

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1401

To reauthorize the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and
for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 14, 2003

Mr. MCCAIN (for himself and Ms. SNOWE) introduced the following bill; which
was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and
Transportation

A BILL

To reauthorize the National Oceanic and Atmospheric
Administration, 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 “National Oceanic and
5 Atmospheric Administration Reauthorization Act of
6 2003”.

7 **SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

8 The table of contents for this bill is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title.
- Sec. 2. Table of contents.
- Sec. 3. Definitions.

TITLE I—AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS

- Sec. 101. National Weather Service.
- Sec. 102. Oceanic and atmospheric research.
- Sec. 103. National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service.
- Sec. 104. National Ocean Service.
- Sec. 105. National Marine Fisheries Service.
- Sec. 106. Office of Program Planning and Integration.
- Sec. 107. Program Support.
- Sec. 108. Office of Marine and Aviation Operations.

TITLE II—MISCELLANEOUS

- Sec. 201. Establishment of business management fund.
- Sec. 202. External research program.
- Sec. 203. Hydrographic service volunteers.
- Sec. 204. Establishment of an Office of Education.
- Sec. 205. NOAA Corps authorized number of officers.

1 SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

2 In this Act:

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

6 (2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
7 the Secretary of Commerce.

8 **TITLE I—AUTHORIZATION OF**
9 **APPROPRIATIONS.**

10 SEC. 101. NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE.

11 (a) OPERATIONS, RESEARCH, AND FACILITIES.—
12 There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary
13 to enable the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Adminis-
14 tration to carry out the operations, research, and facilities
15 activities of the National Weather Service \$720,950,000
16 for fiscal year 2004, \$742,579,000 for fiscal year 2005,
17 \$764,856,000 for fiscal year 2006, \$787,801,000 for fis-

1 cal year 2007, and \$811,435,000 for fiscal year 2008, to
2 remain available until expended. Of such amounts—

3 (1) \$584,700,000 for fiscal year 2004,
4 \$602,241,000 for fiscal year 2005, \$620,000,000 for
5 fiscal year 2006, \$638,918,000 for fiscal year 2007,
6 and \$658,085,000 for fiscal year 2008 shall be for
7 local warnings and forecasts;

8 (2) \$6,098,000 for fiscal year 2004, \$6,281,000
9 for fiscal year 2005, \$6,469,000 for fiscal year
10 2006, \$6,663,000 for fiscal year 2007, and
11 \$6,863,000 for fiscal year 2008 shall be for the ad-
12 vanced hydrological prediction system;

13 (3) \$2,500,000 for fiscal year 2004, \$2,575,000
14 for fiscal year 2005, \$2,652,000 for fiscal year
15 2006, \$2,732,000 for fiscal year 2007, and
16 \$2,814,000 for fiscal year 2008 shall be for aviation
17 forecasts;

18 (4) \$7,390,000 for fiscal year 2004, \$7,612,000
19 for fiscal year 2005, \$7,840,000 for fiscal year
20 2006, \$8,075,000 for fiscal year 2007, and
21 \$8,318,000 for fiscal year 2008 shall be for weather
22 forecast offices facilities maintenance;

23 (5) \$45,102,000 for fiscal year 2004,
24 \$46,455,000 for fiscal year 2005, \$47,849,000 for
25 fiscal year 2006, \$49,284,000 for fiscal year 2007,

1 and \$50,763,000 for fiscal year 2008 shall be for
2 central forecast guidance;

3 (6) \$2,320,000 for fiscal year 2004, \$2,390,000
4 for fiscal year 2005, \$2,461,000 for fiscal year
5 2006, \$2,535,000 for fiscal year 2007, and
6 \$2,611,000 for fiscal year 2008 shall be for atmos-
7 pheric and hydrological research;

8 (7) \$42,340,000 for fiscal year 2004,
9 \$43,610,000 for fiscal year 2005, \$44,919,000 for
10 fiscal year 2006, \$46,266,000 for fiscal year 2007,
11 and \$47,654,000 for fiscal year 2008 shall be for
12 next generation weather radar;

13 (8) \$8,248,000 for fiscal year 2004, \$8,495,000
14 for fiscal year 2005, \$8,750,000 for fiscal year
15 2006, \$9,013,000 for fiscal year 2007, and
16 \$9,283,000 for fiscal year 2008 shall be for the
17 automated surface observing system; and

18 (9) \$37,570,000 for fiscal year 2004,
19 \$38,697,000 for fiscal year 2005, \$39,858,000 for
20 fiscal year 2006, \$41,054,000 for fiscal year 2007,
21 and \$42,285,000 for fiscal year 2008 shall be for
22 the advanced weather interactive processing system.

