

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 160

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

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 4, 2021

Mr. SOTO (for himself, Mr. CASE, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, Mr. MAST, and Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

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## A BILL

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,*

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

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the  
5 “Restoring Resilient Reefs Act of 2021”.

6 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for  
7 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.

1 **TITLE I—REAUTHORIZATION OF**  
 2 **CORAL REEF CONSERVATION**  
 3 **ACT OF 2000**

4 **SEC. 101. REAUTHORIZATION OF CORAL REEF CONSERVA-**  
 5 **TION ACT OF 2000.**

6 (a) PURPOSES; FEDERAL CORAL REEF MANAGE-  
 7 MENT AND RESTORATION ACTIVITIES.—The Coral Reef  
 8 Conservation Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 6401 et seq.) is  
 9 amended by striking sections 202 and 203 and inserting  
 10 the following:

11 **“SEC. 202. PURPOSES.**

12 “The purposes of this title are—

13 “(1) to preserve, sustain, and restore the condi-  
 14 tion of United States coral reef ecosystems chal-

1       lenged by natural and human-accelerated changes,  
2       including increasing ocean temperatures, ocean  
3       acidification, coral bleaching, coral diseases, water  
4       quality degradation, invasive species, and illegal, un-  
5       reported, and unregulated fishing;

6               “(2) to promote the science-based management  
7       and sustainable use of coral reef ecosystems to ben-  
8       efit local communities and the Nation, including  
9       through improved integration and cooperation  
10       among Federal, State, and locally managed jurisdic-  
11       tions with coral reef equities;

12              “(3) to develop sound scientific information on  
13       the condition of coral reef ecosystems, continuing  
14       and emerging threats to such ecosystems, and the  
15       efficacy of innovative tools, technologies, and strate-  
16       gies to mitigate stressors and restore such eco-  
17       systems, including evaluation criteria to determine  
18       the effectiveness of management interventions, and  
19       accurate mapping for coral reef restoration;

20              “(4) to assist in the preservation of coral reefs  
21       by supporting science-based, consensus-driven State,  
22       Tribal, and community-based coral reef manage-  
23       ment, including conservation and restoration  
24       projects that empower local communities, small busi-  
25       nesses, and nongovernmental organizations;

1           “(5) to provide financial resources, technical as-  
2           sistance, and scientific expertise to supplement and  
3           strengthen State and community-based management  
4           programs and conservation and restoration projects;

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

9           “(7) to support the rapid and effective, science-  
10          based assessment and response to emergencies that  
11          imminently threaten coral reefs, such as coral dis-  
12          ease outbreaks, invasive species, hurricanes, marine  
13          heat waves, coral bleaching, and other natural disas-  
14          ters, vessel groundings or chemical spills, and other  
15          exigent circumstances; and

16          “(8) to serve as a model for advancing similar  
17          international efforts to preserve, sustain, and restore  
18          coral reef ecosystems in the jurisdictions of United  
19          States allies and trading partners.

20 **“SEC. 203. FEDERAL CORAL REEF MANAGEMENT AND RES-**  
21 **TORATION ACTIVITIES.**

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

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

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

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

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

10          “(b) ACTIVITIES DESCRIBED.—Activities described  
11 in this subsection are activities to conserve, research, mon-  
12 itor, assess, and restore coral reefs and coral reef eco-  
13 systems in waters managed under the jurisdiction of a  
14 Federal agency specified in subsection (c) or in coordina-  
15 tion with a State in waters managed under the jurisdiction  
16 of such State, including—

17           “(1) developing, including through the collection  
18 of requisite data, high-quality and digitized maps re-  
19 flecting—

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

22           “(B) coral reef habitat quality data;

23           “(C) priority areas for coral reef conserva-  
24 tion to maintain biodiversity and ecosystem

1 structure and function that benefit coastal com-  
2 munities and living marine resources;

3 “(D) priority areas for coral reef restora-  
4 tion to enhance biodiversity and ecosystem  
5 structure and function to benefit coastal com-  
6 munities and living marine resources; and

7 “(E) areas of concern that may require en-  
8 hanced monitoring of coral health and cover;

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

11 “(A) the taking of coral products or spe-  
12 cies associated with coral reefs; or

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

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

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

21 “(5) restoring degraded coral reef ecosystems;

22 “(6) promoting ecologically sound navigation  
23 and anchorages, including mooring buoy systems to  
24 promote enhanced recreational access, near coral  
25 reefs;

1           “(7) monitoring and responding to severe  
2           bleaching or mortality events, disease outbreaks,  
3           invasive species outbreaks, and significant maritime  
4           accidents, including chemical spill cleanup and the  
5           removal of grounded vessels;

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

9           “(9) enhancing public awareness, under-  
10          standing, and appreciation of coral reefs and coral  
11          reef ecosystems;

12          “(10) preventing or minimizing the likelihood of  
13          vessel impacts or other physical damage to coral  
14          reefs through navigational aids and expansion of  
15          reef-safe anchorages; and

16          “(11) centrally archiving, managing, and dis-  
17          tributing data sets and coral reef ecosystem assess-  
18          ments and publishing such information on publicly  
19          available internet websites of—

20                 “(A) the Coral Reef Conservation Program  
21                 of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Ad-  
22                 ministration; and

23                 “(B) the Task Force.

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

1 “(1) The National Oceanic and Atmospheric  
2 Administration.

3 “(2) The National Park Service.

4 “(3) The United States Fish and Wildlife Serv-  
5 ice.

6 “(4) The Office of Insular Affairs.

7 “(d) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—

8 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability  
9 of appropriations and at the discretion of the Sec-  
10 retary of Commerce, the Administrator may enter  
11 into cooperative agreements with States to fund  
12 coral reef conservation and restoration activities in  
13 waters managed under the jurisdiction of such  
14 States that are consistent with the national coral  
15 reef resilience strategy in effect under section 204A.

