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S. 2859

[Report No. 111-349]

To reauthorize the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 9, 2009

Mr. Inouye (for himself, Mr. Rockefeller, Ms. Snowe, Mr. Nelson of Florida, Mr. Kerry, and Mr. Lemieux) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

November 17, 2010
Reported by Mr. Rockefeller, without amendment

A BILL

To reauthorize the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000, 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 "Coral Reef Conservation Amendments Act of 2009".

1 (b) Table of Contents for

2 this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Amendment of Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000.
- Sec. 3. Purposes.
- Sec. 4. National coral reef action strategy.
- Sec. 5. Coral reef conservation program.
- Sec. 6. Coral reef conservation fund.
- Sec. 7. Agreements; redesignations.
- Sec. 8. Emergency assistance.
- Sec. 9. National program.
- Sec. 10. Study of trade in corals.
- Sec. 11. International coral reef conservation activities.
- Sec. 12. Community-based planning grants.
- Sec. 13. Vessel grounding inventory.
- Sec. 14. Prohibited activities.
- Sec. 15. Destruction of coral reefs.
- Sec. 16. Enforcement.
- Sec. 17. Permits.
- Sec. 18. Regional, State, and Territorial coordination.
- Sec. 19. Regulations.
- Sec. 20. Effectiveness and assessment report.
- Sec. 21. Authorization of appropriations.
- Sec. 22. Judicial review.
- Sec. 23. Definitions.

3 SEC. 2. AMENDMENT OF CORAL REEF CONSERVATION ACT

- 4 **OF 2000.**
- 5 Except as otherwise expressly provided, whenever in
- 6 this Act an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms
- 7 of an amendment to or repeal of a section or other provi-
- 8 sion, the reference shall be considered to be made to a
- 9 section or other provision of the Coral Reef Conservation
- 10 Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 6401 et seq.).
- 11 SEC. 3. PURPOSES.
- Section 202 (16 U.S.C. 6401) is amended to read as
- 13 follows:

1 "SEC. 202. PURPOSES.

2	"The purposes of this Act are—
3	"(1) to preserve, sustain, and restore the condi-
4	tion of coral reef ecosystems;
5	"(2) to promote the wise management and sus-
6	tainable use of coral reef ecosystems to benefit local
7	communities, the Nation, and the world;
8	"(3) to develop sound scientific information on
9	the condition of coral reef ecosystems and the
10	threats to such ecosystems;
11	"(4) to assist in the preservation of coral reef
12	ecosystems by supporting conservation programs, in-
13	cluding projects that involve affected local commu-
14	nities and nongovernmental organizations;
15	"(5) to provide financial resources for those
16	programs and projects;
17	"(6) to establish a formal mechanism for col-
18	lecting and allocating monetary donations from the
19	private sector to be used for coral reef conservation
20	projects; and
21	"(7) to provide mechanisms to prevent and
22	minimize damage to coral reefs.".
23	SEC. 4. NATIONAL CORAL REEF ACTION STRATEGY.
24	Section 203 (16 U.S.C. 6402) is amended to read as
25	follows:

1	"(a) In General.—Not later than 180 days after
2	the date of the enactment of the Coral Reef Conservation
3	Amendments Act of 2009, the Secretary shall submit to
4	the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Trans-
5	portation and to the House of Representatives Committee
6	on Natural Resources and publish in the Federal Register
7	a national coral reef ecosystem action strategy, consistent
8	with the purposes of this title. The Secretary shall periodi-
9	cally review and revise the strategy as necessary. In devel-
10	oping this national strategy, the Secretary may consult the
11	Coral Reef Task Force established under Executive Order
12	13089 (June 11, 1998).
13	"(b) Goals and Objectives.—The action strategy
14	shall include a statement of goals and objectives as well
15	as an implementation plan, including a description of the
16	funds obligated each fiscal year to advance coral reef con-
17	servation. The action strategy and implementation plan
18	shall include discussion of—
19	"(1) coastal uses and management, including
20	land-based sources of pollution;
21	"(2) climate change;
22	"(3) water and air quality;
23	"(4) mapping and information management;
24	"(5) research, monitoring, and assessment;
25	"(6) international and regional issues;

1	"(7) outreach and education;
2	"(8) local strategies developed by the States or
3	Federal agencies, including regional fishery manage-
4	ment councils; and
5	"(9) conservation.".
6	SEC. 5. CORAL REEF CONSERVATION PROGRAM.
7	(a) In General.—Section 204 (16 U.S.C. 6403) is
8	amended—
9	(1) by striking "Secretary, through the Admin-
10	istrator and" in subsection (a) and inserting "Sec-
11	retary,";
12	(2) by striking subsection (c) and inserting the
13	following:
14	"(c) Eligibility.—Any natural resource manage-
15	ment authority of a State or other government authority
16	with jurisdiction over coral reef ecosystems, or whose ac-
17	tivities directly or indirectly affect coral reef ecosystems,
18	or educational or nongovernmental institutions with dem-
19	onstrated expertise in the conservation of coral reef eco-
20	systems, may submit a coral conservation proposal to the
21	Secretary under subsection (e).";
22	(3) by striking "Geographic and Biologi-
23	CAL" in the heading for subsection (d) and inserting
24	"Project";

1	(4) by striking paragraph (3) of subsection (d)
2	and inserting the following:
3	"(3) Remaining funds shall be awarded for—
4	"(A) projects (with priority given to com-
5	munity-based local action strategies) that ad-
6	dress emerging priorities or threats, including
7	international and territorial priorities, or
8	threats identified by the Secretary; and
9	"(B) other appropriate projects, as deter-
10	mined by the Secretary, including monitoring
11	and assessment, research, pollution reduction,
12	education, and technical support.";
13	(5) by striking subsection (g) and inserting the
14	following:
15	"(g) Criteria for Approval.—The Secretary may
16	not approve a project proposal under this section unless
17	the project is consistent with the coral reef action strategy
18	under section 203 and will enhance the conservation of
19	coral reef ecosystems nationally or internationally by—
20	"(1) implementing coral conservation programs
21	which promote sustainable development and ensure
22	effective, long-term conservation of coral reef eco-
23	systems and biodiversity;
24	"(2) addressing the conflicts arising from the
25	use of environments near coral reef ecosystems or

1	from the use of corals, species associated with cora
2	reef ecosystems, and coral products;
3	"(3) enhancing compliance with laws that pro-
4	hibit or regulate the taking of coral products or spe-
5	cies associated with coral reef ecosystems or regulate
6	the use and management of coral reef ecosystems;
7	"(4) developing sound scientific information or
8	the condition of coral reef ecosystems or the threats
9	to such ecosystems and their biodiversity, including
10	factors that cause coral disease, ocean acidification
11	and bleaching;
12	"(5) promoting and assisting the implementa-
13	tion of cooperative coral reef ecosystem conservation
14	projects that involve affected local communities, non-
15	governmental organizations, or others in the private
16	sector;
17	"(6) increasing public knowledge and awareness
18	of coral reef ecosystems and issues regarding their
19	long-term conservation, including how they function
20	to protect coastal communities;
21	"(7) mapping the location, distribution, and
22	biodiversity of coral reef ecosystems;
23	"(8) developing and implementing techniques to
24	monitor and assess the status and condition of cora

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 ${\it reef~ecosystems~and~biodiversity;}$

- 1 "(9) developing and implementing cost-effective 2 methods to restore degraded coral reef ecosystems 3 and biodiversity; "(10) responding to, or taking action to help 4 5 mitigate the effects of, coral disease, ocean acidifica-6 tion, and bleaching events; 7 "(11) promoting activities designed to prevent 8 or minimize damage to coral reef ecosystems, includ-9 ing the promotion of ecologically sound navigation 10 and anchorages; or "(12) promoting and assisting entities to work 11 12 with local communities, and all appropriate govern-13 mental and nongovernmental organizations, to sup-14 port community-based planning and management 15 initiatives for the protection of coral reef systems."; 16 and 17 (6) by striking "coral reefs" in subsection (j) 18 and inserting "coral reef ecosystems". 19 (b) Conforming Amendments.—Subsections (b), 20 (d), (e), (f), (h), (i), and (j) of section 204 (16 U.S.C. 6403) are each amended by striking "Administrator" each 21 place it appears and inserting "Secretary". 23 SEC. 6. CORAL REEF CONSERVATION FUND.
- 24 Section 205 (16 U.S.C. 6404) is amended—

1	(1) by striking subsection (a) and inserting the
2	following:
3	"(a) Fund.—The Secretary may enter into agree-
4	ments with nonprofit organizations promoting coral reef
5	ecosystem conservation by authorizing such organizations
6	to receive, hold, and administer funds received pursuant
7	to this section. Such organizations shall invest, reinvest,
8	and otherwise administer the funds and maintain such
9	funds and any interest or revenues earned in a separate
10	interest-bearing account (referred to in section 219(a) as
11	the Fund) established by such organizations solely to sup-
12	port partnerships between the public and private sectors
13	that further the purposes of this title and are consistent
14	with the national coral reef action strategy under section
15	203.";
16	(2) by striking "the grant program" in sub-
17	section (c) and inserting "any grant program"; and
18	(3) by striking "Administrator" in subsections
19	(c) and (d) and inserting "Secretary".
20	SEC. 7. AGREEMENTS; REDESIGNATIONS.
21	The Act (16 U.S.C. 6401 et seq.) is amended—
22	(1) by redesignating section 206 (16 U.S.C.
23	6405) as section 207;
24	(2) by redesignating section 207 (16 U.S.C.
25	6406) as section 208:

