

Board composed of experts in relevant fields to—

- (1) advise the Administrator on priority areas for survey and discovery;
- (2) assist the program in the development of a five-year strategic plan for the fields of ocean, marine, and Great Lakes science, exploration, and discovery;
- (3) annually review the quality and effectiveness of the proposal review process established under section 103(4); and
- (4) provide other assistance and advice as requested by the Administrator.

(b) FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT.—Section 14 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to the Board appointed under subsection (a).

SEC. 105. APPLICATION WITH OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF LANDS ACT.

Nothing in this Act supersedes, or limits the authority of the Secretary of the Interior under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1331 et seq.).

SEC. 106. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to carry out this title—

- (1) \$30,500,000 for fiscal year 2008;
- (2) \$33,550,000 for fiscal year 2009;
- (3) \$36,905,000 for fiscal year 2010;
- (4) \$40,596,000 for fiscal year 2011;
- (5) \$44,655,000 for fiscal year 2012;
- (6) \$49,121,000 for fiscal year 2013; and
- (7) \$54,033,000 for fiscal year 2014.

TITLE II—UNDERSEA RESEARCH PROGRAM

SEC. 201. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “National Undersea Research Program Act of 2007”.

SEC. 202. AUTHORIZATION.

The Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shall conduct an undersea research, exploration, education, and technology development program and shall designate a Director of that program.

SEC. 203. PURPOSE.

The purpose of the program authorized under section 202 is to increase scientific knowledge essential for the informed management, use, and preservation of oceanic, marine, coastal, and Great Lakes resources. The Director, in carrying out the program authorized in section 202, shall cooperate with institutions of higher education and other educational marine and ocean science organizations, and shall make available undersea research facilities, equipment, technologies, information, and expertise to support undersea research efforts by these organizations. The Director may also enter into partnerships, using existing authorities, with the private sector to achieve the goals of the program and to promote technological advancement of the marine industry.

SEC. 204. PROGRAM.

The program authorized under section 202 shall be conducted through a national headquarters, a network of extramural regional undersea research centers that represent all relevant National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration regions, and the National Institute for Undersea Science and Technology. Overall direction of the program will be developed by the program director with a Council of Center Directors comprised of the directors of the extramural regional centers and the National Institute for Undersea Science and Technology. Draft program direction shall be published not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act. The draft program direction shall be published in the Federal Register for a public comment period of not less than 120 days. Final program direction with Agency responses to the comments received shall be

published in the Federal Register within 90 days after the close of the comment period. The program director shall update the program direction, with opportunity for public comment, at least every five years.

SEC. 205. REGIONAL CENTERS AND INSTITUTE.

(a) PROGRAMS.—The following research, exploration, education, and technology programs shall be conducted through the network of extramural regional centers and the National Institute for Undersea Science and Technology:

(1) Core research and exploration based on national and regional undersea research priorities.

(2) Advanced undersea technology development to support the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s research mission and programs.

(3) Development, testing, and transition of advanced undersea technology associated with ocean observatories, submersibles, advanced diving technologies, remotely operated vehicles, autonomous underwater vehicles, and new sampling and sensing technologies.

(4) Undersea science-based education and outreach programs to enrich ocean science education and public awareness of the oceans and Great Lakes.

(5) Discovery, study, and development of natural products from ocean and aquatic systems.

(b) OPERATIONS.—Operation of the extramural regional centers and the National Institute for Undersea Science and Technology shall leverage partnerships and cooperative research with academia and private industry.

SEC. 206. COMPETITION.

(a) DISCRETIONARY FUND.—The program shall allocate no more than 10 percent of its annual budget to a discretionary fund that may be used only for program administration and priority undersea research projects identified by the Director but not covered by funding available from centers.

(b) COMPETITIVE SELECTION.—The Administrator shall conduct an initial competition to select the regional centers that will participate in the program 90 days after the publication of the final program direction required in section 204 and every five years thereafter. Funding for projects conducted through the regional centers shall be awarded through a competitive, merit-reviewed process on the basis of their relevance to the goals of the program and their technical feasibility.

SEC. 207. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to carry out this title—

- (1) \$17,500,000 for fiscal year 2008;
- (2) \$19,500,000 for fiscal year 2009;
- (3) \$21,500,000 for fiscal year 2010;
- (4) \$23,500,000 for fiscal year 2011;
- (5) \$25,500,000 for fiscal year 2012;
- (6) \$27,500,000 for fiscal year 2013; and
- (7) \$29,500,000 for fiscal year 2014.

TITLE III—INTERAGENCY PLANNING AND COORDINATION

SEC. 301. OCEAN EXPLORATION AND UNDERSEA RESEARCH TECHNOLOGY AND INFRASTRUCTURE TASK FORCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, in coordination with the National Science Foundation, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the United States Geological Survey, the Department of the Navy, the Mineral Management Service, and relevant governmental, non-governmental, academic, industry, and other experts, shall convene an ocean exploration and undersea research technology and infrastructure task force to develop and implement a strategy—

(1) to facilitate transfer of new exploration and undersea research technology to the programs authorized under titles I and II of this Act;

(2) to improve availability of communications infrastructure, including satellite capabilities, to such programs;

(3) to develop an integrated, workable, and comprehensive data management information processing system that will make information on unique and significant features obtained by such programs available for research and management purposes;

(4) to conduct public outreach activities that improve the public understanding of ocean science, resources, and processes, in conjunction with relevant programs of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the National Science Foundation, and other agencies; and

(5) to encourage cost-sharing partnerships with governmental and nongovernmental entities that will assist in transferring exploration and undersea research technology and technical expertise to the programs.

(b) BUDGET COORDINATION.—The task force shall coordinate the development of agency budgets and identify the items in their annual budget that support the activities identified in the strategy developed under subsection (a).

Mr. BAIRD (during the reading). Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment be considered as read.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Washington?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the original request of the gentleman from Washington?

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, 5-minute voting will continue.

There was no objection.

NATIONAL OCEAN EXPLORATION PROGRAM ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1834, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LIPINSKI) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1834, as amended.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 352, nays 49, not voting 27, as follows:

[Roll No. 62]
YEAS—352

Abercrombie	Baca	Bean
Aderholt	Bachmann	Becerra
Akin	Bachus	Berkley
Alexander	Baird	Berman
Allen	Baldwin	Berry
Altmire	Barrow	Biggert
Andrews	Bartlett (MD)	Bilbray
Arcuri	Barton (TX)	Bilirakis

