

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6191

To establish a regulatory system for sustainable offshore aquaculture in the United States exclusive economic zone, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 11, 2020

Mr. PETERSON (for himself and Mr. PALAZZO) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To establish a regulatory system for sustainable offshore aquaculture in the United States exclusive economic zone, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 (a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the
5 “Advancing the Quality and Understanding of American
6 Aquaculture Act” or the “AQUAA Act”.

7 (b) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—The table of contents for
8 this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title.
- Sec. 2. Purposes.
- Sec. 3. Definitions.

TITLE I—NATIONAL STANDARDS

- Sec. 101. National standards for sustainable offshore aquaculture.

TITLE II—CORE ACTIVITIES

- Sec. 201. Offshore aquaculture permits.
- Sec. 202. Enterprise zones.

TITLE III—REFINEMENTS

- Sec. 301. Protection of offshore aquaculture facilities.
- Sec. 302. Recordkeeping and access to information.
- Sec. 303. Marine feed standards.

TITLE IV—ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

- Sec. 401. Office of Offshore Aquaculture.
- Sec. 402. Domestic aquaculture production.
- Sec. 403. Outreach and education for offshore aquaculture.
- Sec. 404. Administration.
- Sec. 405. Report.
- Sec. 406. Extension of permit terms.
- Sec. 407. Interagency coordination of offshore aquaculture.
- Sec. 408. Prohibited acts.
- Sec. 409. Enforcement.
- Sec. 410. Authorization of appropriations.

TITLE V—RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

- Sec. 501. Research and development grant programs.

1 **SEC. 2. PURPOSES.**

2 The purposes of this Act are—

3 (1) to support the development of a sustainable
4 aquaculture industry in the United States;

5 (2) to develop sustainable offshore aquaculture
6 as a tool to support sustainable marine fisheries and
7 ecosystem-based management;

8 (3) to simplify the Federal regulatory regime
9 for sustainable offshore aquaculture and safeguard

1 the marine environment, wild fish stocks, and our
2 coastal communities;

3 (4) to support research and technology develop-
4 ment to further these goals;

5 (5) to create new jobs, and support existing
6 jobs within the seafood industry of the United
7 States, including jobs for traditional fishing industry
8 partners; and

9 (6) to reduce the United States seafood trade
10 deficit by expanding the domestic supply of seafood
11 through domestic aquaculture.

12 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

13 (a) IN GENERAL.—In this Act:

14 (1) AQUACULTURE.—The term “aquaculture”
15 has the meaning given such term in section 3 of the
16 National Aquaculture Act of 1980 (16 U.S.C. 2803).

17 (2) AQUACULTURE STAKEHOLDER.—The term
18 “aquaculture stakeholder” means owners and opera-
19 tors of offshore aquaculture facilities, Regional Fish-
20 ery Management Councils, conservation organiza-
21 tions, fisheries associations, State, county, and Trib-
22 al governments, and other interested stakeholders.
23 The term also includes other Federal agencies that
24 have interests in aquaculture.

1 (3) COASTAL STATE.—Except as otherwise spe-
2 cifically provided, the term “coastal State” has the
3 meaning given the term “coastal state” in section
4 304(4) of the Coastal Zone Management Act of
5 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1453(4)).

6 (4) BROODSTOCK.—The term “broodstock”
7 means individuals of any aquatic species maintained
8 for the purpose of propagating, reestablishing, or en-
9 hancing a supply of stock to be reared for offshore
10 aquaculture. The term includes individuals collected
11 from the wild at any life history stage and reared in
12 captivity.

13 (5) CULTURED SPECIES.—The term “cultured
14 species” means any aquatic species propagated from
15 broodstock and transferred to a marine aquaculture
16 facility or species that self-recruit in the offshore en-
17 vironment. The term excludes any member of the
18 class aves, reptilia, or mammalia.

19 (6) EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE.—

20 (A) IN GENERAL.—Unless otherwise speci-
21 fied by the President in the public interest in
22 a writing published in the Federal Register, the
23 term “exclusive economic zone” means a zone,
24 the outer boundary of which is 200 nautical
25 miles from the baseline from which the breadth

1 of the territorial sea is measured (except as es-
2 tablished by a maritime boundary treaty in
3 force or being provisionally applied by the
4 United States or, in the absence of such a trea-
5 ty, where the distance between the United
6 States and another country is less than 400
7 nautical miles, a line equidistant between the
8 United States and the other country).

9 (B) INNER BOUNDARY.—Without affecting
10 any Presidential proclamation with regard to
11 the establishment of the United States terri-
12 torial sea or exclusive economic zone, the inner
13 boundary of the exclusive economic zone is—

14 (i) in the case of the coastal States, a
15 line coterminous with the seaward bound-
16 ary of each such State, as described in sec-
17 tion 4 of the Submerged Lands Act (43
18 U.S.C. 1312);

19 (ii) in the case of the Commonwealth
20 of Puerto Rico, a line 3 marine leagues
21 from the coastline of the Commonwealth of
22 Puerto Rico;

23 (iii) in the case of American Samoa,
24 the United States Virgin Islands, and
25 Guam, a line 3 geographic miles from the

1 coastlines of American Samoa, the United
2 States Virgin Islands, or Guam, respec-
3 tively;

4 (iv) in the case of the Commonwealth
5 of the Northern Mariana Islands—

6 (I) the coastline of the Common-
7 wealth of the Northern Mariana Is-
8 lands, until the Commonwealth of the
9 Northern Mariana Islands is granted
10 authority by the United States to reg-
11 ulate all fishing to a line seaward of
12 its coastline; and

13 (II) upon the United States
14 grant of such authority, the line es-
15 tablished by such grant of authority;
16 or

17 (v) for any possession of the United
18 States not under clause (ii), (iii), or (iv),
19 the coastline of such possession.

20 (C) CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this defi-
21 nition may be construed to diminish the author-
22 ity of the Department of Defense, the Depart-
23 ment of the Interior, or any other Federal de-
24 partment or agency.

1 (7) HEALTHY TARGET STOCK.—The term
2 “healthy target stock” means a component of a fish-
3 ery targeted for harvest that is not overfished or ex-
4 periencing overfishing and that is managed to
5 achieve a target not to exceed a level consistent with
6 maximum sustainable yield, taking into account any
7 relevant economic, social, or ecological factor.

8 (8) LESSEE.—The term “lessee” means any
9 party to a lease, right-of-use and easement, or right-
10 of-way, or an approved assignment thereof, issued
11 pursuant to the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act
12 (43 U.S.C. 1331 et seq.).

13 (9) OFFSHORE AQUACULTURE.—The term “off-
14 shore aquaculture” means aquaculture conducted in
15 the exclusive economic zone.

16 (10) OFFSHORE AQUACULTURE FACILITY.—The
17 term “offshore aquaculture facility” means—

18 (A) an installation or structure used, in
19 whole or in part, for offshore aquaculture; or

20 (B) an area of the seabed, water column,
21 or the sediment used for offshore aquaculture.

22 (11) SECRETARY.—Except as otherwise specifi-
23 cally provided, the term “Secretary” means the Sec-
24 retary of Commerce, acting through the Under Sec-
25 retary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere.

1 (12) SECRETARIES.—The term “Secretaries”
2 means the Secretary of Agriculture and the Sec-
3 retary of Commerce.

4 (13) SUSTAINABLY MANAGED FISHERY.—The
5 term “sustainably managed fishery” means a fishery
6 that is managed in such a manner to maintain
7 healthy target stocks, to protect marine ecosystem
8 structure, productivity, function, and diversity, and
9 to minimize impacts to nontarget stocks.

10 (b) AQUACULTURE DEFINED.—Section 3 of the Na-
11 tional Aquaculture Act of 1980 (16 U.S.C. 2803) is
12 amended by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the fol-
13 lowing:

14 “(1) The term ‘aquaculture’ means any activity
15 involved in the propagation, rearing, or attempted
16 propagation or rearing, of cultured species.”.

17 **TITLE I—NATIONAL STANDARDS**

18 **SEC. 101. NATIONAL STANDARDS FOR SUSTAINABLE OFF-** 19 **SHORE AQUACULTURE.**

20 (a) IN GENERAL.—Any regulation promulgated to
21 implement this Act, any permit issued under this Act, and
22 any assessment or impact statement required by the Na-
23 tional Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321
24 et seq.) for activities proposed under this Act shall be con-

1 sistent with the following national standards for sustain-
2 able offshore aquaculture:

3 (1) Sustainable offshore aquaculture shall
4 strengthen coastal and marine ecosystems by reduc-
5 ing pressure on fisheries, enhancing essential fish
6 habitat, preserving water quality, or enhancing na-
7 tive stocks.

8 (2) Sustainable offshore aquaculture shall be
9 based on the best scientific information available.

10 (3) Sustainable offshore aquaculture shall avoid
11 adverse environmental impacts to coastal and marine
12 ecosystems, especially with regard to habitat, and
13 water quality, caused by disease, escapements, and
14 the effects of nonnative species.

15 (4) Sustainable offshore aquaculture shall
16 prioritize feeds sourced from sustainable ingredients
17 and avoid using feeds harvested from illegal, unre-
18 ported, and unregulated fishing.

19 (5) Sustainable offshore aquaculture shall be
20 conducted to minimize impacts, to the extent prac-
21 ticable, on other uses of the exclusive economic zone
22 by Federal and non-Federal entities.

23 (6) Sustainable offshore aquaculture shall take
24 into account the importance of fishery resources to
25 fishing communities in order to, to the extent prac-

1 ticable, minimize adverse economic impacts on such
2 communities.

