

116TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 2429

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## AN ACT

To reauthorize the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000  
and to establish the United States Coral Reef Task  
Force, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

2 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the  
3 “Restoring Resilient Reefs Act of 2020”.

4 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for  
5 this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

**TITLE I—REAUTHORIZATION OF CORAL REEF CONSERVATION  
ACT OF 2000**

Sec. 101. Reauthorization of Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000.

Sec. 102. Modification to section 204 of the Coral Reef Conservation Act of  
2000 (16 U.S.C. 6403).

**TITLE II—UNITED STATES CORAL REEF TASK FORCE**

Sec. 201. Establishment.

Sec. 202. Duties.

Sec. 203. Membership.

Sec. 204. Responsibilities of Federal agency members.

Sec. 205. Working groups.

Sec. 206. Definitions.

**TITLE III—DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR CORAL REEF  
AUTHORITIES**

Sec. 301. Coral reef conservation and restoration assistance.

**TITLE IV—SUSAN L. WILLIAMS NATIONAL CORAL REEF  
MANAGEMENT FELLOWSHIP**

Sec. 401. Short title.

Sec. 402. Definitions.

Sec. 403. Establishment of fellowship program.

Sec. 404. Fellowship awards.

Sec. 405. Matching requirement.

6 **TITLE I—REAUTHORIZATION OF**  
7 **CORAL REEF CONSERVATION**  
8 **ACT OF 2000**

9 **SEC. 101. REAUTHORIZATION OF CORAL REEF CONSERVA-**  
10 **TION ACT OF 2000.**

11 (a) PURPOSES; FEDERAL CORAL REEF MANAGE-  
12 MENT AND RESTORATION ACTIVITIES.—The Coral Reef

1 Conservation Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 6401 et seq.) is  
2 amended by striking sections 202 and 203 and inserting  
3 the following:

4 **“SEC. 202. PURPOSES.**

5 “The purposes of this title are—

6 “(1) to preserve, sustain, and restore the condi-  
7 tion of United States coral reef ecosystems chal-  
8 lenged by natural and human-accelerated changes,  
9 including increasing ocean temperatures, ocean  
10 acidification, coral bleaching, coral diseases, water  
11 quality degradation, invasive species, and illegal, un-  
12 reported, and unregulated fishing;

13 “(2) to promote the science-based management  
14 and sustainable use of coral reef ecosystems to ben-  
15 efit local communities and the Nation, including  
16 through improved integration and cooperation  
17 among Federal, State, and locally managed jurisdic-  
18 tions with coral reef equities;

19 “(3) to develop sound scientific information on  
20 the condition of coral reef ecosystems, continuing  
21 and emerging threats to such ecosystems, and the  
22 efficacy of innovative tools, technologies, and strate-  
23 gies to mitigate stressors and restore such eco-  
24 systems, including evaluation criteria to determine

1 the effectiveness of management interventions, and  
2 accurate mapping for coral reef restoration;

3 “(4) to assist in the preservation of coral reefs  
4 by supporting science-based, consensus-driven State,  
5 Tribal, and community-based coral reef manage-  
6 ment, including conservation and restoration  
7 projects that empower local communities, small busi-  
8 nesses, and nongovernmental organizations;

9 “(5) to provide financial resources, technical as-  
10 sistance, and scientific expertise to supplement and  
11 strengthen State and community-based management  
12 programs and conservation and restoration projects;

13 “(6) to establish a formal mechanism for col-  
14 lecting and allocating monetary donations from the  
15 private sector to be used for coral reef conservation  
16 and restoration projects;

17 “(7) to support the rapid and effective, science-  
18 based assessment and response to emergencies that  
19 imminently threaten coral reefs, such as coral dis-  
20 ease outbreaks, invasive species, hurricanes, marine  
21 heat waves, coral bleaching, and other natural disas-  
22 ters, vessel groundings or chemical spills, and other  
23 exigent circumstances; and

24 “(8) to serve as a model for advancing similar  
25 international efforts to preserve, sustain, and restore

1 coral reef ecosystems in the jurisdictions of United  
 2 States allies and trading partners.

3 **“SEC. 203. FEDERAL CORAL REEF MANAGEMENT AND RES-**  
 4 **TORATION ACTIVITIES.**

5 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator or the Sec-  
 6 retary of the Interior may conduct activities described in  
 7 subsection (b) to conserve and restore coral reefs and coral  
 8 reef ecosystems that are consistent with—

9 “(1) all applicable laws governing resource  
 10 management in Federal and State waters, including  
 11 this Act;

12 “(2) the national coral reef resilience strategy  
 13 in effect under section 204A;

14 “(3) coral reef action plans in effect under sec-  
 15 tion 205, as applicable; and

16 “(4) coral reef emergency plans in effect under  
 17 section 209, as applicable.

18 “(b) ACTIVITIES DESCRIBED.—Activities described  
 19 in this subsection are activities to conserve, research, mon-  
 20 itor, assess, and restore coral reefs and coral reef eco-  
 21 systems in waters managed under the jurisdiction of a  
 22 Federal agency specified in subsection (c) or in coordina-  
 23 tion with a State in waters managed under the jurisdiction  
 24 of such State, including—

“(1) developing, including through the collection of requisite data, high-quality and digitized maps reflecting—

“(A) current and historical live coral cover data;

“(B) coral reef habitat quality data;

“(C) priority areas for coral reef conservation to maintain biodiversity and ecosystem structure and function that benefit coastal communities and living marine resources;

“(D) priority areas for coral reef restoration to enhance biodiversity and ecosystem structure and function to benefit coastal communities and living marine resources; and

“(E) areas of concern that may require enhanced monitoring of coral health and cover.

“(2) enhancing compliance with Federal laws that prohibit or regulate—

“(A) the taking of coral products or species associated with coral reefs; or

“(B) the use and management of coral reef ecosystems;

“(3) long-term ecological monitoring of coral reef ecosystems;

1           “(4) implementing species-specific recovery  
2 plans for listed coral species consistent with the En-  
3 dangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et  
4 seq.);

5           “(5) restoring degraded coral reef ecosystems;

6           “(6) promoting ecologically sound navigation  
7 and anchorages, including mooring buoy systems to  
8 promote enhanced recreational access, near coral  
9 reefs;

10          “(7) monitoring and responding to severe  
11 bleaching or mortality events, disease outbreaks,  
12 invasive species outbreaks, and significant maritime  
13 accidents, including chemical spill cleanup and the  
14 removal of grounded vessels;

15          “(8) conducting scientific research that contrib-  
16 utes to the understanding, sustainable use, and long-  
17 term conservation of coral reefs;

18          “(9) enhancing public awareness, under-  
19 standing, and appreciation of coral reefs and coral  
20 reef ecosystems;

21          “(10) preventing or minimizing the likelihood of  
22 vessel impacts or other physical damage to coral  
23 reefs through navigational aids and expansion of  
24 reef-safe anchorages; and

1           “(11) centrally archiving, managing, and dis-  
 2           tributing data sets and coral reef ecosystem assess-  
 3           ments and publishing such information on publicly  
 4           available internet websites of—

5                   “(A) the Coral Reef Conservation Program  
 6                   of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Ad-  
 7                   ministration; and

8                   “(B) the Task Force.

9           “(c) FEDERAL AGENCIES SPECIFIED.—A Federal  
 10          agency specified in this subsection is one of the following:

11                   “(1) The National Oceanic and Atmospheric  
 12          Administration.

13                   “(2) The National Park Service.

14                   “(3) The United States Fish and Wildlife Serv-  
 15          ice.

16                   “(4) The Office of Insular Affairs.

17          “(d) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—

18                   “(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability  
 19          of appropriations and at the discretion of the Sec-  
 20          retary of Commerce, the Administrator may enter  
 21          into cooperative agreements with States to fund  
 22          coral reef conservation and restoration activities in  
 23          waters managed under the jurisdiction of such  
 24          States that are consistent with the national coral  
 25          reef resilience strategy in effect under section 204A.



1           “(2) LIMITATION.—The Administrator may not  
2           provide more than \$500,000 in total funding under  
3           paragraph (1) to any one State in any fiscal year.”.

(b) ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS.—The Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 6401 et seq.) is amended by striking sections 205 through 210 and inserting the following:

8 “SEC. 204A. NATIONAL CORAL REEF RESILIENCE STRAT-  
9 EGY.

10 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall—

11 “(1) develop a national coral reef resilience  
12 strategy; and

“ (2) periodically, but not less frequently than  
every 15 years, review and revise the strategy.

15       “(b) ELEMENTS.—The strategy required by sub-  
16   section (a) shall include the following:

17 “(1) A discussion addressing—

“(A) continuing and emerging threats to the resilience of United States coral reef ecosystems;

21 “(B) remaining gaps in coral reef eco-  
22 system research, monitoring, and assessment;

23 “(C) the status of management coopera-  
24 tion and integration among Federal, State,

1 Tribal, and locally managed jurisdictions with  
2 coral reef equities;

3 “(D) the status of efforts to manage and  
4 disseminate critical information, and enhance  
5 interjurisdictional data sharing, related to re-  
6 search, reports, datasets, and maps;

7 “(E) areas of special focus, which may in-  
8 clude—

9 “(i) improving natural coral recruit-  
10 ment;

11 “(ii) preventing avoidable losses of  
12 corals and their habitat;

13 “(iii) enhancing the resilience of coral  
14 populations;

15 “(iv) supporting a resilience-based  
16 management approach;

17 “(v) developing, coordinating, and im-  
18 plementing watershed management plans;

19 “(vi) building and sustaining water-  
20 shed management capacity at the local  
21 level;

22 “(vii) providing data essential for  
23 coral reef fisheries management;

24 “(viii) building capacity for coral reef  
25 fisheries management;

1 “(ix) increasing understanding of  
2 coral reef ecosystem services;

3 “(x) educating the public on the im-  
4 portance of coral reefs, threats and solu-  
5 tions; and

6 “(xi) evaluating intervention efficacy;

7 “(F) the status of conservation efforts, in-  
8 cluding the use of marine protected areas to  
9 serve as replenishment zones developed con-  
10 sistent with local practices and traditions and  
11 in cooperation with, and with respect for the  
12 scientific, technical, and management expertise  
13 and responsibilities of, State fish and wildlife  
14 management agencies; and

15 “(G) science-based adaptive management  
16 and restoration efforts.

