

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2991

To provide for ocean acidification collaborative research grant opportunities.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 24, 2025

Mr. CARBAJAL (for himself and Mr. FITZPATRICK) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

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## A BILL

To provide for ocean acidification collaborative research grant opportunities.

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 “Ocean Acidification  
5 Research Partnerships Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. OCEAN ACIDIFICATION COLLABORATIVE RE-**  
7 **SEARCH GRANTS.**

8 The Federal Ocean Acidification Research and Moni-  
9 toring Act of 2009 (enacted as subtitle D of part II of  
10 title XII of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act  
11 of 2009 (33 U.S.C. 3701 et seq.; Public Law 111–11))

1 is amended by inserting after section 12406 (33 U.S.C.  
2 3705) the following new section:

3 **“SEC. 12406A. OCEAN ACIDIFICATION COLLABORATIVE RE-**  
4 **SEARCH GRANTS.**

5 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

6 “(1) ACADEMIC COMMUNITY.—The term ‘aca-  
7 demic community’ includes faculty and other rep-  
8 resentatives of institutions of higher education and  
9 other schools, researchers, scientists, and natural re-  
10 source managers.

11 “(2) SEAFOOD INDUSTRY.—The term ‘seafood  
12 industry’ includes shellfish growers, shellfish har-  
13 vesters, commercial fishermen, recreational fisher-  
14 men, other members of the seafood harvesting or  
15 supply chain, and organizations representing any of  
16 such groups.

17 “(b) GRANTS.—The Secretary shall provide grants  
18 for collaborative research projects on ocean acidification  
19 developed and conducted through partnerships between  
20 the seafood industry and the academic community.

21 “(c) CRITERIA FOR APPROVAL.—The Secretary may  
22 not provide a grant for a project under this section unless  
23 the project is—

1           “(1) consistent with the themes identified under  
2 the strategic research plan developed by the Sub-  
3 committee under section 12405; and

4           “(2) designed to—

5           “(A) develop and support partnerships,  
6 communications, and shared understanding be-  
7 tween the seafood industry and the academic  
8 community;

9           “(B) include the seafood industry in re-  
10 search on ocean acidification;

11           “(C) deliver research, monitoring, or adap-  
12 tation results which will benefit both the sea-  
13 food industry and the academic community;

14           “(D) incorporate into the research agenda  
15 the expertise of both the seafood industry, in-  
16 cluding their unique understanding of the nat-  
17 ural environment, and the academic community;

18           “(E) promote better understanding of sea-  
19 food industry research questions and priorities  
20 within the academic community;

21           “(F) promote wider understanding of  
22 ocean acidification among the academic commu-  
23 nity, the seafood industry, and other stake-  
24 holders as appropriate; and

1           “(G) include appropriately balanced sup-  
2           port from both the seafood industry and the  
3           academic community.

4           “(d) PRIORITY.—The Secretary shall prioritize fund-  
5           ing under this section to projects which—

6           “(1) address ecosystems and communities vul-  
7           nerable to the impacts of ocean acidification;

8           “(2) demonstrate support from local stake-  
9           holders, such as representatives of States or other  
10          governmental jurisdictions, community organiza-  
11          tions, tribes, or educational institutions, as appro-  
12          priate, located within the region in which the project  
13          will be undertaken; or

14          “(3) utilize seafood industry assets as research  
15          and monitoring platforms.

16          “(e) IMPLEMENTATION GUIDELINES.—Not later  
17          than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this sec-  
18          tion, the Secretary, in collaboration with the Sub-  
19          committee, shall issue implementation guidelines under  
20          this section, including criteria and priorities for grants.  
21          Those guidelines shall be developed in consultation, as ap-  
22          propriate, with the following:

23          “(1) State, regional, and local decisionmakers  
24          with ocean acidification experience.

1           “(2) The seafood industry and other marine-de-  
2           pendent industries.

3           “(3) Formal and informal educators, including  
4           both those within academia and those who are not.

5           “(4) Tribes.

6           “(5) Nongovernmental organizations involved in  
7           ocean acidification research, prevention, or adapta-  
8           tion.

9           “(6) Any other appropriate community stake-  
10          holders.

11          “(f) CONTENTS OF PROPOSALS.—Each proposal for  
12 a grant under this section shall include the following:

13           “(1) A description of the qualifications of the  
14           individuals or entities who will conduct the project.

15           “(2) A plan for ensuring full participation and  
16           engagement of both industry and academic commu-  
17           nity participants, including a description of how each  
18           partner will contribute expertise to the project in  
19           terms of design, execution, and interpretation of re-  
20           sults.

21           “(3) A plan for the dissemination of the results  
22           of the research project, which may include the fol-  
23           lowing:

24           “(A) Educational programs.

1           “(B) Presentations to members of the sea-  
2           food industry, the academic community, and  
3           community stakeholders.

4           “(C) Scientific publication.

5           “(D) Delivery to appropriate representa-  
6           tives of States or other government jurisdictions  
7           who would use the information;

8           “(4) A description of how the project is con-  
9           sistent with the program elements described in sec-  
10          tion 12405(c).

11          “(5) Any other information the Secretary con-  
12          siders necessary for evaluating the eligibility of the  
13          project for funding under this section.

14          “(g) ALTERNATIVE PARTICIPANTS.—The Secretary  
15          may make a grant under this section to a partnership in  
16          which a marine-dependent industry is substituted for the  
17          seafood industry if the proposed project serves the pur-  
18          poses of this section. In such a case, the participation and  
19          interests of that marine-dependent industry shall be sub-  
20          stituted for those of the seafood industry in applying the  
21          requirements of this section.

22          “(h) PROJECT REPORTING.—Each grantee under  
23          this section shall provide periodic reports as required by  
24          the Secretary. Each such report shall include all informa-

1 tion required by the Secretary for evaluating the progress  
2 and success of the project.

3 “(i) MATCHING REQUIREMENTS.—

4 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-  
5 graph (2), the total amount of Federal funding for  
6 a collaborative research project supported under this  
7 section may not exceed 85 percent of the total cost  
8 of such project. For purposes of this paragraph, the  
9 non-Federal share of project costs may be provided  
10 by in-kind contributions and other noncash support.

11 “(2) WAIVER.—The Secretary may waive all or  
12 part of the matching requirement under paragraph  
13 (1) if the Secretary determines that no reasonable  
14 means are available through which applicants can  
15 meet the matching requirement and the probable  
16 benefit of such project outweighs the public interest  
17 in such matching requirement.

18 “(j) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
19 is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary for car-  
20 rying out this section \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years  
21 2026 through 2030.”.

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