

Calendar No. 90110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION**S. 39****[Report No. 110-39]**

To establish a coordinated national ocean exploration program within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 4, 2007

Mr. STEVENS introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

MARCH 27, 2007

Reported by Mr. INOUE, with an amendment

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

A BILL

To establish a coordinated national ocean exploration program within 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,*

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

2 (a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the
 3 “Ocean and Coastal Exploration and NOAA Act (OCEAN
 4 Act)”.

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

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—NATIONAL OCEAN EXPLORATION PROGRAM

Sec. 101. Short title.

Sec. 102. Establishment.

Sec. 103. Authorities.

Sec. 104. Exploration technology and infrastructure task force.

Sec. 105. Interagency financing.

Sec. 106. Authorization of appropriations.

TITLE II—UNDERSEA RESEARCH PROGRAM

Sec. 201. Short title.

Sec. 202. Establishment.

Sec. 203. Purpose.

Sec. 204. Program.

Sec. 205. Regional centers and technology institute.

Sec. 206. Competitiveness.

Sec. 207. Authorization of appropriations.

7 **TITLE I—NATIONAL OCEAN**
 8 **EXPLORATION PROGRAM**

9 **SEC. 101. SHORT TITLE.**

10 This title may be cited as the “National Ocean Explo-
 11 ration Program Act”.

12 **SEC. 102. ESTABLISHMENT.**

13 The Secretary of Commerce, through the Adminis-
 14 trator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Adminis-
 15 tration, shall, in consultation with the National Science
 16 Foundation and other appropriate Federal agencies, es-

1 establish a coordinated national ocean exploration program
2 within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administra-
3 tion that promotes collaboration with existing programs
4 of the agency, including those authorized in title II.

5 **SEC. 103. AUTHORITIES.**

6 In carrying out the program the Administrator of the
7 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shall—

8 (1) conduct interdisciplinary exploration voy-
9 ages or other scientific activities in conjunction with
10 other Federal agencies or academic or educational
11 institutions, to survey little known areas of the ma-
12 rine environment, inventory, observe, and assess liv-
13 ing and nonliving marine resources, and report such
14 findings;

15 (2) give priority attention to deep ocean re-
16 gions, with a focus on surveying deep water marine
17 systems that hold potential for important scientific
18 discoveries, such as hydrothermal vent communities
19 and seamounts;

20 (3) conduct scientific voyages to locate, define,
21 and document historic shipwrecks, submerged sites,
22 and other ocean exploration activities that combine
23 archaeology and oceanographic sciences;

24 (4) develop, in consultation with the National
25 Science Foundation, a transparent process for re-

1 viewing and approving proposals for activities to be
2 conducted under this program;

3 (5) enhance the technical capability of the
4 United States marine science community by pro-
5 moting the development of improved oceanographic
6 research, communication, navigation, and data col-
7 lection systems, as well as underwater platforms and
8 sensors;

9 (6) accept donations of property, data, and
10 equipment to be applied for the purpose of exploring
11 the oceans or increasing knowledge of the oceans;

12 (7) establish an ocean exploration forum to en-
13 courage partnerships and promote communication
14 among experts and other stakeholders in order to
15 enhance the scientific and technical expertise and
16 relevance of the national program; and

17 (8) avoid directing the programs towards activi-
18 ties relating to global temperature trends and in-
19 stead focus on underwater regions of particular sci-
20 entific interest.

21 **SEC. 104. EXPLORATION TECHNOLOGY AND INFRASTRUC-**
22 **TURE TASK FORCE.**

23 The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administra-
24 tion, in coordination with the National Aeronautics and
25 Space Administration, the U.S. Geological Survey, Office

1 of Naval Research, and relevant governmental, non-gov-
2 ernmental, academic, and other experts, shall convene an
3 ocean technology and infrastructure task force to develop
4 and implement a strategy—

5 (1) to facilitate transfer of new exploration
6 technology to the program;

7 (2) to improve availability of communications
8 infrastructure, including satellite capabilities, to the
9 program;

10 (3) to develop an integrated, workable and com-
11 prehensive data management information processing
12 system that will make information on unique and
13 significant features obtained by the program avail-
14 able for research and management purposes;

15 (4) to conduct public outreach activities that
16 improve the public understanding of ocean science,
17 resources, and processes, in conjunction with rel-
18 evant programs of the National Oceanic and Atmos-
19 pheric Administration, the National Science Founda-
20 tion, and other agencies; and

21 (5) to encourage cost-sharing partnerships with
22 governmental and non-governmental entities that
23 will assist in transferring exploration technology and
24 technical expertise to the program.

