

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H.R. 160
OFFERED BY MR. GRIJALVA OF ARIZONA**

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

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

4 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for
5 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 conserve and restore the condition of
14 United States coral reef ecosystems challenged by
15 natural and human-accelerated changes, including
16 increasing ocean temperatures, ocean acidification,
17 coral bleaching, coral diseases, water quality deg-
18 radation, invasive species, and illegal, unreported,
19 and unregulated fishing;

20 “(2) to promote the science-based management
21 and sustainable use of coral reef ecosystems to ben-
22 efit local communities and the Nation, including
23 through improved integration and cooperation

1 among Federal, State, and locally managed jurisdic-
2 tions with coral reef equities;

3 “(3) to develop sound scientific information on
4 the condition of coral reef ecosystems, continuing
5 and emerging threats to such ecosystems, and the
6 efficacy of innovative tools, technologies, and strate-
7 gies to mitigate stressors and restore such eco-
8 systems, including evaluation criteria to determine
9 the effectiveness of management interventions, and
10 accurate mapping for coral reef restoration;

11 “(4) to assist in the preservation of coral reefs
12 by supporting science-based, consensus-driven State,
13 Tribal, Pacific Islander, and community-based coral
14 reef management, including monitoring, conserva-
15 tion, and restoration projects that empower local
16 communities, small businesses, and nongovernmental
17 organizations;

18 “(5) to provide financial resources, technical as-
19 sistance, and scientific expertise to supplement and
20 strengthen State, Tribal, Indigenous, and commu-
21 nity-based management programs and conservation
22 and restoration projects;

23 “(6) to establish a formal mechanism for col-
24 lecting and allocating monetary donations from the

1 private sector to be used for coral reef conservation
2 and restoration projects;

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

10 “(8) to serve as a model for advancing similar
11 international efforts to monitor, conserve, and re-
12 store coral reef ecosystems in the jurisdictions of
13 United States allies and trading partners.

14 **“SEC. 203. FEDERAL CORAL REEF MANAGEMENT AND RES-**
15 **TORATION ACTIVITIES.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

12 “(1) developing, including through the collection
13 of requisite data, high-quality and digitized maps re-
14 flecting—

15 “(A) current and historical live coral cover
16 data;

17 “(B) coral reef habitat quality data;

18 “(C) priority areas for coral reef conserva-
19 tion to maintain biodiversity and ecosystem
20 structure and function, including the reef ma-
21 trix itself, that benefit coastal communities and
22 living marine resources;

23 “(D) priority areas for coral reef restora-
24 tion to enhance biodiversity and ecosystem
25 structure and function, including the reef ma-

1 trix itself, to benefit coastal communities and
2 living marine resources; and

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

5 “(2) enhancing compliance with Federal laws
6 that prohibit or regulate—

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

9 “(B) the use and management of coral reef
10 ecosystems;

11 “(3) long-term ecological monitoring of coral
12 reef ecosystems;

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

17 “(5) restoring degraded coral reef ecosystems;

18 “(6) promoting ecologically sound navigation
19 and anchorages, including mooring buoy systems to
20 promote enhanced recreational access, near coral
21 reefs;

22 “(7) monitoring and responding to severe
23 bleaching or mortality events, disease outbreaks,
24 invasive species outbreaks, and significant maritime

1 accidents, including chemical spill cleanup and the
2 removal of grounded vessels;

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

6 “(9) enhancing public awareness, under-
7 standing, and appreciation of coral reefs and coral
8 reef ecosystems;

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

13 “(11) centrally archiving, managing, and dis-
14 tributing data sets and coral reef ecosystem assess-
15 ments and publishing such information on publicly
16 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 “(c) FEDERAL AGENCIES SPECIFIED.—A Federal
22 agency specified in this subsection is one of the following:

23 “(1) The National Oceanic and Atmospheric
24 Administration.

25 “(2) The National Park Service.

1 “(3) The United States Fish and Wildlife Serv-
2 ice.

3 “(4) The Office of Insular Affairs.”.

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

8 **“SEC. 204A. NATIONAL CORAL REEF RESILIENCE STRAT-
9 EGY.**

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

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

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

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

17 “(1) A discussion addressing—

18 “(A) continuing and emerging threats to
19 the resilience of United States coral reef eco-
20 systems;

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

23 “(C) the status of management coopera-
24 tion and integration among Federal, State,

1 Tribal, and locally managed jurisdictions with
2 coral reef equities;

3 “(D) the status of efforts to manage and
4 disseminate critical information, and enhance
5 interjurisdictional data sharing, related to re-
6 search, reports, datasets, and maps;

7 “(E) areas of special focus, which may in-
8 clude—

9 “(i) improving natural coral recruit-
10 ment;

11 “(ii) preventing avoidable losses of
12 corals and their habitat;

13 “(iii) enhancing the resilience of coral
14 populations;

15 “(iv) supporting a resilience-based
16 management approach;

17 “(v) developing, coordinating, and im-
18 plementing watershed management plans;

19 “(vi) building and sustaining water-
20 shed management capacity at the local
21 level;

22 “(vii) providing data essential for
23 coral reef fisheries management;

24 “(viii) building capacity for coral reef
25 fisheries management;

1 “(ix) increasing understanding of
2 coral reef ecosystem services;

3 “(x) educating the public on the im-
4 portance of coral reefs, threats and solu-
5 tions; and

6 “(xi) evaluating intervention efficacy;

7 “(F) the status of conservation efforts, in-
8 cluding the use of marine protected areas to
9 serve as replenishment zones developed con-
10 sistent with local practices and traditions and
11 in cooperation with, and with respect for the
12 scientific, technical, and management expertise
13 and responsibilities of, State fish and wildlife
14 management agencies; and

15 “(G) science-based adaptive management
16 and restoration efforts.

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

19 “(A) future Federal coral reef management
20 and restoration activities authorized under sec-
21 tion 203;

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

24 “(C) research priorities for the cooperative
25 institutes established under section 215(e).

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

3 “(A) coral reef action plans under section
4 205; and

5 “(B) coral reef emergency plans under sec-
6 tion 209.

