

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2731

To direct the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to conduct high-resolution surveying and mapping of the lakebeds of the Great Lakes, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 8, 2025

Mrs. McCLAIN (for herself, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. DAVIDSON, Mr. POCAN, Mr. BERGMAN, Ms. STEVENS, Mr. HUIZENGA, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. BARRETT, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. STAUBER, Ms. SCHOLTEN, Mr. LAWLER, Ms. KAPTUR, and Ms. CRAIG) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To direct the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to conduct high-resolution surveying and mapping of the lakebeds of the Great Lakes, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Great Lakes Mapping
5 Act of 2025”.

1 **SEC. 2. SURVEYING AND MAPPING OF LAKEBEDS OF THE**
2 **GREAT LAKES IN HIGH RESOLUTION.**

3 (a) HIGH-RESOLUTION LAKEBED MAPPING.—Not
4 later than December 31, 2030, the Administrator of the
5 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (re-
6 ferred to in this section as the “Administrator”) shall
7 carry out a collaborative effort (referred to in this section
8 as the “mapping effort”) to survey and map, in high reso-
9 lution, the lakebeds of the Great Lakes.

10 (b) ELEMENTS.—The mapping effort shall include—

11 (1) completing a high-resolution map of the
12 lakebeds of the Great Lakes;

13 (2) collecting and processing high-resolution
14 bathymetric data about the lakebeds of the Great
15 Lakes;

16 (3) using existing systems to catalog bathy-
17 metric data and other information regarding the
18 lakebeds of the Great Lakes that the Administrator
19 possesses or has access to independent of the map-
20 ping effort or as a result of the mapping effort; and

21 (4) collecting, cataloging, and storing metadata
22 created during the mapping effort.

23 (c) COORDINATION.—In carrying out the mapping ef-
24 fort, the Administrator shall coordinate with—

25 (1) the Governor of any State that borders any
26 of the Great Lakes;

1 (2) the head of an agency of such a State that
2 is responsible for carrying out policy related to the
3 Great Lakes or the lakebeds of the Great Lakes;

4 (3) the National Ocean Mapping, Exploration,
5 and Characterization Council;

6 (4) the Lakebed 2030 Regional Initiative of the
7 Great Lakes Observing System;

8 (5) other regional ocean observing systems; and

9 (6) any other entity the Administrator deter-
10 mines relevant.

11 (d) DATA MANAGEMENT; PRODUCT SHARING.—The
12 Administrator, in consultation with regional entities,
13 shall—

14 (1) during the mapping effort and within a rea-
15 sonable time (as determined by the Administrator)
16 after the relevant data is collected pursuant to the
17 mapping effort, make publicly available the parts of
18 the high-resolution map of the lakebeds of the Great
19 Lakes that are completed; and

20 (2) not later than, to the extent practicable,
21 180 days after completing the mapping effort—

22 (A) make publicly available—

23 (i) the complete high-resolution map
24 of the lakebeds of the Great Lakes; and

1 (ii) any additional information, includ-
2 ing metadata, collected under subsection
3 (a) that is required to be released to the
4 public under any other provision of law;
5 and

6 (B) incorporate the data from the map
7 into additional products, including nautical
8 charts and other products determined appro-
9 priate by the Administrator, such products used
10 for resource mapping and habitat characteriza-
11 tion.

12 (e) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-
13 tion shall be construed to change any process or procedure
14 used by the Administrator in carrying out the require-
15 ments of section 4 of the Digital Coast Act (16 U.S.C.
16 1467) or the Ocean and Coastal Mapping Integration Act
17 (33 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.).

18 (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be
20 appropriated to the Administrator \$50,000,000 for
21 each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029 to carry out
22 this section.

23 (2) AVAILABILITY.—Amounts appropriated pur-
24 suant to the authorization of appropriations under

- 1 paragraph (1) shall remain available through fiscal
- 2 year 2030.

