

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

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

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Mr. SCHATZ) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

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

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

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

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
5 “Restoring Resilient Reefs Act of 2019”.

6 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for
7 this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—REAUTHORIZATION OF CORAL REEF CONSERVATION
ACT OF 2000

Sec. 101. Reauthorization of Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000.

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.

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 The Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C.
7 6401 et seq.) is amended by striking sections 202 through
8 210 and inserting the following:

9 **“SEC. 202. PURPOSES.**

10 “The purposes of this title are—

11 “(1) to preserve, sustain, and restore the condi-
12 tion of United States coral reef ecosystems chal-
13 lenged by natural and human-accelerated changes,
14 including increasing ocean temperatures, ocean
15 acidification, coral bleaching, coral diseases, and
16 invasive species;

17 “(2) to promote the science-based management
18 and sustainable use of coral reef ecosystems to ben-
19 efit local communities and the Nation, including

1 through improved integration and cooperation
2 among Federal, State, and locally managed jurisdic-
3 tions with coral reef equities;

4 “(3) to develop sound scientific information on
5 the condition of coral reef ecosystems, continuing
6 and emerging threats to such ecosystems, and the
7 efficacy of innovative tools, technologies, and strate-
8 gies to restore such ecosystems;

9 “(4) to assist in the preservation of coral reefs
10 by supporting consensus-driven State and commu-
11 nity-based coral reef management, including con-
12 servation and restoration projects that empower
13 local communities, small businesses, and nongovern-
14 mental organizations;

15 “(5) to provide financial resources, technical as-
16 sistance, and scientific expertise to supplement and
17 strengthen State and community-based management
18 programs and conservation and restoration projects;

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

23 “(7) to support the rapid and effective, science-
24 based response to emergencies that imminently
25 threaten coral reefs, such as coral disease outbreaks,

1 invasive species, coral bleaching, natural disasters,
2 vessel groundings or chemical spills, and other exi-
3 gent circumstances; and

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

8 **“SEC. 203. NATIONAL CORAL REEF RESILIENCE STRATEGY.**

9 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the
10 date of the enactment of the Restoring Resilient Reefs Act
11 of 2019, the Administrator shall submit to the appropriate
12 congressional committees and publish in the Federal Reg-
13 ister a national coral reef resilience strategy.

14 “(b) ELEMENTS.—The strategy required by para-
15 graph (1) shall include—

16 “(1) a statement of goals and objectives and an
17 implementation plan for supporting—

18 “(A) future Federal coral reef management
19 and restoration activities under section 205;

20 “(B) the coral reef conservation program
21 under section 221; and

22 “(C) research priorities for the coral reef
23 cooperative institutes and coral reef research
24 centers under section 223(c);

25 “(2) national maps of—

1 “(A) the current range and extent of coral
2 reef ecosystems;

3 “(B) the historical range and extent of
4 coral reef ecosystems; and

5 “(C) prime habitat for restoring reef eco-
6 system structure and functions to benefit coast-
7 al communities and living marine resources;
8 and

9 “(3) a discussion of—

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

13 “(B) national and regional gaps in coral
14 reef ecosystem research, monitoring, and as-
15 sessments;

16 “(C) the status of efforts to improve man-
17 agement, integration, and cooperation among
18 Federal, State, Tribal, and locally managed ju-
19 risdictions with coral reef equities; and

20 “(D) efforts to manage and disseminate
21 critical information, such as publicly accessible
22 research, reports, datasets, and maps, including
23 through interjurisdictional data sharing.

24 “(c) REVISIONS.—The Administrator shall periodi-
25 cally, but not less frequently than every 20 years, review

1 and revise the strategy required by subsection (a) as ap-
2 propriate.

3 “(d) CONSULTATIONS.—In developing the strategy
4 required by subsection (a), the Administrator shall consult
5 with the Secretary of the Interior and the Task Force.

6 “(e) USE OF EXISTING PLAN.—At the discretion of
7 the Administrator, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric
8 Administration’s 2018 Coral Reef Conservation Program
9 Strategic Plan may be considered to fulfill the require-
10 ments of this section until January 1, 2040.

11 **“SEC. 204. FEDERAL CORAL REEF ACTION PLANS.**

12 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than September 30,
13 2021, and every 5 years thereafter, the Administrator
14 shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees
15 and publish in the Federal Register a compilation of coral
16 reef action plans for each individual management unit of
17 a Federal agency specified in section 205(c) with jurisdic-
18 tion over coral reef ecosystems and established for at least
19 5 years—

20 “(1) developed and submitted to the Adminis-
21 trator by the Secretary of the Interior and the As-
22 sistant Administrator of the National Ocean Service,
23 as applicable; and

24 “(2) that meet the requirements of subsection
25 (b).

1 “(b) REQUIREMENTS FOR FEDERAL CORAL REEF
2 ACTION PLANS.—A coral reef action plan of a manage-
3 ment unit described in subsection (a) meets the require-
4 ments of this subsection if the plan includes—

5 “(1) a statement of goals and objectives to be
6 accomplished during the 5-year period following de-
7 velopment of the plan and consistent with the na-
8 tional coral reef resilience strategy in effect as devel-
9 oped in accordance with section 203; and

10 “(2) a discussion of—

11 “(A) a review of such unit’s efforts and
12 success in managing and restoring coral reef
13 ecosystems under the previous coral reef action
14 plan in effect as developed under this section,
15 if applicable, and how such review informs the
16 newly effective action plan;

17 “(B) short- and mid-term coral reef con-
18 servation and restoration objectives for such
19 unit’s coral reef ecosystems;

20 “(C) an assessment of whether such unit
21 retains less than 50 percent of its historical liv-
22 ing coral cover as of the date of the plan;

23 “(D) an updated adaptive management
24 framework to inform research, monitoring, and
25 assessment needs;

1 “(E) any coral reef emergency plans cer-
2 tified under section 216 for coral reef eco-
3 systems within such unit, and a review of any
4 circumstance that led to the activation of such
5 plans within such unit, including an evaluation
6 of the emergency responses;

7 “(F) tools and strategies to address pollu-
8 tion and water quality impacts to coral reef eco-
9 systems arising wholly from within the adminis-
10 trative boundaries of such unit;

11 “(G) the status of efforts to improve coral
12 reef ecosystem management integration and co-
13 operation among neighboring Federal, State,
14 Tribal, or locally managed jurisdictions, includ-
15 ing identification of existing research and moni-
16 toring activities that can be leveraged for coral
17 reef status and trends assessments within such
18 unit;

19 “(H) a list of all coral reefs or ecologically
20 significant units of coral reefs identified by
21 coral reef stewardship partnerships certified
22 under section 210(e) or subject to stewardship
23 activities governed by coral reef stewardship
24 plans certified under section 212 during the
25 preceding 5-year period within such unit;

1 “(I) coral reef-related public outreach and
2 education efforts;

3 “(J) an accounting of annual unit expendi-
4 tures on coral reef management and restoration
5 during the 5-year period preceding the date of
6 the plan; and

7 “(K) estimated budgetary and other re-
8 source considerations necessary to carry out
9 such plan.

10 “(c) ADOPTION OF STEWARDSHIP AND EMERGENCY
11 PLANS.—In developing a coral reef action plan under this
12 section, a management unit described in subsection (a)
13 may adopt any coral reef stewardship plans certified under
14 section 212 and coral reef emergency plans certified under
15 section 216 governing stewardship or emergency response
16 activities within the administrative boundaries of such
17 unit.