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

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

23 **“SEC. 204A. NATIONAL CORAL REEF RESILIENCE STRAT-  
24 EGY.**

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



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

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

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

7           “(1) A discussion addressing—

8                   “(A) continuing and emerging threats to  
9 the resilience of United States coral reef eco-  
10 systems;

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

13                   “(C) the status of management coopera-  
14 tion and integration among Federal, State,  
15 Tribal, and locally managed jurisdictions with  
16 coral reef equities;

17                   “(D) the status of efforts to manage and  
18 disseminate critical information, and enhance  
19 interjurisdictional data sharing, related to re-  
20 search, reports, datasets, and maps;

21                   “(E) areas of special focus, which may in-  
22 clude—

23                           “(i) improving natural coral recruit-  
24 ment;

1           “(ii) preventing avoidable losses of  
2 corals and their habitat;

3           “(iii) enhancing the resilience of coral  
4 populations;

5           “(iv) supporting a resilience-based  
6 management approach;

7           “(v) developing, coordinating, and im-  
8 plementing watershed management plans;

9           “(vi) building and sustaining water-  
10 shed management capacity at the local  
11 level;

12           “(vii) providing data essential for  
13 coral reef fisheries management;

14           “(viii) building capacity for coral reef  
15 fisheries management;

16           “(ix) increasing understanding of  
17 coral reef ecosystem services;

18           “(x) educating the public on the im-  
19 portance of coral reefs, threats and solu-  
20 tions; and

21           “(xi) evaluating intervention efficacy;

22           “(F) the status of conservation efforts, in-  
23 cluding the use of marine protected areas to  
24 serve as replenishment zones developed con-  
25 sistent with local practices and traditions and

1 in cooperation with, and with respect for the  
2 scientific, technical, and management expertise  
3 and responsibilities of, State fish and wildlife  
4 management agencies; and

5 “(G) science-based adaptive management  
6 and restoration efforts.

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

9 “(A) future Federal coral reef management  
10 and restoration activities authorized under sec-  
11 tion 203;

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

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

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

18 “(A) coral reef action plans under section  
19 205; and

20 “(B) coral reef emergency plans under sec-  
21 tion 209.

22 “(c) CONSULTATIONS.—In developing all elements of  
23 the strategy required by subsection (a), the Administrator  
24 shall—

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

4           “(2) engage stakeholders, including coral reef  
5           stewardship partnerships, coral reef institutes and  
6           research centers described in section 215(e), and  
7           coral reef conservation grant awardees; and

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

10          “(d) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS; PUBLICATION.—

11         The Administrator shall—

12           “(1) submit the strategy required by subsection  
13           (a) and any revisions to the strategy to the appro-  
14           priate congressional committees; and

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

17                   “(A) the Coral Reef Conservation Program  
18                   of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Ad-  
19                   ministration; and

20                   “(B) the Task Force.

21          “(e) TRANSITION RULE.—On and after the date of  
22         the enactment of the Restoring Resilient Reefs Act of  
23         2021, the 2018 Coral Reef Conservation Program Stra-  
24         tegic Plan of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Ad-  
25         ministration shall be considered to be the national coral

1 reef resilience strategy in effect under this section until  
2 the earlier of—

3           “(1) September 30, 2033; or

4           “(2) the date on which the Administrator devel-  
5 ops a national coral reef resilience strategy under  
6 this section.

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

8           “(a) CORAL REEF ACTION PLANS.—Except as pro-  
9 vided in subsection (h), not later than 3 years after the  
10 date of the enactment of the Restoring Resilient Reefs Act  
11 of 2021, and not later than 2 years after the publication  
12 of a revised national coral reef resilience strategy under  
13 section 204A, each covered reef manager shall prepare and  
14 submit to the Task Force a coral reef action plan to guide  
15 management and restoration activities to be undertaken  
16 within the responsibilities and jurisdiction of the manager.

17           “(b) REQUIREMENTS.—A covered reef manager pre-  
18 paring a coral reef action plan under subsection (a)  
19 shall—

20           “(1) ensure that the plan is consistent with all  
21 elements of the national coral reef resilience strategy  
22 in effect; and

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

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

4           “(1) Short- and mid-term coral reef conserva-  
5 tion and restoration objectives within the applicable  
6 jurisdiction.

7           “(2) An updated adaptive management frame-  
8 work to inform research, monitoring, and assessment  
9 needs.

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

13          “(4) Tools, strategies, and partnerships nec-  
14 essary to identify, monitor, and redress pollution  
15 and water quality impacts to coral reef ecosystems  
16 within the applicable jurisdiction.

17          “(5) The status of efforts to improve coral reef  
18 ecosystem management cooperation and integration  
19 among neighboring Federal, State, Tribal, or locally  
20 managed jurisdictions, including the identification of  
21 existing research and monitoring activities that can  
22 be leveraged for coral reef status and trends assess-  
23 ments within the applicable jurisdiction.

24          “(6) An accounting of annual expenditures on  
25 coral reef management and restoration activities

1 within the applicable jurisdiction while the preceding  
2 action plan, if any, was in effect.

3 “(7) Estimated budgetary and resource consid-  
4 erations necessary to carry out the proposed action  
5 plan.

6 “(d) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Administrator  
7 and the Task Force shall make all reasonable efforts to  
8 provide technical assistance upon request by a covered reef  
9 manager developing a coral reef action plan under sub-  
10 section (a).

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

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

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

1           “(1) the Coral Reef Conservation Program of  
2           the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administra-  
3           tion; and

4           “(2) the Task Force.

5           “(h) **APPLICABILITY TO COVERED STATES AND**  
6 **CORAL REEF STEWARDSHIP PARTNERSHIPS.**—A covered  
7 State or non-Federal coral reef stewardship partnership  
8 is not required to develop a coral reef action plan under  
9 subsection (a), but may do so in its own discretion. In  
10 developing a coral reef action plan, a covered State or non-  
11 Federal coral reef stewardship partnership is encouraged,  
12 but not mandated, to comply with the requirements of this  
13 section.

14           “(i) **PLAN IN EFFECT.**—A coral reef action plan shall  
15 be deemed to be in effect if the plan was submitted to  
16 the Task Force under this section during the preceding  
17 6 years.

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

19           “(a) **CORAL REEF STEWARDSHIP PARTNERSHIPS.**—  
20 The Administrator shall establish standards for the forma-  
21 tion of partnerships among government and community  
22 members for the stewardship of coral reefs (in this title  
23 referred to as ‘coral reef stewardship partnerships’) in ac-  
24 cordance with this section, including guidance for prepara-



1 tion and submission of coral reef action plans under sec-  
2 tion 205.

3 “(b) IDENTIFICATION OF REEFS.—Each coral reef  
4 stewardship partnership shall identify with particularity  
5 the coral reef or ecologically significant component of a  
6 coral reef that will be the subject of its stewardship activi-  
7 ties.

8 “(c) MEMBERSHIP FOR FEDERAL REEFS.—A coral  
9 reef stewardship partnership that has identified, as the  
10 subject of its stewardship activities, a coral reef or eco-  
11 logically significant component of a coral reef that is fully  
12 or partially under the management jurisdiction of any  
13 Federal agency specified in section 203(c) shall, at a min-  
14 imum, include the following:

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

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

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

23 “(4) A nongovernmental organization.

1           “(5) Such other members as the partnership  
2           considers appropriate, such as interested stakeholder  
3           groups.

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

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

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

16                   “(B) A coral reef research center described  
17                   in section 215(c)(4) or another institution of  
18                   higher education.

19                   “(C) A nongovernmental organization.

20                   “(D) Such other members as the partner-  
21                   ship considers appropriate, such as interested  
22                   stakeholder groups.

