

**(g) Comptroller General study**

Not later than 1 year after July 6, 2012, the Comptroller General of the United States shall—

(1) complete an audit of Federal efforts to collect covered data for purposes of the Consumer Option for an Alternative System to Allocate Losses Act of 2012, which audit shall—

(A) examine duplicated Federal efforts to collect covered data; and

(B) determine the cost effectiveness of such efforts; and

(2) submit to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs and the<sup>1</sup> Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Financial Services and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives a report on the findings of the Comptroller General with respect to the audit completed under paragraph (1).

(Pub. L. 111–11, title XII, §12312, as added Pub. L. 112–141, div. F, title II, §100252, July 6, 2012, 126 Stat. 969; amended Pub. L. 116–271, title II, §201(a), Dec. 31, 2020, 134 Stat. 3344.)

**Editorial Notes**

## REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Consumer Option for an Alternative System to Allocate Losses Act of 2012, referred to in subsec. (g)(1), is subtitle B (§§100251–100253) of title II of div. F of Pub. L. 112–141, which enacted this section, section 4057 of Title 42, the Public Health and Welfare, and provisions set out as a note under section 4001 of Title 42. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title of 2012 Amendment note set out under section 4001 of Title 42 and Tables.

## AMENDMENTS

2020—Subsec. (a)(2). Pub. L. 116–271, §201(a)(1)(A), inserted “, except that the term shall not apply with respect to a State or territory that has an operational wind and flood loss allocation system” before period at end.

Subsec. (a)(6). Pub. L. 116–271, §201(a)(1)(B), inserted “sustained” before “winds”.

Subsec. (a)(7). Pub. L. 116–271, §201(a)(1)(C), substituted “for which post-storm assessments are conducted” for “that threaten any portion of a coastal State”.

Subsec. (b)(1)(A). Pub. L. 116–271, §201(a)(2)(A)(i), substituted “December 31, 2020” for “540 days after July 6, 2012” and struck out “by regulation” after “Administrator shall develop”.

Subsec. (b)(1)(B). Pub. L. 116–271, §201(a)(2)(A)(ii), substituted “an indeterminate loss” for “every indeterminate loss”.

Subsec. (b)(1)(C). Pub. L. 116–271, §201(a)(2)(A)(iii), added subpar. (C).

Subsec. (b)(2)(B), (C). Pub. L. 116–271, §201(a)(2)(B)(ii), added subpars. (B) and (C). Former subpars. (B) and (C) redesignated (D) and (E), respectively.

Subsec. (b)(2)(D). Pub. L. 116–271, §201(a)(2)(B)(iii), substituted “confirmation of indeterminate losses identified under subparagraph (C) with respect to a named storm” for “identification of a named storm under subparagraph (A)” and “assessment for each coastal State that suffered such indeterminate losses as a result of the named storm” for “assessment for such named storm”.

Pub. L. 116–271, §201(a)(2)(B)(i), redesignated subpar. (B) as (D).

Subsec. (b)(2)(E). Pub. L. 116–271, §201(a)(2)(B)(iv), substituted “any indeterminate losses are identified under subparagraph (C)” for “an identification of a named storm is made under subparagraph (A)” and “under subparagraph (D) for any coastal State that suffered such indeterminate losses” for “for such storm under subparagraph (B)”.

Pub. L. 116–271, §201(a)(2)(B)(i), redesignated subpar. (C) as (E).

Subsec. (b)(2)(F). Pub. L. 116–271, §201(a)(2)(B)(v), added subpar. (F).

Subsec. (c)(1). Pub. L. 116–271, §201(a)(3)(A), substituted “December 31, 2020” for “540 days after July 6, 2012”.

Subsec. (c)(2). Pub. L. 116–271, §201(a)(3)(B), inserted “, in the discretion of the Administrator,” after “of sensors as may”.

Subsec. (c)(4)(B). Pub. L. 116–271, §201(a)(3)(C), inserted “and expend” after “receive”.

**CHAPTER 50—FEDERAL OCEAN ACIDIFICATION RESEARCH AND MONITORING**

## Sec.

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**§ 3701. Purposes****(a) Purposes**

The purposes of this chapter are to provide for—

(1) development and coordination of a comprehensive interagency plan to—

(A) monitor and conduct research on the processes and consequences of ocean acidification on marine organisms and ecosystems; and

(B) establish an interagency research and monitoring program on ocean acidification;

(2) establishment of an ocean acidification program within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration;

(3) assessment and consideration of regional and national ecosystem and socioeconomic impacts of increased ocean acidification; and

(4) research adaptation strategies and techniques for effectively conserving marine ecosystems as they cope with increased ocean acidification.

