

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 1968

To support rural coastal and maritime economic development, and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 5, 2025

Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. KING) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

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## A BILL

To support rural coastal and maritime economic development, 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  
5 “Working Waterfronts Act of 2025”.

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—COASTAL ENERGY

Sec. 101. Credit for maintaining and enhancing hydroelectric facilities.

Sec. 102. Transition to alternative fuel commercial fishing vessels.

### TITLE II—FISHERIES AND SEAFOOD

- Sec. 201. Department of Agriculture loans and grants for fishing and mariculture businesses.
- Sec. 202. Extension of credit to businesses providing services to producers or harvesters of aquatic products.
- Sec. 203. Shellfish mariculture under the national harmful algal bloom and hypoxia program.
- Sec. 204. Allocation of funds under Saltonstall-Kennedy Act.
- Sec. 205. Electronic Monitoring Innovation Prize.

### TITLE III—SHORESIDE INFRASTRUCTURE

#### Subtitle A—Rural Coastal Community Processing Grants

- Sec. 301. Definitions.
- Sec. 302. Action plan and identification of coastal communities.
- Sec. 303. Grants and cooperative agreements to support rural seafood processing and cold storage.
- Sec. 304. Authorization of appropriations.

#### Subtitle B—Working Waterfronts Preservation

- Sec. 311. Working waterfront access protection grant program.

### TITLE IV—WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

- Sec. 401. Maritime workforce grant program.
- Sec. 402. Safety standards for certain fishing vessels.

### TITLE V—MISCELLANEOUS

#### Subtitle A—Ocean Innovation

- Sec. 501. Definitions.
- Sec. 502. Ocean Innovation Clusters.
- Sec. 503. Grants for Ocean Innovation Clusters.

#### Subtitle B—Vegetated Coastal Ecosystems and Great Lakes Ecosystems

- Sec. 511. Definitions.
- Sec. 512. Interagency Working Group on Vegetated Coastal Ecosystems and Great Lakes ecosystems.
- Sec. 513. National-level map and inventory of vegetated coastal ecosystems and Great Lakes ecosystems.
- Sec. 514. Grants for pilot projects and research on coastal natural infrastructure in cold climates.

#### Subtitle C—Ocean Acidification

- Sec. 521. Definitions in Federal Ocean Acidification Research And Monitoring Act of 2009.
- Sec. 522. Improvement of collaboration on ocean acidification.
- Sec. 523. Technical corrections.

#### Subtitle D—Other Matters

- Sec. 531. Transfer of, and amendments to, the Coastal Aquatic Invasive Species Mitigation Grant Program and mitigation fund.

# 1       **TITLE I—COASTAL ENERGY**

## 2   **SEC. 101. CREDIT FOR MAINTAINING AND ENHANCING HY-** 3               **DROELECTRIC FACILITIES.**

4       (a) IN GENERAL.—Subpart E of part IV of sub-  
 5 chapter A of chapter 1 of the Internal Revenue Code of  
 6 1986 is amended by inserting after section 48E the fol-  
 7 lowing new section:

## 8   **“SEC. 48F. CREDIT FOR MAINTAINING AND ENHANCING HY-** 9               **DROELECTRIC FACILITIES.**

10       “(a) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of section 46, the  
 11 credit for maintaining and enhancing hydroelectric facili-  
 12 ties for any taxable year is an amount equal to 30 percent  
 13 of the basis of any hydropower improvement property  
 14 placed in service during such taxable year.

15       “(b) CERTAIN PROGRESS EXPENDITURE RULES  
 16 MADE APPLICABLE.—Rules similar to the rules of sub-  
 17 sections (c)(4) and (d) of section 46 (as in effect on the  
 18 day before the date of the enactment of the Revenue Rec-  
 19 onciliation Act of 1990) shall apply for purposes of sub-  
 20 section (a).

21       “(c) HYDROPOWER IMPROVEMENT PROPERTY.—In  
 22 this section, the term ‘hydropower improvement property’  
 23 means property which—

24               “(1) adds or improves fish passage at a quali-  
 25 fied dam,

1           “(2) maintains or improves the quality of the  
2           water retained or released by a qualified dam,

3           “(3) promotes downstream sediment transport  
4           processes and habitat maintenance with respect to a  
5           qualified dam,

6           “(4) is part of a marine energy technology  
7           project or a marine energy project, or

8           “(5) places into service an approved remote  
9           dam.

10          “(d) OTHER DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

11           “(1) APPROVED REMOTE DAM.—The term ‘ap-  
12           proved remote dam’ means—

13           “(A) a hydroelectric dam which—

14           “(i) exclusively services communities  
15           not interconnected to the Electric Reli-  
16           ability Council of Texas, the Eastern Inter-  
17           connection, or the Western Interconnec-  
18           tion,

19           “(ii) does not contribute to atmos-  
20           phere pollution, and

21           “(iii) has a maximum net output of  
22           not greater than 40 megawatts, and

23           “(B) any interconnection property associ-  
24           ated with a dam described in subparagraph (A).

1           “(2) COMMISSION.—The term ‘Commission’  
2 means the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

3           “(3) FISH PASSAGE.—The term ‘fish passage’  
4 means, with respect to any qualified dam, any new  
5 or upgraded turbine, fishway, or other fish passage  
6 technology which improves fish migration and sur-  
7 vival rates.

8           “(4) INTERCONNECTION PROPERTY.—The term  
9 ‘interconnection property’ means any tangible prop-  
10 erty—

11               “(A)(i) with respect to any dam described  
12 in paragraph (1)(A), to enable the delivery of  
13 electricity from such dam to any customer, or

14               “(ii) with respect to any project described  
15 paragraph (5)(A) or (6)(A), to enable the deliv-  
16 ery of electricity from such project to any cus-  
17 tomer, and

18               “(B) which satisfies the requirements  
19 under clauses (ii) and (iii) of section  
20 48(a)(8)(B).

21           “(5) MARINE ENERGY PROJECT.—The term  
22 ‘marine energy project’ means—

23               “(A) a project which produces electricity  
24 from—

1 “(i) waves, tides, and currents in  
2 oceans, estuaries, and tidal areas,

3 “(ii) free flowing water in rivers,  
4 lakes, streams, and man-made channels,

5 “(iii) differentials in salinity and pres-  
6 sure gradients, or

7 “(iv) differentials in water tempera-  
8 ture, including ocean thermal energy con-  
9 version, and

10 “(B) any interconnection property associ-  
11 ated with a project described in subparagraph  
12 (A).

13 “(6) MARINE ENERGY TECHNOLOGY  
14 PROJECT.—The term ‘marine energy technology  
15 project’ means—

16 “(A) a project which the Commission de-  
17 termines—

18 “(i) will produce electricity from a  
19 generator that converts the potential en-  
20 ergy of flowing water,

21 “(ii) will utilize a generating tech-  
22 nology that is not in widespread, utility  
23 scale use in the United States as of the  
24 date of enactment of this section,

“(iii) will not be, based on information available to the Commission, likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any species listed as a threatened species or an endangered species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, and

“(iv) will not be, based on information available to the Commission, likely to result in the destruction or adverse modification of an area designated as critical habitat for any species listed as a threatened species or an endangered species under such Act, and

“(B) any interconnection property associated with a project described in subparagraph (A).

“(7) QUALIFIED DAM.—The term ‘qualified dam’ means a hydroelectric dam that is licensed by the Commission or legally operating without such a license before the date of enactment of this section.”.

(b) ELECTIVE PAYMENT AND TRANSFER OF CREDIT.—

(1) ELECTIVE PAYMENT.—Section 6417 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

1 (A) in subsection (b), by adding at the end  
 2 the following:

3 “(13) The credit for maintaining and enhancing  
 4 hydroelectric facilities under section 48F.”, and

5 (B) in subsection (d)(1)—

6 (i) in subparagraph (E), by striking  
 7 “(C), or (D)” each place it appears and in-  
 8 serting “(C), (D), or (E)”,

9 (ii) by redesignating subparagraph  
 10 (E) (as amended by clause (i)) as subpara-  
 11 graph (F), and

12 (iii) by inserting after subparagraph  
 13 (D) the following:

14 “(E) ELECTION WITH RESPECT TO CREDIT  
 15 FOR MAINTAINING AND ENHANCING HYDRO-  
 16 ELECTRIC FACILITIES.—If a taxpayer other  
 17 than an entity described in subparagraph (A)  
 18 makes an election under this subparagraph with  
 19 respect to any taxable year in which such tax-  
 20 payer has, after December 31, 2022, placed in  
 21 service hydropower improvement property (as  
 22 defined in section 48F(c)), such taxpayer shall  
 23 be treated as an applicable entity for purposes  
 24 of this section for such taxable year, but only



1 with respect to the credit described in sub-  
 2 section (b)(13).”.

3 (2) TRANSFER.—Section 6418(f)(1)(A) of the  
 4 Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by add-  
 5 ing at the end the following:

6 “(xii) The credit for maintaining and  
 7 enhancing hydroelectric facilities under  
 8 section 48F.”.

9 (c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

10 (1) Section 46 of the Internal Revenue Code of  
 11 1986 is amended—

12 (A) in paragraph (6), by striking “and” at  
 13 the end,

14 (B) in paragraph (7), by striking the pe-  
 15 riod at the end and inserting “, and”, and

16 (C) by adding at the end the following:

17 “(8) the credit for maintaining and enhancing  
 18 hydroelectric facilities.”.

19 (2) Section 49(a)(1)(C) of such Code is amend-  
 20 ed—

21 (A) in clause (vii), by striking “and” at the  
 22 end,

23 (B) in clause (viii), by striking the period  
 24 at the end and inserting “, and”, and

25 (C) by adding at the end the following:

1 “(ix) the basis of any hydropower im-  
 2 provement property under section 48F.”.

3 (3) Section 50 of such Code is amended—

4 (A) in subsection (a)(2)(E), as amended by  
 5 section 13702(b) of Public Law 117–169, by  
 6 striking “or 48E(e)” and inserting “48E(e), or  
 7 48F(b)”, and

8 (B) in subsection (d)(2)—

9 (i) in the matter preceding subpara-  
 10 graph (A), by inserting “or any hydro-  
 11 power improvement property (as defined in  
 12 section 48F(c))” after “any energy storage  
 13 technology (as defined in section  
 14 48(c)(6))”, and

15 (ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking  
 16 “energy storage technology” each place it  
 17 appears and inserting “energy storage  
 18 technology or hydropower improvement  
 19 property”.