7 “(c) CONSULTATIONS.—In developing all elements of
8 the strategy required by subsection (a), the Administrator
9 shall—

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

13 “(2) engage stakeholders, including coral reef
14 stewardship partnerships, coral reef institutes and
15 research centers described in section 215(e), and
16 coral reef conservation grant awardees; and

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

19 “(d) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS; PUBLICATION.—
20 The Administrator shall—

21 “(1) submit the strategy required by subsection
22 (a) and any revisions to the strategy to the appro-
23 priate congressional committees; and

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

1 “(A) the Coral Reef Conservation Program
2 of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Ad-
3 ministration; and

4 “(B) the Task Force.

5 “(e) TRANSITION RULE.—On and after the date of
6 the enactment of the Restoring Resilient Reefs Act of
7 2021, the 2018 Coral Reef Conservation Program Stra-
8 tegic Plan of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Ad-
9 ministration shall be considered to be the national coral
10 reef resilience strategy in effect under this section until
11 the earlier of—

12 “(1) September 30, 2033; or

13 “(2) the date on which the Administrator devel-
14 ops a national coral reef resilience strategy under
15 this section.

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

17 “(a) CORAL REEF ACTION PLANS.—Except as pro-
18 vided in subsection (h), not later than 3 years after the
19 date of the enactment of the Restoring Resilient Reefs Act
20 of 2021, and not later than 2 years after the publication
21 of a revised national coral reef resilience strategy under
22 section 204A, each covered reef manager shall prepare and
23 submit to the Task Force a coral reef action plan to guide
24 management and restoration activities to be undertaken
25 within the responsibilities and jurisdiction of the manager.

1 “(b) REQUIREMENTS.—A covered reef manager pre-
2 paring a coral reef action plan under subsection (a)
3 shall—

4 “(1) ensure that the plan is consistent with all
5 elements of the national coral reef resilience strategy
6 in effect; and

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

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

12 “(1) Short- and mid-term coral reef conserva-
13 tion and restoration objectives within the applicable
14 jurisdiction.

15 “(2) An updated adaptive management frame-
16 work to inform research, monitoring, and assessment
17 needs.

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

21 “(4) Tools, strategies, and partnerships nec-
22 essary to identify, monitor, and redress the impacts
23 of pollution, diminished water quality, temperature
24 fluctuations, acidification, overfishing, disease, and

1 other disturbances to coral reef ecosystems within
2 the applicable jurisdiction.

3 “(5) The status of efforts to improve coral reef
4 ecosystem management cooperation and integration
5 among neighboring Federal, State, Tribal, or locally
6 managed jurisdictions, including the identification of
7 existing research and monitoring activities that can
8 be leveraged for coral reef status and trends assess-
9 ments within the applicable jurisdiction.

10 “(6) An accounting of annual expenditures on
11 coral reef management and restoration activities
12 within the applicable jurisdiction while the preceding
13 action plan, if any, was in effect.

14 “(7) Estimated budgetary and resource consid-
15 erations necessary to carry out the proposed action
16 plan.

17 “(d) 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 action plan under sub-
21 section (a).

22 “(e) ADOPTION OF CORAL REEF ACTION PLANS.—
23 A covered reef manager may adopt a coral reef action plan
24 developed by another covered reef manager, in full or in

1 part, as relevant to the adopting manager’s applicable ju-
2 risdiction.

3 “(f) 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 (e), shall be subject to public review and comment.

7 “(g) PUBLICATION.—The Administrator shall publish
8 each coral reef action plan prepared and submitted to the
9 Task Force under this section on publicly available inter-
10 net 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 “(h) APPLICABILITY TO COVERED STATES AND
16 CORAL REEF STEWARDSHIP PARTNERSHIPS.—A covered
17 State or non-Federal coral reef stewardship partnership
18 is not required to develop a coral reef action plan under
19 subsection (a), but may do so in its own discretion. In
20 developing a coral reef action plan, a covered State or non-
21 Federal coral reef stewardship partnership is encouraged,
22 but not mandated, to comply with the requirements of this
23 section.

24 “(i) PLAN IN EFFECT.—A coral reef action plan shall
25 be deemed to be in effect if the plan was submitted to

1 the Task Force under this section during the preceding
2 6 years.

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

4 “(a) CORAL REEF STEWARDSHIP PARTNERSHIPS.—

5 The Administrator shall establish standards for the identi-
6 fication of coral reefs and the formation of partnerships
7 among government and community members for the stew-
8 ardship of coral reefs (in this title referred to as ‘coral
9 reef stewardship partnerships’) in accordance with this
10 section, including guidance for preparation and submis-
11 sion of coral reef action plans under section 205 for review
12 and approval by the Administrator.

13 “(b) IDENTIFICATION OF CORAL REEFS.—Each coral
14 reef stewardship partnership shall identify with particu-
15 larity the coral reef or ecologically significant component
16 of a coral reef that will be the subject of its stewardship
17 activities.

18 “(c) MEMBERSHIP FOR FEDERAL CORAL REEFS.—

19 A coral reef stewardship partnership that has identified,
20 as the subject of its stewardship activities, a coral reef
21 or ecologically significant component of a coral reef that
22 is fully or partially under the management jurisdiction of
23 any Federal agency specified in section 203(c) shall, at
24 a minimum, include the following:

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

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

6 “(3) A coral reef research center described in
7 section 215(c)(4) or another institution of higher
8 education.

9 “(4) A nongovernmental organization.

10 “(5) Such other members as the partnership
11 considers appropriate, such as interested stakeholder
12 groups.

13 “(d) MEMBERSHIP FOR NON-FEDERAL CORAL
14 REEFS.—

15 “(1) IN GENERAL.—A coral reef stewardship
16 partnership that has identified, as the subject of its
17 stewardship activities, a coral reef or ecologically sig-
18 nificant component of a coral reef that is not under
19 the management jurisdiction of any Federal agency
20 specified in section 203(c) shall, at a minimum, in-
21 clude the following:

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

1 “(B) A coral reef research center described
2 in section 215(c)(4) or another institution of
3 higher education.