23 (b) PROCUREMENT, ACQUISITION, AND CONSTRUCTION.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the
24 Secretary to enable the National Oceanic and Atmospheric
25

1 Administration to carry out the procurement, acquisition,
2 and construction activities of the National Weather Serv-
3 ice \$99,081,000 for fiscal year 2004 and \$102,053,000
4 for fiscal year 2005, \$105,115,000 for fiscal year 2006,
5 \$108,268,000 for fiscal year 2007, and \$111,517,000 for
6 fiscal year 2008 to remain available until expended. Of
7 such amounts—

8 (1) \$12,000,000 for fiscal year 2004 shall be
9 for next generation weather radar;

10 (2) \$2,900,000 for fiscal year 2004 shall be for
11 National Weather Service telecommunications gate-
12 way legacy replacement;

13 (3) \$2,000,000 for fiscal year 2004 shall be for
14 the National Weather Service coastal global observ-
15 ing system;

16 (4) \$5,500,000 for fiscal year 2004 shall be for
17 the all hazard national warning network, National
18 Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Radio;

19 (5) \$10,400,000 for fiscal year 2004 shall be
20 for National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administra-
21 tion Center for Weather and Climate Prediction; and

22 (6) \$13,000,000 for fiscal year 2004 shall be
23 for weather forecast office construction.

24 **SEC. 102. OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC RESEARCH.**

25 (a) OPERATIONS, RESEARCH, AND FACILITIES.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be
2 appropriated to the Secretary to enable the National
3 Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to carry
4 out the oceanic and atmospheric research operations,
5 research, and facilities environmental research and
6 development activities of the Office of Oceanic and
7 Atmospheric Research \$366,501,000 for fiscal year
8 2004, \$377,496,000 for fiscal year 2005, and
9 \$388,821,000 for fiscal year 2006, \$400,485,000 for
10 fiscal year 2007, and \$412,500,000 for fiscal year
11 2008, to remain available until expended.

12 (2) CLIMATE AND AIR QUALITY RESEARCH.—Of
13 the amounts authorized under paragraph (1),
14 \$184,800,000 for fiscal year 2004, \$190,344,000 for
15 fiscal year 2005, \$196,054,000 for fiscal year 2006,
16 \$201,936,000 for fiscal year 2007, and
17 \$207,994,000 for fiscal year 2008 shall be for cli-
18 mate research.

19 (3) WEATHER AND AIR QUALITY RESEARCH.—
20 Of the amounts authorized under paragraph (1),
21 \$56,600,000 for fiscal year 2004, \$58,298,000 for
22 fiscal year 2005, \$60,047,000 for fiscal year 2006,
23 \$61,848,000 for fiscal year 2007, and \$63,704,000
24 for fiscal year 2008 shall be for weather and air
25 quality research.

1 ties of the National Environmental Satellite, Data
2 and Information Service \$150,317,000 for fiscal
3 year 2004, \$154,827,000 for fiscal year 2005,
4 \$159,471,000 for fiscal year 2006, \$164,255,000 for
5 fiscal year 2007, and \$169,183,000 for fiscal year
6 2008, to remain available until expended.

7 (2) ENVIRONMENTAL SATELLITE OBSERVING
8 SYSTEMS.—Of the amounts authorized under para-
9 graph (1), \$91,243,000 for fiscal year 2004,
10 \$93,980,000 for fiscal year 2005, \$96,800,000 for
11 fiscal year 2006, \$99,704,000 for fiscal year 2007,
12 and \$102,695,000 for fiscal year 2008 shall be for
13 environmental satellite observing systems.

14 (3) NOAA DATA CENTERS AND INFORMA-
15 TIONAL SERVICES.—Of the amounts authorized
16 under paragraph (1), \$59,074,000 for fiscal year
17 2004, \$60,846,000 for fiscal year 2005,
18 \$62,672,200 for fiscal year 2006, \$64,552,000 for
19 fiscal year 2007, and \$66,488,000 for fiscal year
20 2008 shall be for National Oceanic and Atmospheric
21 Administration's data centers and information serv-
22 ices.