1 **SEC. 105. INTERAGENCY FINANCING.**

2 The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administra-
 3 tion, the National Science Foundation, and other Federal
 4 agencies involved in the program, are authorized to par-
 5 ticipate in interagency financing and share, transfer, re-
 6 ceive and spend funds appropriated to any Federal partici-
 7 pant in the program for the purposes of carrying out any
 8 administrative or programmatic project or activity under
 9 this section. Funds may be transferred among such de-
 10 partments and agencies through an appropriate instru-
 11 ment that specifies the goods, services, or space being ac-
 12 quired from another Federal participant and the costs of
 13 the same.

14 **SEC. 106. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

15 There are authorized to be appropriated to the Na-
 16 tional Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to carry
 17 out the program—

- 18 (1) \$30,500,000 for fiscal year 2008;
 19 (2) \$33,550,000 for fiscal year 2009;
 20 (3) \$36,905,000 for fiscal year 2010;
 21 (4) \$40,596,000 for fiscal year 2011;
 22 (5) \$44,655,000 for fiscal year 2012;
 23 (6) \$49,121,000 for fiscal year 2013;
 24 (7) \$54,033,000 for fiscal year 2014;
 25 (8) \$59,436,000 for fiscal year 2015;
 26 (9) \$65,379,000 for fiscal year 2016; and

1 (10) \$71,917,000 for fiscal year 2017.

2 **TITLE II—UNDERSEA RESEARCH**
3 **PROGRAM**

4 **SEC. 201. SHORT TITLE.**

5 This title may be cited as the “NOAA Undersea Re-
6 search Program Act of 2007”.

7 **SEC. 202. ESTABLISHMENT.**

8 The Administrator of the National Oceanic and At-
9 mospheric Administration shall establish and maintain an
10 undersea research program and shall designate a Director
11 of that program.

12 **SEC. 203. PURPOSE.**

13 The purpose of the program is to increase scientific
14 knowledge essential for the informed management, use
15 and preservation of oceanic, coastal and large lake re-
16 sources through undersea research, exploration, education
17 and technology development. The program shall be part
18 of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s
19 undersea research, education, and technology development
20 efforts, and also make available the infrastructure and ex-
21 pertise to service the undersea science needs of the aca-
22 demic community.

23 **SEC. 204. PROGRAM.**

24 The program shall be conducted through a national
25 headquarters, a network of regional undersea research

1 centers, and a national technology institute. Overall direc-
2 tion of the program will be provided by the program direc-
3 tor with advice from the Council of Center directors com-
4 prised of the directors of the regional centers and the na-
5 tional technology institute.

6 **SEC. 205. REGIONAL CENTERS AND TECHNOLOGY INSTI-**
7 **TUTE.**

8 The following research, exploration, education, and
9 technology programs shall be conducted through the net-
10 work of regional centers and the national technology insti-
11 tute:

12 (1) Core research and exploration based on na-
13 tional and regional undersea research priorities.

14 (2) Advanced undersea technology to support
15 the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administra-
16 tion's research mission and programs.

17 (3) Undersea science-based education and out-
18 reach programs to enrich ocean science education
19 and public awareness of the oceans and Great
20 Lakes.

21 (4) Development of advanced undersea tech-
22 nology associated with seafloor observatories, re-
23 motely operated vehicles, autonomous underwater ve-
24 hicles, and new sampling and sensing technologies.

1 (5) Discovery, study, and development of nat-
2 ural products from ocean and aquatic systems.

3 **SEC. 206. COMPETITIVENESS.**

4 Except for a small discretionary fund for rapid re-
5 sponse activities and for the National Oceanic and Atmos-
6 pheric Administration-related service projects, for which
7 no more than 10 percent of the program budget shall be
8 set aside, the external projects supported by the regional
9 centers shall be managed using an open and competitive
10 process to evaluate scientific merit, relevance to the Na-
11 tional Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, regional
12 and national research goals, and technical feasibility.

13 **SEC. 207. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

14 There are authorized to be appropriated to the Na-
15 tional Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration—

16 (1) for fiscal year 2008—

17 (A) \$12,500,000 for the regional centers,
18 of which 50 percent shall be for West Coast Re-
19 gional Centers and 50 percent shall be for East
20 Coast Regional Centers; and

21 (B) \$5,000,000 for the National Tech-
22 nology Institute;

23 (2) for fiscal year 2009—

24 (A) \$13,750,000 for the regional centers,
25 of which 50 percent shall be for West Coast Re-

1 regional Centers and 50 percent shall be for East
2 Coast Regional Centers; and

3 (B) \$5,500,000 for the National Tech-
4 nology Institute;

5 (3) for fiscal year 2010—

6 (A) \$15,125,000 for the regional centers,
7 of which 50 percent shall be for West Coast Re-
8 gional Centers and 50 percent shall be for East
9 Coast Regional Centers; and

10 (B) \$6,050,000 for the National Tech-
11 nology Institute;

