CREATING HELPFUL INCENTIVES TO PRODUCE SEMICONDUCTORS (CHIPS) FOR AMERICA FUND

Division A of Public Law 117–167 established the CHIPS for America Fund. The agreement allocates the funds according to the amounts listed in the following table.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE ALLOCATION OF NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY FUNDS: CHIPS ACT FISCAL YEAR 2023

(In thousands of dollars)

Account—Project and Activity	Amount
Section 9902:	
Creating Helpful Incentives to Produce Semiconductors (CHIPS) for America Fund	$4,996,400
Administrative Expenses	(96,400)
Office of Inspector General, Salaries and Expenses	3,600
Total, Section 9902	5,000,000
Section 9906	
Industrial Technology Services	1,968,000
Research Acquisitions and Management	(1,323,000)
Advanced Packaging Manufacturing Program	(400,000)
Manufacturing USA Institute	(67,000)
Scientific and Technology Research & Services	138,600
NIST Metrology Program	(100,000)
Administrative Expenses	(38,600)
Office of Inspector General, Salaries and Expenses	1,400
Total, Section 9906	2,008,000

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

Climate Ready Nation.—The agreement adopts the direction under the heading "Climate Ready Nation" in the House report, but provides alternate funding levels along with supplementary direction. The agreement supports the designation of a new position within Mission Support Executive Leadership as directed in the House report and provides an increase of up to $500,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level. As part of this work, within the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) Climate Laboratories and Cooperative Institutes, the agreement provides $6,500,000 for Climate Change Projections out to 2050 to Inform Risk Management, including $4,000,000 in support of the Water in the West Initiative.

Fire Weather.—The agreement adopts House direction regarding "Fire Weather" and provides an increase of $7,000,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level for these initiatives across NOAA. Within these funds, $4,000,000 is provided in OAR U.S. Weather Research Program to develop a collaborative and integrated fire weather research program, including the establishment of a new NOAA Fire Weather Testbed. Further, within these funds, $3,000,000 is provided within the National Weather Service (NWS) as follows: $750,000 in Central Processing; $500,000 in Analyze, Forecast, and Support; $500,000 in Dissemination; and $1,250,000 in Science and Technology Integration.

Water in the West Initiative.—The agreement adopts the House direction under the heading "Water in the West Initiative" and provides no less than $12,213,000 within OAR for this work, including $8,213,000 in Climate Competitive Research and $4,000,000 in Climate Laboratories and Cooperative Institutes. Additionally, up to $1,500,000 is provided for the National Centers for Environmental Information for data stewardship and other activities related to this initiative. Further, within the increase provided to Research Supercomputing, the Water in the West Initiative shall be prioritized for the allocation of compute resources.

Subseasonal to Seasonal (S2S) Weather Prediction.—The agreement provides $12,100,000 across NOAA line offices for its efforts to improve S2S Weather Prediction. This includes $5,000,000 in NWS Science and Technology Integration for the development of the Seasonal Forecast System and $7,100,000 for the S2S research program in the OAR U.S. Weather Research Program, including $1,000,000 to seed innovative research testbeds. As part of these efforts, NOAA is encouraged to pursue a pilot project for S2S precipitation forecasts for water management in the western United States. The pilot project should be carried out in coordination with NWS and should be focused on achieving measurable objectives for operational forecast improvement, including forecasts of seasonal mountain snowpack accumulation and total seasonal precipitation. The S2S work should be integrated, as much as is practicable, with the Water in the West Initiative and Fire Weather.

Healthy Ocean Collaborations.—NOAA is encouraged to pursue collaborations with academic institutions located in close proximity to the agency's Disaster Response Center and seafood safety labs to advance education, training, recruitment, and research efforts.

National Science Foundation (NSF) Geodetic and Seismic Networks.—NOAA is encouraged to negotiate a memorandum of understanding or another funding agreement with the NSF to support the long-term operation and recapitalization of the Network of the Americas system important to the agency's geodetic work and the NSF seismic systems relevant to the agency's tsunami warning mission.

Adjustments to Base (ATB).—The increased funding provided shall be used to cover the requested ATB costs, across all NOAA line offices, among other programmatic increases highlighted herein.

