

1 (A) \$10,100,000 for fiscal year 2023.

2 (B) \$10,202,000 for fiscal year 2024.

3 (C) \$10,306,040 for fiscal year 2025.

4 (D) \$10,412,160 for fiscal year 2026.

5 (E) \$10,520,404 for fiscal year 2027.

6 (2) DISTRIBUTION OF AMOUNTS.—Amounts
7 made available under this subsection shall be divided
8 evenly among the Regional Ocean Partnerships.

9 (3) TRIBAL GOVERNMENT PARTICIPATION.—
10 There is authorized to be appropriated to the Ad-
11 ministrator \$1,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2023
12 through 2027 to be distributed to Indian Tribes for
13 purposes of participation in or engagement with the
14 Regional Ocean Partnerships.

15 **TITLE CIII—NATIONAL OCEAN** 16 **EXPLORATION**

17 **SEC. 10301. FINDINGS.**

18 Congress makes the following findings:

19 (1) The health and resilience of the ocean are
20 vital to the security and economy of the United
21 States and to the lives of the people of the United
22 States.

23 (2) The United States depends on the ocean to
24 regulate weather and climate, to sustain and protect
25 the diversity of life, for maritime shipping, for na-

1 tional defense, and for food, energy, medicine, recre-
2 ation, and other services essential to the people of
3 the United States and all humankind.

4 (3) The prosperity, security, and well-being of
5 the United States depend on successful under-
6 standing and stewardship of the ocean.

7 (4) Interdisciplinary cooperation and engage-
8 ment among government agencies, research institu-
9 tions, nongovernmental organizations, States, Indian
10 Tribes, and the private sector are essential for suc-
11 cessful stewardship of ocean and coastal environ-
12 ments, national economic growth, national security,
13 and development of agile strategies that develop,
14 promote, and use new technologies.

15 (5) Ocean exploration can help the people of the
16 United States understand how to be effective stew-
17 ards of the ocean and serve as catalysts and enablers
18 for other sectors of the economy.

19 (6) Mapping, exploration, and characterization
20 of the ocean provides basic, essential information to
21 protect and restore the marine environment, stimu-
22 late economic activity, and provide security for the
23 United States.

24 (7) A robust national ocean exploration pro-
25 gram engaging multiple Federal agencies, Indian

1 Tribes, the private sector, nongovernmental organi-
2 zations, and academia is—

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

7 (B) critical to reestablish the United
8 States at the forefront of global ocean explo-
9 ration and stewardship.

10 **SEC. 10302. DEFINITIONS.**

11 In this title:

12 (1) CHARACTERIZATION.—The term “charac-
13 terization” means activities that provide comprehen-
14 sive data and interpretations for a specific area of
15 interest of the sea floor, sub-bottom, water column,
16 or hydrologic features, including water masses and
17 currents, in direct support of specific research, envi-
18 ronmental protection, resource management, policy-
19 making, or applied mission objectives.

20 (2) EXPLORATION.—The term “exploration”
21 means activities that provide—

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

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

4 (3) 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 (4) MAPPING.—The term “mapping” means ac-
9 tivities that provide comprehensive data and infor-
10 mation needed to understand seafloor characteris-
11 tics, such as depth, topography, bottom type, sedi-
12 ment composition and distribution, underlying geo-
13 logic structure, and benthic flora and fauna.

14 **SEC. 10303. OCEAN POLICY COMMITTEE.**

15 (a) SUBCOMMITTEES.—Section 8932(c) of title 10,
16 United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

17 “(c) SUBCOMMITTEES.—(1) The Committee shall in-
18 clude—

19 “(A) a subcommittee to be known as the ‘Ocean
20 Science and Technology Subcommittee’; and

21 “(B) a subcommittee to be known as the ‘Ocean
22 Resource Management Subcommittee’.

23 “(2) In discharging its responsibilities in support of
24 agreed-upon scientific needs, and to assist in the execution
25 of the responsibilities described in subsection (b), the

1 Committee may delegate responsibilities to the Ocean
2 Science and Technology Subcommittee, the Ocean Re-
3 source Management Subcommittee, or another sub-
4 committee of the Committee, as the Committee determines
5 appropriate.”.

6 (b) INCREASED ACCESS TO GEOSPATIAL DATA FOR
7 MORE EFFICIENT AND INFORMED DECISIONMAKING.—

8 (1) ESTABLISHMENT OF DOCUMENT SYSTEM.—

9 Section 8932(b) of title 10, United States Code, is
10 amended—

11 (A) in paragraph (3), by striking “and” at
12 the end;

13 (B) in paragraph (4)(F), by striking the
14 period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

15 (C) by adding at the end the following new
16 paragraph:

17 “(5) for projects under the purview of the Com-
18 mittee, establish or designate one or more systems
19 for ocean-related and ocean-mapping-related docu-
20 ments prepared under the National Environmental
21 Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), in ac-
22 cordance with subsection (h).”.

23 (2) ELEMENTS.—Section 8932 of such title is
24 amended—

1 (A) by redesignating subsection (h) as sub-
2 section (i); and

3 (B) by inserting after subsection (g) the
4 following new subsection (h):

5 “(h) ELEMENTS OF DOCUMENT SYSTEM.—The sys-
6 tems established or designated under subsection (b)(5)
7 may include the following:

8 “(1) A publicly accessible, centralized digital ar-
9 chive of documents described in subsection (b)(5)
10 that are finalized after the date of the enactment of
11 the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authoriza-
12 tion Act for Fiscal Year 2023, including—

13 “(A) environmental impact statements;

14 “(B) environmental assessments;

15 “(C) records of decision; and

16 “(D) other relevant documents as deter-
17 mined by the lead agency on a project.

