

SEC. 12302. PURPOSES.	ICOOA Act of 2009	Coastal Ocean Observations and Research Act (COORA) of 2020	ICOOA Reauth 2025 (House Bill H.R. 2294 Language)	ICOOA Reauth 2025 (Senate Bill S. 2126 Language)
The purposes of this subtitle are to—				
(1) establish a national integrated system of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes observing systems, comprised of Federal and non-Federal components coordinated at the national level by the Council and at the regional level by a network of regional coastal observing systems, and that includes in situ, remote, and other coastal and ocean observation and modeling capabilities, technologies, data management systems, communication systems, and product development systems, and is designed to address regional and national needs for ocean and coastal information, to gather specific data on key coastal, ocean, and Great Lakes variables, and to ensure timely and sustained dissemination and availability of these data to—		“(1) to establish and sustain a national integrated system of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes observing systems, comprised of Federal and non-Federal components coordinated at the national level by the Council and at the regional level by a network of regional coastal observing systems, and that includes in situ, remote, and other coastal and ocean observation and modeling capabilities, technologies, data management systems, communication systems, and product development systems, and is designed to address regional and national needs for ocean and coastal information, to gather specific data on key coastal, ocean, and Great Lakes variables, and to ensure timely and sustained dissemination and availability of these data to—	“(1) to establish and sustain a national integrated system of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes observing systems, comprised of Federal and non-Federal components coordinated at the national level by the Council and at the regional level by a network of regional coastal observing systems, and that includes in situ, remote, and other coastal and ocean observation and modeling capabilities, technologies, data management systems, communication systems, and product development systems, and is designed to address regional and national needs for ocean and coastal information, to gather specific data on key coastal, ocean, and Great Lakes variables, and to ensure timely and sustained dissemination and availability of these data—	“(1) to establish and sustain a national integrated system of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes observing systems, comprised of Federal and non-Federal components coordinated at the national level by the Council and at the regional level by a network of regional coastal observing systems, and that includes in situ, remote, and other coastal, ocean, and meteorological observations and modeling capabilities, technologies, data management systems, communication systems, and product development systems, and is designed to address regional and national needs for ocean and coastal, and meteorological information to gather specific data on key coastal, ocean, and Great Lakes variables, and to ensure timely and sustained dissemination and availability of these data—
(A) support national defense, marine commerce, navigation safety, weather, climate, and marine forecasting, energy siting and production, economic development, ecosystem-based marine, coastal, and Great Lakes resource management, public safety, and public outreach and education;		(A) to the public;		
(B) promote greater public awareness and stewardship of the Nation's ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources and the general public welfare; and		(B) to support national defense, search and rescue operations, marine commerce, navigation safety, weather, climate, and marine forecasting, energy siting and production, economic development, ecosystem-based marine, coastal, and Great Lakes resource management, public safety, and public outreach and education;		
(C) enable advances in scientific understanding to support the sustainable use, conservation, management, and understanding of healthy ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources;		(C) to promote greater public awareness and stewardship of the Nation's ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources and the general public welfare;		
(2) improve the Nation's capability to measure, track, explain, and predict events related directly and indirectly to weather and climate change, natural climate variability, and interactions between the oceanic and atmospheric environments, including the Great Lakes; and		(D) to provide easy access to ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes data and promote data sharing between Federal and non-Federal sources;		
(3) authorize activities to promote basic and applied research to develop, test, and deploy innovations and improvements in coastal and ocean observation technologies, modeling systems, and other scientific and technological capabilities to improve our conceptual understanding of weather and climate, ocean-atmosphere dynamics, global climate change, physical, chemical, and biological dynamics of the ocean, coastal and Great Lakes environments, and to conserve healthy and restore degraded coastal ecosystems.		(E) to enable advances in scientific understanding to support the sustainable use, conservation, management, and understanding of healthy ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources to ensure the Nation can respond to opportunities to enhance food, economic, and national security; and		
(4) authorize activities to promote basic and applied research to develop, test, and deploy innovations and improvements in coastal and ocean observation technologies, modeling systems, and other scientific and technological capabilities to improve the understanding of weather and climate, ocean-atmosphere dynamics, global climate change, and the physical, chemical, and biological dynamics of the ocean, coastal and Great Lakes environments; and (B) to conserve healthy and restore degraded coastal ecosystems.		(F) to monitor and model changes in the oceans and Great Lakes, including with respect to chemistry, harmful algal blooms, hypoxia, water levels, and other phenomena;		
(3) to sustain, upgrade, and modernize the Nation's ocean and Great Lakes observing infrastructure to detect changes and ensure delivery of reliable and timely information; and		(3) to sustain, upgrade, and modernize the Nation's ocean and Great Lakes observing infrastructure to detect changes and ensure delivery of reliable and timely information; and		
(4) to authorize activities— (A) to promote basic and applied research to develop, test, and deploy innovations and improvements in coastal and ocean observation technologies, including advanced observing technologies, modeling systems, other scientific and technological capabilities to improve the understanding of weather and climate, ocean-atmosphere dynamics, global climate change, and the physical, chemical, and biological dynamics of the ocean, coastal and Great Lakes environments; and (B) to conserve healthy and restore degraded coastal ecosystems.		(4) to authorize activities— (A) to promote basic and applied research to develop, test, and deploy innovations and improvements in coastal and ocean observation technologies, including advanced observing technologies, modeling systems, other scientific and technological capabilities to improve the understanding of weather and climate, ocean-atmosphere dynamics, global climate change, and the physical, chemical, and biological dynamics of the ocean, coastal and Great Lakes environments; and (B) to conserve healthy and restore degraded coastal ecosystems.		
