

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2734

To provide for ocean acidification collaborative research grant opportunities.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 20, 2023

Mr. CARBAJAL (for himself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN, and Ms. BONAMICI) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

A BILL

To provide for ocean acidification collaborative research grant opportunities.

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 “Ocean Acidification
5 Research Partnerships Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. OCEAN ACIDIFICATION COLLABORATIVE RE-**
7 **SEARCH GRANTS.**

8 The Federal Ocean Acidification Research and Moni-
9 toring Act of 2009 (enacted as subtitle D of part II of
10 title XII of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act

1 of 2009 (33 U.S.C. 3701 et seq.; Public Law 111–11))
2 is amended by inserting after section 12406 (33 U.S.C.
3 3705) the following new section:

4 **“SEC. 12406A. OCEAN ACIDIFICATION COLLABORATIVE RE-**
5 **SEARCH GRANTS.**

6 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

7 “(1) ACADEMIC COMMUNITY.—The term ‘aca-
8 demic community’ includes faculty and other rep-
9 resentatives of institutions of higher education and
10 other schools, researchers, scientists, and natural re-
11 source managers.

12 “(2) SEAFOOD INDUSTRY.—The term ‘seafood
13 industry’ includes shellfish growers, shellfish har-
14 vesters, commercial fishermen, recreational fisher-
15 men, other members of the seafood harvesting or
16 supply chain, and organizations representing any of
17 such groups.

18 “(b) GRANTS.—The Secretary shall provide grants
19 for collaborative research projects on ocean acidification
20 developed and conducted through partnerships between
21 the seafood industry and the academic community.

22 “(c) CRITERIA FOR APPROVAL.—The Secretary may
23 not provide a grant for a project under this section unless
24 the project is—

1 “(1) consistent with the themes identified under
2 the strategic research plan developed by the Sub-
3 committee under section 12405; and

4 “(2) designed to—

5 “(A) develop and support partnerships,
6 communications, and shared understanding be-
7 tween the seafood industry and the academic
8 community;

9 “(B) include the seafood industry in re-
10 search on ocean acidification;

11 “(C) deliver research, monitoring, or adap-
12 tation results which will benefit both the sea-
13 food industry and the academic community;

14 “(D) incorporate into the research agenda
15 the expertise of both the seafood industry, in-
16 cluding their unique understanding of the nat-
17 ural environment, and the academic community;

18 “(E) promote better understanding of sea-
19 food industry research questions and priorities
20 within the academic community;

21 “(F) promote wider understanding of
22 ocean acidification among the academic commu-
23 nity, the seafood industry, and other stake-
24 holders as appropriate; and

1 “(G) include appropriately balanced sup-
2 port from both the seafood industry and the
3 academic community.

4 “(d) PRIORITY.—The Secretary shall prioritize fund-
5 ing under this section to projects which—

6 “(1) address ecosystems and communities vul-
7 nerable to the impacts of ocean acidification;

8 “(2) demonstrate support from local stake-
9 holders, such as representatives of States or other
10 governmental jurisdictions, community organiza-
11 tions, tribes, or educational institutions, as appro-
12 priate, located within the region in which the project
13 will be undertaken; or

14 “(3) utilize seafood industry assets as research
15 and monitoring platforms.

16 “(e) IMPLEMENTATION GUIDELINES.—Not later
17 than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this sec-
18 tion, the Secretary, in collaboration with the Sub-
19 committee, shall issue implementation guidelines under
20 this section, including criteria and priorities for grants.
21 Those guidelines shall be developed in consultation, as ap-
22 propriate, with the following:

23 “(1) State, regional, and local decisionmakers
24 with ocean acidification experience.

1 “(2) The seafood industry and other marine-de-
2 pendent industries.

3 “(3) Formal and informal educators, including
4 both those within academia and those who are not.

5 “(4) Tribes.

6 “(5) Nongovernmental organizations involved in
7 ocean acidification research, prevention, or adapta-
8 tion.

9 “(6) Any other appropriate community stake-
10 holders.

11 “(f) CONTENTS OF PROPOSALS.—Each proposal for
12 a grant under this section shall include the following:

13 “(1) A description of the qualifications of the
14 individuals or entities who will conduct the project.

15 “(2) A plan for ensuring full participation and
16 engagement of both industry and academic commu-
17 nity participants, including a description of how each
18 partner will contribute expertise to the project in
19 terms of design, execution, and interpretation of re-
20 sults.

21 “(3) A plan for the dissemination of the results
22 of the research project, which may include the fol-
23 lowing:

24 “(A) Educational programs.

1 “(B) Presentations to members of the sea-
2 food industry, the academic community, and
3 community stakeholders.

4 “(C) Scientific publication.

5 “(D) Delivery to appropriate representa-
6 tives of States or other government jurisdictions
7 who would use the information.

8 “(4) A description of how the project is con-
9 sistent with the program elements described in sec-
10 tion 12405(c).

11 “(5) Any other information the Secretary con-
12 siders necessary for evaluating the eligibility of the
13 project for funding under this section.

14 “(g) ALTERNATIVE PARTICIPANTS.—The Secretary
15 may make a grant under this section to a partnership in
16 which a marine-dependent industry is substituted for the
17 seafood industry if the proposed project serves the pur-
18 poses of this section. In such a case, the participation and
19 interests of that marine-dependent industry shall be sub-
20 stituted for those of the seafood industry in applying the
21 requirements of this section.

22 “(h) PROJECT REPORTING.—Each grantee under
23 this section shall provide periodic reports as required by
24 the Secretary. Each such report shall include all informa-

1 tion required by the Secretary for evaluating the progress
2 and success of the project.

3 “(i) MATCHING REQUIREMENTS.—

4 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
5 graph (2), the total amount of Federal funding for
6 a collaborative research project supported under this
7 section may not exceed 85 percent of the total cost
8 of such project. For purposes of this paragraph, the
9 non-Federal share of project costs may be provided
10 by in-kind contributions and other noncash support.

11 “(2) WAIVER.—The Secretary may waive all or
12 part of the matching requirement under paragraph
13 (1) if the Secretary determines that no reasonable
14 means are available through which applicants can
15 meet the matching requirement and the probable
16 benefit of such project outweighs the public interest
17 in such matching requirement.

18 “(j) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
19 is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary for car-
20 rying out this section \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years
21 2024 through 2028.”.

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