17 “(2) A statement of national goals and objec-  
18 tives designed to guide—

19 “(A) future Federal coral reef management  
20 and restoration activities authorized under sec-  
21 tion 203;

22 “(B) conservation and restoration prior-  
23 ities for grants awarded under section 213; and

24 “(C) research priorities for the cooperative  
25 institutes established under section 215(c).

1           “(3) General templates for use by covered reef  
2 managers to guide the development of—

3           “(A) coral reef action plans under section  
4 205; and

5           “(B) coral reef emergency plans under sec-  
6 tion 209.

7           “(c) CONSULTATIONS.—In developing all elements of  
8 the strategy required by subsection (a), the Administrator  
9 shall—

10           “(1) consult with the Secretary of the Interior,  
11 the Task Force, covered States, and Tribal organiza-  
12 tions;

13           “(2) engage stakeholders, including coral reef  
14 stewardship partnerships, coral reef institutes and  
15 research centers described in section 215(c), and  
16 coral reef conservation grant awardees; and

17           “(3) solicit public review and comment regard-  
18 ing scoping and the draft strategy.

19           “(d) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS; PUBLICATION.—  
20 The Administrator shall—

21           “(1) submit the strategy required by subsection  
22 (a) and any revisions to the strategy to the appro-  
23 priate congressional committees; and

24           “(2) publish the strategy and any such revisions  
25 on publicly available internet websites of—

1                   “(A) the Coral Reef Conservation Program  
 2                   of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Ad-  
 3                   ministration; and

4                   “(B) the Task Force.

5           “(e) TRANSITION RULE.—On and after the date of  
 6 the enactment of the Restoring Resilient Reefs Act of  
 7 2020, the 2018 Coral Reef Conservation Program Stra-  
 8 tegic Plan of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Ad-  
 9 ministration shall be considered to be the national coral  
 10 reef resilience strategy in effect under this section until  
 11 the earlier of—

12                   “(1) September 30, 2033; or

13                   “(2) the date on which the Administrator devel-  
 14 ops a national coral reef resilience strategy under  
 15 this section.

16 **“SEC. 205. CORAL REEF ACTION PLANS.**

17           “(a) CORAL REEF ACTION PLANS.—Except as pro-  
 18 vided in subsection (h), not later than 3 years after the  
 19 date of the enactment of the Restoring Resilient Reefs Act  
 20 of 2020, and not later than 2 years after the publication  
 21 of a revised national coral reef resilience strategy under  
 22 section 204A, each covered reef manager shall prepare and  
 23 submit to the Task Force a coral reef action plan to guide  
 24 management and restoration activities to be undertaken  
 25 within the responsibilities and jurisdiction of the manager.

1       “(b) REQUIREMENTS.—A covered reef manager pre-  
2       paring a coral reef action plan under subsection (a)  
3       shall—

4               “(1) ensure that the plan is consistent with all  
5       elements of the national coral reef resilience strategy  
6       in effect; and

7               “(2) revise the plan not less frequently than  
8       once every 5 years.

9       “(c) PLAN ELEMENTS.—A coral reef action plan  
10      under subsection (a) shall include a discussion of the fol-  
11      lowing elements:

12              “(1) Short- and mid-term coral reef conserva-  
13      tion and restoration objectives within the applicable  
14      jurisdiction.

15              “(2) An updated adaptive management frame-  
16      work to inform research, monitoring, and assessment  
17      needs.

18              “(3) The status of any coral reef emergency  
19      plans in effect under section 209 covering coral reef  
20      ecosystems within the applicable jurisdiction.

21              “(4) Tools, strategies, and partnerships nec-  
22      essary to identify, monitor, and redress pollution  
23      and water quality impacts to coral reef ecosystems  
24      within the applicable jurisdiction.

1           “(5) The status of efforts to improve coral reef  
2       ecosystem management cooperation and integration  
3       among neighboring Federal, State, Tribal, or locally  
4       managed jurisdictions, including the identification of  
5       existing research and monitoring activities that can  
6       be leveraged for coral reef status and trends assess-  
7       ments within the applicable jurisdiction.

8           “(6) An accounting of annual expenditures on  
9       coral reef management and restoration activities  
10      within the applicable jurisdiction while the preceding  
11      action plan, if any, was in effect.

12          “(7) Estimated budgetary and resource consid-  
13      erations necessary to carry out the proposed action  
14      plan.

15          “(d) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Administrator  
16      and the Task Force shall make all reasonable efforts to  
17      provide technical assistance upon request by a covered reef  
18      manager developing a coral reef action plan under sub-  
19      section (a).

20          “(e) ADOPTION OF CORAL REEF ACTION PLANS.—  
21      A covered reef manager may adopt a coral reef action plan  
22      developed by another covered reef manager, in full or in  
23      part, as relevant to the adopting manager’s applicable ju-  
24      risdiction.

1       “(f) PUBLIC REVIEW.—The development of a coral  
 2 reef action plan by a covered reef manager under sub-  
 3 section (a), and the adoption of a plan under subsection  
 4 (e), shall be subject to public review and comment.

5       “(g) PUBLICATION.—The Administrator shall publish  
 6 each coral reef action plan prepared and submitted to the  
 7 Task Force under this section on publicly available inter-  
 8 net websites of—

9               “(1) the Coral Reef Conservation Program of  
 10 the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administra-  
 11 tion; and

12              “(2) the Task Force.

13       “(h) APPLICABILITY TO COVERED STATES AND  
 14 CORAL REEF STEWARDSHIP PARTNERSHIPS.—A covered  
 15 State or non-Federal coral reef stewardship partnership  
 16 is not required to develop a coral reef action plan under  
 17 subsection (a), but may do so in its own discretion. In  
 18 developing a coral reef action plan, a covered State or non-  
 19 Federal coral reef stewardship partnership is encouraged,  
 20 but not mandated, to comply with the requirements of this  
 21 section.

22       “(i) PLAN IN EFFECT.—A coral reef action plan shall  
 23 be deemed to be in effect if the plan was submitted to  
 24 the Task Force under this section during the preceding  
 25 6 years.



1 **“SEC. 206. CORAL REEF STEWARDSHIP PARTNERSHIPS.**

2 “(a) CORAL REEF STEWARDSHIP PARTNERSHIPS.—

3 The Administrator shall establish standards for the forma-  
 4 tion of partnerships among government and community  
 5 members for the stewardship of coral reefs (in this title  
 6 referred to as ‘coral reef stewardship partnerships’) in ac-  
 7 cordance with this section, including guidance for prepara-  
 8 tion and submission of coral reef action plans under sec-  
 9 tion 205.

10 “(b) IDENTIFICATION OF REEFS.—Each coral reef  
 11 stewardship partnership shall identify with particularity  
 12 the coral reef or ecologically significant component of a  
 13 coral reef that will be the subject of its stewardship activi-  
 14 ties.

15 “(c) MEMBERSHIP FOR FEDERAL REEFS.—A coral  
 16 reef stewardship partnership that has identified, as the  
 17 subject of its stewardship activities, a coral reef or eco-  
 18 logically significant component of a coral reef that is fully  
 19 or partially under the management jurisdiction of any  
 20 Federal agency specified in section 203(c) shall, at a min-  
 21 imum, include the following:

22 “(1) That Federal agency, a representative of  
 23 which shall serve as chair of the coral reef steward-  
 24 ship partnership.

25 “(2) A State, county, or Tribal organization’s  
 26 resource management agency.

1           “(3) A coral reef research center described in  
2           section 215(c)(4) or another institution of higher  
3           education.

4           “(4) A nongovernmental organization.

5           “(5) Such other members as the partnership  
6           considers appropriate, such as interested stakeholder  
7           groups.

8           “(d) MEMBERSHIP FOR NON-FEDERAL REEFS.—

9           “(1) IN GENERAL.—A coral reef stewardship  
10          partnership that has identified, as the subject of its  
11          stewardship activities, a coral reef or ecologically sig-  
12          nificant component of a coral reef that is not under  
13          the management jurisdiction of any Federal agency  
14          specified in section 203(c) shall, at a minimum, in-  
15          clude the following:

16               “(A) A State, county, or Tribal organiza-  
17               tion’s resource management agency, a rep-  
18               resentative of which shall serve as the chair of  
19               the coral reef stewardship partnership.

20               “(B) A coral reef research center described  
21               in section 215(c)(4) or another institution of  
22               higher education.

23               “(C) A nongovernmental organization.

1           “(D) Such other members as the partner-  
 2           ship considers appropriate, such as interested  
 3           stakeholder groups.

4           “(2) ADDITIONAL MEMBERS.—

5           “(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subpara-  
 6           graph (B), a coral reef stewardship partnership  
 7           described in paragraph (1) may also include  
 8           representatives of one or more Federal agencies  
 9           that have management responsibility in the reef  
 10          that is the subject of the partnership’s steward-  
 11          ship activities.

12          “(B) REQUESTS; APPROVAL.—A represent-  
 13          ative of a Federal agency described in subpara-  
 14          graph (A) may become a member of a coral reef  
 15          stewardship partnership described in paragraph  
 16          (1) if—

17               “(i) the representative submits a re-  
 18               quest to become a member to the chair of  
 19               the partnership referred to in paragraph  
 20               (1)(A); and

21               “(ii) the chair consents to the request.

22          “(e) NONAPPLICABILITY OF FEDERAL ADVISORY  
 23          COMMITTEE ACT.—The Federal Advisory Committee Act  
 24          (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to coral reef stewardship  
 25          partnerships.

1 **“SEC. 207. STATE BLOCK GRANTS.**

2       “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall provide  
3 block grants of financial assistance to covered States to  
4 support management and restoration activities and fur-  
5 ther the implementation of coral reef action plans in effect  
6 under section 205 by covered States and non-Federal coral  
7 reef stewardship partnerships.