OPERATIONS, RESEARCH, AND FACILITIES

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

The agreement includes a total program level of $4,910,896,000 under this account, including $42,000,000 provided in division N, for NOAA's coastal, fisheries, marine, weather, satellite, and other programs. This total funding level includes $4,542,997,000 in direct appropriations, a transfer of $344,981,000 from balances in the "Promote and Develop Fishery Products and Research Pertaining to American Fisheries" fund, and $23,000,000 derived from recoveries of prior year obligations. The following narrative descriptions and tables identify the specific activities and funding levels included in this act.

National Ocean Service (NOS).—$679,422,000 is for NOS Operations, Research, and Facilities.

NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE OPERATIONS, RESEARCH, AND FACILITIES

(In thousands of dollars)

Program	Amount
Navigation, Observations and Positioning:	
Navigation, Observations and Positioning	$184,702
Hydrographic Survey Priorities/Contracts	32,500
IOOS Regional Transfers	42,500
Navigation, Observations and Positioning	259,702
Coastal Science and Assessment:	
Coastal Science, Assessment, Response and Restoration	95,500
Competitive Research	22,500
Coastal Science and Assessment	118,000
Ocean and Coastal Management and Services:	
Coastal Zone Management and Services	51,220
Coastal Zone Management Grants	81,500
National Oceans and Coastal Security Fund	34,000
Coral Reef Program	33,500
National Estuarine Research Reserve System	22,500
Sanctuaries and Marine Protected Areas	68,000
Ocean and Coastal Management and Services	304,720
Total, National Ocean Service, Operations, Research, and Facilities	$679,422

Navigation Response Teams.—The agreement provides full operational funding for NOAA's Navigation Response Teams within Navigation, Observations and Positioning.

Physical Oceanographic Real-Time System (PORTS) Program.—The agreement provides no less than the fiscal year 2022 enacted level for PORTS.

Geospatial Modeling Grants.—The agreement provides $8,000,000 for the Geospatial Modeling Grants program for which all funding shall be distributed externally.

NOAA Center of Excellence for Operational Ocean and Great Lakes Mapping.—The agreement provides $10,000,000 for a NOAA Center of Excellence for Operational Ocean and Great Lakes Mapping. Working in unison with and leveraging existing capabilities, including the Joint Hydrographic Center, the Center shall work across NOAA line offices, including NOS, OAR, and the Office of Marine and Aviation Operations (OMAO), to support and grow the Nation's deep water, shallow water, and coastal mapping capabilities and data holdings, in partnership with industry. In particular, the Center shall serve as: (1) a focal point for activities transitioning developments in mapping platforms, sensors, and concepts of operations into operations; (2) a focal point for applied training for mapping and surveying operations, to grow and diversify the pool of well-qualified talent in this expanding field; (3) an agency-wide capability to provide technical support for ocean mapping technologies to operators in the field on an increasingly diverse set of platforms; and (4) a mechanism to leverage public-private partnerships in advancing the Nation's ocean and Great Lakes mapping goals.

Hydrographic Research and Technology Development.—The agreement provides no less than the fiscal year 2022 enacted level for the Joint Hydrographic Center and $2,000,000 for NOAA to continue supporting joint ocean and coastal mapping centers in other areas of the country.

Ocean Mapping and Coastal Charting.—The agreement provides no less than the fiscal year 2022 enacted level for NOS to continue coordinating and implementing an interagency mapping, exploration, and characterization strategy for the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone, as well as the Strategy for Mapping the Arctic and Sub-Arctic Shoreline and Nearshore of Alaska consistent with prior year direction adopted in Public Law 117–103.

Hydrographic Surveys and Contracts.—For fiscal year 2023, NOS shall follow prior year direction adopted in Public Law 117–103, on the following topics: "Hydrographic Surveys and Contracts" and "Hydrographic Charting in the Arctic."

National Water Level Observation Network (NWLON).—The House funding level for the NWLON is not adopted. No later than 180 days after enactment of this act, NOS is directed to provide the Committees with a report about the status of the system including the maintenance backlog and future needs to inform climate resilience efforts, including cost estimates.

Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS).—The agreement provides $42,500,000 for IOOS to recapitalize and expand observing system infrastructure based upon the highest priority needs of each region to support disaster response, weather forecasting and hurricane prediction, forecasting of freshwater and marine water quality, detection of harmful algal blooms (HABs), and safe maritime operations. This may include buoys, high frequency radar, and underwater profiling gliders. IOOS regional associations are encouraged to consider leveraging existing capabilities of the commercial sector, including uncrewed systems, to meet observational needs through commercial data buys. The agreement provides not less than $3,000,000 to continue and expand the IOOS HAB pilot programs initiated in fiscal year 2020 and to support the existing HAB monitoring and detection test bed.

