GULF STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION

71st ANNUAL SPRING MEETING

MARCH 17, 2021

BRIEFING BOOK

Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission
Commission Business Session

Draft Agenda

Wednesday, March 17, 2021
Virtual 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. CDT

GoToMeeting: https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/858235989
Phone Number: (408) 650-3123
Access Code: 858-235-989

1. Call to Order, Introductions, Opening Comments – D. Boyd, Chairman
   - Brief Overview of Commission Voting Procedures – D. Donaldson

2. Adoption of Agenda – D. Boyd

3. Approval of Minutes (October 15, 2020) – D. Boyd A

4. GSMFC Standing Committee Reports
   a. Law Enforcement Committee – J. Downey B C
   b. Technical Coordinating Committee – D. Topping
      1. Crab Subcommittee
      2. Molluscan Shellfish Subcommittee
      3. SEAMAP Subcommittee
   c. State-Federal Fisheries Management Committee – S. Bannon
      1. Menhaden Advisory Committee – T. Moncrieff
      2. Other Issues

5. Listening Session on EO 14008 Section 216 (c): Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad – TBA

6. Sea Grant Fisheries Extension Meeting Report – L. Picariello

7. NOAA Fisheries Southeast Regional Office Comments – A. Strelcheck D

8. USFWS Region 4 Office Comments – G. Constant

9. NOAA Fisheries Budget Update – D. Donaldson/A. Strelcheck E F

10. Discussion of One vs. Two Commission Meetings per Year – All G

11. Discussion of ***Lyles-Simpson Award*** Recipient Selection for 2021 – All H

12. GSMFC Program Reports
    a. Interjurisdictional Fisheries Program – S. VanderKooy I
    b. Aquaculture Program – S. VanderKooy J
    c. SEAMAP – J. Rester K
    d. CARES Act – J. Rester L
    e. Sportfish Restoration – J. Ballard M
    f. Aquatic Nuisance Species Programs – J. Ballard N
    g. Fisheries Information Network – G. Bray O
    h. Fisheries Restoration – C. Robertson P

13. State Directors' Reports
    a. Florida – D. Ellinor
    b. Alabama – S. Bannon Q
    c. Mississippi – J. Spraggins R
    d. Louisiana – J. Froeba S
    e. Texas – R. Riechers T

14. Future Meetings – N. Marcellus
    a. October 19-21, 2021 – Florida
    b. March 15-17, 2022 – Texas

15. Review of Committee Listings – All U

16. Publications List and Web Statistics
    a. Publications – D. Donaldson V
    b. GSMFC web site – D. Donaldson W

17. Other Business
    a. Young Fishermen's Update

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Commission Business Meeting
October 15, 2020
Virtual

Call to Order

Chairman Dan Ellinor called the meeting to order at 11:02 a.m. The following Commissioners and/or Proxies were present:

Dan Ellinor, ***Chairman,*** FWC, Tallahassee, FL *(Proxy for Eric Sutton)*
Robin Riechers, TPWD, Austin, TX *(Proxy for Carter Smith)*
Doug Boyd, *Citizen Representative from Texas*, Boerne, TX
Chris Nelson, *Citizen Representative from Alabama*, Bon Secour Fisheries, Bon Secour, AL
Scott Bannon, ADCNR/MRD, Gulf Shores, AL *(Proxy for Chris Blankenship)*
Paul Mickle, MSDMR, Biloxi, MS (*Proxy for Joe Spraggins*)
Read Hendon, *Citizen Representative from Mississippi,* USM/GCRL, Ocean Springs, MS
Jason Froeba, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA *(Proxy for Jack Montoucet)*
John Roussel, *Citizen Representative from Louisiana*, Zachary, LA

Staff

Dave Donaldson, *Executive Director*, Ocean Springs, MS
Nancy Marcellus, *Administrative Officer*, Ocean Springs, MS
Chery Noble, *Administrative Assistant*, Ocean Springs, MS
Steve VanderKooy*, IJF Program Coordinator*, Ocean Springs, MS
Jeff Rester, *SEAMAP/Habitat Coordinator*, Ocean Springs, MS
Gregg Bray, *FIN Program Manager*, Ocean Springs, MS
Joe Ferrer, *Systems Administrator*, Ocean Springs, MS
James Ballard, *Sport Fish Restoration/Aquatic Invasives Coordinator*, Ocean Springs, MS
Donna Bellais, *ComFIN Programmer,* Ocean Springs, MS
Angie Rabideau, *Senior Accountant*, Ocean Springs, MS
Debbie McIntyre, *Staff Assistant*, Ocean Springs, MS
Ali Wilhem, *Staff Assistant*, Ocean Springs, MS
Charlie Robertson, *Fisheries Restoration Coordinator*, Ocean Springs, MS

Others

Roy Crabtree, NOAA Fisheries, St. Petersburg, FL
Allan Brown, USFWS, Atlanta, GA
Glen Constant, USFWS, Baton Rouge, LA
Christopher Mace, TPWD, Corpus Christi, TX
Alison Johnson, MSC, Miami, FL
Kristy Beard, NOAA Fisheries, Silver Spring, MD
Jessica Beck-Stimpert, NOAA/SERO/AO, St. Petersburg, FL
Ken Riley, NOAA Fisheries, Beaufort, NC
Darin Topping, TPWD, Rockport, TX
Julie Defilippi Simpson, ASMFC/ACCSP, Arlington, VA
Andrew Richard, NOAA Fisheries, St. Petersburg, FL

Daniel Torres, NOAA Fisheries, St. Petersburg, FL
John Fallon, Audubon Nature Institute, New Orleans, LA
Laura Deighan, Audubon Nature Institute, New Orleans, LA
Laura Picariello, TXSG, Corpus Christi, TX
Julien Lartigue, NOAA RESTORE, SSC, MS
Derek Orner, NOAA Fisheries, Silver Spring, MD

Opening Comments and Brief Overview of Commission Voting Procedures

D. Donaldson gave a brief overview of the Commission's voting procedures and stated there was a quorum. **D. Donaldson** also recognized Ali Wilhelm for 10 years of employment with the Commission.

Adoption of Agenda

S. Bannon moved to adopt the agenda as submitted. C. Nelson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes (March 12, 2020)

R. Hendon moved to approve the March 12, 2020 minutes as submitted. S. Bannon seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

GSMFC Standing Committee Reports

Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC)

D. Topping gave the TCC Report. He stated J. Rester provided a brief overview of the SEAMAP 2021-2025 Management Plan. Following a discussion about the content of the plan and some sections that are more appropriate for an operations plan, the TCC directed staff to take the plan back to the Caribbean and South Atlantic SEAMAP components and work on removing the information that should not be in the management plan, then bring it back to the TCC at their March 2021 meeting for approval. He said J. Rester also presented on the GSMFC's CARES Act activities and C. Robertson updated the TCC on the GSMFC's new Fisheries Restoration Program. He said S. VanderKooy presented on IJF Research Funding that will support different projects in the states. He provided an overview of the projects that will be funded this year which will address a number of the state data and research needs.

D. Topping said the TCC had a brief discussion on the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the TCC Subcommittees. Following the discussion, the **TCC made a motion to approve the SOPs as written and to send them to the full Commission for approval. The motion passed unanimously.**

P. Mickle moved to approve the motion. J. Froeba seconded it and the motion passed unanimously.

Subcommittee Reports

Artificial Reef

D. Topping reported that the subcommittee discussed the impacts of recent hurricanes on artificial reefs in North Carolina, Alabama, and Florida. The discussion mainly focused on the movement of sediment which exposed hard bottom or relic tree stumps that are impacting new permits although Florida stated that some of the stumps that were exposed off their coast eroded fairly quickly. The group also discussed recent concerns with sea turtle entanglements on new artificial reef projects. Several states are being asked to provide biological opinions for new reef projects and stipulations are being added to new permits to clean monofilament from reef sites annually to address the entanglement concern. Because of this issue and previous concerns about sea turtle entrapment in artificial reefs, the group decided to start exploring the possibility of having a national sea turtle plan for artificial reefs developed similar to the ***National Guidance: BMPs for Preparing Vessels Intended to Create Artificial Reefs.*** The group also discussed the possibility of having national standards for assessing artificial reef permits developed and/or updating the ***National Artificial Reef Plan*** to address inconsistencies in the permit process. The group will continue these discussions with a dedicated session at their next joint meeting.

Data Management

D. Topping reported that Dave Gloeckner gave a presentation on the gulf shrimp fishery including analytical requirements, program updates and reporting options. D. Gloeckner said the 3G technology currently being used by the electronic logbooks (cELBs) is being discontinued January 1, 2021, therefore requiring new shrimp effort data collection methods and reporting requirements. He presented four possible options for vessel reporting and stated NMFS will ask the GMFMC to consider either making changes to the expiring cELB effort data collection program and/or require shrimp dealer permits and all permitted shrimp dealers to submit weekly electronic reports to NMFS. He also mentioned the need for increased timeliness of shrimp data from the state partners for the monthly shrimp reports used by the Southern Shrimp Alliance (SSA). This is essential for producing an analysis for the Texas closure by the February Council meeting. NMFS would need the current year's shrimp landings through August by the end of November of the same year. All of the state partners indicated they could likely provide preliminary shrimp data by the requested deadline.

Each state provided an update on their research regarding the accuracy of shrimp commercial conversion factors. All states have completed data collection and processing and results are being compiled. The results were presented at the Data Management Subcommittee meeting in October of 2019 and work on the final report has begun. Preliminary results do not show major differences between current research and the historical conversion factors.

D. Topping reported that GSMFC continues to work on the transition away from paper reporting methods for the Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) Access Point Angler Intercept Survey (APAIS). The process has been implemented on the Atlantic Coast and GSMFC is utilizing the same technology. Currently, Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP) has assisted GSMFC in installing the database for housing data collected through tablets.

GSMFC staff are in the process of purchasing the first batch of tablet devices along with needed accessories. GSMFC also has a contract in place with Harbor Light Software to modify the reporting application to meet the needs of MRIP states in this region. Both state and federal partners will be utilized to assist in that process of modifying the application. The goal is to begin training and testing in the fall of 2020 with the hope of being fully implemented by January 1, 2021.

Molluscan Shellfish

D. Topping stated Chad Hanson from Pew Charitable Trusts (Pew) refreshed everyone on the restoration projects by Pew. He reviewed the efforts nationwide to rebuild fish populations and end overfishing as well as provide management of ecosystem friendly projects. Pew is currently working to inventory oyster restoration projects throughout the region to see what models are available compared to what is needed for restoration site selection. **D. Topping** reported Seth Blitch with The Nature Conservancy gave an overview of the history of oyster restoration and recovery in the Gulf of Mexico. S. Blitch explained that the Gulf of Mexico still represents opportunity for oyster restoration as the resources continue to decline. **D. Topping** reported Eric Saillant presented on the Gulf's Oyster Consortium which is a five-year project funded through the Commission and NOAA's Office of Aquaculture. The project has four major components: to define project objectives to address industry needs for seed and genetic lines of seed; to breed lines with improved genetic values for characters of interest to industry; to develop a germplasm repository to include founders and selected parents during successive generations of breeding; and to test improved diploid lines for triploid performance in cross with the tetraploid stocks. To date, the Consortia has collected founders from different geographic lines incorporated in a mosaic strain, cryopreserved material from those founders, and attempted spawns with limited success due to delays resulting from the COVID shutdowns. Additional spawns will be conducted once the reproductive condition of the broodstock founders has improved.

D. Topping said the Subcommittee had a discussion on Oyster Importation/Biosecurity. Since there are a number of issues related to sources of seed and broodstock in hatcheries and oyster farms, the Subcommittee summarized the individual state restrictions and limitations for bringing material into their respective waters. In general, any shellstock from the U.S. East Coast is not permitted to be introduced into the water anywhere in the Gulf due to concerns over the introduction of MSX. Live oysters can be brought in to most of the states as long as they are only in restaurants or handled by processors. In general, most states also require health certifications for products brought from other regions for culture or grow-out. It was suggested that the Subcommittee may need to consider the importation rules to allow hatcheries outside the Gulf to propagate seed to be returned to the state of origin just to meet demand. Based on the work being done by the Oyster Consortium, there may also be potential for cryopreserved material to cross state lines and regions for hatchery purposes. It is unclear if the importation regulations and restrictions would apply to frozen reproductive material in lieu of sending live broodstock. The Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Conference had requested information from the MS DMR specifically about how they were reporting oyster production from the off-bottom farms. The standard format for wild landings is in shucked meat yields which is what most states with oyster farms are reporting. However, since cultured oysters are generally sold smaller than legal wild oysters, their weights may be very different, especially for triploids. The value is significantly

different as well, which could be an issue generating dockside prices and value compared to sack oysters. This might be an issue the MSSC will need to address in the near future.

SEAMAP

D. Topping reported that the SEAMAP Subcommittee met jointly in July with the Caribbean and South Atlantic SEAMAP components. SEAMAP is unsure of FY2021 funds, but planned on level funding of approximately $4.79 million. At this level, the Gulf would receive approximately $1.9M next year for fishery independent sampling in the Gulf of Mexico. With all of the reduced sampling this year, SEAMAP has unused funding so the Subcommittee has been discussing ideas on how to use these funds over the next year. Ideas put forward include purchasing an acoustic camera to support reef fish sampling, trawl calibration tests, a joint habitat mapping training cruise, using hydroacoustics in the trawl surveys, purchasing equipment to update vessels used in SEAMAP surveys, purchasing a CTD, supplementing sea days for the Summer and Fall Shrimp/Groundfish Surveys, and paying travel to an invertebrate identification workshop. Ted Switzer was elected as SEAMAP Subcommittee Chair and Jill Hendon was elected Vice-Chair.

Darin Topping said he was re-elected Chair of TCC and **Bev Sauls** was re-elected as Vice Chair.

R. Hendon moved to accept the TCC report. S. Bannon seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

State-Federal Fisheries Management Committee (S/FFMC)

G. Bray stated he will be presenting both the State/Federal Fisheries Management Committee report and the Menhaden Advisory Committee Report. He said the S/FFMC met yesterday afternoon virtually with an agenda focusing on 2021 proposed funding issues related to GulfFIN, SEAMAP, and the Interjurisdictional Fisheries Small Grants Program.

GulfFIN Priorities

G. Bray outlined the status of 2021 GulfFIN funding for data collection and management activities. Preliminary 2021 funding amounts for GulfFIN and RecFIN line items are based on the likelihood of operating under a continuing resolution and receiving level funding. The proposed amount available for GulfFIN funding in 2021 totals $7.15M. The original amount proposed for 2021 for all the high priority jobs was $6.83M, which meant there was a surplus of approximately $322K. After a brief discussion the S/FFMC approved the following motion:

> **The State/Federal Fishery Management Committee moved to fund Coordination and Administration of FIN Activities, Collecting, Managing, and Disseminating Marine Recreational Fisheries Data, Operation of FIN Data Management System, and Trip Ticket Program Implementation and Operations for a total budget of $6.83M. The motion passed unanimously.**

P. Mickle moved to accept the motion. R. Hendon seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

G. Bray said the committee discussed options for spending the surplus $322k in 2021. He will work with the GulfFIN Committee and bring their recommendation back to S/FFMC for their consideration.

G. Bray discussed the funding received to support state survey work and the Southeast For-Hire Electronic Reporting Program (SEFHER). Both funding amounts are being tracked separately and can only be used for those specific tasks. The Modernizing Recreational Fisheries Management Act has allocated $300K annually to support state survey work and prioritizes developing, maintaining, and improving electronic data collection tools associated with the state surveys. NOAA Fisheries Southeast Regional Office has also provided funding to support a dockside validation survey to be implemented to support the new federal for-hire logbook reporting program under SEFHER. In 2020, GulfFIN received $1.5M to support year 1 dockside survey activities which will start on or about January 5, 2021. GulfFIN has been informed that $900k will be made available for ongoing costs for year 2 (2022) and beyond. Currently, year 2 costs are proposed at $1.152M but once survey work actually begins in 2021, states may need to adjust their budgets as more information is gained on implementation costs. If budgets remain above proposed funding, all of the partners will have to look at possibly reducing budgets and field work, if possible, to fit within proposed funding.

SEAMAP Priorities

G. Bray said Jeff Rester provided some background on the SEAMAP budget and surveys for the Gulf of Mexico. The FY2020 SEAMAP appropriation was $5.125M and J. Rester stated that SEAMAP received approximately $4.80M for fishery independent sampling for all three SEAMAP components. All three SEAMAP components based their FY2021 budget on level funding of $5.125M. The total proposed for the Gulf was $2.04M.

The S/FFMC reviewed the various SEAMAP surveys along with their associated costs. For FY2021, SEAMAP will continue the current SEAMAP survey work and sampling effort and hope that level funding or additional funding will be appropriated. After a brief discussion the S/FFMC moved to accept the following motion:

> **The State/Federal Fisheries Management Committee moved to accept the proposed funding for SEAMAP surveys for 2021 for a total budget of $2.04M and to forward this onto the full Commission for their approval. The motion passed unanimously.**

J. Froeba moved to accept the motion. P. Mickle seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

IJF Small Grants Priorities

G. Bray said Steve VanderKooy discussed the Interjurisdictional Fisheries Program Small Grants funding program. With increases in IJF funding, the program is supporting a small grants program to assist with important research priorities at the state level. A total of $1.4M has been made available in 2020 from year 1 and 2 funding. S. VanderKooy stated in 2021 there will be an

additional $900k available to split between the 5 states which should be about $180k per state in 2021.

S. Bannon was nominated for Chairman and **Paul Mickle** was nominated for Vice-Chairman. The nominations were closed and both were approved unanimously by the committee.

Menhaden Advisory Committee (MAC)

G. Bray said the MAC met virtually in September and reviewed the usual agenda items related to the season. There are no action items to bring before the Commission.

He said the MAC requested an update on the motion passed in March requesting the Commission update the Gulf Menhaden FMP. Staff explained that there were no changes to the fishery or the status of the population since the last revision to warrant an update and that updating would only be for MSC which is a marketing tool and not a management issue for the states. P. Himchak stated that the MAC may include the Reference Points Modeling conducted by Butterworth and Rademeyer in the assessment update scheduled for next year but the importance of having a regional management plan is necessary for the states that don't have individual ones. Staff indicated that the MAC was welcome to readdress this with the Commission but there would need to be justification as it relates to state management of the fishery or significant research advances in our understanding of the population.

G. Bray said Ray Mroch provided a review of the 2020 Gulf fishing seasons. In the Gulf, the landings were down 8.5% compared to the same time last year. As everyone knows, it has been a strange year with the COVID pandemic and numerous tropical systems. NOAA projected that if last year's September and October were similar this year, the total for 2020 would be around 465K metric tons by the end of the season which would only be a 4% decrease from 2019 and 24% decrease from 2018.

G. Bray stated R. Mroch updated the group on the 2020 Texas Cap. Carey Gelpi was introduced as Jerry Mambretti's replacement on the committee as the TPWD representative. The industry made a total of six sets in Texas waters in August and removed 2.24% (around 770K lbs) of the 34.6M lb cap so far in 2020. The industry continues to fish less to the west since the closure of the Cameron plant in 2015 so fishing in Texas is nearly negligible.

Because of the COVID issue, the Gulf's MSC certification was extended six months so the Year 1 Client Action Plan will be due next spring. **G. Bray** said Mr. Kuttel indicated that the NOAA Observer Steering Committee has been formed and the first agenda item was to develop a list of concepts to observe for turtle and protected species interactions. COVID has slowed that process as well. The next chair for the MAC was to be a state representative. It was suggested to defer the election of the chair to the Commission's Spring Meeting.

Under other business, the MAC asked about the status of the proposed IJF research projects submitted for consideration to the TCC. Staff reported that the S/FFMC and the Commission considered the proposal process and ultimately decided to split the available funds equally between the five agencies and allow each to determine their own priorities. As a result, none of the MAC

proposed projects were selected although several monitoring proposals would indirectly include menhaden. S. VanderKooy reported that the Gulf Menhaden Ecosystem Modeling team will be having a conference call on October 22nd. The model is operational and may have potential for use in the assessment next year. He will let the group know if a presentation is ready for the March meeting. The SEDAR schedule has the Gulf Menhaden Operational Assessment Update occurring in summer/fall of 2021. Ben Landry provided a short update on the industries' ***Cameron Parish Go Fund Me Campaign***. He noted that Omega Protein has partnered with the Cameron Lions Club to spearhead the campaign to support relief efforts with 100% of the contributions going directly to charitable assistance. So far, the campaign has raised USD $5,550 (through the Go Fund Me Campaign) toward a USD $10,000 goal. He invited anyone willing to contribute to the assistance effort.

R. Hendon moved to accept the State/Federal Fisheries Management Report. J. Froeba seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Sea Grant Fisheries Extension Meeting Report

L. Picariello reported that due to COVID restrictions, the Sea Grant Extension Committee met remotely for a webinar meeting on Tuesday, October 6, 2020. She said several Regional Projects involving Sea Grant collaborations were discussed including the Greater Amberjack Research Program and two Fish Restoration projects with the NOAA Restoration Center from the Open Ocean TIG Restoration Plan 2. Additionally, the committee discussed each state's response to COVID and hurricane events that have significantly disrupted fishing communities over the last 6 months.

NOAA Fisheries Southeast Regional Office Comments

R. Crabtree reported on the Great Red Snapper Count and stated preliminary results suggests the red snapper population is almost 3 times larger than what has been estimated in recent assessments. This is due to the fact that 70% of the fish are on the low relief bottom areas instead of the artificial reefs and these areas were not included in previous assessments. He stated this will have an impact on red snapper management and he expects there will be an interim assessment that will incorporate these results, then new catch level recommendations will be made and the Council may implement the new catch levels in time for the 2021 fishing season.

R. Crabtree stated the Appeals Court ruled NMFS cannot regulate Aquaculture as fishing under the Magnuson/Stevens Act. He said this does not prohibit aquaculture from occurring in the gulf, just a NMFS permit is not needed as stated in the Aquaculture Plan. He said the Manna Fish Farms and Velella Epsilon projects that he has reported on in the past are moving forward.

R. Crabtree reported funds for Hurricanes Harvey and Maria have been awarded. Funds for Hurricane Michael have been allocated but not yet awarded because they are waiting on OMB to approve the spend plan. The funds for the Bonnet Carré disaster has been allocated but not awarded and they are still waiting on the spend plans for that. He said disaster determination requests have been received for the red tide that took place off Florida in 2019 and Hurricane Laura that was in September of this year, and they are currently in review. Louisiana has requested a

temporary TED exemption for a portion of their coast that was affected by Hurricane Laura but that has been delayed due to Hurricane Delta. NMFS will be reviewing that request soon.

USFWS Region 4 Office Comments

G. Constant stated A. Brown had to leave the meeting and sends his apologies for not being able to participate. A. Brown wanted to express his appreciation, as usual, for the Commission's, especially James Ballard's partnership with the successful Small Grants Invasive Species Project. He said he does not have a budget for the Small Grants program for next year as they are operating under a Continuing Resolution but he should be able to report on it at the March meeting. He stated they will be working on a letter of repress from the states to petition removing the Saltmarsh Topminnow from the ESA listing process as restoration work has improved habitat for the fish.

NOAA Fisheries Budget Update

D. Donaldson gave an update on the NOAA Fisheries budget. He referred to Tab C & D in the briefing book and stated Tab C has the overall bill whereas Tab D is the report language and the breakdown of the budget.

He said the House passed a bill recommending NOAA Fisheries receive $965M which is approximately $125M above the President's budget. Fisheries Data Collections, Surveys and Assessments was appropriated $175M and that includes FIN and SEAMAP funding and is an increase from last year. Funding for Aquaculture is $15M and the Councils and Commissions are $46.5M which is comparable to funding from last year. He also stated there is language that rejects the President's recommendation of reducing the proposed funding. IJF is right at $3.4M which is similar to funding last year and it rejects the proposed language for eliminating IJF. Enforcement is up about $21M from the President's budget which translates to $77M and again, there is language rejecting the proposed elimination of the JEAs and there is language recommending funding be set at the FY2020 level. He said overall this budget is fairly good news for fisheries especially since the House is usually not as supportive of fisheries as the Senate. **D. Donaldson** said as mentioned earlier by G. Constant, they are operating under a Continuing Resolution and it will be interesting to see how fast a budget will be passed after the election.

Presentation of Aquaculture Aspects of Executive Order 13921

Jessica Beck-Stimpert and Ken Riley presented on E.O. 13921 and Aquaculture Opportunity Areas (AOAs). The EO focuses on various actions related to marine aquaculture in the U.S. The EO deals with regulatory reform, removing unnecessary barriers to U.S. commercial fisheries, looks at trade aspects of seafood to ensure that the U.S. has a level playing field in the global market place, and focuses on a suite of activities that expand to sustainable aquaculture production. They reported on the aquaculture section, Section 7, of the EO that focuses on the AOAs. Within one year of the EO, the federal agencies listed in the EO shall identify at least two geographic areas containing locations suitable for commercial aquaculture. Within 2 years of identifying each geographic area a PEIS should be completed for each to assess the impact of siting aquaculture facilities there. In 4 years, they should identify two more geographic areas and complete PEIS within 2 years. California and the Gulf of Mexico were selected as the first regions to host AOAs

based on the already available spatial analysis data and current industry interest in developing sustainable aquaculture operations. They reviewed the process of identifying AOAs and the tools and technology that will be used during the process. The complete presentation is available upon request to the Commission office. Additional information may be obtained at nmfs.aquaculture.info@noaa.gov.

Discussion of Future Commission Meetings Schedule

D. Donaldson reported it has been suggested to change the GSMFC Annual and Spring meeting schedule to one meeting a year and he opened the floor for discussion/suggestions. The pros and cons were discussed but everyone agreed face to face meetings are essential. It was suggested if the Commission only met once a year it should be in October because the budget discussions take place then. They also discussed expanding travel authorizations so attendees can attend more meetings including the general session and the Lyles/Simpson Award Ceremony, and to pay for the Commissioners and the Legislative and Private Citizen's travel. ***After the discussion, the Commission directed staff to perform a cost analysis and list pros and cons to having only one face-to-face meeting per year. This will be presented at the March Commission Business Meeting.***

GSMFC Program Reports

Interjurisdictional Fisheries Program (IJF)

S. VanderKooy stated a short overview of the IJF Program is in the Briefing Book under Item E. He said due to COVID, most of their projects have been put on the back burner. He said the Red Drum Technical Task Force (RDTTF) was scheduled to meet in March following the Commission meeting but was cancelled. They have had two conference calls to keep in touch and each member of the RDTTF was asked to continue drafting the Red Drum Management Profile. The Mangrove Snapper Management Profile has been put on hold until after the pandemic. He said he thinks the 3rd revision of the Otolith Manual should be available in November and said this is publication number 300 for the Commission.

He reported the Small Grants Program had a combined total of approximately $1.4M for the coming year that was split between the five Gulf agencies. He reviewed the projects each agency will be doing. The ongoing projects include Blue Crab, Scallops, Oysters, Flounder, Commercial Data Surveys, Database Management and Genetics. Funding for next year is available for projects in 2022. He said each state should receive approximately $180K. They are hoping to continue at level funding which would be about $900K annually for research projects.

Aquaculture Program

S. VanderKooy stated the complete report is under Tab F in the Briefing Book. He stated extensions were awarded to nearly all the grant recipients as a result of the COVID shutdown because work was delayed for most of the projects. As a result, all the current awards have end dates well into 2021. The Commission was also granted an extension for another year to allow the existing awards to be completed. Therefore, there is not a lot of progress to report. He said they

should have around $900K - $1M available in a RFP for pilot work in 2022. He said they did develop a website with an interactive map for the Aquaculture Program and he demonstrated how the website works.

SEAMAP

J. Rester reported the Spring Plankton Survey and the majority of the Bottom Longline Survey was cancelled this year due to COVID. Alabama is the only state that sampled during the Spring time period and the majority of the Summer time period was not sampled due to COVID-restrictions on staff. He said the Vertical Line Survey is currently being conducted off Alabama, Louisiana, and Texas. 218 stations are scheduled to be sampled but he expects the actual number of stations sampled will be less. The Reef Fish Survey was completed this summer with a reduced sampling effort. A new Reef Fish survey design was supposed to be implemented with supplemental funding from a NOAA RESTORE grant but NOAA Fisheries did not conduct any sampling this year, but Florida was able to sample in the eastern Gulf. The Summer Shrimp/Groundfish Survey is usually conducted in June and July, but at the last minute, the entire survey was cancelled due to crew limitations. The Fall Plankton survey was also cancelled due to COVID. The Fall Shrimp/Groundfish Survey started October 1st with everyone participating and they hope to complete about 300 stations.

SEAMAP has been working to improve the identification of invertebrates captured during sampling activities. SEAMAP has held several invertebrate identification workshops online over the summer to help field staff in the identification of echinoderms. The workshops are part of a larger effort to hold a face to face meeting next year to provide a more hands on approach to help in the identification of invertebrates in the Gulf of Mexico.

The Commission continues to manage SEAMAP data and distribute the data to interested parties. The Commission has fulfilled four SEAMAP data requests since March. The various SEAMAP databases have been downloaded 64 times since March.

CARES Act

J. Rester reported the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) was signed into law on March 27, 2020 allocating $300M to states, Tribes, and territories with coastal and marine fishery participants who were negatively affected by COVID–19. Fishery participants include Tribes, persons, fishing communities, aquaculture businesses, processors, or other fishery-related businesses who have incurred a loss as a direct or indirect result of the coronavirus pandemic. Complete details are in Tab H of the Briefing Book.

He said eligible fishery participants must have incurred an economic revenue loss greater than 35 percent as compared to the prior 5-year average revenue; or any negative impacts to subsistence, cultural, or ceremonial fisheries. NOAA Fisheries will be disbursing the fisheries assistance through the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission, Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, and the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission. The Gulf states allocations are Texas - $ 9.2M; Louisiana - $14.7M; Mississippi - $1.5M; Alabama - $3.3M; and Florida - $23.6. Florida did not split their coast and will be working with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries

Commission instead of this office. Each state must develop a spend plan detailing how they propose to distribute their share of the funds. NOAA Fisheries must approve each state's spend plan before the state starts accepting applications. Several states have been approved and the application process has started.

For the latest information on the Commission's CARES Act program, you can sign up for updates at https://www.gsmfc.org/cares-act.php.

Sportfish Restoration Program

J. Ballard stated the full report is under Tab I in the briefing book. He reported the ***"Guidelines for Marine Artificial Reef Materials: Third Edition"*** was approved at the March 2020 GSMFC meeting and the document is available through the Commission's website. It was provided to the ASMFC for approval and distribution, also. This will be a "living" document meaning it will be updated as new information becomes available. The Joint Artificial Reef meeting was held virtually in April 2020 and they discussed meeting in conjunction with the Florida Artificial Reef Summit in November but that meeting will now be held virtually. He said through a partnership with USM/GCRL they have started field testing under the Gulf Artificial Reef Monitoring and Assessment Program. He said the GSMFC's System Administrator developed version two of the data entry program to make it more user-friendly and to minimize the amount of time that collected fish will have to be onboard the monitoring vessel. He said multiparameter datasondes will be employed at several artificial reef sites to assess the water quality. **J. Ballard** said they continue to work to increase funding for the program so the Commission can help support and coordinate more Sport Fish Restoration activities across the Gulf of Mexico.

Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) Program

J. Ballard stated the full report is under Tab J of the Briefing Book. He said the Gulf and South Atlantic Regional Panel (GSARP) was held virtually in April 2020. The discussions focused on a model bait regulation project which is one of the small grants projects with USFWS, and emerging issues with ANS in the 8 member states. The National Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force (ANSTF) Spring Meeting was cancelled due to COVID. They are continuing their partnership with USFWS to administer the ANS Small Grants Program. Over the last six years of that program they have funded 39 projects totaling $850K. He worked with USFWS to get the funding for this year added to the program, but because of a number of current circumstances, the funds will be added to next year's RFP. He said he continues working with MS DMR to conduct the third year of the Jimmy Sanders memorial Lionfish Challenge which has been switched to a virtual tournament format. **J. Ballard** stated he is chairing the ANSTF's Prevention Committee which is tasked with addressing five key outputs of the new ANSTF Strategic Plan. He reviewed each item that is in the briefing book. The GSARP is planning to hold another virtual meeting later this year. The Fall ANSTF meeting will be held virtually on December 8-10th.

FIN

G. Bray stated Tab K in the briefing book has the FIN proposed funding activities for 2021. As mentioned earlier, all proposed activities for calendar year 2021 should be fully funded. He said

COVID has had impacts on all of the fishery dependent programs. Some of the state partners have not been able to access sites due to social distancing rules and others have had some shutdowns. He commends the partners for working hard to try to implement some rules and guidelines to get people back out into the field and keep them safe at the same time. He said recreational and commercial data is still being collected and then processed through the Commission. **G. Bray** said the Commission continues to work on the transition away from paper reporting methods for the MRIP/AFAIS surveys and the SEPHIRE dockside validation survey creating electronic applications where field samplers will be using electronic tablets to collect data. This will improve quality control at the point of data collection. They are in the process of purchasing the first batch of tablets along with the software and other accessories. He said this transition has been a challenge but the ACCSP has already implemented the technology and they are sharing information to help with the transition. The goal is to begin training and testing this fall and to be fully implemented January 1, 2021.

Fisheries Restoration Program

C. Robertson introduced himself as the newest member of the Commission and stated he is the Coordinator of the Fisheries Restoration Program. He said the complete report is under Tab L of the Briefing Book. He reported on the ***Reduction of Post-release Mortality from Barotrauma in Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Recreational Fisheries*** Project. The partners on the project is the Commission, NOAA, and FL Sea Grant. The main objective of the project is to reduce the post-release mortality through research and developing Gulf-wide best handling practices for reef fish in the Gulf of Mexico. He reviewed the major components of the project and stated it is anticipated the overall project will take place over a 7-year period. He said for complete project details to visit the website: https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/feature-story/noaa-and-gulf-states-marine-fisheries-commission-partner-restore-recreational-fish.

Executive Committee Report

D. Donaldson stated the Executive Committee met and discussed several issues earlier today. The following report was distributed with recommendations regarding the 2021 Budget and Staff compensation:

> The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. with the following members and others present:
>
> **Members**
> Jason Froeba, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
> Dan Ellinor, FFWC, Tallahassee, FL
> Robin Riechers, TPWD, Austin, TX
> Joe Spraggins, MDMR, Biloxi, MS
> Scott Bannon, AMRD, Dauphin Island, AL
>
> **Staff**
> David Donaldson, GSMFC Executive Director, Ocean Springs, MS
> Nancy Marcellus, Administrative Officer, Ocean Springs, MS

Angie Rabideau, Senior Accountant, Ocean Springs, MS

Draft Agenda

D. Donaldson presented the draft agenda for the Executive Committee meeting. **R. Riechers moved to accept the agenda. The motion was seconded by D. Ellinor and passed unanimously**.

Discussion of GSMFC Audit

D. Donaldson explained that with delays due to Covid19, the 12/31/19 Single Audit final report has not been received from the auditors yet. Piltz, Williams and LaRosa was the auditing firm. As soon as the audit report is received, it will be sent out for review and acceptance**.**

Discussion of Department of Commerce IG Audit

D. Donaldson discussed the status of the Department of Commerce IG Audit. The Commission is awaiting a response from the Grants Management Division (GMD) concerning the roughly $5 million finding related to the Gulf and South Atlantic Fisheries Foundation (GSAFF) Oil Disaster Recovery sub-award. The GMD legal counsel rejected the suggested plan of repayment. **D. Ellinor** and **S. Bannon** suggested the Commission explore a way to retrieve the GSAFF records from their storage facility and pay someone to match up source documents to invoices.

Financial Report

A. Rabideau noted that the commissioners receive the financial report every month by email. She pointed out several new fund codes that are included with the financial statements. The Commission received a new five-year agreement for NOAA Administrative/Aquaculture. It runs concurrently with the old five-year agreement that has been extended due to COVID19. She also mentioned that FIN also has a new five-year agreement that runs concurrently with the older cooperative agreement that has also been extended. Cares Act and the Fishery Restoration Program has also been added to the report.

Presentation of the 2021 Budget

A. Rabideau said the total projected budget for fiscal year 2021 is $9,728,306. She explained that due to some funding that was received in 2020 that does not run on the calendar year, she included contractual balances from prior years that will likely be spent in 2021 on the report but are not added to the 2021 proposed budget amount. **S. Bannon moved to accept the 2021 budget. The motion was seconded by D. Ellinor and passed unanimously.**

Other Business

D. Donaldson said he was hopeful to make a trip to Washington DC early next year if the COVID19 travel restrictions have been lifted. He pointed out that the Commission needs the following appointees: A Mississippi legislative appointee; a Florida private citizen appointee; and a Texas legislative appointee. **D. Donaldson** stated that it was the state of Texas' turn to take the chair rotation. **R. Riechers** accepted the rotation.

Staff Compensation

The Committee discussed 2020 salary increases for staff. After some discussion, **S. Bannon moved that GSMFC staff receive a 3.5% raise for all employees except the new Fisheries Restoration Program coordinator since he just started working for the Commission. The motion was seconded by D. Ellinor and passed unanimously.**

The Committee then discussed establishing a standard percentage for raises. After some discussion, **S. Bannon moved to direct staff to review the potential for establishing a standardized annual cost of living raise for staff. The motion was seconded by R. Riechers and passed unanimously.** Once the analysis has been completed, the findings will be presented to the Executive Committee and they will make a recommendation to the Commission at the March 2020 meeting.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

J. Froeba moved to accept the Executive Committee report and all recommendations. R. Hendon seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

State Directors' Reports

All detailed state reports were submitted before the meeting for the briefing book and are attached to these minutes **(Attachment 1).** Each state Director gave a brief overview of their report.

Future Meetings

D. Donaldson stated the Commission plans to keep the same rotation for meetings and hopefully there will be a face to face meeting in Florida in March 2021. He said the Executive Committee will meet via conference call as it gets closer to determine if they will meet and where. As of right now, the October meeting will be in Texas. He will keep the Commission informed.

Publications List and Web Statistics

D. Donaldson stated Tabs S and T of the Briefing Book has the information on publications and the website. He said if there are any questions to contact D. McIntyre for Publications and J. Ferrer for the web statistics.

Election of Officers

D. Ellinor opened the floor for election of 2020-2021 Officers.

S. Bannon moved to elect Doug Boyd Chairman. R. Riechers seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

C. Nelson moved to elect Scott Bannon 1st Vice Chairman. R. Hendon seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

S. Bannon moved to elect J. Froeba 2nd Vice Chairman. R. Riechers seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:18 p.m.

ATTACHMENT 1

Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission
Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC), Fall 2020 Meeting
Florida Report

1. Emerging Issues Pertinent to Gulf of Mexico Fisheries.

Hurricane Disaster Relief

FWC received $44.5 million grant from NOAA Fisheries in June 2019 to help fisheries-related businesses impacted by Hurricane Irma. Staff is working with Chairman Spottswood on details of the payout programs. So far, more than $24.9 million in direct payouts have been made to commercial fishers, wholesale dealers, and charter fishermen. Over the next year, $3.4 million will be spent reimbursing wholesale dealers for facility upgrades or repair, and $2.5 million is expected to be spent on marine debris in the Keys. Over the next 3-4 years, $2.8 million will be spent on mitigating loss of coral due to the stony coral tissue loss disease, nearly $5 million dollars will be spent on four habitat improvement projects, and $5.5 million will be spent on fishing infrastructure projects.

In March of this year, FWC received notification of $7,812,000 in funding to help those fisheries-related businesses impacted by Hurricane Michael. FWC staff, working closely with Chairman Spottswood, coordinated with affected stakeholders to develop a spend plan to mitigate the fisheries-related damages caused by Hurricane Michael. After reviewing submitted public comments, the proposed spend plan was submitted to NOAA in early September, which outlines methods and budgets to provide relief to commercial aquaculturists, fishermen, and wholesale dealers, as well as marinas and licensed charter businesses.

CARES Act

On March 27, 2020, President Trump signed the CARES Act into law. When the CARES Act became Public Law 116-136, it was the third legislative relief package that Congress passed as a result of COVID-19. Public Law 116-136 created $2 trillion of relief for Americans affected by COVID-19. One of its major provisions related to the fishing industry was $300 million for fishery disaster assistance nationwide. Of that, Florida will be allocated $23,636,600. All relief money for Florida fishing-related businesses will be distributed by the Atlantic State Marine Fisheries Commission, working in cooperation with the FWC. FWC staff, working closely with Chairman Spottswood, developed a spend plan to mitigate the COVID-19 financial impact to the Florida fishery. After reviewing public comments, the proposed spend plan was submitted to NOAA in early August, outlining methods and budgets to provide relief to commercial aquaculturists, fishermen, and wholesale dealers, as well as licensed charter businesses. FWC has received comments from NOAA for further information and/or clarification regarding the spend plan. FWC staff are addressing these comments and submitted the final proposal in

mid-September. FWC staff are also gathering the necessary fishery-related data from each sector to prepare applications.

Oysters

Apalachicola Bay Oysters. Apalachicola Bay historically supported expansive oyster reefs and a culturally important oyster fishery. Harvest dropped dramatically in 2013 and oyster abundance continues to remain at historic lows. In early 2020, FWC was granted funds for large-scale oyster restoration and to develop an adaptive oyster management plan. At the July 2020 Commission meeting, the Commission supported restoration efforts in the Bay by approving draft rules to suspend harvest of wild oysters and prohibit on-the-water possession of tongs, and by proactively implementing these measures by Executive Order. Staff will present proposed final rules that establish these conservation measures in rule through December 2025. Staff will continue monitoring oyster recovery and can reevaluate whether harvest opportunities are available prior to December 31, 2025.

Flounder

A stock status update completed by FWC's Fish and Wildlife Research Institute found that the flounder fishery on the Atlantic coast of Florida is likely overfished and undergoing overfishing and that there has been a general decline in the fishery statewide. Staff has been gathering public input on management of this fishery and, at the July 2020 Commission meeting, the Commission approved a series of proposed draft rules intended to improve the long-term sustainability of the fishery and directed staff to continue working with stakeholders on allowable bycatch of flounder in federal waters.

Federal Consistency

Atlantic Reef Fish Hook Requirements. The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (SAFMC) recently modified hook requirements for Atlantic reef fish in federal waters as part of an effort to increase survivorship of released fish and promote best fishing practices. To be consistent, staff propose approval of a federal consistency action that would implement the same hook requirements for those harvesting reef fish on board a vessel in Atlantic state waters. This proposed rule would require the use of non-stainless-steel, non-offset circle hooks north of 28° N. latitude and require the use of non-stainless-steel hooks south of 28° N. latitude. Staff will also present current outreach and education efforts to encourage best fishing practices for reef fish, including the voluntary use of descending devices.

2. Activities Related to Artificial Reef Programs.

Florida Artificial Reef Construction

From January through September 2020, there were 57 new patch reefs created from a total of 68 artificial reef deployments state-wide that were comprised of 39 prefabricated concrete module deployments (343 modules totaling 1,153 tons), twelve secondary-use concrete material deployments (5,935 tons), two vessel/barge reefs (276 tons), and 15 limestone boulder deployments (5,469 tons). Of the 68 artificial reef deployments, 44 (65%) were funded by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) and 24 (35%) were funded by local government, non-government organizations, and private sources.

The FWC funded artificial reef construction projects were completed utilizing funds from the State of Florida Marine Resource Conservation Trust Fund, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Federal Sport Fish Restoration Program, and the Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) Early Restoration Phase III, Florida Artificial Reef Creation and Restoration Project.

Florida Artificial Reef Monitoring and Research

From January through September 2020, a total of nine artificial reef monitoring projects managed by the FWC Artificial Reef Program were completed or ongoing. Five artificial reef monitoring projects took place off the Gulf Coast and four off the Atlantic Coast. These include the following projects:

Ongoing:

- Oriskany Reef Fish PCB Monitoring Project (Northwest Florida – Gulf)
- Taylor County Volunteer Artificial Reef Monitoring Project (Central Florida – Gulf)
- Artificial Reef Fish Community Dynamics Research, USF (Central Florida – Gulf)
- St. Marks Artificial Reef Monitoring Project, FSU (Northwest Florida – Gulf)
- St. Johns River Artificial Reef Monitoring Project, JU (Northeast Florida – Atlantic)
- Economic Impact and Valuation of Southeast Florida Artificial Reefs, NOAA (Southeast Florida – Atlantic)
- Aquarius Reef Base Predatory Behavior Monitoring Project, FIU (Southeast Florida – Atlantic)
- Depredation and discard mortality of Permit Monitoring Project, FIU (Southeast Florida- Atlantic)

Completed:

- Sarasota Bay Artificial Reef Monitoring Project (Southwest Florida – Gulf)

Florida Artificial Reef Outreach

From January through September 2020, FWC Artificial Reef Program and Florida Sea Grant have been coordinating planning for the Florida Artificial Reef Summit. Originally planned for April 8-10, 2020 in Melbourne, FL, the Summit is now planned for November 4-6, and has been changed to a virtual format due to COVID-19. Held every five years, approximately 200 attendees representing local governments and other stakeholders including some artificial reef managers from other states are expected to participate. The theme of the 2020 Summit is "Bringing the Future of Florida's Artificial Reefs into Focus". Over 54 abstracts for oral and poster presentations will be presented, including marine fisheries management, impacts of natural disturbances (e.g., hurricanes & harmful algal blooms), environmental mitigation, human dimensions, socioeconomics, tourism, and regulatory policy. Florida's success and forward-thinking development of artificial reefs can be attributed to the long-standing partnerships and exchange of ideas and lessons learned that have been fostered by the Florida Artificial Reef Summit. In addition to the main virtual Summit platform, the Summit will also be broadcast live and video of each presentation to be available for viewing later on the Florida Sea Grant webpage under 'Workshops and Summits': https://www.flseagrant.org/fisheries/artificialreefs/.

3. Activities Associated with the Gulf of Mexico Crab Fisheries.

Florida's blue crab landings through 2019 suggest a continuation of landings volume below its historic average, beginning in 2000. The 2019 landings are the highest since 2012 and appear to follow the historical cycle of 5-10-year intervals of landings "lows" and "highs" (Appendix A). The complete GSMFC Crab Subcommittee State Report for Florida is attached to this report as Appendix A.

4. Activities Related to Fisheries Dependent Data Collection.

On March 25, 2020, all field work related to fisheries dependent monitoring activities was suspended in response to the emerging Covid pandemic. The following is a summary of how data collection programs were impacted in the months that followed.

Recreational Fisheries

Assignments for the MRIP access point angler intercept survey, Gulf Reef Fish Survey, and FIN Biological Sampling were cancelled entirely during April and the first half of May in response to state lock-down orders. During April and May, recreational fishing in the Florida Keys was severely restricted due to a checkpoint on Highway 1 that only allowed entry to residents, and recreational boating was restricted in Dade and Broward

Counties in an effort to control large gatherings. However, throughout the rest of the state, very high fishing pressures were recorded at sites while angler interviews were suspended. Dockside surveys resumed in mid-May during phase 1 of Florida's re-opening once personal protective equipment could be procured. New safety protocols during phase 1 included a cap of 10 angler intercepts per assignment to limit potential exposure and transmission. However, many assignments continued to be cancelled at sites that were closed, where boating activity was restricted, and at sites with very high levels of recreational fishing and boating activity where it was unsafe for staff to conduct interviews with the public. Florida's phase 2 re-opening began in early June and the interview cap was increased to 50 anglers per assignment. Phase 2 re-openings were delayed until mid-September in Southeast Florida due to higher Covid transmission rates. All interview caps were lifted in September during phase 3 of Florida's re-opening.

Surveys that monitor fishing effort continued without interruption during the pandemic. Weekly sample sizes for the MRIP For-Hire Telephone Survey were increased to 20% of charter vessels in sample frame during Wave 3, and 15% during Wave 4. Increased sampling was requested by FWC to ensure that impacts due to covid-19 on charter fishing effort in Florida could be well documented. The mail survey for the Gulf Reef Fish Survey also continued without interruption.

In July, 2020, long-term funding to continue Florida's Gulf Reef Fish Survey (GRFS) and expand it statewide was included the State budged signed by Governor DeSantis. The survey was renamed the State Reef Fish Survey (SRFS), and the mail survey questionnaire was modified to allow fishing effort to be reported along Florida's Gulf and Atlantic coasts. FWC worked with NOAA Fisheries to incorporate supplemental intercept assignments in the monthly sample draw for the MRIP APAIS. In addition to the suite of reef fish species included in the GRFS, three new reef fish species will be monitored in the statewide survey: Hogfish, Yellowtail Snapper, and Mutton Snapper. The recreational season for Red Snapper was open along the Gulf Coast of Florida June 11 through July 25. Landings in June were monitored through the GRFS and 31% of the State's annual catch limit was landed during the first 20 days of the season. The June GRFS estimate was made possible by NOAA Fisheries, who shared MRIP APAIS intercept data with FWC while they continue to address data gaps due to Covid-19 and work on a solution to generate Wave 3 estimates. The state will generate the July landings estimate through the SRFS (using identical methods to GRFS) once MRIP APAIS data are available in mid-October. In the interim, FWC provided management advice in-season by employing a predictive model that uses sample weights from angler interview data collected through supplemental SRFS intercept assignments, which project total landings before final estimates are available.

Commercial Fisheries

Since early 2017, Florida FWC has been working with Bluefin Data, along with Texas, on the development of a new web-based wholesale dealer reporting application (VESL). In Florida, VESL is now used in conjunction with a point of sale swipe card system which uses mobile devices such as smart phones and tablets along with mobile/desktop card readers and/or a barcode scanner to validate license and vessel data from the fisher's license card and initiate the electronic trip ticket for the fisher-dealer landing transaction. A state-only version of VESL has been in production since April 2019 and Florida now has 90+ dealers registered for the web-based application. The full version of VESL with the federal fields is expected to be ready for production by October 31, 2020.

Florida is also currently participating in a Gulf-wide project collecting shrimp size and weight data from commercial fishing trips for evaluating current head-on/head-off shrimp conversion factors. The original completion date for sampling on this project is by October 31, 2020. As of September 24, 2020, commercial field staff have collected 1,371 samples of the primary Gulf shrimp species in Florida. The sampling target for pink shrimp, which constitutes 85-90% of Florida Gulf shrimp landings, has been met. Difficulties in getting samples of brown and white shrimp include fewer trips for sampling opportunities, along with the primary season being late-spring-summer which was highly affected by a temporary stoppage, and then reduced sampling during this time due to COVID-19. To date, no white shrimp have been encountered, and only 116 brown shrimp samples have been collected.

The 2019 commercial landings information are complete as of July 31, 2020, and subject to revision. Preliminary commercial landings for 2020 are complete through about June. As of September 21, 2020, the number of trip ticket records received in 2020 are down about 15% from March-September as compared to the same period in 2019, and down about 18% for the first three months (March-May) since the start of COVID-19 in Florida.

During 2020, Florida FWC commercial field staff continued to conduct bio-statistical sampling for the NOAA Fisheries Trip Interview Program (TIP), though at a reduced level due to COVID-19. Staff were instructed to cease activities as of April 3rd, then resumed limited sampling as of May 4th and only with appropriate PPE equipment in place. These safety protocols have continued to date. Through August of 2020, sampling of commercial catches along the Gulf coast of Florida accounted for 391 TIP interviews, almost 16,832 fish measured, and nearly 9,019 age structures. While the number of interviews performed so far in 2020 is down 22% as compared to 2019, the number of fish measured is only down 11%. These decreases are primarily due to COVID-19. During periods of non-sampling, staff have filled their time with data entry, site monitoring, and other related tasks. TIP sampling in Florida is funded from a variety of funding sources that include: State of Florida, NOAA Fisheries, Gulf FIN and NFWF.

Southeast Headboat Survey activities supported through Gulf FIN:

Through March 2020, a total of 90 intercepts were conducted statewide in Florida with 1,636 fish sampled. Florida FWC and NOAA Fisheries halted field sampling activities in the Southeast Headboat Survey as of April 4, 2020 due to COVID-19. To date, no

further dockside sampling has taken place because of the close proximity of field staff to numerous anglers and vessel crew in limited space. During this time, staff have been given other related duties in lieu of field sampling for safety reasons.

5. Activities Related to Fisheries Independent Sampling.

   During the current reporting period, the Covid pandemic impacted ongoing fishery independent monitoring activities conducted by the state of Florida. However, Florida has subsequently been able to reinstitute several fishery independent monitoring activities. Completed activities, and summaries of Covid impacts, include:

   - Monthly, long-term estuarine monitoring in five Gulf of Mexico estuaries (Apalachicola Bay, Cedar Key, Tampa Bay and Charlotte Harbor) was suspended in April due to the Covid pandemic. Monthly sampling with 21.3-m seines and 183-m haul seines was phased back in between May and June 2020 with full sampling complement in all estuarine systems by July. Sampling with 6.1-m otter trawls was phased back in during the same time but with a bimonthly periodicity to free up funding to conduct bimonthly polyhaline seagrass monitoring.
   - Bimonthly sampling in Sarasota Bay was not conducted in April 2020 due to Covid pandemic concerns. Sampling was conducted in June and August with funding shifting from a Sarasota Bay Estuary Program grant to internal FWRI funding from October 2020 through September 2021.
   - Supplemental (June – November) polyhaline seagrass monitoring was conducted in five Gulf of Mexico estuaries (St. Andrew Bay, Apalachicola Bay, Big Bend, Tampa Bay, and Charlotte Harbor) using 6.1-m otter trawls; this effort is normally conducted monthly, but due to limitations in available funding, sampling was conducted every other month during 2020.
   - Monthly supplemental sampling in the western Panhandle (Pensacola Bay, Santa Rosa Sound, Choctawhatchee Bay, St. Andrew Bay, St. Joseph Bay) using 21.3-m seines was terminated in 2020 as continued grant funding was not available.
   - The summer SEAMAP groundfish trawl survey was not conducted due to impacts of the Covid pandemic. We do anticipate conducting a fall SEAMAP groundfish trawl using 12.8-m trawls.
   - The annual (May – October) reef fish video and habitat mapping survey was delayed due to impacts of the Covid pandemic; however, we have resumed sampling, and a complete survey was conducted using stationary-baited remote underwater video arrays and side scan sonar to survey artificial and natural reef habitats.
   - Processing of survey-related trophodynamics data in support of ecosystem-based fishery management continued.

During this period, we finalized the development of indices of abundance of video survey data for Scamp and Greater Amberjack in association with SEDAR, and compiled an index of abundance for Gray Triggerfish for an interim analysis. We have begun work in association with the upcoming Gag assessment, which will include both an index of abundance of video survey data as well as an examination of potential red tide impacts.

6. Other State Activities.

Otolith Processing

On March 9th, the FWRI Marine Fisheries Age and Growth lab started the transition into a work-at-home approach to remain on track with processing deadlines. There were varying solutions to ventilation needs required to safely use our liquid coverslip, but a mix of open-air workstations, fans, and even a portable fume hood have all been safely, and effectively utilized. Once safe areas were set up in homes, supplies and equipment were partitioned out to staff so that everyone had an entire lab setup for processing and ageing. Large batches of otoliths were split and assigned to individuals.