23 (b) PROCUREMENT, ACQUISITION, AND CONSTRUC-
24 TION.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the
25 Secretary to enable the National Oceanic and Atmospheric

1 Administration to carry out the procurement, acquisition,
2 and construction environmental research and development
3 and related activities of the National Environmental Sat-
4 ellite, Data and Information Service. \$687,204,000 for fis-
5 cal year 2004, \$707,820,000 for fiscal year 2005,
6 \$729,054,000 for fiscal year 2006, \$750,926,000 for fis-
7 cal year 2007, and \$773,454,000 for fiscal year 2008 to
8 remain available until expended. Of such amounts—

9 (1) \$391,100,000 for fiscal year 2004 shall be
10 for the procurement and launch of, and supporting
11 ground systems for, the National Polar-Orbiting
12 Operational Environmental Satellite System and
13 polar orbiting environmental satellites; and

14 (2) \$277,000,000 for fiscal year 2004 shall be
15 for the procurement and launch of, and supporting
16 ground systems for, geostationary operational envi-
17 ronmental satellites.

18 **SEC. 104. NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE.**

19 (a) OPERATIONS, RESEARCH, AND FACILITIES.—
20 There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary
21 to enable the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Adminis-
22 tration to carry out operations, research and facilities ac-
23 tivities of the National Ocean Service \$391,050,000 for
24 fiscal year 2004, \$402,781,500 for fiscal year 2005,
25 \$414,864,945 for fiscal year 2006, \$427,310,893 for fis-

1 cal year 2007, and \$440,130,220 for fiscal year 2008, to
2 remain available until expended. Of such amounts—

3 (1) \$83,277,000 for fiscal year 2004,
4 \$85,775,310 for fiscal year 2005, \$88,348,569 for
5 fiscal year 2006, \$90,999,026 for fiscal year 2007,
6 and \$93,728,997 for fiscal year 2008 shall be for
7 mapping and charting;

8 (2) \$25,201,000 for fiscal year 2004,
9 \$25,957,030 for fiscal year 2005, \$26,735,740 for
10 fiscal year 2006, \$27,537,813 for fiscal year 2007,
11 and \$28,363,947 for fiscal year 2008 shall be for ge-
12 odesy;

13 (3) \$19,577,000 for fiscal year 2004,
14 \$20,164,310 for fiscal year 2005, \$20,769,239 for
15 fiscal year 2006, \$21,392,316 for fiscal year 2007,
16 and \$22,034,085 for fiscal year 2008 shall be for
17 tide and current data;

18 (4) \$74,580,000 for fiscal year 2004,
19 \$76,817,400 for fiscal year 2005, \$79,121,922 for
20 fiscal year 2006, \$81,495,579 for fiscal year 2007,
21 and \$83,940,447 for fiscal year 2008 shall be for
22 the ocean assessment program;

23 (5) \$17,903,000 for fiscal year 2004,
24 \$18,440,090 for fiscal year 2005, \$18,993,292 for
25 fiscal year 2006, \$19,563,091 for fiscal year 2007,

1 and \$20,149,984 for fiscal year 2008 shall be used
2 for response and restoration;

3 (6) \$10,384,000 for fiscal year 2004,
4 \$10,695,520 for fiscal year 2005, \$11,016,385 for
5 fiscal year 2006, \$11,346,877 for fiscal year 2007,
6 and \$11,687,283 for fiscal year 2008 shall be used
7 for ocean and coastal research;

8 (7) \$18,663,000 for fiscal year 2004,
9 \$19,222,890 for fiscal year 2005, \$19,799,576 for
10 fiscal year 2006, \$20,393,564 for fiscal year 2007,
11 and \$21,005,370 for fiscal year 2008 shall be used
12 for coastal ocean science.

13 (b) **PROCUREMENT, ACQUISITION, AND CONSTRUCTION.**—There are authorized to be appropriated to the
14 Secretary to enable the National Oceanic and Atmospheric
15 Administration to carry out the procurement, acquisition,
16 and construction activities of the National Ocean Service
17 \$20,000,000 for fiscal year 2004, \$20,600,000 for fiscal
18 year 2005, \$21,218,000 for fiscal year 2006, \$21,854,540
19 for fiscal year 2007, and \$22,510,176 for fiscal year 2008,
20 to remain available until expended.

