

(1) Administrator

The term “Administrator”¹ means the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

(2) Coastal state

The term “coastal state” has the meaning given that term by section 1453(4) of title 16.

(3) Working Group

The term “Working Group” means the Interagency Working Group on Ocean and Coastal Mapping under section 3502 of this title.

(4) Exclusive economic zone

The term “exclusive economic zone” means the exclusive economic zone of the United States established by Presidential Proclamation No. 5030, of March 10, 1983.

(5) Ocean and coastal mapping

The term “ocean and coastal mapping” means the acquisition, processing, management, maintenance, interpretation, certification, and dissemination of physical, biological, geological, chemical, and archaeological characteristics and boundaries of ocean and coastal areas, resources, and sea beds through the use of acoustics, satellites, aerial photogrammetry, light and imaging, direct sampling, and other mapping technologies.

(6) Territorial sea

The term “territorial sea” means the belt of sea measured from the baseline of the United States determined in accordance with international law, as set forth in Presidential Proclamation Number 5928, dated December 27, 1988.

(7) Nongovernmental entities

The term “nongovernmental entities” includes nongovernmental organizations, members of the academic community, and private sector organizations that provide products and services associated with measuring, locating, and preparing maps, charts, surveys, aerial photographs, satellite images,² or other graphical or digital presentations depicting natural or manmade physical features, phenomena, and legal boundaries of the Earth.

(8) Outer Continental Shelf

The term “Outer Continental Shelf” means all submerged lands lying seaward and outside of lands beneath navigable waters (as that term is defined in section 1301 of title 43), and of which the subsoil and seabed appertain to the United States and are subject to its jurisdiction and control.

(9) Coastal Indian Tribe

The term “coastal Indian Tribe” means an “Indian Tribe”, as defined in section 5304 of title 25, the land of which is located in a coastal State.

(Pub. L. 111–11, title XII, § 12210, formerly § 12208, Mar. 30, 2009, 123 Stat. 1426; renumbered § 12210 and amended Pub. L. 117–263, div. J, title CIII,

§ 10307(b)(1)(C), (e)(1), (g), Dec. 23, 2022, 136 Stat. 3976, 3978, 3979.)

Editorial Notes

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Presidential Proclamation No. 5030, referred to in par. (4), is set out under section 1453 of Title 16, Conservation.

Presidential Proclamation Number 5928, referred to in par. (6), is set out under section 1331 of Title 43, Public Lands.

AMENDMENTS

2022—Par. (3). Pub. L. 117–263, § 10307(b)(1)(C), amended par. (3) generally. Prior to amendment, text read as follows: “The term ‘Committee’ means the Interagency Ocean and Coastal Mapping Committee established by section 3502 of this title.”

Par. (5). Pub. L. 117–263, § 10307(g)(1), substituted “processing, management, maintenance, interpretation, certification, and dissemination” for “processing, and management”.

Par. (9). Pub. L. 117–263, § 10307(g)(2), added par. (9).

CHAPTER 49—INTEGRATED COASTAL AND OCEAN OBSERVATION SYSTEM

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§ 3601. Purposes

The purposes of this chapter are—

(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 ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes variables, and to ensure timely and sustained dissemination and availability of these data—

(A) to the public;

(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) to promote greater public awareness and stewardship of the Nation’s ocean,

¹ So in original. Closing single quotation mark probably should not appear.

² So in original. Probably should be “images.”

coastal, and Great Lakes resources and the general public welfare;

(D) to provide easy access to ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes data and promote data sharing between Federal and non-Federal sources and promote public data sharing;

(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

(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;

(2) to improve the Nation's capability to measure, track, observe, understand, and predict events related directly and indirectly to weather and climate, natural climate variability, and interactions between the oceanic and atmospheric environments, including the Great Lakes;

(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 such as unmanned maritime systems needed to address critical data gaps, 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.

(Pub. L. 111–11, title XII, §12302, Mar. 30, 2009, 123 Stat. 1427; Pub. L. 116–271, title I, §101, Dec. 31, 2020, 134 Stat. 3331.)

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

2020—Pub. L. 116–271 amended section generally. Prior to amendment, section set out the purposes of this chapter.

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

SHORT TITLE OF 2020 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 116–271, §1(a), Dec. 31, 2020, 134 Stat. 3331, provided that: “This Act [enacting section 10371 of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare, amending this section, sections 3602 to 3604, 3606, 3607, 3610, 3611, and 3703 to 3706 of this title, and section 4057 of Title 42, repealing section 3608 of this title, and enacting provisions set out as a note under section 3704 of this title] may be cited as the ‘Coordinated Ocean Observations and Research Act of 2020.’”

SHORT TITLE

Pub. L. 111–11, title XII, §12301, Mar. 30, 2009, 123 Stat. 1427, provided that: “This subtitle [subtitle C (§§12301–12312) of title XII of Pub. L. 111–11, enacting

this chapter] may be cited as the ‘Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act of 2009.’”

§ 3602. Definitions

In this chapter:

(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 8932 of title 10.¹

(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 3603(c)(2) of this title.

(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 a regional coastal observing system, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, or the agencies participating in the Interagency Ocean Observation Committee.

(6) Regional coastal observing system

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 3603(c)(3) of this title 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 observing systems in order to ensure the provision of data and information that meet the needs of user groups from the respective regions.

(7) Secretary

The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Administrator.

(8) System

The term “System” means the National Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation Sys-

¹ See References in Text note below.