

116TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 7713

To reauthorize the National Oceanographic Partnership Program, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 21, 2020

Mr. PANETTA introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committees on Armed Services, and Science, Space, and Technology, 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

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## A BILL

To reauthorize the National Oceanographic Partnership Program, 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 This Act may be cited as the “National Oceano-  
5 graphic Partnership Program Revitalization Act” or the  
6 “NOPP Revitalization Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION OF NATIONAL OCEANO-**  
2 **GRAPHIC PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM.**

3 Chapter 893 of title 10, United States Code, is  
4 amended to read as follows:

5 **“SEC. 8931. NATIONAL OCEANOGRAPHIC PARTNERSHIP**  
6 **PROGRAM.**

7 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of the Navy  
8 shall establish a program to be known as the ‘National  
9 Oceanographic Partnership Program’.

10 “(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the program are  
11 as follows:

12 “(1) To promote the national goals of assuring  
13 national security, advancing economic development,  
14 protecting quality of life, ensuring environmental  
15 stewardship, and strengthening science education  
16 and communication through improved knowledge of  
17 the ocean.

18 “(2) To coordinate and strengthen oceanographic  
19 efforts in support of those goals by—

20 “(A) creating and carrying out partner-  
21 ships among Federal agencies, academia, indus-  
22 try, and other members of the oceanographic  
23 community in the areas of science, data, re-  
24 sources, education, and communication; and

25 “(B) accepting, planning, and executing  
26 oceanographic research projects funded by

1 grants, contracts, cooperative agreements, or  
2 other vehicles as appropriate, that contribute to  
3 assuring national security, advancing economic  
4 development, protecting quality of life, ensuring  
5 environmental stewardship, and strengthening  
6 science education and communication through  
7 improved knowledge of the ocean.

8 **“SEC. 8932. OCEAN POLICY COMMITTEE.**

9 “(a) COMMITTEE.—There is established an Ocean  
10 Policy Committee (hereinafter referred to as the ‘Com-  
11 mittee’). The Committee shall retain the membership, co-  
12 chairs, and subcommittees outlined in Executive Order  
13 13840.

14 “(b) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Committee shall con-  
15 tinue the activities of that Committee as it was in exist-  
16 ence on the day before the date of enactment of this Act.  
17 In discharging its responsibilities and to assist in the exe-  
18 cution of the activities delineated in this subparagraph,  
19 the Committee may delegate to a subcommittee, as appro-  
20 priate. The Committee shall:

21 “(1) Prescribe policies and procedures to imple-  
22 ment the National Oceanographic Partnership Pro-  
23 gram.

24 “(2) Engage and collaborate, pursuant to exist-  
25 ing laws and regulations, with stakeholders, includ-

1       ing regional ocean partnerships, to address ocean-re-  
2       lated matters that may require interagency or inter-  
3       governmental solutions.

4               “(3) Facilitate coordination and integration of  
5       Federal activities in ocean and coastal waters to in-  
6       form ocean policy and identify priority ocean re-  
7       search, technology, and data needs.

8               “(4) Review, select, and identify partnership  
9       projects for implementation under the program,  
10       based on the following criteria:

11               “(A) Whether the project addresses impor-  
12       tant research objectives or operational goals.

13               “(B) Whether the project has, or is de-  
14       signed to have, appropriate participation within  
15       the oceanographic community of public, aca-  
16       demic, commercial, private participation or sup-  
17       port.

18               “(C) Whether the partners have a long-  
19       term commitment to the objectives of the  
20       project.

21               “(D) Whether the resources supporting the  
22       project are shared among the partners.

23               “(E) Whether the project has been sub-  
24       jected to adequate review according to each of  
25       the supporting agencies.

1       “(c) ANNUAL REPORT AND BRIEF.—Not later than  
2 March 1 of each year, the Committee shall post a report  
3 on a publicly available website and brief the Committee  
4 on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate;  
5 the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate; the Com-  
6 mittee on Natural Resources of the House of Representa-  
7 tives; the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology  
8 of the House of Representatives; and the Committee on  
9 Armed Services of the House of Representatives on the  
10 National Oceanographic Partnership Program. The report  
11 and brief shall discuss the following:

12               “(1) A description of activities of the program  
13 carried out during the prior fiscal year.

14               “(2) A general outline of the activities planned  
15 for the program during the current fiscal year.

16               “(3) A summary of projects, partnerships, and  
17 collaborations, including the Federal and non-Fed-  
18 eral sources of funding, continued from the prior fis-  
19 cal year and projects expected to begin during the  
20 current and subsequent fiscal years, as required in  
21 the program office report outlined in section  
22 8932(f)(2)(C).

23               “(4) The amounts requested in the budget sub-  
24 mitted to Congress pursuant to section 1105(a) of  
25 title 31 for the subsequent fiscal year, for the pro-

1       grams, projects, activities and the estimated expend-  
2       itures under such programs, projects, and activities,  
3       to execute the National Oceanographic Partnership  
4       Program.

5               “(5) A summary of national ocean research pri-  
6       orities informed by the Ocean Research Advisory  
7       Panel required in section 8933(b)(4).

8               “(6) A list of the members of the Ocean Re-  
9       search Advisory Panel described in section 8933(a)  
10      and any working groups described in section  
11      8932(f)(2)(A) in existence during the fiscal years  
12      covered.

13   The report and all briefing materials shall be posted to  
14   a publicly available website not later than 30 days after  
15   the briefing.