Processing and ageing goals are directed on a quarterly basis, but each member completes assignments in their own time and returns to the lab as needed to deliver completed work and grab new samples. Sample batches are reintegrated upon delivery at the lab. Daily progress communications are critical to ensuring there is constant productivity and Microsoft Teams has been essential. We use Teams to QA/QC ageing assignments (live camera from one person on shared desktop), conduct discussions about productivity, challenges and improvements to the offsite system, and do teambuilding activities. As we've progressed into a reopening plan, staff have transitioned to one assigned day a week in the lab embedding small otoliths (which require more chemicals and a stronger ventilation system than can be provided at home). This system works to ensure a constant supply of otoliths available for sectioning at home.

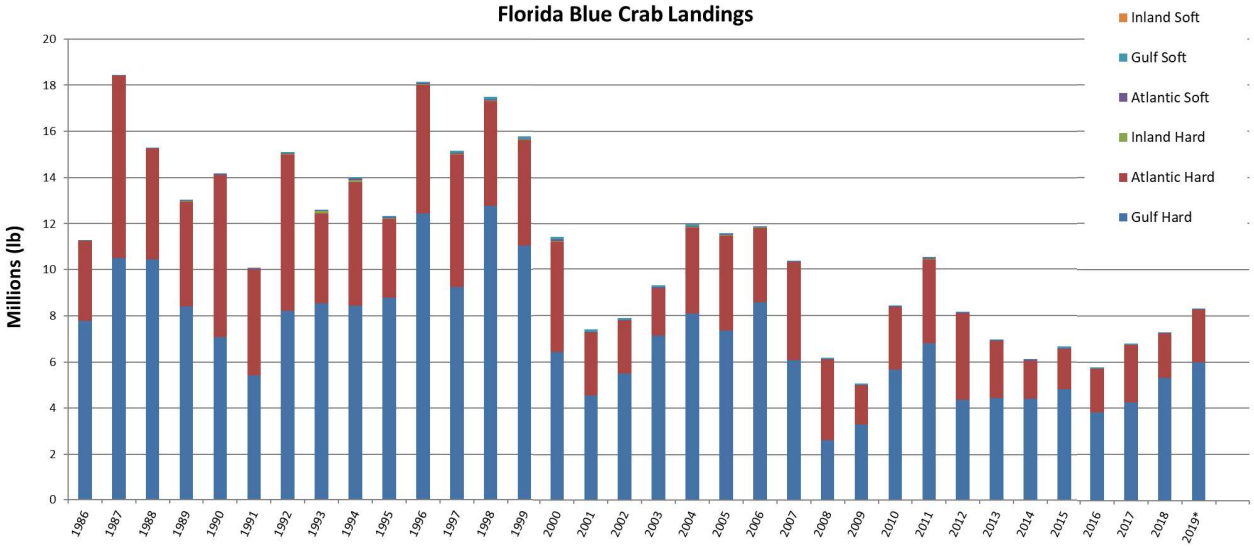
From the start of the offsite transition, the FWRI Age and Growth Lab has processed just over 12,000 and aged nearly 28,000 otoliths. We are on track to have a record ageing year, but a slight reduction in processing. We were able to successfully pivot priorities and turnaround 2019 east coast red snapper ageing for SEDAR73 in the span of a month and a half. We have met all data delivery deadlines and have provided completed ageing for 11 data requests, including multiple SEDARs. Additionally, we've been continuing to collaborate (and publish) with other agencies and universities, have participated in SEDAR68 and SEDAR73, have continued to be active with outreach planning and requests, and provide field assistance and support for our research section. The success of this transition hinges on the flexibility, problem-solving abilities and dedication of our age and growth staff. COVID-19 has been the biggest hurdle ever to cross our paths, but thanks to the hard work and diligence of this team, we've been able to take it in stride and continue moving forward.

Appendix A.

GSMFC Crab Subcommittee
Florida Report
September 2020
Claire Crowley, Ph.D. and Ryan L. Gandy, Ph. D.

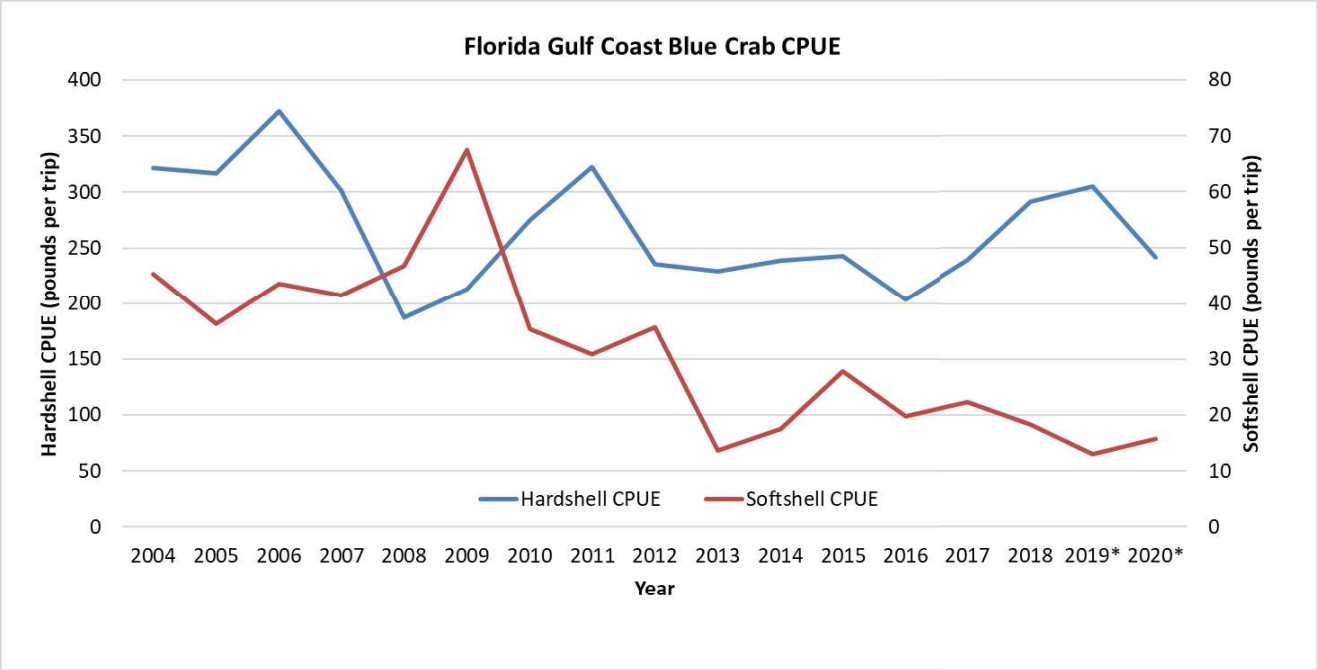
Blue Crab Landings

Florida's blue crab landings through 2019 suggest a continuation of landings volume below its historic average, beginning in 2000. The 2019 landings are the highest since 2012 and appear to follow the historical cycle of 5-10-year intervals of landings "lows" and "highs" (Figure 1). Since 2012, statewide landings have been relatively stable, hovering between 6 -8 million pounds. At the time of this report 2020 blue crab landings were very preliminary and therefore, not included. The catch per unit effort (pounds per trip) in Florida Gulf Coast landings has fluctuated for both hardshell and softshell fisheries, but remained relatively stable since 2013 (Figure 2). Florida does not collect recreational blue crab landings.



*preliminary data

Figure 1. Statewide Florida blue crab landings. Data obtained from Florida Fish and Wildlife Marine Fisheries Information System.



* preliminary data

Figure 2. Florida Gulf Coast blue crab catch per unit effort (pounds/trip). Please note that 2019 and 2020 years are preliminary. Data obtained from Florida Fish and Wildlife Marine Fisheries Information System.

Management Actions

Starting in 2020, all recreational traps used for blue crab and stone crab fishing must be registered with the state. The registration system is an online registration that generates unique tag numbers that the fisher must affix to their traps. Five unique identification numbers are generated for each trap type (blue crab or stone crab) that a registration holder indicates that they intend to fish. This will allow the state to identify gear and provide a population of recreational fishers that will be surveyed in future years to gauge the effort. At the time of this report, there were 29,113 recreational blue crab trap registration holders and 23,530 recreation stone crab trap registration holders.

Petition for use of Terrapin Excluder Devices (TEDs)

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) was petitioned by the Center for Biological Diversity, Florida Turtle Conservation Trust, and Diamondback Terrapin Working Group in January of 2020 to protect Diamondback Terrapins (*Malaclemys terrapin*) from mortality in blue crab pots. The FWC Division of Marine Fisheries Management (DMFM) has reviewed the petition and is conducting stakeholder workshops to present potential rule changes that would to reduce possession limits and require the use of bycatch reduction devices (BRDs) in commercial and recreational blue crab traps. If the DMFM decides to move forward with rulemaking changes it will be presented to the commission in December 2020.

Alabama State Report
Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission's
Fall 2020 – Online meeting

Emerging Issues Pertinent to Gulf of Mexico Fisheries.

1. Regulatory

The Reef Fish Endorsement was promulgated by the Commissioner of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources last year. The Reef Fish Endorsement will be required for any person possessing, taking or attempting to take any gulf reef fish species listed in Rule 220-3-.46 including all triggerfish, snapper, grouper, tilefish, jacks (includes banded rudderfish but not crevalle jack) wrasses and hogfish. This endorsement is required for all resident and non-resident anglers 16 years of age and older, and includes disabled, veteran's appreciation, 65 and older, lifetime license holders, pier licenses, annual saltwater licenses, trip licenses, commercial fishermen, and charter boats. Nearly 24,000 Reef Fish Endorsements were sold to recreational anglers and 220 and 34 endorsements were associated with charter and commercial vessels, respectively during the first year of the endorsement requirement. The sale of the endorsement will provide a database of addresses/contact information of anglers who target reef fish from which specialized surveys to determine fishing behavior and spending for reef fish fishing activities may be conducted. In addition, the revenue collected from the sale of the endorsement will be used to support future fishery-dependent and -independent sampling activities related to reef fish management.

To help take the guesswork out of purchasing licenses, the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources now offers packages that cover all of the necessary license requirements needed when hunting or fishing the state's abundant opportunities for freshwater and saltwater species. All packages are available in both a resident and non-resident packages.

Activities Related to Artificial Reef Programs.

Phase II of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Alabama Artificial Reef and Habitat Enhancement Project continues to provide funding for reef fish habitat enhancement and monitoring projects in the inshore, nearshore, and offshore waters of Alabama.

The Alabama Marine Resources Division (AMRD) continues to coordinate with BOEM, USACE, and NMFS for authorization to designate approximately 110 square miles of water bottoms as artificial reef zones. A $742,724.42 contract to perform a Phase I cultural resource survey of the proposed water bottoms has been executed and the remote-sensing data collection component is expected to be completed by November 1, 2020, a formal consultation with NMFS is likely to be initiated to evaluate the project's impact on threatened and endangered species.

Approximately 48 square miles between 6 and 10 miles offshore of Baldwin County, approximately 62 square miles between 10 and 20 miles offshore of Mobile County, and four reef sites in Mobile Bay will be enhanced with reef structures to provide habitat for various estuarine and marine reef-associated finfish after federal regulatory requirements are satisfied.

Three circalittoral reef zones offshore of Baldwin County beaches were enhanced with 327 anchored reef modules. A $1,140,000 contract to build, transport, and install the shallow-water, anchored reef modules was executed, and construction was completed in July 2020. The shallow-water reef modules will provide habitat for a wide range of shallow-water reef associated finfish such as Sheepshead, Gray Snapper and flounder.

Activities Associated with the Gulf of Mexico Crab Fisheries.

No derelict trap collection program is scheduled, but AMRD will continue to monitor the number of derelict traps.

Activities Related to Fisheries Dependent Data Collection.

1. APAIS

AMRD continued the collection of dockside Access Point Angler Intercept Survey (APAIS) interviews and validation of charter vessel activity. From January 1, 2020 through August 31, 2020, AMRD samplers completed a total of 264 out of 361 APAIS assignments and out of the completed assignments, 2,260 anglers were interviewed. During the reporting period, a total of 97 of 361 (27%) scheduled assignments were cancelled in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. These cancellations mainly occurred between March and April. Intermittent outbreaks of COVID-19 occurred when sampling resumed in May which resulted in some scheduled assignments being cancelled. Semi-annual training and fish tests were given to APAIS staff in February and August.

2. Biological sampling

AMRD continued operation of the Biological Sampling Program for the collection of otoliths from recreationally harvested marine finfish. Samples were not collected during the last two months of the previous grant cycle (Jan-Feb 2020) due to a lack of funds available at the end of 18-month budget period. Sampling resumed on March 1 with the start of the next funding cycle. From March 1, 2020 through August 31, 2020, a total of 791 sets of otoliths with 57 additional length measurements representing 12 out of 13 primary target species were collected by AMRD's staff. The COVID-19 pandemic impacted biological sampling activities during the

months of March and April resulting in 24 cancelled assignments and a reduction in hard parts collected especially for seasonally caught finfish such as Gray Triggerfish.

3. Snapper Check

Private recreational red snapper landings from Snapper Check through August 31 of the 2020 season was 948,688 lbs. while landings for state charter anglers was 45,404 lbs. Approximately 128,500 lbs. remain in the 2020 quota and a three-day extension is planned for Oct. 10-12. A total of 6,646 vessel landing reports were submitted by private recreational anglers and 537 landing reports were submitted by representatives on state-licensed vessels. Although samplers used caution while conducting sampling activities during COVID-19, over 1,100 Red Snapper from private recreational vessels were weighed from 272 vessels through August 31. An estimated 37.1% of private recreational vessel trips landing Red Snapper in Alabama were reported through Snapper Check. Beginning in 2021, recreational anglers landing Gray Triggerfish or Greater Amberjack in Alabama must report their catches through Snapper Check. Nearly 24,000 Reef Fish Endorsements were sold during the first year. The sale of the endorsement will provide a database of addresses/contact information of anglers who target reef fish from which specialized surveys to determine fishing behavior and spending for reef fish may be conducted. In addition, the revenue collected from the sale of the endorsement will be used to support future fishery-dependent and -independent activities related to reef fish management. Snapper Check continued into October with an extension of the Red Snapper season.

4. Shrimp conversion

The AMRD is participating in a project with the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission (GSMFC), other Gulf States, and federal partners to validate commercial conversion factors of processed brown and white shrimp. Samples were collected from Alabama seafood dealers during the report period and data analysis should be completed by December 2020.

Activities Related to Fisheries Independent Sampling.

1. Shellfish

AMRD biologists continue to monitor oyster densities on Alabama's public oyster reefs. From May 28, 2020 through August 11, 2020, a total of 230 SCUBA quadrat samples were collected and processed. Samples were collected from reefs that were planted with cultch between 2013 through 2016 and from non-planted reefs for comparison. Low densities of legal-sized oyster were observed on many of the reefs surveyed though the density of legal-sized oysters increased slightly compared to the 2019 quadrat survey. The densities of oyster spat and sublegal oysters were lower in 2020 than in the 2019 quadrat survey results. The lower spat and sublegal oyster densities are most likely due to extended periods of low salinity caused by fresh water from high rainfall flowing over the main reefs in the spring of 2020. From February 12, 2020 through May 8, 2020 the lower Mobile Bay reefs had 73 days below 5

ppt. There was also a 24-day low dissolved oxygen (<4 mg/L) event between June 19, 2020 and July 13, 2020. Oyster drills were present in quadrat samples but not in high abundance possibly due to the extended fresh water in the spring. Prior to Hurricane Sally, data analysis showed that several areas in the Heron Bay, Cedar Point West, and Cedar Point East management zones had higher densities of legal-sized oysters from previous years. Public reefs were sampled with a hand dredge within two weeks after Hurricane Sally made landfall and samples indicated there was little loss of adult oysters. The 2020 oyster season was to open October 12th. Commercial oyster reef harvest results will be included in the update for spring 2021.

The AMRD obtained Natural Resources Disaster Assessment (NRDA) funding for the construction of an Eastern oyster hatchery and remote larval setting facilities. Construction should begin in spring of 2021 with oyster spat production anticipated spring of 2022.

2. SEAMAP

Spring and summer activities were completed for bottom long line and vertical line surveys. The summer trawl cruise was cancelled due to logistics associated with COVID-19. Staff from Alabama and Mississippi have worked together and completed fall trawl sampling October 1-5 from the Mississippi River to Panama City in an effort to maximize the use of funding. Trawl scientists have participated in an invertebrate identification webinar series (Aug-Sep), in lieu of attending a workshop. Fall bottom longline sampling in waters less than ten meters in depth was completed at three stations during September. Catches across all seasons were comprised of twelve species with Atlantic Sharpnose Shark being the most abundant. Vertical line summer sampling completed 29 stations; catches comprised of seven species totaling 91 fish with Gray Triggerfish and Red Porgy being the next most abundant species after Red Snapper. The AMRD scheduled the Fall SEAMAP ichthyoplankton survey off Alabama for September 2, 2020 but due to the COVID-19 pandemic, NOAA cancelled all ichthyoplankton cruises.

3. Inshore Gillnet

From August 2019-July 2020 gillnet sampling was conducted each month using small mesh perpendicular sets ranging with mesh from 2-4 inches, and large mesh parallel sets ranging with mesh from 4.5-6 inches. A total of 232 hour-long sets were completed with a total of 51 different species sampled comprising 10,411 observed individuals. Weather issues and protected species interaction issues prevented us from completing the full 240 sets normally conducted within a year. Nearly 1,200 otoliths were collected from captured individuals and measurements of corresponding length, weight, sex, and gonads weight were taken. A total of 25 thirty-minute gillnets were set randomly before or after standard hour-long sets to determine the effect on catch rates and whether the sampling protocol can be modified to accommodate shorter net sets. Whole specimens of gilled/wedged Gulf Menhaden were collected at 10 individuals/mesh/month in order to age them through scales by trained staff members.

Species	Caught	Otolith	CPUE
Spotted Seatrout	268	252	1.155
Striped Mullet	261	213	1.125
White Mullet	502	228	2.164
Sheepshead	15*	17*	0.065
Gulf Flounder	0*	2*	0
So. Flounder	3*	10*	0.013
Red Drum	40	31	0.172
Atl. Croaker	372	152	1.603
So. Kingfish	24	22	0.103
Spanish Mackerel	181	140	0.78
Black Drum	34*	39*	0.147
Gulf Menhaden	5501	0	23.711
Red Snapper	0	0	0
Sand Seatrout	78	78	0.336
Lane Snapper	0	3	0
Gray Snapper	8	6	0.034
Bluefish	2	1	0.009
Cobia	1	1	0.004
Tripletail	1	1	0.004
Fl. Pompano	5	3	0.022
Total	**7296**	**1199**	

Combined catch from AMRD fishery independent gillnets in FY2019, 116 small mesh (2"-4") sets and 116 large mesh (4.5"-6") sets. **Additional otolith samples collected from fishery-independent trawls.*

Other State Activities.

1. Mariculture

Stock enhancement efforts continued at the Claude Peteet Mariculture Center (CPMC). Approximately 10,300 Florida Pompano (*Trachinotus carolinus*) and 58,400 Spotted Seatrout (*Cynoscion nebulosus*) were released into coastal Alabama waters between April 1st – September 30th. Although staffing of the hatchery was impacted by Covid-19, most operations were still able to take place. An additional thirty-five Southern Flounder (*Paralichthys lethostigma*) broodstock were collected from a local fishing tournament and a jubilee event. Spawning activities for Southern Flounder will resume in December of 2020.

In addition to fish culture activities, the CPMC staff completed the renovation of broodstock rearing systems. The intent was to use these systems to increase broodstock maturation capabilities to improve the chance of spawning success. Unfortunately, Hurricane Sally destroyed the greenhouse structure housing the systems, rendering them unusable for the time being.

2. Boating Access
The AMRD has plans to improve the parking area at Delta Port boat launch in Fiscal Year 2021 to maximize available space for parking. In addition, the boating access facilities at Little Billy Goat Hole boat ramp on Dauphin Island and the boat ramp at the Bayou La Batre State Docks will be improved in FY2021.

3. Outreach
The AMRD Fisheries section was able to conduct one outreach event during the report period. Typically, during this time period five outreach events are conducted including Delta's Woods and Water Expo and Gulf State Park's Shark Week. However due to the COVID-19 pandemic, these events were canceled. The Alabama Seafood Marketing Program continued with public relations, television commercials, print ads and articles, radio ads, billboards, distribution of marketing materials and sponsorships of events. The marketing program's website is www.eatalabamaseafood.com.

4. Enforcement
From February 2020 through August 2020, AMRD enforcement officers conducted 1,192 commercial fishermen intercepts, 9,056 recreational fishermen intercepts, 700 seafood dealer and processor inspections, 8,239 hours of patrol (combined vessel patrol and shore patrol) and boarded 2,928 vessels.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Enforcement Section's participation in outreach events has been greatly reduced. The Enforcement Section has managed to participate in two live outreach events during this time, both were quite successful considering the circumstances.

In May 2020, the Enforcement Section received final approval to move ahead with implementing the expansion of the Coastal Remote Monitoring System that was partially paid for with Port Security Grant 2018 funding, totaling more than $313,000. This expansion will update and expand the capabilities of the current system, a network of video cameras throughout coastal Alabama. Several new camera locations as well as higher resolution cameras along with a more robust communications system will be coupled with a much larger storage capacity that provides a much higher quality video as well as the ability to store the video archives longer. The construction and additions to the current system under this phase of enhancement were completed in August 2020.

The Enforcement Section, along with the Fisheries Section, was awarded a grant that will be used for both monitoring and protecting marine mammals and marine turtles. This grant will provide specialized monitoring equipment to monitor turtle nesting areas and established nesting sites. Along with turtle nesting and protection, the grant provides funding to educate the public about marine mammal interactions with people and to help enforce current laws related to this interaction. The award will provide remote cameras that are solar/battery-powered that feed into

our existing monitoring system. These cameras will help track turtle movement and also monitor known nesting sites. Also, the grant provides funding for personnel and equipment to enhance public education on both marine mammals and marine turtles.

Derelict Trap Retrieval Program

The trap retrieval program continues to operate on the Gulf Coast during odd numbered years, and the Atlantic coast during even numbered years. Prior to derelict trap collection regions are closed to all trap fishing and all “actively fished” traps must be removed by recreational and commercial fishers. It is common for trap closures to be cancelled to alleviate economic hardships associated with hurricanes, red tides, or lack of derelict gear present. In 2019, 685 blue crab traps were collected along the Gulf Coast of Florida and through Broward county. The ratio of commercial to recreational traps was unavailable.

Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission
Technical Coordinating Committee
Mississippi State Report (January1, 2020 – June 30, 2020)

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1. Emerging Issues Pertinent to Gulf of Mexico Fisheries

Bonnet Carré Spillway Opening

The Bonnet Carré Spillway, located in Norco, Louisiana, is used to divert flood waters of the Mississippi River through Lake Pontchartrain and Lake Borgne into the Mississippi Sound. The US Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) operates the spillway when river flows at New Orleans are at 1.25 million cubic feet per second. The USACE opened the spillway on April 3, 2020 through May 1, 2020.

In May of 2020, the United States Secretary of Commerce allocated $21,311,804 in fishery disaster funding to Mississippi to help businesses and individuals recover from the unprecedented freshwater flooding caused by the 2019 opening of the spillway. Spending plans for these funds are currently in development.

Oyster Impacts

As a result of the 2019 spillway openings, the oyster resources in the western Mississippi Sound experienced near 100% mortality, which was followed by little to no recruitment of spat to aid in the recovery of the oyster resources. Subsequent efforts by Shellfish Bureau (SB) staff to collect oyster samples to monitor the effects and recovery of oysters affected by the 2020 opening of the Bonnet Carré Spillway were minimized, since the resource had not shown many positive indications of recovery. Oysters were sampled across all major reefs in the Mississippi Sound. Traditionally oyster samples are collected through two methods: square meter dive and one-minute dredge tows. Due to the early season spillway opening and colder water temperatures throughout the Mississippi Sound, square meter dive samples could not be collected until later in the year. In April and June, Staff collected 21 one-minute dredge tow samples and analyzed the data to track oyster mortality, condition, and recruitment. Overall, the oyster resources in the western Mississippi Sound indicated no new recruitment of spat while experiencing additional mortality at a rate of between 75-90% mortality across all size classes of remaining oysters. Oyster mortality in the eastern Mississippi Sound was observed to be within the range of what would be considered normal, natural mortality. Some new recruitment of spat was observed in the samples collected from the eastern Mississippi Sound; however, recruitment was minimal.

Shrimp and Crab Impacts

In response to the 2020 openings of the Bonnet Carré Spillway, Shrimp and Crab Bureau (SCB) staff completed 29 trawl samples and 32 hydrological condition samples in the western Mississippi Sound from April to May. These data are important in monitoring potential short-

term trends in abundance during and immediately following spillway operation. Hydrological data including salinity, temperature, turbidity, and dissolved oxygen were collected at the surface and bottom at each station during each sampling event.

COVID-19

The emergence of a global pandemic in the Spring of 2020 negatively affected multiple stakeholders of Mississippi's marine fisheries. The Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act appropriates $1,520,087 to fisheries participants suffering economic losses greater than 35% compared to the previous five-year average. MDMR is currently developing a spending plan for these funds.

2. Activities Related to Artificial Reef Programs

The Artificial Reef Bureau (ARB) continued monthly monitoring of fish assemblages and physiochemical parameters at selected inshore reef sites. ARB staff collaborated with the Mississippi Gulf Fishing Banks to monitor artificial reefs via roving SCUBA diver surveys. Divers conducted 12 surveys January through June 2020. In conjunction with the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission (GSMFC), the third annual Jimmy Sanders' Memorial Lionfish Challenge began May 1, 2020 and will run through December 1, 2020. Biological data as well as harvest location are collected for each fish.

ARB staff continued efforts to renew permits for all nearshore artificial reefs, keys, and the Cat Island artificial reef zone.

3. Activities Associated with the Gulf of Mexico Crab Fisheries

Escape Rings and TED's

Utilizing NOAA Fishery Disaster funds from the 2011 opening of the Bonnet Carré Spillway, the MDMR has been able to provide 71,984 crab trap escape rings and 7,216 terrapin excluder devices (TED's) at no cost to resident crab fishermen. Two thousand forty-two escape rings and 144 TED's were distributed between January and June 2020.

Terrapin Interactions

Staff continued to manage the Terrapin Reporting App program through March 31, 2020 when the program was completed. The app was used to collect information from the commercial Blue Crab fishery on observations of diamondback terrapins. The program included 34 participating commercial crab fishermen who provided data to MDMR staff through a mobile app on number of traps fished, fishing location, soak time, and if terrapins were observed. Approximately 576 reports were submitted by participants from January to March 2020 and approximately 6,048 reports were submitted since the project began in October 2017.

Red Drum Stomach Content Analysis

The SBC has been analyzing stomach contents of Red Drum to better understand the percentage of their diet that consists of Blue Crab. This project provides data on the current foraging habits by size class, habitat type and time of year. To date, a total of 699 Red Drum have been sampled and processed (length, weight, sex, and age). Stomach content analysis has been performed on 483 Red Drum, ranging in size from 199 - 1126 mm total length (TL). Of the stomachs examined, 372 (77.0%) contained prey items that were identifiable to the lowest possible taxa. The stomach contents of all size classes (juvenile n = 125, sub-adult n = 108, adult n = 139) consisted primarily of fishes and decapod crustaceans. A very small number of gastropods, mollusks, and echinoderms were identified but not included in the analysis as they were considered subsidiary forage items. This project is currently in the final analysis and reporting phase, and MDMR staff plans to complete the project by December 2020.

4. Activities Related to Fisheries Dependent Sampling

MRIP

The Finfish Bureau (FB) continued to oversee the Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) in Mississippi. A total of 182 assignments and 918 surveys were completed January through June 2020 in Jackson, Harrison, and Hancock Counties. Survey site validations were conducted at all active sites to update the site registry for 2020 as state-wide site effort estimates continue to be refined and edited to better reflect the most recent and updated charter for-hire license database. This will allow FB staff to develop a more comprehensive and accurate active vessel frame to estimate for-hire effort more precisely.

Trip Tickets

FB collected commercial landings data from processors, dealers and fishermen utilizing the Mississippi Trip Ticket program. This data allows management of the resource and effective monitoring of the quota on Red Drum, Spotted Seatrout, and Southern Flounder. From January through June 2020, there were 2,507 paper and electronic trip tickets submitted. Mississippi currently has 278 active commercial fishermen and 58 dealers participating in the trip ticket program. The current number of commercial fishermen selling their own catch using a Fresh Product Permit and participating in the trip ticket program is 49. The FB is continuing to work with BlueFin Data developing the electronic trip ticket reporting application known as VESL. Currently, a beta version is being tested by select dealers. A final version is expected to be available by the end of 2020.

Age and Growth

The FB collected and processed 94 otoliths as part of the MDMR biological sampling program from eight species: Gray Snapper, Red Snapper, Sand Seatrout, Spotted Seatrout, Southern Kingfish, Sheepshead, Striped Mullet, and Southern Flounder.

Tails 'n' Scales

Mississippi's recreational Red Snapper electronic reporting system, Tails n' Scales was updated for use in the 2020 season. Under amendment 50c passed by the Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Management Council, Mississippi managed the 2020 recreational Red Snapper season in state and federal waters. The state charter for-hire and private recreational components were managed together this year with a season opening date of May 22nd. The federal for-hire season was 62 days, although vessels with federal reef fish permits were not included under amendment 50c. Mississippi's total annual quota is 151,584 pounds for both the private recreational and state charter for-hire components.

5. Activities Related to Fisheries Independent Sampling

Finfish Sampling

Long-term fishery independent sampling continued in conjunction with the NOAA Project "Monitoring and Assessment of Mississippi's Interjurisdictional Marine Resources". The FB completed 56 gill nets at ten stations to collect finfish species for subsequent age and growth analysis as well as other biological data. A total of 280 otoliths were collected from January through June 2020 and samples were collected from ten different species: Gray Snapper, Black

Drum, Red Drum, Sand Seatrout, Spotted Seatrout, Southern Kingfish, Striped Mullet, Sheepshead, Spanish Mackerel, and Southern Flounder.

Through a project funded by the USFWS Sport Fish Restoration Program, the FB analyzed data from ten pop-up satellite tags that were deployed on Atlantic Tripletail in the fall of 2019. Data analyzed included fish movements, water temperature and depth usage for each satellite tag deployment.

The Fyke Net sampling program, used to target Southern Flounder, resumed in May 2020 and will continue through November. Traps were set and retrieved from three stations (Deer Island, Belle Fontaine Beach, and Davis Bayou). A total of eight sampling events occurred within the timeframe, and 18 Southern Flounder were collected. Other species observed in the traps include Blue Crab, Hardhead Catfish, Red Drum, Spotted Seatrout, Atlantic Croaker, Black Drum, Spot, Southern Kingfish, Atlantic Spadefish, Gray Snapper, Sheepshead, Striped Mullet, and Atlantic Stingray.

The FB, in conjunction with the Gulf Coast Research Lab (GCRL), is currently in year five of sampling for the NFWF Reef Fish project. Due to impacts from COVID-19, both entities were forced to engage in limited sampling efforts throughout the timeframe. From March through June, 34 sites were sampled by MDMR and 18 sites were sampled by GCRL for a total of 52 sites.

Shrimp and Crab Sampling

The SCB continued to conduct monthly fishery independent trawl sampling under the project "Monitoring and Assessment of Mississippi's Interjurisdictional Marine Resources". This sampling program includes six fixed stations located along a transect from western Horn Island to Bernard Bayou, and eight fixed stations in the western Mississippi Sound from Gulfport to Heron Bay. A total of 84 trawls were completed from January to June 2020.

The SCB continued fishery independent trap surveys for Blue Crabs within the three major bay systems – St. Louis Bay, Biloxi Bay, and the lower Pascagoula River. Each bay system was sampled monthly from January to June 2020 for a total of 18 sample sets. This program, which began in 2015, provides data on CPUE, sex composition, abundance of Blue Crabs, and bycatch composition.

Shellfish Sampling

The Shellfish Bureau conducted an annual oyster stock assessment of 14 reef complexes located in the Mississippi Sound between the mouth of the Pearl River and the Pascagoula River. Reef assessments help to determining a sustainable harvest, monitor predation and disease, calculate mortalities and recruitment, record environmental conditions including

hydrology and bottom type, and determine where and how to focus future restoration efforts. Square meter dive samples are employed to provide a quantitative assessment of each reef across the entire spectrum of oysters' sizes to achieve the assessment goals. Random points were selected for each reef based on reef size and reef density variations. A total of 98 sampling locations were created with 2 replicate dives performed at each location for a total of 196 square meter samples across the 14 reefs. Data is currently being analyzed for the 2020 oyster reef assessment.

6. Other State Activities

State Records for Recreational Fishing

A total of 11 recreational fishing records were approved as state records between January 1 and June 30, 2020. An all tackle category was added and had five approved record submissions: Red Hind (spear), Spanish Hogfish (spear), African Pompano (spear), Ocean Triggerfish (spear), Highfin Goby (castnet). There were four Conventional Tackle approved record submissions: Knobbed Porgy, Spanish Flag, Yellowfin Tuna, Ladyfish. There were also two Youth Records approved during the timeframe: Vermilion Snapper and Spotted Seatrout.

Shrimp Studies

The SCB participated in a GSMFC funded research project to develop more accurate weight conversions for commercially important shrimp species. The project included procuring samples from the shrimp industry, collecting head-on, head-off, and pealed/deveined weights and lengths and determined conversion factors by species and count size. SCB staff processed a total of 1,046 shrimp. Sample collection continued through June 2020, and the project is planned to be completed by December 2020.

Shrimp Inspections and Permits

The SCB manages the live bait shrimp licensing program. Inspections and technical assistance were provided, as needed, to the 10 licensed dealers across Mississippi's three coastal counties. The SCB also manages the MDMR Special Permitting program which includes Scientific Research Permits, Brood Stock Permits, Non-profit Harvesters Permits, and Experimental Gear Permits. SCB staff issued 25 Special Permits from January to June 2020.

Oyster Aquaculture

The MDMR began training the third class of Off-Bottom Oyster Aquaculture Program (OBOA) in 2020. The class teaches potential and current commercial oyster farmers the basics of off-bottom oyster aquaculture. Topics in the course include oyster biology, hatchery basics, nursery options, seed handling, farm site selection, overview of off-bottom culture gear, methods to control fouling, splitting, and grading, business planning, risk management, permitting, public health considerations and marketing. Twenty-two participants are currently enrolled in the program and approximately 250,000 oysters are being grown through the program. Private lease applications are currently being submitted to Mississippi's Secretary of State for approval. Twenty-six participants from the first and second OBOA class have signed Public Trust Tidelands Sub-leases for a total of 55 acres leased inside the MDMR Commercial Aquaculture Parks. Commercial operations harvested approximately 430,000 oysters in 2019 and 2020.

Shellfish Management

The goal of the shellfish sanitation and compliance program is centered on monitoring fecal coliform indicator organism levels within shellfish growing waters. Routine sampling of shellfish growing waters and investigative sampling of consistent fecal coliform hotspots help minimize the risk of seafood borne illnesses and aid in determining sources of pollution along the coast. SB staff and an FDA certified lab work within the guidelines of the National Shellfish Sanitation Program Model Ordinance, to meet this goal. A database of all lab analyses is maintained and used during annual evaluations of all shellfish growing waters in Mississippi as required by this same document. From January 1 to June 30, 2020, 392 routine samples, two hatchery samples, and 75 investigative samples were collected. The Mississippi Coast is split into eight different growing water areas. Each area is sampled once a month throughout the year. The state-run aquaculture hatchery, located adjacent to the Gulfport Harbor, also collects samples to determine how fecal coliform levels affect oyster settling. Investigative sampling occurs at a location that has a history of high fecal coliform levels and not open to shellfish harvest. SB staff take samples at multiple sites several times during a 12-hour period. This sampling is conducted to determine where the pollution source is located and how the polluted water moves in relation to the oyster resource location.

Seafood Technology Bureau

The Seafood Technology Bureau (STB) conducted a total of 179 inspections (routine, follow-up, and certification inspections). A total of 59 sanitation and Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) deficiencies were cited. The required bi-annual water quality sampling for seafood processing facilities for March was completed with a total of 40 samples taken.

All interstate and intrastate oyster shipping/processing operations were re-certified except for one facility. This was due to travel restrictions per the coronavirus (COVID-19). FDA extended

certification for the facility to April 2021. On-site inspection will be conducted when possible. Staff distributed over 200 personal protective equipment (masks) to the seafood industry.

The STB originally planned to host five HACCP workshops and two Sanitation Control Procedures (SCP) workshops in 2020. As of June, only one class was completed with 15 participants. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, several workshops had to be cancelled (one HACCP and one SCP).

Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission
Technical Coordinating Committee
2020 Louisiana Fall State Report

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Emerging Issues Pertinent to Gulf of Mexico Fisheries

COVID-19 / CARES Act

The World Health Organization (WHO) declared COVID-19 a pandemic on March 11, 2020. COVID-19 directly affected the United States (US) economy due to Stay at Home orders and the closing of all nonessential businesses. The US government acted quickly to assist the public when Congress passed the CARES Act and it was signed into law by President Trump n March 27, 2020. The CARES Act was an over $2 trillion economic relief package that contained $300 million for the US Secretary of Commerce to provide to affected fishery participants. Louisiana is to receive a total of $14,785,244 in economic assistance for eligible fishery participants. The GSMFC will administer economic assistance to the eligible participants in LA through direct payments based on the approved LA Spending Plan.

Oyster Lease Moratorium

The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission (LWFC) has approved a notice of intent for lifting the oyster lease moratorium. This public comment period has passed and the new regulations have been ratified. Currently, LDWF is coordinating with the Office of State Lands (OSL) and the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) to work through Phase 0 oyster lease applications which is expected to conclude in the third quarter of 2021.

Activities Related to Artificial Reef Programs

Offshore

LDWF's Artificial Reef Program continues to assess and permit reef deployments related to offshore oil and gas structures. The Program has accepted four new structures. There are 38 structures permitted for deployment as permanent artificial reefs, and one new reef site has been recently proposed. Permitting of an additional 4 structures is currently underway. The Program also has a permit to reef a vessel in its Main Pass 300 Reef.

Multi-beam surveying of the Program's offshore reefs is ongoing (annually) and is available on the Program's website. The Program has completed two pilot projects using remotely-operated vehicle (ROV) surveys to sample offshore reefs and is developing plans to create a comprehensive biological monitoring Program for these reefs.

Inshore

LDWF's Artificial Reef Program surveyed and accepted four new inshore artificial reefs that were completed through a cooperative endeavor agreement with the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation. The new reefs are located in the Biloxi Marsh area and were created using a combination of shell, limestone, and reef-ball materials. Two reef sites, Point Mast and Bird Island, were enhanced using 4,000 tons of limestone each and utilized NRDA Recreational Use funds to complete the project. The Program continues to hold a permit to enhance the Independence Island artificial reef site with 15,000 tons of material through NRDA Recreational Use Restoration funding.

Nearshore
LDWF's Artificial Reef Program enhanced the Ship Shoal 26 (the Pickets) reef site using 8,000 tons of limestone. The Grand Isle 9 reef is permitted and under contract. Ship Shoal 26 and Grand Isle 9 will be completed using Recreational Use Restoration funding. The Program is finalizing the acceptance of four new nearshore reefs: The Ship Shoal 94 and 108 and Vermilion 119 and 124 reefs were deployed with funding from the Artificial Reef Fund. Vermilion 119 and 124 were done in partnership with Coastal Conservation Association of Louisiana. The Program reached an agreement with CCA to enhance one existing reef and create two new reefs.

Monitoring
Through funds provided by the Louisiana Restoration Area Trustee Implementation Group, LDWF continued the monitoring of all completed inshore and nearshore artificial reef enhancement sites. This is part of a 5-year plan to assess the success of artificial reefs enhanced in an effort to mitigate for recreational use opportunities lost during the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill. Monitoring efforts include the study of the aquatic organisms utilizing the reef enhancement sites via the use of gillnetting, rod and reel sampling, and benthic tray observations, as well as observations of recreational users. Together, those efforts are intended to provide insight into the overall biological health of the reef enhancement sites as well as insight into whether those sites are providing enhanced recreational opportunities to the public.

Activities Associated with the Gulf of Mexico Crab Fisheries

Policy and Regulations

After the completion of the 2016 Louisiana blue crab stock assessment, the Louisiana blue crab stock was identified as overfished. This information, along with management options, were presented to the LWFC who set in rule a three-year plan that would reduce the overall harvest of blue crab in state waters and temporarily reduce harvest pressure. During these three years (2017-2019), monthly closures or a temporary ban on female blue crab took place. The most recent (2019) Louisiana blue crab stock assessment indicated that the Louisiana blue crab stock was not identified as overfished nor experiencing overfishing. Due to the improvement in stock status, no additional regulations were implemented during the 2020 harvest year.

Derelict Crab Trap Program

During the defined 2020 derelict crab trap cleanup areas, the LDWF, contractors, and volunteers successfully removed nearly 4,188 traps across Louisiana's coast. The two Pontchartrain cleanup areas netted a total of 3,387, which was the largest number of traps removed from any one basin. These high numbers come from a successful and ongoing partnership with the Pontchartrain Conservancy, who is contracted by LDWF to remove traps from within the Pontchartrain Basin. Cleanup results in the Vermilion-Tech and Terrebonne Basins netted 171 and 110 traps, respectively. A volunteer day was held during the Barataria

and Calcasieu Basin cleanup events. During the Barataria volunteer day, the event hosted nearly 50 individuals and nine vessels, which resulted in the removal of 362 traps. The Calcasieu volunteer event had around 40 individuals and eight vessels. The team of volunteers and LDWF staff were able to remove nearly 160 traps, which was extremely impressive for an area that was comprised of open water.

Sustainability

In December 2019, the Louisiana blue crab commercial trap fishery underwent the third surveillance audit against the Audubon Nature Institute's Gulf United for Lasting Fisheries Responsible Fisheries Management Standard v1.2. During this audit, the two remaining non-conformances were closed and the Louisiana blue crab commercial trap fishery was granted continued certification in the January 2020 final assessment.

In June 2020, the Louisiana blue crab commercial trap fishery underwent the second surveillance audit against the Marine Stewardship Council Management Standard v2.0. During this audit the final remaining non-conformance was recommended to be closed. The final assessment report should be complete in July 2020.

Stock Assessments

No formal stock assessment was completed for the Louisiana blue crab stock in 2020. Blue crab indices of abundance and model estimates were developed to assist with the two sustainability certification audits. Indices for adult and juvenile blue crab decreased slightly, while young of the year saw an increase. Model estimates indicated that the Louisiana blue crab is not overfished or experiencing overfishing.

Landings

Blue crab landings from January – June in 2020 totaled 14.6 million pounds with a dockside value of approximately $28.8 million. Landings in 2020 showed a decrease of nearly 15% when compared to the five-year average (2019-2015), while the 2020 dockside value increased by 3.5 percent. Landings in four years out of the five-year average were above 16 million pounds (2015-2018), while 2019 had landings slightly above 15 million pounds. The reduction in 2019 landings were primarily due to the historic flooding events that took place during the first 7 months of 2019. Blue crab landings in 2020 were even less than those in 2019, which is likely related to the global pandemic, COVID-19. COVID-19 has caused a direct negative affect on the Louisiana blue crab industry by reducing the market need for fresh, frozen, or canned blue crab products due to restaurant closures and limited supplies at grocery stores.

While COVID-19 negatively affected blue crab landings, it drove the prices for blue crab up. This can be seen when comparing the dockside value or price per pound. As mentioned above, the overall 2020 dockside value increased by 3.5 percent compared to the five-year average, while the price per pound increased by 17 percent. The $1.97 average price per pound from January – June 2020 is the highest price per pound observed over this time period during the six-year time frame (2015-2020). The closest average price per pound to 2020 was in 2015 when blue crab sold for $1.86.

Activities Related to Fisheries Dependent Data Collection

LA Creel

Through the LA Creel program, 5,982 recreational fishing trips, comprised of 16,046 individual anglers, were surveyed during 2020 Sample Weeks 1 – 26 (December 30, 2019 – June 28, 2020). Fifty-two different interviewers completed 784 of the 800 assignments as drawn during the sample period.

Fish kept by anglers and allowed to be viewed by interviewers are referred to as observation Type 1 fish. Fish in possession of the angler at the time of survey but not seen by the interviewer are classified as observation Type 2 fish. For the sample period as above, there were 27,905 Type 1's and 25,768 Type 2's, which equates to 52 percent of all fish in possession of the angler at the time of survey were identified and counted by staff. Type 1 fish numbers are down due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Sixty-nine species were represented among Type 1 fish, including some shellfish. Spotted Seatrout was the most commonly counted species with 22,928. Red Drum was second with 6,905 counted and Sheepshead was the third most common with 3,365 counted.

Fish returned to the water or caught and used for bait are also recorded for certain species. Those species are:

1. Black Drum
2. Gray Snapper
3. Gray Triggerfish
4. Greater Amberjack
5. King Mackerel
6. Largemouth Bass
7. Red Drum
8. Red Snapper
9. Sheepshead
10. Southern Flounder
11. Spanish Mackerel
12. Spotted Seatrout

Fish thrown back because they were under the legal minimum length are coded as Type 3. Fish caught and used as bait during the trip are coded as Type 4. Fish thrown back or given away prior to interview for any reason not covered by codes 3 and 4, such as too big, not wanted, etc., are coded as Type 5. Discard data is collected as per the Department's contract with GSMFC. During the same time period as provided above, staff recorded 29,545 Type 3's, 13 Type 4's, and 3,625 Type 5's.

To generate harvest estimates, angler effort must be determined. LA Creel uses two separate surveys for the purposes of determining angler effort. One survey targets charter captains in which ten percent of the approximately 700 charter license holders and thirty percent of the approximately 100 charter license holders who also have a Recreational Offshore Landing Permit (ROLP) are drawn at random each sample week. The ROLP is a free permit that is required to possess tunas, billfish, swordfish, amberjacks, groupers, snappers, hinds, cobia, wahoo, and dolphinfish in Louisiana waters. The purpose of the ROLP is to increase the chances of drawing anglers who fish offshore for effort surveys. During a red snapper season (federal and/or state), one hundred percent of ROLP holding charter captains are drawn. Department staff attempt to contact drawn captains to ask about the number of charter trips taken during the sample week, how many paying customers where on each trip, and in what basin the trip occurred.

During 2020 Sample Weeks 1 – 26, a total of 2,294 captains were drawn, with replacement. Of those, a total of 1,629 captains (71%) completed the survey.

The other effort survey pertains to private anglers exclusively. Each sample week, not including weeks that fall within red snapper seasons, a total of 1,600 Louisiana recreational saltwater fishing license holders are drawn at random for participation in the effort survey. Twelve hundred of the 1,600 is derived by drawing 300 licensed anglers from each of the four regions La Creel uses to generate landings estimates. A separate random selection of 400 is made from ROLP holders. During red snapper seasons the number of private ROLP anglers drawn for the effort survey increases from 400 to 800. A service contracted by the Department is tasked with contacting drawn license holders to ask questions, such as basin fished in, number of trips taken, about any saltwater fishing trips they may have taken during the sample week.

During 2020 Sample Weeks 1 – 26, a total of 44,400 Louisiana recreational saltwater fishing license holders were drawn, with replacement. Of those, a total of 22,349 (50%) completed the survey. The estimated number of saltwater fishing trips taken during the time period was 1.3 million.

The iPad application used for data entry for dockside surveys was to undergo a rebuild in the spring of 2019, but was pushed back to the spring of 2020. The contractor hired to perform the rebuild finished their work as scheduled. As of now, the app is awaiting approval by the state's Office of Technology Services prior to distribution to field offices for implementation.

Age and Growth

Since the new BIOFIN agreement covers recreational species only, LDWF's Age and Growth Lab in Baton Rouge relies on the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) TIP sampling for commercial otoliths. The lab has processed recreational, commercial and independent otoliths during 2020. From January 1, 2020 through June 20, 2020, the lab has received 4,970 recreational marine fisheries otoliths and aged 4,838 of these otoliths. All otolith

collection and ageing data has been transferred to GSMFC through the month of June. Staff are currently completing July 2020 otolith processing.

LDWF's Fisheries Research Lab in Grand Isle processes yellowfin tuna otoliths, which are not included in the age and growth lab's total for this time period. During the period of January 1, 2020 through June 20, 2020, a total of 49 yellowfin tuna otoliths have been collected and 49 have been aged.

Otolith totals are as follows:

- Black drum – 109
- Cobia – 3
- Gray snapper – 23
- Greater amberjack – 3
- Gray triggerfish – 0
- King mackerel – 0
- Red drum – 709
- Red snapper – 340
- Sheepshead – 195
- Southern flounder – 157
- Spotted seatrout – 1,125
- Striped mullet – 0
- Tripletail - 3
- Vermilion snapper – 21
- Blackfin tuna – 0
- Yellowfin tuna – 49

Commercial Shrimp, Oyster, and Crab Seasons and Landings

Shrimp

The portion of state offshore, or outside, waters between Calliou Boca and the Atchafalaya River Ship Channel at Eugene Island opened on April 17, 2020. Following this opening, the 2020 spring inshore shrimp season from the Mississippi/Louisiana state line westward to Freshwater Bayou and the remaining portion of state offshore waters between the Atchafalaya River Ship Channel at Eugene Island and Freshwater Bayou opened May 18, 2020 at 6:00 am. The remaining portion of state inshore waters from Freshwater Bayou westward to the Louisiana/Texas state line opened on May 27, 2020 at 6:00 am.

Shrimp landings (all species combined and heads on unless specified otherwise) between January – June 2020 totaled approximately 20.9 million pounds with a dockside value of $26.5 million. The 2020 shrimp landings during this period decreased by 48 percent compared to the five-year average, while the dockside value decreased by 42 percent. While overall numbers in 2020 were low compared to the five-year average, the shrimp average price per pound in this period was 9 percent above the five-year average. Louisiana brown shrimp landings during the

time period mentioned above in 2020 were one of the lowest on record. Approximately 8.7 million pounds were landed in 2020 compared to a five-year average of nearly 22.9 million pounds. Brown shrimp landings were also low in comparison to previous years in 2019 due to the 2019 flooding events, but 2019 brown shrimp landings were nearly twice those observed in 2020. These low brown shrimp landings are the result of several factors: early May cold fronts, an early June tropical storm, and COVID-19. The shrimp average price per pound, similar to blue crab, was above the five-year average.

White shrimp landings in 2020 showed a less dramatic decrease than what was observed for brown shrimp. Landings from January – June in 2020 were 12 million pounds with a dockside value of $18.7 million. White shrimp landed during this period of 2020 were 28 percent lower than the five-year average, while the average dockside value was nearly 35 percent lower than the five-year average. The average white shrimp price per pound was also lower than the five-year average by nearly $0.20. Direct reports from industry members stated that larger shrimp that were normally sold during January – May were not in demand because of restaurant closures due to COVID-19. This meant that an abundance of large shrimp was still being held in cold storage and it was a risk to purchase additional product.

Blue Crab

Described in the Activities Associated with the Gulf of Mexico Crab Fisheries section above.

Oyster

Oyster landings, both public and private from January – June in 2020 totaled 1.7 million pounds(meat weight) with a dockside value of approximately $12.4 million. Landings in 2020 showed a decrease of 74% when compared to the five-year average (2019-2015), while the 2020 dockside value decreased by 71 percent. The 2019-20 public oyster season opened November 1, 2019. The table below summarizes the 2019-2020 oyster season to date for Louisiana's major public oyster areas. This year, the goal was to reduce harvest stress as a means to conserve remaining resource from the 2019 flooding event, and manage areas as recommended by the shell budget model thresholds—all of which should help minimize reef degradation.

2019-2020 LDWF Oyster Season Summary						
Area	Season Opening	Season Closure	Season/type	Days open	Harvest	CSA
POSG East of Mississippi river and North of MRGO	closed					1
POSG East of Mississippi river and South of MRGO	closed					
Hackberry Little Lake, Barataria Bay	closed					3
Deep Lake, Lake Chien, Lake Felicity and Lake Tambour	closed					5
Lake Mechant and Bay Junop	closed					
Sister Lake	18-Nov	18-Nov	*1-day Seed harvest*	1	1,250 bbl	
	19-Nov	25-Nov	Market Oyster Harvest	7	10,314 sacks	
Vermilion Bay	closed					6
Calcasieu Lake	1-Nov	20-Jan	East Cove: Market Oyster Harvest	80	3,861 sacks	7
	1-Nov	30-Apr	West Cove: Market Oyster Harvest	210	4,985 sacks	

Activities Related to Fisheries Independent Sampling

Stock Assessments

LDWF completed stock assessments of black drum, sheepshead, southern flounder, and striped mullet that were presented to the LFWC for transmittal to the Louisiana Legislature in February 2020. These assessments use a statistical catch-at-age model to estimate annual time-series of spawning stock biomass and fishing mortality rates. Time-series of fishery catches-at-age along with relative abundance indices developed from LDWF fishery independent surveys are the primary model inputs. Based on results of these assessments, the black drum, sheepshead, and striped mullet stocks are currently not overfished or undergoing overfishing. The southern flounder stock, however, is currently considered overfished. Management options to improve the status of the southern flounder stock will be presented to the LWFC in 2020.

Fisheries Research Lab

LDWF's Fisheries Research Lab in Grand Isle is the base for the state's offshore fisheries independent monitoring and research projects. The lab also serves as a point of contact for the public, visiting researchers, and educational programs. Some current activities at the lab are summarized below:

Southeast Area Monitoring and Assessment Program (SEAMAP)

LDWF typically participates in three SEAMAP surveys: Shrimp/Groundfish, Vertical Line, and Bottom Longline during the January through June time period. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Shrimp/Groundfish survey was cancelled. Vertical Line and Bottom Longline were conducted but at a very reduced rate. On these surveys, teams of three to nine fisheries biologists collect, process, and enter both catch data and environmental parameters, including a water column

profile. These surveys are conducted from April through October with data management and reporting completed during the winter. During the reporting period, sampling and reporting were completed for all surveys conducted. LDWF representatives participated in the Spring GSMFC meeting.

Spotted Sea Trout Life History Study

In 2018, biologists from LDWF's coastal study areas (CSAs) obtained spotted seatrout ovaries and otoliths from dockside sampling (n=1,216). During the reporting period, these samples were aged and histologically staged, and batch fecundity (n=18) was taken where applicable. Spawning fraction and frequency was smaller and more variable than expected, which may be due to lack of larger individuals collected. Spawning frequency was calculated from the 147-day spawning duration multiplied by the spawning fraction equations. Batch fecundity was then multiplied by spawning frequency to achieve annual fecundity. Fecundity data was added from a previous pilot study on spotted seatrout in 2015 (n=11) and from previous work in 1994-1995 (n=25). Both of these datasets were generated from spotted seatrout collected in Barataria Bay. Annual fecundity within length was $1.076(\text{Total Length})^{2.692}$ while annual fecundity at age was $34{,}007{,}142(1\text{-}e^{(-0.451*\text{Age})})^{2.307}$. However, annual fecundity was directly proportional (linear) to body weight, which suggests that spawning stock biomass is an appropriate substitute for total egg production in stock assessment. Future collections will be useful in monitoring increases or decreases in egg production, which may be an indicator of stock health. Female seatrout that are age 2 or 405mm (16inches) total length, on average, produce over 10 million eggs annually. Age 2 fish were most frequently landed before the stock was considered overfished or undergoing overfishing. Therefore, it is recommended that managers take those details into consideration for fishing regulations.