18 “(2) Geospatially referenced data, if any, con-
19 tained in the documents under paragraph (1).

20 “(3) A mechanism to retrieve information
21 through geo-information tools that can map and in-
22 tegrate relevant geospatial information, such as—

23 “(A) Ocean Report Tools;

24 “(B) the Environmental Studies Program
25 Information System;

1 “(C) Regional Ocean Partnerships; and
2 “(D) the Integrated Ocean Observing Sys-
3 tem.
4 “(4) Appropriate safeguards on the public ac-
5 cessibility of data to protect national security equi-
6 ties.”.

7 **SEC. 10304. NATIONAL OCEAN MAPPING, EXPLORATION,**
8 **AND CHARACTERIZATION COUNCIL.**

9 (a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—The President shall establish
10 a council, to be known as the “National Ocean Mapping,
11 Exploration, and Characterization Council” (in this sec-
12 tion referred to as the “Council”).

13 (b) **PURPOSE.**—The Council shall—

14 (1) update national priorities for ocean map-
15 ping, exploration, and characterization; and

16 (2) coordinate and facilitate activities to ad-
17 vance those priorities.

18 (c) **REPORTING.**—The Council shall report to the
19 Ocean Science and Technology Subcommittee of the
20 Ocean Policy Committee established under section 8932(c)
21 of title 10, United States Code.

22 (d) **MEMBERSHIP.**—The Council shall be composed of
23 senior-level representatives from the appropriate Federal
24 agencies.

1 (e) CO-CHAIRS.—The Council shall be co-chaired
2 by—

3 (1) two senior-level representatives from the
4 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration;
5 and

6 (2) one senior-level representative from the De-
7 partment of the Interior.

8 (f) DUTIES.—The Council shall—

9 (1) set national ocean mapping, exploration,
10 and characterization priorities and strategies;

11 (2) cultivate and facilitate transparent and sus-
12 tained partnerships among Federal and State agen-
13 cies, Indian Tribes, private industry, academia, and
14 nongovernmental organizations to conduct ocean
15 mapping, exploration, and characterization activities
16 and related technology development;

17 (3) coordinate improved processes for data com-
18 pilation, management, access, synthesis, and visual-
19 ization with respect to ocean mapping, exploration,
20 and characterization, with a focus on building on ex-
21 isting ocean data management systems and with ap-
22 propriate safeguards on the public accessibility of
23 data to protect national security equities, as appro-
24 priate;

1 (4) encourage education, workforce training,
2 and public engagement activities that—

3 (A) advance interdisciplinary principles
4 that contribute to ocean mapping, exploration,
5 research, and characterization;

6 (B) improve public engagement with and
7 understanding of ocean science; and

8 (C) provide opportunities for underserved
9 populations;

10 (5) coordinate activities as appropriate with do-
11 mestic and international ocean mapping, exploration,
12 and characterization initiatives or programs; and

13 (6) establish and monitor metrics to track
14 progress in achieving the priorities set under para-
15 graph (1).

16 (g) INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP ON OCEAN EX-
17 PLORATION AND CHARACTERIZATION.—

18 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The President shall es-
19 tablish a new interagency working group to be
20 known as the “Interagency Working Group on
21 Ocean Exploration and Characterization”.

22 (2) MEMBERSHIP.—The Interagency Working
23 Group on Ocean Exploration and Characterization
24 shall be comprised of senior representatives from

1 Federal agencies with ocean exploration and charac-
2 terization responsibilities.

3 (3) FUNCTIONS.—The Interagency Working
4 Group on Ocean Exploration and Characterization
5 shall support the Council and the Ocean Science and
6 Technology Subcommittee of the Ocean Policy Com-
7 mittee established under section 8932(c) of title 10,
8 United States Code, on ocean exploration and char-
9 acterization activities and associated technology de-
10 velopment across the Federal Government, State
11 governments, Indian Tribes, private industry, non-
12 governmental organizations, and academia.

13 (h) OVERSIGHT.—The Council shall oversee—

14 (1) the Interagency Working Group on Ocean
15 Exploration and Characterization established under
16 subsection (g)(1); and

17 (2) the Interagency Working Group on Ocean
18 and Coastal Mapping under section 12203 of the
19 Ocean and Coastal Mapping Integration Act (33
20 U.S.C. 3502).

21 (i) PLAN.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after
23 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Council
24 shall develop or update and submit to the appro-
25 priate committees of Congress a plan for an inte-

1 grated cross-sectoral ocean mapping, exploration,
2 and characterization initiative.

3 (2) ELEMENTS.—The plan required by para-
4 graph (1) shall—

5 (A) discuss the utility and benefits of
6 ocean exploration and characterization;

7 (B) identify and describe national ocean
8 mapping, exploration, and characterization pri-
9 orities;

10 (C) identify and describe Federal and fed-
11 erally funded ocean mapping, exploration, and
12 characterization programs;

13 (D) facilitate and incorporate non-Federal
14 input into national ocean mapping, exploration,
15 and characterization priorities;

16 (E) ensure effective coordination of ocean
17 mapping, exploration, and characterization ac-
18 tivities among programs described in subpara-
19 graph (C);

20 (F) identify opportunities for combining
21 overlapping or complementary needs, activities,
22 and resources of Federal agencies and non-Fed-
23 eral organizations relating to ocean mapping,
24 exploration, and characterization while not re-

1 ducing benefits from existing mapping, explo-
2 rations, and characterization activities;