SEC. 12303. DEFINITIONS.				
In this subtitle:				
(1) ADMINISTRATOR: The term "Administrator" means the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere in the Under Secretary's capacity as Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.				
(2) COUNCIL: The term "Council" means the National Ocean Research Leadership Council established by section 7902 of title 10, United States Code.				
(3) FEDERAL ASSETS: The term "Federal assets" means all relevant non-classified civilian coastal and ocean observations, technologies, and related modeling, research, data management, basic and applied technology research and development, and public education and outreach programs, that are managed by member agencies of the Council.				
(4) INTERAGENCY OCEAN OBSERVATION COMMITTEE: The term "Interagency Ocean Observation Committee" means the committee established under section 12304(c)(2).				

<p>(5) NON-FEDERAL ASSETS- The term "non-Federal assets" means all relevant coastal and ocean observation technologies, related basic and applied technology research and development, and public education and outreach programs that are managed through States, regional organizations, universities, nongovernmental organizations, or the private sector and integrated into the system by the regional coastal observing systems, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, or the agencies on the Interagency Ocean Observing Committee.</p> <p>(6) REGIONAL COASTAL OBSERVING SYSTEM</p>	<p>The term "regional information coordination entity" means an organizational body that is certified or established by contract or memorandum by the lead Federal agency designated in section 12304(c)(3) of this subtitle and coordinates State, Federal, local, and private interests at a regional level with the responsibility of engaging the private and public sectors in designing, operating, and improving regional coastal and ocean observing systems in order to conduct operational oceanography measurements and ensure the provision of data and information that meet the needs of user groups from the respective regions.</p>	<p>(5) NON-FEDERAL ASSETS- The term "non-Federal assets" means all relevant coastal and ocean observation technologies, related basic and applied technology research and development, and public education and outreach programs that are managed through States, regional organizations, universities, nongovernmental organizations, or the private sector and integrated into the system by the regional coastal observing systems, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, or the agencies on the Interagency Ocean Observing Committee.</p> <p>(6) REGIONAL COASTAL OBSERVING SYSTEM</p> <p>— The term "regional coastal observing system" means an organizational body that is certified or established by contract or memorandum by the lead Federal agency designated in section 12304(c)(3) and coordinates State, Federal, local, tribal, and private interests at a regional level with the responsibility of engaging the private and public sectors in designing, operating, and improving regional coastal and ocean observing systems in order to ensure the provision of data and information that meet the needs of user groups from the respective regions.;" and</p>	<p>The term "regional information coordination entity" means an organizational body that is certified or established by contract or memorandum by the lead Federal agency designated in section 12304(c)(3) of this subtitle and coordinates State, Federal, local, and private interests at a regional level with the responsibility of engaging the private and public sectors in designing, operating, and improving regional coastal and ocean observing systems in order to conduct operational oceanography measurements and ensure the provision of data and information that meet the needs of user groups from the respective regions.</p>
<p>(5) NON-FEDERAL ASSETS- The term "non-Federal assets" means all relevant coastal and ocean observation technologies, related basic and applied technology research and development, and public education and outreach programs that are integrated into the System and are managed through States, regional organizations, universities, nongovernmental organizations, or the private sector.</p> <p>(6) REGIONAL INFORMATION COORDINATION ENTITIES-</p>	<p>(A) IN GENERAL- The term "regional information coordination entity" means an organizational body that is certified or established by contract or memorandum by the lead Federal agency designated in section 12304(c)(3) of this subtitle and coordinates State, Federal, local, and private interests at a regional level with the responsibility of engaging the private and public sectors in designing, operating, and improving regional coastal and ocean observing systems in order to ensure the provision of data and information that meet the needs of user groups from the respective regions.</p> <p>(B) CERTAIN INCLUDED ASSOCIATIONS- The term "regional information coordination entity" includes regional associations described in the System Plan.</p> <p>(7) SECRETARY- The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.</p>	<p>(7) SECRETARY- The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Administrator.</p>	<p>(7) SECRETARY- The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Administrator.</p>
<p>(8) SYSTEM- The term "System" means the National Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observing System established under section 12304.</p> <p>(9) SYSTEM PLAN- The term "System Plan" means the plan contained in the document entitled "Ocean, US Publication No. 9, The First Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS) Development Plan", as updated by the Council under this subtitle.</p> <p>SEC. 12304. INTEGRATED COASTAL AND OCEAN OBSERVING SYSTEM.</p>	<p>(9) SYSTEM PLAN- The term "System Plan" means the plan contained in the document entitled "Ocean, US Publication No. 9, The First Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS) Development Plan", as updated by the Committee under this subtitle.</p>	<p>(8) STATE.— The term "State" has the meaning given that term in section 3501 of title 40, United States Code.</p> <p>(9) SYSTEM- The term "System" means the National Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observing System established under section 12304.</p> <p>(10) SYSTEM PLAN- The term "System Plan" means the plan contained in the document entitled "Ocean, US Publication No. 9, The First Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS) Development Plan", as updated by the Committee under this subtitle.</p>	<p>(8) STATE.— The term "State" has the meaning given that term in section 3501 of title 40, United States Code.</p> <p>(9) SYSTEM- The term "System" means the National Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observing System established under section 12304.</p> <p>(10) SYSTEM PLAN- The term "System Plan" means the plan contained in the document entitled "Ocean, US Publication No. 9, The First Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS) Development Plan", as updated by the Committee under this subtitle.</p>