3 (7) Sustainable offshore aquaculture manage-
4 ment measures shall, to the maximum extent prac-
5 ticable, minimize costs and avoid unnecessary dupli-
6 cation.

7 (8) Sustainable offshore aquaculture manage-
8 ment measures shall avoid unnecessary risks to
9 human life and the safety of human life at sea.

10 (b) GUIDELINES.—The Secretary shall establish advi-
11 sory guidelines (which shall not have the force and effect
12 of law), based on the national standards, to assist in the
13 preparation of any application for a permit under this Act,
14 or assessment or impact statement required under the Na-
15 tional Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321
16 et seq.) for activities proposed under such Act.

17 **TITLE II—CORE ACTIVITIES**

18 **SEC. 201. OFFSHORE AQUACULTURE PERMITS.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—After the Secretary promulgates
20 final regulations under section 404(a), the Secretary may
21 issue an offshore aquaculture permit if the Secretary de-
22 termines that—

23 (1) the proposed offshore aquaculture facility,
24 type of aquaculture operation, and cultured species
25 are consistent with the purposes in section 2 and the

1 national standards for sustainable offshore aqua-
2 culture in section 101;

3 (2) the applicant is able to comply with this Act
4 and any terms and conditions prescribed under sec-
5 tion 404(a), is financially responsible, and will oper-
6 ate the offshore aquaculture facility using the best
7 practicable technology and maintain it in good work-
8 ing order; and

9 (3) issuance of the offshore aquaculture permit
10 is not prohibited under section 408.

11 (b) AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.—An offshore aqua-
12 culture permit holder shall be authorized to conduct off-
13 shore aquaculture consistent with—

14 (1) this Act, including regulations promulgated
15 to carry out this Act;

16 (2) other applicable provisions of law, including
17 regulations; and

18 (3) any terms or conditions imposed by the Na-
19 tional Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

20 (c) PERMIT PROCEDURE.—

21 (1) APPLICATION.—An applicant for an off-
22 shore aquaculture permit shall submit an application
23 to the Secretary. The application shall specify—

1 (A) the proposed location of the offshore
2 aquaculture facility and the location of any on-
3 shore facilities;

4 (B) the type of aquaculture operations that
5 will be conducted at all facilities described in
6 subparagraph (A);

7 (C) the cultured species, or a specified
8 range of species, to be propagated or reared, or
9 both, at the offshore aquaculture facility;

10 (D) the ways in which the permit holder
11 will comply with the national standards for sus-
12 tainable offshore aquaculture described in sec-
13 tion 101;

14 (E) plans to respond to—

15 (i) a natural disaster;

16 (ii) an escapement; and

17 (iii) disease; and

18 (F) such other design, construction, and
19 operational information as the Secretary may
20 require to ensure the integrity of the applicant's
21 operations and contingency planning.

22 (2) NOTICE.—Whenever the National Oceanic
23 and Atmospheric Administration receives an offshore
24 aquaculture permit application, the Secretary shall—

1 (A) provide notice and a copy of the appli-
2 cation to the Governor of every State or terri-
3 tory in the fisheries management region under
4 the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation
5 and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.),
6 where the proposed offshore aquaculture facility
7 will be sited, and if the proposed site is within
8 100 miles of another such fisheries manage-
9 ment region, the Secretary shall provide the
10 same notice to the governor of every State and
11 territory in that region; and

12 (B) provide public notice and an oppor-
13 tunity for public comment for each offshore
14 aquaculture permit application.

15 (3) COMMENTS AND CONSULTATION.—The Sec-
16 retary shall take any comments submitted by Gov-
17 ernors and the public into consideration, and shall
18 consult with interested parties as warranted before
19 making a final decision on the disposition of an off-
20 shore aquaculture permit application.

21 (4) DEADLINES FOR CONSIDERATION OF APPLI-
22 CATIONS FOR PERMITS.—Not later than 30 days
23 after the date on which the Secretary receives an
24 offshore aquaculture permit application, the Sec-
25 retary shall—

1 (A) notify the applicant that the applica-
2 tion is complete; or

3 (B) notify the applicant that information is
4 missing and specify any information that is re-
5 quired to be submitted for the application to be
6 complete.

7 (5) ISSUANCE OR DEFERRAL.—Not later than
8 90 days after the period for public comments on a
9 completed application has concluded, the Secretary
10 shall—

11 (A) issue the permit, if the application
12 complies with the national standards for sus-
13 tainable offshore aquaculture in section 101, re-
14 quirements under the National Environmental
15 Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.),
16 and other applicable law;

17 (B) defer the decision on the permit, if the
18 Secretary determines that the application can
19 be improved to meet the requirements of para-
20 graph (1), and provide to the applicant a notice
21 that specifies any steps that the applicant could
22 take for the permit to be issued; or

23 (C) deny the permit, if the Secretary deter-
24 mines that the application does not meet the re-
25 quirements of paragraph (1), or any other ap-

1 plicable law, and that these issues cannot be re-
2 mediated.

3 (6) EXTENSION OF REVIEW.—The Secretary
4 may extend the review period for an additional 90
5 days if the Secretary determines that further time is
6 needed to analyze the application. The Secretary
7 may further extend the review period beyond the ex-
8 tension provided in the preceding sentence if the
9 Secretary determines that the Department of Com-
10 merce needs more time to comply with applicable
11 Federal law, provided that the Secretary’s deter-
12 mination states the specific actions the Department
13 must undertake, together with deadlines for com-
14 pleting such actions.

15 (d) PERMIT REQUIREMENTS.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—An offshore aquaculture per-
17 mit holder shall be—

18 (A) a citizen or permanent resident of the
19 United States; or

20 (B) a corporation, partnership, or other
21 entity that—

22 (i) is organized and existing under the
23 laws of a State or the United States; and

24 (ii) is not State-owned or majority-
25 controlled by a State-owned enterprise.

1 (2) TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—Subject to sub-
2 section (n), the Secretary shall—

3 (A) prescribe the terms and conditions that
4 apply to each offshore aquaculture permit to
5 achieve the national standards for sustainable
6 offshore aquaculture in section 101; and

7 (B) specify in each offshore aquaculture
8 permit the duration, size, and location of the
9 offshore aquaculture facility.

10 (e) DURATION.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
12 graph (2), an offshore aquaculture permit shall have
13 an initial 15-year duration, and may be renewed
14 subject to the terms of this Act.

15 (2) EXCEPTIONS.—

16 (A) ENTERPRISE ZONE.—A permit issued
17 for offshore aquaculture to be conducted in an
18 enterprise zone as provided in section 202 shall
19 have an initial 25-year duration.

20 (B) OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF.—The
21 Secretary shall develop the duration of an off-
22 shore aquaculture permit subject to subsection
23 (n)(1), in consultation with the Secretary of the
24 Interior, except that the permit shall expire not
25 later than the date that the lessee or the les-

1 see’s operator submits, to the Secretary of the
2 Interior, a final application for the decommis-
3 sioning and removal of an existing facility upon
4 which an offshore aquaculture facility is lo-
5 cated.

6 (f) RENEWAL.—The Secretary may renew an offshore
7 aquaculture permit that has not been revoked for an addi-
8 tional 15- or 25-year period, as provided in subsection (e),
9 before the end of the original permit’s duration, if—

10 (1) the permit or amended permit complies with
11 existing requirements;

12 (2) the permit holder has not been subject to
13 sanctions under section 408 or committed a prohib-
14 ited act under such section; and

15 (3) the permit has not been modified because of
16 emergency considerations.

17 (g) REVOCATION.—The Secretary may, pursuant to
18 regulations issued under this Act, revoke an offshore
19 aquaculture permit, if—

20 (1) the permit holder commits a prohibited act
21 under section 408;

22 (2) the permit holder fails to begin offshore
23 aquaculture operations within 2 years from the date
24 the required Federal permits are obtained; or

1 (3) there is an interruption of offshore aqua-
2 culture operations of at least 2 years in duration
3 that is unrelated to best management practices or
4 Federal disaster declaration. Such disaster declara-
5 tions shall be carried out in a manner consistent
6 with title IV of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Re-
7 lief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170
8 et seq.).

9 (h) EXPIRATION OR REVOCATION.—Not later than 1
10 year after the expiration or revocation of an offshore aqua-
11 culture permit, a permit holder shall—

12 (1) remove all structures, gear, and other prop-
13 erty from the offshore aquaculture facility site; and

14 (2) take such other measures to restore the site,
15 as the Secretary considers necessary.

16 (i) EMERGENCY DETERMINATION.—If the Secretary
17 determines that an emergency exists that poses a signifi-
18 cant risk to the safety of humans, to the marine environ-
19 ment, to cultured species, to a marine species, or to the
20 security of the United States and that requires suspen-
21 sion, modification, or revocation of an offshore aqua-
22 culture permit, the Secretary may suspend, modify, or re-
23 voke the permit for such time as the Secretary determines
24 is necessary to address the emergency. The Secretary shall
25 afford the permit holder a prompt post-suspension, post-

1 modification, or post-revocation opportunity to be heard
2 regarding the suspension, modification, or revocation.

3 (j) FEES.—

4 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—

5 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may es-
6 tablish, by regulation, application fees and an-
7 nual offshore aquaculture permit fees under
8 this section.

9 (B) DEPOSIT AND COLLECTION.—The fees
10 described in subparagraph (A) shall be depos-
11 ited as offsetting collections in the operations,
12 research, and facilities account of the National
13 Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Fees
14 may be collected and made available to the ex-
15 tent provided in advance in appropriation Acts.