Sent to B. Schatz 4/22/23

Coastal Science, Assessment, Response and Restoration.—The agreement provides no less than the fiscal year 2022 enacted level for operations and staffing of the Gulf of Mexico Disaster Response Center. Additionally, the agreement includes $1,000,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level for the Disaster Preparedness Program.

Harmful Algal Blooms.—The agreement provides $22,500,000 for Competitive Research, including not less than $14,000,000 for HABs research, including within the Great Lakes ecosystem, and adopts House direction for these funds. From within this funding, $2,000,000 is provided to explore innovative methods to increase monitoring and detection of HABs in freshwater systems by partnering with academic institutions with expertise in unmanned aircraft systems. In addition, NOAA is encouraged to fund long-term HAB research in the Gulf of Mexico that further develops ongoing partnerships involving academic institutions, the private sector, and State governments. Further, House language is modified to provide up to $1,000,000 to expand both existing and new program support for States to assess domoic acid levels of HAB species in the marine environment.

Improving Coastal Resilience.—Within the funding for Competitive Research, NOAA is encouraged to provide information and predictive capabilities to coastal communities, especially those with underserved populations, and to encourage natural-based solutions to address coastal hazards like sea level rise, flooding, and inundation.

Red Tide.—House language regarding "Red Tide" events is modified to encourage NOAA to undertake this research within funds provided.

National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS).—The agreement provides $1,000,000 for NCCOS's continued collaboration on research priorities with NOAA's Cooperative Institute for Research to Operations in Hydrology (CIROH).

In addition, the agreement provides $2,500,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level within Coastal Science, Assessment, Response and Restoration to support social and ecological science to plan and site offshore wind.

Marine Debris.—The agreement provides an increase of $500,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level for Marine Debris. NOAA is directed to support competitive extramural funding programs and the programs authorized in the Save Our Seas 2.0 Act (Public Law 116–224).

Sea Level Rise and Coastal Resilience.—House language on "Sea Level Rise and Coastal Resilience" is adopted in support of the Climate Ready Nation initiative. For this work, and for Data Development and Products and Services for Coastal Resilience, Coastal Hazards, and Climate Adaptation, the agreement provides an increase of $2,500,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level, including $1,500,000 in Coastal Science, Assessment, Response and Restoration and $1,000,000 in Coastal Zone Management and Services.

Digital Coast.—The agreement provides $3,500,000 for the implementation of the Digital Coast Act (Public Law 116–223).

Integrated Water Prediction (IWP).—The agreement provides no less than the fiscal year 2022 enacted level for NOS to continue to collaborate on the development and operation of the IWP program with NWS.

Coral Reef Program.—The agreement provides $33,500,000 for the Coral Reef Program, including not less than the fiscal year 2022 enacted level for NOS to work with academic institutions and non-governmental research organizations to carry out innovative restoration projects to restore degraded coral reefs. NOAA is encouraged to expand its collaborative work with external academic partners that conduct scientific research for the conservation of corals and coral reef ecosystems, including those that are experiencing an increasing prevalence of disease outbreaks. Restoration projects should utilize genetic strains that demonstrate enhanced resiliency to increased water temperatures, decreased pH, and coral disease, and include designs for multiyear monitoring to assess survival and ecosystem health.

In addition, through NOAA Community Project Funding/NOAA Special Projects, the agreement provides $6,142,000 for coral research and restoration.

Sanctuaries and Marine Protected Areas.—The agreement provides $68,000,000 for Sanctuaries and Marine Protected Areas, which is $7,000,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level. House language on "Sanctuaries and Marine Protected Areas" is adopted and within the increased funding provided, NOS shall continue to support ongoing sanctuary designation processes and is encouraged to commence designations of new sites, in particular within the Great Lakes ecosystem.

Marine National Monuments.—Within funding provided for Sanctuaries and Marine Protected Areas, up to $1,200,000 may be used for competitive education, research, and management grants for existing marine national monuments administered by NOS.

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS).—$1,093,347,000 is for NMFS Operations, Research, and Facilities.