4 “(C) A nongovernmental organization.

5 “(D) Such other members as the partner-
6 ship considers appropriate, such as interested
7 stakeholder groups.

8 “(2) ADDITIONAL MEMBERS.—

9 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subpara-
10 graph (B), a coral reef stewardship partnership
11 described in paragraph (1) may also include
12 representatives of one or more Federal agencies
13 that have management responsibility in the
14 coral reef that is the subject of the partner-
15 ship’s stewardship activities.

16 “(B) REQUESTS; APPROVAL.—A represent-
17 ative of a Federal agency described in subpara-
18 graph (A) may become a member of a coral reef
19 stewardship partnership described in paragraph
20 (1) if—

21 “(i) the representative submits a re-
22 quest to become a member to the chair of
23 the partnership referred to in paragraph
24 (1)(A); and

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

1 “(c) FUNDING FORMULA.—The amount of each block
2 grant awarded to a covered State under this section shall
3 be the sum of—

4 “(1) a base award of \$100,000; and

5 “(2) if the State is eligible under subsection
6 (b)—

7 “(A) an amount that is equal to non-Fed-
8 eral expenditures of up to \$3,000,000 on coral
9 reef management and restoration activities
10 within the jurisdiction of the State during the
11 previous fiscal year, and

12 “(B) an additional amount, from any
13 funds appropriated for activities under this sec-
14 tion that remain after distribution under sub-
15 paragraph (A), paragraph (1), and subsection
16 (g)based on the proportion of the State’s share
17 of total non-Federal expenditures on coral reef
18 management and restoration activities, as re-
19 ported within the previous fiscal year, in excess
20 of \$3,000,000, relative to other covered States.

21 “(d) EXCLUSIONS.—For the purposes of calculating
22 block grant amounts under subsection (c), Federal funds
23 provided to a covered State or non-Federal coral reef stew-
24 ardship partnership shall not be considered as qualifying
25 non-Federal expenditures, but non-Federal matching

1 funds used to leverage Federal awards may be considered
2 as qualifying non-Federal expenditures.

3 “(e) RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE ADMINISTRATOR.—

4 The Administrator is responsible for—

5 “(1) providing guidance on qualifying non-Fed-
6 eral expenditures and the proper documentation of
7 such expenditures;

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

10 “(3) determining the appropriate allocation of
11 additional amounts among covered States in accord-
12 ance with this section.

13 “(f) RESPONSIBILITIES OF COVERED STATES.—Each
14 covered State is responsible for documenting non-Federal
15 expenditures within the jurisdiction of the State and for-
16 mally reporting those expenditures for review in response
17 to annual solicitations by the Administrator under sub-
18 section (e).

19 “(g) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—The Adminis-
20 trator may enter into cooperative agreements with States
21 to fund coral reef conservation and restoration activities
22 in waters managed under the jurisdiction of such States
23 that are consistent with the national coral reef resilience
24 strategy in effect under section 204A.

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

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

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

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

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

24 “(2) are consistent with—

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

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

8 “(c) AUTHORIZATION TO SOLICIT DONATIONS.—

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

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

19 “(3) NOTIFICATION REQUIRED.—Not later than
20 30 days after funds are deposited in the Fund under
21 paragraph (2), the Foundation shall notify the Com-
22 mittee on Appropriations of the Senate and the
23 Committee on Appropriations of the House of Rep-
24 resentatives of the source and amount of such funds.

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

7 “(1) this section; and

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

10 “(e) ADMINISTRATION.—Under an agreement en-
11 tered into pursuant to subsection (a), the Administrator
12 may transfer funds appropriated to carry out this title to
13 the Foundation. Amounts received by the Foundation
14 under this subsection may be used for matching, in whole
15 or in part, contributions (whether in money, services, or
16 property) made to the Foundation by private persons,
17 State or local government agencies, or Tribal organiza-
18 tions.

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

20 “(a) IN GENERAL.—A covered reef manager may de-
21 velop and periodically update a plan (in this title referred
22 to as a ‘coral reef emergency plan’) consistent with the
23 template described in section 204A(b)(3) to guide the
24 rapid and effective response to circumstances that pose
25 an urgent and immediate threat to the coral reef eco-

1 systems within the manager’s responsibilities and jurisdic-
2 tions, and consistent with any applicable coral reef action
3 plan.

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

9 “(1) new and ongoing outbreaks of disease;

10 “(2) new and ongoing outbreaks of invasive or
11 nuisance species;

12 “(3) new and ongoing coral bleaching events;

13 “(4) natural disasters;

14 “(5) man-made disasters, including vessel
15 groundings, hazardous spills, or coastal construction
16 accidents; and

17 “(6) other exigent circumstances.

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

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

24 “(2) revised not less frequently than once every
25 5 years.

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

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

6 “(2) A delineation of roles and responsibilities
7 for executing the plan.

8 “(3) Evidence of engagement with interested
9 stakeholder groups, as applicable, in the develop-
10 ment of the plan.

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

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

18 “(f) ADOPTION OF CORAL REEF EMERGENCY
19 PLANS.—A covered reef manager may adopt a coral reef
20 emergency plan developed by another covered reef man-
21 ager, in full or in part, as relevant to the adopting man-
22 ager’s applicable jurisdiction.

23 “(g) PUBLIC REVIEW.—The development of a coral
24 reef action plan by a covered reef manager under sub-

1 section (a), and the adoption of a plan under subsection
2 (f), shall be subject to public review and comment.

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

7 “(1) the Coral Reef Conservation Program of
8 the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administra-
9 tion; and

10 “(2) the Task Force.

11 “(i) PLAN IN EFFECT.—A coral reef emergency plan
12 shall be deemed to be in effect if the plan was submitted
13 to the Task Force under this section during the preceding
14 6 years.

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

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

21 “(b) USES.—Amounts in the Fund—

22 “(1) shall be available only for use by the Ad-
23 ministrator to compensate covered coral reef man-
24 agers to implement a coral reef emergency plan in ef-
25 fect under sections 210 and 212; and

1 “(2) shall remain available until expended.