20 (4) The table of sections for subpart E of part  
 21 IV of subchapter A of chapter 1 of such Code is  
 22 amended by inserting after the item relating to sec-  
 23 tion 48E the following new item:

“Sec. 48F. Credit for maintaining and enhancing hydroelectric facilities.”.

1 (d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by  
 2 this section shall apply to property placed in service after  
 3 December 31, 2022.

4 **SEC. 102. TRANSITION TO ALTERNATIVE FUEL COMMER-**  
 5 **CIAL FISHING VESSELS.**

6 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

7 (1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Adminis-  
 8 trator” means the Administrator of the National  
 9 Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

10 (2) ALTERNATIVE FUEL COMMERCIAL FISHING  
 11 VESSEL.—The term “alternative fuel commercial  
 12 fishing vessel” means a commercial fishing vessel  
 13 that runs on an energy source other than an energy  
 14 source that is exclusively derived from petroleum, in-  
 15 cluding a hybrid energy source.

16 (3) COMMERCIAL FISHING VESSEL.—The term  
 17 “commercial fishing vessel” has the meaning given  
 18 the term “fishing vessel” in section 2101 of title 46,  
 19 United States Code.

20 (4) NECESSARY SHORESIDE INFRASTRUC-  
 21 TURE.—The term “necessary shoreside infrastruc-  
 22 ture” means shoreside infrastructure necessary to  
 23 facilitate the transition of commercial fishing vessels  
 24 to alternative fuel commercial fishing vessels, includ-  
 25 ing charging stations for electric alternative fuel

1 commercial fishing vessels and refueling stations for  
2 alternative fuel commercial fishing vessels.

3 (5) PILOT PROGRAM.—The term “pilot pro-  
4 gram” means the pilot program established under  
5 subsection (b)(1).

6 (b) PILOT PROGRAM.—

7 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 1 year  
8 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Ad-  
9 ministrator, in consultation with the Commandant of  
10 the Coast Guard, shall establish a pilot program to  
11 facilitate the transition of United States-flagged  
12 commercial fishing vessels to alternative fuel com-  
13 mercial fishing vessels.

14 (2) USE OF FUNDS.—In carrying out the pilot  
15 program, the Administrator may make loans—

16 (A) to facilitate the transition from com-  
17 mercial fishing vessels using energy sources ex-  
18 clusively derived from petroleum to alternative  
19 fuel commercial fishing vessels, including loans  
20 for the building of new alternative fuel commer-  
21 cial fishing vessels or retrofitting existing com-  
22 mercial fishing vessels into alternative fuel com-  
23 mercial fishing vessels; and

1 (B) for research and development of alter-  
2 native fuel technologies for commercial fishing  
3 vessels and necessary shoreside infrastructure.

4 (3) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 180 days  
5 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Ad-  
6 ministrator and the Commandant of the Coast  
7 Guard shall each promulgate regulations necessary  
8 for the implementation of the pilot program.

9 (c) STUDY.—Not later than 2 years after the date  
10 of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator, jointly  
11 with the Commandant of the Coast Guard, shall carry out,  
12 and submit to Congress a report describing the results of,  
13 a study on—

14 (1) methods to further develop alternative fuels  
15 for use with commercial fishing vessels;

16 (2) how to improve existing alternative fuel  
17 technologies in commercial fishing vessels;

18 (3) the fuel sources available for commercial  
19 fishing vessels, and the limitations of those fuel  
20 sources; and

21 (4) opportunities for the use of hybrid tech-  
22 nologies in commercial fishing vessels.

23 (d) AUTHORIZATIONS OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

24 (1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be  
25 appropriated to the Administrator \$20,000,000 for

each of fiscal years 2026 through 2030 to carry out subsection (b).

(2) ALLOCATION OF FUNDING.—Of the amounts made available under paragraph (1) for each fiscal year—

(A) not less than \$10,000,000 shall be used to make loans described in subsection (b)(2)(A); and

(B) not less than \$10,000,000 shall be used to make loans described in subsection (b)(2)(B).

## **TITLE II—FISHERIES AND SEAFOOD**

### **SEC. 201. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE LOANS AND GRANTS FOR FISHING AND MARICULTURE BUSINESSES.**

(a) DEFINITIONS OF FARMER AND FARMING.—Section 343(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1991(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “farming.” and inserting “farming, commercial fishing, or fish processing.”;

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking “farming.” and inserting “farming, commercial fishing, and fish processing.”; and

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

2           “(14) COMMERCIAL FISHING.—The term ‘com-  
3       mercial fishing’ means fishing (as defined in section  
4       3 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation  
5       and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1802)) in which  
6       the fish harvested, either in whole or in part, are in-  
7       tended to enter commerce or enter commerce  
8       through sale, barter, or trade.

9           “(15) COMMERCIAL FISHING VESSEL.—The  
10       term ‘commercial fishing vessel’ means a fishing ves-  
11       sel and a fish processing vessel (as those terms are  
12       defined in section 2101 of title 46, United States  
13       Code).

14          “(16) FISH.—The term ‘fish’ has the meaning  
15       given the term in section 2101 of title 46, United  
16       States Code.

17          “(17) FISH PROCESSING.—The term ‘fish proc-  
18       essing’ means the processing of fish for commercial  
19       use or consumption.

20          “(18) FISH PROCESSING FACILITY.—The term  
21       ‘fish processing facility’ means a facility or vessel,  
22       boat, ship, or other craft used or equipped for fish  
23       processing.”.

24       (b) FARM OWNERSHIP LOANS.—

1           (1) ELIGIBILITY.—Section 302(a) of the Con-  
 2           solidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7  
 3           U.S.C. 1922(a)) is amended by adding at the end  
 4           the following:

5           “(3) ELIGIBILITY OF WILD-CAUGHT FISH AND  
 6           SHELLFISH.—For purposes of direct and guaranteed  
 7           farm loans under this subtitle—

8                     “(A) the terms ‘farmer’ and ‘rancher’ shall  
 9                     include an individual or entity engaged in com-  
 10                    mercial fishing or fish processing; and

11                   “(B) the terms ‘farm’ and ‘ranch’ shall in-  
 12                   clude—

13                             “(i) a commercial fishing vessel; and

14                             “(ii) a fish processing facility.”.

15           (2) PURPOSES.—Section 303(a) of the Consoli-  
 16           dated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C.  
 17           1923(a)) is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
 18           lowing:

19           “(3) COMMERCIAL FISHERY PARTICIPANTS;  
 20           FISH PROCESSORS.—

21                     “(A) COMMERCIAL FISHERY PARTICI-  
 22                     PANTS.—An individual or entity engaged in  
 23                     commercial fishing may use a direct or guaran-  
 24                     teed loan under this subtitle for—



1                   “(i) acquiring a commercial fishing  
2                   permit; and

3                   “(ii) acquiring, operating, and main-  
4                   taining a commercial fishing vessel.

5                   “(B) FISH PROCESSORS.—An individual or  
6                   entity engaged in fish processing may use a di-  
7                   rect or guaranteed loan under this subtitle for  
8                   acquiring, operating, and maintaining a fish  
9                   processing facility.”.

10                  (c) FARM OPERATING LOANS.—

11                   (1) ELIGIBILITY.—Section 311(a) of the Con-  
12                   solidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7  
13                   U.S.C. 1941(a)) is amended by adding at the end  
14                   the following:

15                   “(3) ELIGIBILITY OF WILD-CAUGHT FISH AND  
16                   SHELLFISH.—For purposes of direct and guaranteed  
17                   farm loans under this subtitle—

18                   “(A) the terms ‘farmer’ and ‘rancher’ shall  
19                   include an individual or entity engaged in com-  
20                   mercial fishing or fish processing; and

21                   “(B) the terms ‘farm’ and ‘ranch’ shall in-  
22                   clude—

23                   “(i) a commercial fishing vessel; and

24                   “(ii) a fish processing facility.”.

1           (2) PURPOSES.—Section 312 of the Consoli-  
 2           dated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C.  
 3           1942) is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
 4           lowing:

5           “(f) COMMERCIAL FISHERY PARTICIPANTS; FISH  
 6 PROCESSORS.—

7           “(1) COMMERCIAL FISHERY PARTICIPANTS.—  
 8           An individual or entity engaged in commercial fish-  
 9           ing may use a direct or guaranteed loan under this  
 10          subtitle for acquiring, operating, and maintaining a  
 11          commercial fishing vessel.

12          “(2) FISH PROCESSORS.—An individual or enti-  
 13          ty engaged in fish processing may use a direct or  
 14          guaranteed loan under this subtitle for acquiring,  
 15          operating, and maintaining a fish processing facil-  
 16          ity.”.

17          (d) FARMERS’ MARKETS AND LOCAL FOOD PRO-  
 18 MOTION PROGRAM.—Section 210A(d)(6) of the Agricul-  
 19 tural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1627c(d)(6)) is  
 20 amended by adding at the end the following:

21                 “(F) ELIGIBILITY OF WILD-CAUGHT FISH  
 22                 AND SHELLFISH.—For purposes of this para-  
 23                 graph—

24                         “(i) an agricultural commodity or  
 25                         product described in subsection (a)(12)

1           shall include fish (as defined in section  
 2           2101 of title 46, United States Code) that  
 3           is caught, taken, or harvested from the  
 4           wild; and

5                   “(ii) the eligible activities described in  
 6           paragraph (2) shall include domestic sea-  
 7           food marketing.”.