22 **SEC. 105. NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE.**

23 (a) **OPERATIONS, RESEARCH, AND FACILITIES.**—
24 There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary
25 to enable the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Adminis-

1 tration to carry out operations, research and facilities ac-
2 tivities of the National Marine Fisheries Service
3 \$621,000,000 for fiscal year 2004, \$639,630,000 for fis-
4 cal year 2005, \$658,818,900 for fiscal year 2006,
5 \$678,583,467 for fiscal year 2007, and \$698,940,971 for
6 fiscal year 2008, to remain available until expended. Of
7 such amounts—

8 (1) \$328,008,000 for fiscal year 2004,
9 \$337,848,240 for fiscal year 2005, \$347,983,687 for
10 fiscal year 2006, \$358,423,197 for fiscal year 2007,
11 and \$369,175,893 for fiscal year 2008 shall be used
12 for fisheries research and management services;

13 (2) \$15,000,000 for fiscal year 2004,
14 \$15,450,000 for fiscal year 2005, \$15,913,500 for
15 fiscal year 2006, \$16,390,905 for fiscal year 2007,
16 and \$16,882,632 for fiscal year 2008 shall be used
17 for cooperative research;

18 (3) \$20,000,000 for fiscal year 2004,
19 \$20,600,000 for fiscal year 2005, \$21,218,000 for
20 fiscal year 2006, \$21,854,540 for fiscal year 2007,
21 and \$22,510,176 for fiscal year 2008 shall be used
22 for observer/training;

23 (4) \$160,740,000 for fiscal year 2004,
24 \$165,562,200 for fiscal year 2005, \$170,529,066 for
25 fiscal year 2006, \$175,644,937 for fiscal year 2007,

1 and \$180,914,286 for fiscal year 2008 shall be used
2 for protected resources research and management
3 services;

4 (5) \$11,000,000 for fiscal year 2004,
5 \$11,330,000 for fiscal year 2005, \$11,669,900 for
6 fiscal year 2006, \$12,019,997 for fiscal year 2007,
7 and \$12,380,596 for fiscal year 2008 shall be used
8 for coral reef conservation;

9 (6) \$35,512,000 for fiscal year 2004,
10 \$36,577,360 for fiscal year 2005, \$37,674,680 for
11 fiscal year 2006, \$38,804,921 for fiscal year 2007,
12 and \$39,969,068 for fiscal year 2008 shall be used
13 for Habitat conservation research management serv-
14 ices;

15 (7) \$50,698,000 for fiscal year 2004,
16 \$52,218,940 for fiscal year 2005, \$53,785,508 for
17 fiscal year 2006, \$55,399,073 for fiscal year 2007,
18 and \$57,061,045 for fiscal year 2008 shall be used
19 for enforcement and surveillance services.

20 (b) PROCUREMENT, ACQUISITION, AND CONSTRU-
21 TION.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the
22 Secretary to enable the National Oceanic and Atmospheric
23 Administration to carry out the procurement, acquisition,
24 and construction activities of the National Marine Fish-
25 eries Service \$14,000,000 for fiscal year 2004,

1 \$14,420,000 for fiscal year 2005, \$14,852,600 for fiscal
2 year 2006, \$15,298,178 for fiscal year 2007, and
3 \$15,757,123 for fiscal year 2008, to remain available until
4 expended.

5 (c) OTHER NECESSARY ACTIONS.—There are author-
6 ized to be appropriated to the Secretary to enable the Na-
7 tional Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to carry
8 out the other necessary activities of the National Marine
9 Fisheries Service \$97,181,000 for fiscal year 2004,
10 \$100,096,430 for fiscal year 2005, \$103,099,322 for fis-
11 cal year 2006, \$106,192,302 for fiscal year 2007, and
12 \$109,378,071 for fiscal year 2008, to remain available
13 until expended.

14 **SEC. 106. OFFICE OF PROGRAM PLANNING AND INTEGRA-**
15 **TION.**

16 There are authorized to be appropriated to the Sec-
17 retary to enable the National Oceanic and Atmospheric
18 Administration to carry out operations, research and fa-
19 cilities activities of the Office of Program Planning and
20 Integration \$2,700,000 for fiscal year 2004, \$2,781,000
21 for fiscal year 2005, \$2,864,430 for fiscal year 2006,
22 \$2,950,362 for fiscal year 2007, and \$3,038,873 for fiscal
23 year 2008, to remain available until expended.