12 (4) for fiscal year 2011—

13 (A) \$16,638,000 for the regional centers,
14 of which 50 percent shall be for West Coast Re-
15 gional Centers and 50 percent shall be for East
16 Coast Regional Centers; and

17 (B) \$6,655,000 for the National Tech-
18 nology Institute;

19 (5) for fiscal year 2012—

20 (A) \$18,301,000 for the regional centers,
21 of which 50 percent shall be for West Coast Re-
22 gional Centers and 50 percent shall be for East
23 Coast Regional Centers; and

24 (B) \$7,321,000 for the National Tech-
25 nology Institute;

1 (6) for fiscal year 2013—

2 (A) \$20,131,000 for the regional centers,
3 of which 50 percent shall be for West Coast Re-
4 gional Centers and 50 percent shall be for East
5 Coast Regional Centers; and

6 (B) \$8,053,000 for the National Tech-
7 nology Institute;

8 (7) for fiscal year 2014—

9 (A) \$22,145,000 for the regional centers,
10 of which 50 percent shall be for West Coast Re-
11 gional Centers and 50 percent shall be for East
12 Coast Regional Centers; and

13 (B) \$8,859,000 for the National Tech-
14 nology Institute;

15 (8) for fiscal year 2015—

16 (A) \$24,359,000 for the regional centers,
17 of which 50 percent shall be for West Coast Re-
18 gional Centers and 50 percent shall be for East
19 Coast Regional Centers; and

20 (B) \$9,744,000 for the National Tech-
21 nology Institute;

22 (9) for fiscal year 2016—

23 (A) \$26,795,000 for the regional centers,
24 of which 50 percent shall be for West Coast Re-

1 regional Centers and 50 percent shall be for East
2 Coast Regional Centers; and

3 ~~(B) \$10,718,000 for the National Tech-~~
4 ~~nology Institute; and~~

5 ~~(10) for fiscal year 2017—~~

6 ~~(A) \$29,474,000 for the regional centers,~~
7 ~~of which 50 percent shall be for West Coast Re-~~
8 ~~gional Centers and 50 percent shall be for East~~
9 ~~Coast Regional Centers; and~~

10 ~~(B) \$11,790,000 for the National Tech-~~
11 ~~nology Institute.~~

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

13 *(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the*
14 *“Ocean and Coastal Exploration and NOAA Act (OCEAN*
15 *Act)”.*

16 *(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for*
17 *this Act is as follows:*

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—NATIONAL OCEAN EXPLORATION PROGRAM

Sec. 101. Short title.

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Sec. 106. Authorization of appropriations.

TITLE II—UNDERSEA RESEARCH PROGRAM

Sec. 201. Short title.

Sec. 202. Establishment.

Sec. 203. Purpose.

Sec. 204. Program.

Sec. 205. Regional centers and technology institute.

Sec. 206. Competitiveness.

Sec. 207. Authorization of appropriations.

TITLE III—OCEAN AND COASTAL MAPPING INTEGRATION

Sec. 301. Short title.

Sec. 302. Integrated ocean and coastal mapping program.

Sec. 303. Interagency Committee on ocean and coastal mapping.

Sec. 304. NOAA integrated mapping initiative.

Sec. 305. Interagency program reporting.

Sec. 306. Authorization of appropriations.

Sec. 307. Definitions.

1 **TITLE I—NATIONAL OCEAN**
2 **EXPLORATION PROGRAM**

3 **SEC. 101. SHORT TITLE.**

4 *This title may be cited as the “National Ocean Explo-*
5 *ration Program Act”.*

6 **SEC. 102. ESTABLISHMENT.**

7 *The Secretary of Commerce, through the Administrator*
8 *of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration,*
9 *shall, in consultation with the National Science Foundation*
10 *and other appropriate Federal agencies, establish a coordi-*
11 *nated national ocean exploration program within the Na-*
12 *tional Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration that pro-*
13 *otes collaboration with existing programs of the agency,*
14 *including those authorized in title II.*

15 **SEC. 103. AUTHORITIES.**

16 *In carrying out the program the Administrator of the*
17 *National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shall—*

18 (1) *conduct interdisciplinary exploration voyages*
19 *or other scientific activities in conjunction with other*
20 *Federal agencies or academic or educational institu-*

1 *tions, to survey little known areas of the marine envi-*
2 *ronment, inventory, observe, and assess living and*
3 *nonliving marine resources, and report such findings;*

4 *(2) give priority attention to deep ocean regions,*
5 *with a focus on surveying deep water marine systems*
6 *that hold potential for important scientific discov-*
7 *eries, such as hydrothermal vent communities and*
8 *seamounts;*

9 *(3) conduct scientific voyages to locate, define,*
10 *and document historic shipwrecks, submerged sites,*
11 *and other ocean exploration activities that combine*
12 *archaeology and oceanographic sciences;*