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

OPERATIONS, RESEARCH, AND FACILITIES

(In thousands of dollars)

Program	Amount
Protected Resources Science and Management:	
Marine Mammals, Sea Turtles, and Other Species	$370,255
Species Recovery Grants	7,250
Atlantic Salmon	6,750
Pacific Salmon	72,000
Protected Resources Science and Management	261,255
Fisheries Science and Management:	
Fisheries and Ecosystem Science Programs and Services	161,500
Fisheries Data Collections, Surveys, and Assessments	203,851
Observers and Training	58,342
Fisheries Management Programs and Services	157,750
Aquaculture	19,800
Salmon Management Activities	65,250
Regional Councils and Fisheries Commissions	44,297
Interjurisdictional Fisheries Grants	3,377
Fisheries Science and Management	693,408
Enforcement	82,000
Habitat Conservation and Restoration	56,684
Total, National Marine Fisheries Service, Operations, Research and Facilities	1,093,347

For fiscal year 2023, NMFS shall follow prior year direction and, if applicable, funding levels adopted by Public Law 117–103 on the following topics: "Promote and Develop Fisheries Products and Research Funding Transfer," "NMFS Staffing," "Electronic Monitoring and Reporting," "For-Hire Electronic Monitoring and Reporting Implementation," "American Lobster and Jonah Crab Research," "Plankton Recorder Survey," "Cooperative Research," "International Fisheries Management Coordination," "North Pacific Observer Coverage," "Bycatch Reduction," "Oyster Aquaculture, Research, and Restoration," "Chesapeake Bay Oyster Restoration," and "Cooperative Agreements with States." Further, the agreement provides no less than $6,500,000 for the John H. Prescott Marine Mammal Rescue Assistance Grant Program and also adopts House language on "Foreign Fisheries" and provides $1,150,000 for this purpose.

Saltonstall-Kennedy (S-K) Grant Program.—NMFS is directed to follow prior year direction adopted by Public Law 117–103 on "S-K Grant Program." In addition, the required spending plan should include an accounting of the administration of the regional committees authorized under the American Fisheries Advisory Committee Act (Public Law 117–121).

National Seafood Council.—No later than 180 days after enactment of this act, NOAA shall provide the Committees with a report detailing how the agency would facilitate a National Seafood Council through the Fisheries Promotion Fund (16 U.S.C. 4008) to support a comprehensive, nationwide seafood marketing and public education campaign. The report should include an estimated cost of such a program and explanation of how it would be different from the S-K Grant Program and other existing NMFS programs.

Offshore Wind Energy.—The agreement provides a total of $13,000,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level across NMFS to address consultation and permitting, stock assessment, management, and protected resources needs related to the expansion of offshore wind energy projects. Of this amount, $1,500,000 is within Marine Mammals, Sea Turtles, and Other Species; $3,000,000 is within Fisheries and Ecosystem Science Programs and Services; $5,500,000 is within Fisheries Data Collections, Surveys, and Assessments; and $3,000,000 is within Fisheries Management Programs and Services.

Transition to Climate-Ready Fishery Management.—House language on "Transition to Climate-Ready Fishery Management" is modified to encourage NMFS to adapt its fishery management practices to the reality of the changing climate and to deliver the climate-informed advice needed for effective marine resource management in rapidly changing oceans.

NMFS Project Consultations.—The agreement provides an additional $2,000,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level for NMFS to address the backlog of consultation requests under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) (Public Law 93–205) and authorization requests under the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) (Public Law 92–522).

NMFS is directed, in collaboration with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, to provide timely services to, and proactive communication with, applicants for permits for in-water construction, and to increase outreach to other relevant stakeholders, including in the Pacific Northwest. NMFS shall continue to provide updates to the Committees on a quarterly basis on these issues.

North Atlantic Right Whales (NARW).—The agreement provides $6,000,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level for NARW-related research, monitoring, enforcement, and conservation efforts. The agreement notes the importance of increasing NARW monitoring to better understand species abundance and distribution. Therefore, within the increase provided, not less than $3,000,000 shall be for monitoring efforts in the Gulf of Maine, including for aerial surveys, vessel surveys, passive acoustic monitoring, habitat and plankton monitoring, habitat modeling, and whale tagging, in conjunction with States and other relevant stakeholders. Such an effort could support development of dynamic management strategies. In addition, no less than $1,500,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level shall be to support continued development of innovative gear technology. Research should focus on real world compatibility and commercialization issues such as gear detection and conflict avoidance and lobster fishery gear compliance and enforcement. Further, within additional funding, NOAA is directed to collaborate with States and other stakeholders to improve the Decision Support Tool to merge multiple data

streams into a single model with standardized spatial and temporal domains with a goal of reducing uncertainty. Finally, NOAA shall continue to support disentanglement, stranding response, and necropsy activities, and is encouraged to develop long-term tagging methods.