3 (G) promote new and existing partnerships
4 among Federal and State agencies, Indian
5 Tribes, private industry, academia, and non-
6 governmental organizations to conduct or sup-
7 port ocean mapping, exploration, and character-
8 ization activities and technology development
9 needs, including through coordination under
10 section 3 of the Commercial Engagement
11 Through Ocean Technology Act of 2018 (33
12 U.S.C. 4102) and the National Oceanographic
13 Partnership Program under section 8931 of
14 title 10, United States Code;

15 (H) develop a transparent and sustained
16 mechanism for non-Federal partnerships and
17 stakeholder engagement in strategic planning
18 and mission execution to be implemented not
19 later than December 31, 2023, for coordinating
20 such activities with—

21 (i) institutions of higher education (as
22 such term is defined in section 101(a) of
23 the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20
24 U.S.C. 1001(a)), the private sector, philan-
25 thropic organizations, and nonprofits; and

1 (ii) international partners for activi-
2 ties relating to maritime areas (including
3 the sea floor) beyond the jurisdiction of the
4 Federal Government;

5 (I) establish standardized collection and
6 data management protocols, including with re-
7 spect to metadata, for ocean mapping, explo-
8 ration, and characterization which—

9 (i) are publicly accessible and
10 locatable via appropriate Federal reposi-
11 tories;

12 (ii) can facilitate the integration of
13 ocean data into products and use innova-
14 tions from non-Federal partners; and

15 (iii) have appropriate safeguards on
16 the public accessibility of data to protect
17 national security;

18 (J) encourage the development, testing,
19 demonstration, and adoption of innovative
20 ocean mapping, exploration, and characteriza-
21 tion technologies and applications;

22 (K) promote protocols for accepting data,
23 equipment, approaches, or other resources that
24 support national ocean mapping, exploration,
25 and characterization priorities;

1 (L) identify best practices for the protec-
2 tion of marine life during mapping, exploration,
3 and characterization activities;

4 (M) identify training, technology, and
5 other resource requirements for enabling the
6 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administra-
7 tion and other appropriate Federal agencies to
8 support a coordinated national ocean mapping,
9 exploration, and characterization effort;

10 (N) identify and facilitate a centralized
11 mechanism or office for coordinating data col-
12 lection, compilation, processing, archiving, and
13 dissemination activities relating to ocean map-
14 ping, exploration, and characterization that
15 meets Federal mandates for data accuracy and
16 accessibility;

17 (O) designate repositories responsible for
18 archiving and managing ocean mapping, explo-
19 ration, and characterization data;

20 (P) set forth a timetable and estimated
21 costs for implementation and completion of the
22 plan;

23 (Q) to the extent practicable, align ocean
24 exploration and characterization efforts with ex-
25 isting programs and identify key gaps; and

1 (R) identify criteria for determining the
2 optimal frequency of observations; and

3 (S) provide recommendations, developed in
4 coordination with the private sector, to improve
5 incentives, access, and processes for the private
6 sector to share ocean-related data with the pub-
7 lic and Federal Government.

8 (j) BRIEFINGS.—Not later than 1 year after the date
9 of the enactment of this Act, and not less frequently than
10 once every 2 years thereafter, the Council shall brief the
11 appropriate committees of Congress on—

12 (1) progress made toward meeting the national
13 priorities described in subsection (i)(2)(B); and

14 (2) recommendations for meeting such prior-
15 ities, such as additional authorities that may be
16 needed to develop a mechanism for non-Federal
17 partnerships and stakeholder engagement described
18 in subsection (i)(2)(H).

19 (k) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DE-
20 FINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate commit-
21 tees of Congress” means—

22 (1) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and
23 Transportation and the Committee on Armed Serv-
24 ices of the Senate; and

1 (2) the Committee on Natural Resources, the
2 Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and
3 the Committee on Armed Services of the House of
4 Representatives.

5 **SEC. 10305. MODIFICATIONS TO THE OCEAN EXPLORATION**
6 **PROGRAM OF THE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND**
7 **ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION.**

8 (a) **PURPOSE.**—Section 12001 of the Omnibus Public
9 Land Management Act of 2009 (33 U.S.C. 3401) is
10 amended by striking “and the national undersea research
11 program”.

12 (b) **PROGRAM ESTABLISHED.**—Section 12002 of such
13 Act (33 U.S.C. 3402) is amended—

14 (1) in the first sentence, by striking “and un-
15 dersea”; and

16 (2) in the second sentence, by striking “and un-
17 dersea research and exploration” and inserting “re-
18 search and ocean exploration and characterization
19 efforts”.

20 (c) **POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE ADMINIS-**
21 **TRATOR.**—

22 (1) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 12003(a) of such
23 Act (33 U.S.C. 3403(a)) is amended—

24 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1),
25 by inserting “, in consultation with the Ocean

1 Policy Committee established under section
2 8932 of title 10, United States Code,” after
3 “Administration”;

4 (B) in paragraph (1)—

5 (i) by striking “voyages” and insert-
6 ing “expeditions”;

7 (ii) by striking “Federal agencies”
8 and all that follows through “and survey”
9 and inserting “Federal and State agencies,
10 Tribal Governments, private industry, aca-
11 demia (including secondary schools, com-
12 munity colleges, and universities), and non-
13 governmental organizations, to map, ex-
14 plore, and characterize”; and

15 (iii) by inserting “characterize,” after
16 “observe,”;

17 (C) in paragraph (2), by inserting “of the
18 exclusive economic zone” after “deep ocean re-
19 gions”;

20 (D) in paragraph (3), by striking “voy-
21 ages” and inserting “expeditions”;