Black Drum Life History Study

November 2019 through March 2020, LDWF biologists sampled 210 black drum ovaries. All 210 ovary samples have been histologically processed and analyzed, but the project was cut short by the pandemic and not enough data was collected to estimate spawning fraction and frequency. None of the 210 ovary samples yielded fecundity estimates. When combined with future samples, this data will determine if spawning stock biomass is an appropriate proxy for total egg production and will further inform managers for establishing regulations.

Sheepshead Life History Study

In February and March 2020, LDWF biologists sampled 84 sheepshead ovaries. All 84 have been histologically processed and analyzed. However, the project was cut short due to the pandemic and not enough data was collected to estimate spawning fraction and frequency. There were four fecundity estimates that came from the 84 ovarian samples. When coupled with future samples, this data will determine if spawning stock biomass is an appropriate proxy for total egg production and will further inform managers for establishing regulations.

Offshore Red Drum Age Structure

The lack of a consistent biological sampling source for offshore red drum has hindered stock assessments, but the LDWF portion of the SEAMAP bottom longline survey could provide a fisheries independent source of otolith and gonad samples. Otoliths would provide abundance of age or year classes within the population while gonad samples would deliver spawning frequency and fecundity estimates. The abundance indices from standardized sampling coupled with age and reproductive analysis from the otolith and gonad samples would more accurately assess the adult population of red drum off Louisiana.

During the 2018, 2019, and 2020 SEAMAP bottom longline survey, LDWF collected otoliths from 160, 269, and 30 red drum, respectively. The low sample size in 2020 was due to the pandemic precautions taken and sampling trips eliminated. Though the majority of those landings occurred outside of the spawning season during spring sampling, 64 gonads were collected from female red drum closer to the spawning season during summer and fall bottom longline sampling. Ages for red drum collected offshore ranged from 4 to 39 years. These data will likely be critical in characterizing the offshore spawning stock of red drum off the Louisiana coast in future stock assessments.

Artificial Reef Monitoring for Sportfish

In order to enhance the monitoring of sportfish species on artificial reef structures, LDWF biologists from the Grand Isle Fisheries Research Lab are using a combination of vertical line sampling, video sampling, and diver surveys. Approximately ten percent of the artificial reef structures in the LDWF Offshore Artificial Reef Program were randomly selected and assigned to the 2020 vertical line survey. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, vertical line sampling did not occur within the reporting period. Data entered prior to the 2018 sampling season (2015-2017, n = 104 stations) was verified during the reporting period, and the database was updated as needed.

Additionally, LDWF included a roving diver survey component into the LDWF artificial reef monitoring effort. While LDWF has previously conducted dive surveys at standing platforms, no dive surveys had been conducted at artificial reef sites prior to 2018. Biologists surveyed finfish species at the artificial reef site and the nearest standing platform. During the reporting period, all dive survey videos were reviewed. Survey start and finish times assigned as well as ascent and descent times. MIN counts were then performed in 10 second intervals using the read protocols used for the vertical line video reads. MIN counts were performed on species covered in the GMFMC Reef Fish Fishery Management Plan (Gray triggerfish, Almaco jack, Greater amberjack, Gray snapper, Lane snapper, Red snapper, Vermilion snapper and Groupers) as well as Coastal Migratory Pelagics FMP (Cobia and Spanish mackerel). 241 reads were made over the survey times of the video's as well as the decent and ascent reads. An excel sheet was created and all read data entered and reviewed.

Shrimp Sampling

LDWF conducts fisheries independent sampling for shrimp year-round statewide using three trawl sizes: 6-foot, 16-foot, and 20-foot. The 6-foot trawl samples gather data in the interior marshes of Louisiana and are used to set the opening and closing dates for the spring inshore shrimp season. These samples are typically taken throughout April and again at the end of June and beginning of July, depending on environmental conditions. From January – June 2020, a total of 299 6-foot trawl samples were conducted. Samples conducted throughout April and early May were used to set the Louisiana spring inshore shrimp season, as described earlier. Brown shrimp CPUE during April and early May 6-foot trawl samples was lower than the previous years.

The 16-foot trawl sampling data are used to constantly monitor the state shrimp resource, along with other species of interest, and set the opening date for the fall inshore shrimp season. During January – June 2020, a total of 905 16-foot trawl samples were conducted. These data were used to open state inshore waters for the 2020 fall inshore shrimp season, as well as, monitor statewide resources monthly.

The 20-foot trawl sampling data are used to monitor shrimp resources in state offshore waters. A total of 189 20-foot trawl samples were conducted during January – June 2020. Data collected in the 20-foot trawl samples were used to open the portions of state offshore waters described earlier.

Crab Sampling

Fisheries independent sampling data for blue crab is collected with 16-foot trawls. These data are used to calculate juvenile and adult blue crab indices of abundance for the blue crab stock assessment.

Oyster Sampling

LDWF conducts fisheries independent sampling for oysters year-round statewide using two gear types (24-inch hand dredge and square-meter frame: m2) within the public oyster areas, and analyze the data collected to determine overall health of the oyster resource throughout the year. Dredge sampling events were conducted monthly (except in the month of July) on 74 sampling stations and quarterly on six (Sabine Lake only) sampling stations, with two replicates per station, to monitor size frequency, presence and/or absence, and mortality. A total of 897 dredge samples were collected between January 1 and June 30, 2020.

For annual stock assessments, LDWF biologists collect field samples in July from each CSA across Louisiana to perform a quantitative evaluation of the oyster stock on the state's public oyster areas. Biologists SCUBA dive on designated sampling stations within each CSA. At each sampling station, an aluminum square-meter frame (quadrat/m2) is randomly placed on the oyster reef, and all live and dead oysters, reef- associated organisms, and exposed reef material are collected by hand from the upper portion of the substrate within the quadrat. This process is replicated five times at each sampling station. Water temperature, dissolved oxygen, and

salinity data are collected in conjunction with the m2 samples, and cultch material types are identified and weighed.

Sabine Lake is closed for commercial oyster harvest since Legislative Act 159 (2018) that instituted a moratorium on oyster fishing in Sabine Lake. Therefore, dredge samples are conducted quarterly, and square-meter sampling are only being conducted every other year, with the next sampling scheduled for July 2021. Additional sampling may occur as needed to monitor for possible mortality events associated with significant freshwater input events.

Additional square-meter sampling was conducted in the Lake Pontchartrain and Barataria basins in May 2020 as part of an agreement with the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA). In the Barataria Basin, additional sampling was also conducted on private lease areas per the CPRA agreement to further characterize oyster resources in that basin.

Sampling conducted as part of the annual oyster stock assessment plays a valuable role in predicting the success of the upcoming oyster season, which generally opens in early September and runs through April of the following year. However, the season may be closed or delayed if biological concerns or enforcement problems are encountered. LDWF uses oyster stock assessment information to make recommendations regarding setting the oyster season to the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission.

Finfish Sampling

LDWF conducts biological monitoring for finfish statewide in the coastal, nearshore, and offshore areas of Louisiana. During fiscal year 2019-20, the fisheries independent finfish sampling program collected 953 gillnet samples, 1,271 seine samples, and 271 trammel net samples for a 99.3 percent overall completion rate statewide. Electro-fishing samples (159 total) are being conducted within some Louisiana estuarine environments to provide fisheries data to CPRA.

Other State Activities

Finfish Seasons and Regulations

Louisiana waters closed to the harvest of sharks in the aggregated large coastal group (nurse, bull, lemon, sandbar, silky, spinner, and tiger) and hammerhead group (smooth, scalloped, and great) on March 14, 2020.

Louisiana waters closed to the recreational harvest of gray triggerfish on May 2, 2020.

On May 20, 2020 a final rule published that modified the existing recreational red snapper season framework to set the season to open each year on the Friday before Memorial Day as a weekends only season including the Mondays of Memorial Day and Labor Day as well as the 4th

of July regardless of what day it falls upon. The final rule also clarified language relating to the state delegation of the recreational red snapper season.

Louisiana and federal waters off of Louisiana opened to the recreational harvest of red snapper on May 22, 2020 on weekends only (Friday, Saturday, and Sunday) including the Mondays of Memorial Day and Labor Day.

At its regular meeting on May 7, 2020 the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission (LWFC) ratified a Notice of Intent (NOI) to modify the recreational and commercial minimum size limit for Cobia to 36 inches fork length. Public comments on the NOI were taken until Thursday, July 2, 2020.

At its regular meeting on June 4, 2020 the LWFC promulgated a NOI to modify the commercial trip limits for greater amberjack from 1,500 pounds gutted weight to 1,000 pounds gutted weight and allow for Secretarial authority to modify commercial reef fish trip limits if notified by NOAA Fisheries of in-season changes.

Louisiana and federal waters off of Louisiana closed to the recreational harvest of red snapper on August 13, 2020.

Louisiana and federal waters off of Louisiana reopened to the recreational harvest of red snapper for the Labor Day weekend on September 4, 2020 and closed on September 7, 2020.

Louisiana waters reopened to the recreational harvest of gray triggerfish from September 1, 2020 through October 26, 2020.

Marine Mammal and Sea Turtle Monitoring

The marine mammal stranding program and the sea turtle stranding program are administered and coordinated directly by NOAA in Louisiana.

Michael C. Voisin Oyster Hatchery

The Michael C. Voisin Oyster Hatchery located on Grand Isle, Louisiana, is operated through a collaborative effort between LDWF and Louisiana Sea Grant (LSG). LSG assists with facility operations, provides technical guidance, manages the LSG Breeding Program, and supports the oyster industry through extension, outreach, and research projects. LDWF focuses on the production of diploid and triploid seed and larvae for state restoration projects, as well as commercial sales to support the industry.

Spring 2020 hatchery production focused on producing diploid pediveligers and seed for LDWF sales. A total of approximately 42 million diploid pediveliger larvae were produced, of this approximately 14 million were sold to farmers. Approximately 397,391 diploid seed were sold to farmers prior to June 30th. Additional seed remained in the nursery system pending sale.

Extra diploid pediveligers (PV), those which farmers could not accept at the time, were either set on microcultch to produce seed for sales (16 million PVs) or set on macrocultch for restoration (11 million PVs). Of the 11 million PVs set on macrocultch, there were approximately 1.25 million spat that set and were deployed at LDWF's West Karako Bay Artificial/Broodstock Reef site.

The hatchery started algae production in January. Marine microalgae is grown in a Stock Room and Algal Production Room to feed oyster larvae. Staff tested the survival of algae grown in flasks treated with combinations of EDTA and different media volumes, to test if current growing procedures provided optimal growth and survival for algae cultures. The flask trials were based on a trial done in fall 2019 where hatchery seawater was treated with EDTA and survival of algae grown in bags was observed. Results for the bag trial showed that the addition of EDTA in seawater resulted in poor algal survival. Final results for the flask trial are pending, however, initial observations did not show obvious differences between treatments. Algae production continued in the Stock Room and Algal Production Room throughout the spring and summer using Standard Operating Procedures.

Spat on Shell Projects

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Michael C. Voisin Oyster Hatchery produces diploid oyster larvae for setting on shell, which is then referred to as spat-on-shell and is used for State oyster restoration projects. To prepare for setting on shell, mesh bags that are three feet long are filled with recycled oyster shell and are called shellbags. Recycled shell is obtained through a collaboration with the Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana's Oyster Shell Recycling Program.

In February and March 2020, the Oyster Hatchery coordinated multiple shellbagging events at the Grand Isle Fisheries Research Lab (FRL) with assistance from LDWF, Louisiana Sea Grant and LDWF Aquatic Volunteer Instructors. Approximately 110 cubic yards of shell were bagged, generating almost 4,170 shellbags, which is enough shell for setting at least 64 million diploid pediveligers.

In early spring, four setting tanks capable of holding approximately 115-130 shellbags each, located underneath the FRL, were prepared for spat-on-shell production. Spat-on-shell production and deployments were delayed during the spring of 2020 due to COVID-19. During June 2020, the Oyster Hatchery set 11,350,000 pediveligers on macrocultch that were deployed by LDWF staff within the public oyster seed grounds of Karako Bay.

After 6 months of monitoring, the 2019 Barataria POSG spat on shell deployment sites were discontinued in December 2019 because no live oysters were observed. No live oysters were observed during May 2020 after monitoring the 2019 Breton Sound POSG sites for 12 months.

Oyster Transplant Projects

Oyster impacts from the increased freshwater flows in the spring and summer of 2019 were investigated via standard and enhanced fisheries independent sampling (dredge) on public oyster areas. The highest freshwater output was concentrated in Coastal Study Area (CSA) 1-North. CSA-1 North is the outfall area for the Bonnet Carré Spillway as well as the Pearl River. This flooding event dramatically reduced salinities in the receiving basins and increased oyster mortalities were documented in subsequent biological sampling.

In an effort to facilitate natural recovery from the 2019 flooding event, LDWF collected oysters from reefs in the least impacted basins of the State and transplanted to previously productive reefs in Pontchartrain Basin. Adult reproductive oysters were collected in Sister Lake and in Calcasieu Lake during each routine dredge events in October 2019, November 2019, and January 2020 and transplanted to Round Island, Shell Island, and Lake Fortuna sites, respectively. The objective of the project was for these transplanted animals to spawn and reseed reefs as the salinities in the area return to a suitable range for oyster production.

With each transplant, a sub sample of 20 oysters were set in a containment device (modified crab trap) with a spat plate attached to it for monthly monitoring. As of June 2020, only one containment device remained at the Shell Point site to be monitored. It contained 92 live spat found attached to the spat plate. All other containment devices were lost and not replaced over the course of the monthly monitoring.

Boating and Non-Boating Access Projects

LDWF has several new and ongoing boating and fishing access projects, which are funded through the Sport Fish Restoration Program and administered by local entities. LDWF accepts project proposals on an annual basis and evaluates them based on ranking criteria and available funding. Current projects include:

- Port Sulphur Civic Drive Fishing Pier – construction contract has been awarded
- St. Tammany Fishing Pier – review of construction contract
- West End – Breakwater Drive Boat Launch – construction complete
- New Iberia Boat Slips Boating Infrastructure Grant Program – advertised for bid
- City of New Iberia CVA Sanitation Facility – design phase
- Indian Creek Recreation Area Fishing Pier – bid awarded
- City of New Iberia Civic Center Marina Phase I – design phase
- Marina Del Ray Renovations – permitting phase
- City of New Iberia Civic Center Marina Phase II – permitting phase
- Town of Leonville Boat Launch Improvements – design phase
- Town of Madisonville Boat Launch Improvements – advertised for bid

Additional boating and fishing access projects were recently approved by the Louisiana Trustee Implementation Group for funding from the *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill and are currently being designed and implemented.

Seafood Industry Professionalism

LDWF seeks to give the state's seafood industry access and training to the latest trends, requirements, and technology in their profession, as expert training will yield higher quality products and give the seafood community a competitive advantage in the marketplace. Since the launch of Louisiana Fisheries Forward: Advancing Our Seafood Industry, this one-of-a-kind professionalism program for Louisiana's commercial fishing industry has received inquiry, acknowledgement, and recognition throughout many facets of local, regional, national and world fishing industries.

The Louisiana Fisheries Forward contract was renewed for one year beginning January 2020. During the first half of the year an oyster remote setting whiteboard video was created along with a corresponding fact sheet. Additionally, fact sheets were developed on the impact of shrimp imports in Louisiana, HACCP training and sanitation control for processors.

In addition, a report characterizing the recreational for hire sector in Louisiana was completed as well as a report on the status and trends in Louisiana's commercial freshwater fisheries. The results of these reports were presented at the 2020 Louisiana Fisheries Forward summit which was held in early March 2020. Louisiana was in the beginning stages of Covid-19 at this time which likely accounted for the lower than normal attendance figures. In response to Covid-19, the Louisiana Fisheries Forward team quickly developed informational materials on safety guidelines for commercial fishermen as well as seafood processors.

Aquatic Plant Control

Invasive aquatic vegetation continues to threaten access and recreational activities throughout Louisiana. Spring surveys conducted from March - May 2020 revealed an estimated 257,746 acres of nuisance aquatic plant coverage, mostly composed of water hyacinth (74,160 acres) and giant salvinia (53,660 acres). Spring surveys are conducted at the beginning of the growing season and usually reflect slightly less coverage than fall surveys conducted at the end of the growing season. From January 1, 2020 through June 30, 2020, LDWF applied EPA-approved herbicides to 21,699.32 acres of nuisance vegetation across the state. The majority of plant control efforts focused on giant salvinia and water hyacinth, with 10,497.91 and 8,482.63 acres treated, respectively. A major area of focus was Black and Clear Lakes in Natchitoches Parish, both of which suffer from a chronic giant salvinia infestation. A total of 3,255.8 acres of giant salvinia were treated on Black and Clear Lakes. LDWF treated approximately 2,160 acres of water hyacinth on Bayou Penchant.

Winter temperatures and isolated flood events have the potential to be major factors in determining the severity of aquatic vegetation impacts, especially giant salvinia, in Louisiana. Occurrences of below freezing temperatures, for the duration of several hours, provide

excellent control of aquatic vegetation. The lack of below freezing temperatures experienced last winter has led to higher than usual spring aquatic vegetation coverage. Drawdowns are currently being conducted on several waterbodies throughout Louisiana. Vegetation assessments will be made in the fall, and herbicide applications will be made accordingly.

Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission
71st Annual Fall Meeting
Technical Coordinating Committee
Wednesday, 14 October 2020
Virtual Meeting

1. Emerging Issues Pertinent to Gulf of Mexico Fisheries.

PROPOSED REGULATORY CHANGES

Statewide Recreational and Commercial Fishing

Proposed changes to flounder regulations

To manage a declining flounder fishery, two proposals were submitted to the TPW Commission that would decrease fishing effort during the fall spawning run, as well as protect smaller spawning capable females. We estimate this will increase spawning biomass by 58%. These proposed regulations were:

- Closing November 1 to December 14 to all flounder fishing (currently no gigging in Nov and reduced catch of 2 fish/person for that period compared to 5 during rest of year).
- Increase the minimum size limit to 15-inches (currently 14-inch min size limit).

These proposals were adopted by the commission; however, due to COVID issues, the Nov-Dec closure was pushed back to take effect September 2021. The 15" minimum size limit took effect on September 1, 2020.

Oyster Updates

Oyster Mariculture Update

The Texas commercial oyster fishery has primarily relied upon the harvest of oysters from natural reefs in areas approved by the Texas Department of State Health Services and under certificates of location, or lease programs, in Galveston Bay. However, as the value of oysters continues to increase, interest in off-bottom cage culture of oysters has gained popularity throughout the United States and Texas. During the 86th Texas Legislative Session, HB 1300 granted authority to the Parks and Wildlife Commission to develop an off-bottom oyster mariculture program using enclosed cages. In May 2020, the Parks and Wildlife Commission adopted rules establishing this program. We have created a website that can now be accessed by any persons interested in beginning the process of applying for a permit and designating a location for their lease.
https://tpwd.texas.gov/fishboat/fish/commercial/com_cf/com_index.phtml

We are working closely with prospective applicants to provide them with information of areas available for lease in Texas bays.

Oyster Shell Recovery

HB51 (85th Legislative Session, 2017) included a requirement that dealers purchasing oysters harvested from Texas bay systems return 30%, by volume, of the total quantity of oysters harvested during the previous license year. In lieu of returning this cultch back to public oyster reefs, dealers can pay the department a sack fee that will allow the department to return an equivalent amount to public reefs. The current amount of this fee per sack is $1.32. So far, in 2019-20 landings reported to the Texas Commercial Landings Program (LY20 Sep-Jul), 868,743 sacks (110 lbs/sack) of oysters were landed from TX bays. That total amounts to 15,082 cubic yards of cultch or $1,146,740 due from oyster dealers. In LY 2019, dealers worked with TPWD to place 9,705 cubic yards of cultch back into TX bays, while remaining dealers paid $205,972 into the Shell Recovery Fund (for future planting) (Table 1). Some dealers have had issues putting out cultch or paying in LY2020 due to COVID, so we are working with them as much as possible to accommodate their issues.

Table 1. Summary of Oyster Shell Recovery program (LY2018-2020)

				Final Disposition	
LY (Sep-Aug)	**Sacks Harvested**	**Cultch Due (cu yds)**	**Fee in lieu of cultch**	**Cultch**	**Fee**
2018	564,787	9,805.3	$745,518	6,590.6	$241,815
2019	754,565	13,100.0	$996,025	9,705.3	$205,972
*2020	868,743	15,082.2	$1,146,740	3,220.0	$229,258

*As of 9/8/2020 (through July landings)

- Approximately 9,000 cu yds of cultch was placed in Aransas Bay this summer at Grass Island. This was mostly funded by Hurricane Harvey Emergency grants, but partially by shell recovery fees. An additional 4,000 cu yds is scheduled to be placed in Sabine Lake.
- CCA purchased two sets of oyster patent tongs for the Galveston and Aransas Bay field labs. We plan on assessing their utility in monitoring our oysters in the near future.

Texas Oyster Landings

Oyster landings in LY2020 were greater than landings in any of the previous five years (figure 1). There was some apparent reduction of catch at the end of the 2020 season most likely due to COVID. In previous years, there were also reductions of catch later in the season for various reasons (area closures and possibly reductions of available stock). In LY2019, there were several areas closed to harvest in December due to rainfall/runoff, which resulted in a decrease in trips made in December, possibly explaining some reduction in harvest. The 2015-16 season started off with closures due to red tide, and harvest levels never recovered to average levels as compared to more recent years (figure 1).

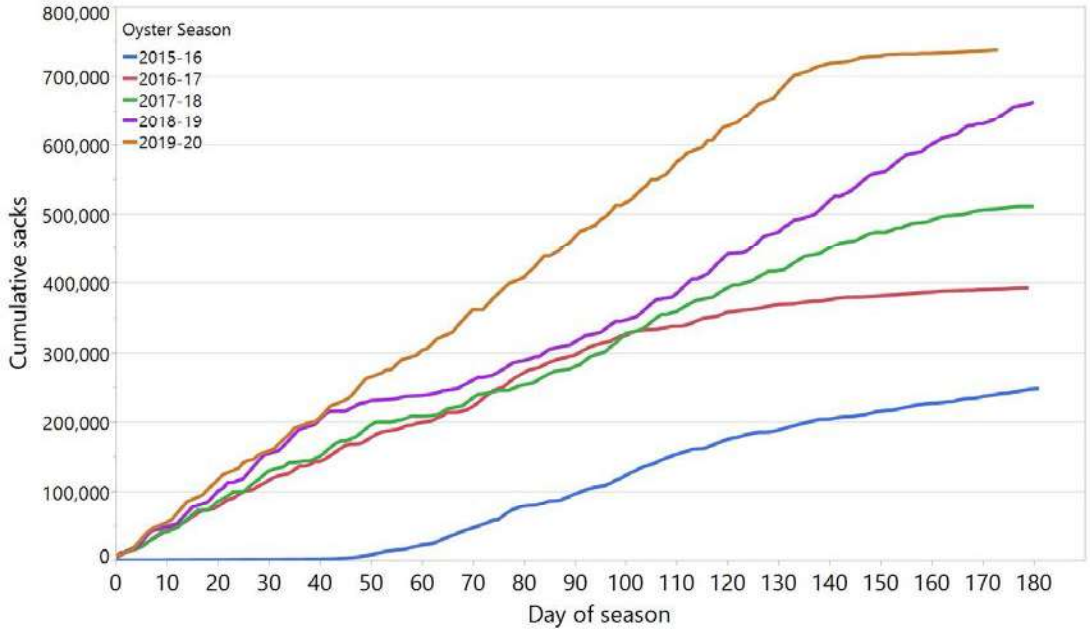

Figure 1. Cumulative number of sacks collected by the Texas oyster fishery during the last 5 years of the public season (Nov-Apr).

2. Activities Related to Artificial Reef Programs.

All travel and non-essential meetings and field work has been placed on hold due to COVID-19.

Rigs-to-Reefs

The Reef Program did not receive any donations to the program.

Date	Rig	Removal type	Donation	Jacket
NA – No Donations				

- The USACOE reef permit for Fieldwood Energy's HI-A-520 was received. Fieldwood Energy has been the main donor for Texas Rigs-to-Reefs and in a recent call stated it is unlikely that they will be doing any reefing in Texas this year due to the COVID-19 slowdowns of work and the slow process of getting platforms decommissioned by the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE).
- The deployment of three (3) deep-water spars[1]currently owned by Anadarko Oil and Gas is currently being considered for inclusion in the Rigs-to-Reefs program. An 80-acre location for these spars and future deployments has been identified in 450 ft water and Anadarko has completed a basic ROV survey to determine if this area is free of bottom hazards.
- The USACOE reef permit for HI-A-520 was received in APR. Fieldwood Energy has not moved forward with reefing of the 8-pile structure due to economic conditions.

[1] large cylinders that offshore platforms float on top of; about 450ft long x 100 in diameter

- Initial discussions about a new Rigs-to-Reefs project, HI-A-557A platform, began with Talus Petroleum (via Athena Consulting).

Ships-to-Reefs / Nearshore Reefs

- Friends of Rio Grande Valley Reef are proposing to reef clusters of railway ties around the Texas Clipper at no cost to TPWD. This would provide additional low-profile material to the site for enhancing the prey base for larger fishes such as red snapper. TPWD ARP will be renewing the reef permit for the work and UT-RGV will be following up with scientific studies/observations.
- The deployment of a steel-hulled sailboat has been coordinated with a Freeport public member who wants to donate the vessel to the nearshore program through the Public Reefing Program. It is being cleaned and readied for reefing at Kate's reef, off Galveston. A Houston public member will partially fund the efforts. The vessel has been inspected and will be deployed in September 2020. All work will be completed without any funding from TPWD. TPWD will assume liability for the vessel once it is properly reefed according to the agreement between TPWD and the public member.
- Two steel-hulled vessels are being cleaned and readied for reefing by the Friends of RGV Reef. They will be reefed within the Rio Grande Valley Nearshore Reef (PS-1105).

Nearshore Reefs

- Reefing has been completed for the MU-775 (Corpus Christi Nearshore Reef), using Hurricane Harvey Relief Funds. The work was completed by The Friends of Rio Grande Valley Reef (a 501-c3 group). The contract called for reefing 1,000 tons of concrete railway ties in 8 piles, but the group reached beyond that and added 1500 tons of material to the reef in 12 piles, keeping the contract under our $750,000 budget. In addition, they added 800 additional tons to the reef under funding from CCA. So, in total, they added 2300 total tons of concrete to the reef for enhancing juvenile marine fish habitat.
    - Dr. Rick Kline (UT-RGV) conducted a sidescan survey of the railway tie deployment at MU-775 above for the final survey report. This completed one of three Hurricane Harvey Relief Fund projects.
- The Program is working with Saltwater Fisheries Enhancement Association (SEA) and the City of Corpus Christi to secure a 2-acre tract of property at the Port of Corpus Christi to store future reef materials. The US181 Harbor Bridge will be dismantled soon, and we hope to gain some of that material for offshore reef building.
- The Request for Proposals for 3 reefing projects was placed on bid by TPWD Contracting and closed 4 August. Funding is through the Hurricane Harvey Relief Funds (Kate's and Big Man's Reefs off Galveston) and CCA. Plans call for concrete pyramids and low-relief materials. Bid evaluations are currently ongoing. All work must be completed by 31 August 2021.
- A deployment of memorial balls has been coordinated between Eternal Reefs and TPWD ARP. The deployment is scheduled for September.
- A Memorandum of Agreement was drafted between TPWD and UT-RGV for conducting a side-scan survey of the entire PS-1105 Rio Grande Valley Nearshore Reef. Dr. Rick Kline will work with graduate students to complete the survey and provide hydrographic training to students. Training will also include the use of underwater scooters and the program's Outlander ROV.

Grants / Administration

- The GLO Coastal Coordination Advisory Committee and the Texas Coastal Management Program notified the ARP of a successful grant PRE-proposal for the construction and enhancement of artificial reefs in the Northern Gulf of Mexico. If the full proposal is accepted, the grant would create and deploy 100 pyramids and 100 low-relief reef plates.
- The GLO Asset Removal team and the ARP have been in communication to discuss the planned removal of the old Queen Isabella Causeway off Port Isabel/South Padre Island. The Coastal Management Program accepted the proposal and Phase 1 of the process has been approved. The next steps include an engineering study and deployment/reefing plan ($170,000) to provide measurements and technical specifications of what remains of the Port Isabel side (~3500 linear ft). The GLO has ownership of the bridge and it must be removed at some point soon. Estimates show that it may require $10-12m for removal (and reefing). Once the engineering study is complete, next steps would involve coordinating with the GLO for the complete removal of the old causeway and the deployment of it as reef material. Due to the high cost of the removal and deployment of the old causeway, Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act (GoMESA) funds would be involved.

Resource Sampling / Harvest Monitoring Updates / Science

- The ARP has been working with Katie O'Shaughnessy (Science Policy Fellow - National Academy of Sciences; assigned to CF) to complete a summary report for the biological monitoring from 1990 – 2019. The report will be published as an internal TPWD Management Data Series. The draft manuscript has been submitted for internal review and editorial comments.

Equipment / Construction / Housekeeping Matters

- TPWD Contracting extended the ARP's current buoy maintenance contracts for 6 additional months to allow time for staff to draft a new Invitation for Bid (IFB). The upcoming FY end, rollover into CAPPS, and COVID-19 has slowed contracting progress. These buoy maintenance contracts are re-bid every 2-4 years.

Meetings / Outreach / Education Events

- The 2020 Florida Artificial Reef Summit (Melbourne, FL), originally scheduled for April, was delayed to November due to COVID-19. It was then converted to a virtual event, again due to COVID-19. The ARP intends to create a poster to share the preliminary results from the ARP and USGS biological, chemical, and physical monitoring. The ARP has had an ongoing interagency contract with the USGS since 2013 to study 4-5 reef sites in the High Island (HI) shelf area about 70 miles off Galveston.

- The ARP continues to participate in a Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary Special Advisory Committee as a non-voting representative. The last three meetings have moved from in-person to virtual.

3. Activities Associated with the Gulf of Mexico Crab Fisheries.

Abandoned Crab Trap Removal Program

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) closed state waters to crabbing (with crab traps) from February 21 – March 1, 2020. During this time, crab traps encountered are classified as "abandoned" and may be removed by Law Enforcement personnel, Department staff, and any member of the general public. A grand total of 2,029 traps were removed. We documented 327 volunteers participating onboard 95 boats during the annual closure. Table 1. has the data broken down by major bay.

Table 1. Abandoned Crab Trap Removal Program Summary

ACTRP 2020 Results	Traps	Volunteers	Boats
Sabine Lake	5	0	1
Galveston Bay	366	162	24
Matagorda Bay	140	23	15
San Antonio Bay	1,249	107	41
Aransas Bay	243	34	12
Corpus Christi Bay	21	0	0
Upper Laguna Madre	2	0	0
Lower Laguna Madre	3	1	2
Totals	**2,029**	**327**	**95**

Blue Crab Updates

Coastwide declines in fishery independent surveys (bag seine and bay trawl) continued through 2019 (Figures 1-2). This trend was generally consistent in all Texas bay systems but was especially pronounced in central Texas coast bays and especially in bay trawl sampling gear. These declining fishery independent trends largely began in the mid-1990's. While declining trends into the early 2000's have slowed, relative abundance remains at low levels. Recent analyses of blue crab mortality using a length-based mortality estimator (Hoenig 1987) indicate that juvenile mortality (~15-40 mm) may be the factor inhibiting the recovery of the population. Correlations of juvenile mortality with abundance of common finfish predators may indicate predation as the primary cause here (Figure 3). Mortality (Z) of juveniles is related to abundance of cancrivorous finfish.

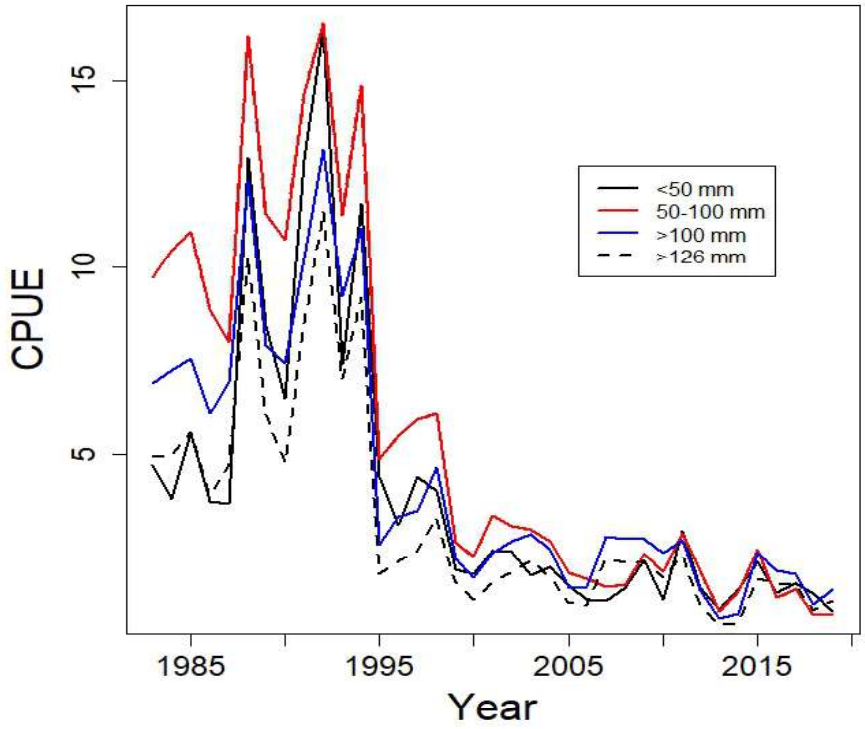

Figure 1. Fishery independent bay trawl catch rates of blue crabs in Texas.

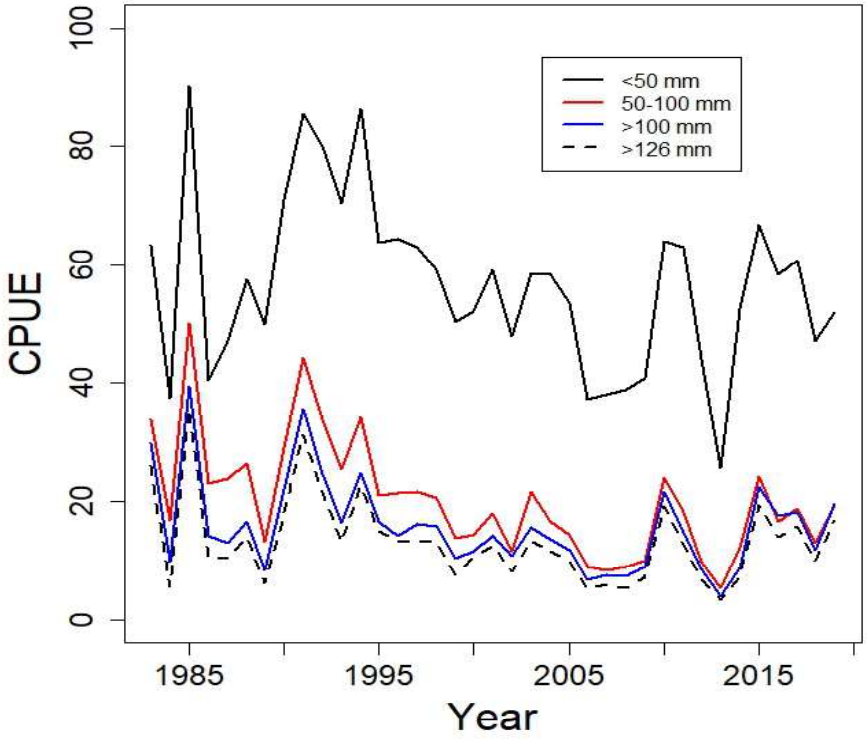

Figure 2. Fishery independent bag seine catch rates of blue crabs in Texas.

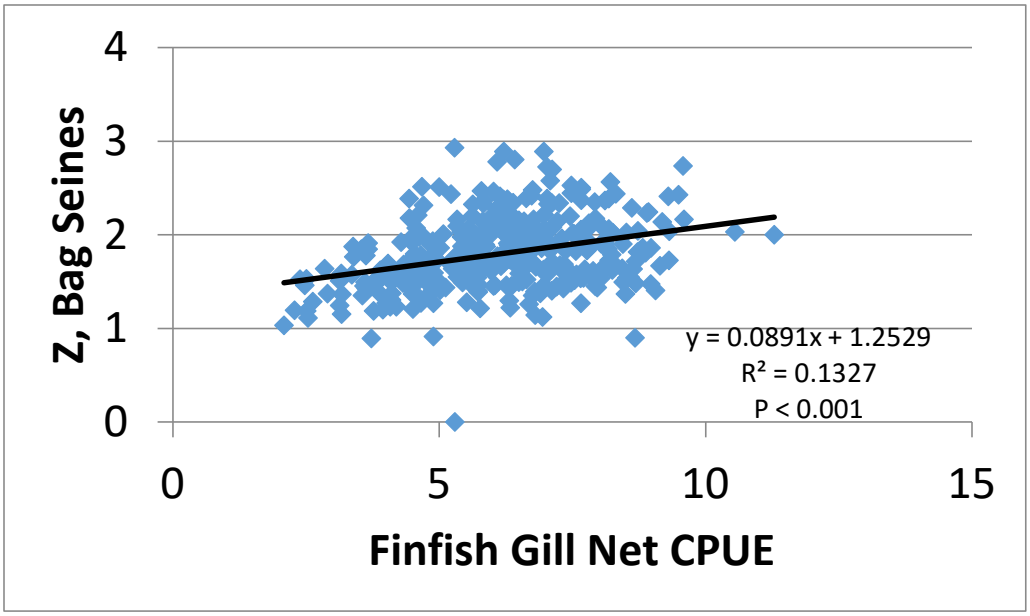

Figure 3. Blue crab mortality (Z) estimates vs. finfish abundance.

Commercial Landings

When adjusted for effort, landings of blue crab in Texas have been fairly consistent over the last five years (2015-2019, see Figure 4). However, in 2019 total landings of blue crab in Texas were 3,912,577 lbs which is about 31% lower than the 37-year annual average of 5,672,167 lbs (Figure 5). With reduced landings and high demand, value has shown an increasing trend since 2014. The value of total landings in Texas in 2019 was $5,529,154 which is about 55% higher than the 37-year average of $3,560,901 (Figure 5).

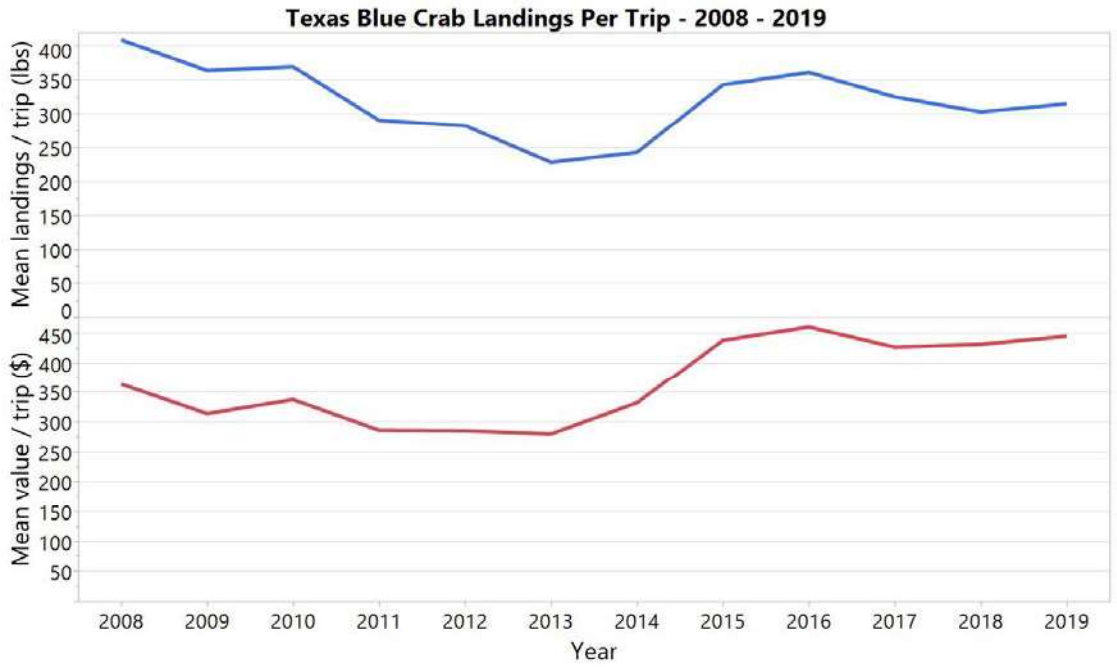

Figure 4. Mean Landings and value of blue crab per trip.

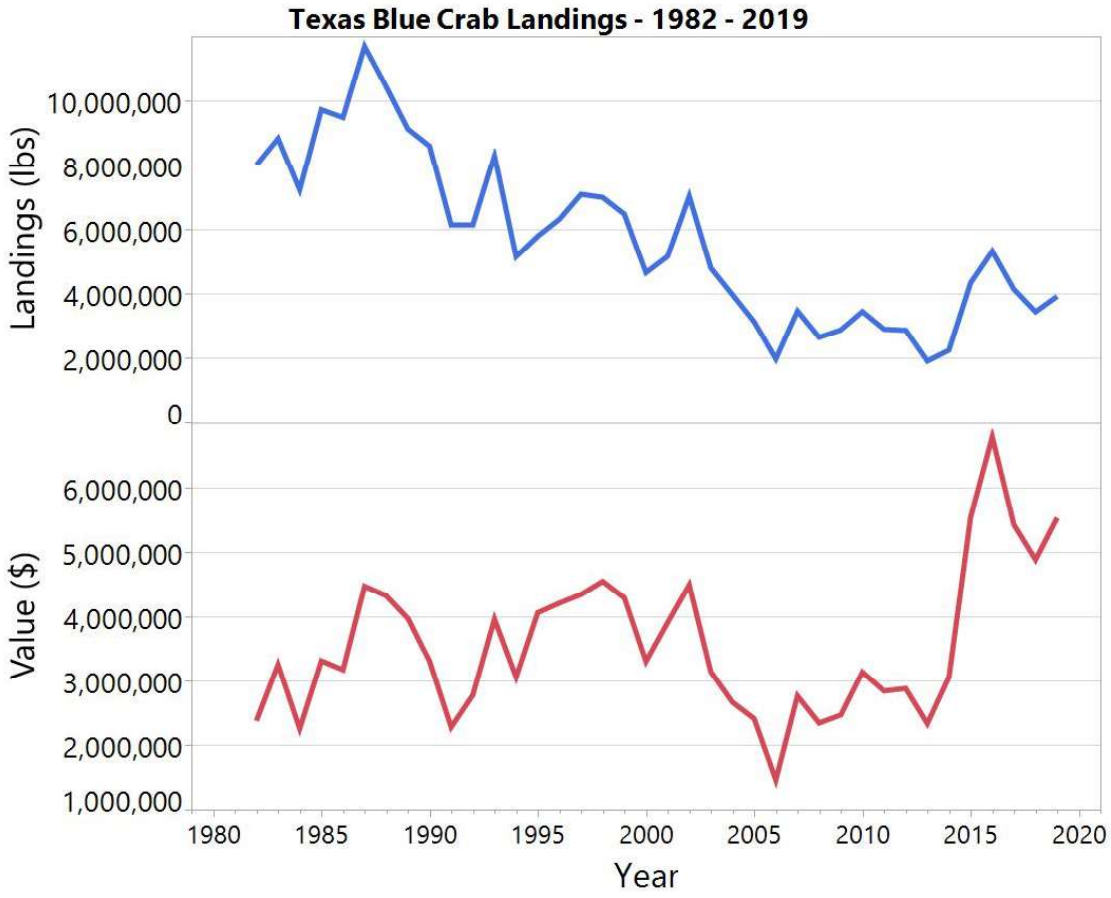

Figure 5. Total annual landings and value of blue crab in Texas.

Regulatory Proposals

There were no changes made to the commercial or recreational fishing regulations concerning blue crabs during FY 2020. The following regulation is being considered for modification in FY 2022:

The use of crab traps along a small section of shoreline in Aransas Bay, Aransas County has been prohibited since the 1980's. *"May not fish a crab trap… in the water area of Aransas Bay within one-half mile of a line from Hail Point on the Lamar Peninsula, then direct to the eastern end of Goose Island, then along the southern shore of Goose Island, then along the eastern shoreline of the Live Oak Peninsula past the town of Fulton, past Nine Mile Point, past the town of Rockport to a point at the east end of Talley Island including that part of Copano Bay within 1,000 feet of the causeway between Lamar Peninsula and Live Oak Peninsula."*

https://tpwd.texas.gov/regulations/outdoor-annual/fishing/general-rules-regulations/legal-devices-for-fish/#crab-traps

This regulation is being considered for modification as: 1) it has no significant biological impact to the crab fishery and 2) it unreasonably impacts property owners in this area.

4. Activities Related to Fisheries Dependent Data Collection.

Fishery-Dependent harvest data collection (creel surveys)

Due to COVID-19, TPWD made temporary changes to their creel sampling protocols. Our "low-use season" creel sampling is conducted from mid-November until mid-May. Creel surveys in April – May 14th were modified to not count/measure fish, and only recorded trips. On May 15th, we returned to full sampling protocols.

Fishery-dependent collection of otoliths for the Gulf States Biosampling program

We are collecting otoliths from multiple species in conjunction with the GSMFC biosampling program. Otoliths are being collected from recreational anglers and aged via independent contractors paid by GSMFC. To date, the following samples have been processed at our facility:

Table 4. Summary of otoliths collected from recreational species at boat ramps for Gulf States Biosampling program.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Processed	Requested
Gray Snapper	*Lutjanus griseus*	20	100
Vermillion Snapper	*Rhomboplites aurorubens*	26	200
Red Snapper	*Lutjanus campechanus*	106	400
Triggerfish	*Balistes capriscus*	0	50
King Mackerel	*Scomberomorus cavalla*	0	300
Sheepshead	*Archosargus probatocephalus*	100	100
Southern Flounder	*Paralichthys lethostigma*	144	200
Black Drum	*Pogonias cromis*	244	400
Red Drum	*Sciaenops ocellatus*	279	800
Spotted Seatrout	*Cynoscion nebulosus*	946	1700

5. Activities Related to Fisheries-Independent Sampling.

SEAMAP

Vertical line (VL)

2020 Vertical longline operations were cancelled due to COVID. Staffing RVs to levels needed to conduct sampling was not possible due to distancing restrictions. We attempted to reach out to several groups to contract the work out but were unsuccessful. Operations are planned to begin again during 2021.

Bottom longline (BLL)

2020 Bottom longline operations were cancelled due to COVID. Staffing RVs to levels needed to conduct sampling was not possible due to distancing restrictions. We were able to acquire a longline winch for the field lab vessel in stat zone 21, so once sampling is able to commence, we can expand sampling into south Texas areas.

6. Other State Activities.

License Buyback Program

Shrimp

Buyback Round 38

- Application period closed January 17, 2020 (Open approximately 60 days)
- 20 applications received
- Currently reviewing bids
- Purchased a total of 7 (4 bay and 3 bait)
- Total purchase price was $64,500
- Avg. purchase price was $9,214

Finfish

Buyback Round 26

- Application period closed January 17, 2020 (Open approximately 60 days)
- 2 applications received
- Currently reviewing bids
- No bids accepted – independent sales as high as $25K

Crab

Buyback Round 23

- Application period closed January 17, 2020 (Open approximately 60 days)
- No applications received

Oyster

Buyback Round 3

- Application period closed January 17, 2020 (Open approximately 60 days)
- 2 applications received
- Currently reviewing bids
- Purchased a total of 1 license
- Total purchase price was $12,000

Fisheries Enhancement Program (Hatcheries)

FY 2020 Water Body	Red Drum Fingerlings stocked	Spotted Seatrout Fingerlings stocked	Southern Flounder Fingerlings stocked
Aransas	2,412,477	54,766	22,377
Corpus Christi	729,711		
East Matagorda	1,993,739	2,329,842	
Galveston	6,786,757	55,635	2,958
Lower Laguna Madre	2,916,008	531,064	
Sabine Lake	1,923,992		
San Antonio	554,991	15,000	
West Matagorda	2,589,604	1,607	
Upper Laguna Madre	2,561,227		

Freshwater			
Calaveras	693,291		
Kleberg Park	2,879		
Lake Bryan	171,933		
Victor Brauning	352,036		
Total	**23,688,645**	**2,987,914**	**25,335**

Perry R. Bass Marine Fisheries Research Station Updates

1. PRB Projects

Sciaenidae otolith collection

All *Sciaenops ocellatus* and *Cynoscion nebulosus* otolith age files have now been compiled into a single database to promote efficient use of the data. Although physical samples go back to 1995, preliminary analysis of spotted seatrout (*Cynoscion nebulosus*) otolith data has resulted in fishes back-aged to the 1990 cohort. Significant trends in growth among years and among Texas estuaries have been observed, and these trends are being used to assess drivers of growth and mortality. Currently, work is ongoing on a publication dealing with spotted seatrout age and body growth over a near 30-year span. Spotted seatrout otolith collections were discontinued due to COVID-19, and these collections are unlikely to resume in the near future. Similarly, we are evaluating whether to continue with red drum collections next year.

Eastern oyster (*Crassostrea virginica*) population genomics

This project consists of sampling oysters throughout the Gulf and using high-throughput "next generation" approaches for generating a high resolution SNP genomic data set. This will allow us to assess patterns of migration and gene flow (stock structure) as well as potential genetic loci under localized natural selection. To date, we have received samples from Florida (*n* = 3), Louisiana (*n* = 2), Alabama (*n* = 1) and Texas (*n* = 11), and sampling has been completed. Genomic sequencing has begun, and preliminary bioinformatics have been completed. Sequencing and bioinformatics are being supported by the Marine Genomics lab at Texas A&M Corpus Christi. We anticipate all lab work will be completed and final data analysis will begin this year. We conducted a side project using these oyster samples, examining morphological (shell shape) differences among oysters at the sample and regional scale. This analysis yielded interesting results that validate previous analyses of population structure based on genetics, and the findings have been written and submitted to a journal.

Black Drum (*Pogonias cromis*) high-resolution population genomics

Previously noted life history differences between black drum from Baffin Bay as compared to other Texas inshore areas suggests the possibility of genetic divergence on a relatively small geographic scale. We have used microsatellite data, mtDNA and discriminant analysis of principle components (DAPC) to demonstrate weak but significant genetic divergence between Baffin Bay and other Texas bays. Samples were selected for a high-resolution genomic library, and these samples have now been sequenced using the reduced-representation "ddRAD" method. Analysis of sequence data is complete, and two papers have been submitted to a journal detailing the findings. Our preliminary findings indicate weak but significant population structure of this species in Texas, and imply at least three regional populations of black drum in the western Gulf.

Detection of white spot syndrome virus (WSSV) in wild Gulf shrimp

We measured the presence and prevalence of white spot syndrome virus (WSSV) in brown and white shrimp from Texas. We collaborated with Dr. Arun Dhar of the aquaculture pathology laboratory, University of Arizona, in obtaining an infection-positive control sample of *Litopenaeus vannamei* (Pacific white shrimp). Additionally, we identified and utilized an appropriate PCR-based laboratory assay for detecting WSSV in Texas shrimp. Sampling has been completed for this study, data is analyzed, and manuscript preparation is under way. We do not intend to collect additional samples for this project.

Detection of shrimp black gill disease in wild Gulf shrimp

We are continuing work on a study on the presence and prevalence of shrimp black gill (sBG) in white (*Litopenaeus setiferus*) and brown (*Farfantepenaeus aztecus*) shrimp in Texas. We have identified the pathogen that seems to drive this condition in Texas, using DNA sequencing technology. In 2019, *n* = 1,605 shrimp (white and brown combined) were sampled and sBG detection was conducted using a PCR test coupled with lab examination/diagnosis. Seasonal patterns in prevalence were identified, as was linkage between prevalence, temperature, and salinity. A paper detailing these findings has been submitted to a journal. We are continuing and expanding our sampling effort for this project. In an effort to assess impacts to Gulf commercial shrimping, we have partnered with Texas Agrilife Sea Grant extension and the offshore shrimp trawl fishing community to expand sampling offshore and link it directly to the industry.

Observation of growth in two sizes of post-release red drum *Sciaenops ocellatus*

We are cooperating with the TPWD stock enhancement branch to determine whether there are differences in growth and body condition between stock enhancement red drum that are above versus below the size targeted at the time of harvest (35 mm). Samples of fish were collected at harvest, and individuals were fit with coded wire tags and released into wet lab tanks. Three trials have been completed (May, August, November 2020) and data analysis is ongoing. Preliminary results suggest that fish below target have a higher mortality rate post-harvest, and there are also differences in daily growth between individuals above and below harvest targets.

Determination of hatching dates in wild southern flounder (*Paralichthys lethostigma*)

Young-of-the-year southern flounder are being collected during fishery independent sampling (TPWD). Otoliths are being extracted from all individuals and daily increment rings are being used to determine hatching dates for southern flounder. Hatching dates will be related back to environmental (water quality) conditions to render understanding of spawning and hatching conditions for southern flounder. In preliminary observations, it appears that daily rings are present and countable. We have also observed accessory growth centers that might be associated with metamorphosis. This year we included a collaborative component to this project with the TPWD stock enhancement program, and we are expecting to receive *n* = 30 YOY flounder spawned in captivity, with known birth dates. Hatchery-reared flounder will be used to validate growth rings and accessory growth centers, and growth and timing of metamorphosis will be compared between wild and hatchery fish.

Taxonomic uncertainty in ladyfish (*Elops saurus versus E. smithi*) in the western Gulf of Mexico

Research conducted in the last decade described a new species of ladyfish, *Elops smithi*, which occurs in sympatry with *E. saurus* in the Gulf of Mexico. It is unknown with what regularity this species occurs in Texas waters. Preliminary observations based on DNA sequencing (in our lab) of ladyfish previously collected in Texas suggest that both species are present. We are in the process of collecting additional

specimens *via* TPWD fishery independent sampling, paired with occasional angling. Morphological characters which diagnose each species are being counted and paired with mtDNA sequencing to take census of these species in Texas' waters. Additionally, if both species are present with regularity, we intend to construct a reduced-representation genomic library in an effort to identify historical admixture or contemporaneous hybridization between species. Expansion of this project to include other Gulf states will be considered, and coordination of this effort *via* GSMFC would be beneficial. These data will be used to clarify the taxonomy of *Elops sp.* in Texas' marine waters and improve our breadth of knowledge of Texas' marine biodiversity.

