on shared regional priorities;

17 (D) does not have a regulatory function;
 18 and

19 (E) is not duplicative of an existing Re-
 20 gional Ocean Partnership designated under
 21 paragraph (4), as determined by the Secretary.

22 (4) *DESIGNATION OF CERTAIN ENTITIES AS RE-*
 23 *GIONAL OCEAN PARTNERSHIPS.*—Notwithstanding
 24 paragraph (2) or (3), the following entities are des-
 25 ignated as Regional Ocean Partnerships:

1 (A) *The Gulf of Mexico Alliance, comprised*
 2 *of the States of Alabama, Florida, Louisiana,*
 3 *Mississippi, and Texas.*

4 (B) *The Northeast Regional Ocean Council,*
 5 *comprised of the States of Maine, Vermont, New*
 6 *Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and*
 7 *Rhode Island.*

8 (C) *The Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on*
 9 *the Ocean, comprised of the States of New York,*
 10 *New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia.*

11 (D) *The West Coast Ocean Alliance, com-*
 12 *prised of the States of California, Oregon, and*
 13 *Washington and the coastal Indian Tribes there-*
 14 *in.*

15 (c) *GOVERNING BODIES OF REGIONAL OCEAN PART-*
 16 *NERSHIPS.—*

17 (1) *IN GENERAL.—A Regional Ocean Partner-*
 18 *ship designated under subsection (b) shall be governed*
 19 *by a governing body.*

20 (2) *MEMBERSHIP.—A governing body described*
 21 *in paragraph (1)—*

22 (A) *shall be comprised, at a minimum, of*
 23 *voting members from each coastal state partici-*
 24 *pating in the Regional Ocean Partnership, des-*
 25 *ignated by the Governor of the coastal state; and*

1 (B) may include such other members as the
2 partnership considers appropriate.

3 (d) *FUNCTIONS.*—A Regional Ocean Partnership des-
4 ignated under subsection (b) may perform the following
5 functions:

6 (1) Promote coordination of the actions of the
7 agencies of coastal states participating in the partner-
8 ship with the actions of the appropriate officials of
9 Federal agencies and State and Tribal governments
10 in developing strategies—

11 (A) to conserve living resources, increase
12 valuable habitats, enhance coastal resilience and
13 ocean management, and address such other issues
14 related to the shared ocean or coastal area as are
15 determined to be a shared, regional priority by
16 those states; and

17 (B) to manage regional data portals and
18 develop associated data products for purposes
19 that support the priorities of the partnership.

20 (2) In cooperation with appropriate Federal and
21 State agencies, Tribal governments, and local authori-
22 ties, develop and implement specific action plans to
23 carry out coordination goals.

24 (3) Coordinate and implement priority plans
25 and projects, and facilitate science, research, mod-

eling, monitoring, data collection, and other activities that support the goals of the partnership through the provision of grants and contracts under subsection (e).

(4) *Engage, coordinate, and collaborate with relevant governmental entities and stakeholders to address ocean and coastal related matters that require interagency or intergovernmental solutions.*

(5) *Implement outreach programs for public information, education, and participation to foster stewardship of the resources of the ocean and coastal areas, as relevant.*

(6) *Develop and make available, through publications, technical assistance, and other appropriate means, information pertaining to cross-jurisdictional issues being addressed through the coordinated activities of the partnership.*

(7) *Serve as a liaison with, and provide information to, international counterparts, as appropriate on priority issues for the partnership.*

(e) *GRANTS AND CONTRACTS.—*

(1) *IN GENERAL.—A Regional Ocean Partnership designated under subsection (b) may, in coordination with existing Federal and State management programs, from amounts made available to the part-*

1 *nership by the Administrator or the head of another*
 2 *Federal agency—*

3 *(A) provide grants to eligible persons de-*
 4 *scribed in paragraph (2) for the purposes de-*
 5 *scribed in paragraph (3); and*

6 *(B) enter into contracts with such persons*
 7 *for such purposes.*

8 *(2) ELIGIBLE PERSONS.—The eligible persons de-*
 9 *scribed in this paragraph are the following:*

10 *(A) Indian Tribes.*

11 *(B) State and local governments.*

12 *(C) Nongovernmental organizations.*

13 *(D) Institutions of higher education.*

14 *(E) Individuals.*

15 *(F) Private entities.*

16 *(3) PURPOSES.—The purposes described in this*
 17 *paragraph include any of the following:*

18 *(A) Monitoring the water quality and living*
 19 *resources of multi-State ocean and coastal eco-*
 20 *systems and coastal communities.*