22 (E) in paragraph (4), by striking “, in con-
23 sultation with the National Science Founda-
24 tion,”;

1 (F) by amending paragraph (5) to read as
2 follows:

3 “(5) support technological innovation of the
4 United States marine science community by pro-
5 moting the development and use of new and emerg-
6 ing technologies for research, communication, navi-
7 gation, and data collection, such as sensors and au-
8 tonomous vehicles;”;

9 (G) in paragraph (6), by inserting “, in
10 consultation with the National Ocean Mapping,
11 Exploration, and Characterization Council es-
12 tablished under section 5405 of the James M.
13 Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for
14 Fiscal Year 2023,” after “forum”;

15 (H) by adding at the end the following:

16 “(7) provide guidance, in consultation with the
17 National Ocean Mapping, Exploration, and Charac-
18 terization Council, to Federal and State agencies,
19 Tribal Governments, private industry, academia (in-
20 cluding secondary schools, community colleges, and
21 universities), and nongovernmental organizations on
22 data standards, protocols for accepting data, and co-
23 ordination of data collection, compilation, processing,
24 archiving, and dissemination for data relating to
25 ocean exploration and characterization; and

1 “(8) coordinate with applicable ocean mapping,
2 ocean monitoring, and ocean observation programs
3 to maximize coordination and collaboration opportu-
4 nities, prevent duplication of such activities and
5 identify gaps in data.”.

6 (2) DONATIONS.—Section 12003(b) of such Act
7 (33 U.S.C. 3403(b)) is amended to read as follows:

8 “(b) DONATIONS.—For the purpose of mapping, ex-
9 ploring, and characterizing the oceans or increasing the
10 knowledge of the oceans, the Administrator may—

11 “(1) accept monetary donations, which shall be
12 credited as discretionary offsetting collections to the
13 currently applicable appropriation, account, or fund
14 of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Adminis-
15 tration and shall be made available for such pur-
16 poses only to the extent and in the amounts provided
17 in advance in appropriations Acts;

18 “(2) accept donations of property, data, and
19 equipment; and

20 “(3) pay all necessary expenses in connection
21 with the conveyance or transfer of a gift, devise, or
22 bequest.”.

23 (3) DEFINITION OF EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC
24 ZONE.—Section 12003 of such Act (33 U.S.C. 3403)
25 is amended by adding at the end the following:

1 “(c) DEFINITION OF EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE.—
2 In this section, the term ‘exclusive economic zone’ means
3 the zone established by Presidential Proclamation Number
4 5030, dated March 10, 1983 (16 U.S.C. 1453 note).”.

5 (d) REPEAL OF OCEAN EXPLORATION AND UNDER-
6 SEA RESEARCH TECHNOLOGY AND INFRASTRUCTURE
7 TASK FORCE.—Section 12004 of such Act (33 U.S.C.
8 3404) is repealed.

9 (e) EDUCATION, WORKFORCE TRAINING, AND OUT-
10 REACH.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—Such Act is further amended
12 by inserting after section 12003 the following new
13 section 12004:

14 **“SEC. 12004. EDUCATION, WORKFORCE TRAINING, AND**
15 **OUTREACH.**

16 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the Na-
17 tional Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shall—

18 “(1) conduct education and outreach efforts in
19 order to broadly disseminate information to the pub-
20 lic on the discoveries made by the program under
21 section 12002;

22 “(2) to the extent possible, coordinate the ef-
23 forts described in paragraph (1) with the outreach
24 strategies of other domestic or international ocean

1 mapping, exploration, and characterization initia-
2 tives; and

3 “(3) establish a fellowship program at the Na-
4 tional Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to
5 provide year-long fellowships to undergraduate stu-
6 dents from institutions described in section 371(a)
7 of the Higher Education Act of 1965.

8 “(b) EDUCATION AND OUTREACH EFFORTS.—Ef-
9 forts described in subsection (a)(1) may include—

10 “(1) education of the general public, teachers,
11 students, and ocean and coastal resource managers;
12 and

13 “(2) workforce training, reskilling, and opportu-
14 nities to encourage development of ocean-related
15 science, technology, engineering, and mathematics
16 technical training programs involving secondary
17 schools, community colleges, and universities, includ-
18 ing institutions described in section 371(a) of the
19 Higher Education Act of 1965.

20 “(c) OUTREACH STRATEGY.—Not later than 180
21 days after the date of the enactment of the National
22 Ocean Exploration Act, the Administrator of the National
23 Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shall develop an
24 outreach strategy to broadly disseminate information on

1 the discoveries made by the program under section
2 12002.”.

3 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of con-
4 tents in section 1(b) of the Omnibus Public Land
5 Management Act of 2009 (Public Law 111–11; 123
6 Stat. 991) is amended by striking the item relating
7 to section 12004 and inserting the following:

“Sec. 12004. Education, workforce training, and outreach.”.

8 (f) OCEAN EXPLORATION ADVISORY BOARD.—

9 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Section 12005(a) of
10 such Act (33 U.S.C. 3505(a)) is amended—

11 (A) by inserting “, including representa-
12 tives from academic, commercial, nonprofit,
13 philanthropic, policy, and Tribal entities” after
14 “relevant fields”;

15 (B) by amending paragraph (1) to read as
16 follows:

17 “(1) to advise the Administrator on priority
18 areas for survey, discovery, and opportunities for ex-
19 tramural collaboration and partnerships;”;

20 (C) by redesignating paragraph (4) as
21 paragraph (6); and

22 (D) by inserting after paragraph (3) the
23 following:

24 “(4) to identify market barriers to development
25 or commercialization of novel ocean mapping, explo-

1 ration, and characterization products, processes, and
2 tools;

3 “(5) to identify best practices to improve data
4 management, processing, storage, and archiving
5 standards; and”.