In addition, the agreement provides $26,000,000 to States through the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission to cover costs incurred by the fishing industry to comply with the final 2021 rule to modify the Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan (ALWTRP) (FR–210627–0171), as well as additional uses outlined below. This amount is $12,000,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level. This assistance may be used by the relevant States to help defray the cost of compliance with new regulations, including for gear modification, configuration, and marking within the Northeast lobster and Jonah crab fisheries, both in Federal and State waters. Additional eligible uses of the funds may include NARW monitoring to inform State dynamic fisheries management, innovative gear development, implementing electronic tracking requirements within the Northeast lobster fishery, and research to inform future management actions, including in preparation for potential subsequent modifications to the ALWTRP related to gillnet and Atlantic mixed species trap/pot fisheries. Funding to the States shall be proportional to the number of active federally permitted lobster trap harvesters in each State, and the allocation details shall be developed by the States through the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. Not more than five percent shall be used for administrative costs.

The agreement notes that NOAA has been delinquent in responding to an Information Quality Act (Public Law 106–554) request dated June 7, 2021, for correction under section 515 of Public Law 106–554. The petitioner has been seeking the correction of potential flaws in highly influential scientific assessment that does not meet NOAA's Information Quality Guidelines. NOAA is directed to respond to the merits of the petition within 30 days of enactment of this act. Further, NOAA is encouraged to consider revising the Linden and Pace models and Decision Support Tool using ''most reasonably certain to occur'' rather than ''worst case'' scenarios and assumptions and to incorporate whale behavior and data from broader (and more representative) time periods to more accurately predict future NARW populations before issuing any new proposed or final regulations.

NOAA shall continue to work with Canada to develop risk reduction measures that are comparable in effectiveness for both vessels and fisheries, and to incorporate Canadian fishery measures, Canadian vessel restrictions, and U.S. vessel restrictions into the evaluations under the Conservation Framework. NOAA is also encouraged to improve regional management efforts by including pertinent States and interstate bodies in bilateral engagements with Canadian officials regarding coordinated efforts to enhance NARW recovery. NOAA is further encouraged to work with Canadian and State fisheries officials to explore the possibility of developing an agreement that provides for cooperative fisheries management of the Gulf of Maine.

Southern Resident Killer Whales.—The agreement adopts House language on ''Southern Resident Killer Whales'' and provides an increase of $250,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level.

Rice's Whale.—The House language on ''Rice's Whale'' is modified to encourage this work within available funds.

Protected Species in the Western Pacific.—The agreement provides not less than $750,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level for Hawaiian monk seals, Hawaiian sea turtles, and false killer whales. Of the additional funding, not less than $375,000 shall be made available to support State activities related to these protected species, and not less $375,000 shall be used for additional research to mitigate interactions between fisheries and false killer whales.

Sea Turtle Stranding Response and Rehabilitation.—The agreement provides $500,000 for NOAA to provide support to institutions and organizations permitted to provide sea turtle stranding response and/or rehabilitation. In so doing, NOAA shall also seek to leverage and strengthen partnerships with capable university veterinary schools.

Sea Turtle Conservation.—Until a permanent rehabilitation facility can be established in the Galveston area, NOAA shall provide access for designated Houston Zoo employees to the Galveston Sea Turtle Hospital and associated facilities.

Turtle Nesting Grounds in the Western Pacific.—No later than one year after the date of enactment of this act, NOAA, in coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, shall submit a report identifying sea turtle nesting grounds of concern in the central and western Pacific region and recommending actions to restore and conserve critical habitat.

Unusual Mortality Events (UME).—In lieu of House language on the Marine Mammal UME Contingency Fund, NMFS is encouraged to request funding for the Fund as part of the fiscal year 2024 budget request.

Atlantic Salmon.—NOAA is encouraged to partner with States and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to develop fish passage performance standards for sea-run species and prioritize project selection, funding, and staff resources considering the benefits of restoring coevolved sea-run species. NOAA is further directed to ensure that adequate resources continue to be provided for State agencies to implement the recovery strategy effectively, including to ensure stable staffing levels.