23          “(2) ADDITIONAL MEMBERS.—

24                   “(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subpara-  
25                   graph (B), a coral reef stewardship partnership

1 described in paragraph (1) may also include  
2 representatives of one or more Federal agencies  
3 that have management responsibility in the reef  
4 that is the subject of the partnership’s steward-  
5 ship activities.

6 “(B) REQUESTS; APPROVAL.—A represent-  
7 ative of a Federal agency described in subpara-  
8 graph (A) may become a member of a coral reef  
9 stewardship partnership described in paragraph  
10 (1) if—

11 “(i) the representative submits a re-  
12 quest to become a member to the chair of  
13 the partnership referred to in paragraph  
14 (1)(A); and

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

16 “(e) NONAPPLICABILITY OF FEDERAL ADVISORY  
17 COMMITTEE ACT.—The Federal Advisory Committee Act  
18 (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to coral reef stewardship  
19 partnerships.

20 **“SEC. 207. STATE BLOCK GRANTS.**

21 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall provide  
22 block grants of financial assistance to covered States to  
23 support management and restoration activities and fur-  
24 ther the implementation of coral reef action plans in effect

1 under section 205 by covered States and non-Federal coral  
2 reef stewardship partnerships.

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

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

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

14 “(2) if the State is eligible under subsection  
15 (b)—

16 “(A) an amount that is equal to non-Fed-  
17 eral expenditures of up to \$3,000,000 on coral  
18 reef management and restoration activities  
19 within the jurisdiction of the State, as reported  
20 within the previous fiscal year; and

21 “(B) an additional amount, from any  
22 funds appropriated for block grants under this  
23 section that remain after distribution under  
24 subparagraph (A) and paragraph (1), based on  
25 the proportion of the State’s share of total non-

1 Federal expenditures on coral reef management  
2 and restoration activities, as reported within the  
3 previous fiscal year, in excess of \$3,000,000,  
4 relative to other covered States.

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

12 “(e) RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE ADMINISTRATOR.—  
13 The Administrator is responsible for—

14 “(1) providing guidance on qualifying non-Fed-  
15 eral expenditures and the proper documentation of  
16 such expenditures;

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

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

22 “(f) RESPONSIBILITIES OF COVERED STATES.—Each  
23 covered State is responsible for documenting non-Federal  
24 expenditures within the jurisdiction of the State and for-  
25 mally reporting those expenditures for review in response

1 to annual solicitations by the Administrator under sub-  
2 section (e).

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

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

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

11 “(a) AUTHORITY TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENTS.—  
12 The Administrator may enter into an agreement with the  
13 National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (in this section re-  
14 ferred to as the ‘Foundation’), authorizing the Foundation  
15 to receive, hold, and administer funds received under this  
16 section.

17 “(b) FUND.—The Foundation shall invest, reinvest,  
18 and otherwise administer the funds received under this  
19 section and maintain such funds and any interest or reve-  
20 nues earned in a separate interest-bearing account, to be  
21 known as the ‘Coral Reef Stewardship Fund’ (in this sec-  
22 tion referred to as the ‘Fund’, and known before the date  
23 of the enactment of the Restoring Resilient Reefs Act of  
24 2021 as the Coral Reef Conservation Fund administered  
25 through a public-private partnership with the Founda-

1 tion), established by the Foundation solely to support  
2 coral reef stewardship partnership activities that—

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

4 “(2) are consistent with—

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

7 “(B) coral reef action plans in effect, if  
8 any, under section 205 covering a coral reef or  
9 ecologically significant component of a coral  
10 reef to be impacted by such activities, if appli-  
11 cable.

12 “(c) AUTHORIZATION TO SOLICIT DONATIONS.—

13 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Pursuant to an agreement  
14 entered into under subsection (a), the Foundation  
15 may accept, receive, solicit, hold, administer, and use  
16 any gift (including, notwithstanding section 1342 of  
17 title 31, United States Code, donations of services)  
18 to further the purposes of this title.

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

23 “(3) NOTIFICATION REQUIRED.—Not later than  
24 30 days after funds are deposited in the Fund under  
25 paragraph (2), the Foundation shall notify the Com-

1       mittee on Appropriations of the Senate and the  
2       Committee on Appropriations of the House of Rep-  
3       resentatives of the source and amount of such funds.

4       “(d) REVIEW OF PERFORMANCE.—The Adminis-  
5       trator shall conduct a continuing review of all deposits  
6       into, and disbursements from, the Fund. Each review shall  
7       include a written assessment concerning the extent to  
8       which the Foundation has implemented the goals and re-  
9       quirements of—

10               “(1) this section; and

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

13       “(e) ADMINISTRATION.—Under an agreement en-  
14       tered into pursuant to subsection (a), and subject to the  
15       availability of appropriations, the Administrator may  
16       transfer funds appropriated to carry out this title to the  
17       Foundation. Amounts received by the Foundation under  
18       this subsection may be used for matching, in whole or in  
19       part, contributions (whether in money, services, or prop-  
20       erty) made to the Foundation by private persons, State  
21       or local government agencies, or Tribal organizations.

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

23       “(a) IN GENERAL.—A covered reef manager may de-  
24       velop and periodically update a plan (in this title referred  
25       to as a ‘coral reef emergency plan’) consistent with the



1 template described in section 204A(b)(3) to guide the  
2 rapid and effective response to circumstances that pose  
3 an urgent and immediate threat to the coral reef eco-  
4 systems within the manager’s responsibilities and jurisdic-  
5 tions, and consistent with any applicable coral reef action  
6 plan.

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

- 12 “(1) new and ongoing outbreaks of disease;  
13 “(2) new and ongoing outbreaks of invasive or  
14 nuisance species;  
15 “(3) new and ongoing coral bleaching events;  
16 “(4) natural disasters;  
17 “(5) man-made disasters, including vessel  
18 groundings, hazardous spills, or coastal construction  
19 accidents; and  
20 “(6) other exigent circumstances.

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

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

3           “(2) revised not less frequently than once every  
4           5 years.

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

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

10          “(2) A delineation of roles and responsibilities  
11          for executing the plan.

12          “(3) Evidence of engagement with interested  
13          stakeholder groups, as applicable, in the develop-  
14          ment of the plan.

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

17          “(e) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Administrator  
18          and the Task Force shall make all reasonable efforts to  
19          provide technical assistance upon request by a covered reef  
20          manager developing a coral reef emergency plan under  
21          subsection (a).

22          “(f) ADOPTION OF CORAL REEF EMERGENCY  
23          PLANS.—A covered reef manager may adopt a coral reef  
24          emergency plan developed by another covered reef man-

1 ager, in full or in part, as relevant to the adopting man-  
2 ager’s applicable jurisdiction.