6 (2) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—Section
7 12005(c) of such Act (33 U.S.C. 3505(c)) is amend-
8 ed by inserting “this” before “part”.

9 (g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section
10 12006 of such Act (33 U.S.C. 3406) is amended by strik-
11 ing “this part” and all that follows and inserting “this
12 part \$60,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2023 through
13 2028”.

14 (h) DEFINITIONS.—Such Act is further amended by
15 inserting after section 12006 the following:

16 **“SEC. 12007. DEFINITIONS.**

17 “In this part:

18 “(1) CHARACTERIZATION.—The terms ‘charac-
19 terization’, ‘characterize’, and ‘characterizing’ mean
20 activities that provide comprehensive data and inter-
21 pretations for a specific area of interest of the sea
22 floor, sub-bottom, water column, or hydrologic fea-
23 tures, such as water masses and currents, in direct
24 support of specific research, environmental protec-

1 tion, resource management, policymaking, or applied
2 mission objectives.

3 “(2) EXPLORATION.—The term ‘exploration’,
4 ‘explore’, and ‘exploring’ means activities that pro-
5 vide—

6 “(A) a multidisciplinary view of an un-
7 known or poorly understood area of the sea
8 floor, sub-bottom, or water column; and

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

12 “(3) MAPPING.—The terms ‘map’ and ‘map-
13 ping’ mean activities that provide comprehensive
14 data and information needed to understand sea floor
15 characteristics, including depth, topography, bottom
16 type, sediment composition and distribution, under-
17 lying geologic structure, and benthic flora and
18 fauna.”.

19 (i) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents
20 in section 1(b) of the Omnibus Public Land Management
21 Act of 2009 (Public Law 111–11; 123 Stat. 991) is
22 amended by inserting after the item relating to section
23 12006 the following:

“Sec. 12007. Definitions.”.

1 **SEC. 10306. REPEAL.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—The NOAA Undersea Research
3 Program Act of 2009 (part II of subtitle A of title XII
4 of Public Law 111–11; 33 U.S.C. 3421 et seq.) is re-
5 pealed.

6 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents
7 in section 1(b) of the Omnibus Public Land Management
8 Act of 2009 (Public Law 111–11; 123 Stat. 991) is
9 amended by striking the items relating to part II of sub-
10 title A of title XII of such Act.

11 **SEC. 10307. MODIFICATIONS TO OCEAN AND COASTAL MAP-**
12 **PING PROGRAM OF THE NATIONAL OCEANIC**
13 **AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION.**

14 (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 12202(a) of the
16 Ocean and Coastal Mapping Integration Act (33
17 U.S.C. 3501(a)) is amended—

18 (A) by striking “establish a program to de-
19 velop a coordinated and” and inserting “estab-
20 lish and maintain a program to coordinate”;

21 (B) by striking “plan” and inserting “ef-
22 forts”; and

23 (C) by striking “that enhances” and all
24 that follows and inserting “that—

25 “(1) enhances ecosystem approaches in deci-
26 sionmaking for natural resource and habitat man-

1 agement restoration and conservation, emergency re-
2 sponse, and coastal resilience and adaptation;

3 “ (2) establishes research and mapping prior-
4 ities;

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

7 “ (4) advances ocean and coastal science.”.

8 (2) MEMBERSHIP.—Section 12202 of such Act
9 (33 U.S.C. 3501) is amended by striking subsection
10 (b) and redesignating subsection (c) as subsection
11 (b).

12 (3) PROGRAM PARAMETERS.—Subsection (b) of
13 section 12202 of such Act (33 U.S.C. 3501), as re-
14 designated by paragraph (2), is amended—

15 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1),
16 by striking “developing” and inserting “main-
17 taining”;

18 (B) in paragraph (2), by inserting “and
19 for leveraging existing Federal geospatial serv-
20 ices capacities and contract vehicles for effi-
21 ciencies” after “coastal mapping”;

22 (C) in paragraph (7), by striking “with
23 coastal state and local government programs”
24 and inserting “with mapping programs, in con-
25 junction with Federal and State agencies, Trib-

1 al governments, private industry, academia, and
2 nongovernmental organizations”;

3 (D) in paragraph (8), by striking “of real-
4 time tide data and the development” and insert-
5 ing “of tide data and water-level data and the
6 development and dissemination”;

7 (E) in paragraph (9), by striking “; and”
8 and inserting a semicolon;

9 (F) in paragraph (10), by striking the pe-
10 riod at the end and inserting “; and”; and

11 (G) by adding at the end the following:

12 “(11) support—

13 “(A) the Ocean Science and Technology
14 Subcommittee of the Ocean Policy Committee
15 established under section 8932(e) of title 10,
16 United States Code; and

17 “(B) the National Ocean Mapping, Explo-
18 ration, and Characterization Council established
19 under section 5405 of the National Ocean Ex-
20 ploration Act.”.

