

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2553

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 21, 2015

Ms. PINGREE (for herself, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. CURBELO of Florida, and Mr. CRENSHAW) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

A BILL

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

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

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Coastal Communities
5 Ocean Acidification Act of 2015”.

1 **SEC. 2. COASTAL COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY ASSESS-**
2 **MENT.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 12406 of the Federal
4 Ocean Acidification Research And Monitoring Act of 2009
5 (33 U.S.C. 3705) is amended—

6 (1) by redesignating subsection (b) as sub-
7 section (c); and

8 (2) by inserting after subsection (a) the fol-
9 lowing:

10 “(b) COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT.—

11 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, through the
12 program established under subsection (a), shall con-
13 duct an ocean acidification coastal community vul-
14 nerability assessment, and issue a corresponding
15 public report, that shall be updated at least once
16 every 7 years.

17 “(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The assessment con-
18 ducted under paragraph (1) shall—

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

25 “(B) assess the nature of those commu-
26 nities’ social and economic vulnerabilities;

1 “(C) identify the ocean acidification im-
2 pacts that might harm those communities, in-
3 cluding impacts from changes in ocean and
4 coastal marine resources that are not managed
5 by the Federal Government;

6 “(D) identify key knowledge gaps where
7 research could be devoted to better understand
8 the possible impacts of ocean acidification on
9 these vulnerable communities, the risks and
10 threats facing these communities, and possible
11 adaptation strategies for these communities;
12 and

13 “(E) be conducted in collaboration with ex-
14 perts who are familiar with the unique eco-
15 nomic, social, ecological, geographic, and re-
16 source concerns of the Nation’s coastal commu-
17 nities, including representatives from the Na-
18 tional Oceanic and Atmospheric Administra-
19 tion’s National Marine Fisheries Service and
20 the Office for Coastal Management.”.

21 (b) ONGOING INPUT MECHANISM.—Section
22 12404(b)(5) of the Federal Ocean Acidification Research
23 And Monitoring Act of 2009 (33 U.S.C. 3703(b)(5)) is
24 amended by adding at the end before the period the fol-
25 lowing: “, also including an ongoing mechanism that al-

1 lows affected industry members, coastal stakeholders, non-
2 Federal resource managers, and scientific experts not em-
3 ployed by the Federal Government to provide input on re-
4 search, data, and monitoring that is necessary to support
5 on-the-ground management, decisionmaking, and adapta-
6 tion related to ocean acidification and its impacts”.

7 (c) STRATEGIC RESEARCH PLAN.—Section 12405(b)
8 of the Federal Ocean Acidification Research And Moni-
9 toring Act of 2009 (33 U.S.C. 3704(b)) is amended—

10 (1) in paragraph (8), by striking “and” after
11 the semicolon;

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

14 (3) by adding at the end the following:

15 “(10) make recommendations for research that
16 should be conducted, including in the social sciences
17 and economics, to address the key knowledge gaps
18 identified in the community vulnerability assessment
19 report conducted under subsection (b) of section
20 12406.”.

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