16 (C) SETTING OF FEES.—The fees de-
17 scribed in subparagraph (A) shall—

18 (i) be set as an amount such that the
19 total revenue from such fees does not ex-
20 ceed the amount required to cover the
21 costs of management, data collection, anal-
22 ysis, inspection, and enforcement activities
23 related to permits under this section; and

1 (ii) provide adequate resources to
2 cover the costs of the inspections required
3 under section 302(f).

4 (2) WAIVERS.—The Secretary may waive, in
5 whole or in part, any fee under this section if an off-
6 shore aquaculture facility is used primarily for re-
7 search.

8 (3) GUARANTEES.—The Secretary shall require
9 a permit holder to post a bond or other form of fi-
10 nancial guarantee in an amount determined by the
11 Secretary, to be reasonable and commensurate with
12 the aquaculture operation and as sufficient to cover,
13 without duplication—

14 (A) any unpaid fees;

15 (B) the cost of removing an offshore aqua-
16 culture facility at the expiration or revocation of
17 an offshore aquaculture permit;

18 (C) the cost of site remediation for impacts
19 arising from activities; or

20 (D) any other financial risks identified by
21 the Secretary.

22 (k) MAGNUSON-STEVENS FISHERY CONSERVATION
23 AND MANAGEMENT ACT.—Beginning on the effective date
24 of the final regulations promulgated under section 404,
25 the conduct of offshore aquaculture that is in accordance

1 with an offshore aquaculture permit issued under this sec-
2 tion shall not be considered fishing for purposes of the
3 Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Manage-
4 ment Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.).

5 (l) COMPATIBILITY WITH OTHER USES.—Each Fed-
6 eral agency implementing this section, person subject to
7 this section, and coastal State seeking to review a permit
8 application under this section shall comply with the appli-
9 cable provisions of the Coastal Zone Management Act of
10 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1451 et seq.), including regulations pro-
11 mulgated to carry out such Act.

12 (m) STATUTORY CONSTRUCTION.—An offshore aqua-
13 culture permit issued under this section shall not super-
14 sede or substitute for any other authorization required
15 under Federal or State laws.

16 (n) ACTIONS AFFECTING THE OUTER CONTINENTAL
17 SHELF.—

18 (1) NOTIFICATION OF SECRETARY OF THE IN-
19 TERIOR.—The Secretary shall notify the Secretary
20 of the Interior for each application for an offshore
21 aquaculture permit that is located on the outer con-
22 tinental shelf.

23 (2) PRIOR CONSENT REQUIRED.—An offshore
24 aquaculture facility may not be located on a lease,
25 right-of-use and easement, or right of way author-

1 ized or permitted under the Outer Continental Shelf
2 Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1331 et seq.) without the
3 prior consent of any lessee and other owner of oper-
4 ating interest.

5 (3) COMPLIANCE REVIEW.—The Secretary of
6 the Interior shall review each agreement between a
7 prospective offshore aquaculture operator and a les-
8 see. The Secretary of the Interior shall approve such
9 agreement if it is consistent with the Federal lease
10 terms, Department of the Interior regulations, and
11 the Secretary of the Interior’s role in the protection
12 of the marine environment, property, and human life
13 or health. An agreement under this subsection
14 shall—

15 (A) be part of the information reviewed
16 under paragraph (4); and

17 (B) not be subject to a separate Coastal
18 Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C.
19 1451 et seq.) review.

20 (4) COORDINATED COASTAL ZONE MANAGE-
21 MENT ACT REVIEW.—

22 (A) STATE REVIEW.—

23 (i) IN GENERAL.—A coastal State’s
24 review under the Coastal Zone Manage-
25 ment Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1451 et seq.)

1 shall include any modification or change to
2 a lessee's approved plan that results from,
3 or is necessary for, the issuance of an off-
4 shore aquaculture permit if the State si-
5 multaneously receives—

6 (I) the information related to the
7 modification or change; and

8 (II) the offshore aquaculture per-
9 mit applicant's consistency certifi-
10 cation.

11 (ii) SIMULTANEOUS RECEIPT.—If the
12 coastal State simultaneously receives the
13 information related to a modification or
14 change to a lessee's approved plan and the
15 offshore aquaculture permit applicant's
16 consistency certification, then—

17 (I) a lessee shall not be required
18 to submit a separate consistency cer-
19 tification for the modification or
20 change under section 307(c)(3)(B) of
21 the Coastal Zone Management Act of
22 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1456(c)(3)(B)); and

23 (II) the coastal State's concur-
24 rence (or presumed concurrence) or
25 objection to the consistency certifi-

1 cation for the offshore aquaculture
2 permit under section 307(c)(3)(A) of
3 such Act shall apply both—

4 (aa) to the offshore aqua-
5 culture permit; and

6 (bb) to any related modifica-
7 tion or change to a lessee's plan
8 approved under the Outer Conti-
9 nental Shelf Lands Act (43
10 U.S.C. 1331 et seq.).

11 (B) STATE REVIEW UNDER SECTION
12 307(c)(3)(b) OF THE COASTAL ZONE MANAGE-
13 MENT ACT OF 1972.—To the extent that a
14 coastal State is not authorized by section
15 307(c)(3)(A) of the Coastal Zone Management
16 Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1456(c)(3)(A)) to re-
17 view an offshore aquaculture permit application
18 submitted under this Act, then a modification
19 or change to a lessee's approved plan shall be
20 subject to coastal State review under section
21 307(c)(3)(B) of such Act if a consistency cer-
22 tification for the modification or change is re-
23 quired under applicable Federal regulations.

24 (C) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph:

1 (i) LESSEE'S APPROVED PLAN.—The
2 term “lessee’s approved plan” includes a
3 document for which a consistency certifi-
4 cation is required under applicable Federal
5 regulations, such as a change to the ap-
6 proved plan for decommissioning a facility.

7 (ii) OFFSHORE AQUACULTURE PERMIT
8 APPLICANT.—The term “offshore aqua-
9 culture permit applicant” means an appli-
10 cant for an offshore aquaculture permit
11 under this section that—

12 (I) will locate the proposed facil-
13 ity in an area that would require con-
14 sent from the lessee as described in
15 paragraph (2); and

16 (II) is required to submit a con-
17 sistency certification for its aqua-
18 culture application under section
19 307(c)(3)(A) of the Coastal Zone
20 Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C.
21 1456(c)(3)(A)) to the coastal State.

22 (iii) OFFSHORE AQUACULTURE PER-
23 MIT APPLICATION.—The term “offshore
24 aquaculture permit application” means an
25 application for an offshore aquaculture

1 permit under this section that will locate
2 the proposed facility in an area that would
3 require consent from the lessee as de-
4 scribed in paragraph (2).

5 (5) JOINT AND SEVERAL LIABILITY.—For off-
6 shore aquaculture located on a facility described
7 under this subsection, a permit holder and each
8 party that is or was a lessee of the lease on which
9 the facility is located during the term of the offshore
10 aquaculture permit shall be jointly and severally lia-
11 ble for the removal of any construction or modifica-
12 tion related to the offshore aquaculture operations if
13 a bond or other form of financial guarantee under
14 subsection (j)(3) for aquaculture operations is insuf-
15 ficient to cover those obligations. This paragraph
16 shall not affect any obligation to decommission the
17 facility under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act
18 (43 U.S.C. 1331 et seq.).

19 (6) ADDITIONAL AUTHORITY.—

20 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the
21 Interior may, to carry out this subsection—

22 (i) promulgate rules and regulations
23 as necessary and appropriate;

24 (ii) require and enforce any additional
25 terms or conditions that the Secretary of

1 the Interior considers necessary to ensure
2 the compatibility of aquaculture operations
3 with activities for which permits, author-
4 izations, leases, negotiated agreements,
5 right-of-way, or right-of-use and easement
6 were issued under the Outer Continental
7 Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1331 et seq.);

8 (iii) issue an order to an offshore
9 aquaculture permit holder to take any ac-
10 tion the Secretary of the Interior considers
11 necessary to ensure safe operations on the
12 facility, and to protect the marine environ-
13 ment, property, or human life or health;

14 (iv) require and enforce any additional
15 terms or conditions that the Secretary of
16 the Interior considers necessary—

17 (I) to protect the marine environ-
18 ment, property, or human life or
19 health; and

20 (II) to ensure the compatibility of
21 aquaculture operations with activities
22 for which permits were issued under
23 the Outer Continental Shelf Lands
24 Act (43 U.S.C. 1331 et seq.); and

1 (v) enforce all requirements contained
2 in the regulations, lease terms and condi-
3 tions, and orders under the Outer Conti-
4 nental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1331 et
5 seq.).

6 (B) INTERPRETATION.—Failure to comply
7 with any order issued under subparagraph
8 (A)(iii) shall constitute a violation of the Outer
9 Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1331
10 et seq.).

11 (o) ASSURANCE OF ANIMAL HEALTH.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in this section shall
13 affect the authority of the Secretary of Agriculture
14 to—

15 (A) carry out the Animal Health Protec-
16 tion Act (7 U.S.C. 8301 et seq.) with respect to
17 cultured species in the exclusive economic zone;
18 or

19 (B) operate as the lead Federal agency for
20 providing animal health oversight for cultured
21 species in the exclusive economic zone.

22 (2) CRITERIA FOR PRACTICING VETERINARY
23 MEDICINE IN WATERS OUTSIDE STATE JURISDIC-
24 TION.—A veterinarian may practice veterinary medi-

1 cine in waters outside State jurisdiction if the veteri-
2 narian—

3 (A) is licensed and in good standing to
4 practice veterinary medicine in any State;

5 (B) holds a category II veterinary accredi-
6 tation from the Animal and Plant Health In-
7 spection Service that includes completion of
8 aquatic animal health modules of the Animal
9 and Plant Health Inspection Service; and

10 (C) has a valid veterinarian client-patient
11 relationship with the facility in which he or she
12 is practicing veterinary medicine.