8       “(b) ELIGIBILITY FOR ADDITIONAL AMOUNTS.—A  
9 covered State shall qualify for and receive additional grant  
10 amounts beyond the base award specified in subsection  
11 (c)(1) if there is at least one coral reef action plan in effect  
12 within the jurisdiction of the covered State developed by  
13 that covered State or a non-Federal coral reef stewardship  
14 partnership.

15       “(c) FUNDING FORMULA.—Subject to the availability  
16 of appropriations, the amount of each block grant awarded  
17 to a covered State under this section shall be the sum of—

18               “(1) a base award of \$100,000; and

19               “(2) if the State is eligible under subsection  
20 (b)—

21                       “(A) an amount that is equal to non-Fed-  
22 eral expenditures of up to \$3,000,000 on coral  
23 reef management and restoration activities  
24 within the jurisdiction of the State, as reported  
25 within the previous fiscal year; and

1           “(B) an additional amount, from any  
2           funds appropriated for block grants under this  
3           section that remain after distribution under  
4           subparagraph (A) and paragraph (1), based on  
5           the proportion of the State’s share of total non-  
6           Federal expenditures on coral reef management  
7           and restoration activities, as reported within the  
8           previous fiscal year, in excess of \$3,000,000,  
9           relative to other covered States.

10       “(d) EXCLUSIONS.—For the purposes of calculating  
11       block grant amounts under subsection (c), Federal funds  
12       provided to a covered State or non-Federal coral reef stew-  
13       ardship partnership shall not be considered as qualifying  
14       non-Federal expenditures, but non-Federal matching  
15       funds used to leverage Federal awards may be considered  
16       as qualifying non-Federal expenditures.

17       “(e) RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE ADMINISTRATOR.—  
18       The Administrator is responsible for—

19           “(1) providing guidance on qualifying non-Fed-  
20           eral expenditures and the proper documentation of  
21           such expenditures;

22           “(2) issuing annual solicitations to covered  
23           States for additional awards under this section; and

1           “(3) determining the appropriate allocation of  
2           additional amounts among covered States in accord-  
3           ance with this section.

4           “(f) RESPONSIBILITIES OF COVERED STATES.—Each  
5           covered State is responsible for documenting non-Federal  
6           expenditures within the jurisdiction of the State and for-  
7           mally reporting those expenditures for review in response  
8           to annual solicitations by the Administrator under sub-  
9           section (e).

10          “(g) UNEXPENDED AMOUNTS.—Any amounts avail-  
11          able for block grants under this section that are not ex-  
12          pended shall be transferred to the Coral Reef Stewardship  
13          Fund under section 208(b).

14          “(h) WAIVERS OF CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS.—The  
15          Administrator may waive the eligibility requirements  
16          under subsection (b) through fiscal year 2023.

17          **“SEC. 208. CORAL REEF STEWARDSHIP FUND.**

18          “(a) AUTHORITY TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENTS.—  
19          The Administrator may enter into an agreement with the  
20          National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (in this section re-  
21          ferred to as the ‘Foundation’), authorizing the Foundation  
22          to receive, hold, and administer funds received under this  
23          section.

24          “(b) FUND.—The Foundation shall invest, reinvest,  
25          and otherwise administer the funds received under this

1 section and maintain such funds and any interest or reve-  
 2 nues earned in a separate interest-bearing account, to be  
 3 known as the ‘Coral Reef Stewardship Fund’ (in this sec-  
 4 tion referred to as the ‘Fund’, and known before the date  
 5 of the enactment of the Restoring Resilient Reefs Act of  
 6 2020 as the Coral Reef Conservation Fund administered  
 7 through a public-private partnership with the Founda-  
 8 tion), established by the Foundation solely to support  
 9 coral reef stewardship partnership activities that—

10 “(1) further the purposes of this title; and

11 “(2) are consistent with—

12 “(A) the national coral reef resilience  
 13 strategy in effect under section 204A; and

14 “(B) coral reef action plans in effect, if  
 15 any, under section 205 covering a coral reef or  
 16 ecologically significant component of a coral  
 17 reef to be impacted by such activities, if appli-  
 18 cable.

19 “(c) AUTHORIZATION TO SOLICIT DONATIONS.—

20 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Pursuant to an agreement  
 21 entered into under subsection (a), the Foundation  
 22 may accept, receive, solicit, hold, administer, and use  
 23 any gift (including, notwithstanding section 1342 of  
 24 title 31, United States Code, donations of services)  
 25 to further the purposes of this title.

1           “(2) DEPOSITS IN FUND.—Notwithstanding  
 2           section 3302 of title 31, United States Code, any  
 3           funds received as a gift shall be deposited and main-  
 4           tained in the Fund.

5           “(3) NOTIFICATION REQUIRED.—Not later than  
 6           30 days after funds are deposited in the Fund under  
 7           paragraph (2), the Foundation shall notify the Com-  
 8           mittee on Appropriations of the Senate and the  
 9           Committee on Appropriations of the House of Rep-  
 10          resentatives of the source and amount of such funds.

11          “(d) REVIEW OF PERFORMANCE.—The Adminis-  
 12          trator shall conduct a continuing review of all deposits  
 13          into, and disbursements from, the Fund. Each review shall  
 14          include a written assessment concerning the extent to  
 15          which the Foundation has implemented the goals and re-  
 16          quirements of—

17                 “(1) this section; and

18                 “(2) the national coral reef resilience strategy  
 19          in effect under section 204A.

20          “(e) ADMINISTRATION.—Under an agreement en-  
 21          tered into pursuant to subsection (a), and subject to the  
 22          availability of appropriations, the Administrator may  
 23          transfer funds appropriated to carry out this title to the  
 24          Foundation. Amounts received by the Foundation under  
 25          this subsection may be used for matching, in whole or in



1 part, contributions (whether in money, services, or prop-  
 2 erty) made to the Foundation by private persons, State  
 3 or local government agencies, or Tribal organizations.

4 **“SEC. 209. CORAL REEF EMERGENCY PLANS.**

5       “(a) IN GENERAL.—A covered reef manager may de-  
 6 velop and periodically update a plan (in this title referred  
 7 to as a ‘coral reef emergency plan’) consistent with the  
 8 template described in section 204A(b)(3) to guide the  
 9 rapid and effective response to circumstances that pose  
 10 an urgent and immediate threat to the coral reef eco-  
 11 systems within the manager’s responsibilities and jurisdic-  
 12 tions, and consistent with any applicable coral reef action  
 13 plan.

14       “(b) CORAL REEF EMERGENCIES.—The Adminis-  
 15 trator shall develop a list of, and criteria for, cir-  
 16 cumstances that pose an urgent and immediate threat to  
 17 coral reefs (in this title referred to as ‘coral reef emer-  
 18 gencies’), including—

- 19               “(1) new and ongoing outbreaks of disease;
- 20               “(2) new and ongoing outbreaks of invasive or
- 21               nuisance species;
- 22               “(3) new and ongoing coral bleaching events;
- 23               “(4) natural disasters;

1           “(5) man-made disasters, including vessel  
2           groundings, hazardous spills, or coastal construction  
3           accidents; and

4           “(6) other exigent circumstances.

5           “(c) BEST RESPONSE PRACTICES.—The Adminis-  
6           trator shall develop guidance on best practices to respond  
7           to coral reef emergencies that can be adopted within coral  
8           reef emergency plans. Such best practices shall be—

9           “(1) based on the best available science and in-  
10          tegrated with evolving innovative technologies; and

11          “(2) revised not less frequently than once every  
12          5 years.

13          “(d) PLAN ELEMENTS.—A coral reef emergency plan  
14          shall include the following elements:

15          “(1) A description of particular threats, and the  
16          proposed responses, consistent with the best prac-  
17          tices developed under subsection (d).

18          “(2) A delineation of roles and responsibilities  
19          for executing the plan.

20          “(3) Evidence of engagement with interested  
21          stakeholder groups, as applicable, in the develop-  
22          ment of the plan.

23          “(4) Any other information the Administrator  
24          considers to be necessary for the plan.

1       “(e) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Administrator  
 2 and the Task Force shall make all reasonable efforts to  
 3 provide technical assistance upon request by a covered reef  
 4 manager developing a coral reef emergency plan under  
 5 subsection (a).

6       “(f) ADOPTION OF CORAL REEF EMERGENCY  
 7 PLANS.—A covered reef manager may adopt a coral reef  
 8 emergency plan developed by another covered reef man-  
 9 ager, in full or in part, as relevant to the adopting man-  
 10 ager’s applicable jurisdiction.

11       “(g) PUBLIC REVIEW.—The development of a coral  
 12 reef action plan by a covered reef manager under sub-  
 13 section (a), and the adoption of a plan under subsection  
 14 (f), shall be subject to public review and comment.

15       “(h) PUBLICATION.—The Administrator shall publish  
 16 each coral reef emergency plan prepared and submitted  
 17 to the Task Force under this section on publicly available  
 18 internet websites of—

19               “(1) the Coral Reef Conservation Program of  
 20 the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administra-  
 21 tion; and

22               “(2) the Task Force.

23       “(i) PLAN IN EFFECT.—A coral reef emergency plan  
 24 shall be deemed to be in effect if the plan was submitted

1 to the Task Force under this section during the preceding  
 2 6 years.

3 **“SEC. 210. CORAL REEF EMERGENCY FUND.**

4 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF FUND.—There is estab-  
 5 lished in the Treasury an interest-bearing fund to be  
 6 known as the ‘Coral Reef Emergency Fund’, which shall  
 7 consist of amounts deposited into the Fund under sub-  
 8 section (c).

9 “(b) USES.—Amounts in the Fund—

10 “(1) shall be available only for use by the Sec-  
 11 retary to compensate covered coral reef managers to  
 12 implement a coral reef emergency plan in effect  
 13 under sections 210 and 212; and

14 “(2) shall remain available until expended.

