

Union Calendar No. 450

117TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 160

[Report No. 117–626]

To reauthorize the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000 and to establish
the United States Coral Reef Task Force, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 4, 2021

Mr. SOTO (for himself, Mr. CASE, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, Mr. MAST, and Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

DECEMBER 14, 2022

Additional sponsors: Ms. PLASKETT, Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. CRIST, Mr. SAN NICOLAS, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mrs. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. WALTZ, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Mrs. DEMINGS, Mr. GAETZ, Mr. POSEY, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. STEUBE, Mr. DEUTCH, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. DUNN, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. GIMENEZ, Mrs. CAMMACK, Mr. DONALDS, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. KAHELE, Mr. COHEN, and Mr. DIAZ-BALART

DECEMBER 14, 2022

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole
House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

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

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on January 4, 2021]

A BILL

To reauthorize the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000
and to establish the United States Coral Reef Task
Force, 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; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) *SHORT TITLE.*—*This Act may be cited as the “Re-*
 5 *storing Resilient Reefs Act of 2021”.*

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

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

**TITLE I—REAUTHORIZATION OF CORAL REEF CONSERVATION ACT
OF 2000**

Sec. 101. Reauthorization of Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000.

Sec. 102. Modification to section 204 of the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000
(16 U.S.C. 6403).

TITLE II—UNITED STATES CORAL REEF TASK FORCE

Sec. 201. Establishment.

Sec. 202. Duties.

Sec. 203. Membership.

Sec. 204. Responsibilities of Federal agency members.

Sec. 205. Working groups.

Sec. 206. Definitions.

**TITLE III—DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR CORAL REEF
AUTHORITIES**

Sec. 301. Coral reef conservation and restoration assistance.

**TITLE IV—SUSAN L. WILLIAMS NATIONAL CORAL REEF
MANAGEMENT FELLOWSHIP**

Sec. 401. Short title.

Sec. 402. Definitions.

Sec. 403. Establishment of fellowship program.

Sec. 404. Fellowship awards.

Sec. 405. Matching requirement.

1 ***TITLE I—REAUTHORIZATION OF***
2 ***CORAL REEF CONSERVATION***
3 ***ACT OF 2000***

4 ***SEC. 101. REAUTHORIZATION OF CORAL REEF CONSERVA-***
5 ***TION ACT OF 2000.***

6 *(a) PURPOSES; FEDERAL CORAL REEF MANAGEMENT*
7 *AND RESTORATION ACTIVITIES.—The Coral Reef Conserva-*
8 *tion Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 6401 et seq.) is amended by*
9 *striking sections 202 and 203 and inserting the following:*

10 ***“SEC. 202. PURPOSES.***

11 *“The purposes of this title are—*

12 *“(1) to conserve and restore the condition of*
13 *United States coral reef ecosystems challenged by nat-*
14 *ural and human-accelerated changes, including in-*
15 *creasing ocean temperatures, ocean acidification,*
16 *coral bleaching, coral diseases, water quality degrada-*
17 *tion, invasive species, and illegal, unreported, and*
18 *unregulated fishing;*

19 *“(2) to promote the science-based management*
20 *and sustainable use of coral reef ecosystems to benefit*
21 *local communities and the Nation, including through*
22 *improved integration and cooperation among Federal,*
23 *State, and locally managed jurisdictions with coral*
24 *reef equities;*

1 “(3) to develop sound scientific information on
2 the condition of coral reef ecosystems, continuing and
3 emerging threats to such ecosystems, and the efficacy
4 of innovative tools, technologies, and strategies to
5 mitigate stressors and restore such ecosystems, includ-
6 ing evaluation criteria to determine the effectiveness
7 of management interventions, and accurate mapping
8 for coral reef restoration;

9 “(4) to assist in the preservation of coral reefs by
10 supporting science-based, consensus-driven State,
11 Tribal, Pacific Islander, and community-based coral
12 reef management, including monitoring, conservation,
13 and restoration projects that empower local commu-
14 nities, small businesses, and nongovernmental organi-
15 zations;

16 “(5) to provide financial resources, technical as-
17 sistance, and scientific expertise to supplement and
18 strengthen State, Tribal, Indigenous, and community-
19 based management programs and conservation and
20 restoration projects;

21 “(6) to establish a formal mechanism for col-
22 lecting and allocating monetary donations from the
23 private sector to be used for coral reef conservation
24 and restoration projects;

1 “(7) to support the rapid and effective, science-
2 based assessment and response to emergencies that im-
3 minently threaten coral reefs, such as coral disease
4 outbreaks, invasive species, hurricanes, marine heat
5 waves, coral bleaching, and other natural disasters,
6 vessel groundings or chemical spills, and other exigent
7 circumstances; and

8 “(8) to serve as a model for advancing similar
9 international efforts to monitor, conserve, and restore
10 coral reef ecosystems in the jurisdictions of United
11 States allies and trading partners.

12 **“SEC. 203. FEDERAL CORAL REEF MANAGEMENT AND RES-**
13 **TORATION ACTIVITIES.**

14 “(a) *IN GENERAL.*—The Administrator or the Sec-
15 retary of the Interior may conduct activities described in
16 subsection (b) to conserve and restore coral reefs and coral
17 reef ecosystems that are consistent with—

18 “(1) all applicable laws governing resource man-
19 agement in Federal and State waters, including this
20 Act;

21 “(2) the national coral reef resilience strategy in
22 effect under section 204A;

23 “(3) coral reef action plans in effect under sec-
24 tion 205, as applicable; and

1 “(4) coral reef emergency plans in effect under
2 section 209, as applicable.

3 “(b) *ACTIVITIES DESCRIBED.*—Activities described in
4 this subsection are activities to conserve, research, monitor,
5 assess, and restore coral reefs and coral reef ecosystems in
6 waters managed under the jurisdiction of a Federal agency
7 specified in subsection (c) or in coordination with a State
8 in waters managed under the jurisdiction of such State, in-
9 cluding—

10 “(1) developing, including through the collection
11 of requisite data, high-quality and digitized maps re-
12 flecting—

13 “(A) current and historical live coral cover
14 data;

15 “(B) coral reef habitat quality data;

16 “(C) priority areas for coral reef conserva-
17 tion to maintain biodiversity and ecosystem
18 structure and function, including the reef matrix
19 itself, that benefit coastal communities and liv-
20 ing marine resources;

21 “(D) priority areas for coral reef restora-
22 tion to enhance biodiversity and ecosystem struc-
23 ture and function, including the reef matrix
24 itself, to benefit coastal communities and living
25 marine resources; and

1 “(E) areas of concern that may require en-
2 hanced monitoring of coral health and cover;

3 “(2) enhancing compliance with Federal laws
4 that prohibit or regulate—

5 “(A) the taking of coral products or species
6 associated with coral reefs; or

7 “(B) the use and management of coral reef
8 ecosystems;

9 “(3) long-term ecological monitoring of coral reef
10 ecosystems;

11 “(4) implementing species-specific recovery plans
12 for listed coral species consistent with the Endangered
13 Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.);

14 “(5) restoring degraded coral reef ecosystems;

15 “(6) promoting ecologically sound navigation
16 and anchorages, including mooring buoy systems to
17 promote enhanced recreational access, near coral reefs;

18 “(7) monitoring and responding to severe bleach-
19 ing or mortality events, disease outbreaks, invasive
20 species outbreaks, and significant maritime accidents,
21 including chemical spill cleanup and the removal of
22 grounded vessels;

23 “(8) conducting scientific research that contrib-
24 utes to the understanding, sustainable use, and long-
25 term conservation of coral reefs;

1 “(9) *enhancing public awareness, understanding,*
 2 *and appreciation of coral reefs and coral reef eco-*
 3 *systems;*

4 “(10) *preventing or minimizing the likelihood of*
 5 *vessel impacts or other physical damage to coral reefs*
 6 *through navigational aids and expansion of reef-safe*
 7 *anchorage; and*

8 “(11) *centrally archiving, managing, and dis-*
 9 *tributing data sets and coral reef ecosystem assess-*
 10 *ments and publishing such information on publicly*
 11 *available internet websites of—*

12 “(A) *the Coral Reef Conservation Program*
 13 *of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Ad-*
 14 *ministration; and*

15 “(B) *the Task Force.*

16 “(c) *FEDERAL AGENCIES SPECIFIED.—A Federal*
 17 *agency specified in this subsection is one of the following:*

18 “(1) *The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Ad-*
 19 *ministration.*

20 “(2) *The National Park Service.*

21 “(3) *The United States Fish and Wildlife Serv-*
 22 *ice.*

23 “(4) *The Office of Insular Affairs.”.*

24 “(b) *ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS.—The Coral Reef Con-*
 25 *servation Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 6401 et seq.) is amended*

1 *by striking sections 205 through 210 and inserting the fol-*
2 *lowing:*

3 **“SEC. 204A. NATIONAL CORAL REEF RESILIENCE STRATEGY.**

4 “(a) *IN GENERAL.*—*The Administrator shall—*

5 “(1) *develop a national coral reef resilience*
6 *strategy; and*

7 “(2) *periodically, but not less frequently than*
8 *every 15 years, review and revise the strategy.*

9 “(b) *ELEMENTS.*—*The strategy required by subsection*
10 *(a) shall include the following:*

11 “(1) *A discussion addressing—*

12 “(A) *continuing and emerging threats to the*
13 *resilience of United States coral reef ecosystems;*

14 “(B) *remaining gaps in coral reef ecosystem*
15 *research, monitoring, and assessment;*

16 “(C) *the status of management cooperation*
17 *and integration among Federal, State, Tribal,*
18 *and locally managed jurisdictions with coral reef*
19 *equities;*

20 “(D) *the status of efforts to manage and*
21 *disseminate critical information, and enhance*
22 *interjurisdictional data sharing, related to re-*
23 *search, reports, datasets, and maps;*

24 “(E) *areas of special focus, which may in-*
25 *clude—*

1 “(i) improving natural coral recruit-
2 ment;