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

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

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

14 “(2) the Task Force.

15 “(i) PLAN IN EFFECT.—A coral reef emergency plan  
16 shall be deemed to be in effect if the plan was submitted  
17 to the Task Force under this section during the preceding  
18 6 years.

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

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

25 “(b) USES.—Amounts in the Fund—

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

5           “(2) shall remain available until expended.

6           “(c) DEPOSITS INTO THE FUND.—Subject to the  
7           availability of appropriations, there shall be deposited into  
8           the Fund—

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

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

12          “(d) ACCEPTANCE OF DONATIONS.—

13          “(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of carrying  
14          out this title, the Secretary may accept, receive, so-  
15          licit, hold, administer, and use any gift (including,  
16          notwithstanding section 1342 of title 31, United  
17          States Code, donations of services).

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

22          **“SEC. 211. EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE.**

23          “(a) CORAL REEF EMERGENCY DECLARATIONS.—

24          “(1) SUA SPONTE DECLARATION.—

1           “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may  
2 determine and declare a coral reef emergency,  
3 including at the recommendation of the Sec-  
4 retary of the Interior.

5           “(B) REQUIREMENTS.—In declaring a  
6 coral reef emergency under subparagraph (A),  
7 the Secretary shall—

8                   “(i) certify that an emergency has oc-  
9 curred that is ecologically significant and  
10 harmful to coral reefs; and

11                   “(ii) submit to the appropriate con-  
12 gressional committees findings and anal-  
13 ysis to justify the declaration.

14           “(2) PETITIONS.—If a covered State or non-  
15 Federal coral reef stewardship partnership believes  
16 that a coral reef emergency has occurred, and is im-  
17 pacting coral reefs or ecologically significant compo-  
18 nents of coral reefs subject to the responsibilities or  
19 jurisdiction of the State or partnership, the State or  
20 partnership may petition the Secretary for a declara-  
21 tion of a coral reef emergency.

22           “(3) EVALUATION AND ACTION.—

23                   “(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30  
24 days after receiving a petition under paragraph

1           (2) (except as provided in subparagraph (B)),  
2           the Secretary shall—

3                   “(i) evaluate the petition to determine  
4                   whether a coral reef emergency has oc-  
5                   curred; and

6                   “(ii) declare a coral reef emergency or  
7                   deny the petition.

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

11                  “(4) APPEAL.—If the Secretary denies a peti-  
12                  tion for an emergency declaration submitted under  
13                  paragraph (2), the State or partnership that sub-  
14                  mitted the petition may, not later than 15 days after  
15                  receiving notice of the denial, appeal the denial to  
16                  the Secretary. Not later than 15 days after receiving  
17                  an appeal under this paragraph, the Secretary shall  
18                  grant or deny the appeal.

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

23                  “(6) RECOVERY OF EMERGENCY FUNDING.—  
24                  The Administrator may seek compensation from  
25                  negligent parties to recover emergency funds ex-

1       pended in excess of \$500,000 under this section as  
2       a result of an emergency declaration arising from di-  
3       rect impacts to coral reefs from man-made disasters  
4       or accidents.

5       “(b) GRANT AUTHORITY.—

6               “(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability  
7       of appropriations, upon the declaration of a coral  
8       reef emergency under subsection (a), the Secretary  
9       shall provide grants to carry out proposals that meet  
10      the requirements of paragraph (2) to implement  
11      coral reef emergency plans in effect under section  
12      209.

13              “(2) REQUIREMENTS.—A proposal for a grant  
14      under this subsection to implement a coral reef  
15      emergency plan in effect under section 209 shall in-  
16      clude—

17                      “(A) the name of the entity submitting the  
18                      proposal;

19                      “(B) a copy of the coral reef emergency  
20                      plan;

21                      “(C) a description of the qualifications of  
22                      the individuals and entities who will implement  
23                      the plan;

1           “(D) an estimate of the funds and time re-  
2           quired to complete the implementation of the  
3           plan; and

4           “(E) any other information the Secretary  
5           considers to be necessary for evaluating the eli-  
6           gibility of the proposal for a grant under this  
7           subsection.

8           “(3) REVIEW.—Not later than 30 days after re-  
9           ceiving a proposal for a grant under this subsection,  
10          the Secretary shall review the proposal and deter-  
11          mine if the proposal meets the requirements of para-  
12          graph (2).

13          “(4) CONCURRENT REVIEW.—An entity seeking  
14          a grant under this subsection may submit a proposal  
15          under paragraph (2) to the Secretary at any time  
16          following the submission of a petition for an emer-  
17          gency declaration under subsection (a)(2) that is ap-  
18          plicable to coral reefs or ecologically significant com-  
19          ponents of coral reefs subject to the responsibilities  
20          or jurisdiction of the entity.

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

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



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

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

5           “(3) the estimated cost of removal of the vessel,  
6 mitigation, or restoration relating to each such inci-  
7 dent;

8           “(4) the response actions taken by the owner of  
9 the vessel, the Administrator, the Commandant of  
10 the Coast Guard, or representatives of other Federal  
11 or State agencies;

12           “(5) the status of the response actions, includ-  
13 ing the dates of—

14                 “(A) vessel removal;

15                 “(B) mitigation or restoration activities,  
16 including whether a coral reef emergency plan  
17 was implemented; and

18                 “(C) any actions taken to prevent future  
19 grounding incidents; and

20           “(6) recommendations for additional naviga-  
21 tional aids or other mechanisms for preventing fu-  
22 ture grounding incidents.

1 **“SEC. 213. RUTH D. GATES CORAL REEF CONSERVATION**  
2 **GRANT PROGRAM.**

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

11 “(b) ELIGIBILITY.—

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

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

17 “(A) a natural resource management au-  
18 thority of a State or local government or Tribal  
19 organization—

20 “(i) with responsibility for coral reef  
21 management; or

22 “(ii) the activities of which directly or  
23 indirectly affect coral reefs or coral reef  
24 ecosystems;

25 “(B) a regional fishery management coun-  
26 cil established under the Magnuson-Stevens

1 Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16  
2 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.);

3 “(C) a coral reef stewardship partnership  
4 seeking to implement a coral reef action plan in  
5 effect under section 205;

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

8 “(E) another nongovernmental organiza-  
9 tion or research institution with demonstrated  
10 expertise in the conservation or restoration of  
11 coral reefs in practice or through significant  
12 contributions to the body of existing scientific  
13 research on coral reefs.

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

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

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

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

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

1           “(5) Evidence of support for the project by ap-  
2           propriate representatives of States or other govern-  
3           ment jurisdictions in which the project will be con-  
4           ducted.

5           “(6) Information regarding the source and  
6           amount of matching funding available to the appli-  
7           cant.