15 “(c) DEPOSITS INTO THE FUND.—Subject to the  
 16 availability of appropriations, there shall be deposited into  
 17 the Fund—

18 “(1) amounts appropriated for the Fund; and

19 “(2) other amounts appropriated to the Sec-  
 20 retary for use with respect to coral reef emergencies.

21 “(d) ACCEPTANCE OF DONATIONS.—

22 “(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of carrying  
 23 out this title, the Secretary may accept, receive, so-  
 24 licit, hold, administer, and use any gift (including,

1       notwithstanding section 1342 of title 31, United  
2       States Code, donations of services).

3           “(2) DEPOSITS IN FUND.—Notwithstanding  
4       section 3302 of title 31, United States Code, any  
5       funds received as a gift shall be deposited and main-  
6       tained in the Fund.

7   **“SEC. 211. EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE.**

8       “(a) CORAL REEF EMERGENCY DECLARATIONS.—

9           “(1) SUA SPONTE DECLARATION.—

10           “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may  
11       determine and declare a coral reef emergency,  
12       including at the recommendation of the Sec-  
13       retary of the Interior.

14           “(B) REQUIREMENTS.—In declaring a  
15       coral reef emergency under subparagraph (A),  
16       the Secretary shall—

17           “(i) certify that an emergency has oc-  
18       curred that is ecologically significant and  
19       harmful to coral reefs; and

20           “(ii) submit to the appropriate con-  
21       gressional committees findings and anal-  
22       ysis to justify the declaration.

23           “(2) PETITIONS.—If a covered State or non-  
24       Federal coral reef stewardship partnership believes  
25       that a coral reef emergency has occurred, and is im-

1       pacting coral reefs or ecologically significant compo-  
 2       nents of coral reefs subject to the responsibilities or  
 3       jurisdiction of the State or partnership, the State or  
 4       partnership may petition the Secretary for a declara-  
 5       tion of a coral reef emergency.

6           “(3) EVALUATION AND ACTION.—

7               “(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30  
 8       days after receiving a petition under paragraph  
 9       (2) (except as provided in subparagraph (B)),  
 10      the Secretary shall—

11               “(i) evaluate the petition to determine  
 12               whether a coral reef emergency has oc-  
 13               curred; and

14               “(ii) declare a coral reef emergency or  
 15               deny the petition.

16           “(B) EXTENSION.—The Secretary may ex-  
 17       tend the deadline provided for under subpara-  
 18       graph (A) by not more than 15 days.

19           “(4) APPEAL.—If the Secretary denies a peti-  
 20       tion for an emergency declaration submitted under  
 21       paragraph (2), the State or partnership that sub-  
 22       mitted the petition may, not later than 15 days after  
 23       receiving notice of the denial, appeal the denial to  
 24       the Secretary. Not later than 15 days after receiving

1 an appeal under this paragraph, the Secretary shall  
2 grant or deny the appeal.

3 “(5) REVOCATION.—The Secretary may revoke  
4 any declaration of a coral reef emergency in whole  
5 or in part after determining that circumstances no  
6 longer require an emergency response.

7 “(6) RECOVERY OF EMERGENCY FUNDING.—  
8 The Administrator may seek compensation from  
9 negligent parties to recover emergency funds ex-  
10 pended in excess of \$500,000 under this section as  
11 a result of an emergency declaration arising from di-  
12 rect impacts to coral reefs from man-made disasters  
13 or accidents.

14 “(b) GRANT AUTHORITY.—

15 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability  
16 of appropriations, upon the declaration of a coral  
17 reef emergency under subsection (a), the Secretary  
18 shall provide grants to carry out proposals that meet  
19 the requirements of paragraph (2) to implement  
20 coral reef emergency plans in effect under section  
21 209.

22 “(2) REQUIREMENTS.—A proposal for a grant  
23 under this subsection to implement a coral reef  
24 emergency plan in effect under section 209 shall in-  
25 clude—

1           “(A) the name of the entity submitting the  
2           proposal;

3           “(B) a copy of the coral reef emergency  
4           plan;

5           “(C) a description of the qualifications of  
6           the individuals and entities who will implement  
7           the plan;

8           “(D) an estimate of the funds and time re-  
9           quired to complete the implementation of the  
10          plan; and

11          “(E) any other information the Secretary  
12          considers to be necessary for evaluating the eli-  
13          gibility of the proposal for a grant under this  
14          subsection.

15          “(3) REVIEW.—Not later than 30 days after re-  
16          ceiving a proposal for a grant under this subsection,  
17          the Secretary shall review the proposal and deter-  
18          mine if the proposal meets the requirements of para-  
19          graph (2).

20          “(4) CONCURRENT REVIEW.—An entity seeking  
21          a grant under this subsection may submit a proposal  
22          under paragraph (2) to the Secretary at any time  
23          following the submission of a petition for an emer-  
24          gency declaration under subsection (a)(2) that is ap-  
25          plicable to coral reefs or ecologically significant com-



1       ponents of coral reefs subject to the responsibilities  
2       or jurisdiction of the entity.

3   **“SEC. 212. VESSEL GROUNDING INVENTORY.**

4       “The Administrator, in coordination with the heads  
5   of other Federal agencies, shall establish and maintain an  
6   inventory of all vessel grounding incidents involving  
7   United States coral reefs, including a description of—

8           “(1) the impacts of each such incident to coral  
9       reefs and related natural resources;

10          “(2) vessel and ownership information relating  
11       to each such incident, if available;

12          “(3) the estimated cost of removal of the vessel,  
13       mitigation, or restoration relating to each such inci-  
14       dent;

15          “(4) the response actions taken by the owner of  
16       the vessel, the Administrator, the Commandant of  
17       the Coast Guard, or representatives of other Federal  
18       or State agencies;

19          “(5) the status of the response actions, includ-  
20       ing the dates of—

21           “(A) vessel removal;

22           “(B) mitigation or restoration activities,  
23       including whether a coral reef emergency plan  
24       was implemented; and

1                   “(C) any actions taken to prevent future  
2                   grounding incidents; and

3                   “(6) recommendations for additional naviga-  
4                   tional aids or other mechanisms for preventing fu-  
5                   ture grounding incidents.

6   **“SEC. 213. RUTH D. GATES CORAL REEF CONSERVATION**  
7                   **GRANT PROGRAM.**

8                   “(a) GRANTS.—Subject to the availability of appro-  
9                   priations, the Administrator shall establish a program (to  
10                  be known as the ‘Ruth D. Gates Coral Reef Conservation  
11                  Grant Program’) to provide grants for projects for the  
12                  conservation and restoration of coral reef ecosystems (in  
13                  this section referred to as ‘coral reef projects’) pursuant  
14                  to proposals approved by the Administrator in accordance  
15                  with this section.

16                  “(b) ELIGIBILITY.—

17                   “(1) IN GENERAL.—An entity described in  
18                   paragraph (2) may submit to the Administrator a  
19                   proposal for a coral reef project.

20                   “(2) ENTITIES DESCRIBED.—An entity de-  
21                   scribed in this paragraph is—

22                   “(A) a natural resource management au-  
23                   thority of a State or local government or Tribal  
24                   organization—

1 “(i) with responsibility for coral reef  
2 management; or

3 “(ii) the activities of which directly or  
4 indirectly affect coral reefs or coral reef  
5 ecosystems;

6 “(B) a regional fishery management coun-  
7 cil established under the Magnuson-Stevens  
8 Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16  
9 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.);

10 “(C) a coral reef stewardship partnership  
11 seeking to implement a coral reef action plan in  
12 effect under section 205;

13 “(D) a coral reef research center des-  
14 ignated under section 215(c)(4); or

15 “(E) another nongovernmental organiza-  
16 tion or research institution with demonstrated  
17 expertise in the conservation or restoration of  
18 coral reefs in practice or through significant  
19 contributions to the body of existing scientific  
20 research on coral reefs.

21 “(c) PROJECT PROPOSALS.—Each proposal for a  
22 grant under this section for a coral reef project shall in-  
23 clude the following:

24 “(1) The name of the individual or entity re-  
25 sponsible for conducting the project.

1           “(2) A description of the qualifications of the  
2 individual or entity.

3           “(3) A succinct statement of the purposes of  
4 the project.

5           “(4) An estimate of the funds and time re-  
6 quired to complete the project.

7           “(5) Evidence of support for the project by ap-  
8 propriate representatives of States or other govern-  
9 ment jurisdictions in which the project will be con-  
10 ducted.

11           “(6) Information regarding the source and  
12 amount of matching funding available to the appli-  
13 cant.

14           “(7) A description of how the project meets one  
15 or more of the criteria under subsection (e)(2).

16           “(8) In the case of a proposal submitted by a  
17 coral reef stewardship partnership, a description of  
18 how the project aligns with the applicable coral reef  
19 action plan in effect under section 205.

20           “(9) Any other information the Administrator  
21 considers to be necessary for evaluating the eligi-  
22 bility of the project for a grant under this sub-  
23 section.

24           “(d) PROJECT REVIEW AND APPROVAL.—

1           “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall re-  
 2       view each coral reef project proposal submitted  
 3       under this section to determine if the project meets  
 4       the criteria set forth in subsection (e).

5           “(2) PRIORITIZATION OF CONSERVATION  
 6       PROJECTS.—The Administrator shall prioritize the  
 7       awarding of grants for projects that meet the cri-  
 8       teria for approval under subparagraphs (A) through  
 9       (G) of subsection (e)(2) that are proposed to be con-  
 10      ducted within priority areas identified for coral reef  
 11      conservation by the Administrator and consistent  
 12      with the national coral reef resilience strategy in ef-  
 13      fect under section 204A.

14          “(3) PRIORITIZATION OF RESTORATION  
 15      PROJECTS.—The Administrator shall prioritize the  
 16      awarding of grants for projects that meet the cri-  
 17      teria for approval under subparagraphs (E) through  
 18      (L) of subsection (e)(2) that are proposed to be con-  
 19      ducted within priority areas identified for coral reef  
 20      restoration by the Administrator and consistent with  
 21      the national coral reef resilience strategy in effect  
 22      under section 204A.