13 (p) EXISTING PERMITS AND APPLICATIONS.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—Beginning on the date of en-
15 actment, any new permit issued shall be in accord-
16 ance with the permit authority created by this Act.

17 (2) PREEXISTING PERMITS.—Permits in effect
18 prior to the date of enactment shall remain in effect
19 under the permit authority created by this Act.

20 (3) PRIORITIZATION OF ACTIVE APPLICA-
21 TIONS.—A permit application submitted prior to the
22 date of enactment shall be eligible for priority proc-
23 essing under the application authority created by
24 this Act.

1 **SEC. 202. ENTERPRISE ZONES.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—

3 (1) DEVELOPMENT.—The Secretary shall de-
4 velop, consistent with this section, enterprise zones
5 for sustainable offshore aquaculture.

6 (2) CONSULTATION WITH STATES AND TERRI-
7 TORIES.—The Secretary shall provide notice to the
8 Governor of every State or territory in the fisheries
9 management region under the Magnuson-Stevens
10 Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16
11 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.), regarding proposed enterprise
12 zone locations. When the proposed site is within 100
13 miles of another such fisheries management region,
14 the Secretary shall provide the same notice to the
15 Governor of every State and territory in that region.
16 Governors may submit comments to the Secretary,
17 and the Secretary shall consult with interested Gov-
18 ernors in the development of enterprise zones under
19 this section.

20 (3) REGIONAL SITING WORKSHOPS.—The Sec-
21 retary shall, in each geographical region covered by
22 a Regional Fishery Management Council under the
23 Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Man-
24 agement Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.), conduct in-
25 formal workshops as necessary or advisable to solicit

1 public feedback on potential sites for enterprise
2 zones for sustainable offshore aquaculture.

3 (4) PRELIMINARY DETERMINATION.—Based on
4 public feedback under paragraph (3), the Secretary
5 shall make a preliminary determination of areas of
6 the exclusive economic zone that may be highly fa-
7 vorable for offshore aquaculture and likely compat-
8 ible with other uses of such areas.

9 (5) PILOT PROJECTS.—In order to test the via-
10 bility of sustainable offshore aquaculture in an en-
11 terprise zone, the Secretary may support demonstra-
12 tion projects in each enterprise zone as warranted
13 and consistent with the national standards for sus-
14 tainable offshore aquaculture in section 101. Such
15 demonstration projects shall comply with this Act
16 and all applicable Federal law.

17 (6) PROGRAMMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
18 STATEMENTS.—If the Secretary determines that fur-
19 ther sustainable offshore aquaculture is viable in a
20 particular region, the Secretary shall consider and
21 implement the most efficient process under the Na-
22 tional Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C.
23 4321 et seq.), including programmatic environmental
24 impact statements, to facilitate further sustainable

1 offshore aquaculture, in accordance with the fol-
2 lowing:

3 (A) Such programmatic environmental im-
4 pact statements need not cover the entirety of
5 the exclusive economic zone, but the Secretary
6 shall attempt to provide coverage in each area
7 of the exclusive economic zone, including the
8 East Coast, Gulf Coast, West Coast, and other
9 areas of the Atlantic and Pacific in the jurisdic-
10 tion of the United States.

11 (B) Nothing in this section shall be con-
12 strued to change, alter, or supersede the re-
13 quirements of the National Environmental Pol-
14 icy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

15 (b) SPATIAL DATA.—To support the implementation
16 of subsection (a), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric
17 Administration shall collect and curate spatial data rel-
18 evant to aquaculture, and make such data publicly avail-
19 able.

20 (c) EFFECTS OF DESIGNATION.—The enterprise
21 zones established under this section shall—

22 (1) offer a streamlined path forward for permit-
23 ting aquaculture facilities;

1 (2) provide the ability to conduct research on
2 the individual and cumulative impacts of such oper-
3 ating facilities; and

4 (3) determine best practices for inclusion in the
5 reports established in section 405.

6 **TITLE III—REFINEMENTS**

7 **SEC. 301. PROTECTION OF OFFSHORE AQUACULTURE FA-** 8 **CILITIES.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may promulgate
10 regulations that the Secretary determines are reasonable
11 and necessary to protect an offshore aquaculture facility.
12 When appropriate, the Secretary shall request the Sec-
13 retary of the department in which the Coast Guard is op-
14 erating to establish a navigational safety zone around an
15 offshore aquaculture facility.

16 (b) NAVIGATIONAL SAFETY ZONE.—The Secretary of
17 the department in which the Coast Guard is operating—

18 (1) shall consult with the Secretary of the Inte-
19 rior before designating a navigational safety zone
20 around an offshore aquaculture facility;

21 (2) after consultation with the Secretary, the
22 Secretary of State, and the Secretary of Defense,
23 may designate a zone of appropriate size around
24 (and including) an offshore aquaculture facility for
25 the purpose of navigational safety; and

1 (3) may define, by regulation, permissible ac-
2 tivities within a navigational safety zone.

3 (c) LIMITATIONS.—No installation, structure, or use
4 will be allowed in a navigational safety zone that is incom-
5 patible with the operation of the offshore aquaculture fa-
6 cility.

7 **SEC. 302. RECORDKEEPING AND ACCESS TO INFORMATION.**

8 (a) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary, after consulta-
9 tion with other interested Federal departments and agen-
10 cies, shall prescribe by regulation—

11 (1) the records that an offshore aquaculture
12 permit holder is required to establish and maintain;

13 (2) the reports that an offshore aquaculture
14 permit holder is required to make;

15 (3) the information that an offshore aqua-
16 culture permit holder is required to provide, which
17 shall include—

18 (A) data regarding escape events;

19 (B) the prevalence of disease in the off-
20 shore aquaculture facility, including a descrip-
21 tion of veterinary services provided for treat-
22 ment; and

23 (C) other information, as the Secretary
24 may require; and

1 (4) any other recordkeeping that an offshore
2 aquaculture permit holder is required to satisfy, as
3 necessary to carry out this Act.

4 (b) REGULATORY CONSISTENCY.—The regulations
5 under subsection (a) may not amend, contradict, or dupli-
6 cate regulations under any other Federal law.

7 (c) RECORDKEEPING.—An offshore aquaculture per-
8 mit holder shall—

9 (1) comply with the recordkeeping regulations
10 under subsection (a); and

11 (2) submit such reports, and make such records
12 and information available as the Secretary may re-
13 quest.

14 (d) PUBLIC ACCESS.—The Secretary shall make re-
15 ports and other information received under this Act avail-
16 able to the public unless the Secretary determines it is
17 necessary to withhold disclosure to protect confidential
18 business information and sensitive personal information.
19 The Secretary shall establish procedures to protect con-
20 fidential business information and sensitive personal infor-
21 mation from being disclosed.

22 (e) GOVERNMENT ACCESS.—Any Federal Govern-
23 ment official with an official responsibility for imple-
24 menting and enforcing Federal law applicable to maritime
25 fishing, shipping, or conservation, shall have reasonable

1 access, at all times, to an offshore aquaculture facility for
2 which a permit is issued under this Act for the purpose
3 of enforcing the Federal law under the official's jurisdic-
4 tion or otherwise carrying out the official's responsibilities.
5 Such an official may inspect, at reasonable times, records,
6 files, papers, permits, processes, controls, and the offshore
7 aquaculture facility and may test any feature of the off-
8 shore aquaculture facility. Each inspection shall be con-
9 ducted with reasonable promptness. The permit holder
10 shall receive timely notification, in writing, of the results
11 of the inspection.

12 (f) INSPECTION.—

13 (1) FREQUENCY.—The Secretary shall con-
14 duct—

15 (A) an annual inspection of offshore aqua-
16 culture facilities for which a permit is issued
17 under this Act for the first 5 years after
18 issuance of the permit; and

19 (B) a biennial inspection of such facilities
20 thereafter.

21 (2) NOTICE.—The Secretary shall provide rea-
22 sonable notice prior to site inspections at offshore
23 aquaculture facilities pursuant to paragraph (1).

24 (3) FACILITIES LOCATED ON THE OUTER CON-
25 TINENTAL SHELF.—The Secretary of the Interior, or

1 a designee of such Secretary, is authorized with in-
2 spection authority under this section for offshore
3 aquaculture facilities located on the outer conti-
4 nental shelf.

5 **SEC. 303. MARINE FEED STANDARDS.**

6 The Secretary shall require that any fisheries-derived
7 marine feed ingredients (both first use and trimmings)
8 used at offshore aquaculture facilities in the exclusive eco-
9 nomic zone—

10 (1) are sourced from a sustainably managed
11 fishery;

12 (2) employ traceability sufficient to credibly
13 demonstrate the ingredients were sourced from a
14 sustainably managed fishery; and

15 (3) are sourced from fisheries located in coun-
16 tries without a Tier 3 or Tier 2 Watch List rating
17 as determined by the latest State Department Traf-
18 ficking in Persons Report, and not from vessels de-
19 termined by Customs and Border Protection to be
20 engaged in forced labor.

21 **TITLE IV—ADMINISTRATIVE**
22 **PROVISIONS**

23 **SEC. 401. OFFICE OF OFFSHORE AQUACULTURE.**

24 (a) OFFICE OF OFFSHORE AQUACULTURE, HEAD-
25 QUARTERS.—The Secretary shall establish and provide re-

1 sources for an Office of Offshore Aquaculture within the
2 National Marine Fisheries Service at the National Oceanic
3 and Atmospheric Administration headquarters.