<p>(a) Establishment- The President, acting through the Council, shall establish a National Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observing System to fulfill the purposes set forth in section 12302 of this subtitle and the System Plan and to fulfill the Nation's international obligations to contribute to the Global Earth Observation System of Systems and the Global Ocean Observing System.</p> <p>(b) System Elements-</p>	<p>(1) IN GENERAL.— In order to fulfill the purposes of this subtitle, the System shall be national in scope and consist of—</p> <p>(A) Federal assets to fulfill national and international observation missions and priorities;</p> <p>(B) non-Federal assets, including a network of regional information coordination entities identified under subsection (c)(4), to fulfill regional observation missions and priorities;</p> <p>(C) data management, communication, and modeling systems for the timely integration and dissemination of data and information products from the System;</p> <p>(D) a research and development program conducted under the guidance of the Council, consisting of—</p> <p>(i) basic and applied research and technology development to improve understanding of coastal and ocean systems and their relationships to human activities and to ensure improvement of operational assets and products, including related infrastructure, observing technologies, and information and data processing and management technologies; and</p> <p>(ii) large scale computing resources and research to advance modeling of coastal and ocean processes.</p>	<p>(1) IN GENERAL.— In order to fulfill the purposes of this subtitle, the System shall be national in scope and consist of—</p> <p>(A) Federal assets to fulfill national and international observation missions and priorities;</p> <p>(B) non-Federal assets, including a network of regional coastal observing systems identified under subsection (c)(4), to fulfill regional and national observation missions and priorities;</p> <p>(C) observing, modeling, data management, and communication systems for the timely integration and dissemination of data and information products from the System, including reviews of data collection procedures across regions and programs to make recommendations for data collection standards across the System to meet national ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes observation, applied research, and weather and ocean forecasting needs;</p> <p>(D) a product development system to transform observations into products in a format that may be readily used and understood; and</p> <p>(E) a research and development program conducted under the guidance of the Council, consisting of—</p> <p>(i) basic and applied research and technology development—</p> <p>(I) to improve understanding of coastal and ocean systems and their relationships to human activities; and</p> <p>(II) to ensure improvement of operational assets and products, including related infrastructure, observing technologies, and information and data processing and management technologies;</p> <p>(ii) an advanced observing technology development program to fill gaps in technology;</p> <p>(iii) large scale computing resources and research to advance modeling of coastal, ocean, and Great Lakes processes;</p> <p>(iv) models to improve regional weather forecasting capabilities and regional weather forecasting products; and</p>	<p>(1) IN GENERAL.— In order to fulfill the purposes of this subtitle, the System shall be national in scope and consist of—</p> <p>(A) Federal assets to fulfill regional, national, and international observation missions and priorities;</p> <p>(B) non-Federal assets, including a network of regional information coordination entities identified under subsection (c)(4), to fulfill regional observation missions and priorities;</p> <p>(C) observing, modeling, data management, and communication systems for the timely integration and dissemination of data and information products from the System, including reviews of data collection procedures across regions and programs to make recommendations for data collection standards across the System to meet national ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes observation, applied research, and weather and ocean forecasting needs;</p> <p>(D) a research and development program conducted under the guidance of the Committee, consisting of—</p> <p>(i) basic and applied research and technology development—</p> <p>(I) to improve understanding of coastal and ocean systems and their relationships to human activities; and</p> <p>(II) to ensure improvement of operational assets and products, including related infrastructure, observing technologies, and information and data processing and management technologies;</p> <p>(ii) models to improve regional weather and ocean forecasting capabilities and regional weather forecasting products; and</p>

<p>(i) to promote intramural and extramural research and development of new, innovative, and emerging observation technologies including testing and field trials; and</p> <p>(ii) to facilitate the migration of new, innovative, and emerging scientific and technological advances from research and development to operational deployment;</p> <p>(viii) periodically—</p> <p>(f) review the System Plan; and (g) submit to the Council such recommendations as the System Interagency Ocean Observation Committee may have for improvements to the System Plan;</p> <p>(ix) ensure collaboration among Federal agencies participating in the Interagency Ocean Observation Committee; and</p> <p>(x) perform such additional duties as the Council may delegate</p>	<p>(i) to promote intramural and extramural research and development of new, innovative, and emerging observation technologies including testing and field trials; and</p> <p>(ii) to facilitate the migration of new, innovative, and emerging scientific and technological advances from research and development to operational deployment;</p> <p>(viii) periodically—</p> <p>(f) review the System Plan; and (g) submit to the Council such recommendations as the System Interagency Ocean Observation Committee may have for