3 “(ii) preventing avoidable losses of cor-
4 als and their habitat;

5 “(iii) enhancing the resilience of coral
6 populations;

7 “(iv) supporting a resilience-based
8 management approach;

9 “(v) developing, coordinating, and im-
10 plementing watershed management plans;

11 “(vi) building and sustaining water-
12 shed management capacity at the local level;

13 “(vii) providing data essential for
14 coral reef fisheries management;

15 “(viii) building capacity for coral reef
16 fisheries management;

17 “(ix) increasing understanding of coral
18 reef ecosystem services;

19 “(x) educating the public on the im-
20 portance of coral reefs, threats and solu-
21 tions; and

22 “(xi) evaluating intervention efficacy;

23 “(F) the status of conservation efforts, in-
24 cluding the use of marine protected areas to serve
25 as replenishment zones developed consistent with

1 *local practices and traditions and in cooperation*
2 *with, and with respect for the scientific, tech-*
3 *nical, and management expertise and respon-*
4 *sibilities of, State fish and wildlife management*
5 *agencies; and*

6 *“(G) science-based adaptive management*
7 *and restoration efforts.*

8 *“(2) A statement of national goals and objectives*
9 *designed to guide—*

10 *“(A) future Federal coral reef management*
11 *and restoration activities authorized under sec-*
12 *tion 203;*

13 *“(B) conservation and restoration priorities*
14 *for grants awarded under section 213; and*

15 *“(C) research priorities for the cooperative*
16 *institutes established under section 215(c).*

17 *“(3) General templates for use by covered reef*
18 *managers to guide the development of—*

19 *“(A) coral reef action plans under section*
20 *205; and*

21 *“(B) coral reef emergency plans under sec-*
22 *tion 209.*

23 *“(c) CONSULTATIONS.—In developing all elements of*
24 *the strategy required by subsection (a), the Administrator*
25 *shall—*

1 “(1) *consult with the Secretary of the Interior,*
2 *the Task Force, covered States, and Tribal organiza-*
3 *tions;*

4 “(2) *engage stakeholders, including coral reef*
5 *stewardship partnerships, coral reef institutes and re-*
6 *search centers described in section 215(c), and coral*
7 *reef conservation grant awardees; and*

8 “(3) *solicit public review and comment regard-*
9 *ing scoping and the draft strategy.*

10 “(d) *SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS; PUBLICATION.—The*
11 *Administrator shall—*

12 “(1) *submit the strategy required by subsection*
13 *(a) and any revisions to the strategy to the appro-*
14 *priate congressional committees; and*

15 “(2) *publish the strategy and any such revisions*
16 *on publicly available internet websites of—*

17 “(A) *the Coral Reef Conservation Program*
18 *of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Ad-*
19 *ministration; and*

20 “(B) *the Task Force.*

21 “(e) *TRANSITION RULE.—On and after the date of the*
22 *enactment of the Restoring Resilient Reefs Act of 2021, the*
23 *2018 Coral Reef Conservation Program Strategic Plan of*
24 *the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration*

1 *shall be considered to be the national coral reef resilience*
 2 *strategy in effect under this section until the earlier of—*

3 *“(1) September 30, 2033; or*

4 *“(2) the date on which the Administrator devel-*
 5 *ops a national coral reef resilience strategy under this*
 6 *section.*

7 **“SEC. 205. CORAL REEF ACTION PLANS.**

8 *“(a) CORAL REEF ACTION PLANS.—Except as pro-*
 9 *vided in subsection (h), not later than 3 years after the date*
 10 *of the enactment of the Restoring Resilient Reefs Act of*
 11 *2021, and not later than 2 years after the publication of*
 12 *a revised national coral reef resilience strategy under sec-*
 13 *tion 204A, each covered reef manager shall prepare and sub-*
 14 *mit to the Task Force a coral reef action plan to guide man-*
 15 *agement and restoration activities to be undertaken within*
 16 *the responsibilities and jurisdiction of the manager.*

17 *“(b) REQUIREMENTS.—A covered reef manager pre-*
 18 *paring a coral reef action plan under subsection (a) shall—*

19 *“(1) ensure that the plan is consistent with all*
 20 *elements of the national coral reef resilience strategy*
 21 *in effect; and*

22 *“(2) revise the plan not less frequently than once*
 23 *every 5 years.*

1 “(c) *PLAN ELEMENTS.*—A coral reef action plan under
2 subsection (a) shall include a discussion of the following ele-
3 ments:

4 “(1) *Short- and mid-term coral reef conservation*
5 *and restoration objectives within the applicable juris-*
6 *isdiction.*

7 “(2) *An updated adaptive management frame-*
8 *work to inform research, monitoring, and assessment*
9 *needs.*

10 “(3) *The status of any coral reef emergency*
11 *plans in effect under section 209 covering coral reef*
12 *ecosystems within the applicable jurisdiction.*

13 “(4) *Tools, strategies, and partnerships necessary*
14 *to identify, monitor, and redress the impacts of pollu-*
15 *tion, diminished water quality, temperature fluctua-*
16 *tions, acidification, overfishing, disease, and other*
17 *disturbances to coral reef ecosystems within the appli-*
18 *cable jurisdiction.*

19 “(5) *The status of efforts to improve coral reef*
20 *ecosystem management cooperation and integration*
21 *among neighboring Federal, State, Tribal, or locally*
22 *managed jurisdictions, including the identification of*
23 *existing research and monitoring activities that can*
24 *be leveraged for coral reef status and trends assess-*
25 *ments within the applicable jurisdiction.*

1 “(6) *An accounting of annual expenditures on*
2 *coral reef management and restoration activities*
3 *within the applicable jurisdiction while the preceding*
4 *action plan, if any, was in effect.*

5 “(7) *Estimated budgetary and resource consider-*
6 *ations necessary to carry out the proposed action*
7 *plan.*

8 “(d) *TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Administrator*
9 *and the Task Force shall make all reasonable efforts to pro-*
10 *vide technical assistance upon request by a covered reef*
11 *manager developing a coral reef action plan under sub-*
12 *section (a).*

13 “(e) *ADOPTION OF CORAL REEF ACTION PLANS.—A*
14 *covered reef manager may adopt a coral reef action plan*
15 *developed by another covered reef manager, in full or in*
16 *part, as relevant to the adopting manager’s applicable ju-*
17 *risdiction.*

18 “(f) *PUBLIC REVIEW.—The development of a coral reef*
19 *action plan by a covered reef manager under subsection (a),*
20 *and the adoption of a plan under subsection (e), shall be*
21 *subject to public review and comment.*

22 “(g) *PUBLICATION.—The Administrator shall publish*
23 *each coral reef action plan prepared and submitted to the*
24 *Task Force under this section on publicly available internet*
25 *websites of—*

1 “(1) the Coral Reef Conservation Program of the
 2 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration;
 3 and

4 “(2) the Task Force.

5 “(h) *APPLICABILITY TO COVERED STATES AND CORAL*
 6 *REEF STEWARDSHIP PARTNERSHIPS.*—A covered State or
 7 non-Federal coral reef stewardship partnership is not re-
 8 quired to develop a coral reef action plan under subsection
 9 (a), but may do so in its own discretion. In developing a
 10 coral reef action plan, a covered State or non-Federal coral
 11 reef stewardship partnership is encouraged, but not man-
 12 dated, to comply with the requirements of this section.

13 “(i) *PLAN IN EFFECT.*—A coral reef action plan shall
 14 be deemed to be in effect if the plan was submitted to the
 15 Task Force under this section during the preceding 6 years.

16 **“SEC. 206. CORAL REEF STEWARDSHIP PARTNERSHIPS.**

17 “(a) *CORAL REEF STEWARDSHIP PARTNERSHIPS.*—
 18 The Administrator shall establish standards for the identi-
 19 fication of coral reefs and the formation of partnerships
 20 among government and community members for the stew-
 21 ardship of coral reefs (in this title referred to as ‘coral reef
 22 stewardship partnerships’) in accordance with this section,
 23 including guidance for preparation and submission of coral
 24 reef action plans under section 205 for review and approval
 25 by the Administrator.

1 “(b) *IDENTIFICATION OF CORAL REEFS.*—Each coral
 2 reef stewardship partnership shall identify with particu-
 3 larity the coral reef or ecologically significant component
 4 of a coral reef that will be the subject of its stewardship
 5 activities.

6 “(c) *MEMBERSHIP FOR FEDERAL CORAL REEFS.*—A
 7 coral reef stewardship partnership that has identified, as
 8 the subject of its stewardship activities, a coral reef or eco-
 9 logically significant component of a coral reef that is fully
 10 or partially under the management jurisdiction of any Fed-
 11 eral agency specified in section 203(c) shall, at a minimum,
 12 include the following:

13 “(1) That Federal agency, a representative of
 14 which shall serve as chair of the coral reef steward-
 15 ship partnership.

16 “(2) A State, county, or Tribal organization’s re-
 17 source management agency.

18 “(3) A coral reef research center described in sec-
 19 tion 215(c)(4) or another institution of higher edu-
 20 cation.

21 “(4) A nongovernmental organization.

22 “(5) Such other members as the partnership con-
 23 siderers appropriate, such as interested stakeholder
 24 groups.