23          “(4) REVIEW; APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL.—  
 24      Not later than 180 days after receiving a proposal

1 for a coral reef project under this section, the Ad-  
2 ministrator shall—

3 “(A) request and consider written com-  
4 ments on the proposal from each Federal agen-  
5 cy, State government, Tribal organization, or  
6 other government jurisdiction, including the rel-  
7 evant regional fishery management councils es-  
8 tablished under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery  
9 Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C.  
10 1801 et seq.), or any National Marine Sanc-  
11 tuary or Marine National Monument, with ju-  
12 risdiction or management authority over coral  
13 reef ecosystems in the area where the project is  
14 to be conducted, including the extent to which  
15 the project is consistent with locally established  
16 priorities, unless such entities were directly in-  
17 volved in the development of the project pro-  
18 posal;

19 “(B) provide for the merit-based peer re-  
20 view of the proposal and require standardized  
21 documentation of that peer review;

22 “(C) after considering any written com-  
23 ments and recommendations based on the re-  
24 views under subparagraphs (A) and (B), ap-  
25 prove or disapprove the proposal; and

1           “(D) provide written notification of that  
 2           approval or disapproval, with summaries of all  
 3           written comments, recommendations, and peer-  
 4           reviews, to the entity that submitted the pro-  
 5           posal, and each of those States, Tribal organi-  
 6           zations, and other government jurisdictions that  
 7           provided comments under subparagraph (A).

8           “(e) CRITERIA FOR APPROVAL.—The Administrator  
 9           may not approve a proposal for a coral reef project under  
 10          this section unless the project—

11           “(1) is consistent with—

12           “(A) the national coral reef resilience  
 13           strategy in effect under section 204A; and

14           “(B) any Federal or non-Federal coral reef  
 15           action plans in effect under section 205 cov-  
 16           ering a coral reef or ecologically significant  
 17           component of a coral reef to be affected by the  
 18           project; and

19           “(2) will enhance the conservation and restora-  
 20          tion of coral reefs by—

21           “(A) addressing conflicts arising from the  
 22           use of environments near coral reefs or from  
 23           the use of corals, species associated with coral  
 24           reefs, and coral products, including supporting  
 25           consensus-driven, community-based planning

1 and management initiatives for the protection  
2 of coral reef ecosystems;

3 “(B) improving compliance with laws that  
4 prohibit or regulate the taking of coral products  
5 or species associated with coral reefs or regulate  
6 the use and management of coral reef eco-  
7 systems;

8 “(C) designing and implementing networks  
9 of real-time water quality monitoring along  
10 coral reefs, including data collection related to  
11 turbidity, nutrient availability, harmful algal  
12 blooms, and plankton assemblages, with an em-  
13 phasis on coral reefs impacted by agriculture  
14 and urban development;

15 “(D) promoting ecologically sound naviga-  
16 tion and anchorages, including mooring buoy  
17 systems to promote enhanced recreational ac-  
18 cess, near coral reefs;

19 “(E) furthering the goals and objectives of  
20 coral reef action plans in effect under section  
21 205 and coral reef emergency plans in effect  
22 under section 209;

23 “(F) mapping the location and distribution  
24 of coral reefs and potential coral reef habitat;



1 “(G) stimulating innovation to advance the  
2 ability of the United States to understand, re-  
3 search, or monitor coral reef ecosystems, or to  
4 develop management or adaptation options to  
5 preserve, sustain, and restore coral reef eco-  
6 systems;

7 “(H) implementing research to ensure the  
8 population viability of listed coral species in  
9 United States waters as detailed in the popu-  
10 lation-based recovery criteria included in spe-  
11 cies-specific recovery plans consistent with the  
12 Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C.  
13 1531 et seq.);

14 “(I) developing and implementing cost-ef-  
15 fective methods to restore degraded coral reef  
16 ecosystems or to create geographically appro-  
17 priate coral reef ecosystems in suitable waters,  
18 including by improving habitat or promoting  
19 success of keystone species, with an emphasis  
20 on novel restoration strategies and techniques  
21 to advance coral reef recovery and growth near  
22 population centers threatened by rising sea lev-  
23 els and storm surge;

24 “(J) translating and applying coral genet-  
25 ics research to coral reef ecosystem restoration,

1 including research related to traits that pro-  
 2 mote resilience to increasing ocean tempera-  
 3 tures, ocean acidification, coral bleaching, coral  
 4 diseases, and invasive species;

5 “(K) developing and maintaining in situ  
 6 native coral propagation sites; or

7 “(L) developing and maintaining ex situ  
 8 coral propagation nurseries and land-based  
 9 coral gene banks to—

10 “(i) conserve or augment genetic di-  
 11 versity of native coral populations;

12 “(ii) support captive breeding of rare  
 13 coral species; or

14 “(iii) enhance resilience of native coral  
 15 populations to increasing ocean tempera-  
 16 tures, ocean acidification, coral bleaching,  
 17 and coral diseases through selective breed-  
 18 ing, conditioning, or other approaches that  
 19 target genes, gene expression, phenotypic  
 20 traits, or phenotypic plasticity.

21 “(f) FUNDING REQUIREMENTS.—To the extent prac-  
 22 ticable based upon proposals for coral reef projects sub-  
 23 mitted to the Administrator, the Administrator shall en-  
 24 sure that funding for grants awarded under this section  
 25 during a fiscal year is distributed as follows:

1           “(1) Not less than 40 percent of funds available  
2           shall be awarded for projects in the Pacific Ocean  
3           within the maritime areas and zones subject to the  
4           jurisdiction or control of the United States.

5           “(2) Not less than 40 percent of the funds  
6           available shall be awarded for projects in the Atlan-  
7           tic Ocean, the Gulf of Mexico, or the Caribbean Sea  
8           within the maritime areas and zones subject to the  
9           jurisdiction or control of the United States.

10           “(3) Not more than 67 percent of funds distrib-  
11           uted in each region in accordance with paragraphs  
12           (1) and (2) shall be made exclusively available to  
13           projects that are—

14                   “(A) submitted by a coral reef stewardship  
15                   partnership; and

16                   “(B) consistent with the coral reef action  
17                   plan in effect under section 205 by such a part-  
18                   nership.

19           “(4) Of the funds distributed to support  
20           projects in accordance with paragraph (3), not less  
21           than 20 percent and not more than 33 percent shall  
22           be awarded for projects submitted by a Federal coral  
23           reef stewardship partnership.

24           “(g) PROJECT REPORTING.—Each entity receiving a  
25           grant under this section shall submit to the Administrator

1 such reports at such times and containing such informa-  
 2 tion for evaluating project performance as the Adminis-  
 3 trator may require.

4 “(h) TASK FORCE.—The Administrator may consult  
 5 with the Secretary of the Interior and the Task Force to  
 6 obtain guidance in establishing priorities and evaluating  
 7 proposals for coral reef projects under this section.

8 “(i) UNEXPENDED AMOUNTS.—Any amounts avail-  
 9 able for grants under this section that are not expended  
 10 shall be transferred to the Coral Reef Stewardship Fund  
 11 under section 208(b).

12 **“SEC. 214. REPORTS ON ADMINISTRATION.**

13 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the  
 14 date of the enactment of the Restoring Resilient Reefs Act  
 15 of 2020, and every 2 years thereafter, the Administrator  
 16 shall submit to the committees specified in subsection (b)  
 17 a report on the administration of this title during the 2-  
 18 year period preceding submission of the report, includ-  
 19 ing—

20 “(1) a description of all activities undertaken to  
 21 implement the most recent national coral reef resil-  
 22 ience strategy under section 204A;

23 “(2) a statement of all funds obligated under  
 24 the authorities of this title; and

1           “(3) a summary, disaggregated by State, of  
 2       Federal and non-Federal contributions toward the  
 3       costs of each project or activity funded, in full or in  
 4       part, under the authorities of this title.

5       “(b) COMMITTEES SPECIFIED.—The committees  
 6 specified in this subsection are—

7           “(1) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and  
 8       Transportation and the Committee on Appropria-  
 9       tions of the Senate; and

10          “(2) the Committee on Natural Resources and  
 11       the Committee on Appropriations of the House of  
 12       Representatives.

13 **“SEC. 215. AUTHORITY TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENTS.**

14       “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator may enter  
 15 into and perform such contracts, leases, grants, or cooper-  
 16 ative agreements as may be necessary to carry out the  
 17 purposes of this title.

18       “(b) FUNDING.—

19           “(1) IN GENERAL.—Under an agreement en-  
 20 tered into under subsection (a), the Administrator  
 21 may reimburse or provide funds authorized to be ap-  
 22 propriated by section 216 to, and may receive funds  
 23 or reimbursements from, individuals and entities de-  
 24 scribed in paragraph (2) to carry out activities au-  
 25 thorized by this title.

1           “(2) INDIVIDUALS AND ENTITIES DE-  
 2       SCRIBED.—Individuals and entities described in this  
 3       paragraph are the following:

4           “(A) Federal agencies, instrumentalities,  
 5       and laboratories.

6           “(B) State and local governments.

7           “(C) Indian Tribes and Tribal organiza-  
 8       tions.

9           “(D) International organizations.

10          “(E) Foreign governments not subject to  
 11       economic sanctions imposed by the United  
 12       States.

13          “(F) Institutions of higher education, re-  
 14       search centers, and other educational institu-  
 15       tions.

16          “(G) Nonprofit organizations.

17          “(H) Commercial organizations.

18          “(I) Other public or private individuals or  
 19       entities.

20       “(c) COOPERATIVE INSTITUTES.—

21           “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall es-  
 22       tablish 2 cooperative institutes for the purpose of  
 23       advancing and sustaining essential capabilities in  
 24       coral reef research, to be known as the ‘Atlantic

1 Coral Reef Institute’ and the ‘Pacific Coral Reef In-  
2 stitute’.

3 “(2) MEMBERSHIP.—Each institute established  
4 under paragraph (1) shall be housed within a single  
5 coral reef research center designated by the Admin-  
6 istrator under paragraph (4) in the Atlantic and Pa-  
7 cific basins, respectively, and may contract with  
8 other coral reef research centers within the same  
9 basin to support each institute’s capacity and reach.