13 *(4) develop, in consultation with the National*
14 *Science Foundation, a transparent process for review-*
15 *ing and approving proposals for activities to be con-*
16 *ducted under this program;*

17 *(5) enhance the technical capability of the*
18 *United States marine science community by pro-*
19 *moting the development of improved oceanographic*
20 *research, communication, navigation, and data collec-*
21 *tion systems, as well as underwater platforms and*
22 *sensors;*

23 *(6) accept donations of property, data, and*
24 *equipment to be applied for the purpose of exploring*
25 *the oceans or increasing knowledge of the oceans; and*

1 (4) to conduct public outreach activities that im-
2 prove the public understanding of ocean science, re-
3 sources, and processes, in conjunction with relevant
4 programs of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric
5 Administration, the National Science Foundation,
6 and other agencies; and

7 (5) to encourage cost-sharing partnerships with
8 governmental and non-governmental entities that will
9 assist in transferring exploration technology and tech-
10 nical expertise to the program.

11 **SEC. 105. INTERAGENCY FINANCING.**

12 *The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administra-*
13 *tion, the National Science Foundation, and other Federal*
14 *agencies involved in the program, are authorized to partici-*
15 *pate in interagency financing and share, transfer, receive*
16 *and spend funds appropriated to any Federal participant*
17 *in the program for the purposes of carrying out any admin-*
18 *istrative or programmatic project or activity under this sec-*
19 *tion. Funds may be transferred among such departments*
20 *and agencies through an appropriate instrument that speci-*
21 *fies the goods, services, or space being acquired from another*
22 *Federal participant and the costs of the same.*

1 **SEC. 106. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

2 *There are authorized to be appropriated to the Na-*
 3 *tional Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to carry*
 4 *out the program—*

5 (1) \$30,500,000 for fiscal year 2008;

6 (2) \$33,550,000 for fiscal year 2009;

7 (3) \$36,905,000 for fiscal year 2010;

8 (4) \$40,596,000 for fiscal year 2011;

9 (5) \$44,655,000 for fiscal year 2012;

10 (6) \$49,121,000 for fiscal year 2013;

11 (7) \$54,033,000 for fiscal year 2014;

12 (8) \$59,436,000 for fiscal year 2015;

13 (9) \$65,379,000 for fiscal year 2016; and

14 (10) \$71,917,000 for fiscal year 2017.

15 **TITLE II—UNDERSEA RESEARCH**
 16 **PROGRAM**

17 **SEC. 201. SHORT TITLE.**

18 *This title may be cited as the “NOAA Undersea Re-*
 19 *search Program Act of 2007”.*

20 **SEC. 202. ESTABLISHMENT.**

21 *The Administrator of the National Oceanic and At-*
 22 *mospheric Administration shall establish and maintain an*
 23 *undersea research program and shall designate a Director*
 24 *of that program.*

1 **SEC. 203. PURPOSE.**

2 *The purpose of the program is to increase scientific*
 3 *knowledge essential for the informed management, use and*
 4 *preservation of oceanic, coastal and large lake resources*
 5 *through undersea research, exploration, education and tech-*
 6 *nology development. The program shall be part of National*
 7 *Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's undersea re-*
 8 *search, education, and technology development efforts, and*
 9 *also make available the infrastructure and expertise to serv-*
 10 *ice the undersea science needs of the academic community.*

11 **SEC. 204. PROGRAM.**

12 *The program shall be conducted through a national*
 13 *headquarters, a network of regional undersea research cen-*
 14 *ters, and a national technology institute. Overall direction*
 15 *of the program will be provided by the program director*
 16 *with advice from the Council of Center directors comprised*
 17 *of the directors of the regional centers and the national tech-*
 18 *nology institute.*

19 **SEC. 205. REGIONAL CENTERS AND TECHNOLOGY INSTI-**
 20 **TUTE.**

21 *The following research, exploration, education, and*
 22 *technology programs shall be conducted through the network*
 23 *of regional centers and the national technology institute:*

24 (1) *Core research and exploration based on na-*
 25 *tional and regional undersea research priorities.*

1 (2) *Advanced undersea technology to support the*
2 *National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's*
3 *research mission and programs.*

4 (3) *Undersea science-based education and out-*
5 *reach programs to enrich ocean science education and*
6 *public awareness of the oceans and Great Lakes.*

7 (4) *Development of advanced undersea tech-*
8 *nology associated with seafloor observatories, remotely*
9 *operated vehicles, autonomous underwater vehicles,*
10 *and new sampling and sensing technologies.*

11 (5) *Discovery, study, and development of natural*
12 *products from ocean and aquatic systems.*

13 (6) *Discovery, study, monitoring, and evaluation*
14 *of United States ocean and coastal resources, such as*
15 *wave, current, tidal, and biological resources.*

