

an Ocean Exploration Advisory Board composed of experts in relevant fields—

- (1) to advise the Administrator on priority areas for survey and discovery;
- (2) to assist the program in the development of a 5-year strategic plan for the fields of ocean, marine, and Great Lakes science, exploration, and discovery;
- (3) to annually review the quality and effectiveness of the proposal review process established under section 3403(a)(4) of this title; and
- (4) to provide other assistance and advice as requested by the Administrator.

**(b) Federal Advisory Committee Act**

Section 14 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to the Board appointed under subsection (a).

**(c) Application with Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act**

Nothing in subchapter<sup>1</sup> supersedes, or limits the authority of the Secretary of the Interior under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1331 et seq.).

(Pub. L. 111–11, title XII, §12005, Mar. 30, 2009, 123 Stat. 1418.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Section 14 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, referred to in subsec. (b), is section 14 of Pub. L. 92–463, which is set out in the Appendix to Title 5, Government Organization and Employees.

The Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, referred to in subsec. (c), is act Aug. 7, 1953, ch. 345, 67 Stat. 462, which is classified generally to subchapter III (§1331 et seq.) of chapter 29 of Title 43, Public Lands. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 1331 of Title 43 and Tables.

**§ 3406. Authorization of appropriations**

There are authorized to be appropriated to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to carry out this subchapter—

- (1) \$33,550,000 for fiscal year 2009;
- (2) \$36,905,000 for fiscal year 2010;
- (3) \$40,596,000 for fiscal year 2011;
- (4) \$44,655,000 for fiscal year 2012;
- (5) \$49,121,000 for fiscal year 2013;
- (6) \$54,033,000 for fiscal year 2014; and
- (7) \$59,436,000 for fiscal year 2015.

(Pub. L. 111–11, title XII, §12006, Mar. 30, 2009, 123 Stat. 1419.)

SUBCHAPTER II—NOAA UNDERSEA RESEARCH PROGRAM

**§ 3421. Program established**

**(a) In general**

The Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shall establish and maintain an undersea research program and shall designate a Director of that program.

**(b) Purpose**

The purpose of the program is to increase scientific knowledge essential for the informed management, use, and preservation of oceanic, marine, and coastal areas and the Great Lakes.

<sup>1</sup> So in original. Probably should be preceded by “this”.

(Pub. L. 111–11, title XII, §12102, Mar. 30, 2009, 123 Stat. 1419.)

SHORT TITLE

This subchapter known as the “NOAA Undersea Research Program Act of 2009”, see Short Title note set out under section 3401 of this title.

**§ 3422. Powers of program Director**

The Director of the program, in carrying out the program, shall—

- (1) cooperate with institutions of higher education and other educational marine and ocean science organizations, and shall make available undersea research facilities, equipment, technologies, information, and expertise to support undersea research efforts by these organizations;
- (2) enter into partnerships, as appropriate and using existing authorities, with the private sector to achieve the goals of the program and to promote technological advancement of the marine industry; and
- (3) coordinate the development of agency budgets and identify the items in their annual budget that support the activities described in paragraphs (1) and (2).

(Pub. L. 111–11, title XII, §12103, Mar. 30, 2009, 123 Stat. 1419.)

**§ 3423. Administrative structure**

**(a) In general**

The program shall be conducted through a national headquarters, a network of extramural regional undersea research centers that represent all relevant National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration regions, and the National Institute for Undersea Science and Technology.

**(b) Direction**

The Director shall develop the overall direction of the program in coordination with a Council of Center Directors comprised of the directors of the extramural regional centers and the National Institute for Undersea Science and Technology. The Director shall publish a draft program direction document not later than 1 year after March 30, 2009, in the Federal Register for a public comment period of not less than 120 days. The Director shall publish a final program direction, including responses to the comments received during the public comment period, in the Federal Register within 90 days after the close of the comment period. The program director shall update the program direction, with opportunity for public comment, at least every 5 years.

(Pub. L. 111–11, title XII, §12104, Mar. 30, 2009, 123 Stat. 1419.)

**§ 3424. Research, exploration, education, and technology programs**

**(a) In general**

The following research, exploration, education, and technology programs shall be conducted through the network of regional centers and the National Institute for Undersea Science and Technology:

- (1) Core research and exploration based on national and regional undersea research priorities.