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

10          “(8) In the case of a proposal submitted by a  
11          coral reef stewardship partnership, a description of  
12          how the project aligns with the applicable coral reef  
13          action plan in effect under section 205.

14          “(9) Any other information the Administrator  
15          considers to be necessary for evaluating the eligi-  
16          bility of the project for a grant under this sub-  
17          section.

18          “(d) PROJECT REVIEW AND APPROVAL.—

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

23                 “(2) PRIORITIZATION OF CONSERVATION  
24                 PROJECTS.—The Administrator shall prioritize the  
25                 awarding of grants for projects that meet the cri-

1       teria for approval under subparagraphs (A) through  
2       (G) of subsection (e)(2) that are proposed to be con-  
3       ducted within priority areas identified for coral reef  
4       conservation by the Administrator and consistent  
5       with the national coral reef resilience strategy in ef-  
6       fect under section 204A.

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

16           “(4)   REVIEW;   APPROVAL   OR   DISAPPROVAL.—  
17      Not later than 180 days after receiving a proposal  
18      for a coral reef project under this section, the Ad-  
19      ministrator shall—

20                   “(A) request and consider written com-  
21                   ments on the proposal from each Federal agen-  
22                   cy, State government, Tribal organization, or  
23                   other government jurisdiction, including the rel-  
24                   evant regional fishery management councils es-  
25                   tablished under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery

1 Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C.  
2 1801 et seq.), or any National Marine Sanc-  
3 tuary or Marine National Monument, with ju-  
4 risdiction or management authority over coral  
5 reef ecosystems in the area where the project is  
6 to be conducted, including the extent to which  
7 the project is consistent with locally established  
8 priorities, unless such entities were directly in-  
9 volved in the development of the project pro-  
10 posal;

11 “(B) provide for the merit-based peer re-  
12 view of the proposal and require standardized  
13 documentation of that peer review;

14 “(C) after considering any written com-  
15 ments and recommendations based on the re-  
16 views under subparagraphs (A) and (B), ap-  
17 prove or disapprove the proposal; and

18 “(D) provide written notification of that  
19 approval or disapproval, with summaries of all  
20 written comments, recommendations, and peer-  
21 reviews, to the entity that submitted the pro-  
22 posal, and each of those States, Tribal organi-  
23 zations, and other government jurisdictions that  
24 provided comments under subparagraph (A).

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

4               “(1) is consistent with—

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

7                       “(B) any Federal or non-Federal coral reef  
8 action plans in effect under section 205 cov-  
9 ering a coral reef or ecologically significant  
10 component of a coral reef to be affected by the  
11 project; and

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

14                       “(A) addressing conflicts arising from the  
15 use of environments near coral reefs or from  
16 the use of corals, species associated with coral  
17 reefs, and coral products, including supporting  
18 consensus-driven, community-based planning  
19 and management initiatives for the protection  
20 of coral reef ecosystems;

21                       “(B) improving compliance with laws that  
22 prohibit or regulate the taking of coral products  
23 or species associated with coral reefs or regulate  
24 the use and management of coral reef eco-  
25 systems;

1           “(C) designing and implementing networks  
2 of real-time water quality monitoring along  
3 coral reefs, including data collection related to  
4 turbidity, nutrient availability, harmful algal  
5 blooms, and plankton assemblages, with an em-  
6 phasis on coral reefs impacted by agriculture  
7 and urban development;

8           “(D) promoting ecologically sound naviga-  
9 tion and anchorages, including mooring buoy  
10 systems to promote enhanced recreational ac-  
11 cess, near coral reefs;

12           “(E) furthering the goals and objectives of  
13 coral reef action plans in effect under section  
14 205 and coral reef emergency plans in effect  
15 under section 209;

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

18           “(G) stimulating innovation to advance the  
19 ability of the United States to understand, re-  
20 search, or monitor coral reef ecosystems, or to  
21 develop management or adaptation options to  
22 preserve, sustain, and restore coral reef eco-  
23 systems;

24           “(H) implementing research to ensure the  
25 population viability of listed coral species in



1 United States waters as detailed in the popu-  
2 lation-based recovery criteria included in spe-  
3 cies-specific recovery plans consistent with the  
4 Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C.  
5 1531 et seq.);

6 “(I) developing and implementing cost-ef-  
7 fective methods to restore degraded coral reef  
8 ecosystems or to create geographically appro-  
9 priate coral reef ecosystems in suitable waters,  
10 including by improving habitat or promoting  
11 success of keystone species, with an emphasis  
12 on novel restoration strategies and techniques  
13 to advance coral reef recovery and growth near  
14 population centers threatened by rising sea lev-  
15 els and storm surge;

16 “(J) translating and applying coral genet-  
17 ics research to coral reef ecosystem restoration,  
18 including research related to traits that pro-  
19 mote resilience to increasing ocean tempera-  
20 tures, ocean acidification, coral bleaching, coral  
21 diseases, and invasive species;

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

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

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

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

8           “(iii) enhance resilience of native coral  
9 populations to increasing ocean tempera-  
10 tures, ocean acidification, coral bleaching,  
11 and coral diseases through selective breed-  
12 ing, conditioning, or other approaches that  
13 target genes, gene expression, phenotypic  
14 traits, or phenotypic plasticity.

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

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

24           “(2) Not less than 40 percent of the funds  
25 available shall be awarded for projects in the Atlan-

1       tic Ocean, the Gulf of Mexico, or the Caribbean Sea  
2       within the maritime areas and zones subject to the  
3       jurisdiction or control of the United States.

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

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

10                      “(B) consistent with the coral reef action  
11       plan in effect under section 205 by such a part-  
12       nership.

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

18               “(g) PROJECT REPORTING.—Each entity receiving a  
19       grant under this section shall submit to the Administrator  
20       such reports at such times and containing such informa-  
21       tion for evaluating project performance as the Adminis-  
22       trator may require.

23               “(h) TASK FORCE.—The Administrator may consult  
24       with the Secretary of the Interior and the Task Force to

1 obtain guidance in establishing priorities and evaluating  
2 proposals for coral reef projects under this section.

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

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

8 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the  
9 date of the enactment of the Restoring Resilient Reefs Act  
10 of 2021, and every 2 years thereafter, the Administrator  
11 shall submit to the committees specified in subsection (b)  
12 a report on the administration of this title during the 2-  
13 year period preceding submission of the report, includ-  
14 ing—

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

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

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

24 “(b) COMMITTEES SPECIFIED.—The committees  
25 specified in this subsection are—

1           “(1) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and  
2           Transportation and the Committee on Appropria-  
3           tions of the Senate; and

4           “(2) the Committee on Natural Resources and  
5           the Committee on Appropriations of the House of  
6           Representatives.

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

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

12          “(b) FUNDING.—

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

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

23                         “(A) Federal agencies, instrumentalities,  
24                         and laboratories.