16           “(d) NATIONAL OCEANOGRAPHIC PARTNERSHIP  
17   FUND.—There is established in the Treasury a separate  
18   account to be known as the National Oceanographic Part-  
19   nership Program Fund to be jointly managed by the Sec-  
20   retary of the Navy, the Administrator of the National Oce-  
21   anic and Atmospheric Administration, and any other Fed-  
22   eral agency that contributes amounts to the Fund.

23           “(1) APPROPRIATION AND AUTHORIZED  
24   USES.—Amounts in the Fund shall be available to  
25   the NOPP without further appropriation to remain

1 available for up to 5 years from the date contributed  
2 or until expended for the purpose of carrying out  
3 this section.

4 “(2) CREDITING OF AMOUNTS TO FUND.—  
5 There is authorized to be credited to the Fund the  
6 following:

7 “(A) Such amounts as determined appro-  
8 priate to be transferred to the Fund by the  
9 head of a Federal agency or entity participating  
10 in the National Oceanographic Partnership Pro-  
11 gram.

12 “(B) Funds provided by a State, local gov-  
13 ernment, tribal government, territory, or pos-  
14 session, or any subdivisions thereof.

15 “(C) Funds contributed by a non-profit or-  
16 ganization, individual, or Congressionally estab-  
17 lished foundation; by private grants, contracts,  
18 and donations.

19 “(3) CONTRACT AND GRANT AUTHORITY.—For  
20 the purpose of carrying out this section, as directed  
21 by the Committee, departments or agencies rep-  
22 resented on the Committee may enter into contracts,  
23 make grants, including transactions authorized by  
24 paragraph (4), and may transfer funds available to  
25 the National Oceanographic Partnership Program

1 under paragraph (2) to participating departments  
2 and agencies for such purposes.

3 “(4) COOPERATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES,  
4 STATES, TERRITORIES, AND POLITICAL SUBDIVI-  
5 SIONS.—The Committee or any participating Fed-  
6 eral agency or entity may enter into an agreement  
7 to use, with or without reimbursement, the land,  
8 services, equipment, personnel, and facilities of any  
9 department, agency, or instrumentality of the United  
10 States, or of any State, local government, Indian  
11 tribal government, Territory, District of Columbia,  
12 or possession, or of any political subdivision thereof,  
13 or of any foreign government or international orga-  
14 nization or individual, for the purpose of carrying  
15 out this section.

16 “(e) ESTABLISHMENT AND FORMS OF PARTNERSHIP  
17 PROJECTS.—A partnership project under the National  
18 Oceanographic Partnership Program—

19 “(1) may be established by any instrument that  
20 the Committee considers appropriate; and

21 “(2) may include demonstration projects.

22 “(f) PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM OFFICE.—

23 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Navy  
24 and Administrator of the National Oceanic and At-  
25 mospheric Administration shall jointly establish a



1 partnership program office for the National Oceanographic Partnership Program. Competitive procedures will be used to select an external operator for the partnership program office.

5 “(2) DUTIES.—The Committee will monitor the performance of the duties of the partnership program office, which shall consist of the following:

8 “(A) To support working groups established by the Committee or subcommittee and report working group activities to the Committee, including working group proposals for partnership projects.

13 “(B) To support the process for proposing partnership projects to the Committee, including, where appropriate, managing review of such projects.

17 “(C) To submit to the Committee and make publicly available an annual report on the status of all partnership projects, including the Federal and non-Federal sources of funding for each project, and activities of the office.

22 “(D) To perform any additional duties for the administration of the National Oceanographic Partnership Program that the Committee considers appropriate.

1 **“SEC. 8933. OCEAN RESEARCH ADVISORY PANEL.**

2       “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Committee shall estab-  
3 lish an Ocean Research Advisory Panel consisting of not  
4 less than 10 and not more than 18 members appointed  
5 by the Co-chairs, including the following:

6           “(1) Three members who will represent the Na-  
7 tional Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Med-  
8 icine.

9           “(2) Members selected from among individuals  
10 who will represent the views of ocean industries,  
11 State, tribal, territorial or local governments, aca-  
12 demia, and such other views as the Co-chairs con-  
13 sider appropriate.

14           “(3) Members selected from among individuals  
15 eminent in the fields of marine science, marine tech-  
16 nology, and marine policy, or related fields.

17 The Committee shall ensure that an appropriate balance  
18 of academic, scientific, industry, and geographical inter-  
19 ests and gender and racial diversity are represented by  
20 the members of the Advisory Panel.

21       “(b) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Committee shall as-  
22 sign the following responsibilities to the Advisory Panel:

23           “(1) To advise the Committee on policies and  
24 procedures to implement the National Oceano-  
25 graphic Partnership Program.

1           “(2) To advise the Committee on matters relat-  
2           ing to national oceanographic science, engineering,  
3           facilities, or resource requirements.

4           “(3) To advise the Committee on improving di-  
5           versity, equity, and inclusion in the ocean sciences  
6           and related fields

7           “(4) To advise the Committee on national ocean  
8           research priorities.

9           “(5) Any additional responsibilities that the  
10          Committee considers appropriate.

11          “(6) To meet no fewer than two times a year.

12          “(c) ADMINISTRATIVE AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT.—  
13          The Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmos-  
14          pheric Administration shall provide such administrative  
15          and technical support as the Ocean Research Advisory  
16          Panel may require.

17          “(d) FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT.—Section  
18          14 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C.  
19          App.) shall not apply to the Ocean Research Advisory  
20          Panel appointed under section 8933.”.

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