18 “(d) CONSULTATIONS.—In developing the action
19 plans required by subsection (a), the Secretary of the Inte-
20 rior or the Assistant Administrator of the National Ocean
21 Service may consult with the Administrator and the Task
22 Force.

1 **“SEC. 205. FEDERAL CORAL REEF MANAGEMENT AND RES-**
2 **TORATION ACTIVITIES.**

3 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may conduct ac-
4 tivities described in subsection (b) to conserve and restore
5 coral reefs and coral reef ecosystems that are consistent
6 with—

7 “(1) all applicable laws governing resource
8 management in Federal and State waters, including
9 this title;

10 “(2) the national coral reef resilience strategy
11 in effect as developed under section 203; and

12 “(3) Federal coral reef action plans in effect
13 and developed under section 204.

14 “(b) ACTIVITIES DESCRIBED.—Activities described
15 in this subsection are activities to conserve and restore
16 coral reefs and coral reef ecosystems in waters managed
17 under the jurisdiction of a Federal agency specified in sub-
18 section (c), including—

19 “(1) enhancing compliance with Federal laws
20 that prohibit or regulate—

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

23 “(B) the use and management of coral reef
24 ecosystems;

25 “(2) mapping of—

1 “(A) the current range and extent of coral
2 reef ecosystems;

3 “(B) the historical range and extent of
4 coral reef ecosystems; and

5 “(C) prime habitat for restoring reef eco-
6 system structure and functions to benefit coast-
7 al communities and living marine resources;

8 “(3) long-term ecological monitoring of coral
9 reef ecosystems;

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

14 “(5) restoring degraded coral reef ecosystems;

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

19 “(7) monitoring and responding to severe
20 bleaching or mortality events, disease outbreaks,
21 invasive species outbreaks, and significant maritime
22 accidents, including chemical spill cleanup and the
23 removal of grounded vessels.

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

1 “(1) The National Ocean Service of the Na-
2 tional Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

3 “(2) The National Park Service.

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

6 “(4) The Office of Insular Affairs of the De-
7 partment of the Interior.

8 “(d) COORDINATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF
9 THE INTERIOR.—The Secretary shall coordinate with the
10 Secretary of the Interior regarding the conduct of any ac-
11 tivities to conserve and restore coral reefs and coral reef
12 ecosystems in waters managed under the jurisdiction of
13 a Federal agency specified in paragraph (2), (3), or (4)
14 of subsection (c).

15 “(e) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—

16 “(1) IN GENERAL.—At the discretion of the
17 Secretary, the Administrator may enter into cooper-
18 ative agreements with States to fund coral reef con-
19 servation and restoration activities in waters man-
20 aged under the jurisdiction of such States that are
21 consistent with the national coral reef resilience
22 strategy in effect as developed under section 203.

23 “(2) LIMITATION.—The Administrator may not
24 provide more than \$500,000 in total funding under
25 paragraph (1) to any one State in a fiscal year.

1 **“SEC. 206. STATE CORAL REEF MANAGEMENT AND RES-**
2 **TORATION STRATEGIES.**

3 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than September 30,
4 2022, and every 20 years thereafter, the Administrator
5 shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees
6 and publish in the Federal Register a compilation of State
7 coral reef management and restoration strategies—

8 “(1) developed and voluntarily submitted to the
9 Administrator by covered States; and

10 “(2) that meet the requirements of subsection
11 (b).

12 “(b) REQUIREMENTS FOR STATE STRATEGIES.—A
13 coral reef management and restoration strategy of a cov-
14 ered State meets the requirements of this subsection if the
15 strategy includes—

16 “(1) a statement of goals and objectives to be
17 accomplished during the 20-year period following the
18 development of the strategy; and

19 “(2) a discussion of—

20 “(A) updated State mapping of—

21 “(i) the current range and extent of
22 coral reef ecosystems;

23 “(ii) the historical range and extent of
24 coral reef ecosystems; and

1 “(iii) prime habitat for restoring reef
2 ecosystem functions to benefit coastal com-
3 munities and living marine resources;

4 “(B) continuing and emerging threats to
5 the resilience of coral reef ecosystems within
6 such State;

7 “(C) State-wide gaps in research, moni-
8 toring, and assessment;

9 “(D) long-term State conservation and res-
10 toration goals, including the status of efforts to
11 improve management integration and coopera-
12 tion among Federal, State, Tribal, and locally
13 managed jurisdictions with coral reef equities;

14 “(E) the role of coral reef stewardship
15 partnerships certified under section 210(e)
16 within such State, and the role of such partner-
17 ships in the coral reef management and restora-
18 tion strategy of such State; and

19 “(F) efforts to manage and disseminate
20 critical information such as publicly accessible
21 research, reports, datasets, and maps, including
22 through interjurisdictional data sharing.

23 “(c) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—Upon request by a
24 covered State, the Administrator shall make reasonable ef-
25 forts to provide technical assistance, including through

1 consultation with the Task Force, in the development of
2 the coral reef management and restoration strategy of
3 such State under this subsection.

4 **“SEC. 207. STATE CORAL REEF ACTION PLANS.**

5 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than September 30,
6 2023, and every 5 years thereafter, the Administrator
7 shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees
8 and publish in the Federal Register a compilation of State
9 coral reef action plans—

10 “(1) developed and voluntarily submitted to the
11 Administrator by covered States; and

12 “(2) that meet the requirements of subsection
13 (b).

14 “(b) REQUIREMENTS FOR STATE PLANS.—A State
15 coral reef action plan meets the requirements of this sub-
16 section if the plan includes—

17 “(1) a statement of goals and objectives to be
18 accomplished during the 5-year period following de-
19 velopment of the plan and consistent with such cov-
20 ered State’s coral reef management and restoration
21 strategy in effect as developed in accordance with
22 section 206, if any; and

23 “(2) a discussion of—

24 “(A) a review of the most recent State
25 coral reef action plan assessment developed

1 under section 208, as applicable, and how such
2 assessment informs the newly submitted action
3 plan;

4 “(B) short- and mid-term State coral reef
5 conservation and restoration objectives;

6 “(C) an assessment of whether such State
7 retains less than 50 percent of its historical liv-
8 ing coral cover as of the date of the plan;

9 “(D) an updated adaptive management
10 framework to inform research, monitoring, and
11 assessment needs;

12 “(E) any coral reef emergency plans cer-
13 tified under section 216 in effect for coral reef
14 ecosystems within such State, and a review of
15 any circumstance that led to the activation of
16 such plans within such State, including an eval-
17 uation of the emergency responses;

18 “(F) tools and strategies to address pollu-
19 tion and water quality impacts to coral reef eco-
20 systems within such State;

21 “(G) the status of efforts to improve coral
22 reef ecosystem management integration and co-
23 operation among Federal, State, Tribal, or lo-
24 cally managed jurisdictions, including identifica-
25 tion of existing research and monitoring activi-

1 ties that can be leveraged for coral reef status
2 and trends assessments within such State;

3 “(H) a list of all coral reefs or ecologically
4 significant units of coral reefs identified by
5 coral reef stewardship partnerships certified
6 under section 210(e) or subject to stewardship
7 activities governed by coral reef stewardship
8 plans certified under section 212 during the
9 preceding 5-year period within such State;

10 “(I) coral reef-related public outreach and
11 education efforts;

12 “(J) an accounting of such State’s annual
13 expenditures on coral reef management and res-
14 toration during the 5-year period preceding the
15 date of the plan; and

16 “(K) estimated budgetary and other re-
17 source considerations necessary to carry out
18 such plan.