16 **SEC. 206. COMPETITIVENESS.**

17 *Except for a small discretionary fund for rapid re-*
18 *sponse activities and for the National Oceanic and Atmos-*
19 *pheric Administration-related service projects, for which no*
20 *more than 10 percent of the program budget shall be set*
21 *aside, the external projects supported by the regional centers*
22 *shall be managed using an open and competitive process*
23 *to evaluate scientific merit, relevance to the National Oce-*
24 *anic and Atmospheric Administration, regional and na-*
25 *tional research goals, and technical feasibility.*

1 **SEC. 207. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

2 *There are authorized to be appropriated to the Na-*
3 *tional Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration—*

4 *(1) for fiscal year 2008—*

5 *(A) \$12,500,000 for the regional centers, of*
6 *which 50 percent shall be for West Coast regional*
7 *centers and 50 percent shall be for East Coast re-*
8 *gional centers; and*

9 *(B) \$5,000,000 for the National Technology*
10 *Institute;*

11 *(2) for fiscal year 2009—*

12 *(A) \$13,750,000 for the regional centers, of*
13 *which 50 percent shall be for West Coast regional*
14 *centers and 50 percent shall be for East Coast re-*
15 *gional centers; and*

16 *(B) \$5,500,000 for the National Technology*
17 *Institute;*

18 *(3) for fiscal year 2010—*

19 *(A) \$15,125,000 for the regional centers, of*
20 *which 50 percent shall be for West Coast regional*
21 *centers and 50 percent shall be for East Coast re-*
22 *gional centers; and*

23 *(B) \$6,050,000 for the National Technology*
24 *Institute;*

25 *(4) for fiscal year 2011—*

1 (A) \$16,638,000 for the regional centers, of
2 which 50 percent shall be for West Coast regional
3 centers and 50 percent shall be for East Coast re-
4 gional centers; and

5 (B) \$6,655,000 for the National Technology
6 Institute;

7 (5) for fiscal year 2012—

8 (A) \$18,301,000 for the regional centers, of
9 which 50 percent shall be for West Coast regional
10 centers and 50 percent shall be for East Coast re-
11 gional centers; and

12 (B) \$7,321,000 for the National Technology
13 Institute;

14 (6) for fiscal year 2013—

15 (A) \$20,131,000 for the regional centers, of
16 which 50 percent shall be for West Coast regional
17 centers and 50 percent shall be for East Coast re-
18 gional centers; and

19 (B) \$8,053,000 for the National Technology
20 Institute;

21 (7) for fiscal year 2014—

22 (A) \$22,145,000 for the regional centers, of
23 which 50 percent shall be for West Coast regional
24 centers and 50 percent shall be for East Coast re-
25 gional centers; and

1 (B) \$8,859,000 for the National Technology
2 Institute;

3 (8) for fiscal year 2015—

4 (A) \$24,359,000 for the regional centers, of
5 which 50 percent shall be for West Coast regional
6 centers and 50 percent shall be for East Coast re-
7 gional centers; and

8 (B) \$9,744,000 for the National Technology
9 Institute;

10 (9) for fiscal year 2016—

11 (A) \$26,795,000 for the regional centers, of
12 which 50 percent shall be for West Coast regional
13 centers and 50 percent shall be for East Coast re-
14 gional centers; and

15 (B) \$10,718,000 for the National Tech-
16 nology Institute; and

17 (10) for fiscal year 2017—

18 (A) \$29,474,000 for the regional centers, of
19 which 50 percent shall be for West Coast regional
20 centers and 50 percent shall be for East Coast re-
21 gional centers; and

22 (B) \$11,790,000 for the National Tech-
23 nology Institute.

1 **TITLE III—OCEAN AND COASTAL**
2 **MAPPING INTEGRATION**

3 **SEC. 301. SHORT TITLE.**

4 *This title may be cited as the “Ocean and Coastal*
5 *Mapping Integration Act”.*

6 **SEC. 302. INTEGRATED OCEAN AND COASTAL MAPPING**
7 **PROGRAM.**

8 *(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the National*
9 *Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shall establish a*
10 *program to develop, in coordination with the Interagency*
11 *Committee on Ocean and Coastal Mapping, a coordinated*
12 *and comprehensive Federal ocean and coastal mapping*
13 *plan for the Great Lakes and Coastal State waters, the ter-*
14 *ritorial sea, the exclusive economic zone, and the conti-*
15 *ental shelf of the United States that enhances ecosystem*
16 *approaches in decision-making for conservation and man-*
17 *agement of marine resources and habitats, establishes re-*
18 *search priorities, supports the siting of research and other*
19 *platforms, and advances ocean and coastal science.*

