

113TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2890

To authorize the Secretary of Commerce, through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, to establish a constituent-driven program that develops an information platform capable of efficiently integrating coastal data with decision-support tools, training, and best practices, and coordinates the collection of priority coastal geospatial data to inform and improve local, State, regional, and Federal capacities to manage the coastal region, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 18, 2014

Ms. BALDWIN (for herself, Ms. MIKULSKI, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. KING, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. BEGICH, Ms. HIRONO, and Mr. REED) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of Commerce, through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, to establish a constituent-driven program that develops an information platform capable of efficiently integrating coastal data with decision-support tools, training, and best practices, and coordinates the collection of priority coastal geospatial data to inform and improve local, State, regional, and Federal capacities to manage the coastal region, and for other purposes.

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

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Digital Coast Act of
5 2014”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress makes the following findings:

8 (1) The Digital Coast is a model approach for
9 effective Federal partnerships with State and local
10 government, nongovernmental organizations, and the
11 private sector.

12 (2) Access to current, accurate, uniform, and
13 standards-based geospatial information, tools, and
14 training to characterize the United States coastal re-
15 gion is critical for public safety and for the environ-
16 ment, infrastructure, and economy of the United
17 States.

18 (3) More than half of all people of the United
19 States (153,000,000) currently live on or near a
20 coast and an additional 12,000,000 are expected in
21 the next decade.

22 (4) Coastal counties in the United States aver-
23 age 300 persons per square mile, compared with the
24 national average of 98.

1 (5) On a typical day, more than 1,540 permits
2 for construction of single-family homes are issued in
3 coastal counties, combined with other commercial,
4 retail, and institutional construction to support this
5 population.

6 (6) Over half of the economic productivity of
7 the United States is located within coastal regions.

8 (7) Highly accurate, high-resolution remote
9 sensing and other geospatial data play an important
10 role in management of the coastal zone and econ-
11 omy, including for—

12 (A) flood and coastal storm surge pre-
13 diction;

14 (B) hazard risk and vulnerability assess-
15 ment;

16 (C) emergency response and recovery plan-
17 ning;

18 (D) community resilience to longer range
19 climate change impacts;

20 (E) permitting and zoning decisionmaking;

21 (F) habitat and ecosystem health assess-
22 ments; and

23 (G) landscape change detection.

24 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

25 In this Act:

1 (1) COASTAL REGION.—The term “coastal re-
2 gion” means the area of United States waters ex-
3 tending inland from the shoreline to include coastal
4 watersheds and seaward to the territorial sea.

5 (2) COASTAL STATE.—The term “coastal
6 State”—

7 (A) means a State of the United States in,
8 or bordering on, the Atlantic, Pacific, or Arctic
9 Ocean, the Chesapeake Bay, the Gulf of Mex-
10 ico, Long Island Sound, or one or more of the
11 Great Lakes; and

12 (B) includes Puerto Rico, the United
13 States Virgin Islands, Guam, the Common-
14 wealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the
15 Trust Territories of the Pacific Islands, Amer-
16 ican Samoa, and any portion of a State that is
17 located within the designated coastal zone of
18 the Atlantic or Pacific Ocean, the Chesapeake
19 Bay, the Gulf of Mexico, or the Great Lakes.

20 (3) DIGITAL COAST.—The term “Digital Coast”
21 means a constituent-driven effort led by the Sec-
22 retary to provide an enabling platform that inte-
23 grates geospatial data, decision-support tools, train-
24 ing, and best practices to address coastal manage-
25 ment issues and needs. The Digital Coast strives to

1 enhance resilient communities, ecosystem values, and
2 coastal economic growth and development by helping
3 communities address their issues, needs, and chal-
4 lenges through cost-effective and participatory solu-
5 tions.

6 (4) FEDERAL GEOGRAPHIC DATA COM-
7 MITTEE.—The term “Federal Geographic Data
8 Committee” means the interagency committee that
9 promotes the coordinated development, use, sharing,
10 and dissemination of geospatial data on a national
11 basis.

12 (5) REMOTE SENSING AND OTHER
13 GEOSPATIAL.—The term “remote sensing and other
14 geospatial” means collecting, storing, retrieving, or
15 disseminating graphical or digital data depicting
16 natural or manmade physical features, phenomena,
17 or boundaries of the Earth and any information re-
18 lated thereto, including surveys, maps, charts, sat-
19 ellite and airborne remote sensing data, images,
20 LiDAR, and services performed by professionals
21 such as surveyors, photogrammetrists, hydrog-
22 raphers, geodesists, cartographers, and other such
23 services.

24 (6) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
25 the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Ad-

1 ministrator of the National Oceanic and Atmos-
2 pheric Administration.