19 “(c) ADOPTION OF STEWARDSHIP AND EMERGENCY
20 PLANS.—In developing a coral reef action plan under this
21 section, a covered State may adopt any coral reef steward-
22 ship plans certified under section 212 and coral reef emer-
23 gency plans certified under section 216 governing steward-
24 ship or emergency response activities within the adminis-
25 trative boundaries of the State.

1 “(b) CONSULTATIONS.—In conducting an assessment
2 under subsection (a) with respect to a covered State, the
3 Administrator may consult with the covered State, the
4 Task Force, coral reef stewardship partnerships certified
5 under section 210(e) operating within the covered State,
6 and impacted Indian Tribes and Tribal organizations.

7 “(c) USE IN DEVELOPMENT OF STATE CORAL REEF
8 ACTION PLANS.—It is the sense of Congress that the Ad-
9 ministrator should conduct assessments under subsection
10 (a) with the goal of informing and supporting the develop-
11 ment of subsequent State coral reef action plans developed
12 under section 207.

13 **“SEC. 209. STATE BLOCK GRANTS.**

14 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall provide
15 block grants of financial assistance to covered States in
16 response to annual proposals for funds to support State
17 activities that would further the implementation of State
18 coral reef management and restoration strategies devel-
19 oped under section 206, State coral reef action plans de-
20 veloped under section 207, and coral reef stewardship
21 plans certified under section 212.

22 “(b) ELIGIBILITY.—A covered State is eligible to re-
23 ceive a grant under this subsection if the State has in ef-
24 fect—

1 “(1) a State coral reef management and res-
2 toration strategy in effect published by the Adminis-
3 trator in the Federal Register under section 206 and
4 a State coral reef action plan in effect published by
5 the Administrator in the Federal Register under sec-
6 tion 207; or

7 “(2) at least one coral reef stewardship plan
8 certified under section 212 in effect within its ad-
9 ministrative boundaries.

10 “(c) FUNDING REQUIREMENTS.—

11 “(1) LIMITATION.—Except as provided in para-
12 graph (2) or subsection (d), the amount of Federal
13 funds provided to a covered State as a block grant
14 under this section may not exceed the total amount
15 of the annual expenditures of the State on the im-
16 plementation of its State coral reef management and
17 restoration strategy under section 206, its State
18 coral reef action plan under section 207, and its re-
19 sponsibilities to coral reef stewardship plans certified
20 under section 212.

21 “(2) EXCLUSIONS.—Any Federal funds pro-
22 vided to a natural resource management authority of
23 a State or other State government authority under
24 this section or section 205, 213, 218, 219, or 221
25 shall not be considered State expenditures for the

1 purposes of calculating the limitation under para-
2 graph (1).

3 “(3) CONSIDERATIONS.—Notwithstanding para-
4 graph (1), in determining the amount of Federal
5 funds a covered State receives as a block grant
6 under this section, the Administrator may consider
7 the following factors:

8 “(A) The quality of such State’s funding
9 proposal under subsection (a).

10 “(B) The findings from such State’s most
11 recent action plan assessment under section
12 208, if applicable.

13 “(C) Estimates of direct and indirect eco-
14 nomic activity supported by coral reef eco-
15 systems within such State.

16 “(d) WAIVERS OF CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS.—The
17 Administrator may waive the eligibility requirements
18 under subsection (b), in full or in part, through fiscal year
19 2023.

20 **“SEC. 210. CORAL REEF STEWARDSHIP PARTNERSHIPS.**

21 “(a) CORAL REEF STEWARDSHIP PARTNERSHIPS.—
22 The Administrator shall establish standards for the forma-
23 tion of partnerships among government and community
24 members for the stewardship of coral reefs (in this title

1 referred to as ‘coral reef stewardship partnerships’) in ac-
2 cordance with this section.

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

7 “(c) MEMBERSHIP FOR FEDERAL REEFS.—A coral
8 reef stewardship partnership that has identified, as the
9 subject of its stewardship activities, a coral reef or eco-
10 logically significant unit of a coral reef that is fully or par-
11 tially under the management jurisdiction of any Federal
12 agency specified in section 205(c), shall, at a minimum,
13 include the following:

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

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

19 “(3) A coral reef research center described in
20 section 223(c)(2) or other institution of higher edu-
21 cation.

22 “(4) A nongovernmental organization.

23 “(5) Other members as appropriate, such as in-
24 terested stakeholder groups.

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

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—A coral reef stewardship
2 partnership that has identified, as the subject of its
3 stewardship activities, a coral reef or ecologically sig-
4 nificant unit of a coral reef that is not under the
5 management jurisdiction of any Federal agency
6 specified in section 205(c) shall, at a minimum, in-
7 clude the following:

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

12 “(B) A coral reef research center described
13 in section 223(c)(2) or another institution of
14 higher education.

15 “(C) A nongovernmental organization.

16 “(D) Other members as appropriate, such
17 as interested stakeholder groups.

18 “(2) ADDITIONAL MEMBERS.—A coral reef
19 stewardship partnership described in paragraph (1)
20 may also include one or more Federal agencies that
21 have a management interest in the identified reef
22 that is subject to the partnership’s stewardship ac-
23 tivities.

24 “(e) CERTIFICATION.—A group seeking recognition
25 as a coral reef stewardship partnership under this section

1 may petition the Administrator for certification as a coral
2 reef stewardship partnership, and the Administrator shall
3 accept or reject the petition for certification not later than
4 30 days after receiving the petition.

5 “(f) MULTIPLE GROUPS.—

6 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Each coral reef, or eco-
7 logically significant unit of a coral reef, may be the
8 subject of the stewardship activities of only one coral
9 reef stewardship partnership.

10 “(2) PROCEDURES REQUIRED.—The Adminis-
11 trator shall develop procedures to govern the dispo-
12 sition of petitions from multiple groups seeking to
13 identify the same coral reef or ecologically signifi-
14 cant unit of a coral reef as the subject of the stew-
15 ardship activities of a coral reef stewardship part-
16 nership.

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

21 **“SEC. 211. CORAL REEF STEWARDSHIP PLANS.**

22 “(a) REEF STEWARDSHIP PLANS.—A coral reef
23 stewardship partnership certified under section 210(e)
24 may develop plans for the stewardship of the coral reef
25 or ecologically significant unit of a coral reef that is the

1 subject of the stewardship activities of the partnership (in
2 this title referred to as ‘coral reef stewardship plans’).

3 “(b) PLAN REQUIREMENTS.—A coral reef steward-
4 ship plan shall include the following elements:

5 “(1) Tools and strategies to address pollution
6 and water quality impacts to the identified coral reef
7 ecosystems.

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

11 “(3) Short- and mid-term coral reef steward-
12 ship objectives.

13 “(4) Coral reef-related public outreach and edu-
14 cation efforts.

15 “(5) Establishment of roles and responsibilities
16 for implementing the plan.

17 “(6) Evidence of engagement with interested
18 stakeholder groups in the development of the plan.

19 “(7) Any other information the Administrator
20 considers to be necessary for evaluating the plan.

21 “(c) BEST STEWARDSHIP PRACTICES.—The Admin-
22 istrator shall convene representatives of coral reef stew-
23 ardship partnerships not less than once a year to share
24 experiences and identify best practices for developing and
25 implementing coral reef stewardship plans.

1 **“SEC. 212. STEWARDSHIP PLAN CERTIFICATIONS.**

2 “(a) SUBMISSION TO ADMINISTRATOR FOR CERTIFI-
3 CATION.—A coral reef stewardship partnership certified
4 under section 210(e) may submit a coral reef stewardship
5 plan developed under section 211 to the Administrator for
6 certification.