2 “(c) DEPOSITS INTO THE FUND.—There shall be de-
3 posited into the Fund—

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

5 “(2) other amounts appropriated to the Admin-
6 istrator for use with respect to coral reef emer-
7 gencies.

8 “(d) ACCEPTANCE OF DONATIONS.—

9 “(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of carrying
10 out this title, the Administrator may accept, receive,
11 solicit, hold, administer, and use any gift (including,
12 notwithstanding section 1342 of title 31, United
13 States Code, donations of services).

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

18 **“SEC. 211. EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE.**

19 “(a) CORAL REEF EMERGENCY DECLARATIONS.—

20 “(1) SUA SPONTE DECLARATION.—

21 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator
22 may determine and declare a coral reef emer-
23 gency, including at the recommendation of the
24 Secretary of the Interior.

1 “(B) REQUIREMENTS.—In declaring a
2 coral reef emergency under subparagraph (A),
3 the Administrator shall—

4 “(i) certify that an emergency has oc-
5 curred that is ecologically significant and
6 harmful to coral reefs; and

7 “(ii) submit to the appropriate con-
8 gressional committees findings and anal-
9 ysis to justify the declaration.

10 “(2) PETITIONS.—If a covered State or non-
11 Federal coral reef stewardship partnership believes
12 that a coral reef emergency has occurred, and is im-
13 pacting coral reefs or ecologically significant compo-
14 nents of coral reefs subject to the responsibilities or
15 jurisdiction of the State or partnership, the State or
16 partnership may petition the Administrator for a
17 declaration of a coral reef emergency.

18 “(3) EVALUATION AND ACTION.—

19 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30
20 days after receiving a petition under paragraph
21 (2) (except as provided in subparagraph (B)),
22 the Administrator shall—

23 “(i) evaluate the petition to determine
24 whether a coral reef emergency has oc-
25 curred; and

1 “(ii) declare a coral reef emergency or
2 deny the petition.

3 “(B) EXTENSION.—The Administrator
4 may extend the deadline provided for under
5 subparagraph (A) by not more than 15 days.

6 “(4) APPEAL.—If the Administrator denies a
7 petition for an emergency declaration submitted
8 under paragraph (2), the State or partnership that
9 submitted the petition may, not later than 15 days
10 after receiving notice of the denial, appeal the denial
11 to the Administrator. Not later than 15 days after
12 receiving an appeal under this paragraph, the Ad-
13 ministrator shall grant or deny the appeal.

14 “(5) REVOCATION.—The Administrator may re-
15 voke any declaration of a coral reef emergency in
16 whole or in part after determining that cir-
17 cumstances no longer require an emergency re-
18 sponse.

19 “(6) RECOVERY OF EMERGENCY FUNDING.—
20 The Administrator may seek compensation from
21 negligent parties to recover emergency funds ex-
22 pended in excess of \$500,000 under this section as
23 a result of an emergency declaration arising from di-
24 rect impacts to coral reefs from man-made disasters
25 or accidents.

1 “(b) FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AUTHORITY.—

2 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Upon the declaration of a
3 coral reef emergency under subsection (a), the Ad-
4 ministrator shall provide grants to carry out pro-
5 posals that meet the requirements of paragraph (2)
6 to implement coral reef emergency plans in effect
7 under section 209.

8 “(2) REQUIREMENTS.—A proposal for a grant
9 under this subsection to implement a coral reef
10 emergency plan in effect under section 209 shall in-
11 clude—

12 “(A) the name of the entity submitting the
13 proposal;

14 “(B) a copy of the coral reef emergency
15 plan;

16 “(C) a description of the qualifications of
17 the individuals and entities who will implement
18 the plan;

19 “(D) an estimate of the funds and time re-
20 quired to complete the implementation of the
21 plan; and

22 “(E) any other information the Adminis-
23 trator considers to be necessary for evaluating
24 the eligibility of the proposal for a grant under
25 this subsection.

1 “(3) REVIEW.—Not later than 30 days after re-
2 ceiving a proposal for a grant under this subsection,
3 the Administrator shall review the proposal and de-
4 termine if the proposal meets the requirements of
5 paragraph (2).

6 “(4) CONCURRENT REVIEW.—An entity seeking
7 a grant under this subsection may submit a proposal
8 under paragraph (2) to the Administrator at any
9 time following the submission of a petition for an
10 emergency declaration under subsection (a)(2) that
11 is applicable to coral reefs or ecologically significant
12 components of coral reefs subject to the responsibil-
13 ities or jurisdiction of the entity.

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

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

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

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

23 “(3) the estimated cost of removal of the vessel,
24 remediation, or restoration relating to each such in-
25 cident;

1 “(4) the response actions taken by the owner of
2 the vessel, the Administrator, the Commandant of
3 the Coast Guard, or representatives of other Federal
4 or State agencies;

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

7 “(A) vessel removal;

8 “(B) remediation or restoration activities,
9 including whether a coral reef emergency plan
10 was implemented; and

11 “(C) any actions taken to prevent future
12 grounding incidents; and

13 “(6) recommendations for additional naviga-
14 tional aids or other mechanisms for preventing fu-
15 ture grounding incidents.

16 **“SEC. 213. RUTH D. GATES CORAL REEF CONSERVATION**
17 **GRANT PROGRAM.**

18 “(a) GRANTS.—The Administrator shall establish a
19 program (to be known as the ‘Ruth D. Gates Coral Reef
20 Conservation Grant Program’) to provide grants for
21 projects for the conservation and restoration of coral reef
22 ecosystems (in this section referred to as ‘coral reef
23 projects’) pursuant to proposals approved by the Adminis-
24 trator in accordance with this section.

25 “(b) ELIGIBILITY.—

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

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

6 “(A) a natural resource management au-
7 thority of a State or local government or Tribal
8 organization—

9 “(i) with responsibility for coral reef
10 management; or

11 “(ii) the activities of which directly or
12 indirectly affect coral reefs or coral reef
13 ecosystems;

14 “(B) a regional fishery management coun-
15 cil established under the Magnuson-Stevens
16 Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16
17 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.);

18 “(C) a coral reef stewardship partnership
19 seeking to implement a coral reef action plan in
20 effect under section 205;

21 “(D) a coral reef research center des-
22 igned under section 215(c)(4); or

23 “(E) another nongovernmental organiza-
24 tion or research institution with demonstrated
25 expertise in the conservation or restoration of

1 coral reefs in practice or through significant
2 contributions to the body of existing scientific
3 research on coral reefs.