21 *(B) Researching and addressing the effects*
 22 *of natural and human-induced environmental*
 23 *changes on—*

24 *(i) ocean and coastal ecosystems; and*

25 *(ii) coastal communities.*

1 (C) *Developing and executing cooperative*
 2 *strategies that—*

3 (i) *address regional data issues identi-*
 4 *fied by the partnership; and*

5 (ii) *will result in more effective man-*
 6 *agement of common ocean and coastal*
 7 *areas.*

8 (f) *REPORTS AND ASSESSMENTS.—*

9 (1) *IN GENERAL.—Not later than 5 years after*
 10 *the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 5*
 11 *years thereafter until 2040, the Administrator, in co-*
 12 *ordination with the Regional Ocean Partnerships des-*
 13 *ignated under subsection (b), shall—*

14 (A) *assess the effectiveness of the partner-*
 15 *ships in supporting regional priorities relating*
 16 *to the management of common ocean and coastal*
 17 *areas; and*

18 (B) *submit to Congress a report on that as-*
 19 *essment.*

20 (2) *REPORT REQUIREMENTS.—The report re-*
 21 *quired under paragraph (1)(B) shall include the fol-*
 22 *lowing:*

23 (A) *An assessment of the overall status of*
 24 *the work of the Regional Ocean Partnerships des-*
 25 *ignated under subsection (b).*

1 (B) *An assessment of the effectiveness of the*
2 *strategies that the Regional Ocean Partnerships*
3 *are supporting or implementing and the extent*
4 *to which the priority needs of the regions covered*
5 *by such partnerships are being met through such*
6 *strategies.*

7 (C) *Such recommendations as the Adminis-*
8 *trator may have for the improvement of efforts of*
9 *the Regional Ocean Partnerships to support the*
10 *purposes of this Act.*

11 (D) *An assessment of how the efforts of the*
12 *Regional Ocean Partnerships support or enhance*
13 *Federal and State efforts in line with the pur-*
14 *poses of this Act.*

15 (E) *Recommendations for improvements to*
16 *the collective strategies that support the purposes*
17 *of this Act in coordination and consultation with*
18 *all relevant Federal, State, and Tribal entities.*

19 (g) *AVAILABILITY OF FEDERAL FUNDS.—In addition*
20 *to amounts made available to Regional Ocean Partnerships*
21 *designated under subsection (b) by the Administrator under*
22 *this section, the head of any other Federal agency may pro-*
23 *vide grants to, enter into contracts with, or otherwise pro-*
24 *vide funding to such partnerships.*

1 (h) *AUTHORITIES.*—*Nothing in this section establishes*
 2 *any new legal or regulatory authority of the National Oce-*
 3 *anic and Atmospheric Administration or of the Regional*
 4 *Ocean Partnerships designated under subsection (b), other*
 5 *than—*

6 (1) *the authority of the Administrator to provide*
 7 *amounts to the partnerships; and*

8 (2) *the authority of the partnerships to provide*
 9 *grants and enter into contracts under subsection (e).*

10 (i) *FUNDING.*—

11 (1) *IN GENERAL.*—*Of amounts authorized to be*
 12 *appropriated to the National Oceanic and Atmos-*
 13 *pheric Administration, the Administrator may make*
 14 *the following amounts available to Regional Ocean*
 15 *Partnerships designated under subsection (b) or des-*
 16 *ignated fiscal management entities of such partner-*
 17 *ships to carry out activities of the partnerships under*
 18 *this Act:*

19 (A) *\$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2020.*

20 (B) *\$10,100,000 for fiscal year 2021.*

21 (C) *\$10,202,000 for fiscal year 2022.*

22 (D) *\$10,306,040 for fiscal year 2023.*

23 (E) *\$10,412,160 for fiscal year 2024.*

24 (F) *\$10,520,404 for fiscal year 2025.*

1 (2) *DISTRIBUTION OF AMOUNTS.—Amounts*
2 *made available under paragraph (1) shall be divided*
3 *evenly among the Regional Ocean Partnerships des-*
4 *ignated under subsection (b).*

5 (3) *AVAILABILITY OF AMOUNTS.—Amounts made*
6 *available under paragraph (1) shall remain available*
7 *until expended.*

Calendar No. 396

116TH CONGRESS
1ST Session

S. 2166

[Report No. 116–185]

A BILL

To designate Regional Ocean Partnerships of the
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administra-
tion, and for other purposes.

DECEMBER 19, 2019

Reported with an amendment