7 “(b) EVALUATION.—

8 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall—

9 “(A) evaluate a plan submitted under sub-
10 section (a) to determine whether the plan com-
11 plies with the requirements of section 211(b);
12 and

13 “(B) grant or deny the petition for certifi-
14 cation not later than 120 days (except as pro-
15 vided by paragraph (2)) after receiving the peti-
16 tion.

17 “(2) EXTENSION.—The Administrator may ex-
18 tend the date provided for under paragraph (1)(B)
19 by not more than 60 days.

20 “(c) APPEAL.—If the Administrator denies a petition
21 for certification submitted under subsection (a) by a coral
22 reef stewardship partnership, the partnership may, not
23 later than 30 days after receiving notice of the denial, ap-
24 peal the denial to the Secretary. Not later than 60 days
25 after receiving an appeal under this subsection, the Sec-
26 retary shall grant or deny the appeal.

1 “(d) RECERTIFICATION.—The certification of a coral
2 reef stewardship plan under this section shall expire on
3 the date that is 5 years after the certification was granted.
4 A coral reef stewardship partnership may submit an up-
5 dated version of such a plan for recertification prior to
6 the expiration of the certification of the plan under this
7 section.

8 **“SEC. 213. CORAL REEF STEWARDSHIP FUND.**

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

15 “(b) FUND.—The Foundation shall invest, reinvest,
16 and otherwise administer the funds received pursuant to
17 this section and maintain such funds and any interest or
18 revenues earned in a separate interest bearing account,
19 to be known as the ‘Coral Reef Stewardship Fund’ (in this
20 section referred to as the ‘Fund’), established by the
21 Foundation solely to support coral reef stewardship part-
22 nership 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 as developed under section
3 203;

4 “(B) the State coral reef management and
5 restoration strategy in effect, if any, as devel-
6 oped under section 206 by the covered State in
7 which such activities will be carried out;

8 “(C) the State coral reef action plan in ef-
9 fect, if any, as developed under section 207 by
10 the covered State in which such activities will
11 be carried out;

12 “(D) Federal coral reef action plans in ef-
13 fect, if any, as developed under section 204 by
14 a Federal agency with management jurisdiction
15 of a coral reef ecosystem to be impacted by
16 such activities, if applicable; and

17 “(E) the coral reef stewardship plan in ef-
18 fect as certified under section 212 governing
19 such stewardship activities.

20 “(c) AUTHORIZATION TO SOLICIT DONATIONS.—

21 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Pursuant to an agreement
22 entered into under subsection (a), the Foundation
23 may accept, receive, solicit, hold, administer, and use
24 any gift (including, notwithstanding section 1342 of

1 title 31, United States Code, donations of services)
2 to further the purposes of this title.

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

7 “(3) NOTIFICATION REQUIRED.—Not later than
8 30 days after funds are deposited in the Fund under
9 paragraph (2), the Foundation shall notify the Com-
10 mittee on Appropriations of the Senate and the
11 Committee on Appropriations of the House of Rep-
12 resentatives of the source and amount of such funds.

13 “(d) REVIEW OF PERFORMANCE.—The Adminis-
14 trator shall conduct a continuing review of the grant pro-
15 gram administered by the Foundation under this section.
16 Each review shall include a written assessment concerning
17 the extent to which the Foundation has implemented the
18 goals and requirements of—

19 “(1) this section; and

20 “(2) the national coral reef resilience strategy
21 in effect as developed under section 203.

22 “(e) ADMINISTRATION.—Under an agreement en-
23 tered into pursuant to subsection (a), the Administrator
24 may transfer funds appropriated to carry out this title to
25 the Foundation. Amounts received by the Foundation

1 under this subsection may be used for matching, in whole
2 or in part, contributions (whether in money, services, or
3 property) made to the Foundation by private persons,
4 State or local government agencies, or Tribal organiza-
5 tions.

6 **“SEC. 214. CORAL REEFS AS MAINTAINED OR ENGINEERED**
7 **INFRASTRUCTURE.**

8 “(a) CORAL REEFS THAT ARE THE SUBJECT OF
9 CERTIFIED CORAL REEF PLANS.—Any coral reef or eco-
10 logically significant unit of a coral reef that is the subject
11 of stewardship activities of a coral reef stewardship part-
12 nership plan in effect as certified under section 212 or
13 a coral reef emergency plan in effect as certified under
14 section 216 shall be eligible for public assistance under
15 the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency As-
16 sistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.).

17 “(b) OTHER CORAL REEFS.—Any coral reef or eco-
18 logically significant unit of a coral reef not described in
19 subsection (a) may be considered eligible for public assist-
20 ance under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and
21 Emergency Assistance Act.

22 **“SEC. 215. CORAL REEF EMERGENCY PLANS.**

23 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Individual management units of
24 Federal agencies specified in section 205(c) with jurisdic-
25 tion over coral reef ecosystems, covered States, and coral

1 reef stewardship partnerships certified under section
2 210(e) may develop plans (in this title referred to as ‘coral
3 reef emergency plans’) for the rapid and effective response
4 to circumstances that pose an urgent and immediate
5 threat to the coral reef ecosystems subject to the steward-
6 ship activities of such management unit, covered State, or
7 coral reef stewardship partnership.

8 “(b) CORAL REEF EMERGENCIES.—The Adminis-
9 trator shall develop a list and criteria for circumstances
10 that pose an urgent and immediate threat to coral reefs
11 (in this title referred to as ‘coral reef emergencies’), in-
12 cluding—

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

17 **“SEC. 216. EMERGENCY PLAN CERTIFICATIONS.**

18 “(a) SUBMISSION TO ADMINISTRATOR FOR CERTIFI-
19 CATION.—Federal agencies specified in subsection 205(c),
20 covered States, and coral reef stewardship partnerships
21 certified under section 210(e) may submit coral reef emer-
22 gency plans developed under section 215 to the Adminis-
23 trator for certification.

24 “(b) EVALUATION.—

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

1 “(A) evaluate a plan submitted under sub-
2 section (a) to determine whether the plan com-
3 plies with the requirements of section 215(d);
4 and

5 “(B) grant or deny the petition for certifi-
6 cation not later than 120 days (except as pro-
7 vided by paragraph (2)) after receiving the peti-
8 tion.

9 “(2) EXTENSION.—The Administrator may ex-
10 tend the date provided for under paragraph (1)(B)
11 by not more than 60 days.

12 “(c) APPEAL.—If the Administrator denies a petition
13 for certification submitted under subsection (a), the peti-
14 tioning entity may, not later than 30 days after receiving
15 notice of the denial, appeal the denial to the Secretary.
16 Not later than 60 days after receiving an appeal under
17 this subsection, the Secretary shall grant or deny the ap-
18 peal.

19 “(d) RECERTIFICATION.—The certification of a coral
20 reef emergency plan under this section shall expire on the
21 date that is 5 years after the certification was granted.
22 The petitioning entity may submit an updated version of
23 such a plan for recertification prior to the expiration of
24 the certification of the plan under this section.

1 **“SEC. 217. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW.**

2 “(a) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this Act
3 may be construed to supersede or modify the requirements
4 of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42
5 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

6 “(b) **ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTS.**—To the ex-
7 tent permissible under the National Environmental Policy
8 Act of 1969, the Administrator may conduct an environ-
9 mental assessment or environmental impact statement
10 under that Act with respect to coral reef emergency plans
11 developed under section 215 or certified under section
12 216.