1 **SEC. 107. PROGRAM SUPPORT.**

2 There are authorized to be appropriated to the Sec-
3 retary to enable the National Oceanic and Atmospheric
4 Administration to carry out program support activities
5 \$296,761,000 for fiscal year 2004, \$305,664,000 for fis-
6 cal year 2005, \$314,834,000 for fiscal year 2006,
7 \$324,279,000 for fiscal year 2007, and \$334,007,000 for
8 fiscal year 2008.

9 **SEC. 108. OFFICE OF MARINE AND AVIATION OPERATIONS.**

10 (a) OPERATIONS, RESEARCH, AND FACILITIES.—

11 There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary
12 to enable the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Adminis-
13 tration to carry out operations, research, and facilities ac-
14 tivities of the Office of Marine and Aviation Operations
15 \$109,136,000 for fiscal year 2004, \$112,410,000 for fis-
16 cal year 2005, \$115,782,000 for fiscal year 2006,
17 \$119,256,000 for fiscal year 2007, and \$122,834,000 for
18 fiscal year 2008, to remain available until expended.

19 (b) PROCUREMENT, ACQUISITION, AND CONSTRUC-

20 TION.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the
21 Secretary to enable the National Oceanic and Atmospheric
22 Administration to carry out the procurement, acquisition,
23 and construction activities of the Office of Marine and
24 Aviation Operations \$9,138,000 for fiscal year 2004,
25 \$9,412,000 for fiscal year 2005, \$9,695,000 for fiscal year

1 2006, \$9,985,000 for fiscal year 2007, and \$10,285,000
2 for fiscal year 2008, to remain available until expended.

3 (c) OTHER NECESSARY ACTIONS.—There are author-
4 ized to be appropriated to the Secretary to enable the Na-
5 tional Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to carry
6 out the other necessary activities of the Office of Marine
7 and Aviation Operations \$18,043,000 for fiscal year 2004,
8 \$18,584,000 for fiscal year 2005, \$19,142,000 for fiscal
9 year 2006, \$19,716,000 for fiscal year 2007, and
10 \$20,308,000 for fiscal year 2008, to remain available until
11 expended.

12 **TITLE II—MISCELLANEOUS**

13 **SEC. 201. ESTABLISHMENT OF BUSINESS MANAGEMENT** 14 **FUND.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—There is established the Business
16 Management Fund of the National Oceanic and Atmos-
17 pheric Administration, which shall be available without fis-
18 cal year limitation for expense and equipment necessary
19 for the maintenance and operations of such services and
20 projects as the Administrator determines may be per-
21 formed more advantageously when centralized.

22 (b) ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORTING.—The Adminis-
23 trator shall maintain a separate schedule of expenditures
24 and reimbursements for the Fund, and a statement of the

1 current assets and liabilities of the Fund as of the close
2 of the completed fiscal year shall be prepared each year.

3 (c) CREDITS TO THE FUND; CAPITALIZATION.—Not-
4 withstanding section 3302(b) of title 31, United States
5 Code, the Fund may be credited with advances and reim-
6 bursements from applicable appropriations of the Admin-
7 istration and from funds of other agencies or entities for
8 services furnished pursuant to law. Any inventories, equip-
9 ment, systems, real property, and other assets over
10 \$25,000, pertaining to the services to be provided by such
11 funds, either on hand or on order, less the related liabil-
12 ities or unpaid obligations, shall be used to capitalize the
13 Business Management Fund.

14 (d) FISCAL OPERATIONAL CRITERIA.—The Fund
15 shall provide for centralized services at rates which return
16 in full the cost of salaries and accruing benefits and the
17 annual costs equal to projected inflation, amortization of
18 automated data processing software and hardware sys-
19 tems, and an amount not to exceed 4 percent necessary
20 to maintain a reasonable operating reserve and fund new
21 requirements as determined by the Administrator.

22 (e) STARTUP DATE.—The Fund shall become oper-
23 ational October 1, 2003.

1 **SEC. 202. EXTERNAL RESEARCH PROGRAM.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall submit a
3 report to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science,
4 and Transportation and the House of Representatives
5 Committee on Science at the same time as the President’s
6 budget request for fiscal year 2005 is submitted to the
7 Congress for the establishment of a external research pro-
8 gram within the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Re-
9 search. The report shall include a plan to support funding
10 levels of \$25,000,000 in fiscal year 2005, \$30,000,000 in
11 fiscal year 2006, \$35,000,000 in fiscal year 2007, and
12 \$40,000,000 in fiscal year 2008.