10 “(3) FUNCTIONS.—The institutes established  
11 under paragraph (1) shall—

12 “(A) conduct federally directed research to  
13 fill national and regional coral reef ecosystem  
14 research gaps and improve understanding of,  
15 and responses to, continuing and emerging  
16 threats to the resilience of United States coral  
17 reef ecosystems consistent with the national  
18 coral reef resilience strategy in effect under sec-  
19 tion 204A;

20 “(B) support ecological research and moni-  
21 toring to study the effects of conservation and  
22 restoration activities funded by this title on pro-  
23 moting more effective coral reef management  
24 and restoration; and

25 “(C) through agreements—

1 “(i) collaborate directly with govern-  
 2 mental resource management agencies,  
 3 coral reef stewardship partnerships, non-  
 4 profit organizations, and other coral reef  
 5 research centers designated under para-  
 6 graph (4);

7 “(ii) assist in the development and im-  
 8 plementation of—

9 “(I) the national coral reef resil-  
 10 ience strategy under section 204A;

11 “(II) coral reef action plans  
 12 under section 205; and

13 “(III) coral reef emergency plans  
 14 under section 209;

15 “(iii) build capacity within govern-  
 16 mental resource management agencies to  
 17 establish research priorities and translate  
 18 and apply research findings to manage-  
 19 ment and restoration practices; and

20 “(iv) conduct public education and  
 21 awareness programs for policymakers, re-  
 22 source managers, and the general public  
 23 on—

24 “(I) coral reefs and coral reef  
 25 ecosystems;



1 “(II) best practices for coral reef  
 2 ecosystem management and restora-  
 3 tion;

4 “(III) the value of coral reefs;  
 5 and

6 “(IV) the threats to the sustain-  
 7 ability of coral reef ecosystems.

8 “(4) CORAL REEF RESEARCH CENTERS.—

9 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator  
 10 shall periodically solicit applications and des-  
 11 ignate all qualifying institutions in a covered  
 12 State as coral reef research centers.

13 “(B) CRITERIA.—An institution qualifies  
 14 for designation as a coral reef research center  
 15 under subparagraph (A) if the Administrator  
 16 determines that the institution—

17 “(i) is operated by an institution of  
 18 higher education or nonprofit marine re-  
 19 search organization;

20 “(ii) has established management-  
 21 driven national or regional coral reef re-  
 22 search or restoration programs;

23 “(iii) has demonstrated abilities to co-  
 24 ordinate closely with appropriate Federal

1 and State agencies, as well as other aca-  
2 demic and nonprofit organizations; and

3 “(iv) maintains significant local com-  
4 munity engagement and outreach pro-  
5 grams related to coral reef ecosystems.

6 “(d) MULTIYEAR COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—The  
7 Administrator may enter into multiyear cooperative agree-  
8 ments with the heads of other Federal agencies, States,  
9 Indian Tribes or Tribal organizations, local governments,  
10 the coral reef cooperative institutes established under sub-  
11 section (c), and other institutions of higher education,  
12 nonprofit research organizations, and nongovernmental  
13 organizations to carry out activities authorized under this  
14 title.

15 “(e) USE OF RESOURCES OF OTHER AGENCIES.—  
16 The Administrator may use, with consent and with or  
17 without reimbursement, the land, services, equipment, per-  
18 sonnel, and facilities of any agency or instrumentality of—

19 “(1) the United States;

20 “(2) any State or local government;

21 “(3) any Indian Tribe; or

22 “(4) any foreign government not subject to eco-  
23 nomic sanctions imposed by the United States.

1 **“SEC. 216. CORAL REEF PRIZE COMPETITIONS.**

2       “(a) IN GENERAL.—The head of any Federal agency  
3 with a representative serving on the U.S. Coral Reef Task  
4 Force established by Executive Order 13089 (16 U.S.C.  
5 6401 note; relating to coral reef protection), may, individ-  
6 ually or in cooperation with one or more agencies, carry  
7 out a program to award prizes competitively under section  
8 24 of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of  
9 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3719).

10       “(b) PURPOSES.—Any program carried out under  
11 this section shall be for the purpose of stimulating innova-  
12 tion to advance the ability of the United States to under-  
13 stand, research, or monitor coral reef ecosystems, or to  
14 develop management or adaptation options to preserve,  
15 sustain, and restore coral reef ecosystems.

16       “(c) PRIORITY PROGRAMS.—Priority shall be given to  
17 establishing programs under this section that address  
18 communities, environments, or industries that are in dis-  
19 tress as a result of the decline or degradation of coral reef  
20 ecosystems, including—

21               “(1) scientific research and monitoring that  
22 furthers the understanding of causes behind coral  
23 reef decline and degradation and the generally slow  
24 recovery following disturbances, including ocean  
25 acidification and its impacts on coral reproduction;

1 “(2) the development of monitoring or manage-  
 2 ment options for communities or industries that are  
 3 experiencing significant financial hardship;

4 “(3) the development of adaptation options to  
 5 alleviate economic harm and job loss caused by dam-  
 6 age to coral reef ecosystems;

7 “(4) the development of measures to help vul-  
 8 nerable communities or industries, with an emphasis  
 9 on rural communities and businesses; and

10 “(5) the development of adaptation and man-  
 11 agement options for impacted tourism industries.

12 **“SEC. 217. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

13 “(a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be ap-  
 14 propriated to the Secretary to carry out this title the fol-  
 15 lowing amounts, which shall remain available until ex-  
 16 pended:

17 “(1) \$31,000,000 for fiscal year 2021.

18 “(2) \$32,500,000 for fiscal year 2022.

19 “(3) \$34,000,000 for fiscal year 2023.

20 “(4) \$35,500,000 for fiscal year 2024.

21 “(5) \$37,000,000 for fiscal year 2025.

22 “(b) ADMINISTRATION.—Of the amounts appro-  
 23 priated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations  
 24 under subsection (a), not more than the lesser of  
 25 \$1,500,000 or 10 percent may be used for program ad-

1 ministration or for overhead costs incurred by the Na-  
2 tional Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration or the De-  
3 partment of Commerce and assessed as an administrative  
4 charge.

5 “(c) CORAL REEF MANAGEMENT AND RESTORATION  
6 ACTIVITIES.—From the amounts authorized to be appro-  
7 priated under subsection (a), there shall be made available  
8 to the Secretary not less than the following amounts for  
9 authorized activities under sections 203 and 207:

10 “(1) \$23,000,000 for fiscal year 2021, of which  
11 not less than \$8,000,000 shall be made available to  
12 the Secretary for the provision State block grants  
13 under section 207.

14 “(2) \$24,500,000 for fiscal year 2022, of which  
15 not less than \$8,500,000 shall be made available to  
16 the Secretary for the provision State block grants  
17 under section 207.

18 “(3) \$26,000,000 for fiscal year 2023, of which  
19 not less than \$9,000,000 shall be made available to  
20 the Secretary for the provision State block grants  
21 under section 207.

22 “(4) \$27,500,000 for fiscal year 2024, of which  
23 not less than \$10,000,000 shall be made available to  
24 the Secretary for the provision State block grants  
25 under section 207.

1           “(5) \$29,000,000 for fiscal year 2025, of which  
 2           not less than \$11,000,000 shall be made available to  
 3           the Secretary for the provision State block grants  
 4           under section 207.

5           “(d) **FEDERALLY DIRECTED RESEARCH AND CORAL**  
 6 **REEF CONSERVATION PROGRAM GRANTS.**—From the  
 7 amounts authorized to be appropriated under subsection  
 8 (a), there shall be made available to the Secretary not less  
 9 than \$8,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2021 through  
 10 2025 to support purposes consistent with this title, of  
 11 which—

12           “(1) not less than \$3,500,000 shall be made  
 13           available for each such fiscal year for authorized ac-  
 14           tivities under section 213; and

15           “(2) not less than \$4,500,000 shall be made  
 16           available for each such fiscal year through coopera-  
 17           tive agreements with the cooperative institutes estab-  
 18           lished under section 215(c).

19 **“SEC. 218. DEFINITIONS.**

20           “In this title:

21           “(1) **ADMINISTRATOR.**—The term ‘Adminis-  
 22           trator’ means the Administrator of the National  
 23           Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

24           “(2) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-**  
 25           **TEES.**—The term ‘appropriate congressional com-

1        mittees’ means the Committee on Commerce,  
2        Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the  
3        Committee on Natural Resources of the House of  
4        Representatives.

5            “(3) CONSERVATION.—The term ‘conservation’  
6        means the use of methods and procedures necessary  
7        to preserve or sustain native corals and associated  
8        species as diverse, viable, and self-perpetuating coral  
9        reef ecosystems with minimal impacts from invasive  
10       species, including—

11            “(A) all activities associated with resource  
12        management, such as monitoring, assessment,  
13        protection, restoration, sustainable use, man-  
14        agement of habitat, and maintenance or aug-  
15        mentation of genetic diversity;

16            “(B) mapping;

17            “(C) scientific expertise and technical as-  
18        sistance in the development and implementation  
19        of management strategies for marine protected  
20        areas and marine resources consistent with the  
21        National Marine Sanctuaries Act (16 U.S.C.  
22        1431 et seq.) and the Magnuson-Stevens Fish-  
23        ery Conservation and Management Act (16  
24        U.S.C. 1801 et seq.);

25            “(D) law enforcement;

1 “(E) conflict resolution initiatives;

2 “(F) community outreach and education;

3 and

4 “(G) promotion of safe and ecologically  
5 sound navigation and anchoring.

6 “(4) CORAL.—The term ‘coral’ means species  
7 of the phylum Cnidaria, including—

8 “(A) all species of the orders Antipatharia  
9 (black corals), Scleractinia (stony corals),  
10 Alcyonacea (soft corals, organ pipe corals,  
11 gorgonians), and Helioporacea (blue coral), of  
12 the class Anthozoa; and

13 “(B) all species of the order Anthoathecata  
14 (fire corals and other hydrocorals) of the class  
15 Hydrozoa.