4 (b) OFFICE OF OFFSHORE AQUACULTURE, RE-
5 GIONAL PRESENCE.—The Secretary shall establish and
6 provide resources for the Office of Offshore Aquaculture
7 to have a presence in each of the regional fisheries offices
8 of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.
9 Such presence shall, at a minimum, be sufficient to fulfill
10 the duties under subsection (c), but may be increased to
11 the extent warranted by the activity and interest of aqua-
12 culture stakeholders in the region.

13 (c) DUTIES.—The Office of Offshore Aquaculture
14 shall—

15 (1) implement this Act;

16 (2) coordinate regulatory, scientific, outreach,
17 and international issues related to aquaculture with-
18 in the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Adminis-
19 tration;

20 (3) coordinate offshore aquaculture outreach,
21 education, extension services, and training efforts
22 with the lead Federal agency, the Department of Ag-
23 riculture, with respect to national aquaculture infor-
24 mation; and

1 (4) maintain aquaculture divisions in each of
2 the regional fisheries offices of the National Oceanic
3 and Atmospheric Administration, including at least
4 one Administration Regional Aquaculture Coordi-
5 nator in each such office.

6 (d) OFFSHORE AQUACULTURE SUBCOMMITTEE.—
7 The Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee shall designate
8 the “Offshore Aquaculture Subcommittee” as a perma-
9 nent, standing subcommittee to serve as an external board
10 to advise the Secretary on aquaculture. The Offshore
11 Aquaculture Subcommittee shall coordinate with the Na-
12 tional Sea Grant Advisory Board, as appropriate.

13 (e) COORDINATION.—The Office of Offshore Aqua-
14 culture shall coordinate its activities with the Offshore
15 Aquaculture Subcommittee.

16 (f) BUDGET PRESENTATION.—The National Oceanic
17 and Atmospheric Administration shall transmit its budget
18 request for the Office of Aquaculture as a separate line
19 with the National Marine Fisheries Service.

20 **SEC. 402. DOMESTIC AQUACULTURE PRODUCTION.**

21 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall
22 support the development of sustainable aquaculture, con-
23 sistent with this Act and other applicable Federal law.

24 (b) MARKETING AND PROMOTION GRANTS.—The
25 Secretary of Agriculture shall, in consultation with indus-

1 try and the Department of Commerce, establish and ad-
2 minister a grant program to support the sale of cultured
3 species domestically and internationally.

4 (c) WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT.—The Secretary of
5 Agriculture shall, in consultation with industry and aca-
6 demic institutions, develop and manage a grant program
7 to support the education and training of individuals with
8 the skills needed to manage and operate aquaculture facili-
9 ties.

10 (d) REGIONAL OFFSHORE AQUACULTURE EXPER-
11 TISE NETWORKS.—The Secretary shall organize through
12 each regional fisheries office of the National Oceanic and
13 Atmospheric Administration a network of regional experts
14 and Federal agency contacts, in coordination with relevant
15 organizations (including the National Sea Grant College
16 Program under the National Sea Grant College Program
17 Act (33 U.S.C. 1121 et seq.), the Department of Agri-
18 culture Regional Aquaculture Centers, land-grant univer-
19 sities, and the Cooperative Extension System of the De-
20 partment of Agriculture) to provide technical expertise
21 and extension services on offshore aquaculture and infor-
22 mation on Federal permit requirements.

23 (e) AQUACULTURE DATABASE.—

24 (1) ESTABLISHMENT AND MAINTENANCE.—The
25 Secretary of Agriculture shall establish and maintain

1 an aquaculture database. The aquaculture database
2 shall include information on research, technologies,
3 monitoring techniques, best practices, and advisory
4 board recommendations.

5 (2) PRIVACY AND CONFIDENTIALITY.—The Sec-
6 retary shall make the aquaculture database available
7 in a manner that safeguards confidential business
8 information and guarantees respondents to informa-
9 tion requests that individual information will be kept
10 confidential. The inclusion of information in the
11 database under this subsection shall not be consid-
12 ered to be publication for purposes of subsection (a)
13 or (b) of section 102 of title 35, United States Code.

14 (3) EXISTING DATA SOURCES.—In carrying out
15 this subsection, the Secretary of Agriculture shall
16 utilize preexisting data sources, including informa-
17 tion obtained by the National Agricultural Statistics
18 Service, and information services described under
19 section (5)(c) of the National Aquaculture Act of
20 1980 (16 U.S.C. 2804(c)).

21 **SEC. 403. OUTREACH AND EDUCATION FOR OFFSHORE**
22 **AQUACULTURE.**

23 The Secretary, in coordination with the Secretary of
24 the Department of Agriculture, shall conduct outreach on
25 sustainable offshore aquaculture to promote under-

1 standing, science-based decision making, and commercial
2 adoption. The Secretary, and Secretary of Agriculture,
3 shall use appropriate means to engage—

- 4 (1) the general public;
- 5 (2) community leaders;
- 6 (3) governmental officials;
- 7 (4) the business community;
- 8 (5) the academic community; and
- 9 (6) the nonprofit sector.

10 **SEC. 404. ADMINISTRATION.**

11 (a) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary—

12 (1) shall initiate a rulemaking process, not later
13 than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act,
14 after consulting with relevant Federal agencies,
15 coastal States, Indian Tribal governments within the
16 meaning of such term in Executive Order 13175 (65
17 Fed. Reg. 67249), the Commonwealth of Puerto
18 Rico, American Samoa, the United States Virgin Is-
19 lands, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern
20 Mariana Islands, and Regional Fishery Management
21 Councils as established under section 302 of the
22 Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Man-
23 agement Act (16 U.S.C. 1852), to implement this
24 Act, including—

1 (A) procedures to issue, modify, deny, re-
2 voke, or suspend an offshore aquaculture per-
3 mit in accordance with this Act;

4 (B) procedures to coordinate the offshore
5 aquaculture permitting process, with similar or
6 complementary activities administered by other
7 Federal agencies, Tribal governments, and
8 coastal States;

9 (C) procedures to monitor and evaluate
10 permit compliance to verify and confirm compli-
11 ance with the requirements of this Act;

12 (D) procedures to transfer an offshore
13 aquaculture permit from an original permit
14 holder to a person that meets the requirements
15 under section 201;

16 (E) procedures to minimize, as much as
17 practicable, conflicts with existing uses in the
18 exclusive economic zone;

19 (F) procedures to consider public-private
20 partnerships; and

21 (G) standards for determining what types
22 of feed may be employed in an offshore aqua-
23 culture facility in accordance with the require-
24 ments of section 303;

1 (2) shall promulgate such additional regulations
2 as are necessary and appropriate to carry out this
3 Act; and

4 (3) may amend a regulation, at any time, and
5 the amended regulation shall apply, as of its effec-
6 tive date, to each offshore aquaculture permit issued
7 under this Act, regardless of the date the permit was
8 issued.

9 (b) AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary may enter into
10 and perform such contracts, leases, or cooperative agree-
11 ments, and make and receive such grants or funds, as may
12 be necessary to carry out this Act.

13 (c) USE OF CONTRIBUTED GOVERNMENTAL RE-
14 SOURCES.—For enforcement under this Act, the Secretary
15 may use, with consent and with or without reimbursement,
16 the land, services, equipment, personnel, and facilities of—

17 (1) any department, agency, or instrumentality
18 of the United States;

19 (2) any State, local government, Indian Tribal
20 government, Territory, or possession (or any polit-
21 ical subdivision thereof);

22 (3) any foreign government; or

23 (4) international organization.

24 (d) AUTHORITY TO USE GRANT FUNDS.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided under
2 paragraph (2), the Secretary may apply for, accept,
3 and obligate research grant funding from any Fed-
4 eral source operating a competitive grant program if
5 the funding furthers the purposes of this Act.

6 (2) EXCEPTION.—The Secretary may not apply
7 for, accept, or obligate any research grant funding
8 under paragraph (1) if the granting agency lacks au-
9 thority to grant funds to Federal agencies or for any
10 purpose, or subject to any condition, that is prohib-
11 ited by law or regulation.

12 (3) MATCHING GRANT FUNDS.—Appropriated
13 funds may be used to satisfy a requirement to match
14 grant funds with recipient agency funds, except that
15 no grant may be accepted that requires a commit-
16 ment in advance of appropriations.

17 (4) ACCOUNTS.—Funds received from a grant
18 shall be deposited in the National Oceanic and At-
19 mospheric Administration account that serves to ac-
20 complish the purpose for which the grant was
21 awarded.

22 (e) RESERVATION OF AUTHORITY.—Nothing in this
23 Act shall be construed to displace, supersede, or limit the
24 jurisdiction, responsibilities, or rights of any Federal or

1 State agency, or Indian Tribe or Alaska Native organiza-
2 tion, under any Federal law or treaty.

3 **SEC. 405. REPORT.**

4 (a) REPORT.—Not later than 5 years after the date
5 of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall issue a report
6 to the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Committee
7 on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and Com-
8 mittee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Sen-
9 ate and the Committee on Natural Resources and Com-
10 mittee of Agriculture of the House of Representatives re-
11 garding implementation of this Act. The report shall in-
12 clude—

13 (1) the number of offshore aquaculture permits
14 applied for, granted, denied, and retired, together
15 with a brief description of the circumstances of each;

16 (2) any and all enforcement actions undertaken,
17 and the disposition of each;

18 (3) the number of enterprise zones established
19 under section 202, together with a brief description
20 of the circumstances of each;

21 (4) results from any grants awarded under this
22 Act;

23 (5) the Secretary's assessment of the state of
24 aquaculture and offshore aquaculture in the United
25 States;

1 (6) the Secretary’s assessment of United States
2 aquaculture and offshore aquaculture in comparison
3 to aquaculture in other nations; and

4 (7) the Secretary’s recommendations to improve
5 United States aquaculture and offshore aquaculture.