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

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

9 “(2) A description of the qualifications of the
10 individual or entity.

11 “(3) A succinct statement of the purposes of
12 the project.

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

15 “(5) Evidence of support for the project by ap-
16 propriate representatives of States or other govern-
17 ment jurisdictions in which the project will be con-
18 ducted.

19 “(6) Information regarding the source and
20 amount of matching funding available to the appli-
21 cant.

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

24 “(8) In the case of a proposal submitted by a
25 coral reef stewardship partnership, a description of

1 how the project aligns with the applicable coral reef
2 action plan in effect under section 205.

3 “(9) Any other information the Administrator
4 considers to be necessary for evaluating the eligi-
5 bility of the project for a grant under this sub-
6 section.

7 “(d) PROJECT REVIEW AND APPROVAL.—

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

12 “(2) PRIORITIZATION OF CONSERVATION
13 PROJECTS.—The Administrator shall prioritize the
14 awarding of grants for projects that meet the cri-
15 teria for approval under subparagraphs (A) through
16 (G) of subsection (e)(2) that are proposed to be con-
17 ducted within priority areas identified for coral reef
18 conservation by the Administrator and consistent
19 with the national coral reef resilience strategy in ef-
20 fect under section 204A.

21 “(3) PRIORITIZATION OF RESTORATION
22 PROJECTS.—The Administrator shall prioritize the
23 awarding of grants for projects that meet the cri-
24 teria for approval under subparagraphs (E) through
25 (L) of subsection (e)(2) that are proposed to be con-

1 ducted within priority areas identified for coral reef
2 restoration by the Administrator and consistent with
3 the national coral reef resilience strategy in effect
4 under section 204A.

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

9 “(A) request and consider written com-
10 ments on the proposal from each Federal agen-
11 cy, State government, Tribal organization, or
12 other government jurisdiction, including the rel-
13 evant regional fishery management councils es-
14 tablished under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery
15 Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C.
16 1801 et seq.), or any National Marine Sanc-
17 tuary or Marine National Monument, with ju-
18 risdiction or management authority over coral
19 reef ecosystems in the area where the project is
20 to be conducted, including the extent to which
21 the project is consistent with locally established
22 priorities, unless such entities were directly in-
23 volved in the development of the project pro-
24 posal;

1 “(B) provide for the merit-based peer re-
2 view of the proposal and require standardized
3 documentation of that peer review;

4 “(C) after considering any written com-
5 ments and recommendations based on the re-
6 views under subparagraphs (A) and (B), ap-
7 prove or disapprove the proposal; and

8 “(D) provide written notification of that
9 approval or disapproval, with summaries of all
10 written comments, recommendations, and peer-
11 reviews, to the entity that submitted the pro-
12 posal, and each of those States, Tribal organi-
13 zations, and other government jurisdictions that
14 provided comments under subparagraph (A).

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

18 “(1) is consistent with—

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

21 “(B) any Federal or non-Federal coral reef
22 action plans in effect under section 205 cov-
23 ering a coral reef or ecologically significant
24 component of a coral reef to be affected by the
25 project; and

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

3 “(A) addressing conflicts arising from the
4 use of environments near coral reefs or from
5 the use of corals, species associated with coral
6 reefs, and coral products, including supporting
7 consensus-driven, community-based planning
8 and management initiatives for the protection
9 of coral reef ecosystems;

10 “(B) improving compliance with laws that
11 prohibit or regulate the taking of coral products
12 or species associated with coral reefs or regulate
13 the use and management of coral reef eco-
14 systems;

15 “(C) designing and implementing networks
16 of real-time water quality monitoring along
17 coral reefs, including data collection related to
18 turbidity, nutrient availability, harmful algal
19 blooms, and plankton assemblages, with an em-
20 phasis on coral reefs impacted by agriculture
21 and urban development;

22 “(D) promoting ecologically sound naviga-
23 tion and anchorages, including mooring buoy
24 systems to promote enhanced recreational ac-
25 cess, near coral reefs;

1 “(E) furthering the goals and objectives of
2 coral reef action plans in effect under section
3 205 and coral reef emergency plans in effect
4 under section 209;

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

7 “(G) stimulating innovation to advance the
8 ability of the United States to understand, re-
9 search, or monitor coral reef ecosystems, or to
10 develop management or adaptation options to
11 preserve, sustain, and restore coral reef eco-
12 systems;

13 “(H) implementing research to ensure the
14 population viability of listed coral species in
15 United States waters as detailed in the popu-
16 lation-based recovery criteria included in spe-
17 cies-specific recovery plans consistent with the
18 Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C.
19 1531 et seq.);

20 “(I) developing and implementing cost-ef-
21 fective methods to restore degraded coral reef
22 ecosystems or to create geographically appro-
23 priate coral reef ecosystems in suitable waters,
24 including by improving habitat or promoting
25 success of keystone species, with an emphasis

1 on novel restoration strategies and techniques
2 to advance coral reef recovery and growth near
3 population centers threatened by rising sea lev-
4 els and storm surge;

5 “(J) translating and applying coral genet-
6 ics research to coral reef ecosystem restoration,
7 including research related to traits that pro-
8 mote resilience to increasing ocean tempera-
9 tures, ocean acidification, coral bleaching, coral
10 diseases, and invasive species;

11 “(K) developing and maintaining in situ
12 native coral propagation sites;

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

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

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

20 “(iii) enhance resilience of native coral
21 populations to increasing ocean tempera-
22 tures, ocean acidification, coral bleaching,
23 and coral diseases through selective breed-
24 ing, conditioning, or other approaches that

1 target genes, gene expression, phenotypic
2 traits, or phenotypic plasticity; or

3 “(M) maintaining the structure and func-
4 tion of coral reefs, including the reef matrix
5 itself.