21 (b) INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP ON OCEAN AND
22 COASTAL MAPPING.—

23 (1) NAME CHANGE.—The Ocean and Coastal
24 Mapping Integration Act (33 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.) is
25 amended—

1 (A) in section 12202 (33 U.S.C. 3501)—

2 (i) in subsection (a), by striking

3 “Interagency Committee on Ocean and

4 Coastal Mapping” and inserting “Inter-

5 agency Working Group on Ocean and

6 Coastal Mapping under section 12203”;

7 and

8 (ii) in subsection (b), as redesignated

9 by subsection (a)(2), by striking “Com-

10 mittee” and inserting “Working Group”;

11 (B) in section 12203 (33 U.S.C. 3502)—

12 (i) in the section heading, by striking

13 “**COMMITTEE**” and inserting “**WORKING**

14 **GROUP**”;

15 (ii) in subsection (b), in the first sen-

16 tence, by striking “committee” and insert-

17 ing “Working Group”;

18 (iii) in subsection (e), by striking

19 “committee” and inserting “Working

20 Group”; and

21 (iv) in subsection (f), by striking

22 “committee” and inserting “Working

23 Group”; and

24 (C) in section 12208 (33 U.S.C. 3507), by

25 amending paragraph (3) to read as follows:

1 “(3) WORKING GROUP.—The term ‘Working
2 Group’ means the Interagency Working Group on
3 Ocean and Coastal Mapping under section 12203.”.

4 (2) IN GENERAL.—Section 12203(a) of such
5 Act (33 U.S.C. 3502(a)) is amended by striking
6 “within 30 days” and all that follows and inserting
7 “not later than 30 days after the date of the enact-
8 ment of the National Ocean Exploration Act, shall
9 use the Interagency Working Group on Ocean and
10 Coastal Mapping in existence as of the date of the
11 enactment of such Act to implement section
12 12202.”.

13 (3) MEMBERSHIP.—Section 12203(b) of such
14 Act (33 U.S.C. 3502(b)) is amended—

15 (A) by striking “senior” both places it ap-
16 pears and inserting “senior-level”;

17 (B) by striking the second sentence;

18 (C) by striking “the Minerals Management
19 Service” and inserting “the Bureau of Ocean
20 Energy Management of the Department of the
21 Interior, the Office of the Assistant Secretary,
22 Fish and Wildlife and Parks of the Department
23 of the Interior”; and

1 (D) by striking “the Chief of Naval Oper-
2 ations” and inserting “the Department of the
3 Navy”.

4 (4) CO-CHAIRS.—Section 12203(c) of such Act
5 (33 U.S.C. 3502(c)) is amended to read as follows:

6 “(c) CO-CHAIRS.—The Working Group shall be co-
7 chaired by one representative from each of the following:

8 “(1) The National Oceanic and Atmospheric
9 Administration.

10 “(2) The Department of the Interior.”.

11 (5) SUBORDINATE GROUPS.—Section 12203(d)
12 of such Act (33 U.S.C. 3502(d)) is amended to read
13 as follows:

14 “(d) SUBORDINATE GROUPS.—The co-chairs may es-
15 tablish such permanent or temporary subordinate groups
16 as determined appropriate by the Working Group.”.

17 (6) MEETINGS.—Section 12203(e) of such Act
18 (33 U.S.C. 3502(e)) is amended by striking “each
19 subcommittee and each working group” and insert-
20 ing “each subordinate group”.

21 (7) COORDINATION.—Section 12203(f) of such
22 Act (33 U.S.C. 3502(f)) is amended by striking
23 paragraphs (1) through (5) and inserting the fol-
24 lowing:

25 “(1) other Federal efforts;

1 “(2) international mapping activities;

2 “(3) coastal States;

3 “(4) coastal Indian Tribes;

4 “(5) data acquisition and user groups through
5 workshops, partnerships, and other appropriate
6 mechanisms; and

7 “(6) representatives of nongovernmental enti-
8 ties.”.

9 (8) ADVISORY PANEL.—Section 12203 of such
10 Act (33 U.S.C. 3502) is amended by striking sub-
11 section (g).

12 (9) FUNCTIONS.—Section 12203 of such Act
13 (33 U.S.C. 3502), as amended by paragraph (8), is
14 further amended by adding at the end the following:

15 “(g) SUPPORT FUNCTIONS.—The Working Group
16 shall support the National Ocean Mapping, Exploration,
17 and Characterization Council established under section
18 5405 of the National Ocean Exploration Act and the
19 Ocean Science and Technology Subcommittee of the
20 Ocean Policy Committee established under section 8932(c)
21 of title 10, United States Code, on ocean mapping activi-
22 ties and associated technology development across the
23 Federal Government, State governments, coastal Indian
24 Tribes, private industry, nongovernmental organizations,
25 and academia.”.

1 (10) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of
2 contents in section 1(b) of the Omnibus Public Land
3 Management Act of 2009 (Public Law 111–11; 123
4 Stat. 991) is amended by striking the item relating
5 to section 12203 and inserting the following:

“Sec. 12203. Interagency working group on ocean and coastal mapping.”.

6 (c) BIENNIAL REPORTS.—Section 12204 of the
7 Ocean and Coastal Mapping Integration Act (33 U.S.C.
8 3503) is amended—

9 (1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by
10 striking “No later” and all that follows through
11 “House of Representatives” and inserting “Not later
12 than 18 months after the date of the enactment of
13 the National Ocean Exploration Act, and biennially
14 thereafter until 2040, the co-chairs of the Working
15 Group, in coordination with the National Ocean
16 Mapping, Exploration, and Characterization Council
17 established under section 5405 of such Act, shall
18 submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and
19 Transportation and the Committee on Energy and
20 Natural Resources of the Senate, and the Committee
21 on Natural Resources and the Committee on
22 Science, Space, and Technology of the House of
23 Representatives,”;

24 (2) in paragraph (1), by inserting “, including
25 the data maintained by the National Centers for En-

1 vironmental Information of the National Oceanic
2 and Atmospheric Administration,” after “mapping
3 data”;