6 (b) DETERMINATION REGARDING PERMITS.—In ad-
7 dition to the requirements of subsection (a), the Secretary
8 may make the following determinations regarding permit
9 terms for offshore aquaculture:

10 (1) The effect of shortening or lengthening per-
11 mit terms on the risk of harm to the environment.

12 (2) The effect of shortening or lengthening per-
13 mit terms on industry’s access to capital markets.

14 (3) Whether a change to the permit terms es-
15 tablished in this Act is warranted.

16 **SEC. 406. EXTENSION OF PERMIT TERMS.**

17 Upon a determination by the Secretary that a change
18 to permit terms established under this Act is warranted,
19 the Secretary is authorized to extend the terms of offshore
20 aquaculture permits as follows:

21 (1) An offshore aquaculture permit term under
22 section 201(e)(1) may be extended to a maximum of
23 an additional 15 years subsequent to a renewal
24 issued under section 201(f).

1 (2) An offshore aquaculture permit term under
2 section 201(e)(2)(A) may be extended to a maximum
3 of an additional 25 years subsequent to a renewal
4 issued under section 201(f).

5 **SEC. 407. INTERAGENCY COORDINATION OF OFFSHORE**
6 **AQUACULTURE.**

7 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of Commerce shall
8 coordinate with the Department of the Interior, the De-
9 partment of Agriculture, the Environmental Protection
10 Agency, the Army Corps of Engineers, and the depart-
11 ment in which the U.S. Coast Guard is operating to sim-
12 plify the Federal regulatory regime for sustainable off-
13 shore aquaculture and safeguarding the marine environ-
14 ment, wild fish stocks, and coastal communities. The Sec-
15 retaries of the Interior, Agriculture, and the department
16 in which the U.S. Coast Guard is operating, the Adminis-
17 trator of the Environmental Protection Agency, and the
18 Chief of Engineers shall cooperate with the Secretary of
19 Commerce to implement this section.

20 (b) **UNIFIED PERMITTING AND REVIEW PROCESS.**—

21 (1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 1 year after
22 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretaries of
23 Commerce, Interior, Agriculture, and the depart-
24 ment in which the U.S. Coast Guard is operating,
25 the Administrator of the Environmental Protection

1 Agency, and the Chief of Engineers shall, through
2 the Secretary of Commerce, initiate a rulemaking for
3 a unified permit application, public notice, public
4 comment, and Federal agency comment period for
5 all permits administered by such agency heads relat-
6 ing to offshore aquaculture.

7 (2) OUTREACH.—The Secretary of Commerce,
8 through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Ad-
9 ministration, shall serve as the lead Federal agency
10 for purposes of providing information on Federal
11 permitting requirements for aquaculture in Federal
12 waters.

13 (3) INFORMAL REVIEW AND COMPATIBILITY
14 ANALYSIS.—The Secretary of Commerce, acting
15 through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Ad-
16 ministration, shall convene representatives of the
17 Department of the Interior, the Department of Agri-
18 culture, the Environmental Protection Agency, the
19 Army Corps of Engineers, and the Department in
20 which the U.S. Coast Guard is operating to provide
21 prospective permit applicants an opportunity for in-
22 formal consultation with Federal agencies. The Sec-
23 retary of Commerce may invite representatives from
24 other Federal agencies as necessary or advisable.
25 Nothing in this subsection shall preclude an appli-

1 cant or a prospective applicant from contacting Fed-
2 eral agencies directly.

3 (4) ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS.—To the extent
4 allowable under the National Environmental Policy
5 Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), any environ-
6 mental analysis or environmental impact statement
7 required under such Act for offshore aquaculture ac-
8 tivities shall be conducted through a single, consoli-
9 dated environmental review and the National Oce-
10 anic and Atmospheric Administration, through the
11 Office of Aquaculture and associated divisions, shall
12 serve as the lead Federal agency.

13 (5) COORDINATION OF PERMIT REVIEWS.—To
14 the extent practicable under this Act and all other
15 applicable laws and regulations, Federal agencies
16 with permitting requirements applicable to offshore
17 aquaculture facilities shall coordinate their review
18 processes in order to provide a timely responses to
19 applicants.

20 **SEC. 408. PROHIBITED ACTS.**

21 It is unlawful for any person—

22 (1) to violate any provision of this Act or any
23 regulation or permit issued pursuant to this Act;

24 (2) to refuse to permit any officer authorized to
25 enforce the provisions of this Act (in accordance

1 with section 408) to access an offshore aquaculture
2 facility, associated onshore facility, vessel, or other
3 conveyance, subject to such person's control, for pur-
4 poses of conducting any search or inspection in con-
5 nection with the enforcement of this Act;

6 (3) to assault, resist, oppose, impede, intimi-
7 date, or interfere with any such authorized officer in
8 the conduct of any search or inspection described in
9 paragraph (2);

10 (4) to resist a lawful arrest for any act prohib-
11 ited by this section;

12 (5) to ship, transport, offer for sale, sell, pur-
13 chase, import, export, or have custody, control, or
14 possession of, any fish produced, taken, retained, or
15 possessed in violation of this Act;

16 (6) to interfere with, delay, or prevent, by any
17 means, the apprehension or arrest of another person,
18 knowing that such other person has committed any
19 act prohibited by this section;

20 (7) to make or submit to the Secretary or the
21 Governor of a State false information regarding any
22 matter that the Secretary or Governor is considering
23 in the course of carrying out this Act; or

1 (8) without authorization, to remove, damage,
2 or tamper with or attempt to remove, damage, or
3 tamper with—

4 (A) an offshore aquaculture facility owned
5 by another person, which is located in the exclu-
6 sive economic zone, including any component
7 thereof; or

8 (B) cultured species contained in such fa-
9 cility or component thereof.

10 **SEC. 409. ENFORCEMENT.**

11 (a) **RESPONSIBILITY.**—The provisions of this Act
12 shall be enforced by the Secretary and the Secretary of
13 the department in which the Coast Guard is operating.
14 In enforcing this Act, such Secretaries may by agreement
15 utilize, on a reimbursable or nonreimbursable basis, the
16 personnel, services, equipment (including aircraft and ves-
17 sels), and facilities of any other Federal agency, including
18 all elements of the Department of Defense, or of any State
19 agency. Such Secretaries shall, and the head of any Fed-
20 eral or State agency that has entered into an agreement
21 with either such Secretary under this section may (if the
22 agreement so provides), authorize officers to enforce the
23 provisions of this Act or any regulation promulgated under
24 this Act.

1 (b) POWERS OF AUTHORIZED OFFICERS.—Any offi-
2 cer who is authorized under subsection (a) to enforce the
3 provisions of this Act may, with or without a warrant or
4 other process, as authorized by law—

5 (1) arrest any person, if the officer has reason-
6 able cause to believe that such person has committed
7 an act prohibited by section 408;

8 (2) board, search or inspect, any offshore aqua-
9 culture facility, associated onshore facility, vessel, or
10 other conveyance (including its gear, furniture, ap-
11 purtenances, stores, records, and cargo) which is
12 subject to the provisions of this Act;

13 (3) seize any vessel, or other conveyance (to-
14 gether with its gear, furniture, appurtenances,
15 stores, records, and cargo) used or employed in, or
16 with respect to which it reasonably appears that
17 such vessel was used or employed in, the violation of
18 any provision of this Act;

19 (4) seize any fish (wherever found) taken, pro-
20 duced, imported, exported, transported, sold, re-
21 ceived, acquired, or purchased in any manner, in
22 connection with or as a result of the violation of any
23 provision of this Act;

24 (5) seize any evidence related to any violation
25 of any provision of this Act;

1 (6) detain any fish or fish product to determine
2 compliance with this Act;

3 (7) search and seize, in accordance with any
4 guidelines which may be issued by the Attorney Gen-
5 eral;

6 (8) access, directly or indirectly, for enforce-
7 ment purposes any data or information required to
8 be provided under this Act or regulations promul-
9 gated under this Act, including data from vessel or
10 facility monitoring systems, automatic identification
11 systems, long-range identification and tracking sys-
12 tems, or any similar system;

13 (9) execute and serve any subpoena, arrest war-
14 rant, search warrant issued in accordance with Rule
15 41 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, or
16 other warrant or civil or criminal process issued by
17 any officer or court of competent jurisdiction; and

18 (10) exercise any other lawful authority.

19 (c) ISSUANCE OF CITATIONS.—If any authorized offi-
20 cer finds that a person, offshore aquaculture facility, asso-
21 ciated onshore facility, vessel, or other conveyance is en-
22 gaging or has been engaged in the violation of any provi-
23 sion of this Act, such officer may issue a citation to the
24 owner or operator of such vessel in lieu of proceeding
25 under subsections (f), (g), or (h). If a permit has been

1 issued pursuant to this Act for such facility or conveyance,
2 such officer shall note the issuance of any citation under
3 this subsection, including the date thereof and the reason
4 therefor, on the permit. The Secretary shall maintain a
5 record of all citations issued pursuant to this subsection.