(3) by redesignating section 208 (16 U.S.C. 1 2 6407) as section 218; (4) by redesignating section 209 (16 U.S.C. 3 6408) as section 219; 4 (5) by redesignating section 210 (16 U.S.C. 6 6409) as section 221; and 7 (6) by inserting after section 205 (16 U.S.C. 8 6404) the following: "SEC. 206. AGREEMENTS. 10 "(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may execute and perform such contracts, leases, grants, cooperative agree-12 ments, or other transactions as may be necessary to carry 13 out the purposes of this title. 14 "(b) Cooperative Agreements.—In addition to 15 the general authority provided by subsection (a), the Secretary may enter into, extend, or renegotiate agreements 16 with universities and research centers with national or re-18 gional coral reef research institutes to conduct ecological research and monitoring explicitly aimed at building ca-19 pacity for more effective resource management. Pursuant 21 to any such agreements these institutes shall— 22 "(1) collaborate directly with governmental re-23 source management agencies, non-profit organiza-24 tions, and other research organizations;

1	"(2) build capacity within resource management
2	agencies to establish research priorities, plan inter-
3	disciplinary research projects and make effective use
4	of research results; and
5	"(3) conduct public education and awareness
6	programs for policy makers, resource managers, and
7	the general public on coral reef ecosystems, best
8	practices for coral reef and ecosystem management
9	and conservation, their value, and threats to their
10	sustainability.
11	"(c) Use of Other Agencies' Resources.—For
12	purposes related to the conservation, preservation, protec-
13	tion, restoration, or replacement of coral reefs or coral reef
14	ecosystems and the enforcement of this title, the Secretary
15	is authorized to use, with their consent and with or with-
16	out reimbursement, the land, services, equipment, per-
17	sonnel, and facilities of any Department, agency, or in-
18	strumentality of the United States, or of any State, local
19	government, tribal government, Territory or possession, or
20	of any political subdivision thereof, or of any foreign gov-
21	ernment or international organization.
22	"(d) AUTHORITY TO UTILIZE GRANT FUNDS.—
23	"(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), the
24	Secretary may apply for, accept, and obligate re-

search grant funding from any Federal source oper-

- 1 ating competitive grant programs where such fund-2 ing furthers the purpose of this title.
- "(2) The Secretary may not apply for, accept, or obligate any grant funding under paragraph (1) for which the granting agency lacks authority to grant funds to Federal agencies, or for any purpose or subject to conditions that are prohibited by law or regulation.
 - "(3) Appropriated funds may be used to satisfy a requirement to match grant funds with recipient agency funds, except that no grant may be accepted that requires a commitment in advance of appropriations.
 - "(4) Funds received from grants shall be deposited in the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration account for the purpose for which the grant was awarded.
- "(e) Transfer of Funds.—Under an agreement entered into pursuant to subsection (a), and subject to the availability of funds, the Secretary may transfer funds to, and may accept transfers of funds from, Federal agencies, instrumentalities and laboratories, State and local governments, Indian tribes (as defined in section 4 of the Indian

Self-Determination and Educational Assistance Act (25)

U.S.C. 450(b)), organizations and associations rep-

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- 1 resenting Native Americans, native Hawaiians, and Native
- 2 Pacific Islanders, educational institutions, nonprofit orga-
- 3 nizations, commercial organizations, and other public and
- 4 private persons or entities, except that no more than 5
- 5 percent of funds appropriated to carry out this section
- 6 may be transferred. The 5 percent limitation shall not
- 7 apply to section 204 or section 210.".

8 SEC. 8. EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE.

- 9 Section 207 (formerly 16 U.S.C. 6405), as redesig-
- 10 nated by section 7 of this Act, is amended to read as fol-
- 11 lows:

12 "SEC. 207. EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE.

- 13 "The Secretary, in cooperation with the Federal
- 14 Emergency Management Agency, as appropriate, may pro-
- 15 vide assistance to any State, local, or territorial govern-
- 16 ment agency with jurisdiction over coral reef ecosystems
- 17 to address any unforeseen or disaster-related circumstance
- 18 pertaining to coral reef ecosystems.".

19 SEC. 9. NATIONAL PROGRAM.

- 20 Section 208 (formerly 16 U.S.C. 6406), as redesig-
- 21 nated by section 7 of this Act, is amended to read as fol-
- 22 lows:

23 "SEC. 208. NATIONAL PROGRAM.

- 24 "(a) In General.—Subject to the availability of ap-
- 25 propriations, the Secretary may conduct activities, includ-

1	ing with local, State, regional, or international programs
2	and partners, as appropriate, to conserve coral reef eco-
3	systems, that are consistent with this title, the National
4	Marine Sanctuaries Act, the Coastal Zone Management
5	Act of 1972, the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation
6	and Management Act, the Endangered Species Act of
7	1973, and the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972.
8	"(b) Authorized Activities.—Activities author-
9	ized under subsection (a) include—
10	"(1) mapping, monitoring, assessment, restora-
11	tion, socioeconomic and scientific research that ben-
12	efit the understanding, sustainable use, biodiversity,
13	and long-term conservation of coral reef ecosystems;
14	"(2) enhancing public awareness, education, un-
15	derstanding, and appreciation of coral reef eco-
16	systems;
17	"(3) removing, and providing assistance to
18	States in removing, abandoned fishing gear, marine
19	debris, and abandoned vessels from coral reef eco-
20	systems to conserve living marine resources;
21	"(4) responding to incidents and events that
22	threaten and damage coral reef ecosystems;
23	"(5) conservation and management of coral reef

ecosystems;

1	"(6) centrally archiving, managing, and distrib-
2	uting data sets and providing coral reef ecosystem
3	assessments and services to the general public with
4	local, regional, or international programs and part-
5	ners; and
6	"(7) activities designed to prevent or minimize
7	damage to coral reef ecosystems, including those ac-
8	tivities described in section 212 of this title.
9	"(c) Data Archive, Access, and Availability.—
10	The Secretary, in coordination with similar efforts at other
11	Departments and agencies shall provide for the long-term
12	stewardship of environmental data, products, and informa-
13	tion via data processing, storage, and archive facilities
14	pursuant to this title. The Secretary may—
15	"(1) archive environmental data collected by
16	Federal, State, local agencies, and tribal organiza-
17	tions and federally funded research;
18	"(2) promote widespread availability and dis-
19	semination of environmental data and information
20	through full and open access and exchange to the
21	greatest extent possible, including in electronic for-
22	mat on the Internet;
23	"(3) develop standards, protocols, and proce-
24	dures for sharing Federal data with State and local

- government programs and the private sector or aca-1 2 demia; and
- 3 "(4) develop metadata standards for coral reef 4 ecosystems in accordance with Federal Geographic 5 Data Committee guidelines.
- 6 "(d) EMERGENCY RESPONSE, STABILIZATION, AND 7 RESTORATION.—
- "(1) Establishment of account.—The Sec-8 9 retary shall establish an account (to be called the 10 Emergency Response, Stabilization, and Restoration 11 Account) in the Damage Assessment Restoration 12 Revolving Fund established by the Department of 13 Commerce Appropriations Act, 1991 (33 U.S.C. 14 2706 note), for implementation of this subsection for 15 emergency actions. Amounts appropriated for the 16 Account under section 219, and funds authorized by 17 sections 213(d)(1)(C)(ii) and 214(f)(3)(B), shall be 18 deposited into the Account and made available for 19 use by the Secretary as specified in sections 213 and 20 214.
- "(2) Deposit and investment of certain 22 FUNDS.— Any amounts received by the United 23 States pursuant to sections 213(d)(1)(C)(ii) and 24 212(f)(3)(B) shall be deposited into the Emergency 25 Response, Stabilization and Restoration Account es-

tablished under paragraph (1). The Secretary of 1 2 Commerce may request the Secretary of the Treas-3 ury to invest such portion of the Damage Assessment Restoration Revolving Fund as is not, in the 5 judgment of the Secretary of Commerce, required to 6 meet the current needs of the fund. Such invest-7 ments shall be made by the Secretary of the Treas-8 ury in public debt securities, with maturities suitable 9 to the needs of the fund, as determined by the Sec-10 retary of Commerce and bearing interest at rates de-11 termined by the Secretary of the Treasury, taking 12 into consideration current market yields on out-13 standing marketable obligations of the United States 14 of comparable maturity. Interest earned by such in-15 vestments shall be available for use by the Secretary 16 without further appropriation and remain available 17 until expended.".