1 “(d) *MEMBERSHIP FOR NON-FEDERAL CORAL*
 2 *REEFS.—*

3 “(1) *IN GENERAL.—A coral reef stewardship*
 4 *partnership that has identified, as the subject of its*
 5 *stewardship activities, a coral reef or ecologically sig-*
 6 *nificant component of a coral reef that is not under*
 7 *the management jurisdiction of any Federal agency*
 8 *specified in section 203(c) shall, at a minimum, in-*
 9 *clude the following:*

10 “(A) *A State, county, or Tribal organiza-*
 11 *tion’s resource management agency, a represent-*
 12 *ative of which shall serve as the chair of the coral*
 13 *reef stewardship partnership.*

14 “(B) *A coral reef research center described*
 15 *in section 215(c)(4) or another institution of*
 16 *higher education.*

17 “(C) *A nongovernmental organization.*

18 “(D) *Such other members as the partner-*
 19 *ship considers appropriate, such as interested*
 20 *stakeholder groups.*

21 “(2) *ADDITIONAL MEMBERS.—*

22 “(A) *IN GENERAL.—Subject to subpara-*
 23 *graph (B), a coral reef stewardship partnership*
 24 *described in paragraph (1) may also include*
 25 *representatives of one or more Federal agencies*

1 *that have management responsibility in the coral*
 2 *reef that is the subject of the partnership’s stew-*
 3 *ardship activities.*

4 “(B) *REQUESTS; APPROVAL.*—A representa-
 5 *tive of a Federal agency described in subpara-*
 6 *graph (A) may become a member of a coral reef*
 7 *stewardship partnership described in paragraph*
 8 *(1) if—*

9 “(i) *the representative submits a re-*
 10 *quest to become a member to the chair of the*
 11 *partnership referred to in paragraph*
 12 *(1)(A); and*

13 “(ii) *the chair consents to the request.*

14 “(e) *NONAPPLICABILITY OF FEDERAL ADVISORY COM-*
 15 *MITTEE ACT.*—The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5
 16 *U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to coral reef stewardship part-*
 17 *nerships.*

18 **“SEC. 207. BLOCK GRANTS AND COOPERATIVE AGREE-**
 19 **MENTS.**

20 “(a) *IN GENERAL.*—The Administrator shall provide
 21 *block grants of financial assistance to covered States to sup-*
 22 *port management and restoration activities and further the*
 23 *implementation of coral reef action plans in effect under*
 24 *section 205 by covered States and non-Federal coral reef*
 25 *stewardship partnerships.*

1 “(b) *ELIGIBILITY FOR ADDITIONAL AMOUNTS.*—

2 “(1) *IN GENERAL.*—*A covered State shall qualify*
 3 *for and receive additional grant amounts beyond the*
 4 *base award specified in subsection (c)(1) if there is at*
 5 *least one coral reef action plan in effect within the ju-*
 6 *risdiction of the covered State developed by that cov-*
 7 *ered State or a non-Federal coral reef stewardship*
 8 *partnership.*

9 “(2) *WAIVER.*—*In any fiscal year before fiscal*
 10 *year 2025, the Administrator shall waive the require-*
 11 *ment to qualify for and receive additional grant*
 12 *amounts described in paragraph (1).*

13 “(c) *FUNDING FORMULA.*—*The amount of each block*
 14 *grant awarded to a covered State under this section shall*
 15 *be the sum of—*

16 “(1) *a base award of \$100,000; and*

17 “(2) *if the State is eligible under subsection*
 18 *(b)—*

19 “(A) *an amount that is equal to non-Fed-*
 20 *eral expenditures of up to \$3,000,000 on coral*
 21 *reef management and restoration activities with-*
 22 *in the jurisdiction of the State during the pre-*
 23 *vious fiscal year, and*

24 “(B) *an additional amount, from any funds*
 25 *appropriated for activities under this section*

1 *that remain after distribution under subpara-*
2 *graph (A), paragraph (1), and subsection*
3 *(g)based on the proportion of the State’s share of*
4 *total non-Federal expenditures on coral reef*
5 *management and restoration activities, as re-*
6 *ported within the previous fiscal year, in excess*
7 *of \$3,000,000, relative to other covered States.*

8 “(d) *EXCLUSIONS.—For the purposes of calculating*
9 *block grant amounts under subsection (c), Federal funds*
10 *provided to a covered State or non-Federal coral reef stew-*
11 *ardship partnership shall not be considered as qualifying*
12 *non-Federal expenditures, but non-Federal matching funds*
13 *used to leverage Federal awards may be considered as quali-*
14 *fying non-Federal expenditures.*

15 “(e) *RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE ADMINISTRATOR.—*
16 *The Administrator is responsible for—*

17 “(1) *providing guidance on qualifying non-Fed-*
18 *eral expenditures and the proper documentation of*
19 *such expenditures;*

20 “(2) *issuing annual solicitations to covered*
21 *States for additional awards under this section; and*

22 “(3) *determining the appropriate allocation of*
23 *additional amounts among covered States in accord-*
24 *ance with this section.*

1 “(f) *RESPONSIBILITIES OF COVERED STATES.*—Each
 2 covered State is responsible for documenting non-Federal
 3 expenditures within the jurisdiction of the State and for-
 4 mally reporting those expenditures for review in response
 5 to annual solicitations by the Administrator under sub-
 6 section (e).

7 “(g) *COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.*—The Adminis-
 8 trator may enter into cooperative agreements with States
 9 to fund coral reef conservation and restoration activities in
 10 waters managed under the jurisdiction of such States that
 11 are consistent with the national coral reef resilience strategy
 12 in effect under section 204A.

13 “(h) *UNEXPENDED AMOUNTS.*—Any amounts avail-
 14 able for activities under this section that are not expended
 15 shall be transferred to the Coral Reef Stewardship Fund
 16 under section 208(b).

17 **“SEC. 208. CORAL REEF STEWARDSHIP FUND.**

18 “(a) *AUTHORITY TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENTS.*—The
 19 Administrator may enter into an agreement with the Na-
 20 tional Fish and Wildlife Foundation (in this section re-
 21 ferred to as the ‘Foundation’), authorizing the Foundation
 22 to receive, hold, and administer funds received under this
 23 section.

24 “(b) *FUND.*—The Foundation shall invest, reinvest,
 25 and otherwise administer the funds received under this sec-

tion and maintain such funds and any interest or revenues earned in a separate interest-bearing account, to be known as the ‘Coral Reef Stewardship Fund’ (in this section referred to as the ‘Fund’, and known before the date of the enactment of the *Restoring Resilient Reefs Act of 2021* as the *Coral Reef Conservation Fund* administered through a public-private partnership with the Foundation), established by the Foundation solely to support coral reef stewardship partnership activities that—

“(1) further the purposes of this title; and

“(2) are consistent with—

“(A) the national coral reef resilience strategy in effect under section 204A; and

“(B) coral reef action plans in effect, if any, under section 205 covering a coral reef or ecologically significant component of a coral reef to be impacted by such activities, if applicable.

“(c) *AUTHORIZATION TO SOLICIT DONATIONS.*—

“(1) *IN GENERAL.*—Pursuant to an agreement entered into under subsection (a), the Foundation may accept, receive, solicit, hold, administer, and use any gift (including, notwithstanding section 1342 of title 31, United States Code, donations of services) to further the purposes of this title.

1 “(2) *DEPOSITS IN FUND.*—Notwithstanding sec-
2 tion 3302 of title 31, United States Code, any funds
3 received as a gift shall be deposited and maintained
4 in the Fund.

5 “(3) *NOTIFICATION REQUIRED.*—Not later than
6 30 days after funds are deposited in the Fund under
7 paragraph (2), the Foundation shall notify the Com-
8 mittee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Com-
9 mittee on Appropriations of the House of Representa-
10 tives of the source and amount of such funds.

11 “(d) *REVIEW OF PERFORMANCE.*—The Administrator
12 shall conduct a continuing review of all deposits into, and
13 disbursements from, the Fund. Each review shall include
14 a written assessment concerning the extent to which the
15 Foundation has implemented the goals and requirements
16 of—

17 “(1) this section; and

18 “(2) the national coral reef resilience strategy in
19 effect under section 204A.

20 “(e) *ADMINISTRATION.*—Under an agreement entered
21 into pursuant to subsection (a), the Administrator may
22 transfer funds appropriated to carry out this title to the
23 Foundation. Amounts received by the Foundation under
24 this subsection may be used for matching, in whole or in
25 part, contributions (whether in money, services, or prop-

erty) made to the Foundation by private persons, State or local government agencies, or Tribal organizations.

“SEC. 209. CORAL REEF EMERGENCY PLANS.

“(a) *IN GENERAL*.—A covered reef manager may develop and periodically update a plan (in this title referred to as a ‘coral reef emergency plan’) consistent with the template described in section 204A(b)(3) to guide the rapid and effective response to circumstances that pose an urgent and immediate threat to the coral reef ecosystems within the manager’s responsibilities and jurisdictions, and consistent with any applicable coral reef action plan.

“(b) *CORAL REEF EMERGENCIES*.—The Administrator shall develop a list of, and criteria for, circumstances that pose an urgent and immediate threat to coral reefs (in this title referred to as ‘coral reef emergencies’), including—

- “(1) new and ongoing outbreaks of disease;
- “(2) new and ongoing outbreaks of invasive or nuisance species;
- “(3) new and ongoing coral bleaching events;
- “(4) natural disasters;
- “(5) man-made disasters, including vessel groundings, hazardous spills, or coastal construction accidents; and
- “(6) other exigent circumstances.

1 “(c) *BEST RESPONSE PRACTICES.*—*The Adminis-*
 2 *trator shall develop guidance on best practices to respond*
 3 *to coral reef emergencies that can be adopted within coral*
 4 *reef emergency plans. Such best practices shall be—*

5 “(1) *based on the best available science and inte-*
 6 *grated with evolving innovative technologies; and*

7 “(2) *revised not less frequently than once every*
 8 *5 years.*

9 “(d) *PLAN ELEMENTS.*—*A coral reef emergency plan*
 10 *shall include the following elements:*

11 “(1) *A description of particular threats, and the*
 12 *proposed responses, consistent with the best practices*
 13 *developed under subsection (d).*

14 “(2) *A delineation of roles and responsibilities*
 15 *for executing the plan.*

16 “(3) *Evidence of engagement with interested*
 17 *stakeholder groups, as applicable, in the development*
 18 *of the plan.*

19 “(4) *Any other information the Administrator*
 20 *considers to be necessary for the plan.*

21 “(e) *TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.*—*The Administrator*
 22 *and the Task Force shall make all reasonable efforts to pro-*
 23 *vide technical assistance upon request by a covered reef*
 24 *manager developing a coral reef emergency plan under sub-*
 25 *section (a).*

1 “(f) *ADOPTION OF CORAL REEF EMERGENCY*
 2 *PLANS.*—A covered reef manager may adopt a coral reef
 3 emergency plan developed by another covered reef manager,
 4 in full or in part, as relevant to the adopting manager’s
 5 applicable jurisdiction.