2. Collaborative projects

Range-wide population genetic structure of alligator gar (*Atractosteus spatula*)

In collaboration with Dr. Brian Kreiser, (University of Southern Mississippi), we are analyzing mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) sequence data already on hand in our lab, in an effort to examine the range-wide population structure of the species. Dr. Kreiser is analyzing a microsatellite DNA data set, and together we will attempt to compare and contrast historical versus contemporary patterns of movement and demographic exchange among drainages in the Gulf of Mexico basin. Sampling has been completed, and all genetic data has been collected and organized. Analysis of both data sets is nearing completion (mtDNA, Texas Parks and Wildlife; genomic microsatellites, University of Mississippi) and we are moving towards writing a manuscript detailing this effort and its findings.

Age and growth of snook species in Texas' estuaries

In collaboration with biologists from our upper and lower Laguna Madre field stations, we are using otoliths to examine the age structure of common and fat snook (*Centropomus undecimalis* and *C. mexicanus*, respectively) in Texas estuaries. TPWD field biologists are using internal structures of fishes caught in fishery independent sampling to examine sex ratios and fecundity in adult snook species. We are supporting this work by aging snook previously captured in TPWD sampling gear, using thin-sectioning and microscopy of saggital otoliths. Otolith collections are ongoing in the Laguna Madre, but approximately 150 previously collected samples have also been cut and aged to expand the scope of this work.

Taxonomic uncertainty of *Menidia* sp. in Aransas and Galveston Bays

We are supporting the work of Dr. James Derek Hogan who is conducting targeted sampling for a rare all-female silverside species, *Menidia clarkhubbsi*. Dr. Hogan's group is looking for morphological characters that might distinguish this species from other species of *Menidia*, and pairing his analysis with genomic sequencing in an effort to compare genomic loci among *M. clarkhubbsi* and the more common species *M. peninsulae* and *M. beryllina*. We are principally supporting Dr. Hogan's work with sampling effort, but J. Anderson (TPWD) is listed as a cooperator on this work, which is funded *via* a state wildlife grant (TPWD-SWG).

RED LINE DRAFT

Gulf of Mexico Cooperative Law Enforcement Operations Plan

2021-2022

March 2021

GSMFC No. XXX

GULF OF MEXICO
COOPERATIVE LAW ENFORCEMENT
OPERATIONS PLAN

2021-2022

by the

Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission
Law Enforcement Committee

and

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council
Law Enforcement Technical Committee

edited by
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March 2021

A publication of the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission pursuant to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Award Number NA19NMF4070125. This paper is funded by a grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The views expressed herein are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of NOAA or any of its subagencies.

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Introduction

Current state and federal regulatory approaches require development and implementation of concurrent law enforcement strategies. Concerns over ocean ecosystems, living marine resources, coral reefs, coastal habitat conservation, and international fisheries have continued to escalate law enforcement responsibilities throughout the Gulf of Mexico. The foundations of fishery management plans are dependent upon sound regulations and the ability to maintain acceptable levels of compliance.

Understanding the complexities of fisheries management regulations by the public and user groups requires enhanced interaction and communication by enforcement. The role of law enforcement is to provide guidance to ensure effectiveness, consistency, and enforceability of proposed and adopted regulations in the fishery management process. Effective education and outreach programs by enforcement will increase public trust and awareness, maximizing voluntary compliance and identifying illegal activity.

This long-term *Gulf of Mexico Cooperative Law Enforcement Operations Plan* maximizes the effectiveness of interjurisdictional and international fisheries enforcement. This is accomplished by identifying priorities, developing comprehensive planning efforts, and conducting Gulf-wide operations.

Vision Statement

Effect regulations which enhance, protect, and conserve ocean ecosystems and living marine resources to increase compliance throughout the Gulf of Mexico for the safe use and enjoyment by present and future generations.

Mission Statement

Law enforcement is dedicated to providing professional guidance and expertise to the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission, the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. We are committed to improving enforceability and regulatory compliance through cooperative efforts that enhance, protect, and conserve shared living marine resources and their supporting ecosystems throughout the Gulf of Mexico.

Goals and Objectives

GOAL 1: Provide professional law enforcement expertise throughout all rule-making processes.

Professional law enforcement expertise and input are integral to the development, promulgation, and implementation of clear and effective regulations.

Objective 1.1 – Increase participation in the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission (GSMFC) and Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (GMFMC) processes.

- Attend LEC and LETC meetings in conjunction with GSMFC and GMFMC meetings.
- Conduct a summer work session to continue strategic and operations plan activities and opportunistic discussion of enforcement hot topics.
- Evaluate current GSMFC and GMFMC regulatory recommendations/actions.
- Provide guidance to identify and prevent unnecessary regulations.
- Assist in the development of interjurisdictional state and federal management plans.
- Provide timely and substantive comment on GSMFC and GMFMC actions.

Continuing Tasks

Task 1. The chair of the GSMFC's LEC may convene conference calls as needed and request discussion items from the membership (upcoming proposals and law enforcement issues) and track previous agenda items specific to GSMFC activities to ensure completion.

Task 2. Meeting agendas will be developed based upon upcoming law enforcement topics, and issues pertinent to GSMFC and GMFMC business.

Task 3. The chairmen of the LEC/LETC will consult the members and coordinate input to the GSMFC and/or GMFMC on enforceability of regulatory/management issues pertinent to FMP development and implementation.

Task 4. Work sessions should be held, as needed, to continue strategic planning, implementation, and review of yearly enforcement operations. Work sessions would allow continued JEA Program discussion and opportunistic coordination and discussion of regional operations.

Task 5. Meetings will take place with GSMFC/GMFMC staff, NOAA staff, and other interested representatives to discuss law enforcement data pertinent to regulatory consideration and provide recommendations.

Task 6. The chairmen of the LEC/LETC will consult the members and coordinate input to NOAA on enforceability of regulatory/management issues pertinent to federal fishery management plans and amendments or other enforcement issues outside of the Council purview.

Task 7. The LEC/LETC will continue to meet in conjunction with the GSMFC spring and fall annual meetings.

Task 8. The GMFMC will provide funding for the LETC state representatives to attend the GMFMC meetings when in their respective home states, at which the LETC state representative will provide a presentation or update on recent JEA activities.

Objective 1.2 – Strengthen enforcement's relationships with the GSMFC and GMFMC.

- Support communication between enforcement and GSMFC commissioners and GMFMC members.
- Provide bi-annual operating plans and interim/annual reports.
- Act as liaison between all law enforcement agencies and GSMFC commissioners and GMFMC members.

Continuing Tasks

Task 1. The chairmen of the LEC and the GSMFC staff will request the current state rules and regulations for the production of the GSMFC's *Law Summary - Rules and Regulations* which is distributed electronically.

Task 2. The LEC/LETC will provide information, guidance, and representation between all law enforcement agencies and the GSMFC/GMFMC when requested.

~~Task 3. The chairmen of the LEC and the GSMFC staff will request the current state rules and regulations for the production of the GSMFC's *Rules and Regulations: Officers' Pocket Guide* which is distributed to all fisheries officers on the water.~~ **[The Fish App has eliminated the usefulness of this for officers.]**

Task 3 ~~4~~. LETC members will make an effort to contact their department representatives on the GMFMC to review issues coming before the GMFMC and debrief with them after GMFMC meetings. **[renumbered]**

Task 4 ~~5~~. The GMFMC staff will provide an email with a link to the GMFMC Statement of Operating Practices and Procedures (SOPP) for any new members to the LETC and the whole LETC when changes are made to the SOPP. **[renumbered]**

Task 5. The GMFMC staff will provide the LETC/LEC with Council agendas ahead of the regular Council meetings to make enforcement aware of items that might need to be addressed or officers be made aware of. **[New Task 1 was moved up]**

New Tasks

~~Task 1. The GMFMC staff will provide the LETC/LEC with Council agendas ahead of the regular Council meetings to make enforcement aware of items that might need to be addressed or officers be made aware of~~**. [This is currently being done by Dr. Lasseter on a regular basis – moved to Task 5 Continuing]**

Objective 1.3 – Increase participation in development of federal fishery management plans and amendments.

- Provide timely and substantive comments on federal fishery management plans.

Continuing Task

Task 1. The GMFMC staff liaison will provide background material as federal fishery management plans are being developed.

Task 2. Provide comments to the GMFMC or GSMFC staff at the appropriate time to ensure enforceability of regulatory/management measures pertinent to federal fishery plans

Objective 1.4 – Provide guidance and input on existing regulations to ensure enforceability.

- Provide guidance to modify ineffective regulations.
- Promote statutory and regulatory consistency among all state and federal agencies.
- Identify enforcement workload impact and cost-analysis resulting from regulations and changes.
- Identify tools and technologies necessary to provide effective enforcement.

Continuing Tasks

Task 1. The LEC/LETC will meet with the GSMFC/GMFMC to discuss enforceability and provide data pertinent to rules and regulations and proposed changes.

Task 2. The LEC/LETC will review for consistency state/federal laws and regulations applicable to interjurisdictional fisheries and/or relating to interstate transportation of seafood.

Task 3. The LEC/LETC will, as appropriate, participate in relevant state and federal legislative agendas.

Task 4. The LEC/LETC will identify existing regulatory enforcement concerns and report to the GSMFC and GMFMC.

Task 5. The LEC/LETC will research and discuss enforcement tools and technologies as a continuing agenda item at semi-annual LEC/LETC meetings.

Task 6. The LEC/LETC will provide feedback to the GSMFC and GMFMC on enforcement issues due to ineffective or inconsistent regulations and include these issues in the semi-annual meetings of the LEC and LETC.

Task 7. The LEC/LETC will encourage consistent enforcement of federal and state requirements under the Endangered Species Act and Marine Mammal Protection Act.

Task 8. Utilize the existing LETC process to provide formal input on the cost analyses associated with enforcement of proposed regulations to the GMFMC to avoid unfunded mandates or liabilities.

~~**New Tasks**~~

~~Task 1. Establish a routine agenda item for the LETC to review existing federal fisheries regulations that may no longer be applicable or may be in need of rewriting for the GMFMC to consider revising or removing.~~ **[no longer necessary since the GMFMC has a mechanism in place now. LE should provide input to the GMFMC when reviewing regulations}**

GOAL 2: Develop and implement effective outreach programs.

A working partnership between state and federal partners and the public is essential to maximize resources in order to achieve Gulf-wide regulatory compliance.

Objective 2.1 – Improve community-oriented policing programs (COPPs).

- Continue to implement and establish joint programs to increase contact and law enforcement presence among user groups.
- Continue to publicize different state and federal actions through mass media and social networking.
- Utilize user group feedback to evaluate enforcement performance.
- Coordinate with the GMFMC Outreach and Education Committee on specific public events.

Continuing Tasks

Task 1. The LEC/LETC will review and evaluate the means to combine successful programs and program elements into current state and federal efforts.

Task 2. The LEC/LETC will review successful public affairs programming in other local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies for potential application to LEC/LETC efforts.

Task 3. The LEC/LETC will explore documentation of community-oriented policing events conducted by enforcement officers which encompass regulatory and management information.

Task 4. The LEC/LETC will identify other forms of fishery education and public outreach.

Objective 2.2 – Promote Gulf-wide fisheries information programs.

- Identify and develop web-based services such as social media and smart-phone technology for fishermen and the public to easily obtain current state/federal regulations.
- Encourage the GSMFC, GMFMC, and NOAA to develop mechanisms to compile up-to-date state/federal regulations into an easily accessible, understandable, multilingual format.

Continuing Tasks

Task 1. Pursue grant funding for law enforcement related public service announcements to engage, advise, and inform individuals, partners, communities, and industries to facilitate

information flow, assure coordination and cooperation, and provide assistance in the use, evaluation, and application of information.

Task 2. Continue updating and supporting the information provided through the GMFMC's and other mobile apps for Smartphones on fish identification, closed areas, Marine Protected Areas (MPA), and local/federal regulations.

New Tasks

Task 1. Publicize all enforcement tip line and electronic reporting system for the public to contact state or federal enforcement.

Objective 2.3 – Enhance awareness of the importance of state and federal prosecution to the successful adjudication of natural resource regulations.

- Continue outreach to prosecutors and litigators.
- Identify mechanisms to meet with prosecutors and litigators.
- Work with the case agent or officer to aid in adjudication and disposition of evidence.

Continuing Tasks

Task 1. The LEC/LETC continues to identify relevant judicial entities involved in marine resource violation adjudication.

Task 2. NOAA General Counsel serves as a repository for briefs, case laws, etc. and receives state input.

Task 3. Utilize existing tools to promote education of prosecutors on current enforcement efforts and develop additional tools that assist in apprehension of violators.

New Task

Task 1. Develop mechanisms to inform prosecutors of new or revised rules/regulations, violation progression, or change of class of violations which may occur.

GOAL 3: Promote cooperative law enforcement partnerships.

Working partnerships are essential to maximize enforcement resources in order to promote Gulf-wide regulatory compliance.

Objective 3.1 – Maintain cooperative enforcement agreements (CEAs), joint enforcement agreements (JEAs), memorandums of understanding (MOUs), and reciprocal agreements across state and federal agencies.

- Whenever appropriate, provide comments in support of CEAs, JEAs, MOUs, and reciprocal agreements to state and federal representatives.

- Promote the streamlining of processing and tracking JEAs.
- Promote continuation of National JEA Working Group.
- Encourage JEA-related training for state enforcement personnel.

Continuing Tasks

Task 1. The LEC/LETC will provide input to the NOAA Office of Law Enforcement (OLE) concerning methods to streamline JEAs.

Task 2. The LEC/LETC will continue to work with NOAA OLE to develop standardized formulas (man hours, vessel hours, recreational/commercial contact, etc.) for JEAs.

Task 3. The LEC/LETC will work with NOAA OLE, to identify specific goals and milestones that must be met under the JEA Program.

Task 4. The LEC/LETC will provide routine reporting to the GSMFC and GMFMC on past years' JEA activities for the whole Gulf through the LEC/LETC reports at the annual fall meeting.

Task 5. The LEC/LETC supports continuation of 'officer sharing' programs for joint operations and JEA patrols for better agency/agency cooperation and information sharing.

Objective 3.2 – Identify state and federal programs supporting fisheries enforcement.

- Identify and enhance law enforcement equipment for states.
- Enhance communications among federal and state enforcement partners on Homeland Security issues.
- Enhance inter-operable communications among state and federal enforcement partners.

Continuing Tasks

Task 1. The LEC/LETC will identify and evaluate funding sources applicable to law enforcement training and equipment.

Task 2. The LEC/LETC will develop additional 'shared' experience training between the states and the NOAA OLE agents.

Task 3. The LEC/LETC supports continued development of partnerships and potential access to aerial surveillance aircraft in support of off-shore enforcement activities.

Objective 3.3 – Explore a uniform enforcement data collection and reporting system for violation and management trends across the Gulf states.

- Evaluate available technology.
- Identify funding sources.
- Analyze and distribute information.

- Promote development and use of a shared database for natural resource violations across the state and federal resource agencies similar to NCIC or the TPWD's Pocket Cop inquiry tool.
- Acquire the wireless ability to access this system in the field by enforcement officers in real time.
- Identify and evaluate under-reporting issues and address gaps in state reporting requirements along with federal reporting requirements to determine possible trends in neighboring states.

New Task

Task 1. Determine the individual needs of the various agencies to build a framework for a unified system.

Task 2. Evaluate the ability to merge or modify existing agency reporting structures to meet the needs of a uniformed framework system.

Objective 3.4 – Coordinate law enforcement effort and evaluate observed compliance with regulations based on federal fishery management plans.

- Conduct state/federal strategic plan work sessions to evaluate progress and determine milestones.
- Conduct state/federal law enforcement meetings concerning joint Gulf-wide programs and operations.
- Ensure that future law enforcement programs support fishery management plans.
- Ensure enforcement partners are informed of federal rule/law changes in a timely manner and provide training if needed.

New Task

Task 1. Request GMFMC and GSMFC staff to develop a matrix for use by the LEC/LETC of the timing of routine closures over the last several years to plan for potential closures in advance to better forecast potential fishery closures based on recent history.

Task 2. Conduct an annual or biannual review of the relevant regulations and management concerns with the federal and state partners.

GOAL 4: Promote regulations to protect and enhance the health and sustainability of the ecosystem.

Ecosystem health and sustainability is the foundation for a viable living marine environment in the Gulf of Mexico. Regulations that manage, protect, and conserve the ecosystem are critical to maintain its health and sustainability now and in the future.

Objective 4.1 – Incorporate realistic compliance estimates into stock assessment models in support of ecosystem sustainability.

- Support the inclusion of law enforcement statistics and other information in stock assessments and biological opinions.
- Identify impacts of noncompliance to living marine resources.

- Identify and evaluate law enforcement strategies to address unique ecosystem enforcement challenges.

Continuing Tasks

Task 1. The LEC/LETC will provide recommendations and input when regulations are being developed in support of ecosystem management.

Task 2. The LEC/LETC will provide input through the GSMFC IJF Program Coordinator for inclusion and consideration of enforcement statistics in stock assessment efforts through the SEDAR and GDAR programs.

GOAL 5: Protect the consumer.

Ensure the consumer is receiving properly identified aquatic product that legally entered the domestic market.

Objective 5.1 – Ensure the integrity of imported fisheries products.

- Identify illegal fisheries products.
- Identify participants of illegal interstate trade.
- Support enhanced development of documentation for imported fisheries species.
- Work cooperatively with other state and federal law enforcement agencies to identify and apprehend traffickers in illegal international trade.

Continuing Task

Task 1. The LEC/LETC will continue to stay involved in the product substitution and relabeling issues.

Task 2. The LEC/LETC will identify current documentation and procedure requirements used for importing marine species.

Task 3. State and Federal partners and other agencies (US Customs, USFDA, USFWS Wildlife Inspectors, etc.) will work cooperatively to address the movement of fishery products coming from foreign nations that may not meet safe processing regulations. **[Already happening on the state level to moved to continuing]**

~~**New Tasks**~~

~~Task 1. State and Federal partners and other agencies (US Customs, USFDA, USFWS Wildlife Inspectors, etc.) will work cooperatively to address the movement of fishery products coming from foreign nations that may not meet safe processing regulations.~~ **[Already happening on the state level to moved to continuing]**

Objective 5.2 – Ensure the integrity of domestic fisheries products.

- Work with partner agencies in using forensic tools to improve fisheries law enforcement capabilities.
- Identify persons who provide mislabeled, adulterated, or substituted domestic products.
- Support enhanced development of documentation for all marine species.
- Work with partner agencies to identify and deter illegal fisheries activities from neighboring foreign nations.

Continuing Tasks

Task 1. The LEC/LETC will explore development and use of forensic technology in fisheries enforcement.

Task 2. The LEC/LETC members, in their respective states, will identify current forensic resources, laboratories, species-specific and other capabilities, and laboratory contact information.

Task 3. State and Federal partners will continue to coordinate joint resources to ensure a strong response regarding IUU activities.

Task 4. Partners will monitor levels of IUU fishing for coordination of effort and for potential inclusion in stock assessment.

GOAL 6: Obtain funds to aid state and federal law enforcement agencies.

State and federal agencies do not have sufficient resources or assets to provide continuous support of state/federal marine resource enforcement operations.

Objective 6.1 – Explore and enhance federal grant and funding programs for law enforcement.

- Identify and evaluate law enforcement grant and funding programs.
- Promote adequate long-term funding for JEAs that takes into account increased operation costs at a minimum of the current Consumer Price Index (CPI) to maintain historical JEA patrol levels.

Continuing Tasks

Task 1. The LEC/LETC will research, identify, track, and discuss grant and funding opportunities and resources for marine enforcement.

Task 2. The LEC/LETC will discuss potential funding sources and identify appropriate processes to obtain funds.

Task 3. The LEC/LETC will request GSMFC/GMFMC assistance in using their resources and expertise to seek funding for state law enforcement programs.

Task 4. The LEC/LETC will pursue funding for law enforcement related public service announcements to engage, advise, and inform individuals, partners, communities, and industries to facilitate information flow, assure coordination and cooperation, and provide assistance in the use, evaluation, and application of information.

Objective 6.2 – Seek a long-term, dedicated source of funding/appropriations for the JEA program to support regulatory compliance initiatives in the Gulf of Mexico.

- Identify the positive performance of the JEA program.
- Evaluate the cost effectiveness of current federal funding in fisheries law enforcement in the Gulf of Mexico.

Continuing Tasks

Task 1. The LEC/LETC will discuss additional workload indicators as a result of changes in US Coast Guard fisheries enforcement resulting from Homeland Security priorities.

Task 2. The LEC/LETC will continue developing management strategies to include funding for personnel and vessels for offshore patrols.

Task 3. The LEC/LETC will request the GSMFC and GMFMC to send letters in support of the JEAs to the appropriate federal partners to highlight the need for secure, long-term funding/appropriations in support of JEA**.**

Task 4. The LEC/LETC will work with the GMFMC to identify increased JEA funding needs for enforcement when implementing new FMP regulations in order to call attention to any added enforcement costs.

Objective 6.3 – Obtain adequate funding for the strategic planning process and greater representation of the LEC and LETC at GSMFC and GMFMC meetings.

- Seek funding from the GSMFC and GMFMC for the LEC and LETC to attend the GSMFC spring and fall annual meetings.
- Fund the LETC state representative to attend each of the GMFMC meetings when in their home state.

Continuing Task

Task 1. The chairmen of the LEC/LETC will request funding assistance from the GSMFC and GMFMC to conduct law enforcement meetings to accomplish the *Strategic Plan and the Operations Plan.* When possible, these meetings will be held in conjunction with other LEC/LETC meetings.

GOAL 7: The five states will work together for the short-term response and long-term recovery from manmade and natural disasters.

- Evaluate the needs of officers responding to the disaster.
- Determine the effectiveness of large-scale closures due to disasters.
- Evaluate the cost of enforcing large-scale closures.

Continuing Task

Task 1. The LEC and LETC will share post-event evaluations with state and federal partners as part of routine state reporting at joint LEC/LETC meetings.

OFFICER
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GREAT SEAL
ENFORCEMENT
ALA

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FWC
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FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

ENFORCEMENT
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STATE OF
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MARINE PATROL

TEXAS
251
GAME WARDEN
Parks & Wildlife Department

US
SPECIAL AGENT
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

US
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
SPECIAL AGENT

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD
SEMPER
PARATUS
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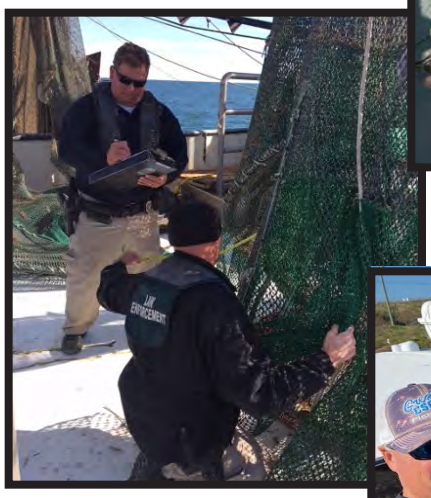
Gulf of Mexico
Cooperative Law Enforcement
Strategic Plan
2021-2024



Expertise and input from law enforcement

Cooperative interface for state and federal partners

Maximizing resources to achieve Gulf-wide regulatory compliance

Ecosystem health and sustainability through regulations that manage, protect, and conserve

Legal and properly-identified aquatic products for the seafood consumer

Resources to provide continuous support of state/federal marine resource enforcement

GULF OF MEXICO
COOPERATIVE LAW ENFORCEMENT
STRATEGIC PLAN

2021-2024

by the

Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission
Law Enforcement Committee

and

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council
Law Enforcement Technical Committee

edited by
Steve VanderKooy

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March 2021

A publication of the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission pursuant to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Award Number NA19NMF4070125. This paper is funded by a grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The views expressed herein are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of NOAA or any of its subagencies.

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Introduction

Current state and federal regulatory approaches require development and implementation of concurrent law enforcement strategies. Concerns over ocean ecosystems, living marine resources, coral reefs, coastal habitat conservation, and international fisheries have continued to escalate law enforcement responsibilities throughout the Gulf of Mexico. The foundations of fishery management plans are dependent upon sound regulations and the ability to maintain acceptable levels of compliance.

Understanding the complexities of fisheries management regulations by the public and user groups requires enhanced interaction and communication by enforcement. Our role as law enforcement is to provide guidance to ensure effectiveness, consistency, and enforceability of proposed and adopted regulations in the fishery management process. Effective education and outreach programs by enforcement will increase public trust and awareness, maximizing voluntary compliance and identifying illegal activity.

This long-term *Gulf of Mexico Cooperative Law Enforcement Strategic Plan* maximizes the effectiveness of interjurisdictional and international fisheries enforcement. This is accomplished by identifying priorities, developing comprehensive planning efforts, and conducting Gulf-wide operations.

Vision Statement

Effect regulations which enhance, protect, and conserve ocean ecosystems and living marine resources to increase compliance throughout the Gulf of Mexico for the safe use and enjoyment of present and future generations.

Mission Statement

Law enforcement is dedicated to providing professional guidance and expertise to the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission, the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. We are committed to improving enforceability and regulatory compliance through cooperative efforts that enhance, protect, and conserve shared living marine resources and their supporting ecosystems throughout the Gulf of Mexico.

Goals and Objectives

GOAL 1: Provide professional law enforcement expertise throughout all rule-making processes.

Professional law enforcement expertise and input are integral to the development, promulgation, and implementation of clear and effective regulations.

Objective 1.1 – Increase participation in the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission (GSMFC) and Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (GMFMC) processes.

- Attend LEC and LETC meetings in conjunction with GSMFC and GMFMC meetings.
- Conduct a summer work session to continue strategic and operations plan activities and opportunistic discussion of enforcement hot topics.
- Evaluate current GSMFC and GMFMC regulatory recommendations/actions.
- Assist in the development of interjurisdictional state and federal management plans.
- Provide timely and substantive comment on GSMFC and GMFMC actions.

Objective 1.2 – Strengthen enforcement's relationships with the GSMFC and GMFMC.

- Support communication between enforcement and GSMFC commissioners and GMFMC members.
- Provide bi-annual operating plans and interim/annual reports.
- Act as liaison between all law enforcement agencies and GSMFC commissioners and GMFMC members.

Objective 1.3 – Increase participation in federal fishery management plans.

- Provide timely and substantive comments on federal fishery management plans.

Objective 1.4 – Provide guidance and input on all regulations to ensure enforceability.

- Provide guidance to modify ineffective regulations
- Provide guidance to identify and prevent unnecessary regulations.
- Promote statutory and regulatory consistency among all state and federal agencies.
- Identify enforcement workload impact and cost-analysis resulting from regulations and changes.
- Identify tools and technologies necessary to provide effective enforcement.

GOAL 2: Develop and implement effective outreach programs.

A working partnership between state and federal partners and the public is essential to maximize resources in order to achieve G*ulf-wide regulatory compliance.*

Objective 2.1 – Improve community-oriented policing programs (COPPs).

- Continue to implement and establish joint programs to increase contact and law enforcement presence among user groups.

- Continue to publicize different state and federal actions through mass media and social networking.
- Utilize user group feedback to evaluate enforcement performance.
- Coordinate with the GMFMC Outreach Committee on specific public events.

Objective 2.2 – Promote Gulf-wide fisheries information programs.

- Identify and develop web-based services such as social media and smart-phone technology for fishermen and the public to easily obtain current state/federal regulations.
- Encourage the GSMFC, GMFMC, and NOAA to develop mechanisms to compile up-to-date state/federal regulations into an easily accessible, understandable, multilingual format.

Objective 2.3 – Enhance awareness of the importance of state and federal prosecution to the successful adjudication of natural resource regulations.

- Continue outreach to prosecutors and litigators.
- Identify mechanisms to meet with prosecutors and litigators.
- Work with the case agent or officer to aid in adjudication and disposition of evidence.

GOAL 3: Promote cooperative law enforcement partnerships.

Working partnerships are essential to maximize enforcement resources in order to promote Gulf-wide regulatory compliance.

Objective 3.1 – Maintain cooperative enforcement agreements (CEAs), joint enforcement agreements (JEAs), memorandums of understanding (MOUs), and reciprocal agreements across state~~s~~ and federal agencies.

- Whenever appropriate, provide comments in support of CEAs, JEAs, MOUs, and reciprocal agreements to state and federal representatives.
- Promote the streamlining of processing and tracking JEAs.
- Promote continuation of National JEA Working Group.
- Encourage JEA-related training for state enforcement personnel.

Objective 3.2 – Identify state and federal programs supporting fisheries enforcement.

- Identify and enhance law enforcement equipment for states.
- Enhance communications among federal and state enforcement partners on Homeland Security issues.
- Enhance inter-operable communications among state and federal enforcement partners.

Objective 3.3 – Explore a uniform enforcement data collection and reporting system for violation and management trends across the Gulf states.

- Evaluate available technology.
- Identify funding sources.

- Analyze and distribute information.
- Promote development and use of a shared database for natural resource violations across the state and federal resource agencies similar to NCIC or the TPWD's Pocket Cop inquiry tool.
- Acquire the wireless ability to access this system in the field by enforcement officers in real time.
- Identify and evaluate under-reporting issues and address gaps in state reporting requirements along with federal reporting requirements to determine possible trends in neighboring states.

Objective 3.4 – Coordinate law enforcement effort and evaluate observed compliance with regulations based on federal management plans.

- Conduct state/federal strategic plan work sessions to evaluate progress and determine milestones.
- Conduct state/federal law enforcement meetings concerning joint Gulf-wide programs and operations.
- Ensure that future law enforcement programs support fisheries management plans.
- Ensure enforcement partners are informed of federal rule/law changes in a timely manner and provide training if needed.

GOAL 4: Promote regulations to protect and enhance the health and sustainability of the ecosystem.

Ecosystem health and sustainability is the foundation for a viable living marine environment in the Gulf of Mexico. Regulations that manage, protect, and conserve the ecosystem are critical to maintain its health and sustainability now and in the future.

Objective 4.1 – Incorporate realistic compliance estimates into stock assessment models in support of ecosystem sustainability.

- Support the inclusion of law enforcement statistics and other information in stock assessments and biological opinions.
- Identify impacts of noncompliance to living marine resources.
- Identify and evaluate law enforcement strategies to address unique ecosystem enforcement challenges.

GOAL 5: Protect the consumer.

Ensure the consumer is receiving properly identified aquatic product that legally entered the domestic market.

Objective 5.1 – Ensure the integrity of imported fisheries products.

- Identify illegal fisheries products.
- Identify participants of illegal interstate trade.
- Support enhanced development of documentation for imported fisheries species.
- Work cooperatively with other state and federal law enforcement agencies to identify and apprehend traffickers in illegal international trade.

Objective 5.2 – Ensure the integrity domestic fisheries product.

- Work with partner agencies in using forensic tools to improve fisheries law enforcement capabilities.
- Identify persons who provide mislabeled, adulterated, or substituted domestic products.
- Support enhanced development of documentation for all marine species.
- Work with partner agencies to identify and deter illegal fisheries activities from neighboring foreign nations.

GOAL 6: Obtain funds to aid state and federal law enforcement agencies.

State and federal agencies do not have sufficient resources or assets to provide continuous support of state/federal marine resource enforcement operations.

Objective 6.1 – Explore and enhance federal grant and funding programs for law enforcement.

- Identify and evaluate law enforcement grant and funding programs.
- Promote adequate long-term funding for JEAs that takes into account increased operation costs at a minimum of the current Consumer Price Index (CPI) to maintain historical JEA patrol levels.

Objective 6.2 – Seek a long-term, dedicated source of funding/appropriations for the JEA program to support regulatory compliance initiatives in the Gulf of Mexico.

- Identify the positive performance of the JEA program.
- Evaluate the cost effectiveness of current federal funding in fisheries law enforcement in the Gulf of Mexico.

Objective 6.3 – Obtain adequate funding for the strategic planning process and greater representation of the LEC and LETC at GSMFC and GMFMC meetings.

- Seek funding from the GSMFC and GMFMC for the LEC and LETC to attend the GSMFC spring and fall annual meetings.
- Fund the LETC state representative to attend each of the GMFMC meetings when in their home state.

GOAL 7: The five states will work together for the short-term response and long-term recovery from manmade and natural disasters.

- Evaluate the needs of officers responding to the disaster.
- Determine the effectiveness of large-scale closures due to disasters.
- Evaluate the cost of enforcing large-scale closures.

OFFICER
MARINE RESOURCES
ALABAMA
GREAT SEAL
ENFORCEMENT
ALA

LAW ENFORCEMENT
FWC
STATE OF
FLORIDA
OFFICER
FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

ENFORCEMENT
STATE OF
LOUISIANA
WILDLIFE & FISHERIES

INSPECTOR
MARINE RESOURCES
STATE OF
MISSISSIPPI
MARINE PATROL

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February 25, 2021 F/SER:LW

Mr. Dave Donaldson, Executive Director
Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission
2404 Government Street
Ocean Springs, Mississippi 39564

Dear Mr. Donaldson:

With this letter, I am providing you the Regional Administrator's Report for the March 2021 Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission (GSMFC) meeting. This report highlights the key activities NOAA Fisheries Southeast Regional Office conducted or engaged in from October 2020 through March 2021, and should not be considered inclusive.

AQUACULTURE

Aquaculture Opportunity Areas

- On May 7, 2020, the White House issued an Executive Order (E.O.) on Promoting American Seafood Competitiveness and Economic Growth. Part of this Executive Order requires NOAA to work with the public and other federal and state agencies to identify two (2) Aquaculture Opportunity Areas (AOAs) per year for five (5) years (a total of 10 AOAs within 10 years) and complete a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) for each area.
- In October, NOAA published a Request For Information (RFI) in the Federal Register which asked the public for relevant information regarding the identification of AOAs within Federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico and off Southern California. The 60-day public comment period on the RFI closed on Dec. 22 and NMFS is reviewing the comments. Next steps include completion of a draft Altas which will include areas within federal waters of the GoM that will be considered as alternatives in the AOAs PEIS document.
- NOAA Fisheries expects to begin the PEIS process sometime late spring/early summer; this process will take ~2 years to complete. There will be many opportunities for Commission input and public comment during the development of the PEIS, consistent with our NEPA process.

Regional Aquaculture Projects

- NOAA Fisheries continues to support the development of offshore aquaculture in the Gulf of Mexico (Gulf) by collaborating with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) on two finfish aquaculture projects.
- On August 30, the EPA published a notice requesting comments on the draft National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit (NPDES) and draft Environmental Assessment for the Velella Epsilon pilot project, which proposes to culture almaco jack in a single cage in federal waters about 45 miles southwest of Sarasota, Florida. On January 28th, the EPA conducted a public hearing on the draft NPDES permit. On September 30th, 2020, EPA Region 4 (Atlanta Office) issued an individual NPDES discharge permit to Ocean Era. Thirty days later, two separate appeals were filed with EPA's Environmental Appeals Board (EAB) challenging the NPDES permit. EPA filed its response to the appeals in December. Petitioner reply(ies) were received on 02/01/21. The EPA now has until 3/31/21 to inform the EAB whether they should proceed with deliberations, and whether oral arguments should be set. It is expected that the Appeals Board decision will be finalized sometime in spring 2021. The USACE are still reviewing public comments received on the draft Section 10 Permit. A permitting decision from the USACE is anticipated in the coming months.
- Manna Fish Farms is planning to establish an 18-cage commercial scale finfish operation about 20 miles off the coast of Pensacola, Florida. Manna Fish Farms is planning to submit federal applications to the EPA and USACE sometime in 2021. Kelly Lucas, Director at Thad Cochran Marine Aquaculture Center, presented this proposed project to the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council back in June of 2019. Since that time, an initial baseline environmental survey of the proposed site was conducted; however, due to the presence of a hard bottom ridge, a second survey of an area covering 1,400 acres next to the first area was conducted. Data from the second survey is currently under archaeological review to determine the second survey site's suitability for aquaculture.
- NOAA Fisheries is working with a recipient of Department of Energy ARPA-E macroalgae funding who is interested in culturing macroalgae species (*Euchema* spp.) in the Tampa Bay region. We will update the Gulf Commission on this project as it moves through the permitting process.
- In August 2020, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit issued a decision affirming the district court's [U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana's] ruling that the Gulf of Mexico aquaculture rule exceeds NOAA's statutory authority under the Magnuson-Stevens Act. The Department of Justice did not appeal the Fifth Circuit's ruling and NOAA Fisheries is currently analyzing the implications of this decision.

SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES

Regulatory Actions

NOAA Fisheries *implemented* the following actions approved by the Gulf Council:

Reef Fish and Coastal Migratory Pelagics (CMP)

- Amendment 51 to adjust the gray snapper stock status determination criteria and annual catch limit.
- A framework action to allow the two-day possession limit for reef fish and CMP for-hire trips to be retained at any time during the trip.

NOAA Fisheries is in the process of *reviewing or implementing* the following actions approved by the Gulf Council:

Reef Fish

- Reef Fish Amendment 48/Red Drum Amendment 5 to develop status determination criteria for reef fish and red drum.
- A framework action to consider removing a trolling exemption in Madison Swanson and Steamboat Lumps Marine Protected Areas.
- A framework action to adjust gray triggerfish ACLs and ACTs.
- A framework action to adjust lane snapper ACLs and ACTs.

Other actions under development include:

- Reef Fish Amendments 36B and 36C to modify commercial individual fishing quota.
- Reef Fish Amendment 52 to adjust red snapper allocations.
- Reef Fish Amendment 53 to adjust red grouper allocations and annual catch limits.
- CMP 32 to set cobia ACLs and ACTs as well as modify size and bag limits.
- A framework action to modify Gulf of Mexico red snapper recreational data calibration and recreational catch limits.
- Multiple framework actions to adjust ACLs and ACTs of red snapper, yellowtail snapper, and vermilion snapper.
- A framework action to modify the vermilion snapper bag limit and gray triggerfish closed season.
- A framework action to adjust yellowtail snapper ACLs and ACTs.
- A framework action to adjust vermilion snapper ACLs and ACTs.

Fishery Openings and Closings

Recreational

- A fixed seasonal closure for gag occurs annually January 1 through May 31.
- A fixed seasonal closure for shallow-water grouper occurs annually February 1 through March 31 seaward of the 20-fathom contour.
- A fixed seasonal closure for greater amberjack occurs annually November 1 through April 30 and will reopen on May 1, 2021, if the quota has not been reached.

- A fixed seasonal closure for gray triggerfish occurs annually January 1 through the end of February. There is also a fixed season closure from June 1-July 31.
- A fixed seasonal closure for the federal for-hire component fishing for red snapper from January 1 - May 31. For 2020, the season lasted 62 days before closing

Commercial

- The king mackerel Western and Southern Zones hook-and-line seasons opened on July 1, 2020. The Southern Zone closed February 22, 2021
- The king mackerel Southern Zone gillnet season opened January 19, 2021, and closed January 28, 2021.

Information on recreational and commercial landings, catch limits and quotas, fishing seasons, and closures can be tracked on the SERO Web site at: https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/southeast/commercial-fishing/southeast-region-annual-catch-limit-acl-monitoring.

IFQ landings can be tracked on the SERO Web site at: https://secatchshares.fisheries.noaa.gov/

Permits

The following data represent permits issued or renewed within the last 12 months, which are valid for use in the respective fishery (expired but renewable limited access permits are noted in parentheses). It does not represent activity in the fishery. As of February 23, 2021, these permits included:

- 1,260 (140) moratorium shrimp permits
- 339 royal red shrimp endorsements
- 1,187 (113) for-hire coastal pelagic moratorium permits
- 14 (11) historical captain permits
- 1,296 (130) commercial king mackerel moratorium permits (includes South Atlantic)
- 17 commercial king mackerel gillnet permits.
- 2,251 commercial Spanish mackerel permits (includes South Atlantic).
- 1,175 (114) for-hire reef fish moratorium permits
- 13 (11) historical captain permits
- 766 (71) commercial reef fish moratorium permits
- 6 (2) longline endorsements
- 190 commercial spiny lobster permits (includes South Atlantic)
- 212 tailing permits (includes South Atlantic).

PROTECTED RESOURCES

NOAA Fisheries issued biological opinions to:

- The U.S. Coast Guard for their response to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in 2010. This opinion analyzes the project's effects on sea turtles (green, Kemp's ridley and loggerhead) and sperm whales.
- The USACE Mobile District for two artificial reef projects in the Gulf of Mexico off Alabama. These opinions analyze each project's effects on sea turtles (green, Kemp's ridley, hawksbill, leatherback, and loggerhead), Gulf sturgeon, oceanic whitetip shark, giant manta ray, and Bryde's whale.
- The USACE Jacksonville District for 15 shoreline stabilization projects in Lee County, Florida. These opinions analyze each project's effects on sea turtles (green, Kemp's ridley and loggerhead), smalltooth sawfish, and smalltooth sawfish critical habitat.

To conserve and recover protected species, NOAA Fisheries:

- Renewed Endangered Species Act Section 6 Cooperative Agreements with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Mississippi Department of Marine Resources, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.
- Solicited proposals from each Gulf state's Section 6 representatives for FY20 Species Recovery Conservation Funds.
- Continued participating in the Coastal Texas Protection and Restoration Feasibility Study to assist with reviewing marine mammal impact study plans. The USACE selected a final coastal storm reduction project and published a draft environmental impact statement for public comment.
- Coordinated with the National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science, State of Florida Division of Aquaculture, EPA, and federal applicants to help minimize the impacts of proposed aquaculture operations to marine mammals in the Gulf.
- Continued to serve as off-site coordinators for the investigative team evaluating the potential causes of the Unusual Mortality Event we declared on June 10, 2019, for bottlenose dolphins in the northern Gulf.
- Published a final rule to require the mandatory use of Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDs) by skimmer trawl vessels 40 feet and greater in length in the Southeastern U.S. shrimp fisheries. This rule takes effect April 1, 2021.

HABITAT CONSERVATION

Coastal Wetlands Planning Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA) Program Update

- NOAA Fisheries continued managing and participating in engineering and design activities for the Oyster Lake Marsh Creation and Nourishment, No Name Bayou Marsh Creation, Bayou Decade Ridge and Marsh Creation, Island Road Marsh Creation and Nourishment, West Fourchon Marsh Creation and Nourishment, East Leeville Marsh Creation and Nourishment, Fritchie Marsh Creation and Terracing, Breton West Landbridge Marsh Creation, North Delacroix Marsh Creation and Terracing, and East Delacroix Marsh Creation and Terracing Projects.

- Engineering and design work continued on the Oyster Lake Marsh Creation and Nourishment Project, located in Cameron Parish. The project competed for construction funding unsuccessfully in early 2021, but will compete again in 2022.
- The Bayou Decade Ridge and Marsh Creation Project, located in Terrebonne Parish, will create 378 acres of marsh habitat after 20 years and 11,131 feet of ridge habitat. The construction contract was advertised in 2020. Construction will begin this year.
- The Island Road Marsh Creation and Nourishment Project, located in Terrebonne Parish, is nearing completion of 30% design. This is the culmination of a seven year effort that has developed a constructible design despite challenging site conditions related to deep water and poor soils.
- West Fourchon was selected for funding by the Technical Committee and Task Force in early 2021. The project continues to advance to 100% design.
- The East Leeville Marsh Creation and Nourishment Project, located in Lafourche Parish, was granted a change in scope by the Technical Committee and Task Force in 2020. The 95% design is completed and will seek construction funding in 2021.
- The Breton West Landbridge Marsh Creation and East Delacroix Marsh Creation and Terracing projects, located in Plaquemines and St. Bernard Parishes, are approaching 30% design and will compete for construction funding in 2022.
- The North Delacroix Marsh Creation and Terracing Project, located in St. Bernard Parish, has begun the design process by soliciting bids for work items. The project will progress through 2021with anticipated 95% design completion 2022. Construction funding competition is expected in 2023.
- The NOAA Fisheries team nominated 14 project concepts at the Regional Planning Team meetings for consideration on the Priority Project List 31. These projects span 7 parishes and total 5,021 acres of restoration or protection.
- NOAA Fisheries continued coordinating with the CPRA on operations, maintenance, and monitoring of constructed projects. NOAA Fisheries is working on a proposed path forward to either closeout or transfer constructed projects at year 20, or request the life of these projects be extended.
- NOAA Fisheries received funding in 2020 for an additional construction event for the Delta-wide Crevasses Project located in the Mississippi River Delta. We project the construction contract will be advertised in 2021.
- Continued participating in the USACE's Coastal Texas Protection and Restoration Feasibility Interagency Workgroup.
- Served on National Estuary Program (NEP) Technical Advisory Committees throughout Florida, including Tampa Bay, Sarasota Bay, and Coastal & Heartland, and on the Tampa Bay NEP Southwest Florida Seagrass Working Group.
- Participated in the Gulf of Mexico Alliance Habitat Resources Team's Regional Sediment Management and Living Shorelines Working Groups to develop actions to be included in the upcoming Governor's Action Plan IV.
- Continued early engagement on a proposed USACE permit and draft environmental impact statement by the Port of Corpus Christi Authority to deepen the Corpus Christi Ship Channel from the originally authorized depth of -54 feet to -80 feet.
- Continued early engagement in multiple USACE Jacksonville District Coastal Storm Risk Management projects planned along the Florida Gulf Coast.

- Continued to serve as a Cooperating Agency for the USACE's Lake Okeechobee Systems Operation Manual Study estimated for completion in 2022.
- Continue to serve on the federal interagency interdisciplinary planning team providing technical guidance designed to minimize Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) impacts resulting from multiple aquaculture projects proposed in the eastern Gulf.
- Serve on regional interdisciplinary teams identifying and preparing a PEIS for an Aquaculture Opportunity Area in the Gulf of Mexico (described above).
- Working with natural resource agencies to provide upstream passage for American eels blocked by the Toledo Bend Dam. After completing repairs to the dam spillway in December 2019, the Sabine River Authorities in Texas and Louisiana (Authorities) conducted the first electrofishing survey for American eels at the Toledo Bend Hydroelectric Project in February 2020. The surveys are necessary for constructing the fishways at the spillway as required by the project's license from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). The Authorities suspended subsequent surveys due to COVID-19 restrictions, and FERC is allowing the suspension to continue through April 2021. While HCD and the agencies support this suspension, they are concerned the cofferdam left after the repairs may block eels from reaching the fishways. The working group will propose to the Authorities a revised plan for eel passage in the event the cofferdam is not removed. This plan will require more surveys to evaluate the effects of the cofferdam. Additionally, HCD and the agencies are working with the Authorities to implement revisions to the survey protocol based on the results from surveys conducted during 2018 and agreed to by all parties.
- Continued to serve as a member of the Louisiana Coastal Area Beneficial Use of Dredged Material (BUDMAT) Program, which aims to effectively increase the beneficial use of material dredged from federally maintained waterways. Worked on two BUDMAT projects: the Mississippi River Outlets at Venice; and the Mississippi River St. Bernard Wetlands. Both projects are in the engineering and design phase and final acreages of marsh restoration have yet to be determined.
- Provided fishery habitat expertise as a member of the Louisiana Interagency Review Team for mitigation projects. The Team acts as a clearing house for proposed and ongoing mitigation banks in the state, approving credit releases, modifications, and new mitigation banks.
- Provided fishery habitat expertise as a member of the Louisiana Interagency Review Team for mitigation projects. The Team acts as a clearing house for proposed and ongoing mitigation banks in the state, approving credit releases, modifications, and new mitigation banks.
- Participated in federal planning studies to inform the development of environmental impact statements and regional sediment management planning for the USACE's deepening and widening of the Houston Channel, Texas. Continued to support the FERC pre-application EFH
- consultation process for numerous liquefied natural gas liquefaction export terminal proposals in the Gulf, including projects in Texas (12), Louisiana (6), and Mississippi (1).
- Completed 200 requests for consultation across the 5 Gulf States to conserve, protect, and restore EFH across the Gulf, received in the first quarter of FY21.

- An interdisciplinary planning team has been formed and is exploring and developing options for amending Council fishery management plans to update EFH information.
- NOAA Fisheries is working with the U.S. Maritime Administration and U.S. Coast Guard on EFH consultations for five additional Deepwater Port applications in Texas and one in Louisiana.

Other Project Updates

- Maintenance construction by Patriot Construction and Industrial, LLC on the Black Bayou Hydrologic Restoration Project located in Cameron Parish has been completed. The project took two direct hits from hurricanes in 2020. Post storm surveys indicate the project features sustained very little damage aside from signage. The signs will be replaced in 2021.
- Expansion of the Rockefeller Refuge Gulf Shoreline Stabilization Project located in Vermilion Parish was completed in late 2020 and performed very well during a busy hurricane season.

GULF RESTORATION

NOAA Fisheries continued to engage external partners and stakeholders to maximize the utility of pre-application planning, technical assistance, and Endangered Species Act, EFH, and Marine Mammal Protection Act reviews of Gulf restoration programs and projects. This included:

- Providing technical and environmental compliance planning and consultation on large-scale restoration activities, including the Mid-Barataria and Mid-Breton sediment diversion projects, Upper Barataria Marsh Creation Project, and on the RESTORE Council-selected component (Bucket 2) programs/projects currently in public review and comment for the 3rd Funded Priority List.
- The proposed Mid-Barataria sediment diversion Draft Environmental Impact Statement is scheduled to be released by the USACE for a 60 day public comment period on March 5th.
- Supporting the RESTORE Council Monitoring and Assessment Program (CMAP). The CMAP project management team, including the NOAA principle investigators, continued outreach and engagement with regional stakeholders to introduce and demonstrate application of the comprehensive Gulf-wide long-term water quality and habitat monitoring, assessment, and mapping program inventory. These efforts included demonstrating its utility for data gap analyses as they relate to resource restoration and management planning, implementation, and evaluation.
- The baseline resource assessment inventory is complete. The program and data gap analysis process was initiated during the Gulf of Mexico Monitoring Community of Practice meeting in January 2020 focused on the RESTORE Council requirements related to Funded Priorities List 3 project planning at watershed scales. While the in-person outreach and engagement activities were curtailed due to COVID-19 travel/meeting restrictions, virtual interactions were substituted effectively. This

inventory is already in use across diverse restoration programs.

- CMAP completed the development of its webtool, the Gulf Coast Monitoring and Assessment Portal (https://restorethegulf.gov/cmap) to allow anyone to explore the inventory of Gulf Coast habitat monitoring, mapping, and water quality programs and assessments. Users can search by location or query programs/assessments by multiple criteria.
- CMAP continued its Phase I closeout activities, including completing final reports for the following tasks: *A Framework for Using the Monitoring Program Inventory to Conduct Gap Assessments for the Gulf of Mexico Region*; and *Common Monitoring Program Attributes and Methodologies for the Gulf of Mexico Region*. CMAP reports and products can be found online here. CMAP Phase I ended December 31, 2020. The RESTORE Council has provided additional funding to continue Monitoring Program Inventory database maintenance through 2021. This funding is supporting refining and updating existing data records, adding new entries where appropriate, and optimizing record editing. Additional funds are being sought to integrate new monitoring themes into the inventory including, but not limited to Avian Monitoring and other Living Coastal Marine Resources. CMAP products and processes are being integrated as appropriate into the activities of various Priority Issue Teams of the Gulf of Mexico Alliance (GOMA), and providing the foundation to build out a Gulf-wide monitoring and assessment network - starting with existing programs. The Monitoring Community of Practice, established under CMAP Phase I, will continue under the auspices of GOMA to help shepherd the development of the network.
- Interagency teams are developing implementation plans to ensure coordination across relevant science programs, including but not limited to the NOAA RESTORE Act Science Program, National Academies of Sciences Gulf Research Program, State Centers of Excellence, Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative, and Gulf of Mexico University Research Collaborative.
- NOAA Fisheries continues to provide technical support to the Gulf of Mexico Regional Collaboration Team and to the development of long-term monitoring and adaptive management plans at multiple scales for Gulf restoration programs.

COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS AND GRANTS

NOAA Fisheries completed the FY20 external grant competition process for four programs: 1) Cooperative Research Program, 2) Saltonstall-Kennedy Program, 3) Bluefin Tuna Research Program, and 4) Bay Watershed Education and Training (B-WET) Program.

- Cooperative Research Program: Thirty applications were received, and four agreements were funded.
- Saltonstall-Kennedy: Of the thirty-two full applications received, eight were selected for funding.
- Bluefin Tuna Research Program: Five applications were received and three are now being funded.
- B-WET: Thirteen applications were received for review and five grants were awarded.

In addition, NOAA Fisheries awarded the second of two disaster awards to the Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources in response to Hurricanes Irma and Maria in 2017. Please do not hesitate to contact me at (727) 824-5301 if you have questions about these or other activities.

Sincerely,

STRELCHECK.ANDREW.JAMES.1365863152

Digitally signed by STRELCHECK.ANDREW.JAMES.1365863152
Date: 2021.02.25 18:12:04 -05'00'

Andy Strelcheck
Acting Regional Administrator

AUTHENTICATED
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INFORMATION
GPO

116TH CONGRESS
2d Session
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
REPORT
116–455

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2021

JULY 16, 2020.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. SERRANO, from the Committee on Appropriations, submitted the following

R E P O R T

together with

MINORITY VIEWS

[To accompany H.R. 7667]

The Committee on Appropriations submits the following report in explanation of the accompanying bill making appropriations for Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2021, and for other purposes.

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40–849

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE BILL

The Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Subcommittee has jurisdiction over a diverse group of agencies responsible for promoting economic development; researching climate change and mitigating its impacts; protecting civil rights; promoting criminal justice reform; combating violent crime, financial fraud, terrorism, espionage, and drug trafficking; addressing gun violence; ensuring access to justice; enforcing trade laws; conducting periodic censuses; forecasting the weather; managing fisheries; exploring space; and advancing science. The activities of these agencies impact every American and are integral to the operations of our government.

The bill provides a total of $71,472,700,000 in discretionary budget authority for fiscal year 2021. Within the level of funds provided, the bill prioritizes funding to help reform law enforcement practices across the country and to ensure the civil rights of all Americans. The bill also prioritizes numerous public investments important for job creation, infrastructure improvements, American competitiveness, public safety, climate research and other scientific research, and improving the accuracy of weather forecasting. In addition, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) (Public Law 116–136) included funding to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus, including $1,886,000,000 for the Department of Commerce; $1,007,000,000 for the Department of Justice; $60,000,000 for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration; $76,000,000 for the National Science Foundation; and $50,000,000 for the Legal Services Corporation.