25                         “(B) State and local governments.

1           “(C) Indian Tribes and Tribal organiza-  
2           tions.

3           “(D) International organizations.

4           “(E) Foreign governments not subject to  
5           economic sanctions imposed by the United  
6           States.

7           “(F) Institutions of higher education, re-  
8           search centers, and other educational institu-  
9           tions.

10          “(G) Nonprofit organizations.

11          “(H) Commercial organizations.

12          “(I) Other public or private individuals or  
13          entities.

14          “(c) COOPERATIVE INSTITUTES.—

15           “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall es-  
16           tablish 2 cooperative institutes for the purpose of  
17           advancing and sustaining essential capabilities in  
18           coral reef research, to be known as the ‘Atlantic  
19           Coral Reef Institute’ and the ‘Pacific Coral Reef In-  
20           stitute’.

21           “(2) MEMBERSHIP.—Each institute established  
22           under paragraph (1) shall be housed within a single  
23           coral reef research center designated by the Admin-  
24           istrator under paragraph (4) in the Atlantic and Pa-  
25           cific basins, respectively, and may contract with

1 other coral reef research centers within the same  
2 basin to support each institute’s capacity and reach.

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

5 “(A) conduct federally directed research to  
6 fill national and regional coral reef ecosystem  
7 research gaps and improve understanding of,  
8 and responses to, continuing and emerging  
9 threats to the resilience of United States coral  
10 reef ecosystems consistent with the national  
11 coral reef resilience strategy in effect under sec-  
12 tion 204A;

13 “(B) support ecological research and moni-  
14 toring to study the effects of conservation and  
15 restoration activities funded by this title on pro-  
16 moting more effective coral reef management  
17 and restoration; and

18 “(C) through agreements—

19 “(i) collaborate directly with govern-  
20 mental resource management agencies,  
21 coral reef stewardship partnerships, non-  
22 profit organizations, and other coral reef  
23 research centers designated under para-  
24 graph (4);

1                   “(ii) assist in the development and im-  
2                   plementation of—

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

5                   “(II) coral reef action plans  
6                   under section 205; and

7                   “(III) coral reef emergency plans  
8                   under section 209;

9                   “(iii) build capacity within govern-  
10                  mental resource management agencies to  
11                  establish research priorities and translate  
12                  and apply research findings to manage-  
13                  ment and restoration practices; and

14                  “(iv) conduct public education and  
15                  awareness programs for policymakers, re-  
16                  source managers, and the general public  
17                  on—

18                  “(I) coral reefs and coral reef  
19                  ecosystems;

20                  “(II) best practices for coral reef  
21                  ecosystem management and restora-  
22                  tion;

23                  “(III) the value of coral reefs;  
24                  and



1                   “(IV) the threats to the sustain-  
2                   ability of coral reef ecosystems.

3                   “(4) CORAL REEF RESEARCH CENTERS.—

4                   “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator  
5                   shall periodically solicit applications and des-  
6                   ignate all qualifying institutions in a covered  
7                   State as coral reef research centers.

8                   “(B) CRITERIA.—An institution qualifies  
9                   for designation as a coral reef research center  
10                  under subparagraph (A) if the Administrator  
11                  determines that the institution—

12                   “(i) is operated by an institution of  
13                   higher education or nonprofit marine re-  
14                   search organization;

15                   “(ii) has established management-  
16                   driven national or regional coral reef re-  
17                   search or restoration programs;

18                   “(iii) has demonstrated abilities to co-  
19                   ordinate closely with appropriate Federal  
20                   and State agencies, as well as other aca-  
21                   demic and nonprofit organizations; and

22                   “(iv) maintains significant local com-  
23                   munity engagement and outreach pro-  
24                   grams related to coral reef ecosystems.

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

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

14                   “(1) the United States;

15                   “(2) any State or local government;

16                   “(3) any Indian Tribe; or

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

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

20           “(a) IN GENERAL.—The head of any Federal agency  
21 with a representative serving on the U.S. Coral Reef Task  
22 Force established by Executive Order 13089 (16 U.S.C.  
23 6401 note; relating to coral reef protection), may, individ-  
24 ually or in cooperation with one or more agencies, carry  
25 out a program to award prizes competitively under section

1 24 of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of  
2 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3719).

3 “(b) PURPOSES.—Any program carried out under  
4 this section shall be for the purpose of stimulating innova-  
5 tion to advance the ability of the United States to under-  
6 stand, research, or monitor coral reef ecosystems, or to  
7 develop management or adaptation options to preserve,  
8 sustain, and restore coral reef ecosystems.

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

14 “(1) scientific research and monitoring that  
15 furthers the understanding of causes behind coral  
16 reef decline and degradation and the generally slow  
17 recovery following disturbances, including ocean  
18 acidification and its impacts on coral reproduction;

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

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

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

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

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

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

11           “(1) \$31,000,000 for fiscal year 2021.

12           “(2) \$32,500,000 for fiscal year 2022.

13           “(3) \$34,000,000 for fiscal year 2023.

14           “(4) \$35,500,000 for fiscal year 2024.

15           “(5) \$37,000,000 for fiscal year 2025.

16          “(b) ADMINISTRATION.—Of the amounts appro-  
17          priated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations  
18          under subsection (a), not more than the lesser of  
19          \$1,500,000 or 10 percent may be used for program ad-  
20          ministration or for overhead costs incurred by the Na-  
21          tional Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration or the De-  
22          partment of Commerce and assessed as an administrative  
23          charge.

24          “(c) CORAL REEF MANAGEMENT AND RESTORATION  
25          ACTIVITIES.—From the amounts authorized to be appro-

1 priated under subsection (a), there shall be made available  
2 to the Secretary not less than the following amounts for  
3 authorized activities under sections 203 and 207:

4 “(1) \$23,000,000 for fiscal year 2021, of which  
5 not less than \$8,000,000 shall be made available to  
6 the Secretary for the provision State block grants  
7 under section 207.

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

12 “(3) \$26,000,000 for fiscal year 2023, of which  
13 not less than \$9,000,000 shall be made available to  
14 the Secretary for the provision State block grants  
15 under section 207.

16 “(4) \$27,500,000 for fiscal year 2024, of which  
17 not less than \$10,000,000 shall be made available to  
18 the Secretary for the provision State block grants  
19 under section 207.

20 “(5) \$29,000,000 for fiscal year 2025, of which  
21 not less than \$11,000,000 shall be made available to  
22 the Secretary for the provision State block grants  
23 under section 207.