20 *(b) PROGRAM PARAMETERS.—In developing such a*
21 *program, the Administrator shall work with the Committee*
22 *to—*

23 *(1) identify all Federal and federally-funded pro-*
24 *grams conducting shoreline delineation and ocean or*
25 *coastal mapping, noting geographic coverage, fre-*

1 *quency, spatial coverage, resolution, and subject mat-*
2 *ter focus of the data and location of data archives;*

3 *(2) promote cost-effective, cooperative mapping*
4 *efforts that incorporate policies for private sector con-*
5 *tracting among all Federal agencies conducting ocean*
6 *and coastal mapping agencies by increasing data*
7 *sharing, developing data acquisition and metadata*
8 *standards, and facilitating the interoperability of in*
9 *situ data collection systems, data processing,*
10 *archiving, and distribution of data products;*

11 *(3) facilitate the adaptation of existing tech-*
12 *nologies as well as foster expertise in new ocean and*
13 *coastal mapping technologies, including through re-*
14 *search, development, and training conducted in co-*
15 *operation with the private sector, academia, and*
16 *other non-Federal entities;*

17 *(4) develop standards and protocols for testing*
18 *innovative experimental mapping technologies and*
19 *transferring new technologies between the Federal*
20 *Government and the private sector or academia;*

21 *(5) centrally archive, manage, and distribute*
22 *data sets as well as provide mapping products and*
23 *services to the general public in service of statutory*
24 *requirements;*

1 (6) *develop specific data presentation standards*
2 *for use by Federal, State, and other entities that doc-*
3 *ument locations of federally-permitted activities, liv-*
4 *ing and nonliving resources, marine ecosystems, sen-*
5 *sitive habitats, submerged cultural resources, undersea*
6 *cables, offshore aquaculture projects, and any areas*
7 *designated for the purposes of environmental protec-*
8 *tion or conservation and management of living ma-*
9 *rine resources; and*

10 (7) *identify the procedures to be used for coordi-*
11 *nating Federal data with State and local government*
12 *programs.*

13 **SEC. 303. INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE ON OCEAN AND**
14 **COASTAL MAPPING.**

15 (a) *ESTABLISHMENT.*—*There is hereby established an*
16 *Interagency Committee on Ocean and Coastal Mapping.*

17 (b) *MEMBERSHIP.*—*The Committee shall be comprised*
18 *of senior representatives from Federal agencies with ocean*
19 *and coastal mapping and surveying responsibilities. The*
20 *representatives shall be high-ranking officials of their re-*
21 *spective agencies or departments and, whenever possible, the*
22 *head of the portion of the agency or department that is most*
23 *relevant to the purposes of this title. Membership shall in-*
24 *clude senior representatives from the National Oceanic and*
25 *Atmospheric Administration, the Chief of Naval Oper-*

1 *ations, the United States Geological Survey, Minerals Man-*
2 *agement Service, National Science Foundation, National*
3 *Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, United States Army Corps*
4 *of Engineers, United States Coast Guard, Environmental*
5 *Protection Agency, Federal Emergency Management Agen-*
6 *cy and National Aeronautics and Space Administration,*
7 *and other appropriate Federal agencies involved in ocean*
8 *and coastal mapping.*

9 (c) *CHAIRMAN.*—*The Committee shall be chaired by the*
10 *representative from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric*
11 *Administration. The chairman may create subcommittees*
12 *chaired by any member agency of the committee. Working*
13 *groups may be formed by the full Committee to address*
14 *issues of short duration.*

15 (d) *MEETINGS.*—*The Committee shall meet on a quar-*
16 *terly basis, but subcommittee or working group meetings*
17 *shall meet on an as-needed basis.*

18 (e) *COORDINATION.*—*The committee shall coordinate*
19 *activities, when appropriate, with—*

20 (1) *other Federal efforts, including the Digital*
21 *Coast, Geospatial One-Stop, and the Federal Geo-*
22 *graphic Data Committee;*

23 (2) *international mapping activities;*

24 (3) *States and user groups through workshops*
25 *and other appropriate mechanisms; and*

1 (4) *representatives of the private sector.*

2 **SEC. 304. NOAA INTEGRATED MAPPING INITIATIVE.**

3 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—*Not later than 6 months after the*
4 *date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator, in con-*
5 *sultation with the Committee, shall develop and submit to*
6 *the Congress a plan for an integrated ocean and coastal*
7 *mapping initiative within the National Oceanic and At-*
8 *mospheric Administration.*

9 (b) *PLAN REQUIREMENTS.*—*The plan shall—*

10 (1) *identify and describe all ocean and coastal*
11 *mapping programs within the agency, including those*
12 *that conduct mapping or related activities in the*
13 *course of existing missions, such as hydrographic sur-*
14 *veys, ocean exploration projects, living marine re-*
15 *source conservation and management programs,*
16 *coastal zone management projects, and ocean and*
17 *coastal science projects;*