improvements to the System Plan;</p> <p>(ix) ensure collaboration among Federal agencies participating in the Interagency Ocean Observation Committee; and</p> <p>(x) perform such additional duties as the Council may delegate</p>	<p>(ix) periodically—</p> <p>(f) review the System Plan; and (g) submit to the Committee such recommendations as the Interagency Ocean Observation Committee may have for improvements to the System Plan;</p> <p>(x) ensure collaboration among Federal agencies participating in the Interagency Ocean Observation Committee; and</p> <p>(xi) perform such additional duties as the Committee may delegate</p>	<p>(ix) periodically—</p> <p>(f) review the System Plan; and (g) submit to the Committee such recommendations as the Interagency Ocean Observation Committee may have for improvements to the System Plan;</p> <p>(x) ensure collaboration among Federal agencies participating in the Interagency Ocean Observation Committee; and</p> <p>(xi) perform such additional duties as the Committee may delegate</p>
<p>(H) periodically review and recommend to the Council, in consultation with the Administrator, revisions to the System Plan;</p> <p>(I) ensure collaboration among Federal agencies participating in the activities of the Committee; and</p> <p>(J) perform such additional duties as the Council may delegate.</p> <p>(3) LEAD FEDERAL AGENCY. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shall function as the lead Federal agency for the implementation and administration of the System, in consultation with the Council, the Interagency Ocean Observation Committee, other Federal agencies that maintain portions of the System, and the regional information coordination entities, and shall—</p>	<p>(3) LEAD FEDERAL AGENCY.—(A) IN GENERAL.—The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shall function as the lead Federal agency for the implementation and administration of the System.</p> <p>(B) CONSULTATION REQUIRED.—In carrying out this paragraph, the Administrator shall consult with the Council, the Interagency Ocean Observation Committee, other Federal agencies that maintain portions of the System, and the regional coastal observing systems.</p> <p>(C) REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out this paragraph, the Administrator shall— (i) establish and operate an Integrated Ocean Observing System Program Office within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration that— (I) utilizes, to the extent necessary, personnel from Federal agencies participating in the Interagency Ocean Observation Committee; and (II) oversees daily operations and coordination of the System;</p> <p>(ii) implement policies, protocols, and standards approved by the Council and delegated by the Interagency Ocean Observing Committee;</p>	<p>(B) CONSULTATION REQUIRED.—In carrying out this paragraph, the Administrator shall consult with the Committee, the Interagency Ocean Observation Committee, other Federal agencies that maintain portions of the System, and the regional coastal observing systems.</p>	<p>(B) CONSULTATION REQUIRED.—In carrying out this paragraph, the Administrator shall consult with the Committee, the Interagency Ocean Observation Committee, other Federal agencies that maintain portions of the System, and the regional coastal observing systems.</p>
<p>(A) establish an Integrated Ocean Observing Program Office within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration utilizing to the extent necessary, personnel from member agencies participating on the Interagency Ocean Observation Committee, to oversee daily operations and coordination of the System;</p> <p>(B) implement policies, protocols, and standards approved by the Council and delegated by the Interagency Ocean Observing Committee;</p> <p>(C) promulgate program guidelines to certify and integrate non-Federal assets, including regional information coordination entities, into the System to provide regional coastal and ocean observation data that meet the needs of user groups from the respective regions;</p> <p>(D) have the authority to enter into and oversee contracts, leases, grants or cooperative agreements with non-Federal assets, including regional information coordination entities, to support the purposes of this subtitle on such terms as the Administrator deems appropriate;</p> <p>(E) implement merit-based, competitive funding process to support non-Federal assets, including the development and maintenance of a network of regional information coordination entities, and develop and implement a process for the periodic review and evaluation of all non-Federal assets, including regional information coordination entities;</p> <p>(F) provide opportunities for competitive contracts and grants for demonstration projects to design, develop, integrate, deploy, and support components of the System;</p> <p>(G) establish efficient and effective administrative procedures for allocation of funds among contractors, grantees, and non-Federal assets, including regional information coordination entities in a timely manner, and contingent on appropriations according to the budget adopted by the Council;</p> <p>(H) develop and implement a process for the periodic review and evaluation of regional information coordination entities;</p>	<p>(ii) implement policies, protocols, and standards approved by the Committee and delegated by the Interagency Ocean Observing Committee;</p> <p>(iii) promulgate program guidelines— (i) to certify and integrate regional associations into the System; and (ii) to provide regional coastal and ocean observation data that meet the needs of user groups from the respective regions;</p> <p>(iv) have the authority to enter into and oversee contracts, leases, grants or cooperative agreements with non-Federal assets, including regional coastal observing systems, to support the purposes of this subtitle on such terms as the Administrator deems appropriate;</p> <p>(v) implement and maintain a merit-based, competitive funding process to support non-Federal assets, including the development and maintenance of a national network of regional coastal observing systems, and develop and implement a process for the periodic review and evaluation of the regional associations;</p> <p>(vi) provide opportunities for competitive contracts and grants for demonstration projects to design, develop, integrate, deploy, maintain, and support components of the System;</p> <p>(vii) establish and maintain efficient and effective administrative procedures for the timely allocation of funds among contractors, grantees, and non-Federal assets, including regional coastal observing systems</p> <p>(viii) develop