

reef ecosystems or to create geographically appropriate coral reef ecosystems in suitable waters, including by improving habitat or promoting success of keystone species, with an emphasis on novel restoration strategies and techniques to advance coral reef recovery and growth near population centers threatened by rising sea levels and storm surge;

(J) translating and applying coral genetics research to coral reef ecosystem restoration, including research related to traits that promote resilience to increasing ocean temperatures, changing ocean chemistry, coral bleaching, coral diseases, and invasive species;

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

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

(i) conserve or augment genetic diversity of native coral populations;

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

(iii) enhance resilience of native coral populations to increasing ocean temperatures, changing ocean chemistry, coral bleaching, and coral diseases through selective breeding, conditioning, or other approaches that target genes, gene expression, phenotypic traits, or phenotypic plasticity.

**(g) Funding requirements**

To the extent practicable based upon proposals for coral reef projects submitted to the Administrator, the Administrator shall ensure that funding for grants awarded under this section during a fiscal year is distributed as follows:

(1) Not less than 40 percent of funds available shall be awarded for projects in areas of the Pacific Ocean subject to the jurisdiction or control of the United States.

(2) Not less than 40 percent of the funds available shall be awarded for projects in areas of the Atlantic Ocean, the Gulf of Mexico, or the Caribbean Sea subject to the jurisdiction or control of the United States.

(3) To the extent there are viable applications made by eligible coral reef stewardship partners, not more than 67 percent of funds distributed in each region in accordance with paragraphs (1) and (2) may be made exclusively available to projects that are—

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

(B) consistent with the coral reef action plan in effect under section 6404 of this title by such a partnership.

(4) Of the funds distributed to support projects in accordance with paragraph (3), not less than 20 percent and not more than 33 percent shall be awarded for projects submitted by a Federal coral reef stewardship partnership, to the extent there are viable applications made by eligible Federal coral reef stewardship partnerships.

**(h) Task Force**

The Administrator may consult with the Secretary of the Interior and the Task Force to ob-

tain guidance in establishing priorities and evaluating proposals for coral reef projects under this section.

(Pub. L. 106-562, title II, §211, as added Pub. L. 117-263, div. J, title C, §10001(a), Dec. 23, 2022, 136 Stat. 3941.)

**Editorial Notes**

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, referred to in subsecs. (c)(2)(B) and (e)(3)(A), is Pub. L. 94-265, Apr. 13, 1976, 90 Stat. 331, which is classified principally to chapter 38 (§1801 et seq.) of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 1801 of this title and Tables.

The Endangered Species Act of 1973, referred to in subsec. (f)(2)(H), is Pub. L. 93-205, Dec. 28, 1973, 87 Stat. 884, which is classified principally to chapter 35 (§1531 et seq.) of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 1531 of this title and Tables.

**§ 6411. Coral reef research**

**(a) Reef research coordination institutes**

**(1) Establishment**

The Administrator shall designate 2 reef research coordination institutes for the purpose of advancing and sustaining essential capabilities in coral reef research, one each in the Atlantic and Pacific basins, to be known as the “Atlantic Reef Research Coordination Institute” and the “Pacific Reef Research Coordination Institute”, respectively.

**(2) Membership**

Each institute designated under paragraph (1) shall be housed within a single coral reef research center designated by the Administrator under subsection (b).

**(3) Functions**

The institutes designated under paragraph (1) shall—

(A) conduct federally directed research to fill national and regional coral reef ecosystem research gaps and improve understanding of, and responses to, continuing and emerging threats to the resilience of United States coral reef ecosystems consistent with the National Coral Reef Resilience Strategy;

(B) support ecological research and monitoring to study the effects of conservation and restoration activities funded by this chapter on promoting more effective coral reef management and restoration; and

(C) through agreements—

(i) collaborate directly with States, covered Native entities, covered coral reef managers, nonprofit organizations, and other coral reef research centers designated under subsection (b);

(ii) assist in the development and implementation of—

(I) the National Coral Reef Resilience Strategy; and

(II) coral reef action plans under section 6404 of this title;

(iii) build capacity within non-Federal governmental resource management agen-

cies to establish research priorities and translate and apply research findings to management and restoration practices; and

(iv) conduct public education and awareness programs for policymakers, resource managers, and the general public on—

(I) coral reefs and coral reef ecosystems;

(II) best practices for coral reef ecosystem management and restoration;

(III) the value of coral reefs; and

(IV) the threats to the sustainability of coral reef ecosystems.