(2) Advanced undersea technology development to support the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s research mission and programs.

(3) Undersea science-based education and outreach programs to enrich ocean science education and public awareness of the oceans and Great Lakes.

(4) Development, testing, and transition of advanced undersea technology associated with ocean observatories, submersibles, advanced diving technologies, remotely operated vehicles, autonomous underwater vehicles, and new sampling and sensing technologies.

(5) Discovery, study, and development of natural resources and products from ocean, coastal, and aquatic systems.

**(b) Operations**

The Director of the program, through operation of the extramural regional centers and the National Institute for Undersea Science and Technology, shall leverage partnerships and cooperative research with academia and private industry.

(Pub. L. 111–11, title XII, § 12105, Mar. 30, 2009, 123 Stat. 1420.)

**§ 3425. Competitiveness**

**(a) Discretionary fund**

The Program shall allocate no more than 10 percent of its annual budget to a discretionary fund that may be used only for program administration and priority undersea research projects identified by the Director but not covered by funding available from centers.

**(b) Competitive selection**

The Administrator shall conduct an initial competition to select the regional centers that will participate in the program 90 days after the publication of the final program direction under section 3423 of this title and every 5 years thereafter. Funding for projects conducted through the regional centers shall be awarded through a competitive, merit-reviewed process on the basis of their relevance to the goals of the program and their technical feasibility.

(Pub. L. 111–11, title XII, § 12106, Mar. 30, 2009, 123 Stat. 1420.)

**§ 3426. Authorization of appropriations**

There are authorized to be appropriated to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration—

(1) for fiscal year 2009—

(A) \$13,750,000 for the regional centers, of which 50 percent shall be for West Coast regional centers and 50 percent shall be for East Coast regional centers; and

(B) \$5,500,000 for the National Technology Institute;

(2) for fiscal year 2010—

(A) \$15,125,000 for the regional centers, of which 50 percent shall be for West Coast regional centers and 50 percent shall be for East Coast regional centers; and

(B) \$6,050,000 for the National Technology Institute;

(3) for fiscal year 2011—

(A) \$16,638,000 for the regional centers, of which 50 percent shall be for West Coast regional centers and 50 percent shall be for East Coast regional centers; and

(B) \$6,655,000 for the National Technology Institute;

(4) for fiscal year 2012—

(A) \$18,301,000 for the regional centers, of which 50 percent shall be for West Coast regional centers and 50 percent shall be for East Coast regional centers; and

(B) \$7,321,000 for the National Technology Institute;

(5) for fiscal year 2013—

(A) \$20,131,000 for the regional centers, of which 50 percent shall be for West Coast regional centers and 50 percent shall be for East Coast regional centers; and

(B) \$8,053,000 for the National Technology Institute;

(6) for fiscal year 2014—

(A) \$22,145,000 for the regional centers, of which 50 percent shall be for West Coast regional centers and 50 percent shall be for East Coast regional centers; and

(B) \$8,859,000 for the National Technology Institute; and

(7) for fiscal year 2015—

(A) \$24,359,000 for the regional centers, of which 50 percent shall be for West Coast regional centers and 50 percent shall be for East Coast regional centers; and

(B) \$9,744,000 for the National Technology Institute.

(Pub. L. 111–11, title XII, § 12107, Mar. 30, 2009, 123 Stat. 1420.)

**CHAPTER 48—OCEAN AND COASTAL MAPPING INTEGRATION**

Sec.	
3501.	Establishment of program.
3502.	Interagency committee on ocean and coastal mapping.
3503.	Biennial reports.
3504.	Plan.
3505.	Effect on other laws.
3506.	Authorization of appropriations.
3507.	Definitions.

**§ 3501. Establishment of program**

**(a) In general**

The President, in coordination with the Interagency Committee on Ocean and Coastal Mapping and affected coastal states, shall establish a program to develop a coordinated and comprehensive Federal ocean and coastal mapping plan for the Great Lakes and coastal state waters, the territorial sea, the exclusive economic zone, and the continental shelf of the United States that enhances ecosystem approaches in decision-making for conservation and management of marine resources and habitats, establishes research and mapping priorities, supports the siting of research and other platforms, and advances ocean and coastal science.

**(b) Membership**

The Committee shall be comprised of high-level representatives of the Department of Com-