and implement a process for the periodic review and evaluation of the regional coastal observing systems;</p> <p>(ix) formulate an annual process by which gaps in observation coverage or needs for capital improvements of Federal assets and non-Federal assets of the System are— (i) identified by the regional associations described in the System Plan, the Administrator, or other members of the System; and (ii) submitted to the Interagency Ocean Observation Committee;</p>	<p>(ii) implement policies, protocols, and standards approved by the Committee and delegated by the Interagency Ocean Observing Committee;</p> <p>(iii) promulgate program guidelines— (i) to certify and integrate regional associations as operational entities into the System; and (ii) to provide regional coastal and ocean observation data that meet the needs of user groups from the respective regions;</p>	<p>(ii) implement policies, protocols, and standards approved by the Committee and delegated by the Interagency Ocean Observing Committee;</p> <p>(iii) promulgate program guidelines— (i) to certify and integrate regional associations as operational entities into the System; and (ii) to provide regional coastal and ocean observation data that meet the needs of user groups from the respective regions;</p>
<p>(I) develop and be responsible for a data management and communication system, in accordance with standards and protocols established by the Council, by which all data collected by the System regarding ocean and coastal waters of the United States including the Great Lakes, are processed, stored, integrated, and made available to all end-user communities;</p> <p>(J) report annually to the Interagency Ocean Observing Committee on the accomplishments, operational needs, and performance of the System to contribute to the annual and long-term plans developed pursuant to subsection (c)(2)(A)(i); and</p>	<p>(x) develop and be responsible for a data management and communication system, in accordance with standards and protocols established by the Interagency Ocean Observation Committee, by which all data collected by the System regarding ocean and coastal waters of the United States including the Great Lakes, are processed, stored, integrated, and made available to all end-user communities;</p> <p>STRIKE OUT</p> <p>(xi) not less frequently than once each year, submit to the Interagency Ocean Observation Committee a report on the accomplishments, operational needs, and performance of the System to contribute to the annual and long-term plans prepared pursuant to paragraph (2)(B)(i);</p>	<p>(x) develop and be responsible for a data management, cyber infrastructure, and communication system, in accordance with standards and protocols established by the Interagency Ocean Observation Committee, by which all data collected by the System regarding ocean and coastal waters of the United States including the Great Lakes, are processed, stored, integrated, and made available to all end-user communities;</p>	<p>(x) develop and be responsible for a data management, cyber infrastructure, and communication system, in accordance with standards and protocols established by the Interagency Ocean Observation Committee, by which all data collected by the System regarding ocean and coastal waters of the United States including the Great Lakes, are processed, stored, integrated, and made available to all end-user communities;</p>

<p>(M) develop a plan to efficiently integrate into the System new, innovative, or emerging technologies that have been demonstrated to be useful to the purposes of this subtitle and the System Plan.</p>	<p>(xii) develop and periodically update a plan to efficiently integrate into the System new, innovative, or emerging technologies that have been demonstrated to be useful to the System and which will fulfill the purposes of this subtitle and the System Plan; and</p> <p>“(xiii) work with users and regional associations to develop products to enable real-time data sharing for decision makers, including with respect to weather and ocean forecasting and modeling, search and rescue operations, corrosive seawater forecasts, water quality monitoring and communication, and harmful algal bloom forecasting.</p>	<p>“(xiii) work with users and regional associations to develop products to enable real-time data sharing for decision makers, including with respect to weather and ocean forecasting and modeling, search and rescue operations, corrosive seawater forecasts, water quality monitoring and communication, and harmful algal bloom forecasting.</p>	<p>“(xiii) work with users and regional associations to develop products to enable real-time data sharing for decision makers, including with respect to weather and ocean forecasting and modeling, search and rescue operations, corrosive seawater forecasts, water quality monitoring and communication, and harmful algal bloom forecasting.</p>
<p>(N) develop a plan to efficiently integrate into the System new, innovative, or emerging technologies that have been demonstrated to be useful to the purposes of this subtitle and the System Plan.</p>	<p>(xiii) work with users and regional associations to develop products to enable real-time data sharing for decision makers, including with respect to weather and ocean forecasting and modeling, search and rescue operations, corrosive seawater forecasts, water quality monitoring and communication, and harmful algal bloom forecasting.</p>	<p>“(xiii) work with users and regional associations to develop products to enable real-time data sharing for decision makers, including with respect to weather and ocean forecasting and modeling, search and rescue operations, corrosive seawater forecasts, water quality monitoring and communication, and harmful algal bloom forecasting.</p>	<p>“(xiii) work with users and regional associations to develop products to enable real-time data sharing for decision makers, including with respect to weather and ocean forecasting and modeling, search and rescue operations, corrosive seawater forecasts, water quality monitoring and communication, and harmful algal bloom forecasting.</p>