18 SEC. 10. STUDY OF TRADE IN CORALS.

- 19 (a) In General.—The Secretary of Commerce, in
- 20 consultation with the Secretary of the Interior, shall con-
- 21 duct a study on the economic, social, and environmental
- 22 values and impacts of the United States market in corals
- 23 and coral products.
- 24 (b) Contents.—The study shall—

1	(1) assess the economic and other values of the
2	United States market in coral and coral products,
3	including import and export trade;
4	(2) identify primary coral species used in the
5	coral and coral product trade and locations of wild
6	harvest;
7	(3) assess the environmental impacts associated
8	with wild harvest of coral;
9	(4) assess the effectiveness of current public
10	and private programs aimed at promoting conserva-
11	tion in the coral and coral product trade;
12	(5) identify economic and other incentives for
13	coral reef conservation as part of the coral and coral
14	product trade; and
15	(6) identify additional actions, if necessary, to
16	ensure that the United States market in coral and
17	coral products does not contribute to the degrada-
18	tion of coral reef ecosystems.
19	(c) Report.—Not later than 30 months after the
20	date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit
21	to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and
22	Transportation and the House of Representatives Com-

23 mittee on Natural Resources a report of the study.

1	(d) Authorization of Appropriations.—There
2	are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry
3	out this section \$100,000.
4	SEC. 11. INTERNATIONAL CORAL REEF CONSERVATION AC-
5	TIVITIES.
6	The Act (16 U.S.C. 6401 et seq.) is amended by in-
7	serting after section 208, as redesignated by section 7 of
8	this Act, the following:
9	"SEC. 209. INTERNATIONAL CORAL REEF CONSERVATION
10	ACTIVITIES.
11	"(a) International Coral Reef Conservation
12	ACTIVITIES.—
13	"(1) In General.—The Secretary shall carry
14	out international coral reef conservation activities
15	consistent with the purposes of this Act with respect
16	to coral reef ecosystems in waters outside the United
17	States jurisdiction. The Secretary shall develop and
18	implement an international coral reef ecosystem
19	strategy pursuant to subsection (b).
20	"(2) Coordination.—In carrying out this sub-
21	section, the Secretary shall consult with the Sec-
22	retary of State, the Administrator of the Agency for
23	International Development, the Secretary of the In-
24	terior, and other relevant Federal agencies, and rel-
25	evant United States stakeholders, and shall take into

1	account coral reef ecosystem conservation initiatives
2	of other nations, international agreements, and
3	intergovernmental and nongovernmental organiza-
4	tions so as to provide effective cooperation and effi-
5	ciencies in international coral reef conservation. The
6	Secretary may consult with the Coral Reef Task
7	Force in carrying out this subsection.
8	"(b) International Coral Reef Ecosystem
9	Strategy.—
10	"(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after
11	the date of enactment of the Coral Reef Conserva-
12	tion Amendments Act of 2009, the Secretary shall
13	submit to the Senate Committee on Commerce,
14	Science, and Transportation and the House of Rep-
15	resentatives Committee on Natural Resources, and
16	publish in the Federal Register, an international
17	coral reef ecosystem strategy, consistent with the
18	purposes of this Act and the national strategy re-
19	quired pursuant to section 203(a). The Secretary
20	shall periodically review and revise this strategy as
21	necessary.
22	"(2) Contents.—The strategy developed by
23	the Secretary under paragraph (1) shall—
24	"(A) identify coral reef ecosystems
25	throughout the world that are of high value for

1	United States marine resources, that support
2	high-seas resources of importance to the United
3	States such as fisheries, or that support other
4	interests of the United States;
5	"(B) summarize existing activities by Fed-
6	eral agencies and entities described in sub-
7	section (a)(2) to address the conservation of
8	coral reef ecosystems identified pursuant to
9	subparagraph (A);
10	"(C) establish goals, objectives, and spe-
11	cific targets for conservation of priority inter-
12	national coral reef ecosystems;
13	"(D) describe appropriate activities to
14	achieve the goals and targets for international
15	coral reef conservation, in particular those that
16	leverage activities already conducted under this
17	Act;
18	"(E) develop a plan to coordinate imple-
19	mentation of the strategy with entities de-
20	scribed in subsection (a)(2) in order to leverage
21	current activities under this Act and other con-
22	servation efforts globally;
23	"(F) identify appropriate partnerships,
24	grants, or other funding and technical assist-
25	ance mechanisms to carry out the strategy; and

1	"(G) develop criteria for prioritizing part-
2	nerships under subsection (c).
3	"(c) International Coral Reef Ecosystem
4	Partnerships.—
5	"(1) In General.—The Secretary shall estab-
6	lish an international coral reef ecosystem partner-
7	ship program to provide support, including funding
8	and technical assistance, for activities that imple-
9	ment the strategy developed pursuant to subsection
10	(b).
11	"(2) Mechanisms.—The Secretary shall pro-
12	vide such support through existing authorities, work-
13	ing in collaboration with the entities described in
14	subsection $(a)(2)$.
15	"(3) AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary may exe-
16	cute and perform such contracts, leases, grants, co-
17	operative agreements, or other transactions as may
18	be necessary to carry out the purposes of this sec-
19	tion.
20	"(4) Transfer of funds.—To implement this
21	section and subject to the availability of funds, the
22	Secretary may transfer funds to a foreign govern-
23	ment or international organization, and may accept
24	transfers of funds from such entities, except that no

- 23 1 more than 5 percent of funds appropriated to carry 2 out this section may be transferred. "(5) Criteria for approval.—The Secretary 3 may not approve a partnership proposal under this 5 section unless the partnership is consistent with the 6 international coral reef conservation strategy devel-7 oped pursuant to subsection (b), and meets the cri-8 teria specified in that strategy.". SEC. 12. COMMUNITY-BASED PLANNING GRANTS.
- The Act (16 U.S.C. 6401 et seq.) is amended by in-
- 11 serting after section 209, as added by section 11 of this
- 12 Act, the following:
- 13 "SEC. 210. COMMUNITY-BASED PLANNING GRANTS.
- 14 "(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may make grants
- 15 to entities that have received grants under section 204 to
- 16 provide additional funds to such entities to work with local
- 17 communities and through appropriate Federal and State
- 18 entities to prepare and implement plans for the increased
- 19 protection of coral reef areas identified by the community
- 20 and scientific experts as high priorities for focused atten-
- 21 tion. The plans shall—
- "(1) support attainment of 1 or more of the cri-
- teria described in section 204(g);
- 24 "(2) be developed at the community level;
- 25 "(3) utilize watershed-based approaches;

1	"(4) provide for coordination with Federal and
2	State experts and managers; and
3	"(5) build upon local approaches, strategies, or
4	models, including traditional or island-based re-
5	source management concepts.
6	"(b) Terms and Conditions.—The provisions of
7	subsections (b), (d), (f), and (h) of section 204 apply to
8	grants under subsection (a), except that, for the purpose
9	of applying section 204(b)(1) to grants under this section
10	'75 percent' shall be substituted for '50 percent'.".
11	SEC. 13. VESSEL GROUNDING INVENTORY.
12	The Act (16 U.S.C. 6401 et seq.) is amended by in-
13	serting after section 210, as added by section 12 of this
14	Act, the following:
15	"SEC. 211. VESSEL GROUNDING INVENTORY.
16	"(a) In General.—The Secretary may maintain an
17	inventory of all vessel grounding incidents involving cora
18	reefs, including a description of—
19	"(1) the impacts to affected coral reef eco-
20	systems;
21	"(2) vessel and ownership information, if avail-
22	able;
23	"(3) the estimated cost of removal, mitigation
24	or restoration.

1	"(4) the response action taken by the owner,
2	the Secretary, the Commandant of the Coast Guard,
3	or other Federal or State agency representatives;
4	"(5) the status of the response action, including
5	the dates of vessel removal and mitigation or res-
6	toration and any actions taken to prevent future
7	grounding incidents; and
8	"(6) recommendations for additional naviga-
9	tional aids or other mechanisms for preventing fu-
10	ture grounding incidents.
11	"(b) IDENTIFICATION OF AT-RISK REEFS.—The Sec-
12	retary may—
	"(1) use information from any inventory main-
13	(1) use information from any inventory main-
13 14	tained under subsection (a) or any other available
	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
14	tained under subsection (a) or any other available
14 15	tained under subsection (a) or any other available information source to identify coral reef ecosystems
14 15 16	tained under subsection (a) or any other available information source to identify coral reef ecosystems that have a high incidence of vessel impacts, includ-
14 15 16 17	tained under subsection (a) or any other available information source to identify coral reef ecosystems that have a high incidence of vessel impacts, including groundings and anchor damage;
14 15 16 17	tained under subsection (a) or any other available information source to identify coral reef ecosystems that have a high incidence of vessel impacts, including groundings and anchor damage; "(2) identify appropriate measures, including
114 115 116 117 118	tained under subsection (a) or any other available information source to identify coral reef ecosystems that have a high incidence of vessel impacts, including groundings and anchor damage; "(2) identify appropriate measures, including the acquisition and placement of aids to navigation,
114 115 116 117 118 119 220	tained under subsection (a) or any other available information source to identify coral reef ecosystems that have a high incidence of vessel impacts, including groundings and anchor damage; "(2) identify appropriate measures, including the acquisition and placement of aids to navigation, moorings, designated anchorage areas, fixed anchors
14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	tained under subsection (a) or any other available information source to identify coral reef ecosystems that have a high incidence of vessel impacts, including groundings and anchor damage; "(2) identify appropriate measures, including the acquisition and placement of aids to navigation, moorings, designated anchorage areas, fixed anchors and other devices, to reduce the likelihood of such