13 “(c) **GUIDANCE AND OUTREACH.**—The Adminis-
14 trator shall issue guidance and conduct outreach with re-
15 spect to the implementation of this section.

16 **“SEC. 218. CORAL REEF EMERGENCY FUND.**

17 “(a) **AUTHORITY TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENTS.**—
18 The Administrator may enter into an agreement with the
19 National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (in this section re-
20 ferred to as the ‘Foundation’), authorizing the Foundation
21 to receive, hold, and administer funds received pursuant
22 to this section.

23 “(b) **FUND.**—The Foundation shall invest, reinvest,
24 and otherwise administer funds received pursuant to this
25 section and maintain such funds and any interest or reve-
26 nues earned in a separate interest-bearing account, to be

1 known as the ‘Coral Reef Emergency Fund’ (in this sec-
2 tion referred as the ‘Fund’), established by the Founda-
3 tion solely to support rapid and effective responses to coral
4 reef emergencies by Federal agencies specified in sub-
5 section 205(c), covered States, and coral reef stewardship
6 partnerships certified under section 210(e), and as other-
7 wise consistent with this title.

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 the grant pro-
3 gram administered by the Foundation under this section.
4 Each review shall include a written assessment concerning
5 the extent to which the Foundation has implemented the
6 goals and requirements of this section.

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

16 **“SEC. 219. EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE.**

17 “(a) CORAL REEF EMERGENCY DECLARATIONS.—

18 “(1) SUA SPONTE DECLARATION.—The Sec-
19 retary may determine and declare a coral reef emer-
20 gency.

21 “(2) PETITIONS.—If a State or a coral reef
22 stewardship partnership certified under section
23 210(e) believes that a coral reef emergency has oc-
24 curred, and is impacting coral reefs or ecologically
25 significant units of coral reefs subject to the coral

1 reef stewardship activities of the State or partner-
2 ship, the State or partnership may petition the Sec-
3 retary for a declaration of a coral reef emergency.

4 “(3) EVALUATION AND ACTION.—

5 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30
6 days after receiving a petition under paragraph
7 (2) (except as provided in subparagraph (B)),
8 the Secretary shall—

9 “(i) evaluate the petition to determine
10 whether a coral reef emergency has oc-
11 curred; and

12 “(ii) declare a coral reef emergency or
13 deny the petition.

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

17 “(4) APPEAL.—If the Secretary denies a peti-
18 tion for an emergency declaration submitted under
19 paragraph (2) by a State or coral reef stewardship
20 partnership, the State or partnership may, not later
21 than 15 days after receiving notice of the denial, ap-
22 peal the denial to the Secretary. Not later than 15
23 days after receiving an appeal under this paragraph,
24 the Secretary shall grant or deny the appeal.

1 “(5) REVOCATION.—The Secretary may revoke
2 any declaration of a coral reef emergency in whole
3 or in part after determining that circumstances no
4 longer require an emergency response.

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

12 “(b) GRANT AUTHORITY.—

13 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Upon the declaration of a
14 coral reef emergency under subsection (a), the Sec-
15 retary shall provide grants to carry out proposals
16 that meet the requirements of paragraph (2) to im-
17 plement coral reef emergency plans certified under
18 section 216.

19 “(2) REQUIREMENTS.—A proposal for a grant
20 under this subsection to implement a coral reef
21 emergency plan shall include—

22 “(A) the name of the individual or entity
23 submitting the proposal;

24 “(B) a copy of the coral reef emergency
25 plan;

1 “(C) a description of the qualifications of
2 the individuals and entities who will implement
3 the plan;

4 “(D) an estimate of the funds and time re-
5 quired to complete the implementation of the
6 plan; and

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

11 “(3) REVIEW.—Not later than 30 days after re-
12 ceiving a proposal for a grant under this subsection,
13 the Secretary shall review the proposal and deter-
14 mine if the proposal meets the criteria requirements
15 of paragraph (2).

16 “(4) CONCURRENT REVIEW.—An individual or
17 entity seeking a grant under this subsection may
18 submit a project proposal under paragraph (2) to
19 the Secretary at any time following the submission
20 of a petition for an emergency declaration under
21 subsection (a)(2) that is applicable to coral reefs or
22 ecologically significant units of coral reefs subject to
23 the coral reef stewardship activities of the individual
24 or entity.

1 **“SEC. 220. VESSEL GROUNDING INVENTORY.**

2 “The Administrator, in coordination with the heads
3 of other Federal agencies, may maintain an inventory of
4 all vessel grounding incidents involving United States
5 coral reefs, including a description of—

6 “(1) the impacts of each such incident;

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

9 “(3) the estimated cost of removal, mitigation,
10 or restoration relating to each such incident;

11 “(4) the response actions taken by the owner of
12 the vessel, the Administrator, the Commandant of
13 the Coast Guard, or other Federal or State agency
14 representatives;

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

17 “(A) vessel removal;

18 “(B) mitigation or restoration activities,
19 including whether an applicable coral reef emer-
20 gency plan as certified under section 216 was
21 implemented; and

22 “(C) any actions taken to prevent future
23 grounding incidents; and

24 “(6) recommendations for additional naviga-
25 tional aids or other mechanisms for preventing fu-
26 ture grounding incidents.

1 **“SEC. 221. CORAL REEF CONSERVATION PROGRAM.**

2 “(a) GRANTS.—The Administrator shall provide
3 grants of financial assistance for projects for the conserva-
4 tion and restoration of coral reef ecosystems (in this sec-
5 tion referred to as ‘coral reef projects’) for proposals ap-
6 proved by the Administrator in accordance with this sec-
7 tion.

8 “(b) ELIGIBILITY.—

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

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

14 “(A) a natural resource management au-
15 thority of a State or local government or Tribal
16 organization—

17 “(i) with responsibility for coral reef
18 management; or

19 “(ii) the activities of which directly or
20 indirectly affect coral reefs or coral reef
21 ecosystems;

22 “(B) a coral reef stewardship partnership
23 certified under section 210(e) seeking to imple-
24 ment a coral reef stewardship plan certified
25 under section 212;

1 “(C) a coral reef research center des-
2 gnated under section 223(c)(2); or

3 “(D) another educational or nongovern-
4 mental research institution with demonstrated
5 expertise in the conservation or restoration of
6 coral reefs in practice or through significant
7 contributions to the body of existing scientific
8 research on coral reefs.

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

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

14 “(2) A description of the qualifications of the
15 individual or entity.

16 “(3) A succinct statement of the purposes of
17 the project.

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

20 “(5) Evidence of support for the project by ap-
21 propriate representatives of States or other govern-
22 ment jurisdictions in which the project will be con-
23 ducted.

1 “(6) Information regarding the source and
2 amount of matching funding available to the appli-
3 cant.

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

6 “(8) In the case of a proposal submitted by a
7 coral reef stewardship partnership certified under
8 section 210(e), a description of how the project
9 aligns with the coral reef stewardship plan in effect
10 as certified under section 212.

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

15 “(d) PROJECT REVIEW AND APPROVAL.—

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

20 “(2) PRIORITIZATION OF RESTORATION
21 PROJECTS.—The Administrator shall prioritize the
22 awarding of grants for applicable projects that meet
23 the criteria for approval under subparagraphs (F),
24 (G), (H), (I), (J), and (K) of subsection (e)(2) that
25 are proposed to be conducted within the administra-

1 tive boundaries of an individual management unit of
2 a Federal agency specified in section 205(c) or a
3 covered State, if that unit or covered State retains
4 less than 50 percent of its historical living coral
5 cover as of the date of the proposal, as determined
6 by the Federal coral reef action plan or State coral
7 reef action plan in effect as developed under section
8 204 or 208, respectively.