6 “(g) *PUBLIC REVIEW.*—The development of a coral reef
 7 action plan by a covered reef manager under subsection (a),
 8 and the adoption of a plan under subsection (f), shall be
 9 subject to public review and comment.

10 “(h) *PUBLICATION.*—The Administrator shall publish
 11 each coral reef emergency plan prepared and submitted to
 12 the Task Force under this section on publicly available
 13 internet websites of—

14 “(1) the Coral Reef Conservation Program of the
 15 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration;
 16 and

17 “(2) the Task Force.

18 “(i) *PLAN IN EFFECT.*—A coral reef emergency plan
 19 shall be deemed to be in effect if the plan was submitted
 20 to the Task Force under this section during the preceding
 21 6 years.

22 **“SEC. 210. CORAL REEF EMERGENCY FUND.**

23 “(a) *ESTABLISHMENT OF FUND.*—There is established
 24 in the Treasury an interest-bearing fund to be known as

1 the ‘Coral Reef Emergency Fund’, which shall consist of
 2 amounts deposited into the Fund under subsection (c).

3 “(b) *USES.—Amounts in the Fund—*

4 “(1) *shall be available only for use by the Ad-*
 5 *ministrator to compensate covered coral reef managers*
 6 *to implement a coral reef emergency plan in effect*
 7 *under sections 210 and 212; and*

8 “(2) *shall remain available until expended.*

9 “(c) *DEPOSITS INTO THE FUND.—There shall be de-*
 10 *posited into the Fund—*

11 “(1) *amounts appropriated for the Fund; and*

12 “(2) *other amounts appropriated to the Adminis-*
 13 *trator for use with respect to coral reef emergencies.*

14 “(d) *ACCEPTANCE OF DONATIONS.—*

15 “(1) *IN GENERAL.—For purposes of carrying out*
 16 *this title, the Administrator may accept, receive, so-*
 17 *licit, hold, administer, and use any gift (including,*
 18 *notwithstanding section 1342 of title 31, United*
 19 *States Code, donations of services).*

20 “(2) *DEPOSITS IN FUND.—Notwithstanding sec-*
 21 *tion 3302 of title 31, United States Code, any funds*
 22 *received as a gift shall be deposited and maintained*
 23 *in the Fund.*

24 **“SEC. 211. EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE.**

25 “(a) *CORAL REEF EMERGENCY DECLARATIONS.—*

1 “(1) *SUA SPONTE DECLARATION.*—

2 “(A) *IN GENERAL.*—*The Administrator*
3 *may determine and declare a coral reef emer-*
4 *gency, including at the recommendation of the*
5 *Secretary of the Interior.*

6 “(B) *REQUIREMENTS.*—*In declaring a coral*
7 *reef emergency under subparagraph (A), the Ad-*
8 *ministrator shall—*

9 “(i) *certify that an emergency has oc-*
10 *curred that is ecologically significant and*
11 *harmful to coral reefs; and*

12 “(ii) *submit to the appropriate con-*
13 *gressional committees findings and analysis*
14 *to justify the declaration.*

15 “(2) *PETITIONS.*—*If a covered State or non-Fed-*
16 *eral coral reef stewardship partnership believes that a*
17 *coral reef emergency has occurred, and is impacting*
18 *coral reefs or ecologically significant components of*
19 *coral reefs subject to the responsibilities or jurisdic-*
20 *tion of the State or partnership, the State or partner-*
21 *ship may petition the Administrator for a declaration*
22 *of a coral reef emergency.*

23 “(3) *EVALUATION AND ACTION.*—

24 “(A) *IN GENERAL.*—*Not later than 30 days*
25 *after receiving a petition under paragraph (2)*

1 *(except as provided in subparagraph (B)), the*
2 *Administrator shall—*

3 *“(i) evaluate the petition to determine*
4 *whether a coral reef emergency has occurred;*
5 *and*

6 *“(ii) declare a coral reef emergency or*
7 *deny the petition.*

8 *“(B) EXTENSION.—The Administrator may*
9 *extend the deadline provided for under subpara-*
10 *graph (A) by not more than 15 days.*

11 *“(4) APPEAL.—If the Administrator denies a pe-*
12 *tition for an emergency declaration submitted under*
13 *paragraph (2), the State or partnership that sub-*
14 *mitted the petition may, not later than 15 days after*
15 *receiving notice of the denial, appeal the denial to the*
16 *Administrator. Not later than 15 days after receiving*
17 *an appeal under this paragraph, the Administrator*
18 *shall grant or deny the appeal.*

19 *“(5) REVOCATION.—The Administrator may re-*
20 *voke any declaration of a coral reef emergency in*
21 *whole or in part after determining that circumstances*
22 *no longer require an emergency response.*

23 *“(6) RECOVERY OF EMERGENCY FUNDING.—The*
24 *Administrator may seek compensation from negligent*
25 *parties to recover emergency funds expended in excess*

1 of \$500,000 under this section as a result of an emer-
2 gency declaration arising from direct impacts to coral
3 reefs from man-made disasters or accidents.

4 “(b) *FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AUTHORITY.*—

5 “(1) *IN GENERAL.*—Upon the declaration of a
6 coral reef emergency under subsection (a), the Admin-
7 istrator shall provide grants to carry out proposals
8 that meet the requirements of paragraph (2) to imple-
9 ment coral reef emergency plans in effect under sec-
10 tion 209.

11 “(2) *REQUIREMENTS.*—A proposal for a grant
12 under this subsection to implement a coral reef emer-
13 gency plan in effect under section 209 shall include—

14 “(A) the name of the entity submitting the
15 proposal;

16 “(B) a copy of the coral reef emergency
17 plan;

18 “(C) a description of the qualifications of
19 the individuals and entities who will implement
20 the plan;

21 “(D) an estimate of the funds and time re-
22 quired to complete the implementation of the
23 plan; and

24 “(E) any other information the Adminis-
25 trator considers to be necessary for evaluating

1 *the eligibility of the proposal for a grant under*
 2 *this subsection.*

3 “(3) *REVIEW.*—*Not later than 30 days after re-*
 4 *ceiving a proposal for a grant under this subsection,*
 5 *the Administrator shall review the proposal and de-*
 6 *termine if the proposal meets the requirements of*
 7 *paragraph (2).*

8 “(4) *CONCURRENT REVIEW.*—*An entity seeking a*
 9 *grant under this subsection may submit a proposal*
 10 *under paragraph (2) to the Administrator at any*
 11 *time following the submission of a petition for an*
 12 *emergency declaration under subsection (a)(2) that is*
 13 *applicable to coral reefs or ecologically significant*
 14 *components of coral reefs subject to the responsibilities*
 15 *or jurisdiction of the entity.*

16 **“SEC. 212. VESSEL GROUNDING INVENTORY.**

17 *“The Administrator, in coordination with the heads*
 18 *of other Federal agencies, shall establish and maintain an*
 19 *inventory of all vessel grounding incidents involving United*
 20 *States coral reefs, including a description of—*

21 “(1) *the impacts of each such incident to coral*
 22 *reefs and related natural resources;*

23 “(2) *vessel and ownership information relating*
 24 *to each such incident, if available;*

1 “(3) the estimated cost of removal of the vessel,
2 remediation, or restoration relating to each such inci-
3 dent;

4 “(4) the response actions taken by the owner of
5 the vessel, the Administrator, the Commandant of the
6 Coast Guard, or representatives of other Federal or
7 State agencies;

8 “(5) the status of the response actions, including
9 the dates of—

10 “(A) vessel removal;

11 “(B) remediation or restoration activities,
12 including whether a coral reef emergency plan
13 was implemented; and

14 “(C) any actions taken to prevent future
15 grounding incidents; and

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

19 **“SEC. 213. RUTH D. GATES CORAL REEF CONSERVATION**
20 **GRANT PROGRAM.**

21 “(a) *GRANTS.*—The Administrator shall establish a
22 program (to be known as the ‘Ruth D. Gates Coral Reef
23 Conservation Grant Program’) to provide grants for
24 projects for the conservation and restoration of coral reef
25 ecosystems (in this section referred to as ‘coral reef projects’)

1 *pursuant to proposals approved by the Administrator in*
2 *accordance with this section.*

3 “(b) *ELIGIBILITY.*—

4 “(1) *IN GENERAL.*—*An entity described in para-*
5 *graph (2) may submit to the Administrator a pro-*
6 *posal for a coral reef project.*

7 “(2) *ENTITIES DESCRIBED.*—*An entity described*
8 *in this paragraph is—*

9 “(A) *a natural resource management au-*
10 *thority of a State or local government or Tribal*
11 *organization—*

12 “(i) *with responsibility for coral reef*
13 *management; or*

14 “(ii) *the activities of which directly or*
15 *indirectly affect coral reefs or coral reef eco-*
16 *systems;*

17 “(B) *a regional fishery management council*
18 *established under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery*
19 *Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C.*
20 *1801 et seq.);*

21 “(C) *a coral reef stewardship partnership*
22 *seeking to implement a coral reef action plan in*
23 *effect under section 205;*

24 “(D) *a coral reef research center designated*
25 *under section 215(c)(4); or*

1 “(E) another nongovernmental organization
2 or research institution with demonstrated exper-
3 tise in the conservation or restoration of coral
4 reefs in practice or through significant contribu-
5 tions to the body of existing scientific research on
6 coral reefs.

7 “(c) *PROJECT PROPOSALS.*—Each proposal for a
8 grant under this section for a coral reef project shall include
9 the following:

10 “(1) The name of the individual or entity re-
11 sponsible for conducting the project.

12 “(2) A description of the qualifications of the in-
13 dividual or entity.

14 “(3) A succinct statement of the purposes of the
15 project.