Policing Reform and Racial Justice.—The Committee takes very seriously its solemn obligation to help improve the state of policing and ensure racial justice in the United States. The appalling mistreatment of African Americans and other minorities at the hands of police officers in communities throughout the country is a longstanding epidemic that demands immediate reforms throughout the Nation, including decisive and meaningful action from this Committee. To that end, the Committee has included a number of responsible investments and reforms. The Committee's recommendation includes the following:

- Provides $165,998,000 for the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice, an increase of $17,759,000 above fiscal year 2020. Within this amount, an increase of not less than $10,000,000 is provided for investigations and enforcement related to the patterns and practices of police departments, including compliance with consent decrees. In addition, increases of $10,000,000 within the appropriation for United States Attorneys and $5,000,000 within the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) are provided for this same purpose.
- Prohibits funds from being used to implement the Attorney General Memorandum dated November 7, 2018, entitled "Principles and Procedures for Civil Consent Decrees and Settlement Agreements with State and Local Governmental Entities". This memorandum puts significant limits on the ability of the Federal Government to help reform policing practices in local communities.

• Directs the Attorney General to take the lead in developing and implementing strong and uniform accreditation standards for Federal, State, and local law enforcement, based on an analysis of existing accreditation standards and methodology development by law enforcement accreditation organizations nationwide, as well as the May 2015 recommendations of the President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing.

• Prohibits Justice Department funds from being made available for any law enforcement agency of any State or unit of local government unless the Attorney General has certified that such agency has begun or completed the process of obtaining accreditation from a certified law enforcement accreditation organization.

• Directs the Attorney General to establish a program to improve training for all Federal, State, and local law enforcement officers, including the development of standards that can be applied in hiring and performance assessments, specifically aimed at racial profiling, implicit bias, and procedural justice, as well as the use of force and the duty for officers to intervene when witnessing the use of excessive force against civilians. The recommendation further directs the Attorney General to establish standards for such training to be adopted nationwide.

• Establishes and provides $5,000,000 for a National Task Force on Law Enforcement Oversight. This Task Force is designed to coordinate the detection and referral of complaints regarding incidents of alleged law enforcement misconduct nationwide, in consultation with professional law enforcement associations, labor organizations, and community-based organizations.

• Provides $500,000 for the development and implementation of a National Police Misconduct Registry, designed to serve as a central repository of data with respect to all Federal, State, and local law enforcement officers, to be compiled and maintained by the Department of Justice. This would provide a publicly available resource to help ensure accountability and transparency and help restore trust in the credibility of the Nation's law enforcement agencies and improve relationships between them and the communities they serve.

• Prohibits any State or unit of local government from receiving any Byrne JAG program funds or COPS program funds, unless the United States Attorney General certifies that the jurisdiction satisfies all of the following requirements:

1. Maintains adequate policies and procedures designed to eliminate racial profiling in law enforcement, and has eliminated any existing practices that permit or encourage racial profiling in law enforcement;

2. Requires each law enforcement officer in the State or unit of local government to complete training programs on racial profiling, implicit bias, de-escalation, use of force and a duty to intervene in cases where another law enforcement officer is using excessive force against a civilian, and procedural justice;

3. Has in effect a law that prohibits law enforcement officers from using a chokehold or carotid hold, consistent with the requirements as described in section 363 of H.R. 7120, The

George Floyd Justice in Policing Act, as passed by the House of Representatives on June 25, 2020;

4. Has in effect a law that prohibits law enforcement officers from using less lethal force, consistent with the requirements as described in section 364 of H.R. 7120;

5. Has in effect a law that prohibits law enforcement officers from using deadly force, consistent with the requirements as described in section 364 of H.R. 7120;

6. Has in effect a law that prohibits the issuance of a "no-knock warrant" in a drug case, consistent with the requirements as described in section 362 of H.R. 7120;

7. Has provided the United States Attorney General a law enforcement practice report that includes information on the race, ethnicity, age, and gender of the officers and employees of the law enforcement agency and of members of the public involved in:

(a) traffic violation stops;

(b) pedestrian stops;

(c) frisk and body searches; and

(d) instances where officers or employees of the law enforcement agency used deadly force, including detailed information on such instances.

8. Has not entered into or renewed any contractual arrangement, including a collective bargaining agreement with a labor organization, that:

(a) would prevent the Attorney General from seeking or enforcing equitable or declaratory relief against a law enforcement agency engaging in a pattern or practice of unconstitutional misconduct, or

(b) conflicts with any terms or conditions contained in a consent decree.

• Prohibits any State or unit of local government from receiving any Byrne JAG program funds or COPS program funds, unless the United States Attorney General certifies that the jurisdiction (including all members of multi-jurisdictional or regional consortia applying for COPS funds) has in effect a law that makes it a criminal offense for any person acting under color of law to engage in a sexual act with an individual, including an individual who is under arrest, in detention, or otherwise in the actual custody of any law enforcement officer.

• Requires ten percent of each applicant's Byrne JAG formula funds to be spent to develop and implement best practice devices and systems to eliminate racial profiling, including training to prevent racial profiling and to encourage more respectful interaction with the public, the acquisition and use of technology to facilitate the accurate collection and analysis of data, the development and acquisition of feedback systems and technologies that identify officers or units of officers engaged in, or at risk of engaging in, racial profiling or other misconduct, and the establishment and maintenance of an administrative complaint procedure or independent auditor program.

• Requires five percent of each applicant's Byrne JAG formula funds to be spent to assist law enforcement agencies of the applicant, including campus public safety departments,

gain or maintain accreditation from certified law enforcement accreditation organizations.

• Requires five percent of each applicant's Byrne JAG formula funds to be used to study and implement effective management, training, recruiting, hiring, and oversight standards and programs to promote effective community and problem solving strategies for law enforcement agencies.

• Requires five percent of each applicant's Byrne JAG formula funds to be used to purchase or lease body-worn cameras for use by State, local, and tribal law enforcement officers; for expenses related to the implementation of a body-worn camera program in order to deter excessive force, improve accountability and transparency of use of force by law enforcement officers, and improve evidence collection; or to implement policies or procedures to be consistent with requirements as described in section 382 of H.R. 7120, as passed by the House of Representatives on June 25, 2020. The recommendation additionally includes $27,500,000 for the competitive matching grant program for purchases of body-worn cameras for State, local and Tribal law enforcement.

• Provides $50,000,000 for grants to train State and local law enforcement officers on racial profiling, implicit bias, de-escalation, use of force and a duty to intervene when witnessing other officers using excessive force, and procedural justice.

• Provides $100,000,000 for grants to assist states in conducting pattern and practice investigations of law enforcement.

• Provides $7,200,000 for grants to support State and local law enforcement in complying with reform efforts as a result of litigation including, but not limited to, consent decrees, out of court agreements, memoranda of understanding, findings, technical assistance, and recommendation letters from reform authorities.

• Provides $250,000,000 for grants to states and tribes to assist in implementing statutes providing for independent investigation of law enforcement officers.

• Provides $25,000,000 for grants to community-based organizations to study and implement: (1) effective management, training, recruiting, hiring, and oversight standards and programs to promote effective community and problem solving strategies for law enforcement agencies; or (2) effective strategies and solutions to public safety, including strategies that do not rely on Federal or local law enforcement agency responses. The studies shall address standards relating to administrative due process, residency requirements, compensation and benefits, use of force, racial profiling, early warning systems, juvenile justice, school safety, civilian review boards or analogous procedures, or research into the effectiveness of existing programs, projects, or other activities designed to address misconduct by law enforcement officers.

• Provides $25,000,000 for pilot programs and the implementation of effective standards and programs in the areas of training, hiring and recruitment, and oversight that are designed to improve management and address misconduct by law enforcement officers. In addition, not less than $4,000,000 is separately provided within the COPS account to develop best

practices for, and to create, civilian review boards, consistent with the requirements as described in section 104(b) of H.R. 7120 as passed by the House of Representatives on June 25, 2020.

- Provides $15,000,000 for technical assistance grants to tribes and small law enforcement agencies (employing 100 or fewer officers) to help them comply with the requirements of H.R. 7120, as passed by the House of Representatives on June 25, 2020, related to reporting data on the use of force by law enforcement officers.
- Provides $5,000,000 for grants within the Byrne JAG program for the development of best practices for, and the creation of, local task forces on public safety innovation.
- Provides $5,000,000 for up to five technical assistance grants for data collection on the hit rates for stops and searches by law enforcement agencies, and provides $500,000 for analysis and evaluation of this data.
- Provides $20,300,000 for the Community Relations Service, an increase of $4,300,000 above fiscal year 2020, including $3,300,000 for additional conflict resolution efforts as authorized in section 116(2) of H.R. 7120 as passed by the House of Representatives on June 25, 2020.
- Provides $12,000,000 for the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, an increase of $1,935,000 above fiscal year 2020, including additional funding in support of the Commission's efforts to further research and advise on the topic of policing reform.
- Provides $6,000,000 for domestic radicalization research and directs the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) to prioritize funding toward research efforts that explore the radicalization of Americans to white nationalist extremism and identify and advance evidence-based strategies for effective intervention and prevention.
- Directs the FBI to report on the number of incidents in fiscal years 2016 through 2020 that required surveillance, investigation, and prosecution of white supremacist activity or racially motivated violent extremism associated with white supremacist ideology.
- Directs NIJ to conduct a study to identify evidence-based procedures, practices, trainings, and policies that both reduce the use of excessive force by law enforcement as well as support the effective use of de-escalation training to resolve confrontations peacefully.
- Directs NIJ to conduct a nationwide study of the prevalence and effect of any law, rule, or procedure that allows a law enforcement officer to delay the response to questions posed by a local internal affairs officer, or review board on the investigative integrity and prosecution of law enforcement misconduct, including pre-interview warnings and termination policies, consistent with requirements as described in section 115 of H.R. 7120 as passed by the House of Representatives on June 25, 2020.

In addition, the recommendation includes the following further measures aimed at ensuring racial justice:

- Provides $8,000,000 for grants authorized under the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act (Public Law 111–84) to help states, localities, and tribal law enforcement agencies to conduct educational outreach and training on hate crimes, and to investigate and prosecute hate crimes.
- Provides $13,500,000, as authorized, in support of the Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crimes Reauthorization Act of 2016 (Public Law 114–325) to investigate and prosecute previously unresolved civil rights era "cold case" murders suspected of having been racially motivated, through a partnership among the Criminal Section of the Civil Rights Division, the Civil Rights Unit of the FBI, the Community Relations Service, State and local law enforcement officials, and other eligible entities.
- Provides $408,700,000 for the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, an increase of $19,200,000 above fiscal year 2020.
- Provides $52,000,000 for the Minority Business Development Agency, an increase of $10,000,000 above fiscal year 2020, to help create jobs and expand business growth opportunities among minority-owned U.S. companies.

Infrastructure and Economic Growth.—This bill invests in our nation's infrastructure improvement needs by providing $356,000,000 for the Economic Development Administration (EDA), an increase of $23,000,000 above fiscal year 2020, including increases for EDA's Public Works program, Regional Innovation Strategies program, and other EDA programs. These funds will support the Nation's economic recovery and provide the foundation for future growth in jobs and our standard of living.

The bill also helps expand economic growth in other ways. The recommendation includes $153,000,000 for the Manufacturing Extension Partnership program, an increase of $7,000,000 above fiscal year 2020. This program helps small- and medium-sized U.S. manufacturers create jobs and expand business growth opportunities. A robust funding increase is provided for the International Trade Administration, to create jobs by expanding U.S. exports and fighting the unfair trade practices of other countries. Furthermore, the full budget request of $3,695,295,000 is provided for the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (PTO), to enable PTO to promote innovation in the United States by protecting our nation's intellectual property rights both at home and abroad.

The bill also ensures responsible investments in the future of our Nation's economy and workforce by providing increases for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) engagement at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the National Science Foundation (NSF), as well as an increase for EDA's STEM Apprenticeship Pilot Program to create and expand STEM apprenticeships and other workforce training models. Within the National Institute of Standards and Technology, strong funding increases are provided for research efforts related to key future technologies, including quantum information science and artificial intelligence.

All of these investments in our economy are especially important now, as the Nation continues to deal with the very real economic consequences associated with the coronavirus pandemic.

Census Bureau.—The bill provides the full budget request for Periodic Censuses and Programs, to enable the Census Bureau to effectively finish its work on the constitutionally-required decennial census.

Efforts Addressing Climate Change.—The bill provides strong and responsible funding increases for critical efforts to better understand, and prepare for, the Earth's changing climate. Notable funding increases are provided for NASA Earth Science activities as well as for climate research activities of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Both areas have been repeatedly targeted by the Administration for large funding cuts and eliminations. This bill once again rejects those proposals. The recommendation also increases funding for NOAA's National Coastal Resiliency Fund. This competitive grant program funds natural infrastructure solutions to help protect coastal areas threatened by rising sea level and other impacts of climate change. Furthermore, the recommendation includes funding increases both for NOAA's Coastal Zone Management grant program, and to enhance the National Weather Service's ability to accurately forecast extreme weather events.

Fighting the Opioid Epidemic.—The bill provides substantial resources to address the opioid epidemic. To assist State and local governments, the bill provides strong funding increases for grants authorized by the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act. For Federal law enforcement, the bill maintains funding to support Federal law enforcement's ability to investigate and prosecute traffickers in opioids and other dangerous drugs.

Justice Grants.—The bill provides other responsible increases for Department of Justice grant assistance. For programs funded under the Violence Against Women Act, the bill provides $525,000,000, an increase of $22,500,000 above fiscal year 2020. For school safety, the bill provides $140,000,000, an increase of $15,000,000, to fund the STOP School Violence Act of 2018. In addition, the bill increases funding for other activities that will address school violence, such as youth mentoring grants and grants for juvenile justice and delinquency prevention.

Preventing Gun Violence.—The bill also takes important steps towards addressing gun violence in this country. The bill maintains current funding for the FBI's National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) and provides a strong funding increase for grants to help States improve their submissions into the NICS system. The bill also increases funding for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) by $150,000,000 above fiscal year 2020 to hire additional investigative personnel and expand oversight of Federal Firearms Licensees.

Legal Services Corporation.—The recommendation makes a strong commitment to ensuring access to justice for all Americans by providing $465,000,000 for the Legal Services Corporation, an increase of $25,000,000 above fiscal year 2020.

First Step Act and Second Chance Act.—The recommendation includes not less than $165,000,000, an increase of $90,000,000 above fiscal year 2020, for programs authorized under the First Step Act

of 2018, to expand and develop opportunities for incarcerated individuals to participate in evidence-based, recidivism-reducing programming and productive activities. The recommendation also includes $100,000,000 for Second Chance Act grants, an increase of $10,000,000 above fiscal year 2020.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).—For NASA, the bill includes $22,629,000,000, equal to fiscal year 2020, including strong funding levels for NASA's science, human space exploration, space technology, aeronautics research, and STEM Engagement programs, many of which have been repeatedly targeted for reduction or even elimination in the Administration's budget requests.

Other Science Investments.—The recommendation makes other strong investments in science as well, providing $8,548,343,000 for the National Science Foundation, an increase of $270,013,000 above fiscal year 2020, and $789,000,000 for scientific and technical research and services of the National Institute of Standards and Technology, an increase of $35,000,000 above fiscal year 2020.

OVERSIGHT AND BUDGET REVIEW

In furtherance of the Committee's oversight responsibilities and to protect hard-earned taxpayer dollars, the Committee has included language that:

- Provides strong funding increases for the agency inspectors general funded in this bill.
- Caps total life-cycle costs for programs that have a record of poor performance.
- Prohibits funding for the National Technical Information Service to charge customers for a copy of a document generated by the Legislative Branch unless the customer is informed how to receive an electronic copy free online.
- Prohibits the Executive Office for Immigration Review from using case completion quotas in immigration judge performance evaluations.
- Maintains limitations on the Department of Justice's use of non-appropriated funds, including the Working Capital Fund and the Assets Forfeiture Fund.
- Requires quarterly reporting of unobligated balances.
- Requires agencies procuring sensitive information technology systems to conduct supply chain risk assessments.
- Requires contractors and grantees receiving more than $5,000,000 to certify that they are not delinquent on their Federal taxes.
- Prohibits funds from being used to purchase first class and premium airline travel.
- Limits the number of agency staff who can attend overseas conferences.
- Requires agencies to track undisbursed grant balances.
- Requires agencies to submit spending plans for the Committee's review.
- Requires agencies to notify the Committee of project cost overruns and mitigation plans.
- Requires agency computer networks to block pornography.

Paper Reduction Efforts.—The Committee urges the Departments of Commerce and Justice, the National Science Foundation, and

NASA to work with the Office of Management and Budget to reduce printing and reproduction costs and directs each agency to report to the Committee within 60 days of the enactment of this Act on the steps it has taken to achieve this goal. The report should specifically identify how much funding each agency expects to save by implementing these measures.

Performance Measures.—The Committee directs all agencies funded by this Act to comply with title 31 of the United States Code, including the development of their organizational priority goals and outcomes such as performance outcome measures, output measures, efficiency measures, and customer service measures. The Committee directs all agencies funded by this Act to report on their implementation plans for these measures within 60 days of the enactment of this Act, and looks forward to receiving the reports on this subject as directed in House Report 116–101.

Customer Service.—The Committee continues to support efforts to improve customer service in accordance with Executive Order 13571—Streamlining Service Delivery and Improving Customer Service. The Committee directs all agencies funded by this Act to develop standards to improve customer service and incorporate the standards into the performance plans required under 31 U.S.C. 1115. The Committee directs all agencies funded by this Act to report on their implementation plans regarding this subject no later than 60 days after enactment of this Act, and looks forward to receiving the reports on this subject as directed in House Report 116–101.

Federal Advertising.—The Committee understands that, as the largest advertiser in the United States, the Federal Government should work to ensure fair access to its advertising contracts for small disadvantaged businesses and businesses owned by minorities and women. The Committee directs each department and agency funded by this Act to include the following information in its fiscal year 2022 budget justification: Expenditures for fiscal year 2020 and expected expenditures for fiscal years 2021 and 2022, respectively, for (1) all contracts for advertising services; and (2) contracts for the advertising services of: (a) socially and economically disadvantaged small business concerns (as defined in section 8(a)(4) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637(a)(4)); and (b) women- and minority-owned businesses.

Services for Persons with Limited English Proficiency.—The Committee notes the importance of ensuring access to Federal services and programs for all persons with limited English proficiency. Therefore, the Committee directs agencies and programs funded in this Act to comply fully with the requirements of Executive Order 13166, "Improving Access to Services for Persons with Limited English Proficiency," and on an ongoing basis, review and improve their efforts to provide meaningful access to the programs, services, and information they provide.

REPROGRAMMING PROCEDURES

Section 505 of the bill contains language concerning the reprogramming of funds between programs, projects, and activities. The Committee reminds the departments and agencies funded in this bill that the reprogramming process is based on comity between the Congress and the Executive Branch. This process is in-

tended to provide departments and agencies enough flexibility to meet changing circumstances and emergent requirements not known at the time of congressional review of the budget while preserving congressional priorities and intent. In the absence of comity and respect for the prerogatives of the Appropriations Committees and the Congress in general, the Committee may opt to include specific program limitations and details in legislation and remove language providing the flexibility to reallocate funds. Under these circumstances, programs, projects, and activities become absolutes and the Executive Branch shall lose the ability to propose changes in the use of appropriated funds except through legislative action.

Each department and agency funded in this Act shall follow the directions set forth in this bill and the accompanying report and shall not reallocate resources or reorganize activities except as provided herein. Reprogramming procedures shall apply to funds provided in this Act, unobligated balances from previous appropriations Acts that are available for obligation or expenditure in fiscal year 2021, and non-appropriated resources such as fee collections that are used to meet program requirements in fiscal year 2021. As specified in section 505, the Committee expects that the Appropriations Subcommittees on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies of the House and Senate will be notified by letter a minimum of 15 days prior to any reprogramming of funds that—

(1) creates or initiates a new program, project, or activity;

(2) eliminates a program, project, or activity;

(3) increases funds or personnel by any means for any project or activity for which funds have been denied or restricted;

(4) relocates an office or employees;

(5) reorganizes or renames offices, programs, or activities;

(6) contracts out or privatizes any functions or activities presently performed by Federal employees;

(7) augments existing programs, projects, or activities more than $500,000 or 10 percent, whichever is less, or reduces by 10 percent funding for any program, project, or activity, or numbers of personnel by 10 percent; or

(8) results from any general savings, including savings from a reduction in personnel, which would result in a change in existing programs, projects, or activities as approved by Congress.

The Committee recognizes that the coronavirus pandemic may lead to unanticipated yet unavoidable agency costs that could require budgetary transfers and reprogrammings. However, the Committee expects to be promptly notified in advance of all such actions.

Any reprogramming request shall include any out-year budgetary impacts and a separate accounting of program or mission impacts on estimated carryover funds. The Committee further expects any department or agency funded in this bill that plans a reduction-in-force to notify the Committee by letter at least 30 days in advance of the date of any such planned personnel action.

Relationship With Budget and Comptroller Offices

Through the years the Appropriations Committee has channeled most of its inquiries and requests for information and assistance through the budget offices or comptroller organizations of the various departments, agencies, and commissions. Such relationships

are necessary to accomplish the work of the Committee. While the Committee reserves the right to call upon all organizations in the departments, agencies and commissions for information and assistance, the primary contact between the Committee and these entities must be through the budget offices and comptroller organizations, or through a legislative affairs unit designated by the Committee to work on appropriations and budget matters.

The workload generated in the budget process is large and growing; therefore, a positive, responsive relationship between the Committee and the budget and/or comptroller offices is essential for the Committee to fulfill the Constitutional appropriations responsibilities of Congress.

TITLE I

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

operations and administration

The Committee recommends $542,428,000 in total resources for the programs of the International Trade Administration (ITA), which is $21,178,000 above fiscal year 2020 and $57,021,000 above the request. This amount is offset by $11,000,000 in estimated fee collections, resulting in a direct appropriation of $531,428,000. The recommendation fully supports the staffing requirements to help ITA provide critical expertise in both trade promotion and facilitation as well as enforcement. The Committee directs ITA to continue to provide quarterly updates as described in the Explanatory Statement accompanying Public Law 116–93.

Industry and Analysis.—The recommendation continues support for the Survey of International Air Travelers (SIAT) at no less than the fiscal year 2020 level and encourages ITA to include an assessment of the impacts of the coronavirus on the travel and tourism industries in future SIAT surveys. Further, the Committee directs ITA to provide a report to the Committee no later than 60 days after enactment of this Act outlining next steps the Federal government can take to assist industry as efforts to recover from this crisis are underway. Additionally, the report should include policy recommendations or legislative proposals that may be considered.

Enforcement and Compliance.—The recommendation fully funds Enforcement and Compliance at the requested level. The Committee commends ITA for its expansion of the existing Steel Import Monitoring and Analysis system to include aluminum. The new Aluminum Import Monitoring and Analysis (AIMA) system provides the public statistical data on aluminum imports entering the United States and provides as an early warning system to the public regarding aluminum imports from throughout the world. The recommendation supports the $800,000 requested to support the AIMA system and will help enhance data analytics and research into aluminum global trade trends.

In fiscal year 2002, ITA had 168 analysts spread among nine different Anti-Dumping and Countervailing Duty (AD/CVD) enforcement offices and initiated 60 new AD/CVD investigations. However, last year ITA initiated a similar number of investigations and

issued a historically high number of AD/CVD orders with roughly 20 percent fewer staff spread among eight enforcement offices. ITA is directed to prioritize Anti-Dumping and Countervailing Duty (AD/CVD) operations and the new Anti-Circumvention and Evasion Unit by directing necessary resources to promptly respond to any increase in AD/CVD cases by taking steps to fill vacancies. The Committee also encourages ITA to continue to self-initiate AD/CVD proceedings, particularly with regard to unfair trade practices that result in economic harm to small businesses and producers, especially those with regional and seasonal impacts, and include updates on these efforts in ITA's quarterly updates to the Committee.

Global Markets.—The recommendation provides $348,000,000 for Global Markets, $67,681,000 above the request. The Committee directs ITA to ensure that all U.S. Export Assistance Centers have onsite, full-time permanent staff members and further directs ITA to include in its quarterly updates a progress report on these efforts, by location. The Committee further directs ITA to provide a supplement report, due no later than 180 days after enactment of this Act, providing a staffing plan for any Export Assistance Center that did not have a full-time permanent staff person in fiscal year 2020. This report shall include a breakdown of all related costs to maintain these locations and a timeframe for staffing these locations, with projected out-year costs.

Efforts in the Territories.—The Committee is concerned by the relatively low levels of exports by small businesses, foreign direct investment from firms other than foreign subsidiaries of U.S. companies, and tourism as percentage of GDP in the territorial possessions of the United States. Multiple territories, but in particular Puerto Rico, have suffered from significant natural disasters and economic stagnation over the past several years, and the Committee believes ITA should play a more active role in helping to address these issues, as recommended in the 2016 Bipartisan Congressional Task Force on Economic Growth in Puerto Rico report to the House and Senate. Therefore, the Committee directs ITA to take all reasonable steps to educate stakeholders in Puerto Rico and other territorial possessions of the United States, including by holding educational and/or technical assistance events, and to provide direct technical assistance to territorial governments if requested. ITA shall report back to the Committee not later than 60 days after the enactment of this Act on its plans in this area.

BUREAU OF INDUSTRY AND SECURITY

OPERATIONS AND ADMINISTRATION

The Committee recommends $137,664,000 for the Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS), as requested, and $10,012,000 above fiscal year 2020. The recommendation does not support the transfer of the Regulatory Policy Division to the Office of the Under Secretary.

The Committee has heard concerns about how exclusions under section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962 have been implemented and awaits the report directed in House Report 116–101. Further, the Committee directs the Department to continue its quarterly reporting on the Section 232 exclusion process as de-

scribed in the Explanatory Statement accompanying Public Law 116–6.

Tariff Exclusions for Aluminum Products.—The Committee recognizes the importance of the U.S. aluminum industry to our nation's safety, security, and prosperity. However, the Committee is concerned by industry reports suggesting that the Department has granted tariff exclusions for volumes of aluminum products that in some cases have exceeded historical import volumes and U.S. market demand. The Committee encourages the Commerce Department to improve its efforts to ensure that exclusion volumes are not unnecessarily disproportionate to historic import volumes and continue its efforts to leverage and advance domestic aluminum production through robust collaboration, research, and initiatives.

3D-printed Firearms and Firearm Parts.—The Committee is aware that on March 9, 2020, a number of items on Categories I, II, and III of the International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR) U.S. Munitions List (USML) were transferred to the Commerce Control List (CCL). The Committee notes that the exports of technology or software that can be used to manufacture 3D-printed firearms and firearm parts have not transferred while the matter is under pending litigation. Further, the Committee is aware that notifications to Congress that were once in place for items previously on the USML are no longer in effect as the Commerce Department does not currently have to notify Congress of firearms sales in excess of $1,000,000 as the State Department was required to do. The Committee urges the Department of Commerce to continue these notifications to Congress to ensure congressional oversight.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION

The Committee rejects the proposal to terminate the Economic Development Administration (EDA) and instead recommends $356,000,000 for the programs and administrative expenses of the EDA. In addition, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) (Public Law 116–136) included $1,500,000,000 for the EDA to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus, including to economic injury, domestically or internationally.

Allocation of CARES Act Funds.—The Committee strongly disagrees with EDA's geographic distribution of the $1,500,000,000 provided in the CARES Act (Public Law 116–136), which directed EDA "to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus, domestically or internationally, including for necessary expenses for responding to economic injury as a result of coronavirus." The Committee understands that in determining the geographic allocations, EDA did not consider any data that would indicate the relative levels of economic injury by region, despite the availability of leading economic indicators such as payroll records and unemployment claims. While the Committee appreciates the difficulty of assessing the economic injury of the ongoing economic calamity, that difficulty did not absolve EDA of their legal requirement to do so.

Not later than 30 days after the enactment of this Act, EDA shall provide a report to the Committee that includes: (1) the methodology used in determining the geographic allocations of CARES Act funds, including the weighting of each variable in the allocation formula; (2) estimates of the relative economic injury incurred by

each region due to the coronavirus, one using the most recent economic data, and another using data which was available as of April 10, 2020; and (3) an analysis of the discrepancy between the funding made available to each region and the relative economic injury. Further, details regarding the geographic allocations of funds as detailed in (1) above shall be provided in all future spend plans submitted to the Committee for all EDA funds.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

The Committee provides $314,000,000 for the Economic Development Assistance Programs account for grants to economically distressed areas. The Committee notes with deep concern the increasing levels of inequality in the Nation which has been magnified by the COVID–19 pandemic. The Committee expects EDA will play a critical role in ensuring that no communities are left behind in the economic recovery that is to come and is committed to supporting EDA in this endeavor.

Funds are to be distributed as follows; any deviation of funds shall be subject to the procedures set forth in section 505 of this Act:

Public Works	$122,000,000
Partnership Planning	33,000,000
Technical Assistance	9,500,000
Research and Evaluation	1,500,000
Trade Adjustment Assistance	13,500,000
Economic Adjustment Assistance	40,000,000
Assistance to Coal Communities	37,000,000
Regional Innovation Program	35,000,000
Assistance to Nuclear Closure Communities	18,000,000
STEM Apprenticeship Pilot Program	4,500,000
Total	314,000,000

Assistance to Coal Communities.—The Committee continues to support Assistance to Coal Communities, which builds on the Committee's prior efforts to assist communities throughout the country that are suffering significant coal mining job losses. The recommendation includes $37,000,000 for Assistance to Coal Communities, which represents an increase of $7,000,000 from the amount provided in fiscal year 2020. The Committee appreciates that EDA has engaged and is collaborating with local leaders and stakeholders, along with other Federal agencies, to develop comprehensive strategies to promote economic growth in coal mining communities. The Committee expects this effort to continue. The Committee directs EDA to continue assisting communities that have yet to develop an economic development strategy to begin the planning process, and to continue to assist communities with such strategies to implement them, including by funding authorized economic development projects. EDA shall also continue reporting to the Committee on its efforts to assist coal communities, and the report shall include a detailed description regarding how EDA and other Federal agencies have assisted coal mining communities to date and how the Federal government plans to assist them in the future.

National Advisory Council on Innovation and Entrepreneurship.—The Committee notes with concern the lapse of the activities of the National Advisory Council on Innovation and Entrepreneurship. EDA is directed to reconstitute this body within 180 days of

the enactment of this Act to inform its work in strengthening the American economy.

Public Works.—The Committee provides $122,000,000 for Public Works and encourages EDA to prioritize projects that are resilient to the changing climate as well as those that incorporate green infrastructure solutions.

Regional Innovation Program.—The Committee encourages EDA to support the development of regional innovation clusters that focus on advanced wood products, which are a growing source of jobs in rural America and contribute to rural economic development. An initiative that successfully increased demand for wood products would also address several key land management priorities, including reducing forest treatment costs and wildfire risks. The Committee urges EDA to invest in university based, high tech business incubators to diversify distressed manufacturing and legacy urban and rural communities by encouraging entrepreneurship and promoting technology commercialization through business startups. Furthermore, this activity should support private-public partnerships for economic growth and job creation in areas of high unemployment.

Nuclear Power Plant Closures.—The Committee notes that closures of nuclear power plants throughout the United States have had a significant impact on the economic foundations of surrounding communities through sudden job losses and a dramatic reduction to the local tax base. Additional plant closures are expected throughout the country in the coming years. The Committee appreciates the work EDA has undertaken to assist such communities in prior years and provides $18,000,000 for competitive economic adjustment assistance to expand these efforts, which shall include, but not be limited to, public works investments and economic diversification initiatives in communities impacted by recent or scheduled nuclear power plant closures. The Committee directs the Department to report to the Committee no later than 90 days after enactment of this Act on the status of these efforts.

STEM Apprenticeship Pilot Program.—The Committee notes that over the past decade, the growth in jobs requiring sophisticated science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) skills was three times faster than growth in non-STEM jobs. Yet, U.S. employers have struggled to fill jobs in these fields. Because more than 50 percent of jobs that require STEM skills do not require a bachelor's degree, nontraditional higher education, such as apprenticeships, will be instrumental in meeting the urgent demand for a STEM-literate workforce. Therefore, the Committee provides $4,500,000 to continue the STEM Apprenticeship Pilot Program, established in fiscal year 2020, to provide grants to create and expand STEM apprenticeship and other workforce training models, as directed in section 312 of the American Innovation and Competitiveness Act (Public Law 114–329).

Persistent Poverty.—The Committee is concerned that pockets of high poverty in urban areas are often overlooked by the Federal Government because, in the aggregate, their need is often masked by their affluent neighbors. In light of the impacts of COVID–19, the need in these areas is greater than ever. Therefore, when scoring competitive grant applications, EDA is directed to add additional priority, where practicable, to applications from grantees

who can demonstrate that the individuals who will benefit from such grants reside in high-poverty areas or persistent-poverty counties, as defined in fiscal year 2020. In addition, EDA shall provide guidance to such prospective grantees, especially prior to their application submissions, including to help determine whether they qualify for additional priority. The Department is directed to report to the Committee, not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, on EDA's efforts aimed at high-poverty areas and persistent poverty counties, including efforts to prioritize assistance to such areas.

Economic Assistance for Communities.—Economic and community development funding provided by other agencies can have even more impact if they are utilized in conjunction with other Federal funding sources, such as EDA. The Committee therefore encourages EDA to treat as acceptable funds any funding provided by other Federal programs which are explicitly authorized to be used for any required non-Federal share of the cost of a project so that funding from both agencies may be used if necessary and to the extent permitted by law.

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

The recommendation includes $42,000,000 for EDA salaries and expenses.

MINORITY BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

MINORITY BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

The recommendation includes $52,000,000 for the Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA), an increase of $10,000,000 over fiscal year 2020. In addition, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) (Public Law 116–136) included $10,000,000 for the minority business centers of the MBDA to provide technical assistance to small business concerns. MBDA is the only Federal agency dedicated to promoting the growth of minority-owned firms and assists small, medium, and large minority enterprises to expand business opportunities and create jobs. MBDA is directed to allocate no less than $36,000,000 of its total appropriation toward cooperative agreements, external awards, and grants, including not less than $22,000,000 to continue MBDA's Business Center program and Specialty Project Center program.

Native American Business Development.—The Committee provides not less than $3,000,000 for MBDA to award grants to tribes and American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian populations to address barriers to economic development. MBDA shall continue full implementation of Public Laws 106–447 and 106–464 and to fulfill the mission of the Office of Native American Business Development.

HBCU/HSI Entrepreneurship Pilot.—The Committee recognizes that while growth rates in entrepreneurship for many groups is increasing, compared to rates of participation in the labor market, there are systemic challenges for numerous minority groups. The Committee encourages MBDA to establish a pilot project to support entrepreneurship for undergraduate students at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs), which shall support the development of curricula,

pilot courses, seminars, and development of replicable products and tools. Program elements should align with the Inclusive Innovation Initiative and national efforts related to economic development generally. The Department is encouraged to include recommendations in its next year budget submission on efforts to support the demonstration for a three-year period.

White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.—The Committee notes with concern the Administration's decision to shift the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (WHIAAPI) from the Department of Education to MBDA despite the lack of Congressional notification. This obfuscation was compounded by the omission of any discussion of the subsequent proposed elimination of WHIAAPI in the fiscal year 2021 Department of Commerce budget proposal. The Committee rejects this elimination and instead provides no less than the amount provided in fiscal year 2020. The Department shall, within 30 days of the enactment of this Act, provide the Committee with a report on the decision to move WHIAAPI to MBDA, which shall include an explanation of the change in its goals and scope that make MBDA a more appropriate fit. The Department is further directed to include the Initiative as part of its budget proposal submission for fiscal year 2022, with details regarding its scope of work, metrics and deliverables, and financial requirements.

ECONOMIC AND STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

The Committee recommends the requested amount of $111,855,000 for the Economics and Statistics Administration, $3,865,000 above fiscal year 2020. The Committee looks forward to receiving the report on the long-term funding strategy for the Federal Data Service as directed in House Report 116–101.

Within the amounts provided, $1,500,000 is for the Outdoor Recreation Satellite Account (ORSA). The Committee directs the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) in consultation with the Department of Labor to conduct a workforce needs study building upon the information provided by ORSA. The study should focus on identifying current and projected workforce demographics, geographic distribution of jobs, compensation trends, unfilled job types and quantities, and recommended training needs by sub-sector. BEA is encouraged to coordinate with the agencies of the Federal Recreation Council, outdoor recreation industry, nongovernmental organizations, and institutions of higher education to recommend strategies to both research and develop national-level training standards and solutions to support this fast-changing and growing industry, and assess ways further investment in this area could help with rural and suburban economic development.

BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

The Committee recommends a total of $1,681,112,000 for the Bureau of the Census, which is $9,135,000 above the request. The amount reflects the eventual ramp down of the 2020 Decennial Census operations, which has experienced unprecedented delays due to the novel coronavirus pandemic and will continue portions of its operations into the first quarter of fiscal year 2021.

Puerto Rico and U.S. territories.—The Committee looks forward to receiving the report required in the Explanatory Statement accompanying the fiscal year 2020 Consolidated Appropriations Act, which will outline the process for including Puerto Rico in the total resident and total population totals of the United States. The Committee expects the Census Bureau to outline any further steps necessary to implement this plan, including any necessary legislative changes.

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Population Data Collection.—The Committee looks forward to the feasibility study for expanding data collection of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) population in its future Federal population surveys as directed in House Report 116–101. The Committee believes data on the LGBT population will be useful to policymakers and researchers alike. Additionally, the Committee has heard concerns about the lack of reliable data on gender non-binary population and directs the Census Bureau to undertake a feasibility study for expanding data collection to this population in its future Federal population surveys. A report on the results of this study shall be delivered to the Committee no later than 180 days after enactment of this Act.

Language Assistance.—The Committee recognizes the expansion of language support for the 2020 Decennial Census through the 2020 Census Language Services Operation to reach 98 percent of limited-English speaking households and the Census Bureau's efforts currently underway to translate American Community Survey (ACS) into other non-English languages such as Korean, Spanish, Arabic, Chinese, French, Portuguese, Polish, Russian, Haitian-Creole, and Vietnamese. However, the Committee remains concerned about the lack of data on small population groups and the availability of language assistance for respondents to other surveys and encourages the Census Bureau to continue assessing ways to increase language assistance on its surveys to those who speak Asian languages, Pacific Islander languages, American Indian and Alaska Native languages, African languages and Spanish. Further, the Committee directs the Census Bureau to provide updates on a semi-annual basis on language assistance programs for the American Community Survey (ACS), including information on how it is reaching and assisting respondents who speak the aforementioned languages.

Cybersecurity Threats.—The Committee remains concerned that as the Census Bureau looks to modernize data collection methods, the Census Bureau could potentially be exploited by nefarious actors who seek to undermine the integrity of census data, which is vital to democratic institutions, and gain access to sensitive information otherwise protected by law. These threats include both hacking into the Census Bureau IT infrastructure and efforts to use supercomputing to unmask the privacy of census respondents. The Committee directs the Census Bureau to prioritize cyber protections and high standards of data differential privacy, while also maintaining the accuracy of the data, and expects the Census Bureau to update the Committee regularly on these efforts.

CURRENT SURVEYS AND PROGRAMS

The Committee recommends $288,403,000 for Current Surveys and Programs, which is $14,403,000 above fiscal year 2020 and $9,135,000 above the request.

The recommendation restores funding to continue the level of effort for the Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) at the fiscal year 2018 level to ensure statistically reliable estimates, and fully supports the Census Bureau's efforts to evaluate and improve the supplemental poverty measure.

PERIODIC CENSUSES AND PROGRAMS

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

The Committee recommends the requested level of $1,392,709,000 for Periodic Censuses and Programs. The recommendation provides for a transfer of $3,556,000 to the Department of Commerce Office of Inspector General (OIG) for oversight and auditing of the Census Bureau.

2020 Decennial Census.—Given the unprecedented delays to the 2020 Decennial Census due to the coronavirus, the Census Bureau required the majority of its approximately $2,000,000,000 in carryover funds to support the delay in field operations in fiscal year 2020, and therefore the recommendation does not include the Administration's proposal to transfer $208,000,000 in 2020 Decennial funds to the Census Bureau Working Capital Fund to support fiscal year 2021 requirements, including the reconfiguration of existing facilities to accommodate the relocation of 1,800 Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) personnel. The Census Bureau, in coordination with the General Services Administration, BLS and OMB, is directed to brief the Committee on the status of this relocation effort including timeline and costs borne by all agencies no later than 15 days after enactment of this Act. While the Committee understands reconfiguration to the existing facilities and IT infrastructure will be required to accommodate the additional employees, the Committee directs the Census Bureau to find innovative ways to ensure current occupants are not negatively impacted by this move and encourages the Census Bureau to solicit occupant feedback and consider enhancing telework or alternative work schedules.

2030 Decennial Census.—As the 2020 Decennial Census concludes, preparations for the 2030 Decennial Census operation are beginning. The Committee recognizes the unprecedented delays to the 2020 Decennial Census due to the coronavirus were outside of the Census Bureau's control, but the Committee also understands the importance of examining lessons learned as a vital part of program management and directs the Census Bureau to conduct such reviews and inform the Committee on its findings. Additionally, as the Census Bureau examines the questions that will be considered for the 2030 Decennial Census, the Committee directs the Census Bureau to conduct a feasibility study on including a race category for individuals who identify as Middle East or North African, also known as MENA, which was not ultimately included in the 2020 Decennial Census questionnaire. The Committee also expects that questions on sexual orientation and gender identity will also be examined for possible inclusion in the 2030 Decennial Census questionnaire.

NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

The Committee recommends $45,500,000 for the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), which is $5,0590,000 above fiscal year 2020. The recommendation is distributed as shown in the table below:

Domestic and International Policy	$9,224,000
Spectrum Management	9,752,000
Advanced Communications Research	10,000,000
Broadband Programs	16,216,000
Public Safety Communications	308,000
Total	45,500,000

The recommendation adopts the Administration's proposal to establish a new program activity, "Public Safety Communications", intended to ensure those who serve in our State and local public safety sectors are provided with the tools and expertise needed to remain on pace with advances in technology through the NTIA's Next Generation 911 (NG911) program. The Committee provides no less than $2,024,000 for the overdue modernization of the most critical components of NTIA's spectrum management system. The recommendation also includes no less than $1,285,000 above the fiscal year 2020 level for Advanced Communications Research to upgrade equipment and hire additional staff to support NTIA's work on 5G telecommunications systems.

Telecommunications Role in Hate Crimes.—The Committee looks forward to receiving the report regarding the role of telecommunications in hate crimes as directed in House Report 116–101. The Committee reiterates its concern about this issue and reminds NTIA to include the myriad new forms of telecommunications in its analysis. NTIA shall provide a briefing to the Committee on its progress within 90 days of the enactment of this Act.

Rural Broadband Coordination.—The Committee continues prior year direction to NTIA to coordinate with the Rural Utilities Service, the Federal Communications Commission, and other related Federal agencies to coordinate with one another, as well as the rural communications industry, to identify and pursue ways to continue sustainable broadband deployment and adoption, and to ensure that policies tied to one Federal program do not undermine the objectives and functionality of another. Further, the Committee continues to encourage NTIA to place equal priority on the deployment of the Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network (NPSBN) in rural communities as it does in urban areas.

Spectrum Management for Science.—The Committee recognizes that ensuring access to key portions of spectrum for radio astronomy observations, environmental observations, and other scientific purposes is essential for scientific discovery. The Committee encourages NTIA, in coordination with FCC and other appropriate stakeholders, to preserve spectrum access for scientific purposes as commercial use of radio spectrum increases. The Committee looks forward to the report highlighting NTIA's ongoing efforts on this front.

Policy and Technical Training.—The Committee encourages NTIA to work with the FCC and the Department of State to pro-

vide support for activities provided under section 7 of Public Law 98–549. As part of these activities, NTIA may provide assistance and guidance in policy and technical training to impart best practices to information technology professionals from developing countries.

National 5G Strategy.—The Committee supports the development of secure 5G networks that are developed using technology and equipment that is verified to be secure from foreign surveillance or influence. The Committee believes it is in the best interest of the national and economic security of the United States to implement a strong national 5G strategy as outlined in Public Law 116–129.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

The Committee recommends $3,695,295,000 for the United States Patent and Trademark Office (PTO), the full amount of fiscal year 2021 fee collections estimated by the Congressional Budget Office. PTO shall continue to provide monthly reports to the Committee on PTO's actual and projected fee collections, application volumes, performance, and staffing.

Patent End-2-End (PE2E).—PTO shall continue to provide quarterly reports to the Committee on the status of PE2E, including the proposed retirement of legacy systems, cost savings associated with those retirements, and any efficiencies achieved in patent processing because of these investments.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY

The Committee recommends $1,044,000,000 for National Institutes of Standards and Technology (NIST). In addition, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) (Public Law 116–136) included $66,000,000 for NIST to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus, including $6,000,000 to support continuity of operations and measurement science to support viral testing and biomanufacturing; $50,000,000 for Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership to assist manufacturers; and $10,000,000 for the National Network for Manufacturing Innovation (also known as "Manufacturing USA") to support development and manufacturing of medical countermeasures and biomedical equipment and supplies.

SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL RESEARCH AND SERVICES

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

The Committee recommends $789,000,000 for NIST's Scientific and Technical Research and Services (STRS) programs, which is $35,000,000 above fiscal year 2020 and $136,973,000 above the request. The recommendation rejects the proposed reductions to Advanced Manufacturing and Material Measurements; Fundamental Measurement, Quantum Science, and Measurement Dissemination; Advanced Communications, Networks, and Scientific Data Systems; Health and Biological Systems Measurements; Physical In-

frastructure and Resilience; NIST User Facilities; Office of Special Programs; Standards Coordination Office; and the NIST Center of Excellence Program and instead provides no less than the fiscal year 2020 level for these programs.

Quantum Information Science.—The Committee provides no less than $8,000,000 above the fiscal year 2020 level for Quantum Information Science, as authorized in the National Quantum Initiative Act to support and expand basic and applied quantum information science and technology research and development (R&D) of measurement science and standards. Further, the Committee encourages NIST to expand its collaboration with other entities, including industry, universities, and Federal laboratories, to help advance the field of quantum information science and engineering.

Artificial Intelligence.—The recommendation includes no less than $10,000,000 above the fiscal year 2020 level to continue NIST's research efforts related to Artificial Intelligence (AI), which has the potential to produce transformative technologies and scientific breakthroughs that will improve Americans' lives.

Framework for Managing AI Risks.—The Committee recognizes the economic, national security, and societal impacts of artificial intelligence (AI) and the importance of maintaining U.S. leadership in AI development and implementation. The Committee believes that coordination is needed between the Federal government and stakeholder organizations to ensure that AI initiatives support reliable, robust, and trustworthy systems. Within the increase provided for AI, the Committee directs NIST to establish a multi-stakeholder process to identify the necessary steps needed to develop a framework for managing risks related to the reliability, robustness, and trustworthiness of AI systems. Within 180 days of enactment of this Act, NIST shall establish the process by which it will engage with stakeholders, and identify the timeline needed to develop the framework. NIST shall provide the Committee with biannual updates on the progress of these efforts until the framework is finalized and publicly available.

Data Characterization Standards in AI.—The recommendation encourages NIST to create a plan for interagency engagement with the private sector for the development of standards for data characterization for AI—which, for example, can ensure proper sample data attribution to help when querying different features to build auto detection models—as part of the work to support reliable, robust, and trustworthy systems that use AI technologies.

U.S. Leadership in AI.—The Committee commends NIST for the completion of the plan, "U.S. Leadership in AI," and encourages NIST to implement its recommendations, as appropriate. Further, the Committee directs NIST, on behalf of the Department, and in consultation with the Office of Personnel Management, the Interagency Committee on Standards Policy, other interagency groups, and Federal agencies, as NIST considers appropriate, to develop a clear career development and promotion path that recognizes and encourages participation in and expertise in AI standards development within the Federal workforce. NIST is also directed, in coordination with appropriate Federal agencies, to understand AI standards strategies and initiatives of standards organizations, foreign governments and entities, to the extent practicable. No less than 180 days after the enactment of this Act, the Department shall

submit a report to the Committee on the steps it has taken to implement the recommendations of the U.S. Leadership in AI plan.

Greenhouse Gas Program and Urban Dome Initiative.—The Committee recognizes the significant value in NIST's Greenhouse Gas Program and Urban Dome initiative that seeks to leverage existing high-spatial density regional monitoring networks and external R&D partnerships. These cost-effective capabilities substantially expand and broaden NIST laboratory capabilities for investigating and developing measurement tools that support independent means for determining the accuracy of emissions inventory data at urban and regional scales. The Committee has included no less than $500,000 above the fiscal year 2020 level of funding for the Greenhouse Gas Program and Urban Dome Initiative to continue and expand sensor network deployments.

Cybersecurity and Privacy.—The proliferation of data generation, storage, and usage associated with the digital economy is making it increasingly important to protect that data with effective cryptography and privacy standards. The Committee is concerned that individual, corporate, and public-sector data privacy is continuously at risk from attacks by individual actors, criminal organization, and nation-states. The Committee urges NIST to address the rapidly emerging threats in this field by furthering the development of new and needed cryptographic standards and technologies.

National Initiative for Cybersecurity Education.—The Committee notes with concern the shortage of cybersecurity professionals across the government and private sector, from entry level applicants to experienced professionals. The Committee therefore supports the National Initiative for Cybersecurity Education (NICE) and directs NIST to provide resources commensurate with the prior fiscal year for this effort.

Measurement Science Research for Advanced Manufacturing.—The Committee recognizes the critical importance of NIST's measurement science research to promote U.S. innovation and industrial competitiveness, specifically for advanced manufacturing methods and systems that help the Nation's manufacturers to invent, innovate, and create. The Committee directs the Institute to prioritize new STRS funds to achieve fundamental scientific understanding of manufacturing processes and equipment and to enable new smart manufacturing systems capabilities for high-priority metals-based additive manufacturing, manufacturing robotics, and cybersecurity for industrial control systems. The Committee acknowledges that collaborations with the private and public sectors, academic organizations, and standards development bodies will help to advance and disseminate measurement science research and support to U.S. manufacturers. The Committee provides up to $5,000,000 for competitive external grants for academic institutions to support research, development, and workforce training to overcome barriers to high-volume additive manufacturing of metals.

Textile research.—The Committee recognizes the importance of the U.S. textile industry and encourages NIST to pursue advanced textile and apparel research, including manufacturing techniques.

Calibration Laboratory for Oceanographic Sensors.—The Committee recognizes a critical need for capacity in calibration of ocean sensors that is inhibiting maximum use of ocean sensing tech-

nologies. The Committee encourages NIST to support these technologies.

Pyrrhotite in Concrete Aggregate.—The Committee continues to be concerned that concrete foundations can crack and cause serious structural damage to the buildings they support. To address this threat, the recommendation provides no less than $2,000,000 to partner with academic institutions to study and develop a reliable and cost-effective standard for testing for the presence of excessive pyrrhotite in concrete used in residential, commercial, and municipal structures and a standard for the amount of pyrrhotite that requires mitigation efforts. These research and standards-setting efforts are needed due to the ongoing uncertainty regarding what level of pyrrhotite can cause concrete foundations to become structurally unsound, and what if anything can be done to slow, delay, or stop such damage.

Forward Looking Building Standards.—The Committee is concerned about how climate change will impact the built environment, and that standards previously set with an assumption of a stable climate system will expose many Federal and non-Federal investments to significant, but avoidable, risk. Therefore, the Committee directs NIST, in collaboration with other appropriate Federal agencies and interested non-Federal parties, to identify a consistent and authoritative set of climate information that emphasizes forward-looking climate data and projections that should be utilized in the standard-setting process. This effort shall serve to aid both Federal and non-Federal bodies to develop standards, building codes, and voluntary standards that take into account increasingly extreme weather events and other climate change challenges.

Regenerative Medicine Standards.—The Committee commends NIST, the Food and Drug Administration, and the Standards Coordinating Body for continued work to implement the regenerative medicine standards provisions enacted under the 21st Century Cures Act (Public Law 114–255). Currently, work is underway to develop processes and criteria for identifying, prioritizing, and assessing the quality, safety, feasibility, and cost-benefit of such standards. The Committee provides $5,000,000 for NIST to improve measurement assurance and standards coordination for regenerative therapies, including: establishing a regenerative medicine assay validation and innovation core to provide laboratory support for evaluation of standardized assays, and conducting inter-laboratory studies to improve measurement assurance and develop appropriate reference materials.

Forensic Sciences.—The Committee provides $22,500,000 for forensic science research, $3,700,000 above the fiscal year 2020 level. Within these funds, the Committee provides no less than $3,150,000 to support the Organization of 22 Scientific Area Committees, and no less than $1,200,000 to support technical merit evaluations previously funded by transfer from the Department of Justice.

5G Telecommunications.—The Committee notes the importance of the development of 5G telecommunications technologies as a matter of job creation, economic development, and national security, and supports the goal to ensure American leadership in this field. In support of these efforts, the recommendation includes

$1,400,000 above the fiscal year 2020 level. Further, the Committee recognizes the importance of efficient spectrum allocation and use in the development of new broadband intensive technologies such as 5G networks. The Committee urges the National Institute of Standards and Technology in consultation with National Telecommunications and Information Administration to prioritize research and development funding to increase spectrum efficiency to ensure effective and speedy national rollout of 5G U.S. telecommunication networks.

Direct Air Capture and Carbon Dioxide Removal.—The Committee includes $3,500,000 for direct air capture and carbon dioxide removal research, specifically to increase work on developing standard reference materials and test procedures for direct air capture as well as to increase support for carbonate materials development, testing, and certification for construction markets.

Disaster Resilience Research Grants.—The Committee rejects the proposed elimination of Disaster Resilience Research Grants and instead provides no less than the fiscal year 2020 level.

Malcolm Baldrige Performance Excellence Program.—The Committee recognizes the value of the Baldrige Program and the impact that it has on the performance of organizations that adopt its best practices. Therefore, the Committee provides $2,500,000, an increase of $300,000 above fiscal year 2020, for the Malcolm Baldrige Performance Excellence Program to expand its e-learning capability.

Cybersecurity Conformity Assessment Programs.—The Committee instructs NIST, in collaboration with other relevant organizations, to report to the Committee no later than 270 days after the enactment of this Act on challenges and approaches to establishing and managing voluntary cybersecurity conformity assessment programs for information and communication technologies including federal cloud technologies.

INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

The Committee recommends $170,000,000 for Industrial Technology Services, which is $8,000,000 above fiscal year 2020 and $144,748,000 above the request. The Committee rejects the Administration's proposed elimination of the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) program and instead provides $153,000,000 for MEP, $7,000,000 above the fiscal year 2020 level. The increase from the prior year shall be distributed equitably among the 51 MEP Centers based on the respective number of regional partners. The recommendation also includes $17,000,000 for the National Network for Manufacturing Innovation, also known as "Manufacturing USA."

Cybersecurity Training.—Within the increase to MEP, the Committee directs NIST to maintain the core services of the MEP and encourages NIST to utilize existing expertise within its Information Technology Laboratory to increase cybersecurity technical training to small manufacturers to strengthen their cybersecurity capabilities given the troubling threats from state and non-state actors and other emerging threats.

CONSTRUCTION OF RESEARCH FACILITIES

The Committee recommends $85,000,000 for NIST construction. NIST shall continue to provide updates on the projects funded within this account, to include milestones and total amount of funding necessary for completion.

Safety, Capacity, Maintenance, and Major Repairs (SCMMR).—Within the amount provided for Construction of Research Facilities, the agreement includes no less than $75,000,000 for NIST to address its most pressing SCMMR projects.

