

**CHAPTER 49—INTEGRATED COASTAL AND OCEAN OBSERVATION SYSTEM**

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**§ 3601. Purposes**

The purposes of this chapter 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 National Ocean Research Leadership Council and at the regional level by a network of regional information coordination entities, and that includes in situ, remote, and other coastal and ocean observation, technologies, and data management and communication systems, and is designed to address regional and national needs for ocean 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—

(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 training and education;

(B) promote greater public awareness and stewardship of the Nation's ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources and the general public welfare; and

(C) enable advances in scientific understanding to support the sustainable use, conservation, management, and understanding of healthy ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources;

(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

(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.

(Pub. L. 111-11, title XII, § 12302, Mar. 30, 2009, 123 Stat. 1427.)

SHORT TITLE

Pub. L. 111-11, title XII, § 12301, Mar. 30, 2009, 123 Stat. 1427, provided that: "This subtitle [subtitle C

(§§ 12301-12311) 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 7902 of title 10.

**(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 integrated into the System and are managed through States, regional organizations, universities, nongovernmental organizations, or the private sector.

**(6) Regional information coordination entities**

**(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 3603(c)(3) of this title 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.

**(B) Certain included associations**

The term "regional information coordination entity" includes regional associations described in the System Plan.

**(7) Secretary**

The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

**(8) System**

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