<p>(O) develop a plan to efficiently integrate into the System new, innovative, or emerging technologies that have been demonstrated to be useful to the purposes of this subtitle and the System Plan.</p>	<p>(xiv) work with users and regional associations to develop products to enable real-time data sharing for decision makers, including with respect to weather and ocean forecasting and modeling, search and rescue operations, corrosive seawater forecasts, water quality monitoring and communication, and harmful algal bloom forecasting.</p>	<p>“(xiv) work with users and regional associations to develop products to enable real-time data sharing for decision makers, including with respect to weather and ocean forecasting and modeling, search and rescue operations, corrosive seawater forecasts, water quality monitoring and communication, and harmful algal bloom forecasting.</p>	<p>“(xiv) work with users and regional associations to develop products to enable real-time data sharing for decision makers, including with respect to weather and ocean forecasting and modeling, search and rescue operations, corrosive seawater forecasts, water quality monitoring and communication, and harmful algal bloom forecasting.</p>

	<p>(iii) follows a deployment plan that prioritizes closing gaps in high frequency radar infrastructure in the United States, starting with areas demonstrating significant sea surface current data needs, especially in areas where additional data will improve Coast Guard search and rescue models;</p> <p>(ii) fleet acquisition for unmanned maritime systems for deployment and data integration to fulfill the purposes of this subtitle;</p> <p>(iii) an integrative survey program for application of unmanned maritime systems to the real-time or near-real-time collection and transmission of sea floor, water column, and sea surface data on biology, chemistry, geology, physics, and hydrography;</p> <p>(iv) remote sensing and data assimilation to develop new analytical methodologies to assimilate data from the System into hydrodynamic models;</p> <p>(v) integrate multi-State monitoring to assess sources, movement, and fate of sediments in coastal regions;</p> <p>(vi) a multi-region marine sound monitoring system to be— (i) planned in consultation with the Interagency Ocean Observation Committee, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Department of the Navy, and academic research institutions; and (ii) developed, installed, and operated in coordination with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Department of the Navy, and academic research institutions; and</p> <p>(E) any other purpose identified by the Administrator or the Council.</p>	
	<p>(A) IN GENERAL- The System advisory committee shall be composed of members appointed by the Administrator. The Administrator may stagger the terms of the System advisory committee members. Members shall be qualified by education, training, and experience to evaluate scientific and technical information related to the design, operation, maintenance, or use of the System, or use of data products provided through the System.</p> <p>(B) TERMS OF SERVICE- The Administrator may stagger the terms of the System advisory committee members. Members shall be appointed for 3-year terms, renewable once. A vacancy appointment shall be for the remainder of the unexpired term of the vacancy, and an individual so appointed may subsequently be appointed for 2 full 3-year terms if the remainder of the unexpired term is less than 1 year.</p> <p>(C) CHAIRPERSON- The Administrator shall designate a chairperson from among the members of the System advisory committee.</p> <p>(D) APPOINTMENT- Members of the System advisory committee shall be appointed as special Government employees for purposes of section 202(a) of title 18, United States Code.</p> <p>(4) ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS-</p> <p>(A) REPORTING- The System advisory committee shall report to the Administrator and the Interagency Ocean Observing Committee, as appropriate.</p> <p>(B) ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT- The Administrator shall provide administrative support to the System advisory committee.</p> <p>(C) MEETINGS- The System advisory committee shall meet at least once each year, and at other times at the call of the Administrator, the Interagency Ocean Observing Committee, or the chairperson.</p> <p>(D) COMPENSATION AND EXPENSES- Members of the System advisory committee shall not be compensated for service on that Committee, but may be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, in accordance with subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code.</p> <p>(E) EXPIRATION- Section 14 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to the System advisory committee.</p> <p>(e) Civil Liability- For purposes of determining liability arising from the dissemination and use of observation data gathered pursuant to this section, any non-Federal asset or regional information coordination entity incorporated into the System by contract, lease, grant, or cooperative agreement under subsection (c)(3)(D) that is participating in the System shall be considered to be part of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Any employee of such a non-Federal asset or regional information coordination entity, while operating within the scope of his or her employment in carrying out the purposes of this subtitle, with respect to tort liability, is deemed to be an employee of the Federal Government.</p> <p>(f) Limitation- Nothing in this subtitle shall be construed to invalidate existing certifications, contracts, or agreements between regional information coordination entities and other elements of the System.</p>	
	<p>(E) any other purpose identified by the Administrator or the Committee.</p>	
	<p>(A) IN GENERAL- The System advisory committee shall be composed of members appointed by the Administrator. The Administrator may stagger the terms of the System advisory committee members. Members shall be qualified by education, training, and experience to evaluate scientific and technical information related to the design, operation, maintenance, or use of the System, or use of data products provided through the System.</p> <p>(B) TERMS OF SERVICE- The Administrator may stagger the terms of the System advisory committee members. Members shall be appointed for 3-year terms, renewable once. A vacancy appointment shall be for the remainder of the unexpired term of the vacancy, and an individual so appointed may subsequently be appointed for 2 full 3-year terms if the remainder of the unexpired term is less than 1 year.</p> <p>(C) CHAIRPERSON- The Administrator shall designate a chairperson from among the members of the System advisory committee.</p> <p>(D) APPOINTMENT- Members of the System advisory committee shall be appointed as special Government employees for purposes of section 202(a) of title 18, United States Code.</p> <p>(4) ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS-</p> <p>(A) REPORTING- The System advisory committee shall report to the Administrator and the Interagency Ocean Observing Committee, as appropriate.