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

The Committee recommends a total of $5,454,068,000 in discretionary funds for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), which is $101,890,000 above fiscal year 2020 and $827,661,000 above the President's request. In addition, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) (Public Law 116–136) included $20,000,000 for NOAA to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus as well as $300,000,000 for Assistance to Fishery Participants to offset economic injury precipitated by the coronavirus.

The Committee's program and project recommendations for NOAA are included in the consolidated funding tables below and in narrative direction throughout this report. The Committee reminds NOAA that any deviations from the amounts included in the table below are subject to section 505 requirements of this Act. When executing its budget for fiscal year 2021, NOAA shall incorporate the funding levels established in both the table and the narrative direction. NOAA is reminded that comity has existed between the Congress and the Executive Branch with respect to abiding by language included in this report and in the accompanying bill. The Committee expects NOAA to respect this long-standing practice.

Tribal Allocation of CARES Act Funds.—The Committee is aware of concerns raised by Native American tribes regarding the lack of formal government-to-government consultation and the methodology used by NOAA to allocate funds provided in Sec. 12005 of the CARES Act (Public Law 116–136) which relied on annual revenues by sector rather than recorded losses to determine proportional allocations. The Committee reminds NOAA of its responsibility to uphold Federal treaty and trust obligations during all engagements with tribal interests, regardless of any exigent circumstances.

Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment.—The Committee remains highly concerned by the threat of sexual assault and sexual harassment faced by individuals in the workplace, especially those in nontraditional work settings such as NOAA research vessels or private fishing vessels. The Committee appreciates the initial steps NOAA has taken in addressing these threats. To further this work, the Committee provides no less than $1,700,000 above the fiscal year 2020 level and directs NOAA to prioritize and expedite the hiring of staff to reduce these risks and to provide assistance and counseling to victims.

Extramural research.—The Committee continues to support NOAA's ongoing collaboration with academia and the private sector

through cooperative institutes and competitive research. These relationships build broad community engagement, leverage external funding for mission-oriented research, strengthen the science within NOAA, and advance scientific knowledge.

Shellfish genetics.—The recommendation includes up to $10,000,000 to improve shellfish survival and growth rates and to classify and preserve the natural genetic variation of shellfish. NOAA is encouraged to support regional partnerships to classify and preserve natural genetic variation in shellfish. Further, the Committee encourages NOAA to examine the feasibility of tracking its efforts at the species level.

Mississippi River Restoration and Resiliency Strategy.—The Committee recognizes that the Mississippi River basin from Minnesota to Louisiana is a vital American waterway. Therefore, the Committee urges NOAA to participate and coordinate as an essential Federal stakeholder with the Environmental Protection Agency on developing a Mississippi River restoration and resiliency strategy focused on improving water quality, restoring habitat and natural systems, improving navigation, eliminating aquatic invasive species, and building local resilience to natural disasters.

OPERATIONS, RESEARCH, AND FACILITIES

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

The Committee recommends a total program level of $4,142,330,000 under Operations, Research, and Facilities (ORF) for the coastal, fisheries, marine, weather, satellite, and other programs of NOAA. This total funding consists of $3,871,659,000 in direct appropriations, a transfer of $253,171,000 from balances in the "Promote and Develop Fishery Products and Research Pertaining to American Fisheries" account and $17,500,000 derived from recoveries of prior year obligations. The direct appropriation of $3,871,659,000 is $107,720,000 above fiscal year 2020 and $706,535,000 above the President's request.

The following narrative and tables identify the specific activities and funding levels included in this Act.

National Ocean Service.—The recommendation provides $625,406,000 for National Ocean Service (NOS) Operations, Research, and Facilities, an increase of $26,450,000 above the fiscal year 2020 level and $244,370,000 above the President's request. Given the increasingly troubled state of the oceans, the Committee finds the request to reduce NOS funding by 36 percent as compared to fiscal year 2020 to be dramatically inappropriate. The Committee instead invests in programs within NOS that aim to enhance the resiliency of coastal assets and to understand and mitigate the changing ecological threats to our oceans and the Great Lakes to meet the increased need.

NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE

OPERATIONS, RESEARCH, AND FACILITIES

(In thousands of dollars)

Program	Amount
Navigation, Observations and Positioning:	
Navigation, Observations and Positioning	$160,456
Hydrographic Survey Priorities/Contracts	32,000

NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE—Continued

OPERATIONS, RESEARCH, AND FACILITIES

(In thousands of dollars)

Program	Amount
Integrated Ocean Observing System Regional Observations	40,500
Navigation, Observations and Positioning	232,956
Coastal Science and Assessment:	
Coastal Science, Assessment, Response and Restoration	88,500
Competitive External Research	22,000
Coastal Science and Assessment	110,500
Ocean and Coastal Management Services:	
Coastal Zone Management and Services	47,700
Coastal Management Grants	78,000
National Coastal Resilience Fund (Title IX)	36,000
Coral Reef Program	34,000
National Estuarine Research Reserve System	28,250
Sanctuaries and Marine Protected Areas	58,000
Ocean and Coastal Management and Services	281,950
Total, National Ocean Service, Operations, Research, and Facilities	$625,406

Navigation, Observations, and Positioning.—The Committee provides $160,456,000 for Navigation, Observations, and Positioning, $1,000,000 above the level provided in fiscal year 2020. The recommendation rejects the proposed elimination of the competitive Regional Geospatial Modeling Grants program and the Joint Ocean and Coastal Mapping Centers. The Committee additionally continues funding for the Physical Oceanographic Real-Time System (PORTS), at no less than the fiscal year 2020 level.

Hydrographic Survey Priorities/Contracts.—The Committee rejects the proposed reduction to Hydrographic Survey Priorities/Contracts and directs NOAA to maintain its prior year level of effort.

Integrated Ocean Observing System.—The recommendation includes $40,500,000 for Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS) Regional Observations and rejects the elimination of IOOS grants. The Committee supports IOOS's efforts to expand its use of underwater gliders and encourages NOAA to fill critical gaps in the current surface mapping system and to ensure streamlined access to data for weather forecasting, detection of ecological phenomena, and safe maritime operations.

The Committee provides $2,000,000, from within the funds allocated for IOOS, to continue and expand the pilot program launched in fiscal year 2020 for IOOS to enhance the nation's capacity for monitoring and detection of Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) by leveraging the expertise of the IOOS regional associations—including through expanding the deployment of in-situ observing assets—in order to improve HABs warning and forecast accuracy. IOOS is directed to coordinate with the National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science on the implementation of these funds.

Coastal Science, Assessment, Response, and Restoration.—The Committee provides $88,500,000 for Coastal Science Assessment, Response, and Restoration, and rejects the proposed reductions to Response and Restoration activities. The recommendation includes

no less than $9,000,000 for the Marine Debris program to address the pervasive problem of marine pollution in coastal waters around the country. The Committee encourages NOS to coordinate with States, territories, and local communities on efforts to remove debris from the marine environment and the Great Lakes, with a goal of developing a cost-effective programmatic solution to land-generated marine debris.

Further, the Committee rejects the proposed elimination of the National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS). The Committee instead provides NCCOS no less than $2,000,000 above the fiscal year 2020 level to expand the regular monitoring of coastal and nearshore areas to increase understanding of the movement and severity of natural phenomena such as HABs and hypoxia—especially where insufficient data is currently available to provide high resolution and high frequency ecological forecasts. As part of this work, the Committee encourages NOAA to expand partnerships with academic institutions, the private sector, State governments, and other Federal agencies. The Committee also encourages NOAA to work with stakeholders to improve the transition of observational data to operational use in order to advance public education, understanding, and preparedness for HAB and hypoxia events. For all HABs-related work, NOAA shall coordinate with the Interagency Working Group of the Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Act.

Sea Level Rise.—The Committee is concerned by the increasing threat posed to coastal communities and assets of the Nation by sea level rise and the resultant increase in coastal flood risk. The recommendation includes no less than an increase of $600,000 above fiscal year 2020, within Coastal Science, Assessment, Response, Restoration, to initiate and accelerate efforts to create a National Coastal Data Information System which includes (1) combining existing observations, modeling, predictions, products and services into an integrated framework for producing and maintaining authoritative and timely data, maps and information services which quantify and communicate coastal flood risk to the US States and territories; (2) developing and strengthening partnerships with organizations that represent end users within coastal communities, including other Federal agencies, to better assess information gaps and needs; and (3) producing new information products and services, targeted to end-user needs, that allow coastal communities across the U.S. to plan for coastal flood risk today, next year, and for decades to come. NOAA shall, not less than 180 days after the enactment of this Act, provide the Committee with a holistic analysis of the need to expand observations, modeling, predictions, products and services to (1) improve the understanding of changing coastal flood risk, including impacts of sea level rise, (2) maintain and update this information on a regular cadence and (3) track and report how observed rates of sea level rise compare to the sea level rise predictions published within the National Climate Assessments.

Harmful Algal Blooms.—The Committee remains highly concerned about the increasing prevalence of harmful algal blooms (HABs) in every U.S. State and territory and the corresponding impacts on human health, drinking water, fisheries, and the broader economy. The Committee therefore directs NMFS to continue its

research into HABs at the fiscal year 2020 enacted level. Further, the Committee provides $22,000,000 for Competitive Research, including not less than $14,000,000 for HABs research. This research should prioritize further development of methods of prevention, mitigation, and control to reduce the frequency, severity, and impacts of HAB events in freshwater and saltwater systems and provide special attention to research in areas most economically and environmentally impacted by HABs. The Committee encourages NOAA to work to ensure that new technology and mitigation efforts have minimal environmental impacts.

NOAA shall also explore research into the impacts on HAB timing, duration, and toxicity of nutrient pollution such as nitrogen and phosphorus as they enter coastal areas from tributaries that could lead to more accurate forecasts to the benefit of recreational and commercial fishing, recreation, and coastal drinking water plants. NOAA shall provide a report to the Committee within 180 days of the enactment of this Act that assesses its existing deployed capabilities and prior scope of work regarding the monitoring and management of nutrient runoff and its associated effect on HABs, including a delineation of how modeling is aided by data from other Federal partners. In addition, the report shall identify how NOAA is coordinating with other agencies that are part of the Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Act Task Force in monitoring and mitigating the HAB crisis in various water systems.

Seafloor Mapping.—The Committee encourages NOS to perform high-priority, cooperative habitat mapping in currently unmapped and disaster-prone areas, with priority given to areas where oil exploration is under consideration to better understand long-term implications.

Blue Carbon.—The Committee notes the importance of the coastal zone as a potential carbon sink and the increased public interest in blue carbon. NOAA shall expand their efforts to understand the relative emissions and absorption of carbon pollution associated with various human activities in the coastal zone so as to inform future planning decisions regarding their carbon impacts.

Coastal Zone Management.—The Committee provides $47,700,000 for Coastal Zone Management and Services. The recommendation rejects the reduction to Integrated Water Prediction, and instead provides no less than the fiscal year 2020 level. Within these funds, the recommendation also includes $2,000,000 for Regional Ocean Data Portals.

Ocean Economy of the Territories.—The Committee supports NOAA's efforts to calculate and characterize the U.S. ocean and Great Lakes economy. However, the Committee is concerned that these estimates do not capture the ocean economies of the five U.S. territories. The Committee therefore provides an additional $700,000 within Coastal Zone Management and Services and directs NOAA to take all reasonable steps to expand the scope of the Economics: National Ocean Watch (ENOW) dataset so that it includes the island territories, and to submit a report detailing these efforts within 180 days of the enactment of this Act.

Coastal Zone Management Grants and the National Coastal Resilience Fund.—The Committee does not approve the Administration's proposed elimination of the Coastal Zone Management (CZM)

Grants and the National Coastal Resilience Fund (NCRF), which are critical programs for preparing coastal areas for measurably rising sea levels. The recommendation instead includes $78,000,000 for CZM Grants and $36,000,000 for the NCRF, including for project planning and design, including watershed scale planning and technical assistance to identify where and what specific coastal resilience projects will provide the greatest benefit in preparation for expected climate impacts, such as sea level rise.

Coral Reefs.—The Committee is greatly concerned by the deterioration of the Nation's coral reefs, which are suffering from record levels of bleaching and disease. The recommendation therefore includes $34,000,000, which is $7,893,000 above the President's request for the Coral Reef Program. The Committee also rejects the proposed reduction for Innovative Coral Reef Restoration Initiatives.

Within the increase provided for the Coral Reef Program, NOAA shall prioritize active restoration of bank barrier coral reef ecosystems in U.S. waters. NOAA is directed 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. Examples of this work include identifying the pathogens causing the disease, conducting appropriate disease interventions and remediations, researching resilient coral species and disease-resistant genetic strains of corals, and supporting restoration of appropriate and diverse coral species. The Committee recognizes that science sponsored through such collaboration is imperative for management of these coral reefs for ecosystem resilience and for the effective implementation of the National Coral Reef Action Strategy, especially with regard to the identification of local action strategies for addressing key threats in each of the jurisdictions that have coral reefs within its boundaries.

NOAA shall provide to the Committee, no later than 180 days after the enactment of this Act, a report on the latest scientific tools and technologies available to conserve coral germplasm and genetic material of coral reef species. The report shall address the feasibility of a national strategy of establishing physical biorepositories that can preserve genetic material for coral reef propagation and restoration practices.

National Estuarine Research Reserve System (NERRS).—The Committee rejects the proposed elimination of the National Estuarine Research Reserve System and instead provides $28,250,000 for this important partnership between NOAA and the coastal States and territories that protects and studies estuarine systems.

Sanctuaries and Marine Protected Areas.—The Committee provides $58,000,000 for Sanctuaries and Marine Protected Areas, which is $3,078,000 above the President's request. The Committee urges the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries to initiate the multi-year marine sanctuary designation process for marine sites currently under inventory and ensure all stakeholders and the public are fully engaged in developing the parameters of a future designation. Within 180 days of enactment of this Act, the Committee directs NOAA to submit a report on the steps taken to initiate the multi-year marine sanctuary designation process for successfully

nominated marine sites currently in inventory, and the estimated timeline for the designation process.

Marine National Monuments.—Within funding provided for National Marine Sanctuaries, up to $1,200,000 may be used for competitive research and management grants for existing marine national monuments administered by NOS, provided such grants are subject to a 100 percent non-Federal match. The Committee further directs NOAA to submit a report to the Committee no later than 180 days after the enactment of this Act on the research that is ongoing, has been completed, and is planned for Marine National Monuments administered by NMFS. NOAA shall engage with relevant science community stakeholders including, but not limited to, governmental, academic and non-governmental organization scientists, to determine the gaps in the research of these Monuments and make recommendations for research priorities, to be included in such report.

Derelict Fishing Gear.—The Committee recognizes that derelict fishing gear (DFG) harms marine life through ghost fishing and poses a significant threat, especially to protected and native species. NOAA is therefore encouraged to study the impacts of DFG on marine life and natural habitats in the waters of the United States, including those surrounding U.S. territories, especially Marine National Monuments and the National Estuarine Research Reserves.

National Marine Fisheries Service.—The Committee recommends $967,586,000 for National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Operations, Research, and Facilities, which is $125,911,000 above the President's request. NMFS shall continue to provide quarterly updates to the Committee consistent with direction in fiscal year 2020.

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	$127,905
Species Recovery Grants	7,000
Atlantic Salmon	6,500
Pacific Salmon	67,250
Protected Resources Science and Management	208,655
Fisheries Science and Management:	
Fisheries and Ecosystem Science Programs and Services	150,018
Fisheries Data Collections, Surveys and Assessments	173,709
Observers and Training	50,000
Fisheries Management Programs and Services	124,500
Aquaculture	15,250
Salmon Management Activities	59,643
Regional Councils and Fisheries Commissions	46,446
Interjurisdictional Fisheries Grants	3,365
Fisheries Science and Management	622,931
Enforcement	77,000
Habitat Conservation and Restoration	59,000

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE—Continued

OPERATIONS, RESEARCH, AND FACILITIES

(In thousands of dollars)

Program	Amount
Total, National Marine Fisheries Service, Operations, Research, and Facilities	$967,586

Climate-Ready Fisheries.—The Committee directs the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to issue a report to Congress not later than one year after the enactment of this Act examining efforts by NMFS, the Regional Fishery Management Councils (RFMC), and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) to prepare and adapt Federal or jointly-managed fisheries to the impacts of climate change. The report shall examine whether these entities have taken steps to prepare and respond to the impacts of climate change and if any guidance issued to the RFMCs by NMFS on climate impacts has been utilized by fishery managers. The report shall also make recommendations for addressing (1) the most significant funding shortfalls; (2) the most important social, ecological, and other knowledge gaps preventing action; (3) how these entities can better prepare associated fishing industries and dependent communities for the impacts of climate change; and (4) how to enhance the capacity of NMFS to monitor and incorporate climate-related changes to fishery management.

Consistent Application of Regulations.—The Committee looks forward to receiving the report requested in fiscal year 2020 regarding the consistent application of regulations across NMFS regions and directs NMFS to expedite the report's completion.

Marine Mammals, Sea Turtles, and Other Species.—The recommendation includes $127,000,000 for Marine Mammals, Sea Turtles, and Other Species. Within this amount, the Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2020 level for Endangered Species Act and Marine Mammal Protection Act Permitting Capacity and no less than $4,000,000 for the John H. Prescott Marine Mammal Rescue Assistance grant program.

Sea Turtles.—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2020 amount for NMFS to continue scientifically advisable operations of, and full funding for, ongoing work on endangered and threatened sea turtle conservation, including captive sea turtle rearing and Turtle Excluder Device research and certification to reduce sea turtle bycatch. NOAA committed to Congress that it would continue its sea turtle stranding and rehabilitation programs until it found suitable non-governmental partners to take over this program in full. Therefore, NMFS is directed to maintain adequate capacity of the sea turtle stranding and rehabilitation program until it can assure Congress that those critical activities have been fully transferred to partner organizations.

Southern Resident Killer Whales.—The Committee provides not less than the fiscal year 2020 amount for the Southern Resident Killer Whales program for research and monitoring to improve the recovery of the species.

Foreign Fisheries.—The Committee provides $1,000,000 to NMFS to ensure sufficient implementation of the Fish and Fish Product Import Provisions Section 101(a)(2) of the Marine Mammal Protection Act. NMFS shall use these funds to analyze the data provided

by nations and to provide technical assistance to nations to comply with these provisions. NMFS shall prioritize the use of any funds for technical assistance to those fisheries interacting with endangered species. NMFS may use contractors to ensure that deadlines are met, but shall prioritize hiring staff with the increased funds for this initiative.

North Atlantic Right Whale.—The Committee remains concerned that North Atlantic right whale populations continue to be critically low. Therefore, the Committee rejects the President's proposal to reduce funds and instead provides not less than $2,000,000 above the amount provided in fiscal year 2020 for research and monitoring of North Atlantic right whales. These additional funds shall be dedicated to (1) increasing aerial surveys and fixed and mobile acoustic monitoring to improve understanding of the species' full range and the timing of migration within that range; (2) augmenting data collection regarding relevant fishing effort, distribution, and gear use; and (3) expanding the pilot to develop, refine, and field test innovative fishing gear technologies designed to reduce North Atlantic right whale entanglements in partnership with relevant stakeholders. Further, the Committee encourages NOAA to develop a habitat suitability index and long-term tagging methods. The recommendation also includes $300,000 from the amount provided for Fisheries Data Collections, Surveys, and Assessments to continue to support a continuous plankton recorder survey consistent with direction provided in fiscal year 2020.

Species Recovery Grants.—The Committee rejects the proposed reduction for Species Recovery Grants and recommends $1,010,000 above the President's request.

Hatchery and Genetic Management Plans.—The Committee provides $67,250,000 for Pacific Salmon, $3,014,000 above the requested level, and rejects the reduction to Hatchery and Genetic Management Plans (HGMPs). Instead, the recommendation provides no less than $5,000,000 within Pacific Salmon to implement NMFS' comprehensive plan to address the backlog of HGMPs as specified in House Report 116–101. NMFS shall provide the Committee with an update, not later than 90 days after the enactment of this Act, on progress in reducing the backlog.

Fisheries and Ecosystem Science Programs and Services.—The Committee provides $150,018,000 for Fisheries and Ecosystem Science Programs and Services and rejects the proposed elimination of Antarctic Research, Fisheries Science Activities, and Northeast Groundfish Research and provides funding at no less than the fiscal year 2020 level for each of these programs.

Fisheries Data Collections, Surveys, and Assessments.—The Committee provides $173,709,000 for Fisheries Data Collections, Surveys, and Assessments, $9,657,000 above the request. Within these funds, no less than $24,000,000 is provided for Fisheries Information Networks, the State-Federal cooperative programs that coordinate data collection, data management, and informational management essential for accurate monitoring of commercial and recreational fishing impacts. The recommendation does not adopt the proposed reduction for Cooperative Research and continues funding for this activity at no less than the fiscal year 2020 level. The Committee encourages NMFS to support collaborative programs focused on improving recreational fishery data collection. The recommenda-

tion also directs NMFS to deliver technical support, as needed, to the Gulf States to prioritize and ensure successful implementation of each State plan.

South Atlantic Reef Fish.—NMFS is encouraged to leverage efficiencies learned through the Gulf of Mexico red snapper process to better the science and management of the South Atlantic red snapper and other reef fish. NMFS shall consider employing the independent and alternative stock assessment strategies used in the Gulf of Mexico to supplement NMFS assessments of reef fish in the South Atlantic. The Committee provides up to $1,800,000 for these activities and encourages NMFS to incorporate this data into the agency's own stock assessments as expeditiously as possible.

Fisheries Management Programs and Services.—The Committee rejects the harmful proposals to reduce base funds to the Fisheries Management Programs and Services, the Seafood Import Monitoring Program, and provides no less than the fiscal year 2020 level for these activities. The recommendation does not adopt the proposed reduction to Electronic Monitoring and Reporting and instead provides no less than the fiscal year 2020 level for these efforts to continue nationwide. The Committee reminds NOAA that catch share programs reduce harmful competition between fishing vessels, thereby helping to reduce occupational hazards, avoid market gluts, maximize profits, and reduce ecological damage. The Committee therefore rejects the proposed reduction of funding and provides no less than the fiscal year 2020 level for the National Catch Share Program.

Additionally, within the funds provided for Fisheries Science and Management, NOAA shall develop a priority list of other species that should be considered for inclusion in the Seafood Import Monitoring Program in order to: (1) reduce human trafficking in the international seafood supply chain, (2) reduce economic harm to the American fishing industry, (3) preserve stocks of at-risk species around the world, and (4) protect American consumers from seafood fraud. NOAA shall provide this list to the Committee within 180 days of enactment of this Act.

To strengthen implementation of the Seafood Import Monitoring Program, the Committee directs NMFS to increase coordination with the Commercial Targeting and Analysis Center (CTAC) in the Department of Homeland Security to develop additional analytical tools to help identify imports that are of high risk of illegal fishing and seafood fraud to inform targeted inspections and enforcement.

Video Review of Electronic Monitoring Data.—Within funding provided for Fisheries Management Programs and Services, the Committee provides no less than $400,000 for the video review of the West Coast Groundfish electronic monitoring data and $400,000 for the video review of the Gulf of Alaska partial coverage electronic monitoring data.

Pacific Bluefin Tuna.—The Committee continues to be concerned with the depleted status of Pacific bluefin tuna and therefore urges NMFS to support the Management Strategy Evaluations (MSE) for Pacific bluefin tuna and other priority highly migratory species. Further, the Committee encourages NMFS to ensure a strong U.S. negotiating position on Pacific bluefin tuna recovery by providing additional resources to support engagement of the Pacific Fishery

Management Council and U.S. stakeholders to ensure continued progress on the international recovery plan.

Oyster Restoration and Research.—The Committee encourages NOAA to competitively select external partners to research alternative substrates for oyster restoration. NOAA shall consider survivability as part of the oyster restoration program in the Chesapeake Bay. Within Habitat Conservation and Restoration, the Committee encourages NOAA to support oyster restoration in the Chesapeake Bay.

Salmon Management Activities.—The Committee recommends $1,600,000 above the fiscal year 2020 amount provided for Salmon Management Activities. The Committee rejects the proposed reductions to these activities and instead includes no less than $36,100,000 for Pacific Salmon Treaty activities and $23,000,000 for Mitchell Act Hatcheries that shall be executed consistent with prior year direction. NMFS shall continue to brief the Committee biannually on the implementation of the new obligations of the 2018 recertification of the Pacific Salmon Treaty as directed in fiscal year 2020.

Regional Councils and Fisheries Commissions.—The recommendation accepts the proposed technical transfers into Regional Councils and Fisheries Commissions, but rejects the proposed reduction in funding for this program. Further, within the funds provided for Regional Councils and Fisheries Commissions, $250,000 is included to implement the Pacific Fishery Management Council's Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP) Climate and Communities Initiative and to update the FEP to support climate-ready fisheries and ecosystem-based fisheries management.

Interjurisdictional Fisheries Grants.—The recommendation rejects the proposed elimination of Interjurisdictional Fisheries Grants and instead provides $3,365,000.

Enforcement.—The Committee provides $77,000,000 for Enforcement, which is $21,070,000 above the request. The Committee again rejects the proposed elimination of the Cooperative Enforcement Program that includes the execution of Joint Enforcement Agreements as well as the proposal to reduce enforcement capacity, and instead provides no less than the fiscal year 2020 level for these activities.

Illegal Unregulated and Unreported (IUU) Fishing.— IUU fishing is a threat to the health of the oceans, undermines honest businesses and fishers who play by the rules, and enables human trafficking, forced labor, and other criminal activity. Within the increase to Enforcement, the Committee directs NMFS to allocate a full-time employee, or its equivalent, to staff the Interagency Working Group on IUU Fishing, which was established in the FY 2020 National Defense Authorization Act (Public Law 116–92). Dedicated staffing shall ensure that the Interagency Working Group can fulfill the requirements in the Maritime SAFE Act, including the preparation of a strategic plan by December 2021. The Committee directs NOAA to provide a report to the Committee detailing costs and progress on improvements to IUU enforcement and seafood traceability since 2018 within 180 days of the enactment of this Act.

Habitat Conservation and Restoration.—The Committee provides $59,000,000 for Habitat Conservation and Restoration, which is

$19,952,000 above the request. Further, the recommendation rejects the reductions to Sustainable Habitat Management and Fisheries Habitat Grants and provides no less than the fiscal year 2020 level for each program. The Committee appreciates the progress made in reducing the backlog of essential fish habitat consultations and encourages NMFS to continue to prioritize this effort. The Committee also directs the Office of Habitat Conservation to continue to collaborate with NOS' Coral Reef Conservation program to restore coral barrier reef ecosystems.

Lionfish.—The Committee encourages NOAA to award competitive grants to address invasive Lionfish in the Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico.

Horseshoe Crabs.—Adequate data is required to ensure States and interstate managers can effectively manage the Horseshoe Crab population, which is important to the biomedical and commercial fishing industries, as well as to the ecology of the Mid-Atlantic region. The Committee directs NMFS to continue the Horseshoe Crab survey to generate the data necessary to ensure that the Horseshoe Crab stock remains on a sustainable path.

Adapting Fisheries Management to a Changing Climate.—The Committee notes that preparation efforts offer the potential to yield greater stability in Federal fishery management as the oceans change as a result of climate change, with benefits to fish stocks, fishermen, and fishing communities. Within the funds provided for Regional Councils and Fisheries Commissions, NOAA is encouraged to support climate-ready fishery management efforts underway by the Councils, including initiatives to conduct scenario planning and other preparation or adaptation efforts.

Bycatch Reduction and Incidental Take Permits.—The Committee is concerned by changing ocean conditions that are disrupting ecosystem stability, leading to increased conflicts between commercial shellfish fisheries and protected species. To resolve this conflict, the Committee encourages NMFS to ensure that it dedicates adequate resources (1) to expeditiously evaluate any application that it receives for an incidental take permit for shellfish fisheries, (2) to support the NOAA Bycatch Reduction Engineering Program for research and development of gear innovations to prevent entanglements while allowing for continued fishing in these fisheries, and (3) to continue robust participation in collaborative efforts to reduce fishing gear conflicts.

Oceanic and Atmospheric Research.—The Committee recommends $584,426,000 for Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) Operations, Research, and Facilities, which represents an increase of $36,042,000 over fiscal year 2020 and is $257,681,000 above the request.

OFFICE OF OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC RESEARCH

OPERATIONS, RESEARCH, AND FACILITIES

(In thousands of dollars)

Program	Amount
Climate Research:	
Laboratories and Cooperative Institutes	$78,000
Regional Climate Data and Information	43,000
Climate Competitive Research	69,000

OFFICE OF OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC RESEARCH—Continued

OPERATIONS, RESEARCH, AND FACILITIES

(In thousands of dollars)

Program	Amount
Climate Research	190,000
Weather and Air Chemistry Research:	
Laboratories and Cooperative Institutes	89,000
U.S. Weather Research Program	28,750
Tornado Severe Storm Research/Phased Array Radar	14,134
Joint Technology Transfer Initiative	14,000
Weather and Air Chemistry Research	145,884
Ocean, Coastal, and Great Lakes Research:	
Laboratories and Cooperative Institutes	37,000
National Sea Grant College Program	71,000
Marine Aquaculture Program	13,000
Ocean Exploration and Research	42,742
Integrated Ocean Acidification	16,000
Sustained Ocean Observations and Monitoring	46,000
National Oceanographic Partnership Program	5,000
Ocean, Coastal, and Great Lakes Research	230,742
High Performance Computing Initiatives	17,800
Total, Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, Operations, Research, and Facilities	$584,426

Forward-looking Climate Data.—The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) plays a vital role in providing accurate climate data and projections to other Federal agencies. Therefore, the Committee directs NOAA to identify and support the utilization by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) of an authoritative set of climate information that emphasizes forward-looking climate data and projections to be utilized by NIST in their standard-setting process. This effort shall serve to aid both Federal and non-Federal bodies to develop standards, building codes, and voluntary standards that take into account increasingly extreme weather events and other climate change challenges.

Climate Research.—The Committee provides $190,000,000 for Climate Research and rejects the reductions to Climate Laboratories and Cooperative Institutes and the termination of climate research at the Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratory and directs NOAA to continue this work at no less than the level of funding provided in fiscal year in 2020. The recommendation further rejects the proposal to eliminate funding for the National Climate Assessment (NCA) and instead provides no less than the fiscal year 2020 level to continue this work. The Committee emphasizes that the NCA is congressionally-mandated and shall not be impeded.

Coastal Inundation Forecasting and Resilience.—Within funds provided for Climate Laboratories and Cooperative Institutes, the Committee directs OAR, in collaboration with NOS and other partners in the U.S. Global Change Research Program as appropriate, to develop and initiate a research agenda to improve understanding of inundation risks to coastal areas as a result of the climate crisis and to meet the information needs of decision makers as they con-

sider how to appropriately adapt and increase resilience to such impacts. OAR shall provide to the Committee, within 180 days of the enactment of this Act, a report outlining a 5-year plan for such efforts and the associated funding requirements.

Atmospheric Baseline Observatories.—The Committee supports the work of the Global Monitoring Laboratory and its Atmospheric Baseline Observatories, which have provided measurements of the level of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere for over 60 years that are the basis of the world-renowned Keeling Curve and whose data is used by more than 500 external partners and stakeholders. The Committee provides no less than $1,250,000, within Climate Laboratories and Cooperative Institutes, to modernize these observatories' aging infrastructure to ensure measurement integrity and safety of the observatory facilities.

Earth's Radiation Budget.—The Committee provides no less than $9,000,000 for modeling, assessments, 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, proposals to inject material to affect climate, and the assessment of solar climate interventions. Within these funds, the recommendation further directs OAR 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.

Arctic Research.—The Committee rejects the proposed elimination of Arctic Research and provides no less than the fiscal year 2020 level in both Regional Climate Data and Information and Climate Laboratories and Cooperative Institutes for this work.

Regional Integrated Sciences and Assessments Program.—The Committee rejects the termination of the Regional Integrated Sciences and Assessments Program and instead provides the program an increase of $3,000,000, as compared to the fiscal year 2020 level, within Regional Climate Data and Information. The Committee directs NOAA to expand the geographic coverage of the program with a long-term goal of providing comprehensive decision-support services and tools to local and regional decision makers in all States and territories.

Climate Competitive Research.—The Committee rejects the elimination of Climate Competitive Research as well as any transfers or eliminations of activities, funds, or staff from this budget line proposed in the President's request. Instead, the recommendation includes $69,000,000 for this critical research, which is $6,000,000 above fiscal year 2020.

Weather and Air Chemistry Research.—The Committee provides $145,884,000 for Weather and Air Chemistry Research, which is $12,250,000 above fiscal year 2020. The recommendation rejects the proposals to close the Air Resources Lab and to decrease funding for Weather and Air Chemistry Research Laboratories and Cooperative Institutes, and instead provides no less than the fiscal year 2020 level for each of these activities. The recommendation also includes $10,000,000 for Vortex-Southeast.

Earth Prediction Innovation Center.—The Committee provides $28,750,000 for the U.S. Weather Research Program (USWRP), thereby rejecting the proposal to reduce base funding. The committee commends NOAA for efforts made to advance weather fore-

casting through the Earth Prediction Innovation Center (EPIC) program and provides $3,500,000 above fiscal year 2020 for this program. The Committee further directs the agency to continue efforts to advance and accelerate forecasting improvements that are accessible to the public and community-based. The committee directs NOAA to include workforce, organizational, and culture change components as part of the EPIC scope and to include the adoption of more modern software engineering practices and the application of new practices in research and operations processes that infuse innovation.

Tornado Warning Improvement and Extension Program.—The Committee provides $3,200,000 to create the Tornado Warning Improvement and Extension Program as authorized in the Weather Research and Forecasting Innovation Act of 2017 (Public Law 115–25).

Sensor Fusion for Snow Water Resource Management.—The Committee supports NOAA's activities to improve snow water resource monitoring to improve operational forecasts at NOAA's National Water Center (NWC). The Committee encourages NOAA to pursue research activities to demonstrate and integrate into the NWC's National Water Model accurately calibrated and validated snow water equivalent estimates at high resolution through extensive airborne and field experiments throughout the western United States.

Severe Weather Extramural Testbeds.—The Committee continues to support efforts at NOAA to leverage the capabilities of extramural partners as they continue to implement the Weather Research and Forecasting Innovation Act. Within the funding for Tornado Severe Storm Research/Phased Array Radar, the Committee encourages NOAA to establish a severe weather extramural testbed to focus on severe weather and to improve weather modeling and prediction, including improved convection models and use of new techniques for data assimilation and ensemble prediction. Such efforts are an important step in helping improve the path from research to operations for the NWS.

Next Generation Phased Array Weather Radars.—The Committee affirms NOAA's investment in the development of advanced radar systems and technology to satisfy its weather and related requirements. Within the amount provided for Tornado Severe Storm Research/Phased Array Radar above the request, NOAA shall expand the Agency's work on digital phased array radar systems with the goal of evolving into broader advanced radar research and applications in collaboration with current university cooperative institute partners with expertise in this area. This refined investment should also work in parallel to provide complementary but not redundant research and development to meet National Weather Service requirements and to reduce long-term operations and maintenance costs of the future national radar network.

Ocean, Coastal, and Great Lakes Research Laboratories and Cooperative Institutes.—The Committee provides $37,000,000 for Ocean, Coastal, and Great Lakes Research Laboratories and Cooperative Institutes. The Committee does not approve the proposed termination of the Genomics program and instead directs NOAA to expand this work within the increased available base funds, including work on HABs with regard to real-time forecasting of HABs

and their toxicity, and testing of remote observing systems and environmental sample processors. Further, the Committee expects NOAA to fully fund these cooperative institutes at appropriate levels in future years, including well-established institutes focused on watershed impacts on marine and Great Lakes ecosystems, remote sensing, and long-term monitoring of the impacts of environmental hazards on marine and Great Lakes ecosystem health.

National Sea Grant College Program.—The Committee once again rejects the President's proposal to eliminate the National Sea Grant College Program. Instead, the Committee provides $71,000,000, including an increase of $4,000,000 as compared to the fiscal year 2020 level for the base program that funds universities in coastal States around the country.

Tribal Coastal Resiliency Planning.—The Committee encourages NOAA to support mitigation and relocation efforts of coastal tribal communities that are seeking to mitigate the threat of severe weather storms and promote public safety.

Marine Aquaculture Program.—The Committee recognizes the importance of NOAA's Marine Aquaculture research and development activities that help coastal communities maintain a safe and sustainable local seafood supply through research and technology transfer to support and expand America's aquaculture industry. As such, the Committee provides $13,000,000 for Marine Aquaculture.

Ocean Exploration and Research.—The Committee rejects the requested decrease in funding for Ocean Exploration and Research and instead provides $42,742,000 and encourages NOAA to map and characterize the Nation's Exclusive Economic Zone and Extended Continental Shelf.

Integrated Ocean Acidification.—The Committee is increasingly concerned about the impacts of ocean acidification on coastal communities and industries and therefore rejects the proposed reduction to the Integrated Ocean Acidification program. The recommendation instead includes $16,000,000 for this important work. Within the increase, NOAA shall, in partnership with academia and the private sector, prioritize efforts at understanding, monitoring, and mitigating coastal ocean acidification, especially where it impacts fisheries and aquaculture.

The Committee encourages NOAA, in coordination with the Office of Science and Technology Policy, to implement a program to competitively award prizes under the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3719) to stimulate innovation to advance the understanding, research, or monitoring of ocean acidification or its impacts, or to develop management or adaptation options for responding to ocean acidification. In prize competitions, the Committee encourages NOAA to prioritize communities, environments, or industries that are currently in distress due to the impacts of ocean acidification.

Sustained Ocean Observations and Monitoring.—The recommendation does not adopt the requested reduction in funds for Sustained Ocean Observations and Monitoring and instead provides $46,000,000. Within the increase, NOAA shall expand coverage of biogeochemical and Deep Argo floats to improve ecological and sub-seasonal-to-seasonal weather forecasting as well as to provide observational data on the health and state of the ocean, particularly in the deep sea, the tropics, and the Arctic.

Cloud Computing for Research.—The Committee rejects the proposed reduction to Research and Development Cloud Computing Services and instead provides no less than $6,000,000 for cloud computing for research consistent with prior year direction. The Committee further looks forward to receiving the report requested in fiscal year 2020 regarding high performance and cloud computing.

National Weather Service.—The Committee recommends $1,112,073,000 for National Weather Service (NWS) Operations, Research, and Facilities, which is $46,372,000 above the President's Budget request. The Committee reaffirms its commitment to the weather enterprise and the necessity of maintaining the mission of protecting life and property within the Federal Government. While the Committee does not oppose the continued growth of the private weather industry, the increasing frequency and intensity of natural disasters epitomize the need for the public provision of this critical information.

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

Operations, Research, and Facilities

(In thousands of dollars)

Program	Amount
Observations	$241,000
Central Processing	102,538
Analyze, Forecast, and Support	538,000
Dissemination	79,112
Science and Technology Integration	151,423
Total, National Weather Service, Operations, Research, and Facilities	1,112,073

NWS Staffing.—The Committee remains concerned about continuing reports of staffing and management challenges within NWS. NOAA and the Department of Commerce are directed to ensure that NWS fulfills its critical mission to protect the lives and property of our Nation's citizens, including by filling all vacancies as expeditiously as possible. In its fiscal year 2021 spend plan, NWS shall follow direction as provided in fiscal year 2020. The Committee further directs NWS to continue the quarterly briefings to the Committee first required in fiscal year 2018, and NWS shall also include information about weather forecast accuracy and efforts to improve such accuracy. Further, future NWS spend plans provided to the Committee shall include a detailed comparison, in tables and narrative descriptions, showing the prior fiscal year's spend plan, compared with that year's actual expenditures, with justifications for all deviations.

Observations.—The recommendation provides $241,000,000 for observation activities, including not less than $1,000,000 for Data Sharing for Integrated Global Observing System and Global Basic Observing Network. The recommendation does not adopt the proposed reductions to Marine Observations, Upper Air Observations, the Ship Observation Data Buy, NEXRAD Radome and Tower Maintenance Services, or the Weather and Ocean Platform Buoys and provides not less than the fiscal year 2020 level for each of these activities. The Committee reaffirms its support for the tsunami detection mission and provides not less than the fiscal year

2020 enacted level for the Tropical Atmosphere Ocean (TAO) Platform observations.

National Mesonet Program.—The recommendation includes not less than $22,500,000 for the National Mesonet Program, $2,300,000 above the fiscal year 2020 level, to enable the program to increase the number of observations, include new types of data, and introduce innovative capabilities to address capacity and coverage gaps.

Central Processing.—The recommendation includes $102,538,000 for Central Processing while rejecting the proposed reduction to the Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Services System and the proposal to terminate 84 Information Technology Officers who are critical to the delivery of timely and actionable forecasts. No less than the fiscal year 2020 level is provided to continue these activities.

Analyze, Forecast, and Support.—The recommendation includes $538,000,000 for Analyze, Forecast, and Support activities, but does not adopt the proposed NWS workforce savings that would only serve to exacerbate the staffing problems noted above. The Committee further rejects the proposed consolidation of the functions of the Climate Prediction Center and the Weather Prediction Center at the National Centers for Environmental Prediction, as well as the termination of Aviation Science Research to Operations, and provides no less than the fiscal year 2020 amount for each of these activities.

Tsunami Warning Program.—The Committee rejects the proposed reduction to the Tsunami Warning Program and instead provides no less than the fiscal year 2020 level for this critical program.

Weather decadal.—The recommendation includes no less than $1,500,000 from within Analyze, Forecast, and Support to commission the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine to undertake the inaugural decadal survey of the U.S. weather enterprise, to be completed not later than one year after the enactment of this Act, that shall: (1) ensure the participation of all relevant Federal agencies; (2) provide policymakers with the relevant information to prioritize investments in weather forecasting, modeling, data assimilation, and supercomputing over the next ten years; (3) assess the current US weather enterprise and how it has performed over the previous five years, including implementation of the Weather Research and Forecasting Innovation Act of 2017 (15 U.S.C. 8501–8549); and (4) evaluate future potential Federal investments in science, satellites, radars, and other observation technologies, to include surface and boundary layer observations, so that all domestic users of weather information can receive data in the most efficient and effective manner possible.

Dissemination.—The Committee provides $79,112,000 for Dissemination Operations, Research, and Facilities, and rejects the proposal to reduce funding for NOAA Weather Radio.

Science and Technology Integration.—The recommendation includes $151,423,000 for Science and Technology Integration but approves neither the termination of COASTAL Act or Aviation Science Research to Operations, nor the reduction to Numerical Weather Prediction Modeling. No less than the fiscal year 2020 level is provided for each of these activities.

National Water Center (NWC).—The Committee does not adopt the termination of funding for Hydrology and Water Resources within Science and Technology Integration. Instead, the recommendation includes no less than the fiscal year 2020 level to continue research activities to improve fine and large-scale measurements of snow depth and soil moisture data that can be used to expand and improve the National Water Model and contribute directly to the mission of NOAA's National Water Center.

Improving River and Flood Forecasts.—The Committee was troubled by the widespread flooding throughout the Nation in calendar year 2019. Future effective mitigation of this costly and dangerous hazard requires improved monitoring and forecasting of hydrologic conditions, including stream and river flow. Recognizing this need, the Committee encourages NOAA, in collaboration with the United States Geological Survey, to work with the extramural research community to update and improve upon its existing flooding models and forecasts, to utilize new technologies for enhanced data collection, and to enhance flood data services for local government officials, communities, producers, and other stakeholders who depend on accurate flooding forecasts. NOAA should consider how this priority can be addressed by future partnerships with academic and State centers, particularly in those States impacted by the 2019 Missouri River and North Central Flooding.

Storm Surge Modeling Technology.—The Committee encourages NOAA to continue to pursue collaborations that will improve upon NOAA's current Sea, Lake, and Overland Surge from Hurricanes model; and encourages NOAA to consider integrating improved technologies into standard modeling operations for storm surge, inland flooding, and the combination of both.

National Environmental Satellite, Data and Information Service.—The Committee recommends $285,606,000 for National Environmental Satellite, Data and Information Service (NESDIS) Operations, Research, and Facilities.

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL SATELLITE, DATA AND INFORMATION SERVICE
OPERATIONS, RESEARCH, AND FACILITIES
(in thousands of dollars)

Program	Amount
Environmental Satellite Observing Systems:	
Office of Satellite and Product Operations	$189,099
Product Development, Readiness, and Application	28,907
Commercial Remote Sensing Regulatory Affairs	1,800
Office of Space Commerce	1,800
Group on Earth Observations	500
Environmental Satellite Observing Systems	222,106
National Centers for Environmental Information	63,500
Total, National Environmental Satellite, Data and Information Service, Operations, Research, and Facilities	$285,606

Product Development, Readiness, and Application.—The recommendation does not accept the proposal regarding Data Products Developed and provides no less than the fiscal year 2020 level for this work.

Office of Space Commerce.—The Committee does not accept the proposal to transfer the functions of the Office of Space Commerce

and Commercial Remote Sensing Regulatory Affairs out of NOAA NESDIS. The Committee looks forward to the delivery of the study on this topic by the National Academy of Public Administration.

National Centers for Environmental Information.—The Committee does not adopt the proposals to reduce National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI) grants or to terminate Regional Climate Services. The Committee recommends $63,500,000 for NCEI, which includes no less than $5,500,000 for Coastal Data Development, $2,400,000 for Regional Climate Services, and $4,600,000 for Regional Climate Centers. NESDIS shall further prioritize filling the vacant Regional Climate Services Director positions.

Mission Support.—The recommendation includes $311,454,000 for Mission Support Operations, Research, and Facilities.

MISSION SUPPORT
OPERATIONS, RESEARCH, AND FACILITIES
(In thousands of dollars)

Program	Amount
Mission Support:	
Executive Leadership	$28,024
Mission Services and Management	161,163
IT Security	15,378
Payment to DOC Working Capital Fund	66,389
Mission Support Services	270,954
Office of Education:	
B–WET Regional Programs	8,000
José E. Serrano Educational Partnership Program with Minority Serving Institutions	20,000
NOAA Education Program Base	5,500
Office of Education	33,500
Facilities Maintenance	7,000
Total, Mission Support, Operations, Research, and Facilities	$311,454

Office of Education.—The Committee rejects all of the proposed cuts to the Office of Education and believes the enactment of these proposals would do great harm to the future of oceanic and atmospheric sciences. The Committee recognizes that the changing climate and increasing degradation of our environment will necessitate greater future investments in these scientific fields and their corresponding workforces. Consequently, the recommendation includes $33,500,000 for NOAA's Office of Education, an increase of $3,300,000 above the fiscal year 2020 level, which includes continued support for Environmental Literacy Grants and for improving geographic literacy. Of this amount, $20,000,000 is provided for the José E. Serrano Educational Partnership Program with Minority Serving Institutions and $8,000,000 is provided to continue the Bay-Watershed Education and Training (B–WET) regional programs.

Facilities Maintenance.—The Committee accepts the consolidation of Facilities Maintenance into one budget line under Mission Support, including the proposed transfer of funds for this purpose from NMFS.

Office of Marine and Aviation Operations (OMAO).—The recommendation includes $255,779,000 for the Office of Marine and Aviation Operations, Operations, Research, and Facilities. The Committee appreciates the clear and concise regular briefings provided by OMAO's leadership and encourages them to continue with the same frequency and detail as in fiscal year 2020.

OFFICE OF MARINE AND AVIATION OPERATIONS

OPERATIONS, RESEARCH, AND FACILITIES

(In thousands of dollars)

Program	Amount
Office of Marine and Aviation Operations:	
Marine Operations and Maintenance	$174,000
Aviation Operations and Aircraft Services	29,466
Unmanned Systems Operations	10,665
NOAA Corps	41,648
Total, Office of Marine and Aviation Operations, Operations, Research, and Facilities	$255,779

Marine and Aviation Operations.—The Committee notes the importance of NOAA's vessels' Days At Sea (DAS) and aircraft flight hours in fulfilling NOAA's mission requirements, and therefore rejects the proposals to reduce DAS and Aircraft Operations. Instead, the Committee directs OMAO to maximize DAS and flight hours, to the extent practicable, while executing the comprehensive vessel and aircraft maintenance program recently developed by OMAO.

Monitoring of Atmospheric Rivers.—Improving understanding of atmospheric rivers is critical to preparing for concentrated rain storms and flooding along the U.S. West Coast. Therefore, the Committee rejects the proposal to eliminate these flights and instead provides no less than $2,000,000, including up to $1,500,000 from unexpended funds in fiscal year 2020, for use of airborne assets to conduct increased winter storm observations to better observe and predict these extreme weather events.

Unmanned Systems Operations.—The Committee provides $10,665,000 for Unmanned Systems Operations (UxS) and directs OMAO to continue to prioritize operationalizing unmanned technologies. OMAO shall also partner with OAR to develop new technologies and applications of unmanned systems to cost effectively meet NOAA's missions.

Further, the Committee directs NOAA, in partnership with the UxS Executive Oversight Board, as well as in consultation with the leadership of each of the NOAA line offices, to develop a 5-year strategic plan for expanding the use of unmanned systems, including from third party vendors, as appropriate, to meet NOAA's broad suite of missions. The plan shall detail how the use of these platforms will supplement the in-situ data collection capabilities and change the demands on NOAA's ships and aircraft, both in terms of deploying unmanned assets as well as the potential for reduced demand on those assets as unmanned systems multiply the capacity for environmental observations. This plan shall take into consideration the rapidly advancing technology of these platforms as well as the sensors that can be placed upon them and allow the flexibility to adopt technologies as they become available. NOAA shall deliver this plan to the Committee no later than 12 months after the enactment of this Act.

PROCUREMENT, ACQUISITION AND CONSTRUCTION

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

The Committee recommends a total program level of $1,537,360,000 for Procurement, Acquisition, and Construction (PAC), of which $1,524,360,000 is appropriated from the general fund and $13,000,000 is derived from recoveries of prior year obligations.

The following narrative descriptions and tables identify the specific activities and funding levels included in this Act.

PROCUREMENT, ACQUISITION AND CONSTRUCTION

(In thousands of dollars)

Program	Amount
National Ocean Service:	
National Estuarine Research Reserve Construction	$2,000
Marine Sanctuaries Construction	4,000
Total, NOS—PAC	6,000
Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research:	
Research Supercomputing/CCRI	42,000
National Weather Service:	
Observations	15,745
Central Processing	66,761
Dissemination	9,934
Total, NWS—PAC	92,440
National Environmental Satellite, Data and Information Service:	
GOES R	334,500
Space Weather Follow-on	108,115
Polar Weather Satellites	657,835
CDARS	14,400
COSMIC 2/GNSS RO	5,892
Geostationary Earth Orbit (GEO)	10,000
Systems/Services Architecture and Engineering (SAE)	37,000
Satellite Ground Services (SGS)	39,287
Projects, Planning, and Analysis	15,941
Satellite CDA Facility	2,450
Total, NESDIS—PAC	1,224,118
Mission Support:	
NOAA Construction	50,000
Office of Marine and Aviation Operations:	
Fleet Capital Improvements and Technology Infusion	27,500
Vessel Recapitalization	92,000
Unmanned Systems Acquisitions	2,000
Total, OMAO–PAC	121,500
Total, Procurement, Acquisition and Construction	$1,537,360

Research Supercomputing.—The Committee recognizes the importance of supercomputing capacity to further research efforts regarding weather and climate modeling and therefore recommends $42,000,000 for OAR Research Supercomputing, which is $16,000,000 above the request.

Integrated Water Prediction.—The Committee provides $66,761,000 for Central Processing under National Weather Service PAC, which includes not less than the fiscal year 2020 level for In-

tegrated Water Prediction High Performance Computing as well as Research and Development High Performance Computing.

Quarterly Satellite Reports.—The Committee directs the Department of Commerce to continue to provide oversight of NOAA's satellite programs as directed in fiscal year 2020. NOAA shall also continue to provide quarterly briefings to the Committee on all NOAA satellite programs not later than 30 days after the end of each quarter. These briefings shall include the status of obligations for each program, including spacecraft, launch vehicle, sensor, integration, and ground components, and proposed changes to the fly-out charts. NOAA shall also include in these briefings updates on all of its operational satellite systems.

Commercial Data.—The Committee provides $2,678,000 above the fiscal year 2020 level for purchase and piloting of commercial weather data.

NOAA Construction.—The Committee notes the poor condition of NOAA's aging physical research infrastructure, including a number of highly utilized NOAA Fisheries regional facilities that perform critical, world class research and surveys in support of the agency's multiple missions. The Committee is particularly concerned that several key NOAA Fisheries regional labs across the country will soon be unable to perform basic functions, even with major reconstruction, given the significant age of infrastructure, state of disrepair, and changing physical environment in which they are located. The Committee therefore urges NOAA Fisheries to accelerate existing regional facility modernization planning and analysis efforts. Such efforts shall prioritize the benefits of colocation with existing Federal academic, university, and nonprofit partners, including cooperative institutes, as appropriate, as a means of leveraging existing relationships and research efforts in an effort to maintain, if not elevate, the facilities capabilities and enhance scientific excellence.

Vessel Recapitalization.—Following the unexpected decommissioning of the Research Vessel Hi'ialakai, the Committee expects NOAA to place a higher priority on full, proper, and timely maintenance of all ships and vessels. The Committee therefore notes with disdain the omission of a request for funding of the midlife maintenance of NOAA's global class vessel despite the direction provided in fiscal year 2020. Funding for such maintenance is included in this recommendation. The Committee directs NOAA, in all future budget submissions to Congress, to detail all operational and maintenance requirements in addition to capital requirements of vessels and aircraft to maintain the optimal operational tempo necessary to meet NOAA's missions. The Committee reaffirms its support for NOAA's Fleet Recapitalization Plan by, as in prior fiscal years, providing the requested amount for Vessel Recapitalization. The Committee expects that NOAA will ensure that these new vessels facilitate the reduction of gaps in mission coverage as current ships fall into disrepair or are decommissioned. During the recapitalization process, NOAA is encouraged to evaluate its fleet plan regularly and consider cost-effective alternatives such as vessel leasing or chartering for meeting NOAA's mission requirements.

Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery

The Committee rejects the proposed termination of Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery and recommends $65,000,000 for this program.

Fishermen's Contingency Fund

The Committee recommends $349,000 for the Fishermen's Contingency Fund, which is the same as fiscal year 2020. This Fund is available to compensate U.S. commercial fishermen for damage or loss caused by obstructions related to oil and gas exploration, and is derived from fees collected by the Secretary of the Interior.

Fishery Disaster Assistance

The Committee accepts the proposal for Fishery Disaster Assistance. The Committee recognizes the distress caused by fishery disasters and understands that poor communication and funding disbursement delays only exacerbate an already difficult problem. NOAA is urged to consider policy changes to improve and expedite the review and obligation process, and to provide Congress with budgetary and legislative proposals as needed.

Fisheries Finance Program Account

The Committee recommends language under this heading limiting obligations of direct loans to $24,000,000 for Individual Fishing Quota loans and $100,000,000 for traditional direct loans.