24 “(d) FEDERALLY DIRECTED RESEARCH AND CORAL  
25 REEF CONSERVATION PROGRAM GRANTS.—From the

1 amounts authorized to be appropriated under subsection  
2 (a), there shall be made available to the Secretary not less  
3 than \$8,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2021 through  
4 2025 to support purposes consistent with this title, of  
5 which—

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

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

13 **“SEC. 218. DEFINITIONS.**

14 “In this title:

15 “(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term ‘Adminis-  
16 trator’ means the Administrator of the National  
17 Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

18 “(2) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-  
19 TEES.—The term ‘appropriate congressional com-  
20 mittees’ means the Committee on Commerce,  
21 Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the  
22 Committee on Natural Resources of the House of  
23 Representatives.

24 “(3) CONSERVATION.—The term ‘conservation’  
25 means the use of methods and procedures necessary

1 to preserve or sustain native corals and associated  
2 species as diverse, viable, and self-perpetuating coral  
3 reef ecosystems with minimal impacts from invasive  
4 species, including—

5 “(A) all activities associated with resource  
6 management, such as monitoring, assessment,  
7 protection, restoration, sustainable use, man-  
8 agement of habitat, and maintenance or aug-  
9 mentation of genetic diversity;

10 “(B) mapping;

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

19 “(D) law enforcement;

20 “(E) conflict resolution initiatives;

21 “(F) community outreach and education;

22 and

23 “(G) promotion of safe and ecologically  
24 sound navigation and anchoring.

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

3           “(A) all species of the orders Antipatharia  
4 (black corals), Scleractinia (stony corals),  
5 Aleyonacea (soft corals, organ pipe corals,  
6 gorgonians), and Helioporacea (blue coral), of  
7 the class Anthozoa; and

8           “(B) all species of the order Anthoathecata  
9 (fire corals and other hydrocorals) of the class  
10 Hydrozoa.

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

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

19           “(A) corals and other geographically and  
20 ecologically associated marine communities of  
21 other reef organisms (including reef plants and  
22 animals) associated with coral reef habitat; and

23           “(B) the biotic and abiotic factors and  
24 processes that control coral calcification rates,  
25 tissue growth, reproduction, recruitment, abun-



1 dance, coral-algal symbiosis, and biodiversity in  
2 such habitat.

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

8 “(8) COVERED REEF MANAGER.—

9 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘covered  
10 reef manager’ means a management unit of a  
11 Federal agency specified in subparagraph (B)  
12 with jurisdiction over a coral reef ecosystem,  
13 covered State, or coral reef stewardship part-  
14 nership.

15 “(B) FEDERAL AGENCIES SPECIFIED.—A  
16 Federal agency specified in this subparagraph  
17 is one of the following:

18 “(i) The National Oceanic and Atmos-  
19 pheric Administration.

20 “(ii) The National Park Service.

21 “(iii) The United States Fish and  
22 Wildlife Service.

23 “(iv) The Office of Insular Affairs.

24 “(9) COVERED STATE.—The term ‘covered  
25 State’ means Florida, Hawaii, and the territories of

1 American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the North-  
2 ern Mariana Islands, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the  
3 United States Virgin Islands.

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

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

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

19 “(13) NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION.—The term  
20 ‘nonprofit organization’ means an organization that  
21 is described in section 501(c) of the Internal Rev-  
22 enue Code of 1986 and exempt from tax under sec-  
23 tion 501(a) of such Code.

24 “(14) RESTORATION.—The term ‘restoration’  
25 means the use of methods and procedures necessary

1 to enhance, rehabilitate, recreate, or create a func-  
2 tioning coral reef or coral reef ecosystem, in whole  
3 or in part, within suitable waters of the historical  
4 geographic range of such ecosystems, to provide eco-  
5 logical, economic, cultural, or coastal resiliency serv-  
6 ices associated with healthy coral reefs and benefit  
7 native populations of coral reef organisms.

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

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

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

17 “(A) any State of the United States that  
18 contains a coral reef ecosystem within its sea-  
19 ward boundaries;

20 “(B) American Samoa, the Commonwealth  
21 of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, Puerto  
22 Rico, or the United States Virgin Islands; or

23 “(C) any other territory or possession of  
24 the United States or separate sovereign in free  
25 association with the United States that contains

1 a coral reef ecosystem within its seaward  
2 boundaries.

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

6 “(19) TASK FORCE.—The term ‘Task Force’  
7 means the United States Coral Reef Task Force es-  
8 tablished under section 201 of the Restoring Resil-  
9 ient Reefs Act of 2021.

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

14 (c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT TO NATIONAL  
15 OCEANS AND COASTAL SECURITY ACT.—Section 905(a)  
16 of the National Oceans and Coastal Security Act (16  
17 U.S.C. 7504(a)) is amended by striking “and coastal in-  
18 frastructure” and inserting “, coastal infrastructure, and  
19 ecosystem services provided by natural systems such as  
20 coral reefs”.

21 **SEC. 102. MODIFICATION TO SECTION 204 OF THE CORAL**  
22 **REEF CONSERVATION ACT OF 2000 (16 U.S.C.**  
23 **6403).**

24 Section 204 of the Coral Reef Conservation Act of  
25 2000 (16 U.S.C. 6403) is amended—

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

3 (2) in subsection (b), by adding at the end the  
4 following:

5 “(3) SPECIAL RULE.—For purposes of para-  
6 graph (1), block grant funds awarded to the terri-  
7 tories of American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the  
8 Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, Puerto Rico, or  
9 the United States Virgin Islands under section 207  
10 shall qualify as the non-Federal share of project  
11 costs.”; and

12 (3) by striking subsections (e) through (j).

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

15 **SEC. 201. ESTABLISHMENT.**

16 There is established a task force to lead, coordinate,  
17 and strengthen Federal Government actions to better pre-  
18 serve, conserve, and restore coral reef ecosystems, to be  
19 known as the “United States Coral Reef Task Force” (in  
20 this title referred to as the “Task Force”).

21 **SEC. 202. DUTIES.**

22 The duties of the Task Force shall be—

23 (1) to coordinate, in cooperation with State,  
24 Tribal, and local government partners, coral reef re-  
25 search centers designated under section 215(c) of

1 the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000 (as amend-  
2 ed by section 101), and other nongovernmental and  
3 academic partners as appropriate, activities regard-  
4 ing the mapping, monitoring, research, conservation,  
5 mitigation, and restoration of coral reefs and coral  
6 reef ecosystems;

7 (2) to monitor and advise regarding implemen-  
8 tation of the policy and Federal agency responsibil-  
9 ities set forth in—

10 (A) Executive Order 13089 (63 Fed. Reg.  
11 32701; relating to coral reef protection); and

12 (B) the national coral reef resilience strat-  
13 egy developed under section 204A of the Coral  
14 Reef Conservation Act of 2000, as amended by  
15 section 101;

16 (3) to work with the Secretary of State and the  
17 Administrator of the United States Agency for  
18 International Development, and in coordination with  
19 the other members of the Task Force—

20 (A) to assess the United States role in  
21 international trade and protection of coral spe-  
22 cies;

23 (B) to encourage implementation of appro-  
24 priate strategies and actions to promote con-

1           servation and sustainable use of coral reef re-  
2           sources worldwide; and

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

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

7           (A) the national coral reef resilience strat-  
8           egy under section 204A of the Coral Reef Con-  
9           servation Act of 2000, as amended by section  
10          101;

11          (B) coral reef action plans under section  
12          205 of that Act; and

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

15          (5) to produce a report each year, for submis-  
16          sion to the appropriate congressional committees  
17          and publication on a publicly available internet  
18          website of the Task Force, highlighting the status of  
19          the coral reef equities of a covered State on a rotat-  
20          ing basis, including—

21                 (A) a summary of recent coral reef man-  
22                 agement and restoration activities undertaken  
23                 in that State; and

24                 (B) updated estimates of the direct and in-  
25                 direct economic activity supported by, and other

1 benefits associated with, those coral reef equi-  
2 ties.