</p> <p>(B) ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT- The Administrator shall provide administrative support to the System advisory committee.</p> <p>(C) MEETINGS- The System advisory committee shall meet at least once each year, and at other times at the call of the Administrator, the Interagency Ocean Observing Committee, or the chairperson.</p> <p>(D) COMPENSATION AND EXPENSES- Members of the System advisory committee shall not be compensated for service on that Committee, but may be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, in accordance with subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code.</p> <p>(E) EXPIRATION- Section 14 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to the System advisory committee.</p> <p>(e) Civil Liability- For purposes of determining liability arising from the dissemination and use of observation data gathered pursuant to this section, any non-Federal asset or regional information coordination entity incorporated into the System by a memorandum of agreement of certification under subsection (c) (3)(C) (iii) that is participating in the System shall be considered to be part of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Any employee of such a non-Federal asset or regional coastal ocean observing systems while operating within the scope of his or her employment in carrying out the purposes of this subtitle, with respect to tort liability, is deemed to be an employee of the Federal Government.</p>	
	<p>(E) any other purpose identified by the Administrator or the Committee.</p>	
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	<p>(E) any other purpose identified by the Administrator or the Committee.</p>	<p>SEC. 12305. INTERAGENCY FINANCING AND AGREEMENTS.</p>
	<p>(E) any other purpose identified by the Administrator or the Committee.</p>	<p>SEC. 12305. FINANCING AND AGREEMENTS.</p>

			<p>(a) In General.—The Secretary of Commerce may execute an agreement on a reimbursable or nonreimbursable basis, with any State or subdivision thereof, any Federal agency, any public or private organization, or any individual to carry out activities under this subtitle.”</p>
<p>(b) Reciprocity.—Member Departments and agencies of the Council shall have the authority to create, support, and maintain joint centers, and to enter into and perform such contracts, leases, grants, and cooperative agreements as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this subtitle and fulfillment of the System Plan.</p>			<p>(a) Reciprocity.—Member Departments and agencies of the Council shall have the authority to create, support, and maintain joint centers, and to enter into and perform such contracts, leases, grants, and cooperative agreements as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this subtitle and fulfillment of the System Plan.</p>
<p>SEC. 12306. APPLICATION WITH OTHER LAWS. Nothing in this subtitle supersedes or limits the authority of any agency to carry out its responsibilities and missions under other laws.</p>			
<p>SEC. 12307. REPORT TO CONGRESS. (a) Requirement.—Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act and every 2 years thereafter, the Administrator shall prepare and the President acting through the Council shall approve and transmit to the Congress a report on progress made in implementing this subtitle.</p>		<p>“(a) REQUIREMENT.—Not later than March 30, 2022, and every 5 years thereafter, the Administrator shall prepare, and the President acting through the Council shall approve and transmit to Congress, a report on progress made in implementing this subtitle.</p>	
<p>(b) Contents.—The report shall include— (1) a description of activities carried out under this subtitle and the System Plan; (2) an evaluation of the effectiveness of the System, including an evaluation of progress made by the Council to achieve the goals identified under the System Plan; (3) identification of Federal and non-Federal assets as determined by the Council that have been integrated into the System, including assets essential to the gathering of required observation data variables necessary to meet the respective missions of Council agencies; (4) a review of procurements, planned or initiated, by each Council agency to enhance, expand, or modernize the observation capabilities and data products provided by the System, including data management and communication subsystems;</p>		<p>(b) CONTENTS.—Each report required under sub-section (a) shall include—</p>	
<p>(5) an assessment regarding activities to integrate Federal and non-Federal assets, nationally and on the regional level, and discussion of the performance and effectiveness of regional information coordination entities to coordinate regional observation operations;</p>		<p>(5) a summary of the existing gaps in observation infrastructure and monitoring data collection, including— (A) priorities considered by the System advisory committee; (B) the national sea surface current mapping network; (C) coastal buoys; (D) ocean chemistry monitoring; (E) marine sound monitoring; and (F) autonomous underwater and surface vehicle technology gaps;</p>	
<p>(6) a description of benefits of the program to users of data products resulting from the System (including the general public, industries, scientists, resource managers, emergency responders, policy makers, and educators);</p>			<p>(6) an assessment regarding activities to integrate Federal and non-Federal assets, nationally and on the regional level, and discussion of the performance and effectiveness of regional coastal observing systems to coordinate regional observation operations;</p>
<p>(7) recommendations concerning— (A) modifications to the System; and (B) funding levels for the System in subsequent fiscal years; and</p>			<p>(7) a description of benefits of the program to users of data products resulting from the System (including the general public, industries, scientists, resource managers, emergency responders, policy makers, and educators);</p>
<p>(8) the results of a periodic external independent programmatic audit of the System.</p>			<p>(8) a post-storm evaluation for all major storms in the United States that occurred during the year preceding submission of the report, to assess the impact of observations of the System and other products of the System with respect to storm forecast accuracy</p>
<p>SEC. 12308. PUBLIC-PRIVATE USE POLICY.</p>			<p>(9) recommendations concerning—</p>
			<p>(10) the results of a periodic external independent programmatic audit of the System.</p>