Departmental Management

The Committee recommends $129,723,000 for Departmental Management (DM), $14,723,000 above fiscal year 2020 and $41,092,000 below the request. This amount includes funding for DM Salaries and Expenses, the Renovation and Modernization of the Herbert C. Hoover Building, the Department of Commerce Nonrecurring Expenses Fund, and the Office of Inspector General.

Modernizing economic statistics in Puerto Rico.—In October 2019, the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) released prototype statistics for consumer spending, business investment, and net exports of goods for Puerto Rico for 2012–2017. This information is an important step towards producing gross domestic product (GDP) statistics for Puerto Rico and in line with recommendations from the 2016 Bipartisan Congressional Task Force on Economic Growth in Puerto Rico report to the House and Senate. The Committee understands that BEA will release these estimates by the end of 2020. The Committee directs the Department to continue its efforts to help the government of Puerto Rico to modernize its economic statistics programs and looks forward to receiving the report outlining its efforts to produce quarterly economic surveys for the territories and personal income statistics as directed in House Report 116–101.

Interstate Commerce.—The Committee remains concerned about the Electronic Export Information (EEI) requirements located in 15 CFR Part 30, which mandate reporting for certain goods between the States and Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, and understands that the Commerce Department, in coordination with the Government of Puerto Rico, will stand up a working group to ex-

plore alternative options, and that the Census Bureau will be issuing a Federal Register Notice soliciting stakeholder insights. The Committee believes that the EEI imposes undue costs and burdens on companies seeking to do business in Puerto Rico, and serves as a disincentive to investment. The Committee reminds the Department that the 2016 Bipartisan Congressional Task Force on Economic Growth in Puerto Rico recommended the Department conduct a thorough evaluation of its regulations requiring EEI filings and assess alternative data sets, including Puerto Rico's SURI system (Sistema Unificado de Rentas Internas) that could be used without modification. The Committee directs the Department, within 90 days of enactment of this Act, to submit a report to the Committee with an analysis of alternative methods of developing GDP data for Puerto Rico without using EEI information, and to provide a plan to phase out the use of EEI data, including a timeline for implementation of these changes.

Human Rights Violations.—The Committee is concerned with violence and threats shown towards human rights activists around the world, and notes some of this has occurred in nations with which the United States has trade agreements with enforceable protections. The Committee encourages the Department to more actively engage with trade partner nations to end these human rights violations and report to the Committee no later than 90 days after enactment of this Act on enforcement actions it has taken to promote compliance with labor and environmental obligations.

Regional Biosecurity Plan.—The Department shall continue to submit a report alongside its annual budget justifications describing the activities of the Department during the prior fiscal year to implement the *Regional Biosecurity Plan for Micronesia and Hawaii*—a strategic plan developed jointly by the Department and other Federal and non-Federal entities to prevent and control the introduction of invasive species in the U.S. Pacific region. The report shall include an update of the Departmental activities accomplished in implementation of the plan and next steps and planned activities for further execution of the plan, including estimates of funding that will be obligated towards the implementation and future year requirements.

Climate Change Impacts on Recreational Boating Economy.—The Committee directs the Department of Commerce, in coordination with the Federal Recreation Council, to carry out an assessment of the effects of climate change on the recreational boating economy and produce recommendations to address identified vulnerabilities no later than 180 days after enactment of this Act. The Department shall also submit this report to GAO for review. GAO shall review the assessment and provide a preliminary briefing to the Committees on its review within 120 days of receipt.

AI Talent.—The Committee believes the Department should develop a clear career development and promotion path that encourages participation and expertise in AI standards and standards development, and directs the Department to report to the Committee on these efforts no later than 180 days after enactment of this Act.

Remanufactured Products.—The Committee directs the Department to study strategies to strengthen regional and local remanufacturing markets. The study should consider remanufacturing challenges, such as processes of disassembling, cleaning, and re-

pairing components, and how to use these components with new materials to create quality remanufactured products. The Department shall provide the results of this study, including recommendations on such strategies, to the Committee no less than 180 days after the enactment of this Act.

Foundation for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act Implementation.—No later than 90 days after the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall report to the Committee on the implementation of the Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–435) and progress being made by the Department in this area.

Uranium Imports.—At the end of 2020, statutory limitations on Russian uranium imports will expire. The Committee believes the U.S. should decrease its reliance on uranium imports from Russia and that Russia should not be allowed to increase its dominance in the U.S. market. The Committee urges the Department to ensure that any new agreement with Russia significantly reduces the influx of Russian material, includes strong protections for the domestic uranium industry, and closes loopholes to prevent any circumvention of import limits. The Committee further believes that failure to extend the Russian Suspension Agreement (RSA) or the legislative backstop for the RSA would result in unchecked price-insensitive Russian imports of uranium that far exceed the RSA's existing quota.

Sustainable Food Packaging.—The Committee recognizes that pervasive use of plastics in food packaging has a damaging impact on human health, the environment, and wildlife. The Committee encourages the Department to support innovations in the manufacturing and adoption of ecologically sustainable food packaging materials.

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

The Committee recommends $73,080,000 for DM Salaries and Expenses, $12,080,000 above fiscal year 2020 and $23,054,000 below the request. The recommendation assumes the proposed transfer of $9,278,000 which reflects positions previously and improperly funded out of both Working Capital Fund and Advances and Reimbursements, such as a White House Liaison, the Secretary's Executive Protection Unit, and the Office of Public Affairs to name a few. While the Committee appreciates the Department's efforts to reassess these requirements and supports the transfer to ensure these positions are funded out of Salaries and Expenses, the Committee remains concerned about how the Department executes its Working Capital Fund and charges bureaus for activities that are not standard shared services, but rather general headquarters functions.

The Committee remains concerned that information on travel for personnel in Executive Direction was not submitted in the fiscal year 2021 budget request nor was it included in fiscal year 2020 spend plans as directed in the Explanatory Statement accompanying the fiscal year 2020 Appropriations Act. The Committee directs that the Department clearly display, in the monthly report on travel to China, the travel costs of personnel from Executive Direction and further directs that the Department provide the Committee, on a monthly basis, information on all travel outside of the

National Capital Region for all Department personnel including the total amount expended per bureau and the source of appropriation supporting the costs of the travel. Each agency has its own travel budget for domestic and international travel and should use those funds accordingly.

RENOVATION AND MODERNIZATION

The Committee recommends $1,123,000 for the salaries and expenses needed to continue the operation of the renovation project of the Herbert C. Hoover Building.

NONRECURRING EXPENSES FUND

The Committee recommends $20,000,000 for the Nonrecurring Expenses Fund that was established in the fiscal year 2020 Consolidated Appropriations Act and supports the Department's efforts to modernize its financial system through the Business Application Solutions. The Committee understands that the Department is evaluating how it can standardize appropriations and periods of availability (POAs) across the Department for more consistent planning, programming, budgeting, and execution. The Committee looks forward to receiving the Department's analysis as directed in House Report 116–101.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

The Committee recommends $37,520,000 for the Office of Inspector General (OIG), which includes the requested transfers for oversight activities. The Committee expects the OIG to continue its oversight work on cybersecurity, satellite procurements, telework, patent quality, and the 2020 Decennial Census.

GENERAL PROVISIONS—DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

The Committee recommends the following general provisions for the Department of Commerce:

Section 101 makes funds available for advanced payments only upon certification of officials designated by the Secretary that such payments are considered to be in the public interest.

Section 102 makes appropriations for the Department available for hire of passenger motor vehicles, for services, and for uniforms and allowances as authorized by law.

Section 103 provides the authority to transfer funds between Department of Commerce appropriations accounts and require 15 days advance notification to the Committees on Appropriations for certain actions.

Section 104 extends congressional notification requirements for NOAA satellite programs.

Section 105 provides for reimbursement for services within Department of Commerce buildings.

Section 106 clarifies that grant recipients under the Department of Commerce may continue to deter child pornography, copyright infringement, or any other unlawful activity over their networks.

Section 107 provides the NOAA Administrator with the authority to avail NOAA of needed resources, with the consent of those sup-

plying the resources, to carry out responsibilities of any statute administered by NOAA.

Section 108 prohibits the National Technical Information Service from charging for certain activities.

Section 109 authorizes NOAA to receive payments from other entities to defray some costs of permitting and regulatory activities.

Section 110 provides authority for the programs of the Bureau of Economic Analysis and the Bureau of the Census to enter into cooperative agreements in order to assist in improving statistical methodology and research.

TITLE II

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

The Committee recommends $120,041,000 for Department of Justice, General Administration, Salaries and Expenses, which is $5,301,000 above fiscal year 2020 and $1,728,000 below the request. The recommendation includes a new $5,000,000 initiative for a National Task Force on Law Enforcement Oversight. The Committee has provided separate funding recommendations by decision unit as follows:

Department Leadership	13,500,000
Intergovernmental Relations/External Affairs	11,000,000
Executive Support/Professional Responsibility	16,000,000
Justice Management Division	74,041,000
National Task Force on Law Enforcement Oversight	5,000,000
National Police Misconduct Registry	500,000
Total, Salaries and Expenses	120,041,000

Cold Case Investigations.—The bill includes not less than $13,500,000, the same as the fiscal year 2020 enacted level, for the Criminal Section of the Civil Rights Division, the Civil Rights Unit of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Community Relations Service, and in grant assistance, as authorized by the Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crimes Reauthorization Act of 2016 (Public Law 114 325), to investigate and prosecute previously unresolved civil rights era "cold case" murders suspected of having been racially motivated. The Department of Justice (DOJ) shall include, as part of the annual spending plan required under section 507 of this Act, details on actual and projected spending, by agency and appropriation, to carry out the Emmett Till Act. The Committee directs the National Institute of Justice, the Bureau of Justice Assistance, and the Office for Victims of Crime to continue providing grants for cold case DNA investigations to aid State and local law enforcement agencies in their investigation and prosecution of unsolved civil rights cold cases. In addition, the Attorney General is directed to make full use of his authority to support and carry out the objectives of Public Law 115–426, the Civil Rights Cold Case Records Collection Act of 2018.

National Task Force on Law Enforcement Oversight.—The bill includes $5,000,000 to support the efforts of the National Task Force on Law Enforcement Oversight pursuant to Section 220 of this Act.

The Task Force shall support the Attorney General and coordinate the detection and referral of complaints regarding incidents of alleged law enforcement misconduct nationwide, in consultation with professional law enforcement associations, labor organizations, and community-based organizations.

National Police Misconduct Registry.—The Committee strongly supports establishment of a National Police Misconduct Registry, containing data with respect to all Federal, State and local law enforcement officers, to be compiled and maintained by the Department of Justice. This would provide a publicly available resource to help ensure accountability and transparency, and help restore trust in the credibility of the Nation's law enforcement agencies and improve relationships between them and the communities they serve. To that end, the Committee has included $500,000 to support development and implementation of such a registry, as specified in Title II of H.R. 7120, the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act, as passed by the House of Representatives on June 25, 2020.

Accreditation of law enforcement agencies.—The Committee strongly supports development and implementation of strong, uniform accreditation standards for Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies to ensure community accountability and a focus on policing with a guardian mentality, as set forth in H.R. 7120 as passed by the House of Representatives on June 25, 2020. The Committee therefore directs the Attorney General to take the lead in such an effort, and recommend such standards, in consultation with law enforcement accreditation organizations, based on an analysis of existing accreditation standards and methodology development by law enforcement accreditation organizations nationwide, including national, State, regional, and tribal accreditation organizations, as well as the May 2015 recommendations of the President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing.

Use of force.—The Committee is concerned about the lack of reliable statistics on how often law enforcement uses deadly force, as underscored in the 2018 report by the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights entitled *Police Use of Force: An Examination of Modern Policing Practices.* That report recommended that "Congress should condition cities'" receipt of federal law enforcement funds on the cities' collection and reporting to DOJ of data regarding police use of force practices, in a format that is aggregable and comparable nationally, which DOJ can then report to the American public. Congress should require DOJ to create and maintain a public, national database of police use of force incidents and appropriate funds sufficient to support the creation and maintenance of the database."

The Committee agrees with these recommendations and notes that Congress is currently considering affirmative direction, such as the language of Section 364 of H.R. 7120, as passed by the House of Representatives on June 25, 2020, that would define and sanction specific types of force. The Committee therefore directs the Attorney General to develop plans to require each State, city, county, and tribal government agency receiving DOJ law enforcement funding to provide annual data to the Department on its use of force incidents. The Committee also directs the Attorney General to develop plans to require all Federal law enforcement agencies to provide annual information on its use of force incidents. Such data

should include: the date, time, and location of each instance in which deadly force was used; identifying characteristics of the victim and officer involved, including the race, gender, ethnicity, and approximate age of the victim; any existence of mental illness or disability of the victim; the nature of the deadly force used, including whether it involved a firearm; and a description of any non-lethal efforts that were taken before deadly force was used.

The Committee understands that the National Use of Force Data Collection (NUOFDC) database effort, begun in 2015 and implemented nationally on January 1, 2019, reflects participation from State and local agencies, and that when NUOFDC participation reaches 60 percent such data may be published. The Committee also understands that the NUOFDC database does not currently include data on religion of persons involved, documentation of deadly force guidelines in effect, or explanations or reasons for use of force. The Committee directs the Department to develop a plan to collect such data and brief the Committee not later than 90 days after the enactment of this Act on steps to implement such a plan, to include any additional funding required. In addition, while Congress is currently considering changes in this area, including in section 219 of this Act, the Committee understands that Use-of-Force data and UCR submissions to the FBI are currently voluntary. Thus, the aforesaid briefing should also address what steps, to include additional legal authority, financial incentives, and implementation actions, may be required to further increase such submissions of information, including by making such information a condition for eligibility to receive DOJ assistance or share in DOJ-administered Federal law enforcement funds, while maintaining law enforcement cooperation between DOJ and its partners. Such briefing should also address the process and associated administrative requirements to audit and review use of force data from Federal, State and local law enforcement agencies, consistent with the approach set forth in sections 225 and 226 of H.R. 7120 as passed by the House of Representatives on June 25, 2020, including the use of such audits to assess compliance with reporting requirements if such requirements were to be established in law or regulation.

Death in Custody Reporting Act.—The Committee is deeply concerned by the Department's failure to implement the Death in Custody Reporting Act of 2013, Public Law 113–242. As our nation faces another crisis caused by the shocking deaths of individuals of color at the hands of local law enforcement, the Committee believes that the requirements of that law are essential to enable Congress and the American public to understand the scope of the problem and to facilitate reforms. The Committee directs the Department, not later than 90 days after enactment of this Act, to provide the Committee with the report required in Section 2(f) of Public Law 113–242. The Committee also directs the Department to comply with recommendations in the Department of Justice's Inspector General's December 2018 report entitled, "Review of the Department of Justice's Implementation of the Death in Custody Reporting Act of 2013," and to notify the Committee not later than 90 days after enactment of this Act regarding all Federal agencies with law enforcement authority who are non-compliant with the requirements of Public Law 113–242.

Federal police cameras and accountability.—The Committee strongly supports the adoption of rigorous and consistent standards for the use of body-worn, vehicle borne, and other video and camera technology used to record Federal police interaction with civilians while engaged in law enforcement activity. To ensure such technology is used effectively and facilitates safety for both the public and the law enforcement officers, as well as to support transparency and accountability, the Committee strongly urges the Attorney General to adopt the requirements set forth H.R. 7120, the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act, Title III, Subtitle C, Part I, the Federal Police Camera and Accountability Act, as passed by the House of Representatives on June 25, 2020.

Funding crime victim services.—The Committee notes that DOJ may use discretionary funding from the Crime Victims Fund, under 34 U.S.C. 20103, to fund the salaries of personnel who provide services to victims of crime. The Committee encourages DOJ to offer such support, especially to under-resourced communities, for the salaries of first responders and others who provide support to victims of Federal crimes, and also to support such efforts by seeking to increase deposits into the Crime Victims Fund from criminal settlements such as those arising from violations of the Natural Gas Pipeline Safety Act, and to include detail on such deposits in fiscal year 2020 and estimates for fiscal year 2021 in the annual expenditure plan.

Training.—The Committee supports vigorous action to improve training for all Federal, State and local law enforcement officers, to cover racial profiling, implicit bias, de-escalation, and procedural justice; the use of force and the duty for officers to intervene when witnessing the use of excessive force against civilians; and establish standards for such training to be adopted nationwide. The Committee therefore directs the Attorney General to work with the Secretary of Homeland Security to establish such a program, including mandatory training for all Federal law enforcement officers, and development of standards that can be applied in hiring and performance assessments. The standards should also be designed to serve as a standard for State and local governments to meet in order to be eligible for Federal grant funding, including for Byrne Justice Assistance Grants and Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) grants. The Committee directs the Attorney General to undertake this effort based on requirements set forth in H.R. 7120 as passed by the House of Representatives on June 25, 2020.

Sanctuary policy.—It has come to the attention of the Committee that DOJ may be rejecting or negatively scoring applications for Federal funding from counties, local governments, and municipalities who seek Federal funding, based solely on refusal by applicants to cooperate with officials from U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement in the arrest and detention of undocumented immigrants. The Committee directs the Department to review each application and apply appropriate scoring in accordance with the guidelines set forth in the laws passed by the U.S. Congress, including the clarifying language included in this and previous Appropriations Acts.

Denaturalization.—On February 26, 2020, the Attorney General announced plans to establish a new Denaturalization section with-

in the DOJ Civil Division, but did not notify the Committee in advance of this decision. The Committee understands that DOJ believes that such reorganization did not meet budgetary, relocation or personnel criteria set forth in appropriations legislation that would require such notification be made. Nonetheless, the Committee believes it does not serve the public interest for DOJ to undertake such a substantive, as well as symbolic, change without such notification. To better understand the nature and scope of the Department's denaturalization effort, the Committee directs the Attorney General to submit a report within 90 days of enactment of this Act on the details of this reorganization, including the rationale for establishment of a new section; historical denaturalization caseload statistics, including for fiscal years 2016 through 2020; the grounds on which denaturalization cases are brought; and the funding and staffing of denaturalization activity by the Civil Division for fiscal years 2016 through 2020.

DNA Sample Collections from immigration detainees.—The Committee is concerned about the potential adverse impact of the final rule issued by DOJ on March 6, 2020, entitled, DNA Sample Collection from Immigration Detainees (Docket Number OAG 164; AG Order No. 4646 2020) and directs the Attorney General to provide the following information to the Committee not later than 90 days after enactment of this Act: the fiscal and administrative costs of expanding DNA collection requirements to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS); the FBI's role in the collection, use, and retention of DNA samples and profiles on the basis of this policy, and the estimated impact of this policy on the backlog in FBI DNA sample testing; information regarding the storage and security of DNA kits received from DHS; any DOJ policies and protocols governing how DNA profiles are used and shared; and whether familial searches are permitted by any Federal agency or any State entity with access to the profiles.

NICS denial notification.—The Committee continues its direction, as specified in House Report 116–101 and required by the fiscal year 2020 Appropriations Act, for the Attorney General to notify State and local authorities when the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) detects when prohibited individuals fail a background check in an attempt to make an illegal firearm purchase. The Committee also directs the Department, as part of the annual NICS Section Operations Report, to include in the NICS Operations Report data on the number of notifications provided to State and local law enforcement agencies for each prohibited category; and to publish monthly data on denials and notifications by State and prohibition type on the DOJ website.

In addition, the Committee directs the Department to provide data on NICS checks for firearms sales that have taken longer than three business days to complete, for the period beginning March 2019 and broken down by month thereafter through December 31, 2020. The Department shall provide a report to the Committee, within 180 days of enactment of this Act, that shall include data, broken down by month, on the number of NICS checks during this period that took longer than three business days, the number of those checks that were resolved, the number of those checks that were purged, the number of denied checks that resulted in firearm

retrieval actions being referred to ATF, and the number of successful retrieval actions taken by ATF.

Domestic Terrorism task force.—The Committee recommends that the Attorney General establish an interagency task force, led by the DOJ Counsel for Domestic Terrorism, and include representation from the Civil Rights Division, the FBI, Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the National Counterterrorism Center, CIA's Counterterrorism Center, and Fusion Center experts to consider and develop recommendations to improve the capacity of the Federal Government to counter domestic extremism. The task force should be required to produce a summary report on changes in the frequency and motivations for domestic extremism in the last ten years; current trends; an examination of Federal government approaches to such extremism; and to recommend how to improve Federal response to the problem.

Federal law enforcement resources in the U.S. Caribbean.—The Committee remains concerned about the pervasively high homicide rates in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, and that such crime is directly linked to narcotics trafficking in the Caribbean. The Committee directs the Attorney General to prioritize Federal law enforcement personnel and resources to address such public safety threats. The Committee further directs the Attorney General to examine the feasibility of including sites in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands under Department-wide initiatives to reduce violent crime, such as the National Public Safety Partnership, and to report to the Committee on the Department's findings not later than 90 days after enactment of this Act.

Office of Legal Counsel (OLC) opinions.—To serve the public interest, and in keeping with transparency and the precedent of public reporting of judicial decisions, the Committee asks the Attorney General to direct OLC to publish on a publicly accessible website all legal opinions and related materials, except in those instances where the Attorney General determines that release would cause a specific identifiable harm to the national defense or foreign policy interests; information contained in the opinion relates to the appointment of a specific individual not confirmed to Federal office; or information contained in the opinion is specifically exempted from disclosure by statute (other than sections 552 and 552b of title 5, United States Code). For final OLC opinions for which the text is withheld in full or in substantial part, the Attorney General should provide Congress a written explanation detailing why the text was withheld.

In addition, the Attorney General should also direct OLC to publish on a publicly accessible website a complete index of all final OLC opinions in both human-readable and machine-readable formats, arranged chronologically, within 90 days of the enactment of this Act, which shall be updated immediately every time an OLC opinion or a revision to an opinion becomes final. The index shall include, for each opinion: the full name of the opinion; the date it was finalized or revised; each author's name; each recipient's name; a unique identifier assigned to each final or revised opinion; and whether an opinion has been withdrawn.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).—The Committee recognizes that a lack of uniform website accessibility standards, as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), can cause

confusion and disadvantage small businesses that provide essential services for our communities. The Committee expects DOJ in fiscal year 2021 to clarify such standards pursuant to the ADA.

Reentry.—The Committee recognizes that ex-offenders face challenges reentering society, and notes that in the past DOJ has pledged to publish information on ways to connect them with legal services to address reentry obstacles such as fines and criminal records expungement. The Committee directs DOJ to expeditiously submit the report required by the fiscal year 2020 Appropriations Act examining how the Smart on Crime and other similar programs could be expanded to assist non-violent ex-offenders with record expungement.

SUPPORT Act.—The Committee recognizes the need to combat abusive practices in the addiction treatment and recovery industries, specifically the payment of kickbacks for referrals to recovery homes, clinical treatment facilities, and laboratories. DOJ shall make every effort to fully enforce Section 8122 of the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act, including the investigation of potential violations.

IPR Enforcement.—The Committee expects DOJ to continue to make IPR enforcement an investigative and prosecutorial priority. The Committee directs the FBI to submit as soon as possible the report required pursuant to the fiscal year 2020 Appropriations Act on the activities of its dedicated agents investigating IPR cases, particularly with regard to creative content theft and copyright enforcement actions.

Real estate wire or business email compromise (BEC) fraud.—The Committee remains concerned with the growing incidence of so-called real estate wire fraud or business e-mail compromise (BEC) fraud in real estate transactions. A July 2018 FBI public service announcement said such crime targets businesses and individuals attempting wire transfer payments, resulting in over $12,500,000,000 in losses between 2013 and 2018, with the scam being reported nationwide and in 150 countries. The FBI recently warned of BEC scams related to the COVID–19 pandemic. The Committee directs DOJ to submit expeditiously the report required by the fiscal year 2020 Appropriations Act on BEC/wire fraud; detail any joint activities with other Federal agencies; and make recommendations for new legislative authority or resources to help these efforts.

Working capital fund and non-appropriated fund budget requests and spending plans.—The Committee directs DOJ to continue to include detailed breakouts of non-appropriated funding sources with their budget submissions and expenditure plans, as directed in the fiscal year 2020 Appropriations Act, and to continue quarterly reports on the collections, balances, and obligations of such funds.

Federal obscenity prosecution.—The Committee supports the work of DOJ in investigating and prosecuting major producers and distributors of hardcore adult pornography that meets the Supreme Court test for obscenity. Such enforcement is necessary to protect the welfare of families and children as traffickers in illegal adult obscenity seek to extend their influence through advances in technology. The Committee directs DOJ to increase its efforts in enforcing federal obscenity laws.

Human trafficking.—The destructive, expanding toll of human trafficking is international in scale but also affects every part of the United States, both rural and urban. Modern communication and transportation channels enable traffickers to operate everywhere, threatening our homes and communities. The Committee has included more funding for services for victims, in grant funding assistance to State, local and tribal governments, and sustains funding for DOJ agencies to continue to investigate and prosecute human traffickers and eradicate trafficking organizations.

Evidence-based policymaking.—The Committee encourages the Attorney General to develop guidance to ensure that all relevant participants and grantees are involved in the Department-wide process of prioritizing evidence needs, including participating in DOJ-led evaluations, and ensure that evidence of effectiveness is a requirement for all competitive and non-competitive grant awards. The Committee directs the Attorney General to include a report on DOJ implementation of Public Law 115–435 at the Department of Justice with the submission of the fiscal year 2022 budget request.

Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) facility audits.—PREA facility audits are key to helping agencies move their sexual abuse prevention and response policies from written documents to everyday practices. Congress recently made changes to the audit process to ensure greater oversight of the audit process and improved audits. The Committee supports DOJ providing the necessary resources to carry out this work.

9/11 Medal of Valor Act implementation.—The Committee is concerned by the delay in implementation of the 9/11 Medal of Valor Act that was signed into law in 2017, and directs DOJ to report to the Committee not later than 90 days after enactment of this Act on steps being taken to ensure those who merit such recognition are rightfully honored.

E–Commerce.—On January 31, 2020, the President issued an Executive Order "Ensuring Safe & Lawful E–Commerce for U.S. Consumers, Businesses, Government Supply Chains, and Intellectual Property Rights". The order directed the Attorney General, within 60 days, to assign appropriate resources to ensure that Federal prosecutors accord a high priority to prosecuting offenses related to import violations, including increasing the number of DOJ officials who will enforce criminal or civil laws, as appropriate, related to the importation of merchandise. The Committee directs the Attorney General to report to the Committee, not later than 90 days after enactment of this Act, on the implementation of this directive, to include the number of additional DOJ officials assigned to such enforcement efforts.

RAPID DNA.—The Committee understands that under certain conditions, Rapid DNA technology can help law enforcement agencies quickly compare DNA samples against profiles in the Combined DNA Index System (CODIS) and determine possible connections between a suspect and known criminal activity or facilitate exoneration of innocent suspects. The Committee encourages DOJ to consider supporting broad deployment of Rapid DNA technology that meets FBI quality assurance standards to help local, State, and Federal law enforcement agencies meet their mission requirements, improve the efficacy and efficiency of investigations, and protect and bring justice to the innocent.

Counter-Unmanned Aircraft Systems (C–UAS).—The Committee recommends that DOJ continue to research, test and evaluate, as appropriate, the use of C–UAS in support of the United States Marshals Service, the Bureau of Prisons, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation to prevent drug and weapons trafficking. The Committee supports coordination and collaboration between the Department and the Federal Aviation Administration with respect to testing and evaluation of such technology, in accordance with subsection (a) of 49 U.S.C. 44810.

Cybersecurity threat information sharing.—The Committee supports sharing by DOJ of cybersecurity threat warnings and intelligence with private companies who may benefit from actionable information to deter, prevent, or mitigate threats. The Committee asks DOJ to provide a briefing on this topic not later than 90 days after enactment of this Act.

Chinese-government affiliated companies.—The Committee is concerned with companies operating within the United States that are known to have substantial ties to the Chinese government, including full or partial ownership by the Chinese government, and that are required by Chinese law to assist in espionage activities, including collection of personally identifiable information of American citizens. Such companies may pose cybersecurity risks, such as vulnerabilities in their equipment, and some are the subject of ongoing Congressional and Executive Branch investigations involving their business practices. The Committee directs DOJ to enforce applicable laws and prevent the operation of known foreign entities who participate in the theft of American intellectual property, the harvesting of personal identifiable information on behalf of a foreign government, and the unlawful surveillance of American citizens by adversarial state-owned enterprises.

JUSTICE INFORMATION SHARING TECHNOLOGY

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

The Committee recommends $33,875,000 for Justice Information Sharing Technology (JIST), which is equal to the fiscal year 2020 enacted level and $189,000 below the request. In addition, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) (Public Law 116–136) included $2,000,000 to meet COVID–19 requirements. The Department should use recovered balances from prior year obligations or its discretionary transfer authority to meet any other needs for information technology transformation and cybersecurity, subject to the reprogramming procedures included in this Act.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE FOR IMMIGRATION REVIEW

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

The Committee recommends $734,000,000 for the Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR), of which $4,000,000 is from immigration examination fees. The recommendation is $61,034,000 above fiscal year 2020 and $148,872,000 below the request.

The recommendation includes $2,000,000 for EOIR's portion of the development of the Unified Immigration Portal with the De-

partment of Homeland Security (DHS) as well as increased funding for EOIR's Information Technology (IT) modernization efforts, as requested. The recommendation also supports a level of funding that will allow for the continued hiring of immigration judges and teams. While the Committee recognizes EOIR has not requested any additional increase from its authorized position level from fiscal year 2020, EOIR is currently well below this level and the Committee is concerned that proposed funding increases are for positions who will not be on board in fiscal year 2021.

Legal Orientation Program (LOP).—For the LOP and related activities the recommendation includes $25,000,000, of which $4,000,000 is for the Immigration Court Helpdesk (ICH) program. The LOP improves the efficiency of court proceedings, reduces court costs, and helps ensure fairness and due process. The Committee directs the Department to continue LOP without interruption, including all component parts, including the Legal Orientation Program for Custodians of Unaccompanied Children (LOPC) and the ICH. The Committee directs the Department to brief the Committee no later than 15 days after enactment of this Act on how EOIR is effectively implementing these programs, including the execution of funds and any changes to the management of the program. The recommended funding will allow for the expansion of LOP and ICH to provide services to additional individuals in immigration court proceedings. The Committee supports access to LOP and ICHs and looks forward to receiving EOIR's evaluation of expanding this program to all detention facilities and immigration courts, as directed in House Report 116–101. The Committee is deeply concerned that EOIR plans to use fiscal year 2020 funds for the procurement of a web-based application that is still under development, but did not actively discuss these changes with the Committee. While the Committee understands the coronavirus pandemic has impacted court operations and novel approaches may be necessary for continuity, it appears a portion of these specific funds may not be fully executed in fiscal year 2020 in support of the program to pursue a new operating procedure without additional details on how this will impact the LOP program in future years. The Committee is concerned that plans for a web-based application will not adhere to congressional intent to expand this program to new locations and individuals. The Committee reminds EOIR that funding for this program, in its ongoing, in-person format, is mandated by law, and any diversion of these funds from their intended purpose must be formally communicated and convincingly justified to the Committee, consistent with section 505 of this Act.

LOP Pilot.—The Committee further directs EOIR, in coordination with U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), to pilot the expansion of LOP to at least one CBP processing facility with an added focus on expanding this program to family units. The Committee further directs EOIR, in coordination with DHS, to assess the feasibility of expanding this pilot program nationally, and to report findings to the Committee no later than 180 days after the conclusion of the pilot.

Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA) Pro Bono Project.—The Committee recognizes the critical work of the BIA Pro Bono Project in facilitating pro bono legal representation for indigent, vulnerable respondents whose cases are before the Board. The Committee

urges the continuation of participation of pro bono firms and non-government organizations (NGOs) in the BIA Pro Bono Project to directly facilitate case screening and legal representation. EOIR shall report annually to the Committee on the number of cases referred to NGOs and pro bono legal representatives, the number of EOIR Form E–26 appeals filed against *pro se* respondents and filed by *pro se* respondents and make the information publicly available.

Immigration case quotas.—The Committee remains concerned with the performance review standards that went into effect October 1, 2018, which require immigration judges to complete a quota of 700 case completions per year to receive a satisfactory review. Although the Committee appreciates efforts to reduce the current backlog, tying an immigration judge's performance to case completion threatens due process and affects judicial independence. Section 217 of the bill prohibits EOIR's use of case completion quotas for immigration judge performance reviews.

Judicial Independence and Case Management.—All courts require judges to utilize case management tools in order to ensure efficient use of the court's time and resources. The Committee is concerned by recent Attorney General decisions that curtail the ability of immigration judges to utilize critical docket management tools, such as continuances and terminations, that enable efficient management of the court's dockets. The Committee supports the utilization of such tools to the fullest extent practicable and reaffirms its support for the authority of immigration judges to exercise independent judgment and discretion in their case decisions. Further, the Committee supports full and fair hearings for all who come before the courts but remains concerned about decisions that ultimately keep asylum seekers, including those seeking relief from domestic violence, in detention for longer periods of time.

Video teleconferencing.—The Committee is frustrated by EOIR's response to information requested in the Explanatory Statement accompanying the fiscal year 2020 Consolidated Appropriations Act regarding the publication of its policies for determining the use and dissemination of video teleconferencing (VTC) for individual merits hearings and tent court facilities. EOIR cites multiple policies on its website, but ultimately no central guidance on VTC appears to exist, outside of an interim policy document from 2004. The growth and dependence on VTC has developed since that time and it is concerning that EOIR does not have consistent rules governing the use of video teleconferencing, nor does it appear to have standards to ensure that the procedural and substantive due process of respondents in immigration court are protected. The Committee directs EOIR, within 90 days of enactment of this Act, to develop clear and consistent rules on the use of VTC hearings, including when the use of video teleconferencing is appropriate, and to develop rules for utilizing VTC hearings for particularly vulnerable groups such as unaccompanied minors, individuals with medical or mental health problems, and those subject to the Migrant Protection Protocols (MPP) program. The Committee also directs EOIR to provide these newly developed policies to the Committee, and to make these policies publicly available.

Rocket Dockets.—The Committee is troubled by recent reports of changes in EOIR practices that expedite case processing and place unaccompanied children in so called "rocket dockets" commencing

their cases through VTC within days of their arrival in the United States. This practice is a shift from former precedent, and it lacks recognition that cases involving unaccompanied children are different than for detained adults. Immigration court proceedings must be tailored to the circumstances of individual cases in order to preserve due process and fundamental fairness, in particular for minors. The Committee is equally troubled by reports that EOIR intends to expand this expedited case processing for cases involving unaccompanied children, with little knowledge about how this process impacts children, their opportunity to find counsel, or the challenges with communicating with children of varying ages.

EOIR is directed to report to the Committee no later than 30 days after enactment of this Act on the number of cases involving unaccompanied children that had a Master Calendar hearing scheduled within 30 days of their Notice to Appear (NTA), the location of these cases, including whether VTC was utilized for the hearing, whether the child had counsel, and the outcome of the proceedings. Further, the Committee notes that EOIR has not communicated with the Committee on this change in practice and is concerned that EOIR is piloting and expanding a new program that has not been explicitly authorized by Congress.

Tent Court Proceedings.—The Committee is concerned that the creation of new immigration hearing facilities, often referred to as "tent courts"', along the border, where judges appear via video teleconferencing (VTC). The Committee is concerned that these new facilities threaten the public nature of immigration court proceedings. The Committee directs EOIR to provide a report within 60 days of the enactment of this Act that provides details on EOIR's involvement in the creation and operation of such immigration hearing facilities, as well as information detailing how EOIR schedules judges for hearings and a list of judges hearing cases in these facilities. EOIR shall also post to its website information on attorney access at those facilities, as well as policies regarding public and media access.

Migrant Protection Protocol (MPP) Statistics Publication.—Within 60 days of enactment of this Act, and quarterly thereafter, EOIR is directed to publish on its public website: (1) the number of MPP Notices to Appear (NTA) received and completed, (2) the number of continuances or adjournments in non-MPP cases due to an immigration judge being reassigned to hear MPP cases, (3) the number of MPP hearings that occurred via VTC, and (4) the number of immigration judges assigned to hear MPP cases. EOIR is also directed to publish the number of MPP hearings delayed as a result of the coronavirus pandemic, as well as the average length of delay. EOIR is further directed to publish all workload-related data currently included on its Workload and Adjudication Statistics website page in separate MPP and non-MPP formats.

EOIR is also directed to develop a plan to begin tracking the appearance rate of individuals placed into removal proceedings, broken out into MPP and non-MPP cases, calculated by determining the percent of individuals who have attended all scheduled hearings in any given quarter, regardless of whether the hearing resulted in a completion. The Committee directs EOIR to report on its plans no later than 180 days after enactment of this Act.

Interpreters.—The recommendation includes the requested funding increase for interpretation services. While the Committee recognizes that increasing numbers of respondents in immigration courts require the use of interpretation and the ballooning costs associated with these interpretation services, the Committee directs EOIR to pursue cost efficient measures to ensure appropriate language access for all respondents, including indigenous language speakers, and further directs EOIR to submit a report to the Committee, no later than 90 days after enactment of this Act, outlining steps taken to reduce costs. The Committee eagerly awaits EOIR's quarterly reports highlighting any continuances or adjournments for reasons related to interpretation as well as EOIR's joint report with DHS on shared interpretation resources as directed in House Report 116–101.

Legal Representation.—The Committee is concerned with the low rate of representation in immigration court, and the recommendation provides $15,000,000 in State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance for competitive grants to qualified non-profit organizations for a pilot program to increase representation.

Immigration judges.—The Committee directs EOIR to continue to hire the most qualified immigration judges and BIA members from a diverse pool of candidates to ensure the adjudication process is impartial and consistent with due process. The Committee is disturbed by recent reports of politicized hiring processes for immigration judges. The Committee directs EOIR to continue to submit monthly reports on performance and immigration judge hiring as directed in the fiscal year 2020 Explanatory Statement and is directed to include additional information on the status of hiring other positions that make up the immigration judge teams such as attorneys and paralegals. Finally, the Committee is concerned about a recent Department of Justice petition sent to the Federal Labor Relations Authority requesting the decertification of the National Association of Immigration Judges. The Committee recognizes the importance of our nation's immigration judges and their ability to unionize.

Immigration Efficiency.—EOIR is encouraged to collaborate with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to explore efficiencies with regard to the co-location of DHS and DOJ components with immigration related responsibilities, including immigration courts, DHS asylum officers, medical care practitioners, and both CBP and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) immigration officers.

Alternatives to Detention (ATD) Program.—The Committee is concerned that many individuals enrolled in ICE's ATD program will be terminated from the program before their cases are fully resolved. Getting timely resolution of these cases is complicated by the historic volume of pending cases on EOIR's non-detained docket schedule. The Committee recognizes the ATD program is managed by ICE, and that EOIR currently lacks information about who is enrolled. However, the Committee also recognizes that the longer an individual remains on ATD while their case is pending before EOIR, the more expensive the ATD program is per enrollee, and the less effective the ATD program is. Prioritizing ATD enrollees' cases as if they were on the detained docket could potentially increase the effectiveness of the program, lower the cost per enrollee, and support more individuals in the program overall. The Com-

mittee directs EOIR, in coordination with ICE, to develop an analysis of alternatives to improve the timeliness of resolving cases before EOIR for individuals in the ATD program, and further to consider as one such alternative the classification of ATD enrollees as part of the detained docket for purposes of case prioritization. EOIR is directed to brief the Committee on their findings not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

Court Operations during COVID–19.—The Committee understands that the novel coronavirus pandemic has forced the majority of Federal Government agencies to alter their normal operating procedures, and changes to court operations is no exception. However, the Committee is frustrated that EOIR relied largely on Twitter to communicate its operational status. Many that were travelling, especially from Mexico, to appear at immigration court hearings, did not receive the updated information that the courts were closed. Even prior to the pandemic, the Committee was troubled by reports concerning the timeliness and receipt of hearing notices, as some were undeliverable as addressed and thus returned to immigration courts, and attempts to change addresses with the immigration court were often unsuccessful due to current backlogs. As of March 31, 2020, *in absentia* removal orders were already on the precipice of reaching the total number for all of fiscal year 2019. The Committee is concerned that the pandemic has exacerbated an already confusing process, resulting in an exponential increase in the number of removal orders for respondents who simply did not have the information to appear in court. Therefore, the Committee directs EOIR to submit a report to the Committee, within 90 days of enactment of this Act, that details the specific steps EOIR has taken since March 2020 to accommodate respondents who have missed court appearances due to COVID–19, and steps EOIR has taken to ensure respondents have a centralized mechanism to electronically file an EOIR Form–33 in order to change their address remotely with EOIR, in addition to the current use of paper filings.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

The Committee recommends $113,985,000 for the Office of Inspector General (OIG), $8,985,000 above the fiscal year 2020 enacted level and $6,774,000 above the request. The Committee includes funding requested for critical information technology upgrades, and sustains funding provided in fiscal year 2020 for data analytics, cyber investigations, and increased workload, and to maintain the OIG workforce. The Committee recommendation does not reflect an unspecified "administrative reduction" in the President's request, and DOJ should eschew such budget gimmicks in its future requests.

UNITED STATES PAROLE COMMISSION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

The Committee recommends $13,539,000 for the United States Parole Commission.

LEGAL ACTIVITIES

SALARIES AND EXPENSES, GENERAL LEGAL ACTIVITIES

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

The Committee recommends $969,211,000 for General Legal Activities. Within the total provided, the Committee includes $5,000,000 for the Criminal Section of the Civil Rights Division (CRT) to implement the Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crimes Reauthorization Act. The recommendation also includes an increase of not less than $10,000,000 within the Civil Rights Division for additional expenses relating to the enforcement of section 210401 of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (34 U.S.C. 12601), criminal enforcement under sections 241 and 242 of title 18, United States Code, and administrative enforcement by the Department, including compliance with consent decrees or judgments entered into under such section 210401.

The Committee recommendation funds current services costs for all divisions, including CRM, but does not reflect unspecified "other adjustments'" proposed in the budget for that division. The Committee directs the Department to eschew such budget gimmicks in its future requests. Within funding provided, the Committee encourages the Department to enhance its efforts in elder justice, countering online sexual exploitation of children, international legal cooperation in investigations and prosecution, and combating human trafficking.

The Committee has provided separate funding recommendations by office and decision unit as follows:

Office Solicitor General	$13,474,000
Tax Division	$111,002,000
Criminal Division	$198,744,000
Civil Division	$316,938,000
Environment and Natural Resources Division	$113,458,000
Office of Legal Counsel	$9,195,000
Civil Rights Division	$165,998,000
INTERPOL	$35,592,000
Office of Pardon Attorney	$4,810,000
Total, General Legal Activities	$969,211,000

Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT).—The Committee supports DOJ's continued MLAT reform efforts to reduce the substantial backlog in meeting requests for mutual legal assistance from both foreign and domestic partners, and the dramatic growth in MLAT requests overall. As part of this effort, the Committee expects DOJ to prioritize and expedite requests from international partners. The Department shall report to the Committee within 90 days of enactment of this Act on progress in reducing the backlog.

Voting Rights Act Section 203 Language Assistance.—The Committee recognizes that the CRT Voting Section has investigated and come to agreements with a number of counties to bring them into compliance with Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act (VRA). The Committee reiterates the importance of such enforcement on behalf of the covered language minorities, and again directs DOJ to include in its next budget request an update of previous reports made to the Committee on such compliance for fiscal years 2019 and 2020. The recommendation also repeats direction that DOJ

publish annually on its website information about Section 203 suits, including at a minimum the number that are opened, ongoing, or resolved. If available, such reporting should also include: a breakdown, by suit, of the language(s) involved; the reason suits/cases are closed (e.g., not enough evidence of non-compliance available, no evidence of non-compliance, Memoranda of Agreement); the average number of Section 203 investigations per attorney; and the average length of time per such investigation. If such data is restricted from publication as a matter of policy, the Committee directs that it be submitted as a separate, classified report to the Committee.

Civil Rights Division (CRT).—The Committee is disappointed at the failure of the Department to follow congressional direction included in House Report 116–101 with regard to the components of the Civil Rights Division (CRT). The information requested is neither privileged nor does it raise security concerns; it is statistical and retrospective information; does not expose details about active investigations; and is required to assist Congress in its oversight of the Department. Within 90 days of enactment of this Act, and quarterly thereafter, the Committee directs the Department to submit a report detailing, by CRT section: the number of suits filed in federal court by each section of the Civil Rights Division, and the number of cases that reached a final disposition (settlement, consent decree, or judgment). Within each area, numbers should be broken down to include the animating statute and type of case the Division brought (for instance, if the case was brought under the Civil Rights Act, then the information should detail what type of claim and what Title the claim was brought under). The Department should detail the number of cases appealed, and the type of case and claim involved. Lastly, the report should include the number of current staff (and the specific number of attorneys) assigned to each Section of the Civil Rights Division for each time period. If the Department deems any of the information should not be made public, it should identify that to the Committee and provide under separate cover.

The Committee also notes that because the CRT budget justification did not reflect the distribution of caseload between CRT subdivisions, it is difficult to determine how full-time equivalent resources align with demand on those resources. The Committee expects DOJ to include clearer metrics and caseload statistics for CRT anti-discrimination missions, such as (but not limited to) Fair Housing and Voting Rights Enforcement, in its fiscal year 2022 request.

Fair housing enforcement.—The Committee remains deeply concerned about the adequacy of DOJ enforcement of racial discrimination provisions of the Fair Housing Act of 1968 (FHA), and directs the Department to submit expeditiously the report required under Public Law 116–93 on FHA racial discrimination cases brought during fiscal years 2015 through 2020.

Consent decrees.—The Committee reminds the Department that it has yet to receive the report specified in House Report 116–101, as required pursuant to Public Law 116–93, on the Department's efforts to enforce vigorously all consent decrees negotiated under any civil rights statute. The Committee expects the Department to submit this report expeditiously, to include decrees issued under

the pattern or practice investigations provisions under the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 and the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994. The Committee has included an additional $10,000,000 for the Civil Rights Division to support these efforts, as prescribed in the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act, H.R. 7120, as passed by the House of Representatives on June 25, 2020.

Impact of Shelby County v. Holder.—The Committee continues to be concerned that as a consequence of the Supreme Court's decision in *Shelby County* v. *Holder*, CRT has had to undertake resource-intensive litigation to meet its responsibility under the Voting Rights Act to ensure equal access to elections regardless of race, ethnicity, and linguistic ability. The Committee directs DOJ to submit expeditiously the report required under Public Law 116–93 describing how the *Shelby County* decision has affected the resources available to the CRT Voting Section to enforce Federal voting laws, including its ability to monitor and ensure the fair administration of the 2020 Presidential election, and recognizing that the report may not include details on internal deliberative or decision processes.

Human trafficking.—The Committee urges DOJ to make it a priority for the CRT Human Trafficking Prosecution Unit and DOJ's Anti-Trafficking Coordination Teams to investigate and prosecute human traffickers. The Committee directs DOJ to work with victim service providers and non-governmental organizations assisting trafficking victims in the United States.

Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act.—The Committee encourages the Department to enhance efforts of the Criminal and Civil Divisions to assemble and vet the large number of case files of individuals and entities subject to sanctions under the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act (22 U.S.C. 2656 note).

Animal fighting.—Animal fighting is a crime that causes undue suffering to animals, and is often connected with violent crime and drug trafficking, but the Committee is concerned about the adequacy of enforcement of the animal fighting statutes (7 U.S.C. § 2156 and 18 U.S.C. § 49) and other laws related to animal welfare crime. DOJ shall make it a priority to investigate and prosecute violations of animal welfare laws and is strongly encouraged to create a dedicated section within the Environment and Natural Resources Division to enforce such laws.

VACCINE INJURY COMPENSATION TRUST FUND

The recommendation includes $19,000,000, as requested, as a reimbursement from the Vaccine Injury Compensation Trust Fund for the costs of litigating cases under the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986 (Public Law 99–660).

SALARIES AND EXPENSES, ANTITRUST DIVISION

The Committee recommends $180,274,000 for salaries and expenses of the Antitrust Division (ATR), $13,519,000 above fiscal year 2020 and $8,250,000 below the request. The recommended funding level is offset by $150,000,000 in estimated fee collections for a net direct appropriation of $30,274,000.

High-speed internet access.—Because access to high-speed internet service is essential for rural and urban areas to participate fully in the digital economy, ATR shall investigate monopolistic practices among cable companies and internet service providers, especially where such practices may involve making residential buildout obligations a condition of a corporate merger; and include the impact of such practices on (1) service availability; (2) service quality, including speeds; and (3) service price. ATR shall take action necessary to further the promotion of free and fair competition in this marketplace in all communities, including rural areas.

SALARIES AND EXPENSES, UNITED STATES ATTORNEYS

The Committee recommends $2,347,177,000 for the Executive Office for United States Attorneys and the 94 United States Attorneys' offices, which is $92,636,000 above fiscal year 2020 and $31,241,000 below the request. The Committee has provided separate funding recommendations by decision unit as follows: $1,760,478,000 for criminal litigation; $559,094,000 for civil litigation; and $27,605,000 for legal education. This fully funds requested increases to sustain operations at the fiscal year 2020 level. Within funding provided, the U.S. Attorneys are expected to maintain efforts to investigate and prosecute crimes related to elder justice, human trafficking, opioid trafficking, transnational crime, and targeted violence. The recommendation also includes an increase of $10,000,000 for additional expenses relating to the enforcement of section 210401 of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (34 U.S.C. 12601), criminal enforcement under sections 241 and 242 of title 18, United States Code, and administrative enforcement by the Department, including compliance with consent decrees or judgments entered into under such section 210401.

Immigration enforcement data.—The Committee directs DOJ to continue to submit quarterly reports, by U.S. Attorney district, on defendants who are charged with violations of 8 U.S.C. 1325 and 8 U.S.C. 1326 (improper entry or illegal reentry). In addition, the Committee recommends that Federal prosecutors and public defenders document those cases in which a defendant states that they are migrating to rejoin children residing in the United States, and that DOJ aggregate such data and publish it monthly.

Credible Fear.—The April 11, 2017 Attorney General memorandum to Federal prosecutors entitled "Renewed Commitment to Criminal Immigration Enforcement" directed every District to designate a "Border Security Coordinator". The Committee directs the Department to report to the Committee, not later than 90 days after enactment of this Act, and quarterly thereafter, on the implementation of that memorandum. In particular, the report should identify, for each District, the designated Border Security Coordinator, and the number of Federal criminal prosecutions made pursuant to the memorandum. The data should indicate whether defendants expressed a fear of return to his or her country of origin.

Human trafficking.—The recommendation continues bill language requiring that each U.S. Attorney participate in human trafficking task forces, and DOJ shall continue to submit semiannual reports on the performance of these task forces.

UNITED STATES TRUSTEE SYSTEM FUND

The Committee recommends $232,361,000 for the United States Trustee Program, which is $5,132,000 above the fiscal year 2020 appropriation and $2,103,000 below the request.

Compliance with bonus restrictions.—The Committee believes policymakers would benefit from more precise information on the incidence and magnitude of bonuses paid by companies in chapter 11 bankruptcy. The Committee therefore directs the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to study this topic and submit a report not later than October 1, 2021. The report should identify selected debtor companies under Chapter 11 Bankruptcy proceedings during fiscal year 2020 that requested or were granted permission to pay bonuses to insiders or employees during such bankruptcy case. For each such company, the report shall include what the company paid or is seeking to pay for such bonuses, and, where available, the number of employees and insiders who received or will receive such bonuses (excluding sales commissions). The report shall also include an analysis of bankruptcy statutes that allow bonuses in bankruptcy and potential policy solutions to prevent such bonuses. For purposes of this report, the term "bonus"' means: a transfer to, or obligation incurred for the benefit of, an individual employed by the debtor or insider of the debtor as compensation for services in an amount that (A) is in addition to the existing wages, salary, or base compensation of an insider of the debtor or individual employed by the debtor; (B) can be construed as a form of retention, incentive, or reward related to the services provided to the debtor by the insider or the individual employed by the debtor, and (C) excludes sales commissions. In addition, for the purposes of this report, the term "insider" refers to the definition set forth in 11 U.S.C. § 101(31). The United States Trustee shall use all available legal authority to obtain and share relevant information with the GAO to prepare this report.

SALARIES AND EXPENSES, FOREIGN CLAIMS SETTLEMENT COMMISSION

The Committee recommends $2,366,000 for the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission, which is equal to the request.

FEES AND EXPENSES OF WITNESSES

The Committee recommends $270,000,000, which is the same amount as fiscal year 2020, for fees and expenses of witnesses who appear on behalf of the Government in cases in which the United States is a party. This appropriation is considered mandatory for scorekeeping purposes.

SALARIES AND EXPENSES, COMMUNITY RELATIONS SERVICE

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

The Committee recommends $20,300,000 for the Community Relations Service (CRS), and rejects the proposal to abolish and reassign its mission and responsibilities to the Civil Rights Division. The recommendation includes not less than $1,500,000, as authorized, to implement Public Law 114–325, the Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crimes Reauthorization Act. The recommendation also includes $3,300,000 for additional conflict resolution efforts, as au-

thorized in section 116(2) of H.R. 7120, the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act, as passed by the House of Representatives on June 25, 2020.

CRS has a unique role to play in the Justice Department. While not a law enforcement agency, CRS operates in all U.S. States and territories to advance justice and reconciliation by working with all parties, including State and local government units, private and public organizations, civil rights groups, and community leaders, to uncover the underlying interests of all involved in conflicts. It facilitates the development of mutual understanding in communities challenged by tension and conflict and helps them develop local capacity and tools to defuse tension and prevent hate crimes from reoccurring.

ASSETS FORFEITURE FUND

The Committee recommends $20,514,000 for expenses authorized by subparagraphs (B), (F), and (G) of section 524(c)(1) of title 28, United States Code. This amount is the same as the fiscal year 2020 amount and the budget request.

Section 528 of this Act requires the Department to submit a spending plan for fiscal year 2021. The Committee directs the Department to include in this plan proposed spending from the Fund, to include estimates of: Fund balances; equitable sharing payments; Joint Law Enforcement Operations obligations; and obligations by component.

UNITED STATES MARSHALS SERVICE

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

The Committee recommends $1,484,184,000 for the salaries and expenses of the United States Marshals Service (USMS), which is $54,184,000 above fiscal year 2020 and $128,889,000 below the request. The recommendation sustains current services for activities and initiatives funded in fiscal year 2020. Within funding provided, the Committee expects USMS to sustain efforts in fugitive apprehension, judicial protection, fugitive task forces, extradition support, countering violent crime, and continued enforcement of laws relating to international travel of sex offenders, including through the Angel Watch Center.

The Committee has provided separate funding recommendations by decision unit as follows:

Judicial and Courthouse Security	$501,325,000
Fugitive Apprehension	$586,563,000
Prisoner Security and Transportation	$264,200,000
Protection of Witnesses	$64,062,000
Tactical Operations	$68,034,000
Total, Salaries and Expenses	$1,484,184,000

CONSTRUCTION

The Committee recommends $15,000,000, which is the same amount as fiscal year 2020 and the request, for construction and related expenses in space controlled, occupied, or used by USMS for prisoner holding and related support. The Committee expects USMS to apply this funding to its top priority projects.