6 (d) SUBPOENAS.—For the purposes of conducting
7 any investigation or hearing under this Act, or any other
8 marine resource law enforced by the Secretary, the Sec-
9 retary may issue subpoenas for the attendance and testi-
10 mony of witnesses and the production of relevant papers,
11 photographs, records, books, and documents in any form,
12 including those in electronic, optical or magnetic form, and
13 may administer oaths. Witnesses summoned shall be paid
14 the same fees and mileage that are paid to witnesses in
15 the courts of the United States. In case of contempt or
16 refusal to obey a subpoena served upon any person pursu-
17 ant to this subsection, the district court of the United
18 States for any district in which such person is found, re-
19 sides, or transacts business, upon application by the
20 United States and after notice to such person, shall have
21 jurisdiction to issue an order requiring such person to ap-
22 pear and give testimony before the Secretary or to appear
23 and produce documents before the Secretary, or both, and
24 any failure to obey such order of the court may be pun-
25 ished by such court as a contempt thereof.

1 (e) DISTRICT COURT JURISDICTION.—The several
2 district courts of the United States shall have jurisdiction
3 over any actions arising under this Act. For purposes of
4 this section, for Hawaii or any possession of the United
5 States in the Pacific Ocean, the appropriate court is the
6 United States District Court for the District of Hawaii,
7 except that in the case of Guam and Wake Island, the
8 appropriate court is the United States District Court for
9 the District of Guam, and in the case of the Northern
10 Mariana Islands, the appropriate court is the United
11 States District Court for the District of the Northern
12 Mariana Islands. Each violation shall be a separate of-
13 fense and the offense shall be deemed to have been com-
14 mitted not only in the district where the violation first oc-
15 curred, but also in any other district as authorized by law.
16 Any offenses not committed in any district are subject to
17 the venue provisions of section 3238 of title 18, United
18 States Code.

19 (f) CIVIL ENFORCEMENT.—

20 (1) CIVIL ADMINISTRATIVE PENALTIES.—

21 (A) IN GENERAL.—Any person who is
22 found by the Secretary, after notice and oppor-
23 tunity for a hearing in accordance with section
24 554 of title 5, United States Code, to have com-
25 mitted an act prohibited by section 408 shall be

1 liable to the United States for a civil penalty.
2 The amount of the civil penalty shall not exceed
3 the amount specified in section 308(a) of the
4 Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and
5 Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1858(a)) for each
6 violation. Each day of a continuing violation
7 shall constitute a separate offense. The amount
8 of such civil penalty shall be assessed by the
9 Secretary, by written notice. In determining the
10 amount of such penalty, the Secretary shall
11 take into account the nature, circumstances, ex-
12 tent, and gravity of the prohibited acts com-
13 mitted and, with respect to the violator, the de-
14 gree of culpability, any history of prior offenses,
15 and such other matters as justice may require.
16 In assessing such penalty the Secretary may
17 also consider any information provided by the
18 violator relating to the ability of the violator to
19 pay, provided that the information is served on
20 the Secretary at least 30 days prior to an ad-
21 ministrative hearing.

22 (B) COMPROMISE OR OTHER ACTION BY
23 SECRETARY.—The Secretary may compromise,
24 modify, or remit, with or without conditions,
25 any civil administrative penalty which is or may

1 be imposed under this subsection and that has
2 not been referred to the Attorney General for
3 further enforcement action.

4 (2) IN REM JURISDICTION.—An offshore aqua-
5 culture facility, associated onshore facility, vessel, or
6 other conveyance (including its gear, furniture, ap-
7 purtenances, stores, records, and cargo) used in the
8 commission of an act prohibited by section 408 shall
9 be liable in rem for any civil penalty assessed for
10 such violation under this section and may be pro-
11 ceeded against in any district court of the United
12 States having jurisdiction thereof.

13 (3) COLLECTION OF ADMINISTRATIVE PEN-
14 ALTIES.—If any person fails to pay an assessment
15 of a civil penalty under paragraph (1) after it has
16 become a final and unappealable order, the Sec-
17 retary shall refer the matter to the Attorney Gen-
18 eral, who shall recover the amount assessed (plus in-
19 terest at current prevailing rates from the date of
20 the final order) in any appropriate district court of
21 the United States. In such action, the validity and
22 appropriateness of the final order imposing the civil
23 penalty shall not be subject to review. Any person
24 who fails to pay, on a timely basis, the amount of
25 an assessment of a civil penalty shall be required to

1 pay, in addition to such amount and interest, attor-
2 ney's fees and costs for collection proceedings and a
3 quarterly nonpayment penalty for each quarter dur-
4 ing which such failure to pay persists. Such non-
5 payment penalty shall be in an amount equal to 20
6 percent of the aggregate amount of such person's
7 penalties and nonpayment penalties that are unpaid
8 as of the beginning of such quarter.

9 (4) PERMIT SANCTIONS.—

10 (A) IN GENERAL.—With respect to any
11 case in which an offshore aquaculture facility,
12 associated onshore facility, vessel, or other con-
13 veyance was used in the commission of an act
14 prohibited under section 408, the owner or op-
15 erator of an offshore aquaculture facility, asso-
16 ciated onshore facility, vessel, or other convey-
17 ance (or any other person who has been issued
18 or has applied for a permit under this Act), has
19 acted in violation of section 408, or any civil
20 penalty, criminal fine, or amount in settlement
21 of a civil forfeiture imposed under this Act on
22 a person, offshore aquaculture facility, associ-
23 ated onshore facility, vessel, or other convey-
24 ance that has been issued or has applied for a

1 permit under this Act has not been paid and is
2 overdue, the Secretary may—

3 (i) revoke any permit issued with re-
4 spect to such person, offshore aquaculture
5 facility, associated onshore facility, vessel,
6 other conveyance, with or without preju-
7 dice to the issuance of subsequent permits;

8 (ii) suspend such permit for a period
9 of time considered by the Secretary to be
10 appropriate;

11 (iii) deny such permit; or

12 (iv) impose additional conditions and
13 restrictions on such permit.

14 (B) CONSIDERATIONS.—In imposing a
15 sanction under this paragraph, the Secretary
16 shall take into account the nature, cir-
17 cumstances, extent, and gravity of the prohib-
18 ited acts for which the sanction is imposed and,
19 with respect to the violator, the degree of culpa-
20 bility, any history of prior offenses, and such
21 other matters as justice may require.

22 (C) EFFECT OF TRANSFER OF OWNER-
23 SHIP.—Transfer of ownership of an offshore
24 aquaculture facility, associated onshore facility,
25 vessel, or other conveyance, by sale or other-

1 wise, shall not extinguish any permit sanction
2 that is in effect or is pending at the time of
3 transfer of ownership. Before executing the
4 transfer of ownership of a facility or convey-
5 ance, by sale or otherwise, the owner shall dis-
6 close in writing to the prospective transferee the
7 existence of any permit sanction that will be in
8 effect or pending with respect to the facility or
9 conveyance at the time of the transfer.

10 (D) PAYMENT OF PENALTY OR FINE.—In
11 the case of any permit that is suspended under
12 this paragraph for nonpayment of a civil pen-
13 alty or criminal fine, the Secretary shall rein-
14 state the permit upon payment of the penalty
15 or fine and interest thereon at the prevailing
16 rate.

17 (E) HEARING.—No sanction shall be im-
18 posed under this paragraph unless there has
19 been a prior opportunity for a hearing on the
20 facts underlying the violation for which the
21 sanction is imposed, either in conjunction with
22 a civil penalty proceeding under this section or
23 otherwise.

24 (5) REVIEW OF CIVIL PENALTY.—Any person
25 against whom a civil penalty is assessed under this

1 subsection or against whom a permit sanction is im-
2 posed under this subsection (other than a permit
3 suspension for nonpayment of penalty or fine) may
4 obtain review thereof in the United States district
5 court for the appropriate district by filing a com-
6 plaint against the Secretary in such court within 30
7 days from the date of such order that constitutes a
8 final agency action. The Secretary shall promptly
9 file in such court a certified copy of the record upon
10 which such violation was found or such penalty im-
11 posed, as provided in section 2112 of title 28,
12 United States Code. The findings and order of the
13 Secretary shall be set aside by such court if they are
14 not found to be supported by substantial evidence,
15 as provided in section 706(2) of title 5, United
16 States Code.

17 (6) INJUNCTIVE RELIEF.—Upon the request of
18 the Secretary, the Attorney General of the United
19 States may commence a civil action for appropriate
20 relief, including a permanent or temporary injunc-
21 tion, for any violation of this Act (including regula-
22 tions).

23 (g) FORFEITURE.—

24 (1) CRIMINAL FORFEITURE.—

1 (A) IN GENERAL.—A person who is con-
2 victed of an offense in violation of this Act shall
3 forfeit to the United States—

4 (i) any property, real or personal, con-
5 stituting or traceable to the gross proceeds
6 taken, obtained, or retained, in connection
7 with or as a result of the offense, includ-
8 ing, without limitation, any fish (or the
9 fair market value thereof); and

10 (ii) any property, real or personal,
11 used or intended to be used, in any man-
12 ner, to commit or facilitate the commission
13 of the offense, including, without limita-
14 tion, any vessel (including the vessel's
15 equipment, stores, catch and cargo), vehi-
16 cle, aircraft, or other means of transpor-
17 tation.

18 (B) APPLICABILITY OF CONTROLLED SUB-
19 STANCES ACT.—Pursuant to section 2461(c) of
20 title 28, United States Code, the provisions of
21 section 413 of the Controlled Substances Act
22 (21 U.S.C. 853) other than subsection (d)
23 thereof shall apply to criminal forfeitures under
24 this section.