13 (b) MANAGEMENT PLAN.—The report shall include
14 a management plan for the program the purpose of which
15 shall be to provide funding for merit-based, peer-reviewed
16 research grants and contracts to public and private orga-
17 nizations that will improve the efficiency and coverage of
18 the nation’s operational observing system and accelerate
19 the direct transfer of research results into operational pro-
20 grams at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Adminis-
21 tration providing operational weather monitoring, anal-
22 ysis, and forecasting services to the Nation. The manage-
23 ment plan shall include a strategy to commit the Adminis-
24 tration to spending 50 percent of new research funds (ex-
25 clusive of adjustments to base) within the external commu-
26 nity via merit-based, peer-reviewed processes.

1 (c) PUBLIC PLANNING PARTICIPATION.—The report
2 shall also include a mechanism for involving the public and
3 private organizations in the planning and execution of the
4 external research program.

5 (d) ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT.—The Adminis-
6 trator shall provide an annual report to the Senate Com-
7 mittee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, the
8 House of Representatives Committee on Resources, and
9 the House of Representatives Committee on Science on
10 the progress within the Administration of the transition
11 of research results into operational products and services.

12 **SEC. 203. HYDROGRAPHIC SERVICE VOLUNTEERS.**

13 Section 303 of the Hydrographic Services Improve-
14 ment Act of 1998 (33 U.S.C. 892a) is amended by adding
15 at the end the following:

16 “(d) AUTHORITY TO ACCEPT VOLUNTEER SERV-
17 ICES.—To help fulfill the duties of the Administrator, in-
18 cluding authorities under the Act of 1947, this Act, or
19 in response to a maritime emergency, the Administrator
20 may—

21 “(1) establish a volunteer program;

22 “(2) enter into special agreements with quali-
23 fied organizations to assist in the implementation of
24 a volunteer program; and

1 “(3) provide funding under the special agree-
 2 ment to the qualified organization for the purposes
 3 of assisting in the administration of the volunteer
 4 programs and for procuring and maintaining insur-
 5 ance or other coverage for the organization and its
 6 members when conducting volunteer activities.

7 “(e) **LEGAL STATUS OF VOLUNTEERS.**—Paragraphs
 8 (1) through (5) of section 7(c) of the Fish and Wildlife
 9 Act of 1956 (16 U.S.C. 742f(c)) shall apply to volunteers
 10 providing services to the Administrator under subsection
 11 (c) of this section, except that any reference in that section
 12 to the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Com-
 13 merce shall be deemed to refer to the Administrator.

14 “(f) **QUALIFIED ORGANIZATION.**—In this section, the
 15 term ‘qualified organization’ means a non-governmental,
 16 not-for-profit organization, determined by the Adminis-
 17 trator to have demonstrated expertise in boating safety
 18 and a commitment to improving the quality of hydro-
 19 graphic services and related oceanographic and meteoro-
 20 logical information that is made available to mariners.”.

21 **SEC. 204. ESTABLISHMENT OF AN OFFICE OF EDUCATION.**

22 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Administrator shall establish
 23 within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administra-
 24 tion an office of Education and shall consider education
 25 to be a central part of the Administration’s mission. The

1 purpose of the office shall be to coordinate and promote
2 education missions for all of the Administration's pro-
3 grams to better facilitate public awareness of oceanic and
4 atmospheric systems.

5 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
6 are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to en-
7 able the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administra-
8 tion to carry out the Education activities of the Adminis-
9 tration \$2,300,000 for fiscal year 2004, \$2,369,000 for
10 fiscal year 2005, \$2,440,070 for fiscal year 2006,
11 \$2,513,272 for fiscal year 2007, and \$2,588,670 for fiscal
12 year 2008, to remain available until expended.

13 **SEC. 205. NOAA CORPS AUTHORIZED NUMBER OF OFFI-**
14 **CERS.**

15 Section 215 of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric
16 Administration Commissioned Officer Corps Act of 2002
17 (33 U.S.C. 3005) is amended—

18 (1) by striking “285” in paragraph (2) and in-
19 serting “375”; and

20 (2) by striking “299” in paragraph (3) and in-
21 serting “375”.

○