8   **SEC. 202. EXTENSION OF CREDIT TO BUSINESSES PRO-**  
 9                   **VIDING SERVICES TO PRODUCERS OR HAR-**  
 10                   **VESTERS OF AQUATIC PRODUCTS.**

11       (a) FARM CREDIT BANKS.—

12           (1) ELIGIBILITY FOR CREDIT AND FINANCIAL  
 13       SERVICES.—Section 1.9 of the Farm Credit Act of  
 14       1971 (12 U.S.C. 2017) is amended—

15                   (A) in paragraph (2), by striking “or” at  
 16       the end;

17                   (B) by redesignating paragraph (3) as  
 18       paragraph (4); and

19                   (C) by inserting after paragraph (2) the  
 20       following:

21                   “(3) persons furnishing to producers or har-  
 22       vesters of aquatic products services directly related  
 23       to their operating needs; or”.

24           (2) PURPOSES FOR EXTENSIONS OF CREDIT.—

25       Section 1.11(c)(1) of the Farm Credit Act of 1971

1 (12 U.S.C. 2019(c)(1)) is amended by inserting  
 2 “and to persons furnishing services directly related  
 3 to the operating needs of producers or harvesters of  
 4 aquatic products” after “needs”.

5 (b) PRODUCTION CREDIT ASSOCIATIONS.—Section  
 6 2.4(a) of the Farm Credit Act of 1971 (12 U.S.C.  
 7 2075(a)) is amended—

8 (1) in paragraph (2), by striking “and” at the  
 9 end;

10 (2) in paragraph (3), by striking the period at  
 11 the end and inserting “; and”; and

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

13 “(4) persons furnishing to producers or har-  
 14 vesters of aquatic products services directly related  
 15 to their operating needs.”.

16 **SEC. 203. SHELLFISH MARICULTURE UNDER THE NA-**  
 17 **TIONAL HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOM AND HY-**  
 18 **POXIA PROGRAM.**

19 Section 603A of the Harmful Algal Bloom and Hy-  
 20 poxia Research and Control Act of 1998 (33 U.S.C. 4002)  
 21 is amended—

22 (1) in subsection (e)—

23 (A) by redesignating paragraphs (10) and  
 24 (11) as paragraphs (11) and (12), respectively;  
 25 and

1 (B) by inserting after paragraph (9) the  
 2 following:

3 “(10) enhance competitive grant programs to  
 4 support shellfish mariculture and expand access to  
 5 testing for harmful algal bloom toxins for subsist-  
 6 ence and recreational shellfish harvesters through in-  
 7 novative methods that increase the efficiency and ef-  
 8 fectiveness of such testing in rural and remote  
 9 areas;”; and

10 (2) by adding at the end the following:

11 “(j) DEFINITION OF SHELLFISH MARICULTURE.—In  
 12 this section, the term ‘shellfish mariculture’ means the cul-  
 13 tivation of shellfish in their natural habitat for human  
 14 consumption.”.

15 **SEC. 204. ALLOCATION OF FUNDS UNDER SALTONSTALL-**  
 16 **KENNEDY ACT.**

17 Section 2(f) of the Act of August 11, 1939 (com-  
 18 monly known as the “Saltonstall-Kennedy Act”) (chapter  
 19 696; 15 U.S.C. 713c–3(f)) is amended—

20 (1) in paragraph (1)—

21 (A) in the matter preceding subparagraph

22 (A)—

23 (i) in the first sentence, by striking

24 “all moneys in the fund shall” and insert-

25 ing “25 percent of all moneys transferred

1 to the Secretary under subsection (b)(1)  
 2 shall”; and

3 (ii) in the second sentence, by striking  
 4 “all moneys in the fund,” and all that fol-  
 5 lows through “with respect to that fiscal  
 6 year,” and inserting “such moneys”;

7 (B) in subparagraph (A)—

8 (i) by striking “use no less than 60  
 9 per centum of such moneys” and inserting  
 10 “make available not less than 75 percent  
 11 of such moneys, equal to 18.75 percent of  
 12 all moneys transferred to the Secretary  
 13 under subsection (b)(1),”;

14 (ii) by inserting “under the  
 15 Saltonstall-Kennedy competitive grant pro-  
 16 gram of the National Oceanic and Atmos-  
 17 pheric Administration” after “grants”; and

18 (iii) by striking “; and” and inserting  
 19 a semicolon;

20 (C) by redesignating subparagraph (B) as  
 21 subparagraph (C); and

22 (D) by inserting after subparagraph (A)  
 23 the following:

24 “(B) the Secretary shall make available  
 25 not less than 20 percent of such moneys, equal

1 to 5 percent of all moneys transferred to the  
 2 Secretary under subsection (b)(1), to carry out  
 3 the Young Fishermen’s Development Act (33  
 4 U.S.C. 1141 et seq.); and”; and  
 5 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking “\$3,000,000”  
 6 and inserting “\$10,000,000”.

7 **SEC. 205. ELECTRONIC MONITORING INNOVATION PRIZE.**

8 Not later than 2 years after the date of the enact-  
 9 ment of this Act, and under the authority provided by sec-  
 10 tion 24 of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation  
 11 Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3719), the Administrator of the  
 12 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, in con-  
 13 sultation with the heads of relevant Federal agencies and  
 14 nongovernmental partners, as appropriate, shall establish  
 15 an Electronic Monitoring Innovation Prize, which the Ad-  
 16 ministrator may award for the development of advanced  
 17 electronic fisheries monitoring equipment and data anal-  
 18 ysis tools, including improved fish species recognition soft-  
 19 ware.

20 **TITLE III—SHORESIDE**  
 21 **INFRASTRUCTURE**  
 22 **Subtitle A—Rural Coastal**  
 23 **Community Processing Grants**

24 **SEC. 301. DEFINITIONS.**

25 In this subtitle:

1           (1) MARICULTURE.—The term “mariculture”  
 2       means shellfish and aquatic plants grown under con-  
 3       trolled conditions.

4           (2) RURAL COASTAL COMMUNITY.—The term  
 5       “rural coastal community” means a coastal commu-  
 6       nity in a rural area (as defined in section 343(a) of  
 7       the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act  
 8       (7 U.S.C. 1991(a))).

9           (3) RURAL PROCESSING FACILITY.—The term  
 10      “rural processing facility” means a seafood or  
 11      mariculture processing facility that is located in a  
 12      rural coastal community.

13          (4) SEAFOOD.—The term “seafood” means wild  
 14      caught finfish and shellfish.

15          (5) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
 16      the Secretary of Agriculture.

17   **SEC. 302. ACTION PLAN AND IDENTIFICATION OF COASTAL**  
 18                           **COMMUNITIES.**

19      (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the  
 20      date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in consulta-  
 21      tion with the Secretary of Commerce, shall develop an ac-  
 22      tion plan to facilitate more domestic processing of United  
 23      States-caught seafood and mariculture by rural processing  
 24      facilities, including rural processing facilities that have  
 25      less than 50 employees.



1 (b) INCLUSIONS.—The action plan developed under  
2 subsection (a) shall include—

3 (1) an identification of rural coastal commu-  
4 nities where commercial fishing is a significant eco-  
5 nomic driver and there exists a need and voiced com-  
6 munity desire for the creation of new (or rehabilita-  
7 tion of existing) seafood processing infrastructure  
8 for rural processing facilities to allow those commu-  
9 nities—

10 (A) to effectively process their own catch  
11 locally; and

12 (B) to provide for the local and domestic  
13 market;

14 (2) an identification of rural coastal commu-  
15 nities with existing or developing mariculture oper-  
16 ations where processing infrastructure for rural  
17 processing facilities is not sufficient to meet the  
18 needs of the mariculture operations; and

19 (3) a consideration of the diversity of rural  
20 coastal communities, including geographic diversity.

21 (c) IDENTIFICATION OF ELIGIBLE COMMUNITIES.—

22 The action plan developed under subsection (a) shall iden-  
23 tify rural coastal communities across the United States  
24 that would be eligible for the grants and cooperative agree-  
25 ments under section 303.

1 (d) STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT.—In developing  
 2 the action plan under subsection (a), the Secretary, in con-  
 3 sultation with the Secretary of Commerce, shall provide  
 4 a meaningful stakeholder engagement process that  
 5 prioritizes outreach and engagement through methods  
 6 that effectively reach out to residents of rural coastal com-  
 7 munities described in paragraphs (1) through (3) of sub-  
 8 section (b).

9 **SEC. 303. GRANTS AND COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS TO**  
 10 **SUPPORT RURAL SEAFOOD PROCESSING AND**  
 11 **COLD STORAGE.**

12 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall, for the pe-  
 13 riod of fiscal years 2026 through 2030, make competitive  
 14 grants or enter into cooperative agreements—

15 (1) to support pilot projects for new seafood or  
 16 mariculture processing infrastructure for rural proc-  
 17 essing facilities in rural coastal communities identi-  
 18 fied under section 302(c);

19 (2) to support pilot projects for the rehabilita-  
 20 tion, repair, or retrofitting of existing seafood or  
 21 mariculture processing infrastructure for rural proc-  
 22 essing facilities in rural coastal communities identi-  
 23 fied under section 302(c);

24 (3) to support pilot projects for new cold stor-  
 25 age infrastructure for rural processing facilities in

1 rural coastal communities identified under section  
2 302(c); and

3 (4) to support pilot projects for the rehabilita-  
4 tion, repair, or retrofitting of existing cold storage  
5 infrastructure for rural processing facilities in rural  
6 coastal communities identified under section 302(c).

7 (b) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to receive a grant  
8 or enter into a cooperative agreement under subsection  
9 (a), the recipient of the grant or participant in the cooper-  
10 ative agreement shall be—

11 (1) a collaborative State, Tribal, local, or re-  
12 gionally based network or partnership of public or  
13 private entities; or

14 (2) an individual company that owns or oper-  
15 ates one or more rural processing facilities.

16 (c) ALLOCATION FOR SMALL-SCALE RURAL PROC-  
17 ESSING FACILITIES.—Of the amount made available to  
18 make competitive grants and enter into cooperative agree-  
19 ments under subsection (a) for each fiscal year, the Sec-  
20 retary shall use 50 percent to support pilot projects de-  
21 scribed in that subsection for rural processing facilities  
22 that have less than 50 employees.

23 (d) EVALUATION CRITERIA.—In making grants or  
24 entering into cooperative agreements under subsection (a),

1 the Secretary shall evaluate, with respect to applications  
 2 for the grants or cooperative agreements—

3 (1) relevancy;

4 (2) technical merit;

5 (3) achievability, expertise, and track record;

6 and

7 (4) equity and community impacts.