1	with other government agencies and non-govern-
2	mental partners.".
3	SEC. 14. PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES.
4	(a) In General.—The Act (16 U.S.C. 6401 et seq.)
5	is amended by inserting after section 211, as added by
6	section 13 of this Act, the following:
7	"SEC. 212. PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES AND SCOPE OF PROHI-
8	BITIONS.
9	"(a) Provisions as Complementary.—The provi-
10	sions of this section are in addition to, and shall not affect
11	the operation of, other Federal, State, or local laws or reg-
12	ulations providing protection to coral reef ecosystems.
13	"(b) Destruction, Loss, Taking, or Injury.—
14	"(1) In general.—Except as provided in para-
15	graph (2), it is unlawful for any person to destroy,
16	take, cause the loss of, or injure any coral reef or
17	any component thereof.
18	"(2) Exceptions.—The destruction, loss, tak-
19	ing, or injury of a coral reef or any component
20	thereof is not unlawful if it—
21	"(A) was caused by the use of fishing gear
22	used in a manner permitted under the Magnu-
23	son-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Manage-
24	ment Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.) or other
25	Federal or State law:

1	"(B) was caused by an activity that is au-
2	thorized or allowed by Federal or State law (in-
3	cluding lawful discharges from vessels, such as
4	graywater, cooling water, engine exhaust, bal-
5	last water, or sewage from marine sanitation
6	devices), unless the destruction, loss, or injury
7	resulted from actions such as vessel groundings,
8	vessel scrapings, anchor damage, excavation not
9	authorized by Federal or State permit, or other
10	similar activities;
11	"(C) was the necessary result of bona fide
12	marine scientific research (including marine sci-
13	entific research activities approved by Federal,
14	State, or local permits), other than excessive
15	sampling or collecting, or actions such as vessel
16	groundings, vessel scrapings, anchor damage,
17	excavation, or other similar activities;
18	"(D) was caused by a Federal Government
19	agency—
20	"(i) during—
21	"(I) an emergency that posed an
22	unacceptable threat to human health
23	or safety or to the marine environ-
24	ment;

1	"(II) an emergency that posed a
2	threat to national security; or
3	"(III) an activity necessary for
4	law enforcement or search and rescue;
5	and
6	could not reasonably be avoided; or
7	"(E) was caused by an action taken by the
8	master of the vessel in an emergency situation
9	to ensure the safety of the vessel or to save a
10	life at sea.
11	"(c) Interference With Enforcement.—It is
12	unlawful for any person to interfere with the enforcement
13	of this title by—
14	"(1) refusing to permit any officer authorized
15	to enforce this title to board a vessel (other than a
16	vessel operated by the Department of Defense or
17	United States Coast Guard) subject to such person's
18	control for the purposes of conducting any search or
19	inspection in connection with the enforcement of this
20	title;
21	"(2) resisting, opposing, impeding, intimidating,
22	harassing, bribing, interfering with, or forcibly as-
23	saulting any person authorized by the Secretary to
24	implement this title or any such authorized officer in

- 1 the conduct of any search or inspection performed
- 2 under this title; or
- 3 "(3) submitting false information to the Sec-
- 4 retary or any officer authorized to enforce this title
- 5 in connection with any search or inspection con-
- 6 ducted under this title.
- 7 "(d) Violations of Title, Permit, or Regula-
- 8 TION.—It is unlawful for any person to violate any provi-
- 9 sion of this title, any permit issued pursuant to this title,
- 10 or any regulation promulgated pursuant to this title.
- 11 "(e) Possession and Distribution.—It is unlaw-
- 12 ful for any person to possess, sell, deliver, carry, transport,
- 13 or ship by any means any coral taken in violation of this
- 14 title.".
- 15 (b) Emergency Action Regulations.—The Sec-
- 16 retary of Commerce shall initiate a rulemaking proceeding
- 17 to prescribe the circumstances and conditions under which
- 18 the exception in section 212(b)(2)(E) of the Coral Reef
- 19 Conservation Act of 2000, as amended by subsection (a),
- 20 applies and shall issue a final rule pursuant to that rule-
- 21 making as soon as practicable but not later than 1 year
- 22 after the date of enactment of this Act. Nothing in this
- 23 subsection shall be construed to require the issuance of
- 24 such regulations before the exception provided by that sec-
- 25 tion is in effect.

1	SEC. 15. DESTRUCTION OF CORAL REEFS.
2	The Act (16 U.S.C. 6401 et seq.) is amended by in-
3	serting after section 212, as added by section 14 of this
4	Act, the following:
5	"SEC. 213. DESTRUCTION, LOSS, OR TAKING OF, OR INJURY
6	TO, CORAL REEFS.
7	"(a) Liability.—
8	"(1) Liability to the united states.—Ex-
9	cept as provided in subsection (f), all persons who
10	engage in an activity that is prohibited under sub-
11	sections (b) or (d) of section 212, or create an immi-
12	nent risk thereof, are liable, jointly and severally, to
13	the United States for an amount equal to the sum
14	of—
15	"(A) response costs and damages resulting
16	from the destruction, loss, taking, or injury, or
17	imminent risk thereof, including damages re-
18	sulting from the response actions;
19	"(B) costs of seizure, forfeiture, storage,
20	and disposal arising from liability under this
21	section; and
22	"(C) interest on that amount calculated in
23	the manner described in section 1005 of the Oil
24	Pollution Act of 1990 (33 U.S.C. 2705).
25	"(2) Liability in Rem.—

1	"(A) Any vessel used in an activity that is
2	prohibited under subsection (b) or (d) of section
3	212, or creates an imminent risk thereof, shall
4	be liable in rem to the United States for an
5	amount equal to the sum of—
6	"(i) response costs and damages re-
7	sulting from such destruction, loss, or in-
8	jury, or imminent risk thereof, including
9	damages resulting from the response ac-
10	tions;
11	"(ii) costs of seizure, forfeiture, stor-
12	age, and disposal arising from liability
13	under this section; and
14	"(iii) interest on that amount cal-
15	culated in the manner described in section
16	1005 of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (33
17	U.S.C. 2705).
18	"(B) The amount of liability shall con-
19	stitute a maritime lien on the vessel and may
20	be recovered in an action in rem in any district
21	court of the United States that has jurisdiction
22	over the vessel.
23	"(3) Defenses.—A person or vessel is not lia-
24	ble under this subsection if that person or vessel es-
25	tablishes that the destruction, loss, taking, or injury

was caused solely by an act of God, an act of war,
or an act or omission of a third party (other than
an employee or agent of the defendant or one whose
act or omission occurs in connection with a contractual relationship, existing directly or indirectly with
the defendant), and the person or master of the vessel acted with due care.

"(4) No Limit to Liability.—Nothing in sections 30501 through 30512 or section 30706 of title 46, United States Code, shall limit liability to any person under this title.

12 "(b) Response Actions and Damage Assess-13 ment.—

"(1) RESPONSE ACTIONS.—The Secretary may undertake or authorize all necessary actions to prevent or minimize the destruction, loss, or taking of, or injury to, coral reefs, or components thereof, or to minimize the risk or imminent risk of such destruction, loss, or injury.

"(2) Damage assessment.—

"(A) The Secretary shall assess damages (as defined in section 221(8)) to coral reefs and shall consult with State officials regarding response and damage assessment actions undertaken for coral reefs within State waters.