16 “(5) CORAL REEF.—The term ‘coral reef’  
17 means limestone structures in the form of a reef or  
18 shoal, composed in whole or in part by living coral,  
19 skeletal remains of coral, crustose coralline algae,  
20 and other associated sessile marine plants and ani-  
21 mals.

22 “(6) CORAL REEF ECOSYSTEM.—The term  
23 ‘coral reef ecosystem’ means—

24 “(A) corals and other geographically and  
25 ecologically associated marine communities of



1 other reef organisms (including reef plants and  
2 animals) associated with coral reef habitat; and

3 “(B) the biotic and abiotic factors and  
4 processes that control coral calcification rates,  
5 tissue growth, reproduction, recruitment, abun-  
6 dance, coral-algal symbiosis, and biodiversity in  
7 such habitat.

8 “(7) CORAL PRODUCTS.—The term ‘coral prod-  
9 ucts’ means any living or dead specimens, parts, or  
10 derivatives, or any product containing specimens,  
11 parts, or derivatives, of any species referred to in  
12 paragraph (4).

13 “(8) COVERED REEF MANAGER.—

14 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘covered  
15 reef manager’ means a management unit of a  
16 Federal agency specified in subparagraph (B)  
17 with jurisdiction over a coral reef ecosystem,  
18 covered State, or coral reef stewardship part-  
19 nership.

20 “(B) FEDERAL AGENCIES SPECIFIED.—A  
21 Federal agency specified in this subparagraph  
22 is one of the following:

23 “(i) The National Oceanic and Atmos-  
24 pheric Administration.

25 “(ii) The National Park Service.

1                   “(iii) The United States Fish and  
2                   Wildlife Service.

3                   “(iv) The Office of Insular Affairs.

4                   “(9) COVERED STATE.—The term ‘covered  
5                   State’ means Florida, Hawaii, and the territories of  
6                   American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the North-  
7                   ern Mariana Islands, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the  
8                   United States Virgin Islands.

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

13                  “(11) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—  
14                  The term ‘institution of higher education’ has the  
15                  meaning given that term in section 101 of the High-  
16                  er Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).

17                  “(12) INTERESTED STAKEHOLDER GROUPS.—  
18                  The term ‘interested stakeholder groups’ includes  
19                  community members such as businesses, commercial  
20                  and recreational fishermen, other recreationalists,  
21                  Federal, State, Tribal, and local government units  
22                  with related jurisdiction, institutions of higher edu-  
23                  cation, and nongovernmental organizations.

24                  “(13) NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION.—The term  
25                  ‘nonprofit organization’ means an organization that

1 is described in section 501(c) of the Internal Rev-  
2 enue Code of 1986 and exempt from tax under sec-  
3 tion 501(a) of such Code.

4 “(14) RESTORATION.—The term ‘restoration’  
5 means the use of methods and procedures necessary  
6 to enhance, rehabilitate, recreate, or create a func-  
7 tioning coral reef or coral reef ecosystem, in whole  
8 or in part, within suitable waters of the historical  
9 geographic range of such ecosystems, to provide eco-  
10 logical, economic, cultural, or coastal resiliency serv-  
11 ices associated with healthy coral reefs and benefit  
12 native populations of coral reef organisms.

13 “(15) RESILIENCE.—The term ‘resilience’  
14 means the capacity for corals within their native  
15 range, coral reefs, or coral reef ecosystems to recover  
16 from natural and human disturbances as determined  
17 by clearly identifiable, measurable, and science-based  
18 standards.

19 “(16) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’  
20 means the Secretary of Commerce.

21 “(17) STATE.—The term ‘State’ means—

22 “(A) any State of the United States that  
23 contains a coral reef ecosystem within its sea-  
24 ward boundaries;

1           “(B) American Samoa, the Commonwealth  
2           of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, Puerto  
3           Rico, or the United States Virgin Islands; or

4           “(C) any other territory or possession of  
5           the United States or separate sovereign in free  
6           association with the United States that contains  
7           a coral reef ecosystem within its seaward  
8           boundaries.

9           “(18) STEWARDSHIP.—The term ‘stewardship’,  
10          with respect to a coral reef, includes conservation,  
11          restoration, and public outreach and education.

12          “(19) TASK FORCE.—The term ‘Task Force’  
13          means the United States Coral Reef Task Force es-  
14          tablished under section 201 of the Restoring Resil-  
15          ient Reefs Act of 2020.

16          “(20) TRIBAL ORGANIZATION.—The term ‘Trib-  
17          al organization’ has the meaning given the term  
18          ‘tribal organization’ in section 3765 of title 38,  
19          United States Code.”.

20          (c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT TO NATIONAL  
21          OCEANS AND COASTAL SECURITY ACT.—Section 905(a)  
22          of the National Oceans and Coastal Security Act (16  
23          U.S.C. 7504(a)) is amended by striking “and coastal in-  
24          frastructure” and inserting “, coastal infrastructure, and

1 ecosystem services provided by natural systems such as  
2 coral reefs”.

3 **SEC. 102. MODIFICATION TO SECTION 204 OF THE CORAL**  
4 **REEF CONSERVATION ACT OF 2000 (16 U.S.C.**  
5 **6403).**

6 Section 204 of the Coral Reef Conservation Act of  
7 2000 (16 U.S.C. 6403) is amended—

8 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “this section”  
9 and inserting “section 213”;

10 (2) in subsection (b), by adding at the end the  
11 following:

12 “(3) SPECIAL RULE.—For purposes of para-  
13 graph (1), block grant funds awarded to the terri-  
14 tories of American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the  
15 Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, Puerto Rico, or  
16 the United States Virgin Islands under section 207  
17 shall qualify as the non-Federal share of project  
18 costs.”; and

19 (3) by striking subsections (c) through (j).

20 **TITLE II—UNITED STATES**  
21 **CORAL REEF TASK FORCE**

22 **SEC. 201. ESTABLISHMENT.**

23 There is established a task force to lead, coordinate,  
24 and strengthen Federal Government actions to better pre-  
25 serve, conserve, and restore coral reef ecosystems, to be

1 known as the “United States Coral Reef Task Force” (in  
2 this title referred to as the “Task Force”).

3 **SEC. 202. DUTIES.**

4 The duties of the Task Force shall be—

5 (1) to coordinate, in cooperation with State,  
6 Tribal, and local government partners, coral reef re-  
7 search centers designated under section 215(c) of  
8 the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000 (as amend-  
9 ed by section 101), and other nongovernmental and  
10 academic partners as appropriate, activities regard-  
11 ing the mapping, monitoring, research, conservation,  
12 mitigation, and restoration of coral reefs and coral  
13 reef ecosystems;

14 (2) to monitor and advise regarding implemen-  
15 tation of the policy and Federal agency responsibil-  
16 ities set forth in—

17 (A) Executive Order 13089 (63 Fed. Reg.  
18 32701; relating to coral reef protection); and

19 (B) the national coral reef resilience strat-  
20 egy developed under section 204A of the Coral  
21 Reef Conservation Act of 2000, as amended by  
22 section 101;

23 (3) to work with the Secretary of State and the  
24 Administrator of the United States Agency for

1 International Development, and in coordination with  
2 the other members of the Task Force—

3 (A) to assess the United States role in  
4 international trade and protection of coral spe-  
5 cies;

6 (B) to encourage implementation of appro-  
7 priate strategies and actions to promote con-  
8 servation and sustainable use of coral reef re-  
9 sources worldwide; and

10 (C) to collaborate with international com-  
11 munities successful in managing coral reefs;

12 (4) to provide technical assistance for the devel-  
13 opment and implementation, as appropriate, of—

14 (A) the national coral reef resilience strat-  
15 egy under section 204A of the Coral Reef Con-  
16 servation Act of 2000, as amended by section  
17 101;

18 (B) coral reef action plans under section  
19 205 of that Act; and

20 (C) coral reef emergency plans under sec-  
21 tion 209 of that Act; and

22 (5) to produce a report each year, for submis-  
23 sion to the appropriate congressional committees  
24 and publication on a publicly available internet  
25 website of the Task Force, highlighting the status of

1 the coral reef equities of a covered State on a rotat-  
2 ing basis, including—

3 (A) a summary of recent coral reef man-  
4 agement and restoration activities undertaken  
5 in that State; and

6 (B) updated estimates of the direct and in-  
7 direct economic activity supported by, and other  
8 benefits associated with, those coral reef equi-  
9 ties.

10 **SEC. 203. MEMBERSHIP.**

11 (a) VOTING MEMBERSHIP.—The Task Force shall  
12 have the following voting members:

13 (1) The Secretary of Commerce, acting through  
14 the Administrator of the National Oceanic and At-  
15 mospheric Administration, and the Secretary of the  
16 Interior, who shall be co-chairs of the Task Force.

17 (2) The Administrator of the United States  
18 Agency for International Development.

19 (3) The Secretary of Agriculture.

20 (4) The Secretary of Defense.

21 (5) The Secretary of the Army, acting through  
22 the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works.

23 (6) The Secretary of Homeland Security, acting  
24 through the Administrator of the Federal Emer-  
25 gency Management Agency.



1 (7) The Commandant of the Coast Guard.

2 (8) The Attorney General.

3 (9) The Secretary of State.

4 (10) The Secretary of Transportation.

5 (11) The Administrator of the Environmental  
6 Protection Agency.

7 (12) The Administrator of the National Aero-  
8 nautics and Space Administration.

9 (13) The Director of the National Science  
10 Foundation.

11 (14) The Governor, or a representative of the  
12 Governor, of each covered State.

13 (b) NONVOTING MEMBERS.—The Task Force shall  
14 have the following nonvoting members:

15 (1) A member of the South Atlantic Fishery  
16 Management Council who is designated by the Gov-  
17 ernor of Florida under section 302(b)(1) of the Mag-  
18 nuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Manage-  
19 ment Act (16 U.S.C. 1852(b)(1)).

20 (2) A member of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery  
21 Management Council who is designated by the Gov-  
22 ernor of Florida under such section.