8 (e) REQUIREMENTS.—A grant or cooperative agree-  
 9 ment under subsection (a) shall be for an amount and  
 10 term determined appropriate by the Secretary.

11 **SEC. 304. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

12 There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out  
 13 this subtitle \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2026  
 14 through 2030.

15 **Subtitle B—Working Waterfronts**  
 16 **Preservation**

17 **SEC. 311. WORKING WATERFRONT ACCESS PROTECTION**  
 18 **GRANT PROGRAM.**

19 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

20 (1) BOAT.—The term “boat” means a  
 21 watercraft that is not built in a shipyard, and is  
 22 typically of the type suitable or intended for personal  
 23 use or for use in a fishery.

1           (2) BOATBUILDING INDUSTRY.—The term  
2           “boatbuilding industry” means an industry primarily  
3           engaged in building boats.

4           (3) COASTAL WATERS.—The term “coastal  
5           waters” means—

6                   (A) in the Great Lakes area, the waters  
7                   within the territorial jurisdiction of the United  
8                   States consisting of the Great Lakes, their con-  
9                   necting waters, harbors, roadsteads, and estu-  
10                  ary-type areas such as bays, shallows, and  
11                  marshes; and

12                  (B) in other areas, those waters, adjacent  
13                  to the shorelines, which contain a measurable  
14                  quantity or percentage of sea water, including  
15                  sounds, bays, lagoons, bayous, ponds, and estu-  
16                  aries.

17           (4) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-  
18           ty” means—

19                   (A) the government of a coastal State;

20                   (B) a unit of local government within a  
21                   coastal State;

22                   (C) a nonprofit organization that the Sec-  
23                   retary determines is appropriate to receive a  
24                   grant under subsection (b); or

1 (D) a participant in the commercial fishing  
 2 industry, the mariculture industry, or the for-  
 3 hire recreational fishing industry.

4 (5) ELIGIBLE PROJECT.—The term “eligible  
 5 project” means a project—

6 (A) to—

7 (i) make improvements to real prop-  
 8 erty that is a working waterfront area lo-  
 9 cated in a coastal State and owned by an  
 10 eligible entity, including—

11 (I) the construction or repair of  
 12 wharfs or related facilities;

13 (II) the provision of access to  
 14 coastal waters in working waterfront  
 15 areas to persons engaged in the com-  
 16 mercial fishing industry, the  
 17 mariculture industry, the for-hire rec-  
 18 reational fishing industry, or the  
 19 boatbuilding industry; and

20 (III) improvements made to such  
 21 property in order to be resilient to cli-  
 22 mate change; or

23 (ii) permanently designate or other-  
 24 wise protect real property owned or oper-

1           ated by an eligible entity as a working wa-  
2           terfront area;

3           (B) that has been approved or endorsed by  
4           the State government entity responsible for  
5           fishery management or the State's coastal zone  
6           management agency; and

7           (C) that is consistent with State coastal  
8           shoreline access laws (including regulations).

9           (6) MARICULTURE.—The term “mariculture”  
10          means shellfish and aquatic plants grown under con-  
11          trolled conditions.

12          (7) NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION.—The term  
13          “nonprofit organization” means an organization that  
14          is—

15                (A) described in section 501(c) of the In-  
16                ternal Revenue Code of 1986; and

17                (B) exempt from taxation under section  
18                501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

19          (8) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
20          the Secretary of Commerce.

21          (9) WORKING WATERFRONT AREA.—The term  
22          “working waterfront area” means land that is used  
23          for, or that supports, the commercial fishing indus-  
24          try, the mariculture industry, the for-hire rec-

1       reational fishing industry, or the boatbuilding indus-  
2       try.

3       (b) GRANT PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—

4           (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting  
5       through the Economic Development Administration  
6       of the Department of Commerce, shall award grants,  
7       on a competitive basis, to eligible entities to carry  
8       out eligible projects that support the commercial  
9       fishing industry, the mariculture industry, the for-  
10      hire recreational fishing industry, or the  
11      boatbuilding industry in coastal States.

12          (2) APPLICATION.—An eligible entity desiring a  
13      grant under this section shall submit an application  
14      to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and  
15      containing such information as the Secretary may  
16      reasonably require.

17          (3) GRANT SELECTION CONSIDERATIONS.—In  
18      selecting eligible entities to receive grants under this  
19      section, the Secretary shall give substantial weight  
20      to—

21           (A) the economic significance of the eligi-  
22      ble project to the commercial fishing industry,  
23      the mariculture industry, the for-hire rec-  
24      reational fishing industry, or the boatbuilding  
25      industry in the immediate vicinity and in the



1 coastal State in which the eligible project is lo-  
2 cated;

3 (B) whether other adequate waterfront ac-  
4 cess alternatives exist for the commercial fish-  
5 ing industry within the community in which the  
6 eligible entity seeks to use grant funding;

7 (C) the utility of the eligible project for use  
8 in the commercial fishing industry, the  
9 mariculture industry, the for-hire recreational  
10 fishing industry, or the boatbuilding industry,  
11 with respect to the natural characteristics and  
12 developed infrastructure of the relevant prop-  
13 erty;

14 (D) whether the applicant has a business  
15 plan for the area in which the project will be lo-  
16 cated;

17 (E) the likelihood that the working water-  
18 front area will remain compatible with commer-  
19 cial fishing, mariculture, for-hire recreational  
20 fishing, or boatbuilding, and the applicant's  
21 ability to demonstrate a need for, or support  
22 for, the project within the community; and

23 (F) whether the applicant intends to per-  
24 manently protect the relevant property.

1       (c) COST SHARING.—The amount of a grant awarded  
2 under this section to carry out an eligible project may not  
3 exceed 50 percent of the total cost of the eligible project.

4       (d) IMPROVED OR PROTECTED PROPERTY.—

5           (1) IN GENERAL.—Grants awarded under this  
6 section may be used to improve or protect privately  
7 owned real property or interests in privately owned  
8 real property, including easements, only from willing  
9 owners.

10          (2) NO EXERCISE OF EMINENT DOMAIN.—No  
11 Federal, State, or local agency may exercise the  
12 power of eminent domain to secure title to any real  
13 property or facilities in connection with a project  
14 carried out under this Act.

15       (e) ANNUAL REPORT.—The Secretary shall submit to  
16 Congress an annual report that describes the eligible  
17 projects funded with grants awarded under this section.

18       (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
19 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act  
20 \$20,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2030.

## TITLE IV—WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

### SEC. 401. MARITIME WORKFORCE GRANT PROGRAM.

(a) AMENDMENT.—Chapter 517 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

#### “§ 51708. Maritime workforce grant program

“(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) ELIGIBLE APPLICANT.—The term ‘eligible applicant’ means an entity that—

“(A) operates a program or performs activities leading to the recruitment, education, or training of future or current members of the maritime workforce; and

“(B) submits an application in such form as the Secretary may require.

“(2) MARITIME WORKFORCE.—The term ‘maritime workforce’ includes positions of employment requiring a license, certificate of registry, or merchant mariner’s document issued under part E of subtitle II of title 46, United States Code.

“(3) RURAL AREA.—The term ‘rural area’ has the meaning given the term in section 343(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1991(a)), without regard to subparagraphs

1 (B), (C), and (E) through (I) of paragraph (13) of  
2 that section.

3 “(4) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’ means  
4 the Secretary of Transportation.

5 “(b) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary, acting  
6 through the Maritime Administrator, shall establish a pro-  
7 gram to provide grants, on a competitive basis, to eligible  
8 applicants for eligible activities described in subsection (c)  
9 that support maritime workforce development.

10 “(c) ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES.—An eligible activity is an  
11 activity carried out by an eligible applicant—

12 “(1) to establish a new, or improve an existing,  
13 training program that teaches technical skills used  
14 in general seagoing operations and specific areas,  
15 such as deck or engineering, including the purchase  
16 of equipment for such programs;

17 “(2) to provide technical training or certifi-  
18 cation courses leading to maritime workforce  
19 credentialing, including any of the endorsements list-  
20 ed in section 10.109 of title 46, Code of Federal  
21 Regulations, or any successor regulation;

22 “(3) to create and deliver a program designed  
23 to provide high school students with meaningful  
24 maritime education in order to teach the future mar-  
25 itime workforce;

1 “(4) to support the professional development of  
 2 teachers using a curriculum of a program described  
 3 in paragraph (1), (2), or (3);

4 “(5) to establish, or support existing, scholar-  
 5 ships or apprenticeships for individuals pursuing em-  
 6 ployment in the maritime workforce;

7 “(6) to support outreach about careers in the  
 8 maritime workforce to—

9 “(A) secondary and postsecondary school  
 10 students; or

11 “(B) underrepresented communities, as de-  
 12 fined by the Secretary, in the maritime work-  
 13 force; or

14 “(7) to otherwise enhance the maritime work-  
 15 force.

16 “(d) GRANT APPLICATION REVIEW.—In reviewing  
 17 and selecting eligible applicants to receive grants under  
 18 this section, the Secretary shall—

19 “(1) prior to selecting among competing appli-  
 20 cations, consult, as appropriate, with representatives  
 21 of the maritime workforce;

22 “(2) ensure that the grants awarded under sub-  
 23 section (b) will allow participation from eligible ap-  
 24 plicants in rural, suburban, and urban areas; and

1           “(3) award not less than 25 percent of the  
2           grant funds available for each fiscal year to eligible  
3           applicants located in rural areas.”.

4           (b) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There is  
5           authorized to be appropriated to carry out section 51708  
6           of title 46, United States Code, as added by subsection  
7           (a), \$25,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2026 through  
8           2030.

9           (c) **CLERICAL AMENDMENT.**—The analysis for chap-  
10          ter 517 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by  
11          adding at the end the following:

12                   “51708. Maritime workforce grant program.”.