Pacific Salmon.—The agreement provides $72,000,000 for Pacific Salmon, which is $5,000,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level. Within the funding for Pacific Salmon, no less than $6,000,000, an increase of $1,000,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level, is to implement Hatchery and Genetic Management Plans (HGMPs) and to continue to address the backlog of HGMPs as directed in previous fiscal years. In addition, no less than the fiscal year 2021 enacted level is provided for pinniped removals.

Fisheries Surveys.—NMFS is directed to take the necessary steps to ensure that historical levels of survey coverage are achieved in fiscal year 2023, and the agreement provides an additional $6,000,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level within Fisheries Data Collections, Surveys, and Assessments for this purpose, including to support the Climate-Ready Fisheries initiative. NMFS is directed to contract no fewer than six surveys for Alaskan bottom trawl surveys and cooperative research, including a survey to capture movement of fish populations out of historic survey areas, and no fewer than four vessels for West Coast groundfish surveys. This amount also fully funds both Northeast Area Monitoring and Assessment Program (NEAMAP) trawl surveys, including the Maine-New Hampshire Inshore Trawl Survey, as well as the Southeast Area Monitoring and Assessment Program's (SEAMAP) existing surveys and addresses critical data gaps in the bottom longline and fall trawl surveys in the Gulf Coast States and reef fish in the South Atlantic region.

NOAA is encouraged to prioritize redundancy for survey vessels through contracted vessels or data from autonomous assets through the Autonomous Uncrewed Technology Operations (AUTO) program. To the extent vessel-based science work is needed for other programs, including bathymetry and coastal mapping, if practicable, NOAA is encouraged to fulfill those needs through private vessel contracts, public-private partnerships, and platforms other than NOAA research vessels to allow ample time for surveys and assessments performed by the NOAA Fleet.

Fishery Data Modernization.—NMFS is encouraged to implement the recommendations identified at the Fisheries Information Management Modernization Workshop in 2019, in particular a Cloud Data Science Platform, a NMFS-wide cloud-based data science, management, and publishing platform.

Northeast Groundfish Research.—Within funding provided for Fisheries and Ecosystem Science Programs and Services, the agreement provides $2,500,000 for groundfish research for purposes consistent with prior year direction adopted by Public Law 117–103. Within funding provided, $500,000 shall be obligated to continue ongoing work on implementing the recommendations set forth in the New England Fishery Management Council's Fishery Data for Stock Assessment Working Group Report, and to continue ongoing work on implementing the recommendations set forth in the 2020 report of the Groundfish Trawl Task Force consistent with prior year direction. This funding is intended to support new and innovative research, including by the Northeast Fisheries Science Center, separately by, or in collaboration with, outside partners such as higher education institutions or State agencies, and in cooperation with the fishing industry.

Fisheries Information Networks.—The agreement provides no less than the fiscal year 2022 enacted level for Fisheries Information Networks. NMFS is encouraged to support the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission to collect samples for additional species that may be the target of future stock assessments.

Data Collection for Recreational Fisheries.—House language on ''Data Collection for Recreational Fisheries'' is adopted. In addition, NMFS is directed to work with the Gulf States to develop a pilot study on a Gulf-wide recreational fishing effort to determine the best mechanism to collect data of the quality sufficient for management decisions through existing technologies.

Fisheries Effort Survey (FES).—NMFS is encouraged to conduct a thorough analysis of the effect of FES estimates on stock status and allocation before they are used for stock management.

South Atlantic Reef Fish.—NMFS shall follow prior year direction adopted by Public Law 117–103 regarding ''South Atlantic Reef Fish,'' and the agreement provides $1,800,000 for this purpose. NOAA is directed to follow the guidance of the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council in identifying the best research and data collection necessary to better understand discard rates and mortality in the fishery. Further, the agreement supports full integration of the South Atlantic Great Red Snapper Count data into the next stock assessment so that the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council can appropriately use this new abundance data when making management decisions regarding red snapper.