18 (2) *establish priority mapping programs and es-*
19 *tablish and periodically update priorities for geo-*
20 *graphic areas in surveying and mapping, as well as*
21 *minimum data acquisition and metadata standards*
22 *for those programs;*

23 (3) *encourage the development of innovative*
24 *ocean and coastal mapping technologies and applica-*
25 *tions through research and development through coop-*

1 *erative or other agreements at joint centers of excel-*
2 *lence and with the private sector;*

3 *(4) document available and developing tech-*
4 *nologies, best practices in data processing and dis-*
5 *tribution, and leveraging opportunities with other*
6 *Federal agencies, non-governmental organizations,*
7 *and the private sector;*

8 *(5) identify training, technology, and other re-*
9 *source requirements for enabling the National Oceanic*
10 *and Atmospheric Administration's programs, ships,*
11 *and aircraft to support a coordinated ocean and*
12 *coastal mapping program;*

13 *(6) identify a centralized mechanism or office for*
14 *coordinating data collection, processing, archiving,*
15 *and dissemination activities of all such mapping pro-*
16 *grams within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric*
17 *Administration, including—*

18 *(A) designating primary data processing*
19 *centers to maximize efficiency in information*
20 *technology investment, develop consistency in*
21 *data processing, and meet Federal mandates for*
22 *data accessibility; and*

23 *(B) designating a repository that is respon-*
24 *sible for archiving and managing the distribu-*
25 *tion of all ocean and coastal mapping data to*

1 *simplify the provision of services to benefit Fed-*
2 *eral and State programs; and*

3 *(7) set forth a timetable for implementation and*
4 *completion of the plan, including a schedule for peri-*
5 *odic Congressional progress reports, and recommenda-*
6 *tions for integrating approaches developed under the*
7 *initiative into the interagency program.*

8 *(c) NOAA JOINT OCEAN AND COASTAL MAPPING CEN-*
9 *TERS.—The Administrator is authorized to maintain and*
10 *operate up to 3 joint ocean and coastal mapping centers,*
11 *including a joint hydrographic center, which shall be co-*
12 *located with an institution of higher education. The centers*
13 *shall serve as hydrographic centers of excellence and are au-*
14 *thorized to conduct activities necessary to carry out the pur-*
15 *poses of this title, including—*

16 *(1) research and development of innovative ocean*
17 *and coastal mapping technologies, equipment, and*
18 *data products;*

19 *(2) mapping of the United States outer conti-*
20 *ental shelf;*

21 *(3) data processing for non-traditional data and*
22 *uses;*

23 *(4) advancing the use of remote sensing tech-*
24 *nologies, for related issues, including mapping and*
25 *assessment of essential fish habitat and of coral re-*

1 sources, ocean observations and ocean exploration;
2 and

3 (5) providing graduate education in ocean and
4 coastal mapping sciences for National Oceanic and
5 Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Officer
6 Corps, personnel of other agencies with ocean and
7 coastal mapping programs, and civilian personnel.

8 (d) NOAA REPORT.—The Administrator shall con-
9 tinue developing a strategy for expanding contracting with
10 private entities to minimize duplication and take max-
11 imum advantage of private sector capabilities in fulfilling
12 the Administration's mapping and charting responsibil-
13 ities. Within 120 days after the date of enactment of this
14 Act, the Administrator shall transmit a report describing
15 the strategy developed under this subsection to the Senate
16 Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and
17 the House of Representatives Committee on Resources.

18 **SEC. 305. INTERAGENCY PROGRAM REPORTING.**

19 No later than 18 months after the date of enactment
20 of this Act, and bi-annually thereafter, the Chairman of the
21 Committee shall transmit to the Senate Committee on Com-
22 merce, Science, and Transportation and the House of Rep-
23 resentatives Committee on Resources a report detailing
24 progress made in implementing the provisions of this title,
25 including—

1 (1) *an inventory of ocean and coastal mapping*
2 *data, noting the metadata, within the territorial seas*
3 *and the exclusive economic zone and throughout the*
4 *continental shelf of the United States, noting the age*
5 *and source of the survey and the spatial resolution*
6 *(metadata) of the data;*

7 (2) *identification of priority areas in need of*
8 *survey coverage using present technologies;*

9 (3) *a resource plan that identifies when priority*
10 *areas in need of modern ocean and coastal mapping*
11 *surveys can be accomplished;*

12 (4) *the status of efforts to produce integrated dig-*
13 *ital maps of ocean and coastal areas;*

14 (5) *a description of any products resulting from*
15 *coordinated mapping efforts under this title that im-*
16 *prove public understanding of the coasts, oceans, or*
17 *regulatory decision-making;*