4 (3) in paragraph (3), by inserting “, including
5 a plan to map the coasts of the United States on a
6 requirements-based cycle, with mapping agencies
7 and partners coordinating on a unified approach
8 that factors in recent related studies, meets multiple
9 user requirements, and identifies gaps” after “ac-
10 complished”;

11 (4) by striking paragraph (10) and redesignig-
12 nating paragraphs (11), (12), and (13) as para-
13 graphs (10), (11), and (12), respectively;

14 (5) in paragraph (10), as so redesignated, by
15 striking “with coastal State and local government
16 programs” and inserting “with international, coastal
17 State, and local government and nongovernmental
18 mapping programs”;

19 (6) in paragraph (11), as redesignated by para-
20 graph (4)—

21 (A) by striking “increase” and inserting
22 “streamline and expand”;

23 (B) by inserting “for the purpose of ful-
24 filling Federal mapping and charting respon-

1 sibilities, plans, and strategies” after “entities”;
2 and

3 (C) by striking “; and” and inserting a
4 semicolon;

5 (7) in paragraph (12), as redesignated by para-
6 graph (4), by striking the period at the end and in-
7 serting a semicolon; and

8 (8) by adding at the end the following:

9 “(13) a progress report on the development of
10 new and innovative technologies and applications
11 through research and development, including cooper-
12 ative or other agreements with joint or cooperative
13 research institutes and centers and other nongovern-
14 mental entities;

15 “(14) a description of best practices in data
16 processing and distribution and leveraging opportu-
17 nities among agencies represented on the Working
18 Group and with coastal States, coastal Indian
19 Tribes, and nongovernmental entities;

20 “(15) an identification of any training, tech-
21 nology, or other requirements for enabling Federal
22 mapping programs, vessels, and aircraft to support
23 a coordinated ocean and coastal mapping program;
24 and

1 “(16) a timetable for implementation and com-
2 pletion of the plan described in paragraph (3), in-
3 cluding recommendations for integrating new ap-
4 proaches into the program.”.

5 (d) **NOAA JOINT OCEAN AND COASTAL MAPPING**
6 **CENTERS.**—

7 (1) **CENTERS.**—Section 12205(c) of such Act
8 (33 U.S.C. 3504(c)) is amended—

9 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1),
10 by striking “3” and inserting “three”; and

11 (B) in paragraph (4), by inserting “and
12 uncrewed” after “sensing”.

13 (2) **PLAN.**—Section 12205 of such Act (33
14 U.S.C. 3504) is amended—

15 (A) in the section heading, by striking
16 “**PLAN**” and inserting “**NOAA JOINT OCEAN**
17 **AND COASTAL MAPPING CENTERS**”;

18 (B) by striking subsections (a), (b), and
19 (d); and

20 (C) in subsection (c), by striking “(c)
21 **NOAA JOINT OCEAN AND COASTAL MAPPING**
22 **CENTERS.**—”.

23 (3) **CLERICAL AMENDMENT.**—The table of con-
24 tents in section 1(b) of the Omnibus Public Land
25 Management Act of 2009 (Public Law 111–11; 123

1 Stat. 991) is amended by striking the item relating
2 to section 12205 and inserting the following:

“Sec. 12205. NOAA joint ocean and coastal mapping centers.”.

3 (e) OCEAN AND COASTAL MAPPING FEDERAL FUND-
4 ING OPPORTUNITY.—The Ocean and Coastal Mapping In-
5 tegration Act (33 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.) is amended—

6 (1) by redesignating sections 12206, 12207,
7 and 12208 as sections 12208, 12209, and 12210,
8 respectively; and

9 (2) by inserting after section 12205 the fol-
10 lowing:

11 **“SEC. 12206. OCEAN AND COASTAL MAPPING FEDERAL**
12 **FUNDING OPPORTUNITY.**

13 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the
14 date of the enactment of the National Ocean Exploration
15 Act, the Administrator shall develop an integrated ocean
16 and coastal mapping Federal funding match opportunity,
17 to be known as the ‘Brennan Ocean Mapping Fund’ in
18 memory of Rear Admiral Richard T. Brennan, within the
19 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration with
20 Federal, State, Tribal, local, nonprofit, private industry,
21 or academic partners in order to increase the coordinated
22 acquisition, processing, stewardship, and archival of new
23 ocean and coastal mapping data in United States waters.

24 “(b) RULES.—The Administrator shall develop ad-
25 ministrative and procedural rules for the ocean and coastal

1 mapping Federal funding match opportunity developed
2 under subsection (a), to include—

3 “(1) specific and detailed criteria that must be
4 addressed by an applicant, such as geographic over-
5 lap with preestablished priorities, number and type
6 of project partners, benefit to the applicant, coordi-
7 nation with other funding opportunities, and benefit
8 to the public;

9 “(2) determination of the appropriate funding
10 match amounts and mechanisms to use, such as
11 grants, agreements, or contracts; and

12 “(3) other funding award criteria as are nec-
13 essary or appropriate to ensure that evaluations of
14 proposals and decisions to award funding under this
15 section are based on objective standards applied fair-
16 ly and equitably to those proposals.

17 “(c) GEOSPATIAL SERVICES AND CONTRACT VEHI-
18 CLES.—The ocean and coastal mapping Federal funding
19 match opportunity developed under subsection (a) shall le-
20 verage Federal expertise and capacities for geospatial
21 services and Federal geospatial contract vehicles using the
22 private sector for acquisition efficiencies.