16 “(4) An estimate of the funds and time required
17 to complete the project.

18 “(5) Evidence of support for the project by ap-
19 propriate representatives of States or other govern-
20 ment jurisdictions in which the project will be con-
21 ducted.

22 “(6) Information regarding the source and
23 amount of matching funding available to the appli-
24 cant.

1 “(7) *A description of how the project meets one*
 2 *or more of the criteria under subsection (e)(2).*

3 “(8) *In the case of a proposal submitted by a*
 4 *coral reef stewardship partnership, a description of*
 5 *how the project aligns with the applicable coral reef*
 6 *action plan in effect under section 205.*

7 “(9) *Any other information the Administrator*
 8 *considers to be necessary for evaluating the eligibility*
 9 *of the project for a grant under this subsection.*

10 “(d) *PROJECT REVIEW AND APPROVAL.—*

11 “(1) *IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall re-*
 12 *view each coral reef project proposal submitted under*
 13 *this section to determine if the project meets the cri-*
 14 *teria set forth in subsection (e).*

15 “(2) *PRIORITIZATION OF CONSERVATION*
 16 *PROJECTS.—The Administrator shall prioritize the*
 17 *awarding of grants for projects that meet the criteria*
 18 *for approval under subparagraphs (A) through (G) of*
 19 *subsection (e)(2) that are proposed to be conducted*
 20 *within priority areas identified for coral reef con-*
 21 *servation by the Administrator and consistent with*
 22 *the national coral reef resilience strategy in effect*
 23 *under section 204A.*

24 “(3) *PRIORITIZATION OF RESTORATION*
 25 *PROJECTS.—The Administrator shall prioritize the*

1 *awarding of grants for projects that meet the criteria*
2 *for approval under subparagraphs (E) through (L) of*
3 *subsection (e)(2) that are proposed to be conducted*
4 *within priority areas identified for coral reef restora-*
5 *tion by the Administrator and consistent with the na-*
6 *tional coral reef resilience strategy in effect under sec-*
7 *tion 204A.*

8 *“(4) REVIEW; APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL.—Not*
9 *later than 180 days after receiving a proposal for a*
10 *coral reef project under this section, the Adminis-*
11 *trator shall—*

12 *“(A) request and consider written comments*
13 *on the proposal from each Federal agency, State*
14 *government, Tribal organization, or other gov-*
15 *ernment jurisdiction, including the relevant re-*
16 *gional fishery management councils established*
17 *under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conserva-*
18 *tion and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et*
19 *seq.), or any National Marine Sanctuary or Ma-*
20 *rine National Monument, with jurisdiction or*
21 *management authority over coral reef ecosystems*
22 *in the area where the project is to be conducted,*
23 *including the extent to which the project is con-*
24 *sistent with locally established priorities, unless*

1 *such entities were directly involved in the devel-*
2 *opment of the project proposal;*

3 *“(B) provide for the merit-based peer review*
4 *of the proposal and require standardized docu-*
5 *mentation of that peer review;*

6 *“(C) after considering any written com-*
7 *ments and recommendations based on the reviews*
8 *under subparagraphs (A) and (B), approve or*
9 *disapprove the proposal; and*

10 *“(D) provide written notification of that*
11 *approval or disapproval, with summaries of all*
12 *written comments, recommendations, and peer-*
13 *reviews, to the entity that submitted the pro-*
14 *posal, and each of those States, Tribal organiza-*
15 *tions, and other government jurisdictions that*
16 *provided comments under subparagraph (A).*

17 *“(e) CRITERIA FOR APPROVAL.—The Administrator*
18 *may not approve a proposal for a coral reef project under*
19 *this section unless the project—*

20 *“(1) is consistent with—*

21 *“(A) the national coral reef resilience strat-*
22 *egy in effect under section 204A; and*

23 *“(B) any Federal or non-Federal coral reef*
24 *action plans in effect under section 205 covering*

1 *a coral reef or ecologically significant component*
2 *of a coral reef to be affected by the project; and*
3 *“(2) will enhance the conservation and restora-*
4 *tion of coral reefs by—*

5 *“(A) addressing conflicts arising from the*
6 *use of environments near coral reefs or from the*
7 *use of corals, species associated with coral reefs,*
8 *and coral products, including supporting con-*
9 *sensus-driven, community-based planning and*
10 *management initiatives for the protection of*
11 *coral reef ecosystems;*

12 *“(B) improving compliance with laws that*
13 *prohibit or regulate the taking of coral products*
14 *or species associated with coral reefs or regulate*
15 *the use and management of coral reef ecosystems;*

16 *“(C) designing and implementing networks*
17 *of real-time water quality monitoring along*
18 *coral reefs, including data collection related to*
19 *turbidity, nutrient availability, harmful algal*
20 *blooms, and plankton assemblages, with an em-*
21 *phasis on coral reefs impacted by agriculture*
22 *and urban development;*

23 *“(D) promoting ecologically sound naviga-*
24 *tion and anchorages, including mooring buoy*

1 *systems to promote enhanced recreational access,*
2 *near coral reefs;*

3 *“(E) furthering the goals and objectives of*
4 *coral reef action plans in effect under section 205*
5 *and coral reef emergency plans in effect under*
6 *section 209;*

7 *“(F) mapping the location and distribution*
8 *of coral reefs and potential coral reef habitat;*

9 *“(G) stimulating innovation to advance the*
10 *ability of the United States to understand, re-*
11 *search, or monitor coral reef ecosystems, or to de-*
12 *velop management or adaptation options to pre-*
13 *serve, sustain, and restore coral reef ecosystems;*

14 *“(H) implementing research to ensure the*
15 *population viability of listed coral species in*
16 *United States waters as detailed in the popu-*
17 *lation-based recovery criteria included in species-*
18 *specific recovery plans consistent with the En-*
19 *dangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et*
20 *seq.);*

21 *“(I) developing and implementing cost-effec-*
22 *tive methods to restore degraded coral reef eco-*
23 *systems or to create geographically appropriate*
24 *coral reef ecosystems in suitable waters, includ-*
25 *ing by improving habitat or promoting success of*

1 *keystone species, with an emphasis on novel res-*
2 *toration strategies and techniques to advance*
3 *coral reef recovery and growth near population*
4 *centers threatened by rising sea levels and storm*
5 *surge;*

6 *“(J) translating and applying coral genet-*
7 *ics research to coral reef ecosystem restoration,*
8 *including research related to traits that promote*
9 *resilience to increasing ocean temperatures,*
10 *ocean acidification, coral bleaching, coral dis-*
11 *eases, and invasive species;*

12 *“(K) developing and maintaining in situ*
13 *native coral propagation sites;*

14 *“(L) developing and maintaining ex situ*
15 *coral propagation nurseries and land-based coral*
16 *gene banks to—*

17 *“(i) conserve or augment genetic diver-*
18 *sity of native coral populations;*

19 *“(ii) support captive breeding of rare*
20 *coral species; or*

21 *“(iii) enhance resilience of native coral*
22 *populations to increasing ocean tempera-*
23 *tures, ocean acidification, coral bleaching,*
24 *and coral diseases through selective breed-*
25 *ing, conditioning, or other approaches that*

1 *target genes, gene expression, phenotypic*
2 *traits, or phenotypic plasticity; or*

3 “(M) *maintaining the structure and func-*
4 *tion of coral reefs, including the reef matrix*
5 *itself.*

6 “(f) *FUNDING REQUIREMENTS.—To the extent prac-*
7 *ticable based upon proposals for coral reef projects sub-*
8 *mitted to the Administrator, the Administrator shall ensure*
9 *that funding for grants awarded under this section during*
10 *a fiscal year is distributed as follows:*

11 “(1) *Not less than 40 percent of funds available*
12 *shall be awarded for projects in the Pacific Ocean*
13 *within the maritime areas and zones subject to the ju-*
14 *risdiction or control of the United States.*

15 “(2) *Not less than 40 percent of the funds avail-*
16 *able shall be awarded for projects in the Atlantic*
17 *Ocean, the Gulf of Mexico, or the Caribbean Sea with-*
18 *in the maritime areas and zones subject to the juris-*
19 *diction or control of the United States.*

20 “(g) *PROJECT REPORTING.—Each entity receiving a*
21 *grant under this section shall submit to the Administrator*
22 *such reports at such times and containing such information*
23 *for evaluating project performance as the Administrator*
24 *may require.*

1 “(h) *TASK FORCE.*—*The Administrator may consult*
 2 *with the Secretary of the Interior and the Task Force to*
 3 *obtain guidance in establishing priorities and evaluating*
 4 *proposals for coral reef projects under this section.*

5 “(i) *UNEXPENDED AMOUNTS.*—*Any amounts available*
 6 *for grants under this section that are not expended shall*
 7 *be transferred to the Coral Reef Stewardship Fund under*
 8 *section 208(b).*

9 **“SEC. 214. REPORTS ON ADMINISTRATION.**

10 “(a) *IN GENERAL.*—*Not later than 2 years after the*
 11 *date of the enactment of the Restoring Resilient Reefs Act*
 12 *of 2021, and every 2 years thereafter, the Administrator*
 13 *shall submit to the committees specified in subsection (b)*
 14 *a report on the administration of this title during the 2-*
 15 *year period preceding submission of the report, including—*

16 “(1) *a description of all activities undertaken to*
 17 *implement the most recent national coral reef resil-*
 18 *ience strategy under section 204A;*

19 “(2) *a statement of all funds obligated under the*
 20 *authorities of this title; and*

21 “(3) *a summary, disaggregated by State, of Fed-*
 22 *eral and non-Federal contributions toward the costs of*
 23 *each project or activity funded, in full or in part,*
 24 *under the authorities of this title.*

1 “(b) *COMMITTEES SPECIFIED.*—*The committees speci-*
2 *fied in this subsection are—*

3 “(1) *the Committee on Commerce, Science, and*
4 *Transportation and the Committee on Appropriations*
5 *of the Senate; and*

6 “(2) *the Committee on Natural Resources and*
7 *the Committee on Appropriations of the House of*
8 *Representatives.*