**(b) Coral reef research centers**

**(1) In general**

The Administrator shall—

(A) periodically solicit applications for designation of qualifying institutions in covered States as coral reef research centers; and

(B) designate all qualifying institutions in covered States as coral reef research centers.

**(2) Qualifying institutions**

For purposes of paragraph (1), an institution is a qualifying institution if the Administrator determines that the institution—

(A) is operated by an institution of higher education or nonprofit marine research organization;

(B) has established management-driven national or regional coral reef research or restoration programs;

(C) has demonstrated abilities to coordinate closely with appropriate Federal and State agencies, and other academic and nonprofit organizations; and

(D) maintains significant local community engagement and outreach programs related to coral reef ecosystems.

(Pub. L. 106-562, title II, § 212, as added Pub. L. 117-263, div. J, title C, § 10001(a), Dec. 23, 2022, 136 Stat. 3945.)

**§ 6412. Coral reef prize competitions**

**(a) In general**

Subject to the availability of appropriations, the head of any Federal agency with a representative serving on the United States Coral Reef Task Force established by section 6451 of this title, may, individually or in cooperation with one or more agencies, carry out a program to award prizes competitively under section 3719 of title 15.

**(b) Purposes**

Any program carried out under this section shall be for the purpose of stimulating innovation to advance the ability of the United States to understand, research, or monitor coral reef ecosystems, or to develop management or adaptation options to preserve, sustain, and restore coral reef ecosystems.

**(c) Priority programs**

Priority shall be given to establishing programs under this section that address communities, environments, or industries that are in

distress as a result of the decline or degradation of coral reef ecosystems, including—

(1) scientific research and monitoring that furthers the understanding of causes behind coral reef decline and degradation and the generally slow recovery following disturbances, including changing ocean chemistry, temperature-related bleaching, disease, and their associated impacts on coral physiology;

(2) the development of monitoring or management options for communities or industries that are experiencing significant financial hardship;

(3) the development of adaptation options to alleviate economic harm and job loss caused by damage to coral reef ecosystems;

(4) the development of measures to help vulnerable communities or industries, with an emphasis on rural communities and businesses; and

(5) the development of adaptation and management options for impacted tourism industries.

(Pub. L. 106-562, title II, § 213, as added Pub. L. 117-263, div. J, title C, § 10001(a), Dec. 23, 2022, 136 Stat. 3946.)

**§ 6413. Reports on administration**

**(a) In general**

Not later than 2 years after December 23, 2022, and every 2 years thereafter, the Administrator shall submit to the committees specified in subsection (b) a report on the administration of this chapter during the 2-year period preceding submission of the report, including—

(1) a description of all activities undertaken to implement the National Coral Reef Resilience Strategy;

(2) a statement of all funds obligated under the authorities of this chapter; and

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

**(b) Committees specified**

The committees specified in this subsection are—

(1) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, Committee on Environment and Public Works, Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Natural Resources and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(Pub. L. 106-562, title II, § 214, as added Pub. L. 117-263, div. J, title C, § 10001(a), Dec. 23, 2022, 136 Stat. 3947.)

**§ 6414. Authorization of appropriations**

**(a) In general**

There is authorized to be appropriated to the Administrator \$45,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2023 through 2027 to carry out this chapter which shall remain available until expended. Of such amounts, there is authorized to be appropriated for each such fiscal year—

(1) \$12,000,000 to carry out section 6406 of this title;