23 **“SEC. 12207. AGREEMENTS AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.**

24 “(a) AGREEMENTS.—Subject to the availability of ap-
25 propriations for such purpose, the head of a Federal agen-

1 cy that is represented on the Interagency Committee on
2 Ocean and Coastal Mapping may enter into agreements
3 with any other agency that is so represented to provide,
4 on a reimbursable or nonreimbursable basis, facilities,
5 equipment, services, personnel, and other support services
6 to carry out the purposes of this subtitle.

7 “(b) FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—The Administrator
8 may make financial assistance awards (grants of coopera-
9 tive agreements) to any State or subdivision thereof or any
10 public or private organization or individual to carry out
11 the purposes of this subtitle.”.

12 (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section
13 12209 of such Act, as redesignated by subsection (e)(1),
14 is amended—

15 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “this subtitle”
16 and all that follows and inserting “this subtitle
17 \$45,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2023 through
18 2028.”;

19 (2) in subsection (b), by striking “this subtitle”
20 and all that follows and inserting “this subtitle
21 \$15,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2023 through
22 2028.”;

23 (3) by striking subsection (c); and

24 (4) by inserting after subsection (b) the fol-
25 lowing:

1 “(c) OCEAN AND COASTAL MAPPING FEDERAL
2 FUNDING OPPORTUNITY.—Of amounts authorized pursu-
3 ant to subsection (a), \$20,000,000 is authorized to carry
4 out section 12206.”.

5 (g) DEFINITIONS.—

6 (1) OCEAN AND COASTAL MAPPING.—Para-
7 graph (5) of section 12210 of such Act, as redesign-
8 nated by subsection (e)(1), is amended by striking
9 “processing, and management” and inserting “proc-
10 essing, management, maintenance, interpretation,
11 certification, and dissemination”.

12 (2) COASTAL INDIAN TRIBE.—Section 12210 of
13 such Act, as redesignated by subsection (e)(1), is
14 amended by adding at the end the following:

15 “(9) COASTAL INDIAN TRIBE.—The term
16 ‘coastal Indian Tribe’ means an ‘Indian Tribe’, as
17 defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination
18 and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304), the
19 land of which is located in a coastal State.”.

20 (h) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—The table of contents
21 in section 1(b) of the Omnibus Public Land Management
22 Act of 2009 (Public Law 111–11; 123 Stat. 991) is
23 amended by striking the items relating to sections 12206
24 through 12208 and inserting the following:

“Sec. 12206. Ocean and coastal mapping Federal funding opportunity.

“Sec. 12207. Cooperative agreements, contracts, and grants.

“Sec. 12208. Effect on other laws.

“Sec. 12209. Authorization of appropriations.
“Sec. 12210. Definitions.”.

1 **SEC. 10308. MODIFICATIONS TO HYDROGRAPHIC SERVICES**
2 **IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 1998.**

3 (a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 302(4)(A) of the Hydro-
4 graphic Services Improvement Act of 1998 (33 U.S.C.
5 892(4)(A)) is amended by inserting “hydrodynamic fore-
6 cast and datum transformation models,” after “nautical
7 information databases,”.

8 (b) FUNCTIONS OF THE ADMINISTRATOR.—Section
9 303(b) of such Act (33 U.S.C. 892a(b)) is amended—

10 (1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by
11 inserting “precision navigation,” after “promote”;
12 and

13 (2) in paragraph (2)—

14 (A) by inserting “and hydrodynamic fore-
15 cast models” after “monitoring systems”;

16 (B) by inserting “and provide foundational
17 information and services required to support
18 coastal resilience planning for coastal transpor-
19 tation and other infrastructure, coastal protec-
20 tion and restoration projects, and related activi-
21 ties” after “efficiency”; and

22 (C) by striking “; and” and inserting a
23 semicolon.

1 (c) QUALITY ASSURANCE PROGRAM.—Section 304(a)
2 of such Act (33 U.S.C. 892b(a)) is amended by striking
3 “product produced” and inserting “product or service pro-
4 duced or disseminated”.

5 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section
6 306(a) of such Act (33 U.S.C. 892d(a)) is amended—

7 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “\$70,814,000
8 for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023” and in-
9 serting “\$71,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2023
10 through 2028”;

11 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking “\$25,000,000
12 for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023” and in-
13 serting “\$34,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2023
14 through 2028”;

15 (3) in paragraph (3), by striking “\$29,932,000
16 for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023” and in-
17 serting “\$38,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2023
18 through 2028”;

19 (4) in paragraph (4), by striking “\$26,800,000
20 for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023” and in-
21 serting “\$45,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2023
22 through 2028”; and

23 (5) in paragraph (5), by striking “\$30,564,000
24 for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023” and in-

1 serting “\$35,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2023
2 through 2028”.

3 **TITLE CIV—MARINE MAMMAL**
4 **RESEARCH AND RESPONSE**

5 **SEC. 10401. DATA COLLECTION AND DISSEMINATION.**

6 Section 402 of the Marine Mammal Protection Act
7 of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1421a) is amended—

8 (1) in subsection (b)—

9 (A) in paragraph (1)(A), by inserting “or
10 entangled” after “stranded”;

11 (B) in paragraph (3)—

12 (i) by striking “strandings,” and in-
13 serting “strandings and entanglements, in-
14 cluding unusual mortality events,”;

15 (ii) by inserting “stranding” before
16 “region”; and

17 (iii) by striking “marine mammals;
18 and” and inserting “marine mammals and
19 entangled marine mammals to allow com-
20 parison of the causes of illness and deaths
21 in stranded marine mammals and entan-
22 gled marine mammals with physical, chem-
23 ical, and biological environmental param-
24 eters; and”;