9 **“SEC. 215. AUTHORITY TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENTS.**

10 “(a) *IN GENERAL.*—*The Administrator may enter into*
11 *and perform such contracts, leases, grants, or cooperative*
12 *agreements as may be necessary to carry out the purposes*
13 *of this title.*

14 “(b) *FUNDING.*—

15 “(1) *IN GENERAL.*—*Under an agreement entered*
16 *into under subsection (a), the Administrator may re-*
17 *imburse or provide funds authorized to be appro-*
18 *priated by section 216 to, and may receive funds or*
19 *reimbursements from, individuals and entities de-*
20 *scribed in paragraph (2) to carry out activities au-*
21 *thorized by this title.*

22 “(2) *INDIVIDUALS AND ENTITIES DESCRIBED.*—
23 *Individuals and entities described in this paragraph*
24 *are the following:*

1 “(A) *Federal agencies, instrumentalities,*
2 *and laboratories.*

3 “(B) *State and local governments.*

4 “(C) *Indian Tribes and Tribal organiza-*
5 *tions.*

6 “(D) *International organizations.*

7 “(E) *Foreign governments not subject to*
8 *economic sanctions imposed by the United*
9 *States.*

10 “(F) *Institutions of higher education, re-*
11 *search centers, and other educational institu-*
12 *tions.*

13 “(G) *Nonprofit organizations.*

14 “(H) *Commercial organizations.*

15 “(I) *Other public or private individuals or*
16 *entities.*

17 “(c) *COOPERATIVE INSTITUTES.—*

18 “(1) *DESIGNATION.—The Administrator shall*
19 *designate two cooperative institutes for the purpose of*
20 *advancing and sustaining essential capabilities in*
21 *coral reef research, to be known as the ‘Atlantic Coral*
22 *Reef Institute’ and the ‘Pacific Coral Reef Institute’.*

23 “(2) *MEMBERSHIP.—Each institute established*
24 *under paragraph (1) shall be housed within a single*
25 *coral reef research center designated by the Adminis-*

1 *trator under paragraph (4) in the Atlantic and Pa-*
2 *cific basins, respectively, and may contract with other*
3 *coral reef research centers within the same basin to*
4 *support each institute's capacity and reach.*

5 *“(3) FUNCTIONS.—The institutes established*
6 *under paragraph (1) shall—*

7 *“(A) conduct federally directed research to*
8 *fill national and regional coral reef ecosystem re-*
9 *search gaps and improve understanding of, and*
10 *responses to, continuing and emerging threats to*
11 *the resilience of United States coral reef eco-*
12 *systems consistent with the national coral reef*
13 *resilience strategy in effect under section 204A;*

14 *“(B) support ecological research and moni-*
15 *toring to study the effects of conservation and*
16 *restoration activities funded by this title on pro-*
17 *moting more effective coral reef management and*
18 *restoration; and*

19 *“(C) through agreements—*

20 *“(i) collaborate directly with govern-*
21 *mental resource management agencies, coral*
22 *reef stewardship partnerships, nonprofit or-*
23 *ganizations, and other coral reef research*
24 *centers designated under paragraph (4);*

1 “(ii) assist in the development and im-
2 plementation of—

3 “(I) the national coral reef resil-
4 ience strategy under section 204A;

5 “(II) coral reef action plans under
6 section 205; and

7 “(III) coral reef emergency plans
8 under section 209;

9 “(iii) build capacity within govern-
10 mental resource management agencies to es-
11 tablish research priorities and translate and
12 apply research findings to management and
13 restoration practices; and

14 “(iv) conduct public education and
15 awareness programs for policymakers, re-
16 source managers, and the general public
17 on—

18 “(I) coral reefs and coral reef eco-
19 systems;

20 “(II) best practices for coral reef
21 ecosystem management and restora-
22 tion;

23 “(III) the value of coral reefs; and

24 “(IV) the threats to the sustain-
25 ability of coral reef ecosystems.

1 “(4) *CORAL REEF RESEARCH CENTERS.*—

2 “(A) *IN GENERAL.*—*The Administrator*
3 *shall periodically solicit applications and des-*
4 *ignate all qualifying institutions in a covered*
5 *State as coral reef research centers.*

6 “(B) *CRITERIA.*—*An institution qualifies*
7 *for designation as a coral reef research center*
8 *under subparagraph (A) if the Administrator de-*
9 *termines that the institution—*

10 “(i) *is operated by an institution of*
11 *higher education;*

12 “(ii) *has established management-driv-*
13 *en national or regional coral reef research*
14 *or restoration programs;*

15 “(iii) *has demonstrated abilities to co-*
16 *ordinate closely with appropriate Federal*
17 *and State agencies, as well as other aca-*
18 *demic and nonprofit organizations; and*

19 “(iv) *maintains significant local com-*
20 *munity engagement and outreach programs*
21 *related to coral reef ecosystems.*

22 “(d) *USE OF RESOURCES OF OTHER AGENCIES.*—*The*
23 *Administrator may use, with consent and with or without*
24 *reimbursement, the land, services, equipment, personnel,*
25 *and facilities of any agency or instrumentality of—*

1 “(1) *the United States;*

2 “(2) *any State or local government;*

3 “(3) *any Indian Tribe; or*

4 “(4) *any foreign government not subject to eco-*
5 *nomie sanctions imposed by the United States.*

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

7 “(a) *IN GENERAL.*—*The head of any Federal agency*
8 *with a representative serving on the U.S. Coral Reef Task*
9 *Force established by Executive Order 13089 (16 U.S.C.*
10 *6401 note; relating to coral reef protection), may, individ-*
11 *ually or in cooperation with one or more agencies, carry*
12 *out a program to award prizes competitively under section*
13 *24 of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of*
14 *1980 (15 U.S.C. 3719).*

15 “(b) *PURPOSES.*—*Any program carried out under this*
16 *section shall be for the purpose of stimulating innovation*
17 *to advance the ability of the United States to understand,*
18 *research, or monitor coral reef ecosystems, or to develop*
19 *management or adaptation options to preserve, sustain,*
20 *and restore coral reef ecosystems.*

21 “(c) *PRIORITY PROGRAMS.*—*Priority shall be given to*
22 *establishing programs under this section that address com-*
23 *munities, environments, or industries that are in distress*
24 *as a result of the decline or degradation of coral reef eco-*
25 *systems, including—*

1 “(1) scientific research and monitoring that fur-
 2 thers the understanding of causes behind coral reef de-
 3 cline and degradation and the generally slow recovery
 4 following disturbances;

5 “(2) the development of monitoring or manage-
 6 ment options for communities or industries that are
 7 experiencing significant financial hardship;

8 “(3) the development of adaptation options to al-
 9 leviate economic harm and job loss caused by damage
 10 to coral reef ecosystems;

11 “(4) the development of measures to help vulner-
 12 able communities or industries, with an emphasis on
 13 rural communities and businesses; and

14 “(5) the development of adaptation and manage-
 15 ment options for impacted tourism industries.

16 **“SEC. 217. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

17 “(a) *IN GENERAL.*—There is authorized to be appro-
 18 priated to the Administrator \$38,000,000 for each of fiscal
 19 years 2022 through 2026 to carry out this title, which shall
 20 remain available until expended.

21 “(b) *ADMINISTRATION.*—Of the amounts appropriated
 22 pursuant to the authorization of appropriations under sub-
 23 section (a), not more than the lesser of \$1,500,000 or 10
 24 percent may be used for program administration or for
 25 overhead costs incurred by the National Oceanic and At-

1 *mospheric Administration or the Department of Commerce*
 2 *and assessed as an administrative charge.*

3 “(c) *FEDERALLY DIRECTED RESEARCH AND CORAL*
 4 *REEF CONSERVATION PROGRAM GRANTS.—From the*
 5 *amounts authorized to be appropriated under subsection*
 6 *(a), there shall be made available to the Administrator not*
 7 *less than \$8,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 through*
 8 *2026 to support purposes consistent with this title, of*
 9 *which—*

10 “(1) *not less than \$3,500,000 shall be made*
 11 *available for each such fiscal year for authorized ac-*
 12 *tivities under section 213; and*

13 “(2) *not less than \$4,500,000 shall be made*
 14 *available for each such fiscal year through cooperative*
 15 *agreements with the cooperative institutes designated*
 16 *under section 215(c).*

17 “(d) *BLOCK GRANTS AND COOPERATIVE AGREE-*
 18 *MENTS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Ad-*
 19 *ministrator, \$15,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022*
 20 *through 2026, which shall remain available until expended,*
 21 *to carry out section 207.*

22 **“SEC. 218. DEFINITIONS.**

23 *“In this title:*

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

4 “(2) *APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-*
5 *TEES.*—*The term ‘appropriate congressional commit-*
6 *tees’ means the Committee on Commerce, Science, and*
7 *Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on*
8 *Natural Resources of the House of Representatives.*

9 “(3) *CONSERVATION.*—*The term ‘conservation’*
10 *means the use of methods and procedures necessary to*
11 *preserve or sustain geographically appropriate corals*
12 *and associated species as diverse, viable, and self-per-*
13 *petuating coral reef ecosystems with minimal impacts*
14 *from invasive species, including—*

15 “(A) *all activities associated with resource*
16 *management, such as monitoring, assessment,*
17 *protection, restoration, sustainable use, manage-*
18 *ment of habitat, and maintenance or augmenta-*
19 *tion of genetic diversity;*

20 “(B) *mapping;*

21 “(C) *scientific expertise and technical as-*
22 *sistance in the development and implementation*
23 *of management strategies for marine protected*
24 *areas and marine resources consistent with the*
25 *National Marine Sanctuaries Act (16 U.S.C.*

1 1431 *et seq.*) and the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery
 2 Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C.
 3 1801 *et seq.*);

4 “(D) law enforcement;

5 “(E) conflict resolution initiatives;

6 “(F) community outreach and education;

7 and

8 “(G) promotion of safe and ecologically
 9 sound navigation and anchoring.