23 (3) A member of the Western Pacific Fishery  
24 Management Council who is designated under such  
25 section and selected as follows:

1 (A) For the period beginning on the date  
 2 of the enactment of this Act and ending on De-  
 3 cember 31 of the calendar year during which  
 4 such date of enactment occurs, the member  
 5 shall be selected jointly by the governors of Ha-  
 6 waii, American Samoa, Guam, and the Com-  
 7 monwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

8 (B) For each calendar year thereafter, the  
 9 governors of Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam,  
 10 and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mar-  
 11 iana Islands shall, on a rotating basis, take  
 12 turns selecting the member.

13 (4) A member of the Caribbean Fishery Man-  
 14 agement Council who is designated under such sec-  
 15 tion and selected as follows:

16 (A) For the period beginning on the date  
 17 of the enactment of this Act and ending on De-  
 18 cember 31 of the calendar year during which  
 19 such date of enactment occurs, the member  
 20 shall be selected jointly by the governors of  
 21 Puerto Rico and the United States Virgin Is-  
 22 lands.

23 (B) For each calendar year thereafter, the  
 24 governors of Puerto Rico and the United States

1 Virgin Islands shall, on an alternating basis,  
2 take turns selecting the member.

3 (5) A member appointed by the President of  
4 the Federated States of Micronesia.

5 (6) A member appointed by the President of  
6 the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

7 (7) A member appointed by the President of  
8 the Republic of Palau.

9 **SEC. 204. RESPONSIBILITIES OF FEDERAL AGENCY MEM-**  
10 **BERS.**

11 (a) IN GENERAL.—A member of the Task Force  
12 specified in paragraphs (1) through (14) of section 203(a)  
13 shall—

14 (1) identify the actions of the agency that mem-  
15 ber represents that may affect coral reef ecosystems;

16 (2) utilize the programs and authorities of that  
17 agency to protect and enhance the conditions of such  
18 ecosystems, including through the promotion of basic  
19 and applied scientific research;

20 (3) collaborate with the Task Force to appro-  
21 priately reflect budgetary needs for coral reef con-  
22 servation and restoration activities in all agency  
23 budget planning and justification documents and  
24 processes; and

1           (4) engage in any other coordinated efforts ap-  
2           proved by the Task Force.

3           (b) CO-CHAIRS.—In addition to their responsibilities  
4           under subsection (a), the co-chairs of the Task Force shall  
5           administer performance of the functions of the Task Force  
6           and facilitate the coordination of the members of the Task  
7           Force specified in paragraphs (1) through (14) of section  
8           203(a).

9           **SEC. 205. WORKING GROUPS.**

10          (a) IN GENERAL.—The co-chairs of the Task Force  
11          may establish working groups as necessary to meet the  
12          goals and carry out the duties of the Task Force.

13          (b) REQUESTS FROM MEMBERS.—The members of  
14          the Task Force may request that the co-chairs establish  
15          a working group under subsection (a).

16          (c) PARTICIPATION BY NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANI-  
17          ZATIONS.—The co-chairs may allow nongovernmental or-  
18          ganizations as appropriate, including academic institu-  
19          tions, conservation groups, and commercial and rec-  
20          reational fishing associations, to participate in a working  
21          group established under subsection (a).

22          (d) NONAPPLICABILITY OF FEDERAL ADVISORY  
23          COMMITTEE ACT.—The Federal Advisory Committee Act  
24          (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to working groups estab-  
25          lished under this section.

1 **SEC. 206. DEFINITIONS.**

2 In this title:

3 (1) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-**  
 4 **TEES.**—The term “appropriate congressional com-  
 5 mittees” means the Committee on Commerce,  
 6 Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the  
 7 Committee on Natural Resources of the House of  
 8 Representatives.

9 (2) **CONSERVATION, CORAL, CORAL REEF,**  
 10 **ETC.**—The terms “conservation”, “coral”, “coral  
 11 reef”, “coral reef ecosystem”, “covered State”, “res-  
 12 toration”, “resilience”, and “State” have the mean-  
 13 ing given those terms in section 218 of the Coral  
 14 Reef Conservation Act of 2000, as amended by sec-  
 15 tion 101.

16 **TITLE III—DEPARTMENT OF THE**  
 17 **INTERIOR CORAL REEF AU-**  
 18 **THORITIES**

19 **SEC. 301. CORAL REEF CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION**  
 20 **ASSISTANCE.**

21 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of the Interior may  
 22 provide scientific expertise and technical assistance, and  
 23 subject to the availability of appropriations, financial as-  
 24 sistance for the conservation and restoration of coral reefs  
 25 consistent with all applicable laws governing resource

1 management in Federal, State, and Tribal waters, includ-  
2 ing—

3 (1) the national coral reef resilience strategy in  
4 effect under section 204A of the Coral Reef Con-  
5 servation Act of 2000, as amended by section 101;

6 (2) coral reef action plans in effect under sec-  
7 tion 205 of that Act, as applicable; and

8 (3) coral reef emergency plans in effect under  
9 section 209 of that Act, as applicable.

10 (b) OFFICE OF INSULAR AFFAIRS CORAL REEF INI-  
11 TIATIVE.—The Secretary may establish within the Office  
12 of Insular Affairs a Coral Reef Initiative Program—

13 (1) to provide grant funding to support local  
14 management, conservation, and protection of coral  
15 reef ecosystems in—

16 (A) insular areas of covered States; and

17 (B) Freely Associated States;

18 (2) to complement the other conservation and  
19 assistance activities conducted under this Act; and

20 (3) to provide other technical, scientific, and fi-  
21 nancial assistance and conduct conservation activi-  
22 ties that advance the purpose of this Act.

23 (c) CONSULTATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF  
24 COMMERCE.—The Secretary of the Interior may consult  
25 with the Secretary of Commerce regarding the conduct of

1 any activities to conserve and restore coral reefs and coral  
 2 reef ecosystems in waters managed under the jurisdiction  
 3 of the Federal agencies specified in paragraphs (2) and  
 4 (3) of section 203(c) of the Coral Reef Conservation Act  
 5 of 2000, as amended by section 101.

6 (d) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—Subject to the  
 7 availability of appropriations, the Secretary of the Interior  
 8 may enter into cooperative agreements with covered reef  
 9 managers to fund coral reef conservation and restoration  
 10 activities in waters managed under the jurisdiction of such  
 11 managers that—

12 (1) are consistent with the national coral reef  
 13 resilience strategy in effect under section 204A of  
 14 the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000, as amend-  
 15 ed by section 101; and

16 (2) support and enhance the success of—

17 (A) coral reef action plans in effect under  
 18 section 205 of that Act; and

19 (B) coral reef emergency plans in effect  
 20 under section 209 of that Act.

21 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the terms “con-  
 22 servation”, “coral reef”, “covered reef manager”, “covered  
 23 State”, “restoration”, and “State” have the meaning  
 24 given those terms in section 218 of the Coral Reef Con-  
 25 servation Act of 2000, as amended by section 101.

1 **TITLE IV—SUSAN L. WILLIAMS**  
 2 **NATIONAL CORAL REEF MAN-**  
 3 **AGEMENT FELLOWSHIP**

4 **SEC. 401. SHORT TITLE.**

5 This title may be cited as the “Susan L. Williams  
 6 National Coral Reef Management Fellowship Act of  
 7 2020”.

8 **SEC. 402. DEFINITIONS.**

9 In this title:

10 (1) FELLOW.—The term “fellow” means a Na-  
 11 tional Coral Reef Management Fellow.

12 (2) FELLOWSHIP.—The term “fellowship”  
 13 means the National Coral Reef Management Fellow-  
 14 ship established in section 403.

15 (3) INDIAN TRIBE; TRIBAL ORGANIZATION.—  
 16 The terms “Indian Tribe” and “Tribal organiza-  
 17 tion” have the meanings given those terms in section  
 18 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education  
 19 Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

20 (4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
 21 the Secretary of Commerce.

22 **SEC. 403. ESTABLISHMENT OF FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM.**

23 (a) IN GENERAL.—There is established a National  
 24 Coral Reef Management Fellowship Program.



1 (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the fellowship  
2 are—

3 (1) to encourage future leaders of the United  
4 States to develop additional coral reef management  
5 capacity in States and local communities with coral  
6 reefs;

7 (2) to provide management agencies of States,  
8 Tribal organizations, and Freely Associated States  
9 with highly qualified candidates whose education and  
10 work experience meet the specific needs of each  
11 State, Indian Tribe, and Freely Associated State;  
12 and

13 (3) to provide fellows with professional experi-  
14 ence in management of coastal and coral reef re-  
15 sources.

16 **SEC. 404. FELLOWSHIP AWARDS.**

17 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall award the fel-  
18 lowship in accordance with this section.

19 (b) TERM OF FELLOWSHIP.—A fellowship awarded  
20 under this section shall be for a term of not more than  
21 24 months.

22 (c) QUALIFICATIONS.—The Secretary shall award the  
23 fellowship to individuals who have demonstrated—

24 (1) an intent to pursue a career in marine serv-  
25 ices and outstanding potential for such a career;

1           (2) leadership potential, actual leadership expe-  
2           rience, or both;

3           (3) a college or graduate degree in biological  
4           science, experience that correlates with aptitude and  
5           interest for marine management, or both;

6           (4) proficient writing and speaking skills; and

7           (5) such other attributes as the Secretary con-  
8           siders appropriate.

9   **SEC. 405. MATCHING REQUIREMENT.**

10       (a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection  
11       (b), the non-Federal share of the costs of a fellowship  
12       under this section shall be 25 percent of such costs.

13       (b) WAIVER OF REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary  
14       may waive the application of subsection (a) if the Sec-  
15       retary finds that such waiver is necessary to support a  
16       project that the Secretary has identified as a high priority.

Passed the Senate December 21, 2020.

Attest:

*Secretary.*



116TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

**S. 2429**

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**AN ACT**

To reauthorize the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000 and to establish the United States Coral Reef Task Force, and for other purposes.