25 (2) CIVIL FORFEITURE.—

1 (A) IN GENERAL.—The property set forth
2 below shall be subject to administrative or judi-
3 cial forfeiture to the United States in accord-
4 ance with the provisions of chapter 46 of title
5 18, United States Code, and no property right
6 shall exist in it:

7 (i) Any property, real or personal,
8 constituting or traceable to the gross pro-
9 ceeds taken, obtained, or retained, in con-
10 nection with or as a result of a violation of
11 this Act, including, without limitation, any
12 fish (or the fair market value thereof).

13 (ii) Any property, real or personal,
14 used or intended to be used, in any man-
15 ner, to commit or facilitate the commission
16 of a violation of this Act, including, with-
17 out limitation, any vessel (including the
18 vessel's equipment, stores, catch and
19 cargo), vehicle, aircraft, or other means of
20 transportation.

21 (B) APPLICATION OF THE CUSTOMS
22 LAWS.—All provisions of law relating to seizure,
23 summary judgment, and forfeiture and con-
24 demnation for violation of the customs laws, the
25 disposition of the property forfeited or con-

1 demned or the proceeds from the sale thereof,
2 the remission or mitigation of such forfeitures,
3 and the compromise of claims shall apply to sei-
4 zures and forfeitures incurred, or alleged to
5 have been incurred, under the provisions of this
6 Act, insofar as applicable and not inconsistent
7 with the provisions hereof. For seizures and for-
8 feitures of property under this section by the
9 Secretary, such duties as are imposed upon the
10 customs officer or any other person with respect
11 to the seizure and forfeiture of property under
12 the customs law may be performed by such offi-
13 cers as are designated by the Secretary or,
14 upon request of the Secretary, by any other
15 agency that has authority to manage and dis-
16 pose of seized property.

17 (C) PRESUMPTION.—For the purposes of
18 this section there is a rebuttable presumption
19 that all fish, or components thereof, found in an
20 offshore aquaculture facility or on board a ves-
21 sel a vessel or other conveyance that is used or
22 seized in connection with a violation of this Act
23 were produced, taken, obtained, transported, or
24 retained in violation of this Act.

25 (h) CRIMINAL ENFORCEMENT.—

1 (1) IMPRISONMENT.—Any person (other than a
2 foreign government agency, or entity wholly owned
3 and controlled by a foreign government) who know-
4 ingly commits any act prohibited under section 408
5 shall be imprisoned for not more than 5 years or
6 fined not more than \$500,000 for individuals or
7 \$1,000,000 for an organization, or both, except that,
8 if in the commission of any such offense the indi-
9 vidual uses a dangerous weapon, engages in conduct
10 that causes bodily injury to any officer authorized to
11 enforce the provisions of this Act, or places any such
12 officer in fear of imminent bodily injury, the max-
13 imum term of imprisonment is not more than 10
14 years.

15 (2) FINE AND IMPRISONMENT.—Any person
16 (other than a foreign government agency, or entity
17 wholly owned and controlled by a foreign govern-
18 ment) who violates a provision under section 408
19 and who, in the exercise of due care should know
20 that such person’s conduct violates such provision,
21 shall be fined under title 18, United States Code, or
22 imprisoned not more than one year, or both.

23 (i) JOINT ENFORCEMENT AGREEMENTS.—

24 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Governor of an eligible
25 State may apply to the Secretary for execution of a

1 joint enforcement agreement with the Secretary that
2 will authorize the deputization and funding of State
3 law enforcement officers with marine law enforce-
4 ment responsibilities to perform duties of the Sec-
5 retary relating to law enforcement provisions under
6 this title or any other marine resource law enforced
7 by the Secretary. Upon receiving an application
8 meeting the requirements of this subsection, the Sec-
9 retary may enter into a joint enforcement agreement
10 with the requesting State.

11 (2) ELIGIBLE STATE.—A State is eligible to
12 participate in the cooperative enforcement agree-
13 ments under this section if it is in, or bordering on,
14 the Atlantic Ocean (including the Caribbean Sea),
15 the Pacific Ocean, the Arctic Ocean, the Gulf of
16 Mexico, Long Island Sound, or 1 or more of the
17 Great Lakes.

18 (3) REQUIREMENTS.—Joint enforcement agree-
19 ments executed under paragraph (1)—

20 (A) shall be consistent with the purposes
21 and intent of this section to the extent applica-
22 ble to the regulated activities;

23 (B) may include specifications for joint
24 management responsibilities as provided by the

1 first section of Public Law 91–412 (15 U.S.C.
2 1525); and

3 (C) shall provide for confidentiality of data
4 and information submitted to the State under
5 this Act.

6 (4) ALLOCATION OF FUNDS.—The Secretary
7 shall include in each joint enforcement agreement an
8 allocation of funds to assist in management of the
9 agreement. The allocation shall be fairly distributed
10 among all eligible States participating in cooperative
11 enforcement agreements under this subsection, based
12 upon consideration of Federal marine enforcement
13 needs, the specific marine conservation enforcement
14 needs of each participating eligible State, and the
15 capacity of the State to undertake the marine en-
16 forcement mission and assist with enforcement
17 needs. The agreement may provide for amounts to
18 be withheld by the Secretary for the cost of any
19 technical or other assistance provided to the State
20 by the Secretary under the agreement.

21 **SEC. 410. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

22 There are authorized to be appropriated to the Sec-
23 retary for the purpose of carrying out this title—

24 (1) \$60,000,000 for fiscal year 2020;

25 (2) \$65,000,000 for fiscal year 2021;

- 1 (3) \$70,000,000 for fiscal year 2022;
2 (4) \$75,000,000 for fiscal year 2023; and
3 (5) \$80,000,000 for fiscal year 2024.

4 **TITLE V—RESEARCH AND**
5 **DEVELOPMENT**

6 **SEC. 501. RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT GRANT PRO-**
7 **GRAMS.**

8 Subtitle L of the National Agricultural Research, Ex-
9 tension, and Teaching Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3321 et seq.)
10 is amended by inserting after section 1475 (7 U.S.C.
11 3322) the following:

12 **“SEC. 1476. RESEARCH AND EXTENSION PROGRAM.**

13 “(a) AQUACULTURE RESEARCH AND EXTENSION.—
14 The Secretary shall establish, in consultation with the Sec-
15 retary of Commerce and other applicable Federal agencies,
16 coastal States, Tribal governments, Regional Fishery
17 Management Councils, academic institutions, and inter-
18 ested stakeholders, a research and development grant pro-
19 gram for purposes of—

20 “(1) creating innovative design and engineering
21 solutions to common obstacles within the aqua-
22 culture industry;

23 “(2) enabling the transition of innovative aqua-
24 culture technologies, including technologies focused

1 on the commercialization of high-value marine spe-
2 cies, from laboratory studies to commercial use;

3 “(3) evaluating the role of genetics in relation
4 to brood stock production, disease management, and
5 interactions between cultured species and wild
6 stocks;

7 “(4) advancing research into the management,
8 mitigation, and prevention of cultured species dis-
9 eases;

10 “(5) developing cost-effective feeds to optimize
11 the use of wild fish, fish oil, plants, and sources of
12 protein and lipids in aquaculture feeds and maintain
13 the human health benefits of cultured seafood;

14 “(6) improving techniques for monitoring, as-
15 sessing, and addressing environmental impacts of
16 aquaculture and develop and evaluate methodologies
17 to prevent, minimize, and mitigate potential adverse
18 environmental impacts;

19 “(7) evaluating the potential for aquaculture to
20 serve as a tool for environmental management, in-
21 cluding connections to water quality, watershed
22 management, and fishery conservation and manage-
23 ment;

24 “(8) evaluating the potential impact of offshore
25 aquaculture on the economies of coastal commu-

1 nities, particularly those dependent on traditional
2 fishery resources;

3 “(9) identifying barriers to entry in the offshore
4 aquaculture industry and propose solutions to over-
5 come them;

6 “(10) studying the traditional aquaculture
7 methods and practices of Native Americans, Alaska
8 Natives, and Native Hawaiians to evaluate economic,
9 environmental, and sociological impacts; and

10 “(11) investigating other priority issues identi-
11 fied by the Secretary.

12 “(b) PRIORITY.—In making grants under this sec-
13 tion, the Secretary shall give priority to—

14 “(1) 1890 Institutions (as defined in section 2
15 of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Edu-
16 cation Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7601));

17 “(2) 1994 Institutions (as defined in section
18 532 of the Equity in Educational Land-Grant Sta-
19 tus Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 301 note; Public Law
20 103–382)); and

21 “(3) Hispanic-serving institutions (as defined in
22 section 1404 of the National Agricultural Research,
23 Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7
24 U.S.C. 3103)).

1 “(c) COORDINATION WITH OTHER FEDERAL PRO-
2 GRAMS.—The Secretary shall—

3 “(1) coordinate aquaculture research and devel-
4 opment grants with other Federal programs that
5 provide grant funding for purposes similar to those
6 under subsection (a); and

7 “(2) coordinate the research and development
8 grant program established in this section with the
9 interagency aquaculture coordinating group estab-
10 lished under section 6 of the National Aquaculture
11 Act of 1980 (16 U.S.C. 2805) and with the research
12 and development conducted through the Cooperative
13 Extension System of the Department of Agriculture.

14 “(d) COOPERATIVE RESEARCH AGREEMENT.—To
15 carry out this section, the Secretary may enter into a coop-
16 erative agreement with a State, institution of higher edu-
17 cation, or other private institution or research center.

18 “(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
19 is authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be nec-
20 essary to carry out this section for the period of fiscal
21 years 2021 through 2025.”.

○