

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

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

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

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§ 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 Commerce, through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Department of the Interior, the National Science Foundation, the Department of Defense, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Homeland Security, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and other appropriate Federal agencies involved in ocean and coastal mapping.

(c) Program parameters

In developing such a program, the President, through the Committee, shall—

- (1) identify all Federal and federally-funded programs conducting shoreline delineation and ocean or coastal mapping, noting geographic coverage, frequency, spatial coverage, resolution, and subject matter focus of the data and location of data archives;
- (2) facilitate cost-effective, cooperative mapping efforts that incorporate policies for contracting with non-governmental entities among all Federal agencies conducting ocean and coastal mapping, by increasing data sharing, developing appropriate data acquisition and metadata standards, and facilitating the interoperability of in situ data collection systems, data processing, archiving, and distribution of data products;
- (3) facilitate the adaptation of existing technologies as well as foster expertise in new ocean and coastal mapping technologies, including through research, development, and training conducted among Federal agencies and in cooperation with non-governmental entities;
- (4) develop standards and protocols for testing innovative experimental mapping technologies and transferring new technologies between the Federal Government, coastal state, and non-governmental entities;
- (5) provide for the archiving, management, and distribution of data sets through a national registry as well as provide mapping products and services to the general public in service of statutory requirements;
- (6) develop data standards and protocols consistent with standards developed by the Federal Geographic Data Committee for use by Federal, coastal state, and other entities in mapping and otherwise documenting locations