<p>The Council shall develop a policy within 6 months after the date of the enactment of this Act that defines processes for making decisions about the roles of the Federal Government, the States, regional coastal observing systems, the academic community, and the private sector in providing environmental information, products, technologies, and services related to the System. The Administrator shall ensure that National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration adheres to the decision making process developed by the Council regarding the roles of the Federal Government, the States, the regional coastal observing systems, the academic community, and the private sector in providing end-user communities environmental information, data products, technologies, and services related to the System.</p>	<p>The Council shall maintain a policy that defines processes for making decisions about the roles of the Federal Government, the States, regional coastal observing systems, the academic community, and the private sector in providing environmental information, products, technologies, and services related to the System. The Administrator shall ensure that National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration adheres to the decision making process developed by the Council regarding the roles of the Federal Government, the States, the regional coastal observing systems, the academic community, and the private sector in providing end-user communities environmental information, data products, technologies, and services related to the System.</p>	<p>The Committee shall maintain a policy that defines processes for making decisions about the roles of the Federal Government, the States, regional coastal observing systems, the academic community, and the private sector in providing environmental information, products, technologies, and services related to the System. The Administrator shall ensure that National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration adheres to the decision making process developed by the Committee regarding the roles of the Federal Government, the States, the regional coastal observing systems, the academic community, and the private sector in providing end-user communities environmental information, data products, technologies, and services related to the System.</p>	<p>The Committee shall maintain a policy that defines processes for making decisions about the roles of the Federal Government, the States, regional coastal observing systems, the academic community, and the private sector in providing environmental information, products, technologies, and services related to the System. The Administrator shall ensure that National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration adheres to the decision making process developed by the Committee regarding the roles of the Federal Government, the States, the regional coastal observing systems, the academic community, and the private sector in providing end-user communities environmental information, data products, technologies, and services related to the System.</p>
<p>SEC. 12309. INDEPENDENT COST ESTIMATE. Within 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Interagency Ocean Observation Committee, through the Administrator and the Director of the National Science Foundation, shall obtain an independent cost estimate for operations and maintenance of existing Federal assets of the System, and planned or anticipated acquisition, operation, and maintenance of new Federal assets for the System, including operation facilities, observation equipment, modeling and software, data management and communication, and other essential components. The independent cost estimate shall be transmitted unaltered and without revision by the Administrator to Congress.</p>	<p>STRIKE OUT SECTION</p>	<p>STRIKE OUT SECTION</p>	<p>It is the intent of Congress that funding provided to agencies of the Committee to implement this subtitle shall supplement, and not replace, existing sources of funding for other programs. It is the further intent of Congress that agencies of the Committee shall not enter into contracts or agreements for the development or procurement of new Federal assets for the System that are estimated to be in excess of \$250,000,000 in life-cycle costs without first providing adequate notice to Congress and opportunity for review and comment.</p>
<p>SEC. 12310. INTENT OF CONGRESS. It is the intent of Congress that funding provided to agencies of the Council to implement this subtitle shall supplement, and not replace, existing sources of funding for other programs. It is the further intent of Congress that agencies of the Council shall not enter into contracts or agreements for the development or procurement of new Federal assets for the System that are estimated to be in excess of \$250,000,000 in life-cycle costs without first providing adequate notice to Congress and opportunity for review and comment.</p>	<p>STRIKE OUT SECTION</p>	<p>STRIKE OUT SECTION</p>	<p>To fulfill the purposes set forth in section 12302 and to support activities identified in the annual coordinated System budget developed by the Interagency Ocean Observation Committee, there are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Commerce— (1) \$48,000,000 for fiscal year 2021; (2) \$50,000,000 for fiscal year 2022; (3) \$52,000,000 for fiscal year 2023; (4) \$54,000,000 for fiscal year 2024; and (5) \$56,000,000 for fiscal year 2025.</p>
<p>SEC. 12311. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS. There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Commerce for fiscal years 2009 through 2013 such sums as are necessary to fulfill the purposes of this subtitle and support activities identified in the annual coordinated System budget developed by the Interagency Ocean Observation Committee and submitted to the Congress.</p>	<p>STRIKE OUT SECTION</p>	<p>STRIKE OUT SECTION</p>	<p>To fulfill the purposes set forth in section 12302 and to support activities identified in the annual coordinated System budget developed by the Interagency Ocean Observation Committee, (a) In general.—There are \$56,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2030. (b) Allocation of funds.— (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided by paragraph (2), the Secretary shall allocate not less than 7.5 percent of amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations under subsection (a) to each regional coastal observing system that was in existence on January 1, 2025. (2) EXCLUSION OF DISASTER RELIEF APPROPRIATIONS.—Paragraph (1) does not apply with respect to any amounts appropriated by an Act making supplemental appropriations for disaster relief.</p>