13          **SEC. 402. SAFETY STANDARDS FOR CERTAIN FISHING VES-**  
14                                   **SELS.**

15          Section 4502 of title 46, United States Code, is  
16          amended—

17                   (1) in subsection (i)—

18                                   (A) in paragraph (1)—

19   (i) in subparagraph (A)(ii), by strik-  
20   ing “and” after the semicolon;

21   (ii) by redesignating subparagraph  
22   (B) as subparagraph (C); and

23   (iii) by inserting after subparagraph  
24   (A) the following:

1           “(B) to conduct safety and prevention training  
2           that addresses behavioral and physical health risks,  
3           to include substance use disorder and worker fa-  
4           tigue, facing fishing vessel operators and crew-  
5           members; and”;

6                       (B) by striking paragraph (3);

7                       (C) by redesignating paragraph (4) as  
8           paragraph (3); and

9                       (D) in paragraph (3), as redesignated by  
10          subparagraph (C), by striking “\$3,000,000 for  
11          fiscal year 2023” and inserting “\$6,000,000 for  
12          each of fiscal years 2026 and 2027”;

13          (2) in subsection (j)—

14                      (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “and se-  
15                      vere weather detection” and inserting “severe  
16                      weather detection, and understanding and miti-  
17                      gating behavioral and physical health risks, to  
18                      include substance use disorder and worker fa-  
19                      tigue, facing members of the commercial fishing  
20                      industry”;

21                      (B) by striking paragraph (3);

22                      (C) by redesignating paragraph (4) as  
23          paragraph (3); and

24                      (D) in paragraph (3), as redesignated by  
25          subparagraph (C), by striking “\$3,000,000 for

1           fiscal year 2023” and inserting “\$6,000,000 for  
2           each of fiscal years 2026 and 2027”;

3           (3) by redesignating subsection (k) as sub-  
4           section (l); and

5           (4) by inserting after subsection (j) the fol-  
6           lowing:

7           “(k) From amounts appropriated under subsections  
8           (i)(3) and (j)(3) for a fiscal year, the Secretary may trans-  
9           fer to the Secretary of Health and Human Services funds  
10          to pay for the Secretary’s administration of the grant pro-  
11          grams under subsections (i) and (j) for such fiscal year.”.

## 12           **TITLE V—MISCELLANEOUS**

### 13           **Subtitle A—Ocean Innovation**

#### 14           **SEC. 501. DEFINITIONS.**

15          In this subtitle:

16           (1) BLUE ECONOMY.—The term “Blue Econ-  
17          omy” means the value and impact of sustainable in-  
18          dustries related to the Great Lakes, oceans, bays, es-  
19          tuaries, and coasts on the economy of the United  
20          States, including living resources, marine construc-  
21          tion, marine transportation, offshore energy develop-  
22          ment and siting including for renewable energy, off-  
23          shore mineral production, ship and boat building,  
24          tourism, recreation, subsistence, commercial, rec-  
25          reational, and charter fishing, seafood processing,



1 and other fishery-related businesses, kelp and shell-  
2 fish aquaculture, coastal resilience, and other indus-  
3 tries the Secretary of Commerce considers appro-  
4 priate.

5 (2) DIRECTOR OF SEA GRANT.—The term “Di-  
6 rector of Sea Grant” means the Director of the Na-  
7 tional Sea Grant College Program appointed under  
8 section 204(d)(1) of the National Sea Grant College  
9 Program Act (33 U.S.C. 1123(d)(1)).

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

14 (4) NATIVE HAWAIIAN ORGANIZATION.—The  
15 term “Native Hawaiian organization” has the mean-  
16 ing given the term in section 6207 of the Native Ha-  
17 waiian Education Act (20 U.S.C. 7517).

18 (5) OCEAN INNOVATION CENTER FOR CROSS-  
19 SECTOR COLLABORATION.—The term “Ocean Inno-  
20 vation Center for Cross-Sector Collaboration” means  
21 a physical space for collaboration developed and  
22 managed in accordance with section 502(i).

23 (6) OCEAN INNOVATION CLUSTER.—The term  
24 “Ocean Innovation Cluster” means an eligible entity

1 designated by the Secretary of Commerce under sec-  
 2 tion 502.

3 **SEC. 502. OCEAN INNOVATION CLUSTERS.**

4 (a) DESIGNATION.—Not later than 1 year after the  
 5 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Com-  
 6 merce, in consultation with the Director of Sea Grant, the  
 7 Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmos-  
 8 phere, and the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Eco-  
 9 nomic Development, shall designate not fewer than 7 eligi-  
 10 ble entities as Ocean Innovation Clusters.

11 (b) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—For purposes of this sec-  
 12 tion, an eligible entity is an entity—

13 (1) that is composed, in a concentrated geo-  
 14 graphic region, of 1 or more—

15 (A) business organizations;

16 (B) academic institutions, including  
 17 minority- and Tribal-serving institutions;

18 (C) not-for-profit organizations;

19 (D) Federal, State, or local governmental  
 20 entities, agencies, or instrumentalities;

21 (E) Indian Tribes; or

22 (F) Native Hawaiian organizations;

23 (2) that is led by a not-for-profit organization;

24 and

1           (3) that works to deliver services in the con-  
 2           centrated geographic region where the entity is lo-  
 3           cated, enhance collaboration, promote innovation,  
 4           and contribute to the equitable and sustainable  
 5           growth of the Blue Economy across all sectors.

6           (c) PRIORITY.—In designating entities as Ocean In-  
 7           novation Clusters under subsection (a), the Secretary of  
 8           Commerce shall prioritize entities with a history of sup-  
 9           porting cross-sector growth and development of the Blue  
 10          Economy.

11          (d) GEOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY.—The Secretary of  
 12          Commerce shall designate not fewer than 1 Ocean Innova-  
 13          tion Cluster under subsection (a) in—

14               (1) each of the regions covered by the 5 re-  
 15               gional offices of the National Marine Fisheries Serv-  
 16               ice;

17               (2) the Great Lakes region; and

18               (3) the Gulf of Mexico region.

19          (e) CONSIDERATIONS.—In designating an eligible en-  
 20          tity as an Ocean Innovation Cluster under subsection (a),  
 21          the Secretary of Commerce shall consider the following:

22               (1) The economic development potential of the  
 23               coastal community or region in which the entity is  
 24               located.

1           (2) The ability of the entity to incorporate and  
 2       bring growth and opportunity to broad geographic  
 3       areas, including urban, rural, and underserved areas.

4           (3) Whether the entity serves a diverse,  
 5       multigenerational, ocean-dependent population con-  
 6       sisting of groups with different socioeconomic and  
 7       educational attainment levels, industries, and Indian  
 8       Tribes.

9           (4) The ability of the entity to cultivate and le-  
 10      verage partnerships with private industry, academia,  
 11      nongovernmental organizations, Federal, State, and  
 12      local governments, and Indian Tribes to collaborate  
 13      on shared outcomes.

14          (5) The relative potential for the designation of  
 15      the entity as an Ocean Innovation Cluster to reverse  
 16      a decline, or accelerate growth, in ocean sector jobs.

17          (6) The ability of the entity to carry out  
 18      projects that support economic and climate resilience  
 19      through economic diversification and long-term re-  
 20      covery from natural disasters.

21          (7) The extent, rural and underserved nature,  
 22      and economic underutilization of the coastline and  
 23      ocean area that projects carried out by the entity  
 24      could affect.

25      (f) PARTNERSHIP MANAGEMENT.—

1 (1) PARTNERSHIP LIAISONS.—

2 (A) DESIGNATION.—The Director of Sea  
3 Grant, the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for  
4 Oceans and Atmosphere, and the Assistant Sec-  
5 retary of Commerce for Economic Development  
6 shall each designate 1 partnership manager  
7 from within their respective agencies to serve as  
8 a partnership liaison between each Ocean Inno-  
9 vation Cluster and Sea Grant, the National  
10 Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and  
11 the Economic Development Administration, re-  
12 spectively.

13 (B) FUNCTION.—Each partnership liaison  
14 designated under subparagraph (A) shall ensure  
15 that Ocean Innovation Clusters—

16 (i) have direct communication with  
17 the agency of the liaison; and

18 (ii) allow for collaboration and align-  
19 ment with Federal objectives in each re-  
20 gion regarding the Blue Economy.

21 (2) INTERAGENCY COORDINATION.—

22 (A) SECRETARY OF COMMERCE.—The Sec-  
23 retary of Commerce shall coordinate with the  
24 Director of Sea Grant, the Assistant Secretary  
25 of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere, the

1 Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic  
2 Development, the Department of Energy, the  
3 Maritime Administration of the Department of  
4 Transportation, the Environmental Protection  
5 Agency, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Manage-  
6 ment of the Department of the Interior, the De-  
7 partment of Agriculture, the Coast Guard, and  
8 such other Federal agencies, including bureaus  
9 of the Department of Commerce, as the Sec-  
10 retary of Commerce considers appropriate to in-  
11 crease technical knowledge exchange and oppor-  
12 tunities for cross-sector collaboration with those  
13 agencies.

14 (B) SECRETARY OF ENERGY.—With re-  
15 spect to matters relating to the nexus of the  
16 Blue Economy and the responsibilities and ex-  
17 pertise of the Department of Energy, the Sec-  
18 retary of Energy—

19 (i) shall provide advice and rec-  
20 ommendations to the Secretary of Com-  
21 merce in order to increase technical knowl-  
22 edge exchange and opportunities for cross-  
23 sector collaboration; and

1 (ii) may provide such advice and rec-  
 2 ommendations without any formal request  
 3 from the Department of Commerce.

4 (g) DEVELOPMENT OF ECONOMIC IMPACT METRICS  
 5 OF OCEAN INNOVATION CLUSTERS.—The Administrator  
 6 of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration,  
 7 the Director of the Bureau of Economic Analysis of the  
 8 Department of Commerce, and the heads of other relevant  
 9 Federal agencies shall use and refine the Marine Economy  
 10 Satellite Account to measure the value to and impact of  
 11 Ocean Innovation Clusters on the Blue Economy.

12 (h) AREAS OF FOCUS.—The Director of Sea Grant,  
 13 the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and At-  
 14 mosphere, and the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for  
 15 Economic Development shall coordinate with each Ocean  
 16 Innovation Cluster in the following areas of focus:

17 (1) Increasing pathways for new entrants into  
 18 the Blue Economy for individuals and entities.