State Management for Recreational Red Snapper.—The agreement reiterates past direction that successful implementation of Reef Fish Amendment 50: State Management for Recreational Red Snapper shall be a top priority for NOAA and that such efforts should occur in coordination with the Gulf States. Within the amount provided for Fisheries

Data Collections, Surveys, and Assessments, not less than $5,000,000 is for NMFS to continue to work with the Gulf States to ensure successful implementation of State management for red snapper. The agreement supports full integration of the Great Red Snapper Count data and Gulf States catch data into the upcoming red snapper research track stock assessment to be completed in 2023 and in the operational assessment that will follow in 2024. NOAA shall delay implementation of recalibration between sectors until the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council can appropriately use this new abundance and more targeted catch data when making management decisions regarding red snapper.

Gulf Reef Fish.—Within funding for Fisheries and Ecosystem Science Programs and Services, the agreement provides no less than the fiscal year 2022 enacted level for NMFS to support Gulf reef fish surveys, research, and sampling.

Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Research.—NMFS is encouraged, via a partnership with the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission, to provide grants to academic partners, including consortiums of universities, and other partners to conduct fishery-independent research on trans-boundary, multi-jurisdictional fish species in the Gulf of Mexico for which current data is deficient (e.g., cobia, tripletail, tarpon, and gray triggerfish), including species that are solely managed by the Gulf States.

Gulf of Mexico Shrimp Fishing Effort.—Within funds for Fisheries Data Collections, Surveys, and Assessments, the agreement provides $850,000 for NMFS, in consultation with the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council and shrimp industry stakeholders, to continue the development and implementation of the newly approved Electronic Logbook program (ELB) that archives vessel position and automatically transmits scientific shrimp fishing effort data via cellular service to NMFS.

Northwest Fisheries Ecosystem Monitoring System.—Within funds for Fisheries Data Collections, Surveys, and Assessments, the agreement provides $850,000 to maintain a time-series monitoring system of hydrographic and ecological data to inform fishery management on the Northern California Current.

Chesapeake Bay Atlantic Menhaden Abundance.—NMFS is encouraged to collect Atlantic menhaden abundance data in the Chesapeake Bay in partnership with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission and relevant States.

Northeast Multispecies Fishery.—The agreement rejects the proposed cut to Observers and Training and provides not less than $5,500,000 for grants to the fishing industry to fully cover At-Sea Monitoring industry costs, including sector costs, in the New England groundfish fishery. Any additional At-Sea Monitoring costs, including shore side infrastructure, observer training, observer equipment and gear, electronic monitoring, and NOAA support costs shall be included in the fiscal year 2024 budget request. NOAA shall ensure the costs and benefits of At-Sea Monitoring are commensurate with the gross revenues of vessels in the fishery. Before obligating any of these funds, NOAA shall provide the Committees with a detailed spending plan.

Observer Data Integration.—The agreement provides $500,000 within Fisheries Management Programs and Services to expedite efforts to integrate At-Sea Monitoring data into stock assessment models.

Electronic Vessel Trip Reporting (eVTR).—Within Fisheries Management Programs and Services, the agreement provides $250,000 to support improvement and expansion of the eVTR program.

Fish Stock Movement.—No later than 180 days after enactment of this act, NMFS shall report to the Committees about potential options for States to exchange or trade quota through fishery management councils as fish stocks expand and shift due to climate change. The report should detail NMFS's ability to intervene, under existing authority, in allocation disputes, as well as recommendations for improved coordination and transparent decision-making among councils, including in cases where stocks have shifted into waters off States that currently are not party to the relevant regional fishery management council.

Harmful West Coast Large Mesh Drift Gillnets.—NMFS is directed to consult with the Pacific Fishery Management Council on a strategy to phase out the use of large mesh driftnets and permit the use of alternative fishing methods to increase the economic viability of the West Coast-based swordfish fishery while minimizing bycatch to the maximum extent possible.

Marine Aquaculture.—Within NMFS Aquaculture, the agreement provides $700,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level for NOAA to upgrade equipment and to increase the amount of staff focused on aquaculture at all NMFS fisheries science centers, including to return staffing levels to those in fiscal year 2010 at the Northeast and Northwest Fisheries Science Centers.

In addition, the agreement provides no less than the fiscal year 2022 enacted level to continue the multi-year Integrated Multi-Trophic Aquaculture demonstration pilot system in State waters of the Gulf of Mexico that was initiated in calendar year 2021.

Review of Electronic Monitoring Data.—Within funding provided for Fisheries Management Programs and Services, the agreement provides $600,000 for the video review of the West Coast groundfish electronic monitoring data.