3 **SEC. 4. BUILDING THE DIGITAL COAST.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish Dig-
5 ital Coast as a program that provides data integration,
6 tool development, training, documentation, dissemination,
7 and archive by—

8 (1) making data and resulting integrated prod-
9 ucts developed under this section readily accessible
10 via the Digital Coast Internet website of the Na-
11 tional Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the
12 GeoPlatform.gov and data.gov Internet websites, and
13 such other Internet technologies as the Secretary
14 considers appropriate;

15 (2) developing decision-support tools that use
16 and display resulting integrated data and provide
17 training on use of such tools;

18 (3) documenting such data to Federal Geo-
19 graphic Data Committee standards; and

20 (4) archiving all raw data acquired under this
21 Act at the appropriate National Oceanic and Atmos-
22 pheric Administration data center or such other
23 Federal data center as the Secretary considers ap-
24 propriate.

1 (b) COORDINATION.—The Secretary shall coordinate
2 the activities carried out pursuant to this Act to maximize
3 data collection, sharing and integration, and to minimize
4 duplication by—

5 (1) consulting with coastal managers and deci-
6 sionmakers concerning coastal issues, and sharing
7 information and best practices, as the Secretary con-
8 siders appropriate, with—

9 (A) coastal States;

10 (B) local governments; and

11 (C) representatives of nongovernmental en-
12 tities;

13 (2) consulting with other Federal agencies on
14 relevant Federal activities, including activities car-
15 ried out under the Ocean and Coastal Mapping Inte-
16 gration Act (33 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.), the Coastal
17 Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1451 et
18 seq.), the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation
19 System Act of 2009 (33 U.S.C. 3601 et seq.), and
20 the Hydrographic Services Improvement Act of 1998
21 (33 U.S.C. 892 et seq.);

22 (3) participating, pursuant to section 216 of the
23 E-Government Act of 2002 (Public Law 107–347;
24 44 U.S.C. 3501 note), in the establishment of such
25 standards and common protocols as the Secretary

1 considers necessary to assure the interoperability of
2 remote sensing and other geospatial data with all
3 users of such information within—

4 (A) the National Oceanic and Atmospheric
5 Administration;

6 (B) other Federal agencies;

7 (C) State and local government; and

8 (D) the private sector; and

9 (4) coordinating with, seeking assistance and
10 cooperation of, and providing liaison to the Federal
11 Geographic Data Committee pursuant to Office of
12 Management and Budget Circular A-16 and Execu-
13 tive Order 12906 of April 14, 1994 (59 Fed. Reg.
14 17671), as amended by Executive Order 13286 of
15 March 5, 2003 (68 Fed. Reg. 10619).

16 (c) FILLING NEEDS AND GAPS.—In carrying out this
17 section, the Secretary shall—

18 (1) recognize that remote sensing and other
19 geospatial data acquisition for navigational and posi-
20 tioning purposes is carried out through other au-
21 thorities and programs;

22 (2) focus on filling data needs and gaps for
23 critical coastal management issues;

24 (3) pursuant to the Ocean and Coastal Map-
25 ping Integration Act (33 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.), sup-

1 port continue improvement in existing efforts to co-
2 ordinate the acquisition and integration of key data
3 sets needed for coastal management and other pur-
4 poses, including—

5 (A) coastal elevation data;

6 (B) land use and land cover data;

7 (C) socioeconomic and human use data;

8 (D) critical infrastructure data;

9 (E) structures data;

10 (F) living resources and habitat data;

11 (G) cadastral data; and

12 (H) aerial imagery;

13 (4) integrate the priority supporting data set
14 forth under paragraph (3) with other available data
15 for the benefit of the broadest measure of coastal re-
16 source management constituents and applications;

17 (5) enter into financial agreements to carry out
18 this Act, including—

19 (A) program support to non-Federal enti-
20 ties that participate in implementing this Act;

21 (B) financial agreements, including grants,
22 cooperative agreements, interagency agree-
23 ments, and contracts, or any other agreement
24 on a reimbursable or non-reimbursable basis,

1 with other Federal, tribal, State, and local gov-
2 ernmental and nongovernmental entities; and

3 (C) registration fees in support of training,
4 workshops, and conferences that advance the
5 purposes of this Act; and

6 (6) enter into such contracts with private sector
7 entities for such products and services as the Sec-
8 retary determines may be necessary to collect remote
9 sensing and other geospatial data, which contracts
10 shall be considered “surveying and mapping” serv-
11 ices as such term is used in and as such contracts
12 are awarded by the Secretary in accordance with the
13 selection procedures in chapter 11 of title 40, United
14 States Code.

15 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

16 There is authorized to be appropriated to the Sec-
17 retary such sums as may be necessary to carry out this
18 section in each of fiscal years 2015 through 2020.

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