19 (2) Intellectual property management.

20 (3) Enhancing the sustainability of seafood sup-  
 21 ply chains, including with respect to food, transpor-  
 22 tation, processing, health and beauty products, ani-  
 23 mal feed, medical biotechnology, bioplastics, biofuels,  
 24 and other value-added products, to strive for full use  
 25 of harvested natural resources.

1           (4) Providing significant and sustainable eco-  
2           nomic opportunity through advanced research, cross-  
3           sector science, and technology development.

4           (5) Contributing new knowledge, processes,  
5           technology, and support for stakeholders in the Blue  
6           Economy, especially to advance sustainability in spe-  
7           cific sectors.

8           (6) Working with Federal, State, local, and  
9           Tribal agencies to clearly communicate laws, regula-  
10          tions, and agency practices affecting industry needs,  
11          planning, or growth opportunities.

12          (7) Creating investable opportunities through  
13          the development of economies of scale to enhance  
14          growth opportunities, job creation, sustainability,  
15          and expansion for small businesses within the Blue  
16          Economy.

17          (8) Workforce development and training, busi-  
18          ness planning, identifying existing and needed tech-  
19          nology and economic infrastructure, and coordinated  
20          research and development among small businesses,  
21          government, and industry.

22          (9) Research, development, and implementation  
23          of ocean energy, bioprospecting, and other innovative  
24          and sustainable ocean resource development endeav-  
25          ors.



1 (i) OCEAN INNOVATION CENTERS FOR CROSS-SEC-  
 2 TOR COLLABORATION.—

3 (1) IN GENERAL.—In order to foster collabora-  
 4 tion and innovation and strengthen regional ocean  
 5 sector economies while creating employment oppor-  
 6 tunities, the Director of Sea Grant, the Assistant  
 7 Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere,  
 8 and the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Eco-  
 9 nomic Development shall collaborate with cross-sec-  
 10 tor partners to jointly develop or designate at least  
 11 1 physical space for collaboration as an Ocean Inno-  
 12 vation Center for Cross-Sector Collaboration within  
 13 each of the 7 regions with an Ocean Innovation  
 14 Cluster.

15 (2) MANAGEMENT.—An Ocean Innovation Clus-  
 16 ter or a group of Ocean Innovation Clusters shall  
 17 manage the Ocean Innovation Center for Cross-Sec-  
 18 tor Collaboration of the region in which the Cluster  
 19 or Clusters is located.

20 (3) FUNCTIONS.—Each Ocean Innovation Cen-  
 21 ter for Cross-Sector Collaboration shall—

22 (A) serve as a hub for partners within  
 23 Ocean Innovation Clusters to work toward the  
 24 areas of focus in described in subsection (h);

1 (B) support a community of entrepreneurs  
 2 focused on strengthening vibrant marine-de-  
 3 pendent communities and the Blue Economy;

4 (C) create workspaces and laboratories de-  
 5 signed to promote collaboration, including  
 6 through shared meeting rooms, access to tech-  
 7 nology, common spaces, and offices;

8 (D) strengthen relationships among indus-  
 9 try sectors through shared scientific, staffing,  
 10 and business resources;

11 (E) develop the critical networks with  
 12 cross-sector partners that entrepreneurs need to  
 13 grow effectively; and

14 (F) develop the next generation of Blue  
 15 Economy workers by providing internships, ap-  
 16 prenticeships, or training, as appropriate, in-  
 17 cluding for underrepresented and Tribal com-  
 18 munities and local trade schools.

19 **SEC. 503. GRANTS FOR OCEAN INNOVATION CLUSTERS.**

20 The Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of  
 21 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3701 et seq.) is amended by adding at  
 22 the end the following:

23 **“SEC. 31. GRANTS FOR OCEAN INNOVATION CLUSTERS.**

24 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation  
 25 with the Director of Sea Grant, the Assistant Secretary

1 of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere, and the Assist-  
2 ant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development,  
3 may award grants, on a competitive basis, to Ocean Inno-  
4 vation Clusters for the purposes described in subsection  
5 (b).

6 “(b) PURPOSES.—The Secretary may award grants  
7 under subsection (a) for the operation and administration  
8 of one or more Ocean Innovation Clusters under section  
9 502 of the Working Waterfronts Act of 2025, with the  
10 goal that Ocean Innovation Clusters will become member-  
11 ship-based, self-sustaining entities.

12 “(c) INPUT.—In awarding a grant under subsection  
13 (a), the Secretary shall provide an opportunity for input  
14 from the Director of Sea Grant, the Assistant Secretary  
15 of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere, and the Assist-  
16 ant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development.

17 “(d) TERM OF GRANTS.—

18 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The term of a grant award-  
19 ed under subsection (a) shall be 2 years.

20 “(2) RENEWAL.—The Secretary may renew a  
21 grant awarded under subsection (a) for additional  
22 periods of such duration as the Secretary determines  
23 to be appropriate and necessary for the Ocean Inno-  
24 vation Cluster that received the grant to provide re-  
25 gional economic benefits.

1 “(e) LIMITATIONS ON GRANT AMOUNTS.—A grant  
 2 awarded under subsection (a) may not exceed  
 3 \$10,000,000.

4 “(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
 5 is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to award  
 6 grants under subsection (a) \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal  
 7 years 2026 through 2030.

8 “(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

9 “(1) DIRECTOR OF SEA GRANT.—The term ‘Di-  
 10 rector of Sea Grant’ means the Director of the Na-  
 11 tional Sea Grant College Program appointed under  
 12 section 204(d)(1) of the National Sea Grant College  
 13 Program Act (33 U.S.C. 1123(d)(1)).

14 “(2) OCEAN INNOVATION CLUSTER.—The term  
 15 ‘Ocean Innovation Cluster’ has the meaning given  
 16 that term in section 501 of the Working Waterfronts  
 17 Act of 2025.”.

## 18 **Subtitle B—Vegetated Coastal Eco-** 19 **systems and Great Lakes Eco-** 20 **systems**

### 21 **SEC. 511. DEFINITIONS.**

22 In this subtitle:

23 (1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Adminis-  
 24 trator” means the Under Secretary of Commerce for  
 25 Oceans and Atmosphere in the Under Secretary’s

1 capacity as the Administrator of the National Oce-  
2 anic and Atmospheric Administration.

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

7 (3) INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP.—The term  
8 “Interagency Working Group” means the Inter-  
9 agency Working Group on Vegetated Coastal Eco-  
10 systems and Great Lakes Ecosystems established  
11 under section 512(a).

12 (4) NATURAL INFRASTRUCTURE.—The term  
13 “natural infrastructure” has the meaning given that  
14 term in section 101(a) of title 23, United States  
15 Code.

16 (5) NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION.—The term  
17 “nonprofit organization” means an organization de-  
18 scribed in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue  
19 Code of 1986 and exempt from taxation under  
20 501(a) of that Code.

21 (6) STATE.—The term “State” means each  
22 State of the United States, the District of Columbia,  
23 the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, American  
24 Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern  
25 Mariana Islands, the Virgin Islands of the United

1 States, and any other territory or possession of the  
 2 United States.

3 (7) VEGETATED COASTAL ECOSYSTEMS.—The  
 4 term “vegetated coastal ecosystems” includes  
 5 mangroves, tidal marshes, seagrasses, kelp forests,  
 6 and other tidal, freshwater, or salt-water wetlands.

7 **SEC. 512. INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP ON VEGETATED**  
 8 **COASTAL ECOSYSTEMS AND GREAT LAKES**  
 9 **ECOSYSTEMS.**

10 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Subcommittee on Ocean  
 11 Science and Technology of the National Science and Tech-  
 12 nology Council shall establish an interagency working  
 13 group to be known as the “Interagency Working Group  
 14 on Vegetated Coastal Ecosystems and Great Lakes Eco-  
 15 systems”.

16 (b) MEMBERSHIP.—The Interagency Working Group  
 17 shall be comprised of the Ocean Policy Committee estab-  
 18 lished by section 8932 of title 10, United States Code.

19 (c) CHAIRPERSON.—The Interagency Working Group  
 20 shall be chaired by the Administrator.

21 (d) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Administrator, in con-  
 22 sultation with the Interagency Working Group, shall  
 23 produce, update, maintain, and use a map and inventory  
 24 of vegetated coastal ecosystems and Great Lakes eco-  
 25 systems as described in section 513.

1 **SEC. 513. NATIONAL-LEVEL MAP AND INVENTORY OF VEGE-**  
2 **TATED COASTAL ECOSYSTEMS AND GREAT**  
3 **LAKES ECOSYSTEMS.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Interagency Working Group  
5 shall produce, update, and maintain a national-level map  
6 and inventory of vegetated coastal and Great Lakes eco-  
7 systems that includes—

8 (1) the types of habitats and the species in such  
9 ecosystems;

10 (2) the condition of such ecosystems, including  
11 whether an ecosystem is degraded, drained, eutro-  
12 phic, or tidally restricted;

13 (3) the type of public or private ownership and  
14 any protected status of such ecosystems;

15 (4) the size of such ecosystems;

16 (5) the salinity boundaries of such ecosystems;

17 (6) the tidal boundaries of such ecosystems;

18 (7) an assessment of carbon sequestration po-  
19 tential, methane production, and net greenhouse gas  
20 reductions with respect to such ecosystems, includ-  
21 ing consideration of—

22 (A) quantification;

23 (B) verifiability;

24 (C) comparison to a historical baseline as  
25 available; and

26 (D) permanence of those benefits;

1           (8) the potential for landward migration within  
2           such ecosystems as a result of sea level rise;

3           (9) any upstream restrictions of such eco-  
4           systems that are detrimental to the watershed proc-  
5           ess and conditions, such as dams, dikes, levees, and  
6           other water management practices;

7           (10) the conversion of such ecosystems to other  
8           land uses and the cause of such conversion; and

9           (11) a depiction of the effects of climate  
10          change, including sea level rise, environmental  
11          stressors, and other stressors on the sequestration  
12          rate, carbon storage, and potential of such eco-  
13          systems.