10 “(4) CORAL.—The term ‘coral’ means species of
 11 the phylum Cnidaria, including—

12 “(A) all species of the orders Antipatharia
 13 (black corals), Scleractinia (stony corals),
 14 Alcyonacea (soft corals, organ pipe corals,
 15 gorgonians), and Helioporacea (blue coral), of
 16 the class Anthozoa; and

17 “(B) all species of the order Anthoathecata
 18 (fire corals and other hydrocorals) of the class
 19 Hydrozoa.

20 “(5) CORAL PRODUCTS.—The term ‘coral prod-
 21 ucts’ means any living or dead specimens, parts, or
 22 derivatives, or any product containing specimens,
 23 parts, or derivatives, of any species referred to in
 24 paragraph (4).

1 “(6) *CORAL REEF*.—The term ‘coral reef’ means
2 *calcium carbonate structures in the form of a reef or*
3 *shoal, composed in whole or in part by living coral,*
4 *skeletal remains of coral, crustose coralline algae, and*
5 *other associated sessile marine plants and animals.*

6 “(7) *CORAL REEF ECOSYSTEM*.—The term ‘coral
7 *reef ecosystem’ means—*

8 “(A) *corals and other geographically and*
9 *ecologically associated marine communities of*
10 *other reef organisms (including reef plants and*
11 *animals) associated with coral reef habitat; and*

12 “(B) *the biotic and abiotic factors and proc-*
13 *esses that affect coral physiology, coral-algal*
14 *symbiosis, and biodiversity in such habitat.*

15 “(8) *CORAL REEF ECOSYSTEM SERVICES*.—The
16 term ‘coral reef ecosystem services’ means the at-
17 tributes and benefits provided by coral reef ecosystems
18 including—

19 “(A) *protection of coastal beaches, struc-*
20 *tures, and infrastructure;*

21 “(B) *habitat for organisms of economic, eco-*
22 *logical, biomedical, medicinal, and cultural*
23 *value;*

24 “(C) *serving as centers for the promulga-*
25 *tion, performance, and training of cultural prac-*

1 *tices representative of traditional ecological*
 2 *knowledge; and*

3 *“(D) aesthetic value.*

4 *“(9) COVERED REEF MANAGER.—*

5 *“(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘covered reef*
 6 *manager’ means a management unit of a Fed-*
 7 *eral agency specified in subparagraph (B) with*
 8 *jurisdiction over a coral reef ecosystem, covered*
 9 *State, or coral reef stewardship partnership.*

10 *“(B) FEDERAL AGENCIES SPECIFIED.—A*
 11 *Federal agency specified in this subparagraph is*
 12 *one of the following:*

13 *“(i) The National Oceanic and Atmos-*
 14 *pheric Administration.*

15 *“(ii) The National Park Service.*

16 *“(iii) The United States Fish and*
 17 *Wildlife Service.*

18 *“(iv) The Office of Insular Affairs.*

19 *“(10) COVERED STATE.—The term ‘covered*
 20 *State’ means Florida, Hawaii, and the territories of*
 21 *American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern*
 22 *Mariana Islands, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the United*
 23 *States Virgin Islands.*

24 *“(11) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term ‘Indian Tribe’*
 25 *has the meaning given that term in section 4 of the*

1 *Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance*
 2 *Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).*

3 “(12) *INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.*—
 4 *The term ‘institution of higher education’ has the*
 5 *meaning given that term in section 101 of the Higher*
 6 *Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).*

7 “(13) *INTERESTED STAKEHOLDER GROUPS.*—
 8 *The term ‘interested stakeholder groups’ includes com-*
 9 *munity members such as businesses, commercial and*
 10 *recreational fishermen, other recreationalists, Federal,*
 11 *State, Tribal, and local government units with related*
 12 *jurisdiction, institutions of higher education, and*
 13 *nongovernmental organizations.*

14 “(14) *NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION.*—*The term*
 15 *‘nonprofit organization’ means an organization that*
 16 *is described in section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue*
 17 *Code of 1986 and exempt from tax under section*
 18 *501(a) of such Code.*

19 “(15) *RESTORATION.*—*The term ‘restoration’*
 20 *means the use of methods and procedures necessary to*
 21 *enhance, rehabilitate, recreate, or create a functioning*
 22 *coral reef or coral reef ecosystem, in whole or in part,*
 23 *within suitable waters of the historical geographic*
 24 *range of such ecosystems, to provide ecological, eco-*
 25 *nomic, cultural, or coastal resiliency services associ-*

1 *ated with healthy coral reefs and benefit native popu-*
2 *lations of coral reef organisms.*

3 “(16) *RESILIENCE.*—*The term ‘resilience’ means*
4 *the capacity for corals within their native range,*
5 *coral reefs, or coral reef ecosystems to resist and re-*
6 *cover from natural and human disturbances, and*
7 *maintain structure and function to provide coral reef*
8 *ecosystem services as determined by clearly identifi-*
9 *able, measurable, and science-based standards.*

10 “(17) *STATE.*—*The term ‘State’ means—*

11 “(A) *any State of the United States that*
12 *contains a coral reef ecosystem within its sea-*
13 *ward boundaries;*

14 “(B) *American Samoa, the Commonwealth*
15 *of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, Puerto*
16 *Rico, or the United States Virgin Islands; or*

17 “(C) *any other territory or possession of the*
18 *United States or separate sovereign in free asso-*
19 *ciation with the United States that contains a*
20 *coral reef ecosystem within its seaward bound-*
21 *aries.*

22 “(18) *STEWARDSHIP.*—*The term ‘stewardship’,*
23 *with respect to a coral reef, includes conservation, res-*
24 *toration, and public outreach and education.*

5 “(20) TRIBAL ORGANIZATION.—The term ‘Tribal
6 organization’ has the meaning given the term ‘tribal
7 organization’ in section 3765 of title 38, United
8 States Code.”.

9 (c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT TO NATIONAL OCEANS
10 AND COASTAL SECURITY ACT.—Section 905(a) of the Na-
11 tional Oceans and Coastal Security Act (16 U.S.C.
12 7504(a)) is amended by striking “and coastal infrastruc-
13 ture” and inserting “, coastal infrastructure, and ecosystem
14 services provided by natural systems such as coral reefs”.

15 **SEC. 102. MODIFICATION TO SECTION 204 OF THE CORAL**
16 **REEF CONSERVATION ACT OF 2000 (16 U.S.C.**
17 **6403).**

18 *Section 204 of the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000*
19 *(16 U.S.C. 6403) is amended—*

20 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “this section”
21 and inserting “section 213”; and

22 (2) by striking subsections (c) through (j).

1 ***TITLE II—UNITED STATES***
2 ***CORAL REEF TASK FORCE***

3 ***SEC. 201. ESTABLISHMENT.***

4 *There is established a task force to lead, coordinate,*
5 *and strengthen Federal Government actions to better pre-*
6 *serve, conserve, and restore coral reef ecosystems, to be*
7 *known as the “United States Coral Reef Task Force” (in*
8 *this title referred to as the “Task Force”).*

9 ***SEC. 202. DUTIES.***

10 *The duties of the Task Force shall be—*

11 *(1) to coordinate, in cooperation with State,*
12 *Tribal, and local government partners, coral reef re-*
13 *search centers designated under section 215(c) of the*
14 *Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000 (as amended by*
15 *section 101), and other nongovernmental and aca-*
16 *demic partners as appropriate, activities regarding*
17 *the mapping, monitoring, research, conservation,*
18 *mitigation, and restoration of coral reefs and coral*
19 *reef ecosystems;*

20 *(2) to monitor and advise regarding implemen-*
21 *tation of the policy and Federal agency responsibil-*
22 *ities set forth in—*

23 *(A) Executive Order 13089 (63 Fed. Reg.*
24 *32701; relating to coral reef protection); and*

1 *(B) the national coral reef resilience strat-*
2 *egy developed under section 204A of the Coral*
3 *Reef Conservation Act of 2000, as amended by*
4 *section 101;*

5 *(3) to work with the Secretary of State and the*
6 *Administrator of the United States Agency for Inter-*
7 *national Development, and in coordination with the*
8 *other members of the Task Force—*

9 *(A) to assess the United States role in inter-*
10 *national trade and protection of coral species;*

11 *(B) to encourage implementation of appro-*
12 *priate strategies and actions to promote con-*
13 *servation and sustainable use of coral reef re-*
14 *sources worldwide; and*

15 *(C) to collaborate with international com-*
16 *munities successful in managing coral reefs;*

17 *(4) to provide technical assistance for the devel-*
18 *opment and implementation, as appropriate, of—*

19 *(A) the national coral reef resilience strat-*
20 *egy under section 204A of the Coral Reef Con-*
21 *servation Act of 2000, as amended by section*
22 *101;*

23 *(B) coral reef action plans under section*
24 *205 of that Act; and*

1 (C) coral reef emergency plans under section
2 209 of that Act; and

3 (5) to produce a report each year, for submission
4 to the appropriate congressional committees and pub-
5 lication on a publicly available internet website of the
6 Task Force, highlighting the status of the coral reef
7 equities of a covered State on a rotating basis, includ-
8 ing—

9 (A) a summary of recent coral reef manage-
10 ment and restoration activities undertaken in
11 that State; and

12 (B) updated estimates of the direct and in-
13 direct economic activity supported by, and other
14 benefits associated with, those coral reef equities.

15 **SEC. 203. MEMBERSHIP.**

16 (a) *VOTING MEMBERSHIP.*—The Task Force shall have
17 the following voting members:

18 (1) The Secretary of Commerce, acting through
19 the Administrator of the National Oceanic and At-
20 mospheric Administration, and the Secretary of the
21 Interior, who shall be co-chairs of the Task Force.

22 (2) The Administrator of the United States
23 Agency for International Development.

24 (3) The Secretary of Agriculture.

25 (4) The Secretary of Defense.