9 “(3) REVIEW; APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL.—
10 Not later than 180 days after receiving a proposal
11 for a coral reef project under this section, the Ad-
12 ministrators shall—

13 “(A) request and consider written com-
14 ments on the proposal from each Federal agen-
15 cy, State government, Tribal organization, or
16 other government jurisdiction, including the rel-
17 evant regional fishery management councils es-
18 tablished under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery
19 Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C.
20 1801 et seq.), or any National Marine Sanc-
21 tuary, with jurisdiction or management author-
22 ity over coral reef ecosystems in the area where
23 the project is to be conducted, including the ex-
24 tent to which the project is consistent with lo-
25 cally established priorities, unless such entities

1 were directly involved in the development of the
2 project proposal;

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

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

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

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

20 “(1) is consistent with—

21 “(A) the national coral reef resilience
22 strategy in effect as developed under section
23 203;

24 “(B) the State coral reef management and
25 restoration strategy in effect, if any, as devel-

1 oped under section 206 by the covered State in
2 which the project will be carried out;

3 “(C) the State coral reef action plan in ef-
4 fect, if any, as developed under section 207 by
5 such State;

6 “(D) Federal coral reef action plans in ef-
7 fect, if any, as developed under section 204 by
8 a Federal agency with management jurisdiction
9 of a coral reef ecosystem to be impacted by
10 such project, if applicable; and

11 “(E) coral reef stewardship plans in effect,
12 if any, as certified under section 212 governing
13 the stewardship activities at a coral reef or eco-
14 logically significant unit of a coral reef to be
15 impacted by such project, if applicable; and

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

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

1 “(B) improving compliance with laws that
2 prohibit or regulate the taking of coral products
3 or species associated with coral reefs or regulate
4 the use and management of coral reef eco-
5 systems;

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

13 “(D) promoting ecologically sound naviga-
14 tion and anchorages, including mooring buoy
15 systems to promote enhanced recreational ac-
16 cess, near coral reefs;

17 “(E) furthering the goals and objectives of
18 coral reef stewardship plans certified under sec-
19 tion 212 and coral reef emergency plans cer-
20 tified under section 216;

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

23 “(G) implementing research to ensure the
24 population viability of listed coral species in
25 United States waters as detailed in the popu-

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

5 “(H) developing and implementing cost-ef-
6 fective methods to restore degraded coral reef
7 ecosystems or to create native coral reef eco-
8 systems in suitable waters, including by improv-
9 ing habitat or promoting success of keystone
10 species, with an emphasis on novel restoration
11 strategies and techniques to advance coral reef
12 recovery and growth near population centers
13 threatened by rising sea levels and storm surge;

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

20 “(J) developing and maintaining in situ
21 native coral propagation sites; or

22 “(K) developing and maintaining ex situ
23 coral propagation nurseries and land-based
24 coral gene banks to—

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

3 “(ii) support captive breeding of rare
4 coral species; or

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

12 “(f) FUNDING REQUIREMENTS.—

13 “(1) FIFTY PERCENT MATCH.—

14 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided by
15 subparagraph (C), Federal funds for any coral
16 reef project under this section may not exceed
17 50 percent of the total cost of the project. For
18 purposes of this paragraph, the non-Federal
19 share of project costs may be provided by in-
20 kind contributions and other noncash support.

21 “(B) WAIVER.—The Administrator may
22 waive all or part of the matching requirement
23 under subparagraph (A) with respect to a coral
24 reef project if the Administrator determines
25 that—

1 “(i) no reasonable means are available
2 through which the entity that submitted
3 the proposal for the project can meet the
4 matching requirement; and

5 “(ii) the probable benefit of the
6 project outweighs the public interest in the
7 matching requirement.

8 “(C) EXCLUSION.—Funds provided under
9 section 209 may not be used to satisfy the
10 matching requirement under subparagraph (A).

11 “(2) DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS.—To the extent
12 practicable based upon proposals for coral reef
13 projects submitted to the Administrator, the Admin-
14 istrator shall ensure that funding for grants award-
15 ed under this section during a fiscal year is distrib-
16 uted as follows:

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

22 “(B) Not less than 40 percent of the funds
23 available shall be awarded for projects in the
24 Atlantic Ocean, the Gulf of Mexico, or the Car-
25 ibbean Sea within the maritime areas and zones

1 subject to the jurisdiction or control of the
2 United States.

3 “(C) Not more than 67 percent of funds
4 distributed in each region in accordance with
5 subparagraphs (A) and (B) shall be made ex-
6 clusively available to projects that are—

7 “(i) submitted by a coral reef steward-
8 ship partnership certified under section
9 210(e); and

10 “(ii) consistent with the coral reef
11 stewardship plan developed by such part-
12 nership as certified under section 212.

13 “(D) Of the funds distributed to support
14 projects in accordance with subparagraph (C),
15 not less than 20 percent and not more than 33
16 percent shall be awarded for projects impacting
17 coral reef ecosystems within the administrative
18 boundaries of individual management units of
19 the Federal agencies specified in section 205(c).

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 for coral reef
4 projects under this section.

5 **“SEC. 222. ANNUAL REPORTS ON ADMINISTRATION.**

6 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Not less frequently than annu-
7 ally, the Administrator shall submit to the committees
8 specified in subsection (b) a report on the administration
9 of this title, including—

10 “(1) a description of all activities undertaken in
11 the previous fiscal year to implement the most re-
12 cent national coral reef resilience strategy under sec-
13 tion 203(a);

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

16 “(3) a summary, disaggregated by State, of
17 Federal and non-Federal contributions toward the
18 costs of each project or activity funded under section
19 205, 209, 213, 218, 219, 221, or 223.

20 “(b) COMMITTEES SPECIFIED.—The committees
21 specified in this subsection are—

22 “(1) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and
23 Transportation and the Committee on Appropria-
24 tions of the Senate; and

1 “(2) the Committee on Natural Resources and
2 the Committee on Appropriations of the House of
3 Representatives.

4 **“SEC. 223. AUTHORITY TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENTS.**

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

9 “(b) FUNDING.—

10 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Under an agreement en-
11 tered into under subsection (a), the Secretary may
12 reimburse or provide funds authorized to be appro-
13 priated by section 224 to, and may receive funds or
14 reimbursements from, individuals and entities de-
15 scribed in paragraph (2) to carry out activities au-
16 thorized by this title.

17 “(2) INDIVIDUALS AND ENTITIES DE-
18 SCRIBED.—Individuals and entities described in this
19 paragraph are the following:

20 “(A) Federal agencies, instrumentalities,
21 and laboratories.

22 “(B) State and local governments.

23 “(C) Indian Tribes and Tribal organiza-
24 tions.

25 “(D) International organizations.

1 “(E) Foreign governments not subject to
2 economic sanctions imposed by the United
3 States.

4 “(F) Institutions of higher education, re-
5 search centers, and other educational institu-
6 tions.

7 “(G) Nonprofit organizations.

8 “(H) Commercial organizations.

9 “(I) Other public or private individuals or
10 entities.

