

118TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 7020

To direct the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to conduct high-resolution mapping of the lakebeds of the Great Lakes, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 17, 2024

Mrs. McCLAIN (for herself, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. HUIZENGA, Ms. SCHOLTEN, Mr. STAUBER, Mr. POCAN, Mr. BERGMAN, Mr. THANEDAR, Mr. JAMES, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. LAWLER, Ms. STEVENS, Mr. LANGWORTHY, Ms. SLOTKIN, Mr. DAVIDSON, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. TLAIB, and Mr. SCHNEIDER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

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## A BILL

To direct the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to conduct high-resolution mapping of the lakebeds of the Great Lakes, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Great Lakes Mapping  
5 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. MAPPING THE LAKEBEDS OF THE GREAT LAKES IN**  
2 **HIGH RESOLUTION.**

3 (a) HIGH-RESOLUTION LAKEBED MAPPING.—Not  
4 later than December 31, 2029, the Administrator of the  
5 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (re-  
6 ferred to in this section as the “Administrator”) shall, in  
7 consultation with relevant State entities, the Ocean Policy  
8 Committee, the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observing  
9 System, regional coastal observing systems, and any other  
10 relevant entity (as determined by the Administrator) carry  
11 out an effort (referred to in this section as the “mapping  
12 effort”) to map, in high resolution, the lakebeds of the  
13 Great Lakes that includes—

14 (1) completing a high-resolution map of the  
15 lakebeds of the Great Lakes;

16 (2) collecting high-resolution bathymetric data  
17 about the lakebeds of the Great Lakes;

18 (3) developing and implementing a method to  
19 process the bathymetric data and other information  
20 collected during the mapping effort;

21 (4) creating a system—

22 (A) to catalog bathymetric data and other  
23 information regarding the lakebeds of the Great  
24 Lakes that the Administrator or the Ocean Pol-  
25 icy Committee possess or have access to inde-

1           pendent of the mapping effort or as a result of  
2           the mapping effort; and

3                   (B) by using, to the extent practicable, any  
4           system, technology, or cyberinfrastructure avail-  
5           able to the Administrator and the Ocean Policy  
6           Committee as of the date of the enactment of  
7           this Act before purchasing any new system,  
8           technology, or cyberinfrastructure to complete  
9           the system; and

10           (5) collecting, cataloging, and storing metadata  
11           created during the mapping effort.

12           (b) DATA SHARING.—The Administrator, in con-  
13           sultation with the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observ-  
14           ing System and the regional coastal observing systems,  
15           shall—

16                   (1) during the mapping effort and within a rea-  
17           sonable time (as determined by the Administrator)  
18           after the relevant data is collected, make publicly  
19           available the parts of the high-resolution map of the  
20           lakebeds of the Great Lakes that are completed; and

21                   (2) not later than 180 days after completing  
22           the mapping effort, make publicly available—

23                           (A) the complete high-resolution map of  
24           the lakebeds of the Great Lakes; and

1           (B) any additional information, including  
2           metadata, collected under subsection (a) that is  
3           required to be released to the public under any  
4           other provision of law.

5           (c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-  
6           tion shall be construed to change any process or procedure  
7           used by the Administrator in carrying out the require-  
8           ments of the Digital Coast Act (16 U.S.C. 1467) or the  
9           Ocean and Coastal Mapping Integration Act (33 U.S.C.  
10          3501 et seq.).

11          (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is  
12          authorized to be appropriated to the Administrator  
13          \$200,000,000 to carry out this section. Such amount is  
14          authorized to remain available through fiscal year 2030.

15          (e) RELEVANT STATE ENTITY DEFINED.—In this  
16          section, the term “relevant State entity” means the Gov-  
17          ernor of any State that borders any Great Lake or the  
18          head of an agency of such State who is responsible for  
19          carrying out policy related to the Great Lakes or the  
20          lakebeds of the Great Lakes.

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