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

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

15 “(2) Not less than 40 percent of the funds
16 available shall be awarded for projects in the Atlan-
17 tic Ocean, the Gulf of Mexico, or the Caribbean Sea
18 within the maritime areas and zones subject to the
19 jurisdiction or control of the United States.

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

1 “(h) TASK FORCE.—The Administrator may consult
2 with the Secretary of the Interior and the Task Force to
3 obtain guidance in establishing priorities and evaluating
4 proposals for coral reef projects under this section.

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 “(b) COMMITTEES SPECIFIED.—The committees
2 specified in this subsection are—

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

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

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

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

14 “(b) FUNDING.—

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

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

1 “(A) Federal agencies, instrumentalities,
2 and laboratories.

3 “(B) State and local governments.

4 “(C) Indian Tribes and Tribal organiza-
5 tions.

6 “(D) International organizations.

7 “(E) Foreign governments not subject to
8 economic sanctions imposed by the United
9 States.

10 “(F) Institutions of higher education, re-
11 search centers, and other educational institu-
12 tions.

13 “(G) Nonprofit organizations.

14 “(H) Commercial organizations.

15 “(I) Other public or private individuals or
16 entities.

17 “(c) COOPERATIVE INSTITUTES.—

18 “(1) DESIGNATION.—The Administrator shall
19 designate two cooperative institutes for the purpose
20 of advancing and sustaining essential capabilities in
21 coral reef research, to be known as the ‘Atlantic
22 Coral Reef Institute’ and the ‘Pacific Coral Reef In-
23 stitute’.

24 “(2) MEMBERSHIP.—Each institute established
25 under paragraph (1) shall be housed within a single

1 coral reef research center designated by the Admin-
2 istrator under paragraph (4) in the Atlantic and Pa-
3 cific basins, respectively, and may contract with
4 other coral reef research centers within the same
5 basin to support each institute's capacity and reach.

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

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

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

21 “(C) through agreements—

22 “(i) collaborate directly with govern-
23 mental resource management agencies,
24 coral reef stewardship partnerships, non-
25 profit organizations, and other coral reef

1 research centers designated under para-
2 graph (4);

3 “(ii) assist in the development and im-
4 plementation of—

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

7 “(II) coral reef action plans
8 under section 205; and

9 “(III) coral reef emergency plans
10 under section 209;

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

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

20 “(I) coral reefs and coral reef
21 ecosystems;

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

1 “(III) the value of coral reefs;

2 and

3 “(IV) the threats to the sustain-

4 ability of coral reef ecosystems.

5 “(4) CORAL REEF RESEARCH CENTERS.—

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

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

14 “(i) is operated by an institution of
15 higher education;

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

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

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

1 “(d) USE OF RESOURCES OF OTHER AGENCIES.—

2 The Administrator may use, with consent and with or

3 without reimbursement, the land, services, equipment, per-

4 sonnel, and facilities of any agency or instrumentality of—

5 “(1) the United States;

6 “(2) any State or local government;

7 “(3) any Indian Tribe; or

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

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

11 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The head of any Federal agency

12 with a representative serving on the U.S. Coral Reef Task

13 Force established by Executive Order 13089 (16 U.S.C.

14 6401 note; relating to coral reef protection), may, individ-

15 ually or in cooperation with one or more agencies, carry

16 out a program to award prizes competitively under section

17 24 of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of

18 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3719).

19 “(b) PURPOSES.—Any program carried out under

20 this section shall be for the purpose of stimulating innova-

21 tion to advance the ability of the United States to under-

22 stand, research, or monitor coral reef ecosystems, or to

23 develop management or adaptation options to preserve,

24 sustain, and restore coral reef ecosystems.

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

6 “(1) scientific research and monitoring that
7 furthers the understanding of causes behind coral
8 reef decline and degradation and the generally slow
9 recovery following disturbances;

10 “(2) the development of monitoring or manage-
11 ment options for communities or industries that are
12 experiencing significant financial hardship;

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

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

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

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

22 “(a) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appro-
23 priated to the Administrator \$38,000,000 for each of fis-
24 cal years 2022 through 2026 to carry out this title, which
25 shall remain available until expended.

1 “(b) ADMINISTRATION.—Of the amounts appro-
2 priated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations
3 under subsection (a), not more than the lesser of
4 \$1,500,000 or 10 percent may be used for program ad-
5 ministration or for overhead costs incurred by the Na-
6 tional Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration or the De-
7 partment of Commerce and assessed as an administrative
8 charge.

9 “(c) FEDERALLY DIRECTED RESEARCH AND CORAL
10 REEF CONSERVATION PROGRAM GRANTS.—From the
11 amounts authorized to be appropriated under subsection
12 (a), there shall be made available to the Administrator not
13 less than \$8,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 through
14 2026 to support purposes consistent with this title, of
15 which—

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

19 “(2) not less than \$4,500,000 shall be made
20 available for each such fiscal year through coopera-
21 tive agreements with the cooperative institutes des-
22 ignated under section 215(c).

23 “(d) BLOCK GRANTS AND COOPERATIVE AGREE-
24 MENTS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the

1 Administrator following amounts, which shall remain
2 available until expended, to carry out section 207:

3 “(1) For fiscal year 2022, \$8,500,000.

4 “(2) For fiscal year 2023, \$9,000,000.

5 “(3) For fiscal year 2024, \$10,000,000.

6 “(4) For fiscal year 2025, \$11,000,000.

7 “(5) For fiscal year 2026, \$12,000,000.

8 **“SEC. 218. DEFINITIONS.**

9 “In this title:

10 “(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term ‘Adminis-
11 trator’ means the Administrator of the National
12 Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

13 “(2) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
14 TEES.—The term ‘appropriate congressional com-
15 mittees’ means the Committee on Commerce,
16 Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the
17 Committee on Natural Resources of the House of
18 Representatives.

