To direct the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, to conduct coastal community vulnerability assessments related to ocean acidification, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 13, 2019

Ms. Pingree (for herself, Mr. Rooney of Florida, Mr. Huffman, Ms. Bonamici, Mr. King of New York, Mr. Young, and Mr. Thompson of California) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

MAY --, 2019

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italic]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on March 13, 2019]
A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, to conduct coastal community vulnerability assessments related to ocean acidification, and for other purposes.
Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Coastal Communities Ocean Acidification Act of 2019”.

SEC. 2. STATE AND UNITED STATES DEFINED.

Section 12403 of the Federal Ocean Acidification Research And Monitoring Act of 2009 (33 U.S.C. 3702) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (4);

(2) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following:

“(3) STATE.—The term ‘State’ means each State of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Virgin Islands of the United States, and any other territory or possession of the United States.”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(5) UNITED STATES.—The term ‘United States’ means the States, collectively.”.
SEC. 3. COASTAL COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 12406 of the Federal Ocean Acidification Research And Monitoring Act of 2009 (33 U.S.C. 3705) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (b) as subsection (d); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (a) the following:

“(b) COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, through the program established under subsection (a), shall conduct an ocean acidification coastal community vulnerability assessment, and issue a corresponding public report, which shall be updated at least once every 7 years.

“(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The assessment conducted under paragraph (1) shall—

“(A) identify the United States coastal communities, including island communities, low-population rural communities, and subsistence communities, that are most dependent on coastal and ocean resources that may be impacted by ocean acidification;

“(B) assess the nature of the social and economic vulnerabilities of those communities, in-
cluding the economic impact on local or regional commercial fisheries and recreational opportunities;

“(C) identify the ocean acidification impacts that might harm those communities, including impacts from changes in ocean and coastal marine resources that are not managed by the Federal Government;

“(D) identify key knowledge gaps where research could be devoted to better understand the possible impacts of ocean acidification on those communities, the risks and threats facing those communities, and possible adaptation strategies for those communities; and

“(E) be conducted in collaboration with experts, indigenous knowledge groups, and stakeholders who are familiar with the unique economic, social, ecological, geographic, and resource concerns of coastal communities in the United States, including representatives of—

“(i) the National Marine Fisheries Service and the Office for Coastal Management of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration;
“(ii) National Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System regional information coordination entities established under section 12304(c)(4) of the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act of 2009 (33 U.S.C. 3603(c)(4));

“(iii) regional ocean acidification networks; and

“(iv) State sea grant programs (as defined in section 203 of the National Sea Grant College Program Act (33 U.S.C. 1122)).

“(c) SUPPORT FOR STATE AND LOCAL VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENTS AND STRATEGIC RESEARCH PLANNING.—In carrying out the program established under subsection (a), the Secretary shall collaborate with State, local, and tribal government entities that are conducting or have completed vulnerability assessments, strategic research planning, or other similar activities related to ocean acidification and its impacts on coastal communities, for the purpose of—

“(1) determining whether such activities can be used as a model for other communities; and

“(2) identifying opportunities for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and other relevant Federal agencies to support such activities.”.
(b) **ONGOING INPUT MECHANISM.**—Section 12404(b)(5) of the Federal Ocean Acidification Research And Monitoring Act of 2009 (33 U.S.C. 3703(b)(5)) is amended—

(1) by striking “including information” and inserting the following: “including—

“(A) information”;

(2) by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(B) an ongoing mechanism that allows affected industry members, coastal stakeholders, non-Federal resource managers, community acidification networks, indigenous knowledge groups, and scientific experts not employed by the Federal Government to provide input on research, data, and monitoring that is necessary to support on-the-ground management, decision-making, and adaptation related to ocean acidification and its impacts.”.

(c) **STRATEGIC RESEARCH PLAN.**—Section 12405 of the Federal Ocean Acidification Research And Monitoring Act of 2009 (33 U.S.C. 3704) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—
(A) in paragraph (8), by striking “and” after the semicolon;

(B) in paragraph (9), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(10) make recommendations for research that should be conducted, including in the social sciences and economics, to address the key knowledge gaps identified in the community vulnerability assessment report conducted under section 12406(b).”; and

(2) in subsection (e), by inserting “, tribal governments, indigenous knowledge groups,” after “industry”.

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 12409(a) of the Federal Ocean Acidification Research And Monitoring Act of 2009 (33 U.S.C. 3708(a)) is amended to read as follows:

“(a) NOAA.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to carry out the purposes of this subtitle $2,700,000 for each of fiscal years 2020 through 2024.”.

(e) REPORT ON SUPPORT FOR STATE AND LOCAL VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENTS AND STRATEGIC RESEARCH PLANNING.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the National
Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shall submit to Congress a report on the efforts of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to support State, local, and tribal community vulnerability assessments, strategic research and planning, and monitoring needs, pursuant to section 12406(c) of the Federal Ocean Acidification Research And Monitoring Act of 2009 (as added by subsection (a) of this section).