14          (b) DATA INCORPORATION; ENGAGEMENT.—In car-  
15          rying out subsection (a), the Interagency Working Group  
16          shall—

17               (1) incorporate, to the extent practicable, data  
18               collected—

19                       (A) by Federal agencies, State agencies,  
20                       Indian Tribes, or local agencies through re-  
21                       search that is funded, in whole or in part, by  
22                       the Federal Government; and

23                       (B) through peer-reviewed published  
24                       works; and



1           (2) engage regional experts, State agencies, In-  
2       dian Tribes, and additional data and information re-  
3       sources in order to accurately account for regional  
4       differences in vegetated coastal ecosystems and  
5       Great Lakes ecosystems.

6       (c) USE OF MAP AND INVENTORY.—The Interagency  
7       Working Group shall use the national-level map and inven-  
8       tory produced under subsection (a)—

9           (1) to assess the carbon sequestration potential  
10       of different vegetated coastal ecosystems and Great  
11       Lakes ecosystems and account for any regional dif-  
12       ferences;

13          (2) to assess and quantify emissions from de-  
14       graded and destroyed vegetated coastal ecosystems  
15       and Great Lakes ecosystems;

16          (3) to develop regional assessments in partner-  
17       ship with, or to provide technical assistance to—

18               (A) regional, State, and local government  
19       agencies;

20               (B) Indian Tribes; and

21               (C) regional coastal observing systems (as  
22       defined in section 12303(6) of the Integrated  
23       Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act of  
24       2009 (33 U.S.C. 3602(6)));

1           (4) to assess degraded vegetated coastal eco-  
 2           systems and Great Lakes ecosystems and the poten-  
 3           tial for restoration of such ecosystems, including de-  
 4           veloping scenario modeling to identify vulnerable  
 5           land areas and living shorelines where management,  
 6           conservation, and restoration efforts should be fo-  
 7           cused;

8           (5) to produce predictions relating to carbon se-  
 9           questration rates in the context of climate change,  
 10          environmental stressors, and other stressors;

11          (6) to inform how and where coastal vegetation  
 12          can serve as natural infrastructure to most effec-  
 13          tively protect coastlines from storm surges and cli-  
 14          mate hazards; and

15          (7) to further understand which types of coastal  
 16          and Great Lakes vegetation can be used as natural  
 17          infrastructure to protect coastlines in different cli-  
 18          mates, especially cold climates, including the Arctic  
 19          region.

20 **SEC. 514. GRANTS FOR PILOT PROJECTS AND RESEARCH**  
 21 **ON COASTAL NATURAL INFRASTRUCTURE IN**  
 22 **COLD CLIMATES.**

23          (a) IN GENERAL.—During fiscal years 2026 and  
 24 2027, the Administrator shall award grants through the

1 national sea grant college program, on a competitive basis,  
 2 to eligible entities to support—

3 (1) the implementation of coastal natural infra-  
 4 structure pilot projects in cold climates, including  
 5 the Arctic region of the United States, that will pro-  
 6 tect the coastline from storm surges, hazards caused  
 7 by climate change, erosion, and permafrost melt;  
 8 and

9 (2) research on how effective coastal natural in-  
 10 frastructure projects can be in protecting coastlines  
 11 in cold climates, including the Arctic region.

12 (b) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to receive a grant  
 13 under subsection (a), an entity shall be a—

14 (1) a State or local government;

15 (2) an Indian Tribe;

16 (3) an academic institution;

17 (4) a nonprofit organization; or

18 (5) a combination of entities described in para-  
 19 graphs (1) through (4).

20 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is  
 21 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section  
 22 \$3,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2026 and 2027.

23 (d) NATIONAL SEA GRANT COLLEGE PROGRAM DE-  
 24 FINED.—In this section, the term “national sea grant col-  
 25 lege program” means the national sea grant college pro-

1 gram maintained under section 204 of the National Sea  
 2 Grant College Program Act (33 U.S.C. 1123).

### 3 **Subtitle C—Ocean Acidification**

#### 4 **SEC. 521. DEFINITIONS IN FEDERAL OCEAN ACIDIFICATION** 5 **RESEARCH AND MONITORING ACT OF 2009.**

6 Section 12403 of the Federal Ocean Acidification Re-  
 7 search And Monitoring Act of 2009 (33 U.S.C. 3702) is  
 8 amended—

9 (1) by striking paragraph (4);

10 (2) by redesignating paragraphs (2), (3), and  
 11 (5) as paragraphs (4), (5), and (6) respectively;

12 (3) by inserting after paragraph (1) the fol-  
 13 lowing:

14 “(2) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term ‘Indian Tribe’  
 15 has the meaning given that term in section 4 of the  
 16 Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance  
 17 Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

18 “(3) NATIVE HAWAIIAN ORGANIZATION.—The  
 19 term ‘Native Hawaiian organization’ has the mean-  
 20 ing given that term in section 3 of the NATIVE Act  
 21 (25 U.S.C. 4352).”;

22 (4) in paragraph (4), as redesignated by para-  
 23 graph (2), by inserting “an increase of” before “car-  
 24 bon dioxide”; and

25 (5) by adding at the end the following:

1           “(7) SUBCOMMITTEE.—The term ‘Sub-  
2       committee’ means the National Science and Tech-  
3       nology Council Subcommittee on Ocean Science and  
4       Technology.

5           “(8) UNITED STATES.—The term ‘United  
6       States’ means the States, collectively.”.

7       **SEC. 522. IMPROVEMENT OF COLLABORATION ON OCEAN**  
8                               **ACIDIFICATION.**

9       (a) ONGOING INPUT MECHANISM.—Section  
10   12404(c)(2) of the Federal Ocean Acidification Research  
11   And Monitoring Act of 2009 (33 U.S.C. 3703(c)(2)) is  
12   amended—

13           (1) in subparagraph (B), by striking “; and”  
14       and inserting a semicolon;

15           (2) in subparagraph (C), by striking the period  
16       at the end and inserting “; and”; and

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

18           “(D) establish an ongoing mechanism  
19       (such as a liaison or other contact of the Na-  
20       tional Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration,  
21       standing meetings, or an online platform) to en-  
22       gage affected industry members, coastal stake-  
23       holders, community acidification networks, fish-  
24       ery management councils and commissions, In-  
25       dian Tribes, Native Hawaiian organizations,

1 Tribal organizations, Tribal consortia, non-Fed-  
 2 eral resource managers, and scientific experts  
 3 not employed by the Federal Government to  
 4 provide input on research, data, and monitoring  
 5 that is necessary to support on-the-ground  
 6 management, decision making, and adaptation  
 7 related to ocean acidification and coastal acidi-  
 8 fication and the impacts of ocean acidification  
 9 and coastal acidification.”.

10 (b) ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERSHIP.—Section  
 11 12404(c)(3) of the Federal Ocean Acidification Research  
 12 And Monitoring Act of 2009 (33 U.S.C. 3703(c)(3)) is  
 13 amended—

14 (1) by redesignating subparagraphs (G)  
 15 through (Q) as subparagraphs (H) through (R), re-  
 16 spectively;

17 (2) by inserting after subparagraph (F) the fol-  
 18 lowing:

19 “(G) Two representatives from Indian  
 20 Tribes, Native Hawaiian organizations, Tribal  
 21 organizations, or Tribal consortia affected by  
 22 ocean acidification and coastal acidification.”;  
 23 and

1           (3) in subparagraph (H), as redesignated by  
 2       paragraph (1), by striking “Six” and inserting  
 3       “Four”.

4       (c) APPOINTMENT OF ADVISORY BOARD MEM-  
 5       BERS.—Section 12404(c)(4)(C) of the Federal Ocean  
 6       Acidification Research And Monitoring Act of 2009 (33  
 7       U.S.C. 3703(c)(4)(C)) is amended by inserting “Indian  
 8       Tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations,” after “man-  
 9       agers,”.

10       (d) ENGAGEMENT AND COORDINATION WITH INDIAN  
 11       TRIBES AND NATIVE HAWAIIAN ORGANIZATIONS.—Para-  
 12       graph (9) of section 12404(c) of the Federal Ocean Acidi-  
 13       fication Research And Monitoring Act of 2009 (33 U.S.C.  
 14       3703(c)) is amended to read as follows:

15           “(9) ENGAGEMENT AND COORDINATION WITH  
 16       INDIAN TRIBES AND NATIVE HAWAIIAN ORGANIZA-  
 17       TIONS.—

18           “(A) POLICY REQUIRED.—Not later than  
 19       one year after the date on which the Advisory  
 20       Board is established, the Advisory Board shall  
 21       develop and commence maintaining a policy for  
 22       engagement and coordination with Indian  
 23       Tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations af-  
 24       fected by ocean acidification and coastal acidifi-  
 25       cation.

1                   “(B) CONSULTATION.—In developing the  
 2                   policy under subparagraph (A), the Advisory  
 3                   Board shall consult with Indian Tribes and Na-  
 4                   tive Hawaiian organizations affected by ocean  
 5                   acidification and coastal acidification.”.

6           (e) COLLABORATION ON VULNERABILITY ASSESS-  
 7           MENTS, RESEARCH PLANNING, AND SIMILAR ACTIVI-  
 8           TIES.—Section 12404(e)(4)(A) of the Federal Ocean  
 9           Acidification Research And Monitoring Act of 2009 (33  
 10          U.S.C. 3703(e)(4)(A)) is amended—

11                   (1) by redesignating clauses (ix) and (x) as  
 12                   clauses (x) and (xi), respectively; and

13                   (2) by inserting after clause (viii) the following:

14                               “(ix) identifies the efforts of the Sec-  
 15                               retary to collaborate with State and local  
 16                               governments, Indian Tribes, and Native  
 17                               Hawaiian organizations on community vul-  
 18                               nerability assessments, research planning,  
 19                               and similar activities, pursuant to section  
 20                               12406(e);”.