19 “(3) CONSERVATION.—The term ‘conservation’
20 means the use of methods and procedures necessary
21 to preserve or sustain geographically appropriate
22 corals and associated species as diverse, viable, and
23 self-perpetuating coral reef ecosystems with minimal
24 impacts from invasive species, including—

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

6 “(B) mapping;

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

15 “(D) law enforcement;

16 “(E) conflict resolution initiatives;

17 “(F) community outreach and education;

18 and

19 “(G) promotion of safe and ecologically
20 sound navigation and anchoring.

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

23 “(A) all species of the orders Antipatharia
24 (black corals), Scleractinia (stony corals),
25 Alcyonacea (soft corals, organ pipe corals,

1 gorgonians), and Helioporacea (blue coral), of
2 the class Anthozoa; and

3 “(B) all species of the order Anthoathecata
4 (fire corals and other hydrocorals) of the class
5 Hydrozoa.

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

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

17 “(7) 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 affect coral physiology, coral-

1 algal symbiosis, and biodiversity in such habi-
2 tat.

3 “(8) CORAL REEF ECOSYSTEM SERVICES.—The
4 term ‘coral reef ecosystem services’ means the at-
5 tributes and benefits provided by coral reef eco-
6 systems including—

7 “(A) protection of coastal beaches, struc-
8 tures, and infrastructure;

9 “(B) habitat for organisms of economic,
10 ecological, biomedical, medicinal, and cultural
11 value;

12 “(C) serving as centers for the promulga-
13 tion, performance, and training of cultural
14 practices representative of traditional ecological
15 knowledge; and

16 “(D) aesthetic value.

17 “(9) COVERED REEF MANAGER.—

18 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘covered
19 reef manager’ means a management unit of a
20 Federal agency specified in subparagraph (B)
21 with jurisdiction over a coral reef ecosystem,
22 covered State, or coral reef stewardship part-
23 nership.

1 “(B) FEDERAL AGENCIES SPECIFIED.—A
2 Federal agency specified in this subparagraph
3 is one of the following:

4 “(i) The National Oceanic and Atmos-
5 pheric Administration.

6 “(ii) The National Park Service.

7 “(iii) The United States Fish and
8 Wildlife Service.

9 “(iv) The Office of Insular Affairs.

10 “(10) COVERED STATE.—The term ‘covered
11 State’ means Florida, Hawaii, and the territories of
12 American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the North-
13 ern Mariana Islands, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the
14 United States Virgin Islands.

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

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

23 “(13) INTERESTED STAKEHOLDER GROUPS.—
24 The term ‘interested stakeholder groups’ includes
25 community members such as businesses, commercial

1 and recreational fishermen, other recreationalists,
2 Federal, State, Tribal, and local government units
3 with related jurisdiction, institutions of higher edu-
4 cation, and nongovernmental organizations.

5 “(14) NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION.—The term
6 ‘nonprofit organization’ means an organization that
7 is described in section 501(c) of the Internal Rev-
8 enue Code of 1986 and exempt from tax under sec-
9 tion 501(a) of such Code.

10 “(15) RESTORATION.—The term ‘restoration’
11 means the use of methods and procedures necessary
12 to enhance, rehabilitate, recreate, or create a func-
13 tioning coral reef or coral reef ecosystem, in whole
14 or in part, within suitable waters of the historical
15 geographic range of such ecosystems, to provide eco-
16 logical, economic, cultural, or coastal resiliency serv-
17 ices associated with healthy coral reefs and benefit
18 native populations of coral reef organisms.

19 “(16) RESILIENCE.—The term ‘resilience’
20 means the capacity for corals within their native
21 range, coral reefs, or coral reef ecosystems to resist
22 and recover from natural and human disturbances,
23 and maintain structure and function to provide coral
24 reef ecosystem services as determined by clearly

1 identifiable, measurable, and science-based stand-
2 ards.

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

4 “(A) any State of the United States that
5 contains a coral reef ecosystem within its sea-
6 ward boundaries;

7 “(B) American Samoa, the Commonwealth
8 of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, Puerto
9 Rico, or the United States Virgin Islands; or

10 “(C) any other territory or possession of
11 the United States or separate sovereign in free
12 association with the United States that contains
13 a coral reef ecosystem within its seaward
14 boundaries.

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

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

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

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

8 **SEC. 102. MODIFICATION TO SECTION 204 OF THE CORAL**
9 **REEF CONSERVATION ACT OF 2000 (16 U.S.C.**
10 **6403).**

11 Section 204 of the Coral Reef Conservation Act of
12 2000 (16 U.S.C. 6403) is amended—

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

15 (2) by striking subsections (c) through (j).

16 **TITLE II—UNITED STATES**
17 **CORAL REEF TASK FORCE**

18 **SEC. 201. ESTABLISHMENT.**

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

24 **SEC. 202. DUTIES.**

25 The duties of the Task Force shall be—

1 (1) to coordinate, in cooperation with State,
2 Tribal, and local government partners, coral reef re-
3 search centers designated under section 215(c) of
4 the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000 (as amend-
5 ed by section 101), and other nongovernmental and
6 academic partners as appropriate, activities regard-
7 ing the mapping, monitoring, research, conservation,
8 mitigation, and restoration of coral reefs and coral
9 reef ecosystems;

10 (2) to monitor and advise regarding implemen-
11 tation of the policy and Federal agency responsibil-
12 ities set forth in—

13 (A) Executive Order 13089 (63 Fed. Reg.
14 32701; relating to coral reef protection); and

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

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

23 (A) to assess the United States role in
24 international trade and protection of coral spe-
25 cies;

1 (B) to encourage implementation of appro-
2 priate strategies and actions to promote con-
3 servation and sustainable use of coral reef re-
4 sources worldwide; and

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

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

9 (A) the national coral reef resilience strat-
10 egy under section 204A of the Coral Reef Con-
11 servation Act of 2000, as amended by section
12 101;

13 (B) coral reef action plans under section
14 205 of that Act; and

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

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

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

1 (B) updated estimates of the direct and in-
2 direct economic activity supported by, and other
3 benefits associated with, those coral reef equi-
4 ties.

5 **SEC. 203. MEMBERSHIP.**

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

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

12 (2) The Administrator of the United States
13 Agency for International Development.

14 (3) The Secretary of Agriculture.

15 (4) The Secretary of Defense.

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

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

21 (7) The Commandant of the Coast Guard.

22 (8) The Attorney General.

23 (9) The Secretary of State.

24 (10) The Secretary of Transportation.

1 ecosystems, including through the promotion of basic
2 and applied scientific research;

3 (3) collaborate with the Task Force to appro-
4 priately reflect budgetary needs for coral reef con-
5 servation and restoration activities in all agency
6 budget planning and justification documents and
7 processes; and

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

10 (b) CO-CHAIRS.—In addition to their responsibilities
11 under subsection (a), the co-chairs of the Task Force shall
12 administer performance of the functions of the Task Force
13 and facilitate the coordination of the members of the Task
14 Force specified in paragraphs (1) through (14) of section
15 203(a).

16 **SEC. 205. WORKING GROUPS.**

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

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

23 (c) PARTICIPATION BY NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANI-
24 ZATIONS.—The co-chairs may allow nongovernmental or-
25 ganizations as appropriate, including academic institu-

1 tions, conservation groups, and commercial and rec-
2 reational fishing associations, to participate in a working
3 group established under subsection (a).

4 (d) NONAPPLICABILITY OF FEDERAL ADVISORY
5 COMMITTEE ACT.—The Federal Advisory Committee Act
6 (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to working groups estab-
7 lished under this section.

8 **SEC. 206. DEFINITIONS.**

9 In this title:

10 (1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
11 TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-
12 mittees” means the Committee on Commerce,
13 Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the
14 Committee on Natural Resources of the House of
15 Representatives.

16 (2) CONSERVATION, CORAL, CORAL REEF,
17 ETC.—The terms “conservation”, “coral”, “coral
18 reef”, “coral reef ecosystem”, “covered State”, “res-
19 toration”, “resilience”, and “State” have the mean-
20 ing given those terms in section 218 of the Coral
21 Reef Conservation Act of 2000, as amended by sec-
22 tion 101.

1 **TITLE III—DEPARTMENT OF THE**
2 **INTERIOR CORAL REEF AU-**
3 **THORITIES**

4 **SEC. 301. CORAL REEF CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION**
5 **ASSISTANCE.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior, in
7 addition to activities authorized under section 203 of the
8 Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000, as amended by sec-
9 tion 101, may provide scientific expertise, technical assist-
10 ance, and financial assistance for the conservation and
11 restoration of coral reefs consistent with all applicable
12 laws governing resource management in Federal, State,
13 and Tribal waters, including—

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

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

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

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

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

4 (A) insular areas of covered States; and

5 (B) Freely Associated States;

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

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

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

19 (d) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary of
20 the Interior may enter into cooperative agreements with
21 covered reef managers to fund coral reef conservation and
22 restoration activities in waters managed under the juris-
23 diction of such managers that—

24 (1) are consistent with the national coral reef
25 resilience strategy in effect under section 204A of

1 the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000, as amend-
2 ed by section 101; and

3 (2) support and enhance the success of—

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

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

8 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the terms “con-
9 servation”, “coral reef”, “covered reef manager”, “covered
10 State”, “restoration”, and “State” have the meaning
11 given those terms in section 218 of the Coral Reef Con-
12 servation Act of 2000, as amended by section 101.

13 (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
14 authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry
15 out this title for each of fiscal years 2022 to 2026,
16 \$4,000,000.

17 **TITLE IV—SUSAN L. WILLIAMS**
18 **NATIONAL CORAL REEF MAN-**
19 **AGEMENT FELLOWSHIP**

20 **SEC. 401. SHORT TITLE.**

21 This title may be cited as the “Susan L. Williams
22 National Coral Reef Management Fellowship Act of
23 2021”.

24 **SEC. 402. DEFINITIONS.**

25 In this title:

1 (1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Adminis-
2 trator” means the Administrator of the National
3 Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

4 (2) FELLOW.—The term “fellow” means a Na-
5 tional Coral Reef Management Fellow.

6 (3) FELLOWSHIP.—The term “fellowship”
7 means the National Coral Reef Management Fellow-
8 ship established in section 403.

9 (4) INDIAN TRIBE; TRIBAL ORGANIZATION.—
10 The terms “Indian Tribe” and “Tribal organiza-
11 tion” have the meanings given those terms in section
12 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education
13 Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

14 **SEC. 403. ESTABLISHMENT OF FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—There is established a National
16 Coral Reef Management Fellowship Program.

17 (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the fellowship
18 are—

19 (1) to encourage future leaders of the United
20 States to develop additional coral reef management
21 capacity in States and local communities with coral
22 reefs;

23 (2) to provide management agencies of States,
24 Tribal organizations, and Freely Associated States
25 with highly qualified candidates whose education and

1 work experience meet the specific needs of each
2 State, Indian Tribe, and Freely Associated State;
3 and

4 (3) to provide fellows with professional experi-
5 ence in management of coastal and coral reef re-
6 sources.

7 **SEC. 404. FELLOWSHIP AWARDS.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator, in coordina-
9 tion with the Secretary of the Interior, shall award the
10 fellowship in accordance with this section.

11 (b) TERM OF FELLOWSHIP.—A fellowship awarded
12 under this section shall be for a term of not more than
13 24 months.

14 (c) QUALIFICATIONS.—The Administrator, in coordi-
15 nation with the Secretary of the Interior, shall award the
16 fellowship to individuals who have demonstrated—

17 (1) an intent to pursue a career in marine serv-
18 ices and outstanding potential for such a career;

19 (2) leadership potential, actual leadership experi-
20 ence, or both;

21 (3) a college or graduate degree in biological
22 science, experience that correlates with aptitude and
23 interest for marine management, or both;

24 (4) proficient writing and speaking skills; and

1 (5) such other attributes as the Administrator,
2 in coordination with the Secretary of the Interior,
3 consider appropriate.

4 **SEC. 405. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

5 There are authorized to be appropriated to the Ad-
6 ministrator to carry out this title for each of fiscal years
7 2022-2026, \$1,500,000, to remain available until ex-
8 ended.