11 “(c) COOPERATIVE INSTITUTES.—

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

18 “(2) MEMBERSHIP.—The institutes established
19 under paragraph (1) shall each include at least one
20 coral reef research center designated by the Admin-
21 istrator that—

22 “(A) is operated by an institution of higher
23 education or nonprofit marine research organi-
24 zation;

1 “(B) has established management-driven
2 national or regional coral reef research or res-
3 toration programs;

4 “(C) is located in a covered State that con-
5 tains a coral reef ecosystem;

6 “(D) has demonstrated abilities to coordi-
7 nate closely with appropriate Federal and State
8 agencies, as well as other academic and non-
9 profit organizations; and

10 “(E) maintains significant local community
11 engagement and outreach programs related to
12 coral reef ecosystems.

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

15 “(A) conduct federally directed research to
16 fill national and regional coral reef ecosystem
17 research gaps and improve understanding of,
18 and responses to, continuing and emerging
19 threats to the resilience of United States coral
20 reef ecosystems;

21 “(B) support ecological research and moni-
22 toring to study the effects of conservation and
23 restoration activities funded by this title on pro-
24 moting more effective coral reef management
25 and restoration; and

1 “(C) through agreements with coral reef
2 research centers referred to in paragraph (2)—

3 “(i) collaborate directly with govern-
4 mental resource management agencies,
5 coral reef stewardship partnerships cer-
6 tified under section 210(e), nonprofit orga-
7 nizations, institutions of higher education,
8 and other research organizations;

9 “(ii) assist in the development and im-
10 plementation of State coral reef manage-
11 ment and restoration strategies developed
12 under section 206, State coral reef action
13 plans developed under section 207, State
14 coral reef action plan assessments devel-
15 oped under section 208, coral reef steward-
16 ship plans developed under section 211 or
17 certified under section 212, and coral reef
18 emergency plans developed under section
19 215 or certified under section 216;

20 “(iii) build capacity within govern-
21 mental resource management agencies to
22 establish research priorities and translate
23 and apply research findings to manage-
24 ment and restoration practices; and

1 “(iv) conduct public education and
2 awareness programs for policymakers, re-
3 source managers, and the general public
4 on—

5 “(I) coral reefs and coral reef
6 ecosystems;

7 “(II) best practices for coral reef
8 ecosystem management and restora-
9 tion;

10 “(III) the value of coral reefs;
11 and

12 “(IV) the threats to the sustain-
13 ability of coral reef ecosystems.

14 “(d) MULTIYEAR COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—The
15 Administrator may enter into multiyear cooperative agree-
16 ments with the heads of other Federal agencies, States,
17 Indian Tribes or Tribal organizations, local governments,
18 the coral reef cooperative institutes established under sub-
19 section (c), and other institutions of higher education,
20 nonprofit research organizations, and nongovernmental
21 organizations to carry out activities authorized under sec-
22 tions 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 213, 218, 219, 220,
23 and 221.

24 “(e) USE OF RESOURCES OF OTHER AGENCIES.—
25 The Administrator may use, with consent and with or

1 without reimbursement, the land, services, equipment, per-
2 sonnel, and facilities of any agency or instrumentality of—

3 “(1) the United States;

4 “(2) any State or local government;

5 “(3) any Indian Tribe; or

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

8 **“SEC. 224. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

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

13 “(1) \$29,000,000 for fiscal year 2020.

14 “(2) \$30,500,000 for fiscal year 2021.

15 “(3) \$32,000,000 for fiscal year 2022.

16 “(4) \$33,500,000 for fiscal year 2023.

17 “(5) \$35,000,000 for fiscal year 2024.

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

1 “(c) CORAL REEF MANAGEMENT AND RESTORATION
2 ACTIVITIES.—From the amounts authorized to be appro-
3 priated under subsection (a), there shall be made available
4 to the Secretary not less than the following amounts for
5 authorized activities under sections 205 and 209:

6 “(1) \$21,000,000 for fiscal year 2020, of which
7 not less than \$6,000,000 shall be made available to
8 the Secretary for the provision State block grants
9 under section 209.

10 “(2) \$22,500,000 for fiscal year 2021, of which
11 not less than \$6,750,000 shall be made available to
12 the Secretary for the provision State block grants
13 under section 209.

14 “(3) \$24,000,000 for fiscal year 2022, of which
15 not less than \$7,500,000 shall be made available to
16 the Secretary for the provision State block grants
17 under section 209.

18 “(4) \$25,500,000 for fiscal year 2023, of which
19 not less than \$8,250,000 shall be made available to
20 the Secretary for the provision State block grants
21 under section 209.

22 “(5) \$27,000,000 for fiscal year 2024, of which
23 not less than \$9,000,000 shall be made available to
24 the Secretary for the provision State block grants
25 under section 209.

1 “(d) FEDERALLY DIRECTED RESEARCH AND CORAL
2 REEF CONSERVATION PROGRAM GRANTS.—From the
3 amounts authorized to be appropriated under subsection
4 (a), there shall be made available to the Secretary not less
5 than \$8,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2020 through
6 2024 to support purposes consistent with this title, of
7 which—

8 “(1) not less than \$3,500,000 shall be made
9 available for each such fiscal year for authorized ac-
10 tivities under section 221; and

11 “(2) not less than \$4,500,000 shall be made
12 available for each such fiscal year through coopera-
13 tive agreements with the cooperative institutes estab-
14 lished under section 223(c).

15 **“SEC. 225. DEFINITIONS.**

16 “In this title:

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

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

1 “(3) CONSERVATION.—The term ‘conservation’
2 means the use of methods and procedures necessary
3 to preserve or sustain native corals and associated
4 species as diverse, viable, and self-perpetuating coral
5 reef ecosystems with minimal impacts from invasive
6 species, including—

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

12 “(B) mapping;

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

21 “(D) law enforcement;

22 “(E) conflict resolution initiatives;

23 “(F) community outreach and education;

24 and

1 “(G) promotion of safe and ecologically
2 sound navigation and anchoring.

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

5 “(A) all species of the orders Antipatharia
6 (black corals), Scleractinia (stony corals),
7 Gorgonacea (horny corals), Stolonifera
8 (organpipe corals and others), Alcyonacea (soft
9 corals), and Coenothecalia (blue coral), of the
10 class Anthozoa; and

11 “(B) all species of the order
12 Hydrocorallina (fire corals and hydrocorals) of
13 the class Hydrozoa.

14 “(5) CORAL REEF.—The term ‘coral reef’
15 means a limestone relief feature, in the form of a
16 reef or shoal, composed in whole or in part by living
17 coral, skeletal remains of coral, crustose coralline
18 algae, and other associated sessile marine plants and
19 animals.

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

22 “(A) corals and the associated community
23 of other species of reef organisms (including
24 reef plants and animals) associated with coral
25 reef habitat; and

1 “(B) the biotic and abiotic factors and
2 processes that control coral growth, reproduc-
3 tion, and abundance and diversity in such habi-
4 tat.

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

10 “(8) COVERED STATE.—The term ‘covered
11 State’ means Florida, Hawaii, the Northern Mariana
12 Islands, Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, or
13 the United States Virgin Islands.

14 “(9) INDIAN TRIBE; TRIBAL ORGANIZATION.—
15 The terms ‘Indian Tribe’ and ‘Tribal organization’
16 have the meanings given the terms ‘Indian tribe’ and
17 ‘tribal organization’, respectively, in section 4 of the
18 Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance
19 Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

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

24 “(11) INTERESTED STAKEHOLDER GROUPS.—
25 The term ‘interested stakeholder groups’ includes

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

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

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

20 “(14) RESILIENCE.—The term ‘resilience’
21 means the capacity for native corals, coral reefs, or
22 coral reef ecosystems to recover from natural and
23 human disturbance as determined by clearly identifi-
24 able, measurable, and science-based standards.