Highly Migratory Species (HMS).—The agreement provides $300,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level for research grants to improve science-based management of domestic and international HMS in the Pacific regions and encourages continued collaboration between Sea Grant and NMFS for Atlantic, Pacific, and Gulf of Mexico HMS.

Salmon Management Activities.—The agreement provides $41,000,000 for Pacific Salmon Treaty (PST) activities. Before funding may be obligated, NOAA is directed to provide the Committees with a detailed spending plan consistent with prior year direction adopted in Public Law 117–103. Further, NOAA is encouraged to minimize, to the extent practicable, the amount of funds withheld for administrative expenses. The agreement also provides not less than $23,500,000 for Mitchell Act hatchery programs. NMFS is directed to continue genetic stock identification for salmon recovery and management.

Seafood Import Monitoring Program (SIMP).—House language on "Seafood Import Monitoring Program" is adopted, and the agreement provides an increase of $1,000,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level for SIMP, established under section 539 of Public Law 115–141. Effective implementation of SIMP is necessary to enforce the ban on imports of Russian seafood, which may be relabeled after foreign processing, hiding its Russian origin.

Illegal, Unregulated, and Unreported (IUU) Fishing.—The agreement modifies House language to provide no less than $750,000 for NMFS to further test and evaluate the effectiveness of U.S. commercial space-based radio frequency data collection capabilities to track foreign vessels engaged in IUU fishing activities in the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone and other remote maritime regions of economic, environmental, and national security significance.

Northeast Lobster Enforcement.—The agreement provides not less than $860,000 for NMFS, in partnership with the relevant States, Joint Enforcement Agreement partner agencies, and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, to continue the cooperative offshore lobster enforcement program.

Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR).—$661,297,000 is for OAR Operations, Research, and Facilities.

OFFICE OF OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC RESEARCH

OPERATIONS, RESEARCH, AND FACILITIES

(In thousands of dollars)

Program	Amount
Climate Research:	
Climate Laboratories and Cooperative Institutes	$104,182
Regional Climate Data and Information	57,992
Climate Competitive Research	72,176
Climate Research	234,350
Weather and Air Chemistry Research:	
Weather Laboratories and Cooperative Institute	93,196
U.S. Weather Research Program	38,190
Tornado Severe Storm Research/Phased Array Radar	20,816
Joint Technology Transfer Initiative	13,244
Weather and Air Chemistry Research	166,416
Ocean, Coastal, and Great Lakes Research:	
Ocean Laboratories and Cooperative Institutes	39,500
National Sea Grant College Program	68,800
Sea Grant Aquaculture Research	14,900
Ocean Exploration and Research	46,800
Integrated Ocean Acidification	17,800
Sustained Ocean Observations and Monitoring	52,900
National Oceanographic Partnership Program	2,900
Ocean, Coastal, and Great Lakes Research	251,500
Innovative Research and Technology:	
High Performance Computing Initiatives	18,231
Uncrewed Systems	1,800
Innovative Research and Technology	19,231
Total, Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, Operations, Research, and Facilities	$661,297

Climate Laboratories and Cooperative Institutes.—The agreement provides an increase of $10,000,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level for global-nested high-resolution models and sustained atmospheric observations, including no less than $4,000,000 to support the Water in the West Initiative.

Atmospheric Baseline Observatories (ABOs).—The House language regarding ABOs is modified to provide an increase of no less than $1,250,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level within Climate Laboratories and Cooperative Institutes. The recent eruption of Mauna Loa highlights the vulnerability of some ABOs and other Global Monitoring Laboratories as noted in the joint explanatory statement accompanying Public Law 117–103. Consistent with that direction, NOAA shall consider how to provide continuity of atmospheric observations in a cost-effective manner, and to submit its findings to the Committees, along with proposals to address the issue.

Earth's Radiation Budget.—In lieu of House language regarding "Earth's Radiation Budget," the agreement provides $9,500,000 for continued modeling, scientific studies, grant programs, and, as possible, observations and monitoring of stratospheric conditions and the Earth's radiation budget, including the impact of the introduction of material into the stratosphere from changes in natural systems, increased air and space traffic, and the assessment of solar climate interventions. OAR is also directed, in coordination with NASA and the Department of Energy, as appropriate, to continue to improve the understanding of the impact of atmospheric aerosols on radiative forcing, as well as on the formation of clouds, precipitation, and extreme weather and to develop plans for sustained observations of the stratosphere. Further, NOAA is encouraged to coordinate with NASA for long-range manned