1	"(B) There shall be no double recovery
2	under this chapter for coral reef damages, in-
3	cluding the cost of damage assessment, for the
4	same incident.
5	"(c) Commencement of Civil Action for Re-
6	SPONSE COSTS AND DAMAGES.—
7	"(1) COMMENCEMENT.—The Attorney General,
8	upon the request of the Secretary, may commence a
9	civil action against any person or vessel that may be
10	liable under subsection (a) of this section for re-
11	sponse costs, seizure, forfeiture, storage, or disposal
12	costs, and damages, and interest on that amount
13	calculated in the manner described in section 1005
14	of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (33 U.S.C. 2705)
15	The Secretary, acting as trustee for coral reefs for
16	the United States, shall submit a request for such
17	an action to the Attorney General whenever a person
18	or vessel may be liable for such costs or damages
19	"(2) Venue in civil actions.—A civil action
20	under this title may be brought in the United States
21	district court for any district in which—
22	"(A) the defendant is located, resides, or is
23	doing business, in the case of an action against
24	a person:

1	"(B) the vessel is located, in the case of an
2	action against a vessel;
3	"(C) the destruction, loss, or taking of, or
4	injury to a coral reef, or component thereof, oc-
5	curred or in which there is an imminent risk of
6	such destruction, loss, or injury; or
7	"(D) where some or all of the coral reef or
8	component thereof that is the subject of the ac-
9	tion is not within the territory covered by any
10	United States district court, such action may be
11	brought either in the United States district
12	court for the district closest to the location
13	where the destruction, loss, injury, or risk of in-
14	jury occurred, or in the United States District
15	Court for the District of Columbia.
16	"(d) Use of Recovered Amounts.—
17	"(1) In general.—Any costs, including re-
18	sponse costs and damages recovered by the Sec-
19	retary under this section shall—
20	"(A) be deposited into an account or ac-
21	counts in the Damage Assessment Restoration
22	Revolving Fund established by the Department
23	of Commerce Appropriations Act, 1991 (33
24	U.S.C. 2706 note), or the Natural Resource
25	Damage Assessment and Restoration Fund es-

1	tablished by the Department of the Interior and
2	Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1992 (43
3	U.S.C. 1474b), as appropriate given the loca-
4	tion of the violation;
5	"(B) be available for use by the Secretary
6	without further appropriation and remain avail-
7	able until expended; and
8	"(C) be for use, as the Secretary considers
9	appropriate—
10	"(i) to reimburse the Secretary or any
11	other Federal or State agency that con-
12	ducted activities under subsection (a) or
13	(b) of this section for costs incurred in
14	conducting the activity;
15	"(ii) to be transferred to the Emer-
16	gency Response, Stabilization and Restora-
17	tion Account established under section
18	208(d) to reimburse that account for
19	amounts used for authorized emergency ac-
20	tions; and
21	"(iii) after reimbursement of such
22	costs, to restore, replace, or acquire the
23	equivalent of any coral reefs, or compo-
24	nents thereof, including the reasonable
25	costs of monitoring, or to minimize or pre-

- vent threats of equivalent injury to, or destruction of coral reefs, or components thereof.
- "(2) RESTORATION CONSIDERATIONS.—In development of restoration alternatives under paragraph (1)(C), the Secretary shall consider State and territorial preferences and, if appropriate, shall prioritize restoration projects with geographic and ecological linkages to the injured resources.
- "(e) STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS.—An action for response costs or damages under subsection (c) shall be barred unless the complaint is filed within 3 years after the date on which the Secretary completes a damage assessment and restoration plan for the coral reefs, or components thereof, to which the action relates.
- "(f) Federal Government Activities.—In the event of threatened or actual destruction of, loss of, or injury to a coral reef or component thereof resulting from an incident caused by a component of any Department or agency of the United States Government, the cognizant Department or agency shall satisfy its obligations under this section by promptly, in coordination with the Secretary, taking appropriate actions to respond to and mitigate the harm and restoring or replacing the coral reef

- 1 or components thereof and reimbursing the Secretary for
- 2 all assessment costs.
- 3 "(g) Uniformed Service Officers and Employ-
- 4 EES.—No officer or employee of a uniformed service (as
- 5 defined in section 101 of title 10, United States Code)
- 6 shall be held liable under this section, either in such offi-
- 7 cer's or employee's personal or official capacity, for any
- 8 violation of section 212 occurring during the performance
- 9 of the officer's or employee's official governmental duties.
- 10 "(h) Contract Employees.—No contract employee
- 11 of a uniformed service (as so defined), serving as vessel
- 12 master or crew member, shall be liable under this section
- 13 for any violation of section 212 if that contract em-
- 14 ployee—
- "(1) is acting as a contract employee of a uni-
- formed service under the terms of an operating con-
- tract for a vessel owned by a uniformed service, or
- a time charter for pre-positioned vessels, special mis-
- sion vessels, or vessels exclusively transporting mili-
- 20 tary supplies and materials; and
- 21 "(2) is engaged in an action or actions over
- 22 which such employee has been given no discretion
- 23 (e.g., anchoring or mooring at one or more des-
- 24 ignated anchorages or buoys, or executing specific
- operational elements of a special mission activity), as

1	determined by the uniformed service controlling the
2	contract.".
3	SEC. 16. ENFORCEMENT.
4	The Act (16 U.S.C. 6401 et seq.) is amended by in-
5	serting after section 213, as added by section 15 of this
6	Act, the following:
7	"SEC. 214. ENFORCEMENT.
8	"(a) In General.—The Secretary shall conduct en-
9	forcement activities to carry out this title.
10	"(b) Powers of Authorized Officers.—
11	"(1) In general.—Any person who is author-
12	ized to enforce this title may—
13	"(A) board, search, inspect, and seize any
14	vessel or other conveyance suspected of being
15	used to violate this title, any regulation promul-
16	gated under this title, or any permit issued
17	under this title, and any equipment, stores, and
18	cargo of such vessel, except that such authority
19	shall not exist with respect to vessels owned or
20	time chartered by a uniformed service (as de-
21	fined in section 101 of title 10, United States
22	Code) as warships or naval auxiliaries;
23	"(B) seize wherever found any component
24	of coral reef taken or retained in violation of

1	this title, any regulation promulgated under
2	this title, or any permit issued under this title;
3	"(C) seize any evidence of a violation of
4	this title, any regulation promulgated under
5	this title, or any permit issued under this title;
6	"(D) execute any warrant or other process
7	issued by any court of competent jurisdiction;
8	"(E) exercise any other lawful authority;
9	and
10	"(F) arrest any person, if there is reason-
11	able cause to believe that such person has com-
12	mitted an act prohibited by section 212.
13	"(2) Naval auxiliary defined.—In this sub-
14	section, the term 'naval auxiliary' means a vessel,
15	other than a warship, that is owned by or under the
16	exclusive control of a uniformed service and used at
17	the time of the destruction, take, loss or injury for
18	government, non-commercial service, including com-
19	bat logistics force vessels, pre-positioned vessels, spe-
20	cial mission vessels, or vessels exclusively used to
21	transport military supplies and materials.
22	"(c) Civil Enforcement and Permit Sanc-
23	TIONS.—
24	"(1) CIVIL ADMINISTRATIVE PENALTY.—Any
25	person subject to the jurisdiction of the United

States who violates this title or any regulation promulgated or permit issued hereunder, shall be liable to the United States for a civil administrative penalty of not more than \$200,000 for each such violation, to be assessed by the Secretary. Each day of a continuing violation shall constitute a separate violation. In determining the amount of civil administrative penalty, the Secretary shall take into account the nature, circumstances, extent, and gravity of the prohibited acts committed and, with respect to the violator, the degree of culpability, and any history of prior violations, and such other matters as justice may require. In assessing such penalty, the Secretary may also consider information related to the ability of the violator to pay.

"(2) PERMIT SANCTIONS.—For any person subject to the jurisdiction of the United States who has been issued or has applied for a permit under this title, and who violates this title or any regulation or permit issued under this title, the Secretary may deny, suspend, amend, or revoke in whole or in part any such permit. For any person who has failed to pay or defaulted on a payment agreement of any civil penalty or criminal fine or liability assessed pursuant to any natural resource law administered

by the Secretary, the Secretary may deny, suspend,
amend or revoke in whole or in part any permit
issued or applied for under this title.

"(3) Imposition of civil judicial pen-ALTIES.—Any person who violates any provision of this title, any regulation promulgated or permit issued thereunder, shall be subject to a civil judicial penalty not to exceed \$250,000 for each such violation. Each day of a continuing violation shall constitute a separate violation. The Attorney General, upon the request of the Secretary, may commence a civil action in an appropriate district court of the United States, and such court shall have jurisdiction to award civil penalties and such other relief as justice may require. In determining the amount of a civil penalty, the court shall take into account the nature, circumstances, extent, and gravity of the prohibited acts committed and, with respect to the violator, the degree of culpability, any history of prior violations, and such other matters as justice may require. In imposing such penalty, the district court may also consider information related to the ability of the violator to pay.

"(4) Notice.—No penalty or permit sanction shall be assessed under this subsection until after

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the person charged has been given notice and an opportunity for a hearing.

"(5) IN REM JURISDICTION.—A vessel used in violating this title, any regulation promulgated under this title, or any permit issued under this title, shall be liable in rem for any civil penalty assessed for such violation. Such penalty shall constitute a maritime lien on the vessel and may be recovered in an action in rem in the district court of the United States having jurisdiction over the vessel.

"(6) Collection of Penalties.—If any person fails to pay an assessment of a civil penalty under this section after it has become a final and unappealable order, or after the appropriate court has entered final judgment in favor of the Secretary, the Secretary shall refer the matter to the Attorney General, who shall recover the amount assessed in any appropriate district court of the United States (plus interest at current prevailing rates from the date of the final order). In such action, the validity and appropriateness of the final order imposing the civil penalty shall not be subject to review. Any person who fails to pay, on a timely basis, the amount of an assessment of a civil penalty shall be required to pay, in addition to such amount and interest, at-

torney's fees and costs for collection proceedings and a quarterly nonpayment penalty for each quarter during which such failure to pay persists. Such nonpayment penalty shall be in an amount equal to 20 percent of the aggregate amount of such person's penalties and nonpayment penalties that are unpaid as of the beginning of such quarter.

