

“(4) Interdisciplinary cooperation and engagement among government agencies, research institutions, nongovernmental organizations, States, Indian Tribes, and the private sector are essential for successful stewardship of ocean and coastal environments, national economic growth, national security, and development of agile strategies that develop, promote, and use new technologies.

“(5) Ocean exploration can help the people of the United States understand how to be effective stewards of the ocean and serve as catalysts and enablers for other sectors of the economy.

“(6) Mapping, exploration, and characterization of the ocean provides basic, essential information to protect and restore the marine environment, stimulate economic activity, and provide security for the United States.

“(7) A robust national ocean exploration program engaging multiple Federal agencies, Indian Tribes, the private sector, nongovernmental organizations, and academia is—

“(A) essential to the interests of the United States and vital to its security and economy and the health and well-being of all people of the United States; and

“(B) critical to reestablish the United States at the forefront of global ocean exploration and stewardship.”

DEFINITIONS

Pub. L. 117–263, div. J, title CIII, §10302, Dec. 23, 2022, 136 Stat. 3966, provided that: “In this title [see Tables for classification]:

“(1) **CHARACTERIZATION.**—The term ‘characterization’ means activities that provide comprehensive data and interpretations for a specific area of interest of the sea floor, sub-bottom, water column, or hydrologic features, including water masses and currents, in direct support of specific research, environmental protection, resource management, policymaking, or applied mission objectives.

“(2) **EXPLORATION.**—The term ‘exploration’ means activities that provide—

“(A) a multidisciplinary view of an unknown or poorly understood area of the seafloor, sub-bottom, or water column; and

“(B) an initial assessment of the physical, chemical, geological, biological, archeological, or other characteristics of such an area.

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

“(4) **MAPPING.**—The term ‘mapping’ means activities that provide comprehensive data and information needed to understand seafloor characteristics, such as depth, topography, bottom type, sediment composition and distribution, underlying geologic structure, and benthic flora and fauna.”

SUBCHAPTER II—NOAA UNDERSEA RESEARCH PROGRAM

§§ 3421 to 3426. Repealed. Pub. L. 117–263, div. J, title CIII, § 10306(a), Dec. 23, 2022, 136 Stat. 3974

Section 3421, Pub. L. 111–11, title XII, §12102, Mar. 30, 2009, 123 Stat. 1419, related to establishment of an undersea research program.

Section 3422, Pub. L. 111–11, title XII, §12103, Mar. 30, 2009, 123 Stat. 1419, related to powers of program Director.

Section 3423, Pub. L. 111–11, title XII, §12104, Mar. 30, 2009, 123 Stat. 1419, related to administrative structure.

Section 3424, Pub. L. 111–11, title XII, §12105, Mar. 30, 2009, 123 Stat. 1420, related to research, exploration, education, and technology programs.

Section 3425, Pub. L. 111–11, title XII, §12106, Mar. 30, 2009, 123 Stat. 1420, related to competitive selection of regional centers.

Section 3426, Pub. L. 111–11, title XII, §12107, Mar. 30, 2009, 123 Stat. 1420, related to authorization of appropriations.

CHAPTER 48—OCEAN AND COASTAL MAPPING INTEGRATION

Sec.

3501. Establishment of program.

3502. Interagency Working Group on Ocean and Coastal Mapping.

3503. Biennial reports.

3504. NOAA joint ocean and coastal mapping centers.

3504a. Ocean and coastal mapping Federal funding opportunity.

3504b. Agreements and financial assistance.

3505. Effect on other laws.

3506. Authorization of appropriations.

3507. Definitions.

§ 3501. Establishment of program

(a) In general

The President, in coordination with the Interagency Working Group on Ocean and Coastal Mapping under section 3502 of this title and affected coastal states, shall establish and maintain a program to coordinate comprehensive Federal ocean and coastal mapping efforts for the Great Lakes and coastal state waters, the territorial sea, the exclusive economic zone, and the continental shelf of the United States that—

(1) enhances ecosystem approaches in decisionmaking for natural resource and habitat management restoration and conservation, emergency response, and coastal resilience and adaptation;

(2) establishes research and mapping priorities;

(3) supports the siting of research and other platforms; and

(4) advances ocean and coastal science.

(b) Program parameters

In maintaining such a program, the President, through the Working Group, shall—

(1) identify all Federal and federally-funded programs conducting shoreline delineation and ocean or coastal mapping, noting geographic coverage, frequency, spatial coverage, resolution, and subject matter focus of the data and location of data archives;

(2) facilitate cost-effective, cooperative mapping efforts that incorporate policies for contracting with non-governmental entities among all Federal agencies conducting ocean and coastal mapping and for leveraging existing Federal geospatial services capacities and contract vehicles for efficiencies, by increasing data sharing, developing appropriate data acquisition and metadata standards, and facilitating the interoperability of in situ data collection systems, data processing, archiving, and distribution of data products;

(3) facilitate the adaptation of existing technologies as well as foster expertise in new ocean and coastal mapping technologies, including through research, development, and training conducted among Federal agencies and in cooperation with non-governmental entities;

(4) develop standards and protocols for testing innovative experimental mapping tech-