3 **SEC. 203. MEMBERSHIP.**

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

6 (1) The Secretary of Commerce, acting through  
7 the Administrator of the National Oceanic and At-  
8 mospheric Administration, and the Secretary of the  
9 Interior, who shall be co-chairs of the Task Force.

10 (2) The Administrator of the United States  
11 Agency for International Development.

12 (3) The Secretary of Agriculture.

13 (4) The Secretary of Defense.

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

16 (6) The Secretary of Homeland Security, acting  
17 through the Administrator of the Federal Emer-  
18 gency Management Agency.

19 (7) The Commandant of the Coast Guard.

20 (8) The Attorney General.

21 (9) The Secretary of State.

22 (10) The Secretary of Transportation.

23 (11) The Administrator of the Environmental  
24 Protection Agency.



1           (12) The Administrator of the National Aero-  
2           nautics and Space Administration.

3           (13) The Director of the National Science  
4           Foundation.

5           (14) The Governor, or a representative of the  
6           Governor, of each covered State.

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

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

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

17          (3) A member of the Western Pacific Fishery  
18          Management Council who is designated under such  
19          section and selected as follows:

20                 (A) For the period beginning on the date  
21                 of the enactment of this Act and ending on De-  
22                 cember 31 of the calendar year during which  
23                 such date of enactment occurs, the member  
24                 shall be selected jointly by the governors of Ha-

1 waii, American Samoa, Guam, and the Com-  
2 monwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

3 (B) For each calendar year thereafter, the  
4 governors of Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam,  
5 and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mar-  
6 iana Islands shall, on a rotating basis, take  
7 turns selecting the member.

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

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

18 (B) For each calendar year thereafter, the  
19 governors of Puerto Rico and the United States  
20 Virgin Islands shall, on an alternating basis,  
21 take turns selecting the member.

22 (5) A member appointed by the President of  
23 the Federated States of Micronesia.

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

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

3 **SEC. 204. RESPONSIBILITIES OF FEDERAL AGENCY MEM-**  
4 **BERS.**

5           (a) IN GENERAL.—A member of the Task Force  
6 specified in paragraphs (1) through (14) of section 203(a)  
7 shall—

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

10           (2) utilize the programs and authorities of that  
11           agency to protect and enhance the conditions of such  
12           ecosystems, including through the promotion of basic  
13           and applied scientific research;

14           (3) collaborate with the Task Force to appro-  
15           priately reflect budgetary needs for coral reef con-  
16           servation and restoration activities in all agency  
17           budget planning and justification documents and  
18           processes; and

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

21           (b) CO-CHAIRS.—In addition to their responsibilities  
22 under subsection (a), the co-chairs of the Task Force shall  
23 administer performance of the functions of the Task Force  
24 and facilitate the coordination of the members of the Task

1 Force specified in paragraphs (1) through (14) of section  
2 203(a).

3 **SEC. 205. WORKING GROUPS.**

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

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

10 (c) PARTICIPATION BY NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANI-  
11 ZATIONS.—The co-chairs may allow nongovernmental or-  
12 ganizations as appropriate, including academic institu-  
13 tions, conservation groups, and commercial and rec-  
14 reational fishing associations, to participate in a working  
15 group established under subsection (a).

16 (d) NONAPPLICABILITY OF FEDERAL ADVISORY  
17 COMMITTEE ACT.—The Federal Advisory Committee Act  
18 (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to working groups estab-  
19 lished under this section.

20 **SEC. 206. DEFINITIONS.**

21 In this title:

22 (1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-  
23 TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-  
24 mittees” means the Committee on Commerce,  
25 Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the

1 Committee on Natural Resources of the House of  
2 Representatives.

3 (2) CONSERVATION, CORAL, CORAL REEF,  
4 ETC.—The terms “conservation”, “coral”, “coral  
5 reef”, “coral reef ecosystem”, “covered State”, “res-  
6 toration”, “resilience”, and “State” have the mean-  
7 ing given those terms in section 218 of the Coral  
8 Reef Conservation Act of 2000, as amended by sec-  
9 tion 101.

10 **TITLE III—DEPARTMENT OF THE**  
11 **INTERIOR CORAL REEF AU-**  
12 **THORITIES**

13 **SEC. 301. CORAL REEF CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION**  
14 **ASSISTANCE.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior may  
16 provide scientific expertise and technical assistance, and  
17 subject to the availability of appropriations, financial as-  
18 sistance for the conservation and restoration of coral reefs  
19 consistent with all applicable laws governing resource  
20 management in Federal, State, and Tribal waters, includ-  
21 ing—

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

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

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

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

8           (1) to provide grant funding to support local  
9           management, conservation, and protection of coral  
10          reef ecosystems in—

11                   (A) insular areas of covered States; and

12                   (B) Freely Associated States;

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

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

18          (c) CONSULTATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF  
19          COMMERCE.—The Secretary of the Interior may consult  
20          with the Secretary of Commerce regarding the conduct of  
21          any activities to conserve and restore coral reefs and coral  
22          reef ecosystems in waters managed under the jurisdiction  
23          of the Federal agencies specified in paragraphs (2) and  
24          (3) of section 203(c) of the Coral Reef Conservation Act  
25          of 2000, as amended by section 101.

1 (d) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—Subject to the  
2 availability of appropriations, the Secretary of the Interior  
3 may enter into cooperative agreements with covered reef  
4 managers to fund coral reef conservation and restoration  
5 activities in waters managed under the jurisdiction of such  
6 managers that—

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

11 (2) support and enhance the success of—

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

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

16 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the terms “con-  
17 servation”, “coral reef”, “covered reef manager”, “covered  
18 State”, “restoration”, and “State” have the meaning  
19 given those terms in section 218 of the Coral Reef Con-  
20 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 2021”.

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.

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