(Pub. L. 111–11, title XII, §12402, Mar. 30, 2009, 123 Stat. 1436.)

**Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries**

## SHORT TITLE

Pub. L. 111–11, title XII, §12401, Mar. 30, 2009, 123 Stat. 1436, provided that: “This subtitle [subtitle D (§§12401–12409) of title XII of Pub. L. 111–11, enacting this chapter] may be cited as the ‘Federal Ocean Acidification Research And Monitoring Act of 2009’ or the ‘FOARAM Act’.”

**§ 3702. Definitions**

In this chapter:

**(1) Ocean acidification**

The term “ocean acidification” means the decrease in pH of the Earth’s oceans and

<sup>1</sup>So in original. Probably should be followed by “Committee on”.

changes in ocean chemistry caused by chemical inputs from the atmosphere, including carbon dioxide.

**(2) Secretary**

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

**(3) Subcommittee**

The term “Subcommittee” means the Joint Subcommittee on Ocean Science and Technology of the National Science and Technology Council.

(Pub. L. 111–11, title XII, §12403, Mar. 30, 2009, 123 Stat. 1437.)

**§ 3703. Interagency Subcommittee**

**(a) Designation**

**(1) In general**

The Joint Subcommittee on Ocean Science and Technology of the National Science and Technology Council shall coordinate Federal activities on ocean acidification and establish an interagency working group.

**(2) Membership**

The interagency working group on ocean acidification shall be comprised of senior representatives from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the National Science Foundation, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the United States Geological Survey, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and such other Federal agencies as appropriate.

**(3) Chairman**

The interagency working group shall be chaired by the representative from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

**(b) Duties**

The Subcommittee shall—

(1) develop the strategic research and monitoring plan to guide Federal research on ocean acidification required under section 3704 of this title and oversee the implementation of the plan;

(2) oversee the development of—

(A) an assessment of the potential impacts of ocean acidification on marine organisms and marine ecosystems; and

(B) adaptation and mitigation strategies to conserve marine organisms and ecosystems exposed to ocean acidification;

(3) facilitate communication and outreach opportunities with nongovernmental organizations and members of the stakeholder community with interests in marine resources;

(4) coordinate the United States Federal research and monitoring program with research and monitoring programs and scientists from other nations; and

(5) establish or designate an Ocean Acidification Information Exchange to make information on ocean acidification developed through or utilized by the interagency ocean acidification program accessible through electronic

means, including information which would be useful to policymakers, researchers, and other stakeholders in mitigating or adapting to the impacts of ocean acidification.

**(c) Reports to Congress**

**(1) Initial report**

Not later than 1 year after March 30, 2009, the Subcommittee shall transmit a report to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Science and Technology and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives that—

(A) includes a summary of federally funded ocean acidification research and monitoring activities, including the budget for each of these activities; and

(B) describes the progress in developing the plan required under section 3704 of this title.

**(2) Biennial report**

Not later than 2 years after the delivery of the initial report under paragraph (1) and every 2 years thereafter, the Subcommittee shall transmit a report to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Science and Technology and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives that includes—

(A) a summary of federally funded ocean acidification research and monitoring activities, including the budget for each of these activities; and

(B) an analysis of the progress made toward achieving the goals and priorities for the interagency research plan developed by the Subcommittee under section 3704 of this title.

**(3) Strategic research plan**

Not later than 2 years after March 30, 2009, the Subcommittee shall transmit the strategic research plan developed under section 3704 of this title to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Science and Technology and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives. A revised plan shall be submitted at least once every 5 years thereafter.

**(4) Economic vulnerability report**

**(A) In general**

Not later than 2 years after December 31, 2020, and every 6 years thereafter, the Subcommittee shall transmit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report that—

(i) is named the “Ocean Chemistry Coastal Community Vulnerability Assessment”;

(ii) identifies gaps in ocean acidification monitoring by public, academic, and private assets in the network of regional coastal observing systems;

(iii) identifies geographic areas which have gaps in ocean acidification research;

(iv) identifies United States coastal communities, including island communities, fishing communities, low-population rural