"(7) Compromise or other action by Sec-Retary.—The Secretary may compromise, modify, or remit, with or without conditions, any civil administrative penalty or permit sanction which is or may be imposed under this section and that has not been referred to the Attorney General for further enforcement action.

"(8) Jurisidiction.—The several district courts of the United States shall have jurisdiction over any actions brought by the United States arising under this section. For the purpose of this section, American Samoa shall be included within the judicial district of the District Court of the United States for the District of Hawaii. Each violation shall be a separate offense and the offense shall be deemed to have been committed not only in the district where the violation first occurred, but also in any other district as authorized by law.

"(d) Forfeiture.—
"(1) Criminal forfeiture.—A person who is
convicted of an offense in violation of this title shall
forfeit to the United States—
"(A) any property, real or personal, consti-
tuting or traceable to the gross proceeds taken
obtained, or retained, in connection with or as
a result of the offense, including, without limi-
tation, any coral reef or coral reef component
(or the fair market value thereof); and
"(B) any property, real or personal, used
or intended to be used, in any manner, to com-
mit or facilitate the commission of the offense
including, without limitation, any vessel (includ-
ing the vessel's equipment, stores, catch and
cargo), vehicle, aircraft, or other means of
transportation.
Pursuant to section 2461(c) of title 28, United
States Code, the provisions of section 413 of the
Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 853) other
than subsection (d) thereof shall apply to criminal
forfeitures under this section.
"(2) CIVIL FORFEITURE.—The property set
forth below shall be subject to forfeiture to the

United States in accordance with the provisions of

chapter 46 of title 18, United States Code, and no property right shall exist in it:

"(A) Any property, real or personal, constituting or traceable to the gross proceeds taken, obtained, or retained, in connection with or as a result of a violation of this title, including, without limitation, any coral reef or coral reef component (or the fair market value thereof).

"(B) Any property, real or personal, used or intended to be used, in any manner, to commit or facilitate the commission of a violation of this title, including, without limitation, any vessel (including the vessel's equipment, stores, catch and cargo), vehicle, aircraft, or other means of transportation.

"(3) APPLICATION OF THE CUSTOMS LAWS.—
All provisions of law relating to seizure, summary
judgment, and judicial forfeiture and condemnation
for violation of the customs laws, the disposition of
the property forfeited or condemned or the proceeds
from the sale thereof, the remission or mitigation of
such forfeitures, and the compromise of claims shall
apply to seizures and forfeitures incurred, or alleged
to have been incurred, under the provisions of this

1 title, insofar as applicable and not inconsistent with 2 the provisions hereof. For seizures and forfeitures of 3 property under this section by the Secretary, such duties as are imposed upon the customs officer or 5 any other person with respect to the seizure and for-6 feiture of property under the customs law may be 7 performed by such officers as are designated by the 8 Secretary or, upon request of the Secretary, by any 9 other agency that has authority to manage and dis-10 pose of seized property.

- "(4) Presumption.—For the purposes of this section there is a rebuttable presumption that all coral reefs, or components thereof, found on board a vessel that is used or seized in connection with a violation of this title or of any regulation promulgated under this title were taken, obtained, or retained in violation of this title or of a regulation promulgated under this title.
- "(e) Payment of Storage, Care, and Other Costs.—Any person assessed a civil penalty for a violation of this title or of any regulation promulgated under this title and any claimant in a forfeiture action brought for such a violation, shall be liable for the reasonable costs incurred by the Secretary in storage, care, and mainte-

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nance of any property seized in connection with the viola-2 tion. 3 "(f) Expenditures.— "(1) Notwithstanding section 3302 of title 31, 4 5 United States Code, or section 311 of the Magnu-6 son-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management 7 Act (16 U.S.C. 1861), amounts received by the 8 United States as civil penalties under subsection (c) 9 of this section, forfeitures of property under sub-10 section (d) of this section, and costs imposed under 11 subsection (e) of this section, shall— 12 "(A) be placed into an account; "(B) be available for use by the Secretary 13 14 without further appropriation; and "(C) remain available until expended. 15 "(2) Amounts received under this section for 16 17 forfeitures under subsection (d) and costs imposed 18 under subsection (e) shall be used to pay the reason-19 able and necessary costs incurred by the Secretary 20 to provide temporary storage, care, maintenance, 21 and disposal of any property seized in connection 22 with a violation of this title or any regulation pro-23 mulgated under this title. 24 "(3) Amounts received under this section as 25 civil penalties under subsection (c) of this section

1	and any amounts remaining after the operation of
2	paragraph (2) of this subsection shall—
3	"(A) be used to stabilize, restore, or other-
4	wise manage the coral reef with respect to
5	which the violation occurred that resulted in the
6	penalty or forfeiture;
7	"(B) be transferred to the Emergency Re-
8	sponse, Stabilization, and Restoration Account
9	established under section 208(d) or an account
10	described in section 213(d)(1) of this title, to
11	reimburse such account for amounts used for
12	authorized emergency actions;
13	"(C) be used to conduct monitoring and
14	enforcement activities;
15	"(D) be used to conduct research on tech-
16	niques to stabilize and restore coral reefs;
17	"(E) be used to conduct activities that pre-
18	vent or reduce the likelihood of future damage
19	to coral reefs;
20	"(F) be used to stabilize, restore or other-
21	wise manage any other coral reef; or
22	"(G) be used to pay a reward to any per-
23	son who furnishes information leading to an as-
24	sessment of a civil penalty, or to a forfeiture of

property, for a violation of this title or any regulation promulgated under this title.

"(g) Criminal Enforcement.—

- "(1) Any person (other than a foreign government or any entity of such government) who knowingly commits any act prohibited by section 212(c) of this title shall be imprisoned for not more than 5 years and shall be fined not more than \$500,000 for individuals or \$1,000,000 for an organization; except that if in the commission of any such offense the individual uses a dangerous weapon, engages in conduct that causes bodily injury to any officer authorized to enforce the provisions of this title, or places any such officer in fear of imminent bodily injury, the maximum term of imprisonment is not more than 10 years.
- "(2) Any person (other than a foreign government or any entity of such government) who knowingly violates subsection (b), (d), or (e) of section 212 shall be fined under title 18, United States Code, or imprisoned not more than 5 years or both.
- "(3) Any person (other than a foreign government or any entity of such government) who violates subsection (b), (d), or (e) of section 212, and who, in the exercise of due care should know that such

1 person's conduct violates subsection (b), (d), or (e)

of section 212, shall be fined under title 18, United

3 States Code, or imprisoned not more than 1 year, or

4 both.

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"(4) The several district courts of the United States shall have jurisdiction over any actions brought by the United States arising under this subsection. For the purpose of this subsection, American Samoa shall be included within the judicial district of the District Court of the United States for the District of Hawaii. Each violation shall be a separate offense and the offense shall be deemed to have been committed not only in the district where the violation first occurred, but also in any other district as authorized by law. Any offenses not committed in any district are subject to the venue provisions of section 3238 of title 18, United States Code.

"(h) SUBPOENAS.—In the case of any investigation or hearing under this section or any other natural resource statute administered by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration which is determined on the record in accordance with the procedures provided for under section 554 of title 5, United States Code, the Secretary may issue subpoenas for the attendance and testimony of wit-

- 1 nesses and the production of relevant papers, books, elec-
- 2 tronic files, and documents, and may administer oaths.
- 3 "(i) Coast Guard Authority Not Limited.—
- 4 Nothing in this section shall be considered to limit the au-
- 5 thority of the Coast Guard to enforce this or any other
- 6 Federal law under section 89 of title 14, United States
- 7 Code.

8 "(j) Injunctive Relief.—

"(1) If the Secretary determines that there is an imminent risk of destruction or loss of or injury to a coral reef, or that there has been actual destruction or loss of, or injury to, a coral reef which may give rise to liability under section 213 of this title, the Attorney General, upon request of the Secretary, shall seek to obtain such relief as may be necessary to abate such risk or actual destruction, loss, or injury, or to restore or replace the coral reef, or both. The district courts of the Unites States shall have jurisdiction in such a case to order such relief as the public interest and the equities of the case may require.