1 (5) *The Secretary of the Army, acting through*
2 *the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works.*

3 (6) *The Secretary of Homeland Security, acting*
4 *through the Administrator of the Federal Emergency*
5 *Management Agency.*

6 (7) *The Commandant of the Coast Guard.*

7 (8) *The Attorney General.*

8 (9) *The Secretary of State.*

9 (10) *The Secretary of Transportation.*

10 (11) *The Administrator of the Environmental*
11 *Protection Agency.*

12 (12) *The Administrator of the National Aero-*
13 *nautics and Space Administration.*

14 (13) *The Director of the National Science Foun-*
15 *dation.*

16 (14) *The Governor, or a representative of the*
17 *Governor, of each covered State.*

18 (b) *NONVOTING MEMBERS.—The Task Force shall have*
19 *the following nonvoting members:*

20 (1) *A member appointed by the President of the*
21 *Federated States of Micronesia.*

22 (2) *A member appointed by the President of the*
23 *Republic of the Marshall Islands.*

24 (3) *A member appointed by the President of the*
25 *Republic of Palau.*

1 **SEC. 204. RESPONSIBILITIES OF FEDERAL AGENCY MEM-**
2 **BERS.**

3 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—A member of the Task Force speci-
4 fied in paragraphs (1) through (14) of section 203(a)
5 shall—

6 (1) *identify the actions of the agency that mem-*
7 *ber represents that may affect coral reef ecosystems;*

8 (2) *utilize the programs and authorities of that*
9 *agency to protect and enhance the conditions of such*
10 *ecosystems, including through the promotion of basic*
11 *and applied scientific research;*

12 (3) *collaborate with the Task Force to appro-*
13 *priately reflect budgetary needs for coral reef con-*
14 *servation and restoration activities in all agency*
15 *budget planning and justification documents and*
16 *processes; and*

17 (4) *engage in any other coordinated efforts ap-*
18 *proved by the Task Force.*

19 (b) *CO-CHAIRS.*—In addition to their responsibilities
20 under subsection (a), the co-chairs of the Task Force shall
21 administer performance of the functions of the Task Force
22 and facilitate the coordination of the members of the Task
23 Force specified in paragraphs (1) through (14) of section
24 203(a).

1 **SEC. 205. WORKING GROUPS.**

2 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—*The co-chairs of the Task Force*
 3 *may establish working groups as necessary to meet the goals*
 4 *and carry out the duties of the Task Force.*

5 (b) *REQUESTS FROM MEMBERS.*—*The members of the*
 6 *Task Force may request that the co-chairs establish a work-*
 7 *ing group under subsection (a).*

8 (c) *PARTICIPATION BY NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZA-*
 9 *TIONS.*—*The co-chairs may allow nongovernmental organi-*
 10 *zations as appropriate, including academic institutions,*
 11 *conservation groups, and commercial and recreational fish-*
 12 *ing associations, to participate in a working group estab-*
 13 *lished under subsection (a).*

14 (d) *NONAPPLICABILITY OF FEDERAL ADVISORY COM-*
 15 *MITTEE ACT.*—*The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5*
 16 *U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to working groups established*
 17 *under this section.*

18 **SEC. 206. DEFINITIONS.**

19 *In this title:*

20 (1) *APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-*
 21 *TEES.*—*The term “appropriate congressional commit-*
 22 *tees” means the Committee on Commerce, Science,*
 23 *and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee*
 24 *on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives.*

25 (2) *CONSERVATION, CORAL, CORAL REEF, ETC.*—
 26 *The terms “conservation”, “coral”, “coral reef”,*

1 “coral reef ecosystem”, “covered State”, “restoration”,
 2 “resilience”, and “State” have the meaning given
 3 those terms in section 218 of the Coral Reef Conserva-
 4 tion Act of 2000, as amended by section 101.

5 ***TITLE III—DEPARTMENT OF THE***
 6 ***INTERIOR CORAL REEF AU-***
 7 ***THORITIES***

8 ***SEC. 301. CORAL REEF CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION***
 9 ***ASSISTANCE.***

10 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—The Secretary of the Interior, in
 11 addition to activities authorized under section 203 of the
 12 Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000, as amended by section
 13 101, may provide scientific expertise, technical assistance,
 14 and financial assistance for the conservation and restora-
 15 tion of coral reefs consistent with all applicable laws gov-
 16 erning resource management in Federal, State, and Tribal
 17 waters, including—

18 (1) *the national coral reef resilience strategy in*
 19 *effect under section 204A of the Coral Reef Conserva-*
 20 *tion Act of 2000, as amended by section 101;*

21 (2) *coral reef action plans in effect under section*
 22 *205 of that Act, as applicable; and*

23 (3) *coral reef emergency plans in effect under*
 24 *section 209 of that Act, as applicable.*

1 (b) *OFFICE OF INSULAR AFFAIRS CORAL REEF INITIA-*
 2 *TIVE.—The Secretary may establish within the Office of In-*
 3 *sular Affairs a Coral Reef Initiative Program—*

4 (1) *to provide grant funding to support local*
 5 *management, conservation, and protection of coral*
 6 *reef ecosystems in—*

7 (A) *insular areas of covered States; and*

8 (B) *Freely Associated States;*

9 (2) *to complement the other conservation and as-*
 10 *sistance activities conducted under this Act; and*

11 (3) *to provide other technical, scientific, and fi-*
 12 *nancial assistance and conduct conservation activities*
 13 *that advance the purpose of this Act.*

14 (c) *CONSULTATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF COM-*
 15 *MERCE.—The Secretary of the Interior may consult with*
 16 *the Secretary of Commerce regarding the conduct of any*
 17 *activities to conserve and restore coral reefs and coral reef*
 18 *ecosystems in waters managed under the jurisdiction of the*
 19 *Federal agencies specified in paragraphs (2) and (3) of sec-*
 20 *tion 203(c) of the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000, as*
 21 *amended by section 101.*

22 (d) *COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary of*
 23 *the Interior may enter into cooperative agreements with*
 24 *covered reef managers to fund coral reef conservation and*

1 *restoration activities in waters managed under the jurisdic-*
 2 *tion of such managers that—*

3 *(1) are consistent with the national coral reef re-*
 4 *silience strategy in effect under section 204A of the*
 5 *Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000, as amended by*
 6 *section 101; and*

7 *(2) support and enhance the success of—*

8 *(A) coral reef action plans in effect under*
 9 *section 205 of that Act; and*

10 *(B) coral reef emergency plans in effect*
 11 *under section 209 of that Act.*

12 *(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the terms “con-*
 13 *servation”, “coral reef”, “covered reef manager”, “covered*
 14 *State”, “restoration”, and “State” have the meaning given*
 15 *those terms in section 218 of the Coral Reef Conservation*
 16 *Act of 2000, as amended by section 101.*

17 *(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is*
 18 *authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out*
 19 *this title for each of fiscal years 2022 to 2026, \$4,000,000.*

20 ***TITLE IV—SUSAN L. WILLIAMS***
 21 ***NATIONAL CORAL REEF MAN-***
 22 ***AGEMENT FELLOWSHIP***

23 ***SEC. 401. SHORT TITLE.***

24 *This title may be cited as the “Susan L. Williams Na-*
 25 *tional Coral Reef Management Fellowship Act of 2021”.*

1 **SEC. 402. DEFINITIONS.**

2 *In this title:*

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

6 (2) *FELLOW.*—The term “fellow” means a Na-
7 tional Coral Reef Management Fellow.

8 (3) *FELLOWSHIP.*—The term “fellowship” means
9 the National Coral Reef Management Fellowship es-
10 tablished in section 403.

11 (4) *INDIAN TRIBE; TRIBAL ORGANIZATION.*—The
12 terms “Indian Tribe” and “Tribal organization” have
13 the meanings given those terms in section 4 of the In-
14 dian Self-Determination and Education Assistance
15 Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

16 **SEC. 403. ESTABLISHMENT OF FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM.**

17 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—There is established a National
18 Coral Reef Management Fellowship Program.

19 (b) *PURPOSES.*—The purposes of the fellowship are—

20 (1) *to encourage future leaders of the United*
21 *States to develop additional coral reef management*
22 *capacity in States and local communities with coral*
23 *reefs;*

24 (2) *to provide management agencies of States,*
25 *Tribal organizations, and Freely Associated States*
26 *with highly qualified candidates whose education and*

1 *work experience meet the specific needs of each State,*
2 *Indian Tribe, and Freely Associated State; and*

3 (3) *to provide fellows with professional experi-*
4 *ence in management of coastal and coral reef re-*
5 *sources.*

6 **SEC. 404. FELLOWSHIP AWARDS.**

7 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—*The Administrator, in coordination*
8 *with the Secretary of the Interior, shall award the fellow-*
9 *ship in accordance with this section.*

10 (b) *TERM OF FELLOWSHIP.*—*A fellowship awarded*
11 *under this section shall be for a term of not more than 24*
12 *months.*

13 (c) *QUALIFICATIONS.*—*The Administrator, in coordi-*
14 *nation with the Secretary of the Interior, shall award the*
15 *fellowship to individuals who have demonstrated—*

16 (1) *an intent to pursue a career in marine serv-*
17 *ices and outstanding potential for such a career;*

18 (2) *leadership potential, actual leadership expe-*
19 *rience, or both;*

20 (3) *a college or graduate degree in biological*
21 *science, experience that correlates with aptitude and*
22 *interest for marine management, or both;*

23 (4) *proficient writing and speaking skills; and*

1 (5) *such other attributes as the Administrator, in*
2 *coordination with the Secretary of the Interior, con-*
3 *sider appropriate.*

4 **SEC. 405. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

5 *There are authorized to be appropriated to the Admin-*
6 *istrator to carry out this title for each of fiscal years 2022-*
7 *2026, \$1,500,000, to remain available until expended.*

Union Calendar No. 450

117TH CONGRESS
2D Session

H. R. 160

[Report No. 117-626]

A BILL

To reauthorize the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000 and to establish the United States Coral Reef Task Force, and for other purposes.

DECEMBER 14, 2022

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed