

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2229

To direct the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, to conduct coastal community vulnerability assessments related to ocean acidification, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 14, 2017

Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. PETERS, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Ms. CANTWELL) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, to conduct coastal community vulnerability assessments related to ocean acidification, 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 “Coastal Communities
5 Ocean Acidification Act of 2017”.

1 **SEC. 2. COASTAL COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY ASSESS-**
2 **MENT.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 12406 of the Federal
4 Ocean Acidification Research And Monitoring Act of 2009
5 (33 U.S.C. 3705) is amended—

6 (1) by redesignating subsection (b) as sub-
7 section (d); and

8 (2) by inserting after subsection (a) the fol-
9 lowing:

10 “(b) COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT.—

11 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, through the
12 program established under subsection (a), shall con-
13 duct an ocean acidification coastal community vul-
14 nerability assessment, and issue a corresponding
15 public report, that shall be updated at least once
16 every 7 years.

17 “(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The assessment con-
18 ducted under paragraph (1) shall—

19 “(A) identify the United States coastal
20 communities, including island communities, low-
21 population rural communities, and subsistence
22 communities, that are most dependent on coast-
23 al and ocean resources that may be impacted by
24 ocean acidification;

25 “(B) assess the nature of the social and
26 economic vulnerabilities of those communities;

1 “(C) identify the ocean acidification im-
2 pacts that might harm those communities, in-
3 cluding impacts from changes in ocean and
4 coastal marine resources that are not managed
5 by the Federal Government;

6 “(D) identify key knowledge gaps where
7 research could be devoted to better understand
8 the possible impacts of ocean acidification on
9 those communities, the risks and threats facing
10 those communities, and possible adaptation
11 strategies for those communities; and

12 “(E) be conducted in collaboration with ex-
13 perts, indigenous knowledge groups, and stake-
14 holders who are familiar with the unique eco-
15 nomic, social, ecological, geographic, and re-
16 source concerns of coastal communities in the
17 United States, including representatives of—

18 “(i) the National Marine Fisheries
19 Service and the Office for Coastal Manage-
20 ment of the National Oceanic and Atmos-
21 pheric Administration;

22 “(ii) Integrated Coastal and Ocean
23 Observing System regional information co-
24 ordination entities established under sec-
25 tion 12304(c)(4) of the Integrated Coastal

1 and Ocean Observation System Act of
 2 2009 (33 U.S.C. 3603(c)(4));

3 “(iii) regional ocean acidification net-
 4 works; and

5 “(iv) State sea grant programs (as de-
 6 fined in section 203 of the National Sea
 7 Grant College Program Act (33 U.S.C.
 8 1122)).

9 “(c) SUPPORT FOR STATE AND LOCAL VULNER-
 10 ABILITY ASSESSMENTS AND STRATEGIC RESEARCH
 11 PLANNING.—In carrying out the program established
 12 under subsection (a), the Secretary shall collaborate with
 13 State, local, and tribal government entities that are con-
 14 ducting or have completed vulnerability assessments, stra-
 15 tegic research planning, or other similar activities related
 16 to ocean acidification and its impacts on coastal commu-
 17 nities, for the purpose of—

18 “(1) determining whether such activities can be
 19 used as a model for other communities; and

20 “(2) identifying opportunities for the National
 21 Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and other
 22 relevant Federal agencies to support such activi-
 23 ties.”.

24 (b) ONGOING INPUT MECHANISM.—Section
 25 12404(b)(5) of the Federal Ocean Acidification Research

1 And Monitoring Act of 2009 (33 U.S.C. 3703(b)(5)) is
 2 amended by adding at the end before the period the fol-
 3 lowing: “, also including an ongoing mechanism that al-
 4 lows affected industry members, coastal stakeholders, non-
 5 Federal resource managers, regional environmental moni-
 6 toring programs, indigenous knowledge groups, and sci-
 7 entific experts not employed by the Federal Government
 8 to provide input on research, data, and monitoring that
 9 is necessary to support on-the-ground management, deci-
 10 sionmaking, and adaptation related to ocean acidification
 11 and its impacts”.

12 (c) STRATEGIC RESEARCH PLAN.—Section 12405 of
 13 the Federal Ocean Acidification Research And Monitoring
 14 Act of 2009 (33 U.S.C. 3704) is amended—

15 (1) in subsection (b)—

16 (A) in paragraph (8), by striking “and”
 17 after the semicolon;

18 (B) in paragraph (9), by striking the pe-
 19 riod at the end and inserting “; and”; and

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

21 “(10) make recommendations for research that
 22 should be conducted, including in the social sciences
 23 and economics, to address the key knowledge gaps
 24 identified in the community vulnerability assessment
 25 report conducted under section 12406(b).”; and

1 (2) in subsection (e), by inserting “, tribal gov-
2 ernments, indigenous knowledge groups,” after “in-
3 dustry”.

4 (d) REPORT ON SUPPORT FOR STATE AND LOCAL
5 VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENTS AND STRATEGIC RE-
6 SEARCH PLANNING.—Not later than 90 days after the
7 date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator of
8 the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
9 shall submit to Congress a report on the efforts of the
10 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to sup-
11 port State, local, and tribal community vulnerability as-
12 sessments, strategic research and planning, and moni-
13 toring needs, pursuant to section 12406(c) of the Federal
14 Ocean Acidification Research And Monitoring Act of 2009
15 (as added by subsection (a) of this section).

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