"(2) Upon the request of the Secretary, the Attorney General may seek to enjoin any person who is alleged to be in violation of any provision of this title, or any regulation or permit issued under this

- 1 title, and the district courts shall have jurisdiction to
- 2 grant such relief.
- 3 "(k) Area of Application and Enforce-
- 4 ABILITY.—The area of application and enforceability of
- 5 this title includes the internal waters of the United States,
- 6 the territorial sea of the United States, as described in
- 7 Presidential Proclamation 5928 of December 27, 1988,
- 8 the Exclusive Economic Zone of the United States as de-
- 9 scribed in Presidential Proclamation 5030 of March 10,
- 10 1983, and the continental shelf, consistent with inter-
- 11 national law.
- 12 "(1) Nationwide Service of Process.—In any ac-
- 13 tion by the United States under this title, process may
- 14 be served in any district where the defendant is found,
- 15 resides, transacts business, or has appointed an agent for
- 16 the service of process, and for civil cases may also be
- 17 served in a place not within the United States in accord-
- 18 ance with rule 4 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.
- 19 "(m) Venue in Civil Actions.—A civil action
- 20 under this title may be brought in the United States dis-
- 21 trict court for any district in which—
- 22 "(1) the defendant is located, resides, or is
- doing business, in the case of an action against a
- 24 person;

- 1 "(2) the vessel is located, in the case of an action against a vessel;
- "(3) the destruction of, loss of, or injury to a coral reef, or component thereof, occurred or in which there is an imminent risk of such destruction, loss, or injury; or
- 7 "(4) where some or all of the coral reef or com-8 ponent thereof that is the subject of the action is not 9 within the territory covered by any United States 10 district court, such action may be brought either in 11 the United States district court for the district clos-12 est to the location where the destruction, loss, in-13 jury, or risk of injury occurred, or in the United 14 States District Court for the District of Columbia.
- 16 EES.—No officer or employee of a uniformed service (as
 17 defined in section 101 of title 10, United States Code)
 18 shall be held liable under this section, either in such offi19 cer's or employee's personal or official capacity, for any
 20 violation of section 212 occurring during the performance
 21 of the officer's or employee's official governmental duties.

"(n) Uniformed Service Officers and Employ-

22 "(o) Contract Employees.—No contract employee 23 of a uniformed service (as so defined), serving as vessel 24 master or crew member, shall be liable under this section

- 1 for any violation of section 212 if that contract em-
- 2 ployee—
- 3 "(1) is acting as a contract employee of a uni-
- 4 formed service under the terms of an operating con-
- 5 tract for a vessel owned by a uniformed service, or
- 6 a time charter for pre-positioned vessels, special mis-
- 7 sion vessels, or vessels exclusively transporting mili-
- 8 tary supplies and materials; and
- 9 "(2) is engaged in an action or actions over
- which such employee has been given no discretion
- 11 (e.g., anchoring or mooring at one or more des-
- ignated anchorages or buoys, or executing specific
- operational elements of a special mission activity), as
- determined by the uniformed service controlling the
- 15 contract.".
- 16 **SEC. 17. PERMITS.**
- The Act (16 U.S.C. 6401 et seq.) is amended by in-
- 18 serting after section 214, as added by section 16 of this
- 19 Act, the following:
- 20 "SEC. 215. PERMITS.
- 21 "(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may allow for the
- 22 conduct of—
- "(1) bona fide research, and
- 24 "(2) activities that would otherwise be prohib-
- 25 ited by this title or regulations issued thereunder,

through issuance of coral reef conservation permits in ac-2 cordance with regulations issued under this title. 3 "(b) Limitation of Non-Research Activities.— The Secretary may not issue a permit for activities other 5 than for bona fide research unless the Secretary finds— 6 "(1) the activity proposed to be conducted is compatible with one or more of the purposes in sec-7 8 tion 202(b) of this title; 9 "(2) the activity conforms to the provisions of 10 all other laws and regulations applicable to the area 11 for which such permit is to be issued; and "(3) there is no practicable alternative to con-12 13 ducting the activity in a manner that destroys, 14 causes the loss of, or injures any coral reef or any 15 component thereof. "(c) Terms and Conditions.—The Secretary may 16 place any terms and conditions on a permit issued under this section that the Secretary deems reasonable. 18 19 "(d) Fees.— 20 "(1) Assessment and Collection.—Subject 21 to regulations issued under this title, the Secretary 22 may assess and collect fees as specified in this sub-23 section. "(2) Amount.—Any fee assessed shall be equal 24 25 to the sum of—

1	"(A) all costs incurred, or expected to be
2	incurred, by the Secretary in processing the
3	permit application, including indirect costs; and
4	"(B) if the permit is approved, all costs in-
5	curred, or expected to be incurred, by the Sec-
6	retary as a direct result of the conduct of the
7	activity for which the permit is issued, including
8	costs of monitoring the conduct of the activity
9	and educating the public about the activity and
10	coral reef resources related to the activity.
11	"(3) Use of fees.—Amounts collected by the
12	Secretary in the form of fees under this section shall
13	be collected and available for use only to the extent
14	provided in advance in appropriations Acts and may
15	be used by the Secretary for issuing and admin-
16	istering permits under this section.
17	"(4) Waiver or reduction of fees.—For
18	any fee assessed under paragraph (2) of this sub-
19	section, the Secretary may—
20	"(A) accept in-kind contributions in lieu of
21	a fee; or
22	"(B) waive or reduce the fee.
23	"(e) Fishing.—Nothing in this section shall be con-
24	sidered to require a person to obtain a permit under this

- 1 section for the conduct of any fishing activities not prohib-
- 2 ited by this title or regulations issued thereunder.".
- 3 SEC. 18. REGIONAL, STATE, AND TERRITORIAL COORDINA-
- 4 TION.
- 5 The Act (16 U.S.C. 6401 et seq.) is amended by in-
- 6 serting after section 215, as added by section 17 of this
- 7 Act, the following:
- 8 "SEC. 216. REGIONAL, STATE, AND TERRITORIAL COORDI-
- 9 NATION.
- 10 "(a) REGIONAL COORDINATION.—The Secretary and
- 11 other Federal members of the Coral Reef Task Force shall
- 12 work in coordination and collaboration with other Federal
- 13 agencies, States, and United States territorial govern-
- 14 ments to implement the strategies developed under section
- 15 203, including regional and local strategies, to address
- 16 multiple threats to coral reefs and coral reef ecosystems.
- 17 "(b) Response and Restoration Activities.—
- 18 The Secretary shall enter into written agreements with
- 19 any States in which coral reefs are located regarding the
- 20 manner in which response and restoration activities will
- 21 be conducted within the affected State's waters. Nothing
- 22 in this subsection shall be construed to limit Federal re-
- 23 sponse and restoration activity authority before any such
- 24 agreement is final.

- 1 "(c) Cooperative Enforcement Agreements.—
- 2 All cooperative enforcement agreements in place between
- 3 the Secretary and States affected by this title shall be up-
- 4 dated to include enforcement of this title where appro-
- 5 priate.".

6 SEC. 19. REGULATIONS.

- 7 The Act (16 U.S.C. 6401 et seq.) is amended by in-
- 8 serting after section 216, as added by section 18, the fol-
- 9 lowing:

10 "SEC. 217. REGULATIONS.

- 11 "The Secretary may issue such regulations as are
- 12 necessary and appropriate to carry out the purposes of
- 13 this title. This title and any regulations promulgated
- 14 under this title shall be applied in accordance with inter-
- 15 national law. No restrictions shall apply to or be enforced
- 16 against a person who is not a citizen, national, or resident
- 17 alien of the United States (including foreign flag vessels)
- 18 unless in accordance with international law.".

19 SEC. 20. EFFECTIVENESS AND ASSESSMENT REPORT.

- Section 218 (formerly 16 U.S.C. 6407), as redesig-
- 21 nated by section 7 of this Act, is amended to read as fol-
- 22 lows:

23 "SEC. 218. EFFECTIVENESS AND ASSESSMENT REPORT.

- 24 "(a) Effectiveness Report.—Not later than
- 25 March 1, 2010, and every 3 years thereafter, the Secretary

- 1 shall submit to the Senate Committee on Commerce,
- 2 Science, and Transportation and the House of Represent-
- 3 atives Committee on Natural Resources a report describ-
- 4 ing all activities undertaken to implement the strategy, in-
- 5 cluding—
- 6 "(1) a description of the funds obligated by
- 7 each participating Federal agency to advance coral
- 8 reef conservation during each of the 3 fiscal years
- 9 next preceding the fiscal year in which the report is
- submitted;
- 11 "(2) a description of Federal interagency and
- 12 cooperative efforts with States and United States
- territories to prevent or address overharvesting,
- coastal runoff, or other anthropogenic impacts on
- coral reefs, including projects undertaken with the
- 16 Department of Interior, Department of Agriculture,
- the Environmental Protection Agency, and the
- 18 United States Army Corps of Engineers;
- "(3) a summary of the information contained in
- the vessel grounding inventory established under sec-
- 21 tion 210, including additional authorization or fund-
- ing, needed for response and removal of such vessels;
- 23 and
- 24 "(4) a description of Federal disaster response
- actions taken pursuant to the National Response

- 1 Plan to address damage to coral reefs and coral reef
- 2 ecosystems.
- 3 "(b) Assessment Report.—Not later than March
- 4 1, 2013, and every 5 years thereafter, the Secretary will
- 5 submit to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science,
- 6 and Transportation and the House of Representatives
- 7 Committee on Natural Resources an assessment of the
- 8 conditions of U.S. coral reefs, accomplishments under this
- 9 Act, and the effectiveness of management actions to ad-
- 10 dress threats to coral reefs.".