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

3 “(16) 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, Guam, the North-
8 ern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, or the Virgin
9 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 “(17) STEWARDSHIP.—The term ‘stewardship’,
16 with respect to a coral reef, includes conservation
17 and restoration.

18 “(18) 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 2019.”.

1 **TITLE II—UNITED STATES**
2 **CORAL REEF TASK FORCE**

3 **SEC. 201. ESTABLISHMENT.**

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

9 **SEC. 202. DUTIES.**

10 The duties of the Task Force shall be—

11 (1) to coordinate, in cooperation with State,
12 Tribal, and local government partners, academic
13 partners, and nongovernmental partners if appro-
14 priate, activities regarding the mapping, monitoring,
15 research, conservation, mitigation, restoration of
16 coral reefs and coral reef ecosystems;

17 (2) to monitor and advise regarding implemen-
18 tation of the policy and Federal agency responsibil-
19 ities set forth in—

20 (A) Executive Order 13089 (63 Fed. Reg.
21 32701; relating to coral reef protection); and

22 (B) the national coral reef resilience strat-
23 egy developed under section 203(a) of the Coral
24 Reef Conservation Act of 2000, as amended by
25 section 101;

1 (3) to work with the Secretary of State and the
2 Administrator of the United States Agency for
3 International Development, and in coordination with
4 the other members of the Task Force—

5 (A) to assess the United States role in
6 international trade and protection of coral spe-
7 cies; and

8 (B) to encourage implementation of appro-
9 priate strategies and actions to promote con-
10 servation and sustainable use of coral reef re-
11 sources worldwide;

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

14 (A) the national coral reef resilience strat-
15 egy under section 203 of the Coral Reef Con-
16 servation Act of 2000, as amended by section
17 101;

18 (B) State coral reef management and res-
19 toration strategies under section 206 of that
20 Act;

21 (C) State coral reef action plans under sec-
22 tion 207 of that Act; and

23 (D) State coral reef action plan assess-
24 ments under section 208 of that Act; and

1 (5) to produce a report each year, for submis-
2 sion to the appropriate congressional committees
3 and publication in the Federal Register, highlighting
4 the status of one State member's coral reef equities
5 on a rotating basis, including—

6 (A) a summary of recent coral reef man-
7 agement and restoration activities undertaken
8 in the State; and

9 (B) updated estimates of the direct and in-
10 direct economic activity supported by, and other
11 benefits associated with, those coral reef equi-
12 ties.

13 **SEC. 203. MEMBERSHIP.**

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

16 (1) The Secretary of Commerce, acting through
17 the Administrator of the National Oceanic and At-
18 mospheric Administration, and the Secretary of the
19 Interior, who shall be co-chairs of the Task Force.

20 (2) The Administrator of the United States
21 Agency for International Development.

22 (3) The Secretary of Agriculture.

23 (4) The Secretary of Defense.

24 (5) The Secretary of the Army, acting through
25 the Chief of Engineers.

1 (6) The Secretary of Homeland Security, acting
2 through the Administrator of the Federal Emer-
3 gency Management Agency.

4 (7) The Commandant of the Coast Guard

5 (8) The Attorney General.

6 (9) The Secretary of State.

7 (10) The Secretary of Transportation.

8 (11) The Administrator of the Environmental
9 Protection Agency.

10 (12) The Administrator of the National Aero-
11 nautics and Space Administration.

12 (13) The Director of the National Science
13 Foundation.

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

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

18 (1) The member of the South Atlantic Fishery
19 Management Council who is designated by the Gov-
20 ernor of Florida under section 302(b)(1) of the Mag-
21 nuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Manage-
22 ment Act (16 U.S.C. 1852(b)(1)).

23 (2) The member of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery
24 Management Council who is designated by the Gov-
25 ernor of Florida under such section.

1 (3) The members of the Western Pacific Fish-
2 ery Management Council who are designated by the
3 Governors of Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, and
4 the Northern Mariana Islands under such section.

5 (4) The members of the Caribbean Fishery
6 Management Council who are designated by the
7 Governors of Puerto Rico and the United States Vir-
8 gin Islands under such section.

9 (5) A member appointed by the President rep-
10 resenting each of the following:

11 (A) The Freely Associated States of the
12 Federated States of Micronesia.

13 (B) The Republic of the Marshall Islands.

14 (C) The Republic of Palau.

15 **SEC. 204. RESPONSIBILITIES OF FEDERAL AGENCY MEM-**
16 **BERS.**

17 (a) IN GENERAL.—A member of the Task Force
18 specified paragraphs (1) through (14) of section 203(a)
19 shall—

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

22 (2) utilize the programs and authorities of that
23 agency to protect and enhance the conditions of such
24 ecosystems, including through the promotion of basic
25 and applied scientific research;

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

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

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

14 **SEC. 205. WORKING GROUPS.**

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

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

21 (c) PARTICIPATION BY NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANI-
22 ZATIONS.—The co-chairs may allow nongovernmental or-
23 ganizations, including academic institutions, conservation
24 groups, and commercial and recreational fishing associa-

1 tions, to participate in a working group established under
2 subsection (a).

3 **SEC. 206. DEFINITIONS.**

4 In this title:

5 (1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
6 TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-
7 mittees” means the Committee on Commerce,
8 Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the
9 Committee on Natural Resources of the House of
10 Representatives.

11 (2) CONSERVATION, CORAL, CORAL REEF,
12 ETC.—The terms “conservation”, “coral”, “coral
13 reef”, “coral reef ecosystem”, “covered State”, “res-
14 toration”, “resilience”, and “State” have the mean-
15 ing given those terms in section 225 of the Coral
16 Reef Conservation Act of 2000, as amended by sec-
17 tion 101.

18 **TITLE III—DEPARTMENT OF THE**
19 **INTERIOR CORAL REEF AU-**
20 **THORITIES**

21 **SEC. 301. CORAL REEF CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION**
22 **ASSISTANCE.**

23 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior may
24 provide scientific expertise and technical assistance and,
25 subject to the availability of appropriations, financial as-

1 sistance for the conservation and restoration of coral reefs
2 consistent with all applicable laws governing resource
3 management in Federal and State waters, including—

4 (1) the national coral reef resilience strategy in
5 effect and developed under section 203 of the Coral
6 Reef Conservation Act of 2000, as amended by sec-
7 tion 101; and

8 (2) Federal coral reef action plans in effect and
9 developed under section 204 of that Act.

10 (b) CONSULTATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF
11 COMMERCE.—The Secretary of the Interior may consult
12 with the Secretary of Commerce regarding the conduct of
13 any activities to conserve and restore coral reefs and coral
14 reef ecosystems in waters managed under the jurisdiction
15 of the Federal agencies specified in paragraphs (2), (3),
16 and (4) of section 205(c) of the Coral Reef Conservation
17 Act of 2000, as amended by section 101.

18 (c) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary of
19 the Interior may enter into cooperative agreements with
20 States to fund coral reef conservation and restoration ac-
21 tivities in waters managed under the jurisdiction of such
22 States that are consistent with the national coral reef re-
23 siliance strategy in effect and developed under section 203
24 of the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000, as amended
25 by section 101, and support and enhance the success of

1 Federal coral reef action plans in effect and developed
2 under section 204 of that Act.

3 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, terms “conserva-
4 tion”, “coral reef”, “restoration”, and “State” have the
5 meaning given those terms in section 225 of the Coral
6 Reef Conservation Act of 2000, as amended by section
7 101.