21          (f) CONTENTS OF STRATEGIC RESEARCH PLAN.—  
 22          Section 12405(b) of the Federal Ocean Acidification Re-  
 23          search And Monitoring Act of 2009 (33 U.S.C. 3704(b))  
 24          is amended—



1           (1) in paragraph (10), by striking “section  
2    12404(c)(4)” and inserting “section 12404(e)(4”;  
3    and

4           (2) in paragraph (11), by striking “potentially  
5    affected industry members, coastal stakeholders,  
6    fishery management councils and commissions, Trib-  
7    al governments, non-Federal resource managers, and  
8    scientific experts” and inserting “affected industry  
9    members, coastal stakeholders, community acidifica-  
10   tion networks, fishery management councils and  
11   commissions, Indian Tribes, Native Hawaiian orga-  
12   nizations, non-Federal resource managers, and sci-  
13   entific experts not employed by the Federal Govern-  
14   ment”.

15       (g) IMPROVING COLLABORATION ON NOAA OCEAN  
16   ACIDIFICATION ACTIVITIES.—Section 12406 of the Fed-  
17   eral Ocean Acidification Research And Monitoring Act of  
18   2009 (33 U.S.C. 3705) is amended—

19           (1) in subsection (a)—

20               (A) in paragraph (1)—

21                   (i) in subparagraph (D), by adding a  
22                   semicolon at the end; and

23                   (ii) in subparagraph (F), by striking  
24                   “Tribal governments” and inserting “In-

1           dian Tribes, Native Hawaiian organiza-  
2           tions”; and

3           (B) in paragraph (4), by striking “industry  
4           members, coastal stakeholders, fishery manage-  
5           ment councils and commissions, non-Federal re-  
6           source managers, community acidification net-  
7           works, indigenous knowledge groups, and sci-  
8           entific experts” and inserting “affected industry  
9           members, coastal stakeholders, community  
10          acidification networks, fishery management  
11          councils and commissions, Indian Tribes, Na-  
12          tive Hawaiian organizations, non-Federal re-  
13          source managers, and scientific experts not em-  
14          ployed by the Federal Government”;

15          (2) in subsection (c)—

16                (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “State,  
17                local, and Tribal governments” and inserting  
18                “State and local governments, Indian Tribes,  
19                Native Hawaiian organizations,”; and

20                (B) in paragraph (2)—

21                   (i) in subparagraph (A), by striking “;  
22                   or” and inserting a semicolon;

23                   (ii) by redesignating subparagraph  
24                   (B) as subparagraph (C);

1 (iii) by inserting after subparagraph

2 (A) the following:

3 “(B) on ocean acidification and coastal  
4 acidification research, data, and monitoring  
5 from affected industry members, coastal stake-  
6 holders, community acidification networks, fish-  
7 ery management councils and commissions, In-  
8 dian Tribes, Native Hawaiian organizations,  
9 non-Federal resource managers, and scientific  
10 experts not employed by the Federal Govern-  
11 ment; or”; and

12 (iv) in subparagraph (C), as redesign-  
13 nated by clause (ii), by striking “State  
14 governments, local governments, Tribal  
15 governments” and inserting “State and  
16 local governments, Indian Tribes, Native  
17 Hawaiian organizations”;

18 (3) in subsection (d)(1)(C), by striking “Tribes  
19 or Tribal governments” and inserting “Indian  
20 Tribes, Native Hawaiian organizations, Tribal orga-  
21 nizations, and Tribal consortia”; and

22 (4) by adding at the end the following:

23 “(e) BETTER COLLABORATION ON VULNERABILITY  
24 ASSESSMENTS, RESEARCH PLANNING, AND SIMILAR AC-  
25 TIVITIES.—

1           “(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the pro-  
 2           gram under subsection (a), and in support of vulner-  
 3           ability assessments transmitted under section  
 4           12404(e)(4) and recommendations included in the  
 5           strategic research plan described in section  
 6           12405(b)(10), the Secretary shall build upon exist-  
 7           ing activities and collaborate with State and local  
 8           governments and Indian Tribes that are conducting  
 9           or have completed vulnerability assessments, re-  
 10          search planning, climate action plans, or other simi-  
 11          lar activities related to ocean acidification and coast-  
 12          al acidification and the impacts of ocean acidifica-  
 13          tion and coastal acidification on coastal commu-  
 14          nities, for the purpose of—

15                 “(A) supporting collaborative interagency  
 16                 relationships and information sharing at the  
 17                 State, local, and Tribal levels; and

18                 “(B) assisting State and local governments  
 19                 and Indian Tribes in—

20                         “(i) improving existing systems and  
 21                         programs to better address ocean acidifica-  
 22                         tion and coastal acidification; and

23                         “(ii) identifying whether such activi-  
 24                         ties can be used as a model for other com-  
 25                         munities.

1           “(2) INDIAN TRIBES, NATIVE HAWAIIAN ORGA-  
 2           NIZATIONS, TRIBAL ORGANIZATIONS, AND TRIBAL  
 3           CONSORTIA.—In carrying out the program under  
 4           subsection (a), and in support of vulnerability as-  
 5           sessments transmitted under section 12404(e)(4)  
 6           and recommendations included in the strategic re-  
 7           search plan described in section 12405(b)(10), the  
 8           Secretary may build upon existing activities and col-  
 9           laborate with Indian Tribes, Native Hawaiian orga-  
 10          nizations, Tribal organizations, and Tribal consortia  
 11          that are conducting or have completed vulnerability  
 12          assessments, research planning, climate action plans,  
 13          or other similar activities related to ocean acidifica-  
 14          tion and coastal acidification and the impacts of  
 15          ocean acidification and coastal acidification on coast-  
 16          al communities.”.

17 **SEC. 523. TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.**

18          The Federal Ocean Acidification Research And Moni-  
 19          toring Act of 2009 (33 U.S.C. 3701 et seq.) is amended—

20               (1) in section 12402 (33 U.S.C. 3701)—

21                       (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “develop-  
 22                       ment coordination and implementation” and in-  
 23                       serting “development, coordination, and imple-  
 24                       mentation”; and

1 (B) in paragraph (4), by striking “research  
 2 adaptation strategies and mitigating the im-  
 3 pacts” and inserting “research on adaptation  
 4 strategies and mitigation of the impacts”;  
 5 (2) in section 12404 (33 U.S.C. 3703)—

6 (A) in subsection (b)(5), by striking “;  
 7 and” and inserting a period;

8 (B) in subsection (c)(2)(A)—

9 (i) in clause (i), by striking “sub-  
 10 section (d)(2)” and inserting “subsection  
 11 (e)(2)”; and

12 (ii) in clause (ii), by striking “sub-  
 13 section (d)(3)” and inserting “subsection  
 14 (e)(3)”;

15 (C) in subsection (d)(3), by striking “this  
 16 section” and inserting “this subsection”; and

17 (D) in subsection (e)—

18 (i) in paragraph (2)(B), by striking  
 19 “interagency” and inserting “the”; and

20 (ii) in paragraph (3), by striking  
 21 “years until 2031 thereafter” and inserting  
 22 “years thereafter until 2031”; and

23 (3) in section 12406(d)(2) (33 U.S.C.  
 24 3705(d)(2)), by striking “The Secretary to,” and in-  
 25 serting “The Secretary, to”.

## **Subtitle D—Other Matters**

### **SEC. 531. TRANSFER OF, AND AMENDMENTS TO, THE COASTAL AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES MITI- GATION GRANT PROGRAM AND MITIGATION FUND.**

(a) TRANSFER.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (f) of section 903 of the Vessel Incidental Discharge Act of 2018 (16 U.S.C. 4729) is—

(A) transferred to section 1202 of the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990 (16 U.S.C. 4722);

(B) redesignated as subsection (l) of that section 1202; and

(C) added at the end of that section 1202.

(2) AVAILABILITY OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Paragraph (1) shall not affect the availability of amounts made available in appropriation Acts for the purpose of carrying out the program transferred by paragraph (1) to the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990 (16 U.S.C. 4701 et seq.).

(b) AMENDMENTS.—Subsection (l) of section 1202 of the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Con-

1 trol Act of 1990 (16 U.S.C. 4722), as transferred and re-  
 2 designated under subsection (a), is amended—

3 (1) in paragraph (1)—

4 (A) by striking subparagraph (D); and

5 (B) by redesignating subparagraphs (E),  
 6 (F), and (G), as subparagraphs (D), (E), and  
 7 (F), respectively;

8 (2) in paragraph (2)—

9 (A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “and  
 10 the Foundation” both places the term appears;

11 (B) in subparagraph (C)(i)—

12 (i) in subclause (I), by striking “pro-  
 13 grams, including permissible State ballast  
 14 water” and inserting “programs for Fed-  
 15 eral and State agencies, territories of the  
 16 United States, Tribal governments or orga-  
 17 nizations, and interstate organizations, in-  
 18 cluding permissible ballast water”;

19 (ii) by striking subclause (III);

20 (iii) by redesignating subclauses (IV)  
 21 and (V) as subclauses (III) and (IV), re-  
 22 spectively; and

23 (iv) in subclause (IV), as redesignated  
 24 by clause (iii), by striking “infrastructure,  
 25 such as hydroelectric infrastructure, from



1           aquatic invasive species” and inserting  
 2           “aquaculture and associated infrastructure  
 3           from aquatic invasive species with par-  
 4           ticular emphasis on underserved commu-  
 5           nities”;

6           (C) in subparagraph (D), by striking “Not  
 7           later than 90 days after the date of enactment  
 8           of this Act, the Foundation, in consultation  
 9           with the Secretary” and inserting “Not later  
 10          than 90 days after the date of enactment of the  
 11          Working Waterfronts Act of 2025, the Sec-  
 12          retary”; and

13          (D) in subparagraph (F), by striking “and  
 14          the Foundation are” and inserting “is”; and  
 15          (3) in paragraph (3)—

16          (A) by striking subparagraph (B) and in-  
 17          serting the following:

18               “(B) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIA-  
 19               TIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated  
 20               to the Fund \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years  
 21               2026 through 2030.”; and

22          (B) in subparagraph (C), by striking “and  
 23          the Foundation”.

24          (c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 903 of the  
 25          Vessel Incidental Discharge Act of 2018 (16 U.S.C.

- 1 4729), as amended by subsection (a), is further amended
- 2 by redesignating subsections (g) and (h) as subsections (f)
- 3 and (g), respectively.

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