11 SEC. 21. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

- 12 Section 219 (formerly 16 U.S.C. 6408), as redesig-
- 13 nated by section 7 of this Act, is amended—
- 14 (1) by striking "\$16,000,000 for each of fiscal
- 15 years 2001, 2002, 2003, and 2004," in subsection
- 16 (a) and inserting "\$34,000,000 for fiscal year 2010,
- \$36,000,000 for fiscal year 2011, \$38,000,000 for
- fiscal year 2012, and \$40,000,000 for each of fiscal
- 19 years 2013 through 2014, of which no less than 24
- 20 percent per year (for each of fiscal years 2010
- through 2014) shall be used for the grant program
- under section 204, no less than 6 percent shall be
- used for Fishery Management Councils, and up to
- 24 10 percent per year shall be used for the Fund es-
- tablished under section 205(a),";

- (2) by striking "\$1,000,000" in subsection (b) 1 2 and inserting "\$2,000,000"; 3 (3) by striking subsection (c) and inserting the 4 following: 5 COMMUNITY-BASED PLANNING Grants.— 6 There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out section 210 \$10,000,000 for fiscal years 2010 8 through 2014, to remain available until expended."; and 9 (4) by striking subsection (d) and inserting the 10 following: 11 "(d) International Coral Reef Conservation Program.—There are authorized to be appropriated to 12 13 the Secretary to carry out section 209 \$8,000,000 for each 14 of fiscal years 2010 through 2014, to remain available 15 until expended.". 16 SEC. 22. JUDICIAL REVIEW. 17 The Act (16 U.S.C. 6401 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 219, as redesignated by section 7 of 18 19 this Act, the following: 20 "SEC. 220. JUDICIAL REVIEW. 21 "(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 7 of title 5, United
- States Code, is not applicable to any action taken by theSecretary under this title, except that—
- 24 "(1) review of any final agency action of the 25 Secretary taken pursuant to sections 214(c)(1) and

- 1 214(c)(2) may be had only by the filing of a com-
- 2 plaint by an interested person in the United States
- 3 District Court for the appropriate district; any such
- 4 complaint must be filed within 30 days of the date
- 5 such final agency action is taken; and
- 6 "(2) review of any final agency action of the
- 7 Secretary taken pursuant to section 215 may be had
- 8 by the filing of a petition for review by an interested
- 9 person in the Circuit Court of Appeals of the United
- 10 States for the federal judicial district in which such
- person resides or transact business which is directly
- affected by the action taken; such petition shall be
- filed within 120 days from the date such final agen-
- 14 cy action is taken.
- 15 "(b) No Review in Enforcement Pro-
- 16 CEEDINGS.—Final agency action with respect to which re-
- 17 view could have been obtained under subsection (a)(2)
- 18 shall not be subject to judicial review in any civil or crimi-
- 19 nal proceeding for enforcement.
- 20 "(c) Cost of Litigation.—In any judicial pro-
- 21 ceeding under subsection (a), the court may award costs
- 22 of litigation (including reasonable attorney and expert wit-
- 23 ness fees) to any prevailing party whenever it determines
- 24 that such award is appropriate.".

1 SEC. 23. DEFINITIONS.

2	Section 221 (formerly 16 U.S.C. 6409), as redesig-
3	nated by section 7 of this Act, is amended to read as fol-
4	lows:
5	"SEC. 221. DEFINITIONS.
6	"In this title:
7	"(1) Biodiversity.—The term 'biodiversity'
8	means the variability among living organisms from
9	all sources including, inter alia, terrestrial, marine,
10	and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological
11	complexes of which they are part, including diversity
12	within species, between species, and of ecosystems.
13	"(2) Bona fide research.—The term 'bona
14	fide research' means scientific research on corals,
15	the results of which are likely—
16	"(A) to be eligible for publication in a re-
17	ferred scientific journal;
18	"(B) to contribute to the basic knowledge
19	of coral biology or ecology; or
20	"(C) to identify, evaluate, or resolve con-
21	servation problems.
22	"(3) CORAL.—The term 'coral' means species
23	of the phylum Cnidaria, including—
24	"(A) all species of the orders Antipatharia
25	(black corals), Scleractinia (stony corals),
26	Gorgonacea (horny corals), Stolonifera

- 1 (organpipe corals and others), Alcyonacea (soft 2 corals), and Helioporacea (blue coral) of the 3 class Anthozoa; and
- 4 "(B) all species of the families Milleporidea 5 (fire corals) and Stylasteridae (stylasterid 6 hydrocorals) of the class Hydrozoa.
 - "(4) CORAL REEF.—The term 'coral reef' means limestone structures composed in whole or in part of living corals, as described in paragraph (3), their skeletal remains, or both, and including other corals, associated sessile invertebrates and plants, and associated seagrasses.
 - "(5) CORAL REEF COMPONENT.—The term 'coral reef component' means any part of a coral reef, including individual living or dead corals, associated sessile invertebrates and plants, and any adjacent or associated seagrasses.
 - "(6) CORAL REEF ECOSYSTEM.—The term 'coral reef ecosystem' means the system of coral reefs and geographically associated species, habitats, and environment, including any adjacent or associated mangroves and seagrass habitats, and the processes that control its dynamics.
- 24 "(7) CORAL PRODUCTS.—The term 'coral prod-25 ucts' means any living or dead specimens, parts, or

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1	derivatives, or any product containing specimens
2	parts, or derivatives, of any species referred to in
3	paragraph (3).
4	"(8) Damages.—The term 'damages' in-
5	cludes—
6	"(A) compensation for—
7	"(i) the cost of replacing, restoring, or
8	acquiring the equivalent of the coral reef
9	or component thereof; and
10	"(ii) the lost services of, or the value
11	of the lost use of, the coral reef or compo-
12	nent thereof, or the cost of activities to
13	minimize or prevent threats of, equivalent
14	injury to, or destruction of coral reefs or
15	components thereof, pending restoration or
16	replacement or the acquisition of an equiv-
17	alent coral reef or component thereof;
18	"(B) the reasonable cost of damage assess-
19	ments under section 213;
20	"(C) the reasonable costs incurred by the
21	Secretary in implementing section 208(d);
22	"(D) the reasonable cost of monitoring ap-
23	propriate to the injured, restored, or replaced
24	resources;

1	"(E) the reasonable cost of curation, con-
2	servation and loss of contextual information of
3	any coral encrusted archaeological, historical,
4	and cultural resource;
5	"(F) the cost of legal actions under section
6	213, undertaken by the United States, associ-
7	ated with the destruction or loss of, or injury
8	to, a coral reef or component thereof, including
9	the costs of attorney time and expert witness
10	fees; and
11	"(G) the indirect costs associated with the
12	costs listed in subparagraphs (A) through (F)
13	of this paragraph.
14	"(9) Emergency actions.—The term 'emer-
15	gency actions' means all necessary actions to prevent
16	or minimize the additional destruction or loss of, or
17	injury to, coral reefs or components thereof, or to
18	minimize the risk of such additional destruction,
19	loss, or injury.
20	"(10) Exclusive economic zone.—The term
21	'Exclusive Economic Zone' means the waters of the
22	Exclusive Economic Zone of the United States under
23	Presidential Proclamation 5030, dated March 10,

1983.

"(11) Person.—The term 'person' means any individual, private or public corporation, partnership, trust, institution, association, or any other public or private entity, whether foreign or domestic, private person or entity, or any officer, employee, agent, Department, agency, or instrumentality of the Federal Government, of any State or local unit of government, or of any foreign government.

"(12) RESPONSE COSTS.—The term 'response costs' means the costs of actions taken or authorized by the Secretary to minimize destruction or loss of, or injury to, a coral reef, or component thereof, or to minimize the imminent risks of such destruction, loss, or injury, including costs related to seizure, forfeiture, storage, or disposal arising from liability under section 213.

"(13) Secretary.—The term 'Secretary' means—

"(A) for purposes of sections 201 through 211, sections 218 through 220 (except as otherwise provided in subparagraph (B)), and the other paragraphs of this section, the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; and

1	"(B) for purposes of sections 212 through
2	220—
3	"(i) the Secretary of the Interior for
4	any coral reef or component thereof located
5	in (I) the National Wildlife Refuge System,
6	(II) the National Park System, and (III)
7	the waters surrounding Wake Island under
8	the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the In-
9	terior, as set forth in Executive Order
10	11048 (27 Fed. Reg. 8851 (September 4,
11	1962)); or
12	"(ii) the Secretary of Commerce for
13	any coral reef or component thereof located
14	in any area not described in clause (i).
15	"(14) Service.—The term 'service' means
16	functions, ecological or otherwise, performed by a
17	coral reef or component thereof.
18	"(15) State.—The term 'State' means any
19	State of the United States that contains a coral reef
20	ecosystem within its seaward boundaries, American
21	Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, Puer-
22	to Rico, and the Virgin Islands, and any other terri-
23	tory or possession of the United States, or separate
24	sovereign in free association with the United States,

- that contains a coral reef ecosystem within its sea-ward boundaries.
- "(16) TERRITORIAL SEA.—The term 'Territorial Sea' means the waters of the Territorial Sea
 of the United States under Presidential Proclamation 5928, dated December 27, 1988.".

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2D Session S. 2859

[Report No. 111-349]

A BILL

To reauthorize the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000, and for other purposes.

Reported without amendment NOVEMBER 17, 2010