

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1968

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

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

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.

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:

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 in 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,

1 “(iii) will not be, based on information
2 available to the Commission, likely to jeop-
3 ardize the continued existence of any spe-
4 cies listed as a threatened species or an en-
5 dangered species under the Endangered
6 Species Act of 1973, and

7 “(iv) will not be, based on information
8 available to the Commission, likely to re-
9 sult in the destruction or adverse modifica-
10 tion of an area designated as critical habi-
11 tat for any species listed as a threatened
12 species or an endangered species under
13 such Act, and

14 “(B) any interconnection property associ-
15 ated with a project described in subparagraph
16 (A).

17 “(7) QUALIFIED DAM.—The term ‘qualified
18 dam’ means a hydroelectric dam that is licensed by
19 the Commission or legally operating without such a
20 license before the date of enactment of this sec-
21 tion.”.

22 (b) ELECTIVE PAYMENT AND TRANSFER OF CRED-
23 IT.—

24 (1) ELECTIVE PAYMENT.—Section 6417 of the
25 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:

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:

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

(B) for research and development of alternative fuel technologies for commercial fishing vessels and necessary shoreside infrastructure.

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;

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

23 (d) AUTHORIZATIONS OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

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

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

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

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

12 **TITLE II—FISHERIES AND 13 SEAFOOD**

14 **SEC. 201. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE LOANS AND 15 GRANTS FOR FISHING AND MARICULTURE 16 BUSINESSES.**

17 (a) DEFINITIONS OF FARMER AND FARMING.—Section
18 343(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Develop-
19 ment Act (7 U.S.C. 1991(a)) is amended—

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

23 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking “farming.”
24 and inserting “farming, commercial fishing, and fish
25 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.—

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—

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

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.”.

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 entity
13 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—

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

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

3 “(10) enhance competitive grant programs to
4 support shellfish mariculture and expand access to
5 testing for harmful algal bloom toxins for subsistence
6 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:

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

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.

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.

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.

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

(III) improvements made to such property in order to be resilient to climate change; or

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

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).

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.

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

3 SEC. 401. MARITIME WORKFORCE GRANT PROGRAM.

4 (a) AMENDMENT.—Chapter 517 of title 46, United
5 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
6 lowing:

7 “§ 51708. Maritime workforce grant program

8 "(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

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

11 “(A) operates a program or performs ac-
12 tivities leading to the recruitment, education, or
13 training of future or current members of the
14 maritime workforce; and

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

17 “(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.

22 “(3) RURAL AREA.—The term ‘rural area’ has
23 the meaning given the term in section 343(a) of the
24 Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7
25 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.

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.

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.

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

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.

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 opport-
6 unities, 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;

(D) strengthen relationships among industry sectors through shared scientific, staffing, 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 Assis-
16 tant 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 VEGETATED COASTAL ECOSYSTEMS AND GREAT 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;

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

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

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)));

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;

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 acidifi-
8 cation 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

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 Acidifi-
13 cation 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—

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:

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

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)—

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

1 **Subtitle D—Other Matters**

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

6 (a) TRANSFER.—

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

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

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

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

16 (2) AVAILABILITY OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Para-
17 graph (1) shall not affect the availability of amounts
18 made available in appropriation Acts for the purpose
19 of carrying out the program transferred by para-
20 graph (1) to the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance
21 Prevention and Control Act of 1990 (16 U.S.C.
22 4701 et seq.).

23 (b) AMENDMENTS.—Subsection (l) of section 1202 of
24 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.

○