18 (6) *documentation of minimum and desired*
19 *standards for data acquisition and integrated*
20 *metadata;*

21 (7) *a statement of the status of Federal efforts to*
22 *leverage mapping technologies, coordinate mapping*
23 *activities, share expertise, and exchange data;*

24 (8) *a statement of resource requirements for or-*
25 *ganizations to meet the goals of the program, includ-*

1 *ing technology needs for data acquisition, processing*
2 *and distribution systems;*

3 *(9) a statement of the status of efforts to declas-*
4 *sify data gathered by the Navy, the National*
5 *Geospatial-Intelligence Agency and other agencies to*
6 *the extent possible without jeopardizing national secu-*
7 *rity, and make it available to partner agencies and*
8 *the public; and*

9 *(10) a resource plan for a digital coast inte-*
10 *grated mapping pilot project for the northern Gulf of*
11 *Mexico that will—*

12 *(A) cover the area from the authorized*
13 *coastal counties through the territorial sea;*

14 *(B) identify how such a pilot project will le-*
15 *verage public and private mapping data and re-*
16 *sources, such as the United States Geological*
17 *Survey National Map, to result in an oper-*
18 *ational coastal change assessment program for*
19 *the subregion;*

20 *(11) the status of efforts to coordinate Federal*
21 *programs with State and local government programs*
22 *and leverage those programs; and*

23 *(12) describes efforts of Federal agencies to in-*
24 *crease private sector contracting.*

1 **SEC. 306. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

2 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—*In addition to the amounts author-*
3 *ized by section 306 of the Hydrographic Services Improve-*
4 *ment Act of 1998 (33 U.S.C. 892d), there are authorized*
5 *to be appropriated to the Administrator to carry out this*
6 *title—*

7 (1) \$20,000,000 for fiscal year 2008;

8 (2) \$26,000,000 for fiscal year 2009;

9 (3) \$32,000,000 for fiscal year 2010;

10 (4) \$38,000,000 for fiscal year 2011; and

11 (5) \$45,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2012
12 through 2015.

13 (b) *JOINT OCEAN AND COASTAL MAPPING CENTERS.*—
14 *Of the amounts appropriated pursuant to subsection (a),*
15 *the following amounts shall be used to carry out section*
16 *304(c) of this title:*

17 (1) \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2008.

18 (2) \$11,000,000 for fiscal year 2009.

19 (3) \$12,000,000 for fiscal year 2010.

20 (4) \$13,000,000 for fiscal year 2011.

21 (5) \$15,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2012
22 through 2015.

23 (c) *INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE.*—*Notwithstanding any*
24 *other provision of law, from amounts authorized to be ap-*
25 *propriated for fiscal years 2008 through 2015 to the Depart-*
26 *ment of Defense, the Department of the Interior, the Depart-*

1 *ment of Homeland Security, the Environmental Protection*
2 *Agency, and the National Aeronautics and Space Adminis-*
3 *tration, the head of each such department or agency may*
4 *make available not more than \$10,000,000 per fiscal year*
5 *to carry out interagency activities under section 303 of this*
6 *title.*

7 **SEC. 307. DEFINITIONS.**

8 *In this title:*

9 (1) *ADMINISTRATOR.*—*The term “Adminis-*
10 *trator” means the Administrator of the National Oce-*
11 *anic and Atmospheric Administration.*

12 (2) *COASTAL STATE.*—*The term “coastal state”*
13 *has the meaning given that term by section 304(4) of*
14 *the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C.*
15 *1453(4)).*

16 (3) *COMMITTEE.*—*The term “Committee” means*
17 *the Interagency Ocean Mapping Committee estab-*
18 *lished by section 303.*

19 (4) *EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE.*—*The term “ex-*
20 *clusive economic zone” means the exclusive economic*
21 *zone of the United States established by Presidential*
22 *Proclamation No. 5030, of March 10, 1983.*

23 (5) *OCEAN AND COASTAL MAPPING.*—*The term*
24 *“ocean and coastal mapping” means the acquisition,*
25 *processing, and management of physical, biological,*

1 *geological, chemical, and archaeological characteris-*
2 *tics and boundaries of ocean and coastal areas, re-*
3 *sources, and sea beds through the use of acoustics, sat-*
4 *ellites, aerial photogrammetry, light and imaging, di-*
5 *rect sampling, and other mapping technologies.*

6 (6) *TERRITORIAL SEA.—The term “territorial*
7 *sea” means the belt of sea measured from the baseline*
8 *of the United States determined in accordance with*
9 *international law, as set forth in Presidential Procla-*
10 *mation Number 5928, dated December 27, 1988.*

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[Report No. 110-39]

A BILL

To establish a coordinated national ocean exploration program within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and for other purposes.

MARCH 27, 2007

Reported with an amendment