FEDERAL PRISONER DETENTION

The Committee recommends $1,867,461,000 for Federal Prisoner Detention, which is the same as the fiscal year 2020 appropriation and $179,148,000 below the request.

NATIONAL SECURITY DIVISION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

The Committee recommends $114,387,000 for the National Security Division (NSD), which is $4,837,000 above fiscal year 2020 and $2,614,000 below the request. This amount will sustain NSD operations at no less than the fiscal year 2020 level to address its national security and counterterrorism workload, including its responsibilities under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act and the Foreign Agents Registration Act (FARA). Within funding provided, the Committee encourages NSD to enhance its efforts in foreign investment review, counterintelligence and export control, and victim support, as well as intelligence collection, oversight, insider threat prevention, and activities to counter and prevent domestic terrorism.

Counsel for Domestic Terrorism.—The growing threat of domestic terrorism, particularly homegrown violent and racist extremism, justifies a commensurate response by the Department. The Committee encourages DOJ to consider elevating the position of Counsel for Domestic Terrorism to the rank of Deputy Assistant Attorney General, with sufficient staff and resources to meet rising investigative and prosecution workload.

INTERAGENCY LAW ENFORCEMENT

INTERAGENCY CRIME AND DRUG ENFORCEMENT

The Committee recommends $565,000,000 for Interagency Crime and Drug Enforcement, which is $14,542,000 above fiscal year 2020 and $20,145,000 below the request. Funds included under this heading will support interagency Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Forces (OCDETF), which target high-level drug trafficking organizations through coordinated, multi-jurisdictional investigations. This funding level will sustain operations at no less than the fiscal year 2020 level.

Decision unit subtotals.—The recommendation includes $388,470,000 for investigations and $176,530,000 for prosecutions. The Committee expects OCDETF to continue to enhance its investigative, intelligence, and prosecutorial efforts through OCDETF-led activities, including the OCDETF Fusion Center, OCDETF Co-located Strike Forces and the International Organized Crime Intelligence and Operations Center, and direct collaboration with State and local law enforcement, United States Attorneys' offices and the Criminal Division. The Committee expects OCDETF to focus additional resources on targeting opioid trafficking organizations.

Full-Time Equivalents (FTE).—The Committee directs the Department to submit an updated report on historical investigative and prosecutorial FTE levels for OCDETF concurrent with its fiscal

year 2022 budget request as specified in the fiscal year 2020 Appropriations Act.

Northern triangle transnational criminal organizations (TCOs).—The Committee is concerned by reports of TCO targeting of legitimate businesses along drug trafficking routes across the Northern Triangle countries, particularly in Guatemala. Destabilizing legitimate businesses increases dependence on TCOs for security and financial support, and reduces the economic opportunity and safety that deter migration. The Committee encourages OCDETF, in coordination with DEA and other Federal and international partners, to address this troubling pattern of activity, and to brief Congress regarding those efforts within 90 days of enactment of this Act.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

The Committee recommends $9,703,348,000 for the salaries and expenses of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), which is $235,446,000 above fiscal year 2020 and $45,481,000 below the request. The recommendation includes funding to sustain all programs carried out in fiscal year 2020, to include efforts to boost the capacity and speed of the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS), and continues $5,000,000 in funding as authorized to implement the Emmett Till Civil Rights Act. It also includes an increase of $5,000,000 for the Corruption/Civil Rights Section for additional expenses relating to the enforcement of section 210401 of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (34 U.S.C. 12601), criminal enforcement under sections 241 and 242 of title 18, United States Code, and administrative enforcement by the Department, including compliance with consent decrees or judgments entered into under such section 210401. The recommendation does not reflect an unspecified reduction of $148,053,000 in "other adjustments"", and the Committee directs the Department to eschew such budget gimmicks in its future requests. Within funding provided, the Committee encourages the FBI to enhance its efforts to combat foreign threats, maintain operations of the National Threat Operations Center, and development of counter-unmanned aerial systems (C UAS). The Committee also urges the FBI to sustain its cyber effort; its efforts to combat crime and corruption, including human trafficking; and national security responsibilities such as the Terrorist Screening Center. The Committee also encourages the FBI to sustain its efforts to investigate fraud, white-collar, and hate crimes, and build on its successes in human trafficking investigations. In a post-COVID–19 environment, it is essential that the FBI allocate its resources, agents and staff based on the unique threats and workload of each field office to meet the highest FBI priorities.

The Committee has provided separate funding recommendations by decision unit as follows:

Intelligence	$1,824,480,000
Counterintelligence and National Security	$3,927,183,000
Criminal Enterprise and Federal Crimes	$3,365,594,000
Criminal Justice Services	$586,091,000
Total, Salaries and Expenses	$9,703,348,000

Hate Crimes Statistics Act (HCSA).—The Committee continues to urge State, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies to include the cost of participation in the FBI's HCSA program for the purposes of calculating extraordinary expenses associated with the investigation and prosecution of hate crimes under Public Law 111–84, section 4704(b)(3).

Racial extremist recruitment.—The Committee is aware that a recent *Military Times* poll shows that more than one in three U.S. members reported witnessing examples of white nationalism among their fellow troops, a significant increase over the 2019 poll. The Committee reminds the FBI of its direction in House Report 116–101, as required pursuant to Public Law 116–63, to update its 2008 report, "White Supremacist Recruitment of Military Personnel since 9/11" and directs that this be completed not later than June 1, 2021.

Domestic White Supremacist Terrorist Activity.—The Committee is aware that most FBI domestic-terrorism investigations in the past year were linked to white supremacy. The Committee supports FBI's recent elevation of racially-motivated violent extremism to a national threat priority. However, the Committee is concerned that recent reorganization and classification actions may have reduced the quality of data on such attacks, such as their frequency and scale, with the result being less useful data on which to base Committee resource decisions. The Committee directs the FBI to report, not later than 180 days after enactment of this Act, on the number of incidents in fiscal years 2016 through 2020 that required surveillance, investigation, and prosecution of white supremacist activity or racially motivated violent extremism associated with white supremacist ideology, and include, if available, incidents in which the FBI deferred to State or local authorities.

Universal Crime Report.—The Committee expects the FBI to submit as soon as possible the report directed in the fiscal year 2020 Appropriations Act on the feasibility of collecting non-fatal firearms-related incidents as part of the Universal Crime Report (UCR), with an estimate of resources needed to accomplish this goal.

Integrated medical support for tactical operations.—The Committee continues to support the FBI's use of external partnerships in the Operational Medicine Program to support medical contingency planning and improve the delivery of medical care for high-risk law enforcement missions, and recommends continued work and investment to achieve full engagement with proven medical partners.

Gun violence data sharing.—The Committee expects DOJ to submit expeditiously the cross-agency report on gun violence data as required by the fiscal year 2020 Appropriations Act.

Cyber stalking.—The Committee is deeply disappointed that DOJ and the FBI have not yet submitted the report on their actions to address cyber-stalking and threat crimes as required by the fiscal year 2018 Appropriations Act, and directs DOJ to submit this report without delay.

Elder fraud.—The Committee is concerned about the sharp rise in fraud perpetrated against senior citizens who are wrongly brought under guardianship or have their assets mismanaged or stolen. The Committee is aware that the FBI participates in the

Elder Fraud Initiative and Transnational Elder Fraud Strike Force, along with DOJ components and other agency partners, and urges increased energy be put into these efforts, including enforcement of the Elder Abuse Prevention and Prosecution Act of 2017 (EAPPA), to provide detailed reporting on its progress in reducing such fraud as part of the annual report to Congress pursuant to EAPPA, and to develop and implement a guardianship fraud hotline, to include requesting necessary funding and staffing for such efforts in its fiscal year 2022 budget request.

Data on crime in the U.S. territories.—The Committee has serious concerns about the limited and inconsistent availability of data regarding crime in the U.S. territories. The Committee notes that while the FBI's annual Crime in the United States report includes statistics from the several States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico, it lacks data from American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The Committee understands that such information, which is provided on a voluntary basis, has not been consistently submitted or updated so that its information can be reflected in all UCR data collection products, including charts, maps, and other publications in the interactive Crime Data Explorer tool, or in the FBI's Preliminary Semiannual Uniform Crime Report. As the Summary Reporting System (SRS) will transition to the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) by January, 2021, the Committee urges the FBI to continue to work with law enforcement agencies in the five U.S. territories to provide training, technical assistance, and NIBRS subject matter expertise to ensure it can collect and publish crime statistics from these jurisdictions, and directs the FBI to report to the Committee not later than 180 days after the date of enactment on the progress in achieving this goal.

Internet investigations.—The FBI and its partners investigate massive Internet-based child exploitation and human trafficking forums, which requires robust information sharing and technical tools to acquire evidence from the Darknet and other forums for prosecution. The Committee directs FBI to consider novel partnership and contracting strategies, along with its 21st Century training and technology initiatives, to acquire, develop, and implement advanced technical solutions to more rapidly exploit digital evidence and intelligence related to investigations targeting human trafficking and child exploitation efforts, both domestic and international.

IED Program.—The Committee encourages the FBI to consider developing a Research and Prototyping for IED Defeat training program for State and local law enforcement, based on its own efforts to establish defeat technologies, develop diagnostics, conduct fundamental science research and engineering, address remote capabilities and emerging threats, and develop render safe procedures. The Committee also encourages the FBI's Critical Incident Response Group to explore incorporating such a curriculum into its render safe training at the Hazardous Devices School, enabling standardized and consistent training to the entire civilian, domestic bomb squad community.

Gunshot detection.—The Committee notes the need for accurate, timely and dependable technology to record actual shots fired in an incident, to communicate that information to police dispatchers,

and to initiate body camera recording in such incidents. The Committee requests that the FBI evaluate such technology and report to the Committee, not later than 180 days after enactment of this Act, with an assessment of its potential value for Federal, State and local law enforcement, including any possible FBI role in sharing or supporting such technology, policy considerations, and recommendations for potential deployment.

Unmanned aerial systems (UAS) threat.—The Committee is concerned about the public safety threat posed by unauthorized drone operations, whether errant or malicious, and the corresponding need for UAS detection and mitigation solutions. The Committee encourages the FBI to consider procurement approaches that will facilitate rapid fielding of proven, cost-effective counter-UAS technologies, and to continue to update the Committee on its implementation of counter-UAS measures.

Human trafficking investigations.—The FBI is expected to sustain its investigations of human trafficking; its related intelligence collection, analysis, and information sharing; and work with human trafficking victims.

Skilled workforce recruitment.—Nearly every major FBI investigation has a foreign language component, and it has a continuing requirement for qualified linguists, and foreign language and culture training. The Committee encourages the FBI and other components to prioritize the hiring of a workforce with the critical language skills and scientific and technical expertise to succeed in counterterrorism, cyber defense, counterintelligence, and criminal investigative missions against terrorists and foreign actors.

White supremacist infiltration in law enforcement.—The Committee has read excerpts of the 2006 assessment entitled, "White Supremacist Infiltration of Law Enforcement", and directs the FBI to provide an update to the Committee on its assessment of white supremacist infiltration in law enforcement, including actions that DOJ and the FBI have taken to address concerns regarding white supremacist presence in law enforcement since the 2006 assessment.

CONSTRUCTION

The Committee recommends $51,895,000, which is the same as the request, for the construction of FBI facilities and related activities. Funding in this account will facilitate and expedite work on current design and construction projects at Quantico, as requested, and address necessary secure work environment (SWE) building and modifications.

The recommendation does not include a requested rescission of construction funding balances that were previously appropriated for headquarters consolidation and construction. The Committee remains greatly concerned about the risks and continuing costs associated with operating in the current, unsatisfactory headquarters. The Department is urged to answer longstanding concerns that have been raised by the Committee, and to submit a formal prospectus to be reviewed and approved by the appropriate committees of Congress.

DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

The Committee recommends total budget authority of $2,791,869,000 for Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) salaries and expenses, of which $460,499,000 is derived from fees deposited in the Diversion Control Fund, and $2,331,370,000 is provided by direct appropriation. The recommended appropriation is $62,670,000 above fiscal year 2020 and $67,435,000 below the request.

The funding sustains activities at the fiscal year 2020 level. Within funding provided, the Committee encourages DEA to sustain its lawful access program efforts, combat transnational criminal organizations, and sustain its cyber/digital evidence activities. The Committee has provided separate funding recommendations by decision unit for salaries and expenses as follows:

International Enforcement	$464,363,000
Domestic Enforcement	1,853,247,000
State and Local Assistance	13,760,000
Total, Salaries and Expenses	2,331,370,000

Diversion control.—The recommendation includes $460,499,000 for the regulatory and enforcement activities of DEA's Diversion Control Program. The Diversion Control Program is funded by fee collections.

Methamphetamine and fentanyl cleanup.—The funding recommendation includes $10,000,000 to assist State, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies in efforts to remove and dispose of hazardous materials at methamphetamine and fentanyl labs and processing operations, to include training, technical assistance, purchase of equipment and a container program.

Telemedicine.—The Committee continues to place a priority on reducing the crisis of prescription drug abuse and recognizes that some controlled substances, such as those employed in medication-assisted treatment, can be a critical part of treatment and should be available as clinically appropriate. The Committee requests that DEA complete its statutory requirement, pursuant to Section 3232 of Public Law 115–271, to promulgate regulations clarifying the limited circumstances in which Special Registration for Telemedicine may occur under the Ryan Haight Act.

Controlled substances ordering system (CSOS).—The Committee is aware of DEA efforts to replace the outdated electronic transmission of controlled substance orders through what is known as the Controlled Substances Ordering System (CSOS). The Committee is aware that with the number of transactions between pharmacies and distributors exceeding 800,000 per year, the design, architecture, integration, and implementation of a state-of-the-art system will be necessary and encourages DEA to use funding from the Diversion Control Fund for this purpose.

Drug Disposal and Takeback Programs.—The Committee continues to encourage DEA to consider in-home drug deactivation and disposal solutions that meet the agency's regulatory definition of non-retrievable, and evaluate their effectiveness, particularly in areas with high rates of opioid misuse or abuse, rural areas, areas

with high populations of individuals with limited mobility, and areas that lack permanent disposal sites.

Destruction of unwanted controlled substances.—The Committee continues to encourage DEA to meet with commercial hazardous waste management industry members to discuss non-incineration disposal methods that meet DEA's non-retrievable standard, as well as safety measures for the transport of controlled substances for disposal, including secure tamper-proof evidence packages or security tape sealed drums.

BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, FIREARMS AND EXPLOSIVES

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

The Committee recommends $1,550,000,000 for the salaries and expenses of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), which is $150,000,000 above fiscal year 2020 and $87,574,000 below the request. Bill language is included to prohibit the transfer of ATF's current enforcement authorities, and within the funds provided, the recommendation supports no less than the fiscal year 2020 level of effort towards tobacco-related enforcement.

The recommendation fully funds the requested investments toward reducing violent crime and promoting public safety. These enhancements will allow for increased hiring to add personnel to ATF's nationwide investigative capacity and the Crime Gun Intelligence Centers, expand its National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN) National Correlation and Training Center capabilities, and support additional Industry Operations Investigators to improve ATF's oversight of Federal Firearms Licensees. Further, the recommendation includes $53,322,000 in critical operations support requirements which have not been properly met due to the increased cost of training and equipping ATF's workforce. This investment will allow ATF to ensure the hiring and retention of its workforce. Since fiscal year 2001, the cost of hiring, training, and equipping a special agent has nearly doubled. The Committee expects ATF to be transparent about such increases in training and equipping the workforce in future congressional budget justification materials so the Committee is fully aware of the impact on annualized costs.

National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN).—The Committee is encouraged by the promise of improved crime gun intelligence and information sharing, and expects funding provided in this bill will aid in interdicting crime guns and preventing gun trafficking through the NIBIN. The Committee continues to support efforts to expand the use of NIBIN and to ensure all law enforcement agencies have access to NIBIN's correlation services and appreciates the investments being made by state and local partners to collect and share ballistics evidence across geographically separated law enforcement jurisdictions, and encourages ATF to continue to build on these investments. The Committee supports efforts to include both cartridge casings and bullets in the NIBIN program and encourages the Department to promote NIBIN as a critical forensic science tool and to identify opportunities to build partnerships with criminal justice training programs. Finally, the Committee encourages ATF to continue establishing a NIBIN pres-

ence on the Southwest border and looks forward to receiving the update on its efforts as described in House Report 115–704.

Illegal firearms.—The Committee is aware that firearms enter the illegal market through a limited number of channels, such as straw purchasers, corrupt firearms licensees, unlicensed sellers, and firearms theft. Law enforcement needs transparent data about these channels in order to develop the most effective enforcement strategies to reduce firearms trafficking. The last time ATF provided a report describing the channels of firearms trafficking was in the year 2000. Since that time, the National Tracing Center has collected over five million traces of crime guns. Despite explicit authorization to release "statistical aggregate data regarding firearms traffickers and trafficking channels, or firearms misuse, felons, and trafficking investigations," since 2008 ATF has only released statistical aggregate data regarding the geographical location where crime guns were first sold at retail. Within one year of the date of enactment of this Act, ATF is directed to release a new report providing updated statistical aggregate data regarding trafficking channels and trafficking investigations within the confines of existing law.

Training and research.—The Committee supports the work of the National Center for Explosives Training and Research regarding both investigating criminal acts related to explosives, bombings, and explosives threats, and training involving State and local levels of government, and military units.

Firearms tracing.—The Committee is concerned about the high number of incorrect submissions by law enforcement agencies to ATF for firearms tracing. The Committee urges ATF to increase trace submission training for law enforcement agencies to include online training.

Ghost guns.—The Committee is concerned about the emergence of ghost guns—firearms made from parts without serial numbers or background checks—as a weapon of choice for violent criminals or those who would normally be prohibited from purchasing a firearm. The Committee believes the building blocks for these ghost guns should be regulated under Federal law and urges ATF to amend the definition of firearm frame or receiver as described under 27 C.F.R. § 478.11 to ensure existing and future designs are appropriately regulated. The Committee further directs ATF to provide all available data on the rate that Federal authorities encounter ghost guns, and recommendations on how to improve data collection.

EForms Filing System.—In order to further the goals of shortening processing times, reducing submission errors, and increasing efficiency, the Committee directs ATF to report on the feasibility and appropriateness of allowing third-party processors to effectively interact with ATF's eForms electronic filing system. Such report shall include an analysis of the feasibility of establishing methods by which: (1) third-party processors may access the system's application programming interface (API); (2) both transferors and transferees can certify forms through the provided interface; and (3) forms submitted through the interface are treated as equal to, and processed in sequence with and in comparable time to, forms not submitted through the interface. The Committee encour-

ages ATF to engage with stakeholders in the course of examining the feasibility of establishing such system modifications.

CONSTRUCTION

The Committee recommends $5,000,000, for the requirements and design of a new, consolidated laboratory facility. The Committee recognizes that the current lease at the Walnut Creek laboratory will expire at the end of fiscal year 2023 as opposed to October 31, 2021 as originally stated in the supporting narrative to ATF's congressional budget justification.

FEDERAL PRISON SYSTEM

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

The Committee recommends $7,770,000,000 for salaries and expenses of the Bureau of Prisons (BOP), which is $300,000,000 above fiscal year 2020 and $158,874,000 above the request. The Committee recommendation includes funding of not less than $165,000,000 to sustain implementation of Public Law 115–391, the First Step Act of 2018 (FSA), to continue to expand and develop opportunities for incarcerated individuals to participate in evidence-based, recidivism-reducing programming and productive activities. The recommendation sustains all BOP operations at no less than fiscal year 2020 levels to enable BOP to make progress in hiring and training personnel, improve staffing to inmate ratios, and reduce overcrowding. It does not reflect the $388,772,000 in unspecified "administrative savings" reduction proposed in the budget, and the Committee directs DOJ to eschew such budget gimmicks in its future requests.

The recommendation includes not less than $60,400,000 requested for medically assisted treatment (MAT) and reentry programs to support FSA efforts; not less than $10,000,000 for inspections related to improvement of aging electrical and utility systems and not less than $14,600,000 for FSA-related residential reentry center (RRC) capacity. It also includes not less than $26,000,000 as requested for cellphone detection technology, unmanned air system (UAS) threat countermeasures, and essential information technology modernization.

The Committee has provided separate funding recommendations by decision unit as follows:

Inmate Care and Programs	$2,972,226,000
Institution Security and Administration	3,527,435,000
Management and Administration	292,708,000
Contract Confinement	977,631,000
Total, Salaries and Expenses	7,770,000,000

Augmentation or Reassignment.—Overcrowding remains a serious threat to Correctional Officer safety, particularly at medium- and high-security facilities. To meet staffing needs, BOP routinely relies on the practice of augmentation or reassignment, whereby a non-custody correctional employee is assigned custody responsibilities. The Committee directs BOP to continue to hire more full-time Correctional Officers until such augmentation or reassignment is

no longer needed, and to improve staffing beyond mission-critical levels in custody and all other departments.

Inmate-to-officer ratios.—The Committee directs BOP to continue to submit quarterly reports on the inmate-to-correctional officer ratio at each facility, using the OPM definition of a corrections officer, broken out by security level and shift, including confirmation that at least two correctional officers are on duty for each shift at BOP facilities that house high security inmates, as specified in the fiscal year 2020 Appropriations Act. In addition, BOP is directed to develop and submit to the Committee a report, not later than 180 days after enactment of this Act, that (1) includes a cost estimate and strategic plan for implementing this standard for United States Penitentiaries, Administrative and Federal Detention Centers, and Witness Security Program (WITSEC) units that house high security inmates, but do not have a second officer on all three shifts as part of their mission critical roster; (2) reflects the cost to add officers, rather than simply reassign them; and (3) identifies all Housing Units that currently house high security inmates within the general population. This report shall be broken down by institution, State, and region.

Pay disparities.—The Committee recognizes BOP needs to keep its skilled employees but is aware of the financial cost associated with hiring, training, and retaining them. Therefore, the Committee directs DOJ to study the pay disparities between BOP employees and their counterparts in other agencies and report its findings to the Committee, not later than 90 days after enactment of this Act, including recommendations on how to retain employees.

Direct hire authority.—The Committee is aware that BOP has requested the Office of Personnel and Management (OPM) to delegate direct hire authority to BOP facilities. To ensure the safety of staff and inmates, the Committee encourages BOP to continue to work with OPM to provide direct hire authority for BOP facilities in which ten percent or more of the total available positions are vacant, prioritizing facilities with the largest number of vacancies.

Communicable Diseases and Prisons.—The Committee recognizes the incarcerated population faces significantly higher risks of acquiring a communicable disease, as demonstrated during the current COVID 19 pandemic. BOP policy requires that Federally managed and contract prison protocols include an assessment of inmate immunizations and the provision of basic medical care, including hepatitis B and C testing and treatment, as well as preventive health services such as immunizations. However, the DOJ Office of Inspector General (OIG) reported in 2016 that some BOP facilities, in particular contract prisons, were not complying with this policy. The Committee understands that the pandemic has imposed unforeseen burdens in administering inmate immunizations and wants to better understand how BOP is dealing with such challenges. The Committee directs the Department to report not later than 270 days after enactment of the Act on the progress, across both Federal and contract prisons, of efforts to achieve compliance with the protocols since the 2016 OIG report. The report should identify gaps in services and barriers to provision of immunization services; identify potential collaborations with health organizations to address identified disparities; and recommend ways to close them. Further, the Director of BOP is urged to develop guidelines

that include a comprehensive testing protocol, and precautionary measures with respect to sanitation and hygiene, including frequent cleaning and ready availability of soap and tissues.

Medical service.—The Committee is aware of concerns about uneven levels of medical service provided in its system, particularly for inmates who may have language disadvantages or be temporarily in BOP custody and thus have limited ability to convey concerns about such service. BOP is directed to submit a report to the Committee not later than June 1, 2021, on medical services provided in fiscal year 2020, by facility, that includes the following information: (1) the ratio of medical providers (doctors, nurses, and paramedics) to inmates; (2) qualifications of such medical providers; (3) the process by which inmates may file complaints, and the number and type of complaints filed; and (4) actions taken by BOP in response to complaints.

Animal-assisted Therapy Classes for Incarcerated Women.—The Committee is concerned that with 70 percent of incarcerated women in the United States responsible for a minor child, disruption to the mother-child bond when mothers are incarcerated places both populations at high risk for mental health problems and intergenerational incarceration. The Committee is also concerned that incarcerated women traditionally and persistently lack access to rehabilitation and reintegration support. However, the Committee is encouraged by the success of innovative parenting programs that incorporate animal-assisted therapy to help incarcerated mothers process trauma-based feelings, reduce anxiety, depression, and stress, while increasing parenting knowledge, and provide a supportive environment for their children during reunification efforts in a custodial setting. The Committee encourages DOJ to support animal-assisted therapy parenting programs, as part of existing BOP parenting classes.

Mental wellness.—The Committee recognizes the importance of mental health and wellness for correctional officers and directs BOP to report to the Committee, not later than 90 days after enactment of this Act, on its efforts to provide mental health services for staff currently and in the future.

Medically Assisted Treatment.—The Committee encourages the Bureau of Prisons to make abstinence-based relapse prevention treatment options available to inmates with a history of opioid dependence.

Religious freedom in prisons.—The Committee is aware the mission of the Religious Services Branch of BOP is to ensure the Constitutional religious rights of incarcerated individuals, but is concerned accommodation of the religious needs of such individuals, particularly in State, county, and local facilities, is inconsistent and insufficient. The Committee directs DOJ to publicize best practices on accommodating religious needs, including but not limited to prayer services, devotional items, and religious holiday observance and dietary restrictions; ensure BOP employees are trained on them, and review no fewer than 25 BOP facilities every three years on their compliance with the guidelines; and encourage States, counties, and localities to adopt such standards.

Recidivism reduction.—The Committee encourages DOJ to explore programs that reduce offender recidivism and end repeated cycles of violence and abuse by teaching skills for reducing stress,

processing past trauma, and providing practical knowledge of how to cope with negative emotions. The Committee further encourages DOJ to explore rehabilitation methods such as mindfulness and meditation which encourage incarcerated individuals to live to one's highest potential and contribute to society.

Educational programs.—The Committee supports DOJ's coordination and collaboration with Historically Black Colleges and Universities to provide educational programs for recently released and soon to be released criminal offenders to assist them in obtaining skills that will help them successfully transition back into their communities and reduce recidivism rates.

Contraband interdiction.—The Committee urges BOP to explore ways to reduce the amount of contraband that enters its facilities without restricting inmate rights to receive postal mail or interfere with delivery of verifiable legal mail, to include pilot projects to enable facilities to receive pre-screened postal mail and packages, such as via secure offsite facilities, to eliminate contraband risk while ensuring continuing, prompt delivery of communications with loved ones and legal counsel. Such solutions should optimize security while minimizing any additional cost or infrastructure for mail processing.

Contraband cellphones.—The Committee remains concerned about the rising use of contraband cellular phones and devices in facilities administered by BOP or under contract with them. Such devices facilitate criminal activity and threaten the safety of correctional officers and staff, other inmates, and the public, to include being used by inmates to carry out financial scams and sextortion of innocent citizens. It is essential that incarcerated individuals are denied access to the networks and spectrum that enable such illicit activity. The recommendation includes funding requested to interdict illicit cell phone use and directs BOP to act on the recommendations of its fiscal year 2016 report to Congress, to include, as appropriate, managed access or other technology, to thwart illegal inmate telecommunications while not interfering with legitimate spectrum use.

Land Mobile Radio.—The Committee considers Land Mobile Radio (LMR) communications and video security equipment used by BOP to be critical to officer and inmate safety and security at BOP facilities. In an environment where other alternative forms of communication and security measures cannot be employed, LMR and video security continue to be the only safe and secure methods for BOP facilities and personnel. The Committee is concerned that the age of 74 of the 100 LMR systems and more than 19,000 portable and mobile radios currently in use is causing them to become increasingly unreliable and difficult to maintain due to limited parts availability and serviceability. Therefore, the Committee urges BOP, within funding provided, to invest in necessary radio and video security upgrades. The Committee also urges BOP to build into its future year budget requests funding to refresh LMR radios and video security systems in facilities where aging communications infrastructure and equipment pose a threat to officer safety.

Facility lockdowns report.—The Committee is concerned with reports that during the March 2020 lockdown at the Metropolitan Correctional Center (MCC) in New York, NY, detainees experi-

enced interrupted access to counsel and their families during a prolonged safety lockdown. The Committee directs DOJ to conduct a study, and report its findings not later than September 30, 2021, on protocols followed by facilities operated by BOP and those housing BOP detainees in private contracted facilities, including those on a contractual agreement basis with other Federal agencies. The report should identify what conditions would warrant a lockdown longer than 72 hours; whether lockdowns lasting longer than 72 hours would constitute a violation of the Federal right, as defined in section 3626, under Subchapter C of chapter 229 of Part II of title 18, United States Code; and specify any conditions or factors, in combination with such lockdown, that may violate such Federal right.

In addition, the report shall include: (1) the number of facilities that experienced a facility lockdown longer than 72 hours in fiscal year 2021, and for each lockdown instance, provide a detailed explanation, including documented justifications for the lockdown, accommodations provided to meet inmate medical, dietary and hygiene needs and any arrangements to facilitate access to legal counsel; (2) BOP protocols used to resolve such lockdowns, with timeline targets (e.g., 72 hours), and descriptions of any circumstances when BOP staff determined such protocols could not be followed; and (3) a review of BOP contingency plans to ensure detainee access to counsel or family in lockdowns that exceed 72 hours, including data on the number of facilities and detainees, in fiscal year 2021, whose access was restricted in such circumstances, and identifying best practices to ensure that timely communication can be maintained.

Employee firearms.—The Lieutenant Osvaldo Albarati Correctional Officer Self-Protection Act of 2018 (Section 202 of the First Step Act (Public Law 115 391)) requires that each Federal penal or correctional institution provide a secure storage area located outside of the secure perimeter of the institution for employees to store firearms or allow employees to store firearms in a vehicle lockbox. The Committee recognizes the importance of this provision in ensuring BOP employee safety, and directs the BOP Director to provide the storage facilities required under the Act not later than the end of fiscal year 2021; to submit to the Committee an implementation plan for this by no later than 90 days after enactment of this Act; and to provide quarterly progress reports until completion.

Home Confinement.—The Committee recognizes the constraints BOP is under when operating prison facilities during the pandemic. The Committee acknowledges the parameters for home confinement have been outlined by the First Step Act, the CARES Act, and by memos issued by the Attorney General. The Committee is concerned about the total low percentage of inmates released, particularly at facilities with high numbers of positive cases. Therefore, the Committee urges BOP to brief the Committee within 30 days of the date of enactment of this Act on the status of efforts to increase home confinement as a response during the pandemic.

BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES

The Committee recommends $110,000,000 for the construction, acquisition, modernization, maintenance, and repair of prison and

detention facilities housing Federal inmates. This amount is $198,000,000 below fiscal year 2020, and $10,547,000 above the request.

Modernization and repair.—The Committee expects the Bureau to apply the funding to reduce its longstanding maintenance and repair (M&R) backlog, and directs BOP to prioritize its funding for repairs that address life and safety issues, and facilities assessed as having deficiencies of a geological and seismic nature. BOP shall continue to provide monthly status of construction reports and notify the Committee of any changes reflected in those reports. The Committee directs BOP to develop a schedule and timeline for repairs of facilities with geological and seismic deficiencies, and include updates in the monthly M&R reports.

Detention facility infrastructure.—The Committee reminds the Department that it expects to receive the report on detention facility infrastructure not later than October 1, 2020, as required by the fiscal year 2020 Appropriations Act. It is expected that the report will reflect lessons learned from managing the BOP mission during the COVID–19 pandemic, and in making its facilities safer for both inmates and BOP personnel.

LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES, FEDERAL PRISON INDUSTRIES, INCORPORATED

The Committee recommends a limitation on administrative expenses of $2,700,000 for Federal Prison Industries, Incorporated, which is the same as fiscal year 2020.

STATE AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES

Within the overall amounts provided for grant programs of the Department of Justice, the Committee recommends $343,000,000 for Community Oriented Policing Services, equal to fiscal year 2020, and $525,000,000 for Byrne Justice Assistance Grants, $22,210,000 below fiscal year 2020. The Committee notes that funds for these programs are subject to new conditions contained in sections 219, 221, and 222 of this Act.

The Committee has included a significant funding increase for overall Department of Justice grants, with a particular aim toward ensuring strong increases for programs authorized by H.R. 7210, the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act, as passed by the House of Representatives on June 25, 2020.

State and Local Law Enforcement Training Grants.—The Committee is concerned regarding the apparent distance between state and local law enforcement agencies and the communities in which they serve and protect. Too often a show of strength supersedes service and a projection of power precludes protection. The goal of law enforcement is to ensure that life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness is available to everyone in the United States without fear of being targeted or mistreated. While the Committee applauds agencies that have succeeded in implementing effective policing strategies and developing healthy and trusting relationships within communities, those agencies that have not must improve their policing practices immediately. To that end, the recommendation provides $50,000,000 within the Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grants Program for training for State and local law en-

forcement officers on racial profiling, implicit bias, de-escalation, use of force, the duty to intervene when witnessing other officers using excessive force, and procedural justice. The Committee urges the Department to place the highest priority on applications from grantees who can demonstrate quantitative results from evidence-based training programs that will address these areas of concern. The Committee further notes that many immigrant communities have particular challenges in ensuring effective community policing, including language barriers, recruitment issues, and trust issues involving views of immigration enforcement. Therefore, the Committee urges the Department to ensure that grants funded under this program also help address the unique challenges of policing in immigrant communities.

Police Training and Accreditation.—The Committee directs the Department to assist small jurisdictions and small law enforcement agencies as they work through the application process related to grants for police training and police accreditation.

Community-based Organization Grants.—The Committee provides $25,000,000 for grants to community-based organizations, as authorized by subsections (b) and (c) of section 114 of H.R. 7120 as passed by the House of Representatives on June 25, 2020, to study and implement: (1) effective management, training, recruiting, hiring, and oversight standards and programs to promote effective community and problem solving strategies for law enforcement agencies; or (2) effective strategies and solutions to public safety, including strategies that do not rely on Federal and local law enforcement agency responses. The studies shall address standards relating to administrative due process, residency requirements, compensation and benefits, use of force, racial profiling, early warning systems, juvenile justice, school safety, civilian review boards or analogous procedures, or research into the effectiveness of existing programs, projects, or other activities designed to address misconduct by law enforcement officers.

Police Accountability and Community Engagement.—The Committee urges the Department to make funds available to help nonprofit organizations, institutions of higher education, community groups, youth groups, and faith-based organizations facilitate organized dialogues that bring together community members and law enforcement officers so that they may collaborate to develop shared goals that will enhance the collective safety of the community. The dialogues should include diverse groups of community members, local elected officials, law enforcement leaders and officers, business leaders, and community members, including youth groups, to assess the state of police-community relations in states and local communities. The Department is further urged to partner with these organizations to develop strategies that will result in concrete action items that will improve the relationships between the police and the communities and further the goal of enhancing collective safety. Within 180 days of enactment of this Act, the Department shall submit a progress report to the Committee on the results of the dialogues as well as on any law enforcement practices that have changed as a result of the dialogues.

Law Enforcement Management.—The Committee provides $25,000,000 to develop pilot programs and implement effective standards and programs in the areas of training, hiring and re-

cruitment, and oversight that are designed to improve management and address misconduct by law enforcement officers. The pilot program shall be consistent with the requirements as described in section 114(d) of H.R. 7120 as passed by the House of Representatives on June 25, 2020, including: (1) training on law enforcement policies, practices, and procedures addressing training and instruction to comply with cited accreditation standards; (2) policies, procedures, and practices for recruitment, hiring, retention, and promotion of diverse law enforcement officers; (3) oversight/complaint procedures, including the establishment of civilian review boards or analogous procedures; (4) juvenile justice and school safety, including standards relating to interaction and communication with juveniles, physical contact, use of lethal and nonlethal force, notification of a parent or guardian, interviews and questioning, custodial interrogation, audio and video recording, conditions of custody, alternatives to arrest, referral to child protection agencies, and removal from school grounds or campus; and (5) victim services, including psychological counseling, for individuals and communities impacted by law enforcement misconduct.

Stops and Searches Data Collection.—The Committee provides $5,000,000 for up to five competitive demonstration grants to State and local law enforcement agencies to develop and implement data collection programs on hit rates for stops and searches by law enforcement officers, consistent with subsections (a) and (b) of section 333 of H.R. 7120 as passed by the House of Representatives on June 25, 2020. An additional $500,000 is provided to the Bureau of Justice Statistics to collect and analyze the data submitted to the Department under this program by State and local law enforcement agencies.

STOP School Violence Act.—The recommendation provides $140,000,000 for the STOP School Violence Act grant program. Within this amount, $87,000,000 is provided to the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) for evidence-based school safety programs outlined in the Act and $53,000,000 is provided to the Community Oriented Policing Service (COPS) program. The Committee directs the offices to work with other federal agencies to notify states, localities, tribes, and school districts of funding availability upon release, increase training and technical assistance for school district applicants, and provide microgrants for school districts, including rural, tribal, and low-resourced schools.

Through the STOP School Violence Act program, school districts should use funds for security hardening measures; evidence-based school threat assessments and trainings for school personnel and students to identify threats of school violence; locks, lighting, ballistic glass and other deterrent measures; safety and security of school premises by utilizing design elements and principles; and technology for expedited notification of local law enforcement during an emergency and other measures determined to provide significant improvement in physical security of schools.

The Committee recognizes the vital role of school design in the development and achievement of evidence-based strategies and programs related to school facility safety and security. Through the STOP School Violence Act grant program, school districts should consider using funds to compose school building design plans that strengthen the safety and security of school premises and uphold

the aesthetics of the school premises as a learning and teaching environment. The Committee clarifies that architecture and design services related to safe school design are allowable uses of STOP School Violence Act grant funding.

Office for Victims of Crime (OVC).—The Crime Victims Fund is not financed by taxpayer dollars but by fines and penalties paid by criminals. By statute, the Fund is dedicated solely to supporting victim services. The Committee recognizes the importance of these grants and the essential life-saving services provided to victims within State, local and tribal jurisdictions including domestic violence shelters, rape crisis centers, and child abuse treatment programs. The Committee encourages the Department to continue to fund these programs. The Committee directs OVC to provide an updated report to the Committee, not later than 90 days after the enactment of this Act, on the actions it is taking to ensure Crime Victims Fund resources are reaching communities most affected by violence.

The Committee notes that funding from the Crime Victims Fund, under 34 U.S.C. 20103, may be used by the Department to fund the salaries of personnel who provide services to victims of crime, to the extent that such personnel provide such services. The Committee encourages the Department to offer such support.

National Hotlines.—The Committee directs OJP to prioritize funding to support the operation of national crisis support hotlines that provide direct services to victims of crime including, but not limited to, victims of domestic violence, sexual violence, and identity theft. This funding is intended to support growth of existing services and should not be contingent on the creation of new technologies.

Child Sexual Abuse.—The Committee recognizes that child sexual abuse was already rampant before the COVID–19 pandemic; since the onset of the public health emergency, however, the risk of abuse in the home and online is increasing significantly. Therefore, the Committee supports a comprehensive approach to addressing child sexual abuse that combines victim-centered trauma-informed intervention care for children and child sexual abuse prevention education programs that provide tools for children, families and communities to combat and prevent child sexual abuse, with research into the prevalence and impact of child sex abuse, including its impact in communities of color. The Committee also encourages the Department to prioritize child-focused grant programs that serve children and youth who have experienced complex trauma from child sexual abuse.

Violence Intervention Programs.—Within funds provided, the Committee encourages the Department to support the establishment of innovative demonstration grants to hospitals to address the cyclical nature of violence in the community, consistent with the Office's Vision 21 transformation of victim's services.

Opioids.—The Committee directs the Department, unless otherwise specified, to dedicate no less than the fiscal year 2020 levels of opioid-related funding for opioid activities in non-Opioid Initiative programs.

Persistent Poverty.—The Committee is concerned about access to DOJ grant funding in high-poverty areas and persistent-poverty counties. For purposes of this Act, the term "high-poverty area"

means any census tract with a poverty rate of at least 20 percent as measured by the 2014–2018 5-year data series available from the American Community Survey of the Census Bureau and the term "persistent-poverty counties'" means any county that has had 20 percent or more of its population living in poverty over the past 30 years, as measured by the 1990 and 2000 decennial censuses and the most recent Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates. When scoring competitive grant applications, the Department is directed to add additional priority, where practicable, to applications from grantees who can demonstrate that the individuals who will benefit from such grants reside in high-poverty areas or persistent-poverty counties. In addition, the Department shall provide guidance to such prospective grantees, especially prior to their application submissions, including to help determine whether they qualify for additional priority.

In addition, the Committee directs the Department to submit a report to the Committee on the percentage of funds allocated by each program in fiscal years 2018, 2019, and 2020 and estimates for fiscal year 2021 to serve populations living in persistent poverty counties and high-poverty areas. The Department is directed to report this information to the Committee within 90 days of such data being available. The Committee looks forward to the briefing directed in House Report 116–101 and further directs the Department to provide a briefing to the Committee not later than 180 days after enactment of this Act on how the Department is carrying out this directive.

OFFICE ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN PREVENTION AND PROSECUTION PROGRAMS

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

The Committee recommends $525,000,000 for the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW), which is $22,500,000 above fiscal year 2020. Funds are to be distributed as follows:

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN PREVENTION AND PROSECUTION PROGRAMS

(In thousands of dollars)

Program	Amount
STOP Grants	$223,000
Transitional Housing Assistance	39,000
Research and Evaluation on Violence Against Women	3,500
Consolidated Youth-Oriented Program	12,000
Grants to Encourage Arrest Policies	53,000
Homicide Reduction Initiative	(4,000)
Sexual Assault Victims Services	42,500
Rural Domestic Violence and Child Abuse Enforcement	45,000
Violence on College Campuses	21,000
Civil Legal Assistance	47,500
Elder Abuse Grant Program	6,000
Family Civil Justice	17,500
Education and Training for Disabled Female Victims	6,000
National Resource Center on Workplace Responses	1,000
Research on Violence Against Indian Women	1,000
Indian Country—Sexual Assault Clearinghouse	500
Tribal Special Domestic Violence Criminal Jurisdiction	4,300

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN PREVENTION AND PROSECUTION PROGRAMS—Continued

(In thousands of dollars)

Program	Amount
Rape Survivor Child Custody Act	2,200
Total, Violence Against Women Prevention and Prosecution Programs	$525,000

Human trafficking.—The Committee encourages OVW to ensure that the Transitional Housing Program can assist victims of human trafficking, and the Committee urges DOJ to take these victims into consideration when distributing OVW funds.

Rural victims.—The Committee is concerned about the rise in the number of sexual assaults in rural communities. Victims of sexual assault living in rural communities are often reluctant to report to law enforcement for fear of being exposed. The Committee encourages the OVW to implement projects that reduce barriers to the reporting of crime in rural areas, colonias, and persistent poverty counties and report to the Committee not later than 90 days after enactment of this Act. Such report shall include a description of the progress made since delivery of the report on the same topic as required in House Report 116–101.

Grant administration.—The Committee supports OVW plans to streamline grant administration, management, and oversight functions by converting manual processes and related forms to a web-based, online workflow process.

Community-Based Organizations.—The Committee is concerned about the complex, multi-layered challenges and obstacles that victims face when attempting to access services. The Committee directs OVW to prioritize applications from grantees who are community-based organizations providing culturally specific services. The Committee further directs the Department to submit a report to the Committee on the number of community-based organizations allocated funds in fiscal years 2018, 2019, and 2020 and estimates for fiscal year 2021. The Department shall report this information to the Committee within 90 days after enactment of this Act.

OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS

RESEARCH, EVALUATION AND STATISTICS

The Committee recommends $88,500,000 for Research, Evaluation and Statistics, which is $9,500,000 above fiscal year 2020 and $2,000,000 above the request. Funds are distributed as follows:

RESEARCH, EVALUATION AND STATISTICS

(In thousands of dollars)

Program	Amount
Bureau of Justice Statistics	$45,000
National Institute of Justice	43,500
Domestic Radicalization Research	(6,000)
Research of School Safety	(1,500)
National Study of Law Enforcement Responses to Sex Trafficking of Minors	(1,500)
Nation Center on Forensics	(3,000)
Total, Research, Evaluation and Statistics	$88,500

Study of Best Practices in De-Escalation and Excessive Force.—The Committee directs the National Institute of Justice to conduct a study to identify evidence-based procedures, practices, trainings, and policies that reduce the use of excessive force by law enforcement as well as support the effective use of de-escalation training to resolve confrontations peacefully. The Committee directs the Department to submit the findings of its report to Congress and to the public within 180 days of enactment of this Act.

Law Enforcement Study Addressing Delayed Responses to Questions.—As part of the Committee's concerns about the accountability of law enforcement, the Committee directs the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) to conduct a nationwide study of the prevalence and effect of any law, rule, or procedure that allows a law enforcement officer to delay the response to questions posed by a local internal affairs officer, or review board on the investigative integrity and prosecution of law enforcement misconduct, including pre-interview warnings and termination policies, consistent with requirements as described in section 115 of H.R. 7120 as passed by the House of Representatives on June 25, 2020. Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Department shall: (1) submit to the Committee a report containing the results of the initial analysis conducted under subsection (a)(2) of such section 115; (2) make the report submitted under subparagraph (A) available to the public; and (3) identify the jurisdictions for which the study described in subsection (a)(1) of such section 115 is to be conducted. In addition, not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Department shall submit to the Committee a report containing the results of the data collected under this section and publish the report in the Federal Register.

Evaluation of Data on Stops and Searches.—Within the funds provided in this account, $500,000 is included for analysis and evaluation of the data collected under the program, funded in this bill under Byrne JAG, for competitive demonstration grants to State and local law enforcement agencies to develop and implement data collection programs on hit rates for stops and searches by law enforcement officers, consistent with section 333 of H.R. 7120 as passed by the House of Representatives on June 25, 2020.

Community Policing Practices, and Accountability Measures Between Agencies.—The Committee recognizes the importance of accountability measures inbuilding and maintaining relationships between law enforcement and the communities they serve. The Committee directs the Department to study and report on the differences in use-of-force, distribution of consent decrees, community policing practices, and accountability measures between agencies that have appointed heads and agencies that have elected heads.

Reducing Racial and Ethnic Disparities in the Criminal Justice System.—Within the funding provided for Research, Evaluation and Statistics, $1,000,000 is for DOJ to enter into an agreement with the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine to provide an evidence-based, nonpartisan analysis of existing evidence to determine how observed racial and ethnic inequalities in the justice system might be reduced through public policy. The study should be informed by an understanding of the patterns, interrelationships among, causes and consequences of the race and ethnic distribution of crime and justice, and perceptions of criminal

justice in the United States. The study should identify which policies or approaches for reducing racial differences in crime and justice have suggestive evidence of effectiveness or appear promising but require further study, as well as which areas of research and policy should scholars and practitioners explore to broaden the nation's options to address racial and ethnic inequalities in the justice system.

Pretrial detention.—The Committee directs the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) to collect information analyzing the population of individuals detained pretrial in local jails, State and Federal facilities, and private facilities under contract to Federal, State, and local authorities and report back to the Committee annually with the first report due not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act. The report should include the number of individuals detained pretrial; the median duration of the pretrial detention period; the number of individuals detained pretrial who were offered financial release or not offered financial release; and the number of individuals who were offered financial release but remained detained because they could not pay the amount required. All data should be disaggregated by demographic and the level of the offense charged.

Misdemeanors.—The Committee is concerned with the lack of reliable data from States and local jurisdictions on the processing of misdemeanor arrests. As the largest aspect of our criminal system, it is vitally important to ensure justice is being administered in a fair and equitable manner. In recognition of limited resources, the Committee therefore urges the BJS to collect demographic data from a select number of large metropolitan jurisdictions that includes information on the race, ethnicity, and gender, as well as key socioeconomic factors, of each misdemeanor defendant, the type of offense charged, and the sentence imposed. The Committee also urges the Bureau to report to the Committee on the progress of these efforts, not later than 180 days after enactment of this Act.

Human Trafficking Research.—The Committee acknowledges the difficulty in estimating the prevalence of human trafficking, and the corresponding difficulty in gauging the effectiveness of the criminal justice system's response to the problem. Research can play an invaluable role in understanding prevalence and effectiveness through improved data collection and analysis. The Committee encourages the NIJ to continue funding research into human trafficking.

BJS Data.—The Committee recognizes the importance of the timely release of data on crime, criminal offenders, victims of crime, and the operation of justice systems at all levels of government. These data are critical for policymakers and researchers to understand in combating crime and advancing equality in the justice system. The Committee directs the Bureau of Justice Statistics to release data in a timely manner and in accordance with its publication calendar. The Committee also directs that BJS communicate any changes in the timing of data releases as soon as possible to users of its data. The Committee further directs that BJS report to the Committee, not later than 60 days of the date of enactment of this Act, on its recent record of data releases and reasons for any delays.

Incarcerated AAPI Data.—The Committee is concerned that the Bureau of Justice Statistics data collection and reporting does not sufficiently reflect the incarcerated Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) population. AAPIs are officially categorized as "others"' in the Bureau's publicly available reports. The Committee directs BJS to update its categories of race and ethnicity for data collection and recommends the use of OMB Standards for Collecting and Presenting Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity.

Prison Suicide Incidence Report.—Not later than 180 days after the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Department shall submit to the Committee a report detailing a comprehensive statistical review and analysis of the incidence of prison suicide. The statistical review and analysis should include, but not be limited to, the identification of the common characteristics of victims of prison suicide and prisons and prison systems with a high incidence of prison suicide. BJS is also directed to included recommendations for possible mitigation report strategies and changes to federal laws and regulations shall also be included.

Maternal Health of Incarcerated Women.—The Bureau of Justice Statistics shall include in the National Prisoner Statistics Program and Annual Survey of Jails statistics relating to the health needs of incarcerated pregnant women in the criminal justice system, including, but not limited to, the number of pregnant women in custody, outcomes of pregnancies, the provision of pregnancy care and services, health status of pregnant women, and racial and ethnic disparities in maternal health, at the Federal, State, tribal, and local levels. The Committee directs BJS to provide a publicly-accessible report, not later than 180 days after enactment of this Act, which summarizes this data.

White Supremacist Domestic Radicalization Research.—The Committee acknowledges the growing recognition that white nationalists spent decades building online communities with people and groups overseas to develop sophisticated operations and receive material support from their foreign allies. In addition, these groups are infiltrating local and state law enforcement agencies, including seeking to recruit members from within them, and pose a deep and continuing threat to our country's national security by disrupting ongoing investigations of white extremist organizations and routinely harassing Black, Latino, and other minority communities. To respond to this elevated threat, the Committee provides an increase of $1,000,000 over Fiscal Year 2020 funding for Domestic Radicalization Research and directs NIJ to prioritize this increase toward research efforts that explore the radicalization of Americans to white nationalist extremism and identify and advance evidence-based strategies for effective intervention and prevention.

The Department is encouraged to use funds for academic institutions to conduct radicalization research to enable community-based partnerships to evaluate the impact of existing countering violent extremism (CVE) programs and to conduct more research on: (1) the risk factors associated with violent extremism, and (2) assessing the effectiveness of counter-narratives.

National Center on Forensics.—The Committee supports the National Center on Forensics, through which NIJ partners with a State department of forensic science, an accredited university, and a State district attorneys association for the purpose of providing

opportunities for medical students to train as deputy medical examiners/coroners in underserved rural areas; provides forensic science and legal training to district attorneys, judges, and law enforcement; and benefits current and future practitioners in the field.

Cybercrime.—The Committee remains concerned about the lack of information on crimes committed against individuals and facilitated by the interstate telecommunications system and notes that the fiscal year 2019 Appropriations Act required NIJ to issue a report analyzing these crimes. The Committee is looking forward to reviewing the report, directed in House Report 116–101, to ensure the Committee has the information necessary to assess and deal with these crimes.

Marijuana-Impaired Drivers.—With the proliferation of state laws legalizing recreational and medical marijuana, the incidence rate of impaired driving has spiked. The Committee encourages the Department to assist states in identifying detection technologies that show promise in identifying drivers impaired by marijuana.

Opioid research.—The Committee recognizes that in-depth examination of fatal opioid overdoses, including fatalities following prior non-fatal overdoses, and trends in the evolution, trafficking, and use of illegally manufactured opioid analogues, in combination with existing illegal drugs, can yield valuable information for law enforcement, hospitals, treatment providers, and prosecutors as they identify effective policy, interventions, and prevention strategies. The Committee urges NIJ to support regional efforts to undertake such comprehensive opioid fatality research.

STATE AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

The Committee recommends $2,402,000,000 for State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance programs, which is $510,200,000 above fiscal year 2020 and $890,800,000 above the request. Funds are distributed as follows:

STATE AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE

(In thousands of dollars)

Program	Amount
Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grants	$525,000
Officer Robert Wilson III VALOR Initiative	(12,500)
Smart Policing	(7,500)
Smart Prosecution	(8,500)
NamUS	(2,400)
Training Program to improve Responses to People with Mental Illness	(3,000)
John R. Justice Grant Program	(3,000)
Prison Rape Prevention and Prosecution	(15,500)
Kevin and Avonte's Law	(3,000)
Regional Law Enforcement Technology Initiative	(3,000)
Project Safe Neighborhoods	(20,000)
Drug Field Testing and Training Initiative	(2,000)
Capital Litigation Improvement and Wrongful Conviction Review	(6,500)
Managed Access Systems	(3,000)
Collaborative Mental Health and Anti-Recidivism Initiative	(1,500)
Juvenile Indigent Defense	(3,000)
Community Based Violence Prevention	(9,000)
National Center for Restorative Justice	(3,500)
Family Friendly Visitation Spaces in Correctional Facilities	(2,000)

STATE AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE—Continued

(In thousands of dollars)

Program	Amount
Public Safety Innovation Grants	(5,000)
Law Enforcement Training	(50,000)
Grants to Improve Reporting on Use of Force	(15,000)
Hit Rates Data Collection Demonstration Grants	(5,000)
Police Reform in Jurisdictions Responding to Litigation	(7,200)
State Criminal Alien Assistance Program	251,500
Victims of Trafficking Grants	95,000
Economic, High-tech, White Collar and Cybercrime Prevention	14,500
Intellectual Property Enforcement Program	(2,500)
Digital Investigation Education Program	(2,000)
Adam Walsh Act Implementation	20,500
Patrick Leahy Bulletproof Vests Partnerships	29,000
Transfer to NIST/OLES	(1,500)
National Sex Offender Public Website	1,000
National Instant Criminal Background Check Systems (NICS) Initiative	88,000
NICS Acts Record Improvement Program	(25,000)
Paul Coverdell Forensic Science	30,500
DNA Initiative	142,000
Debbie Smith DNA Backlog Grants	(108,000)
State and Local Forensic Activities:	(19,000)
Kirk Bloodsworth Post-Conviction DNA Testing Grants	(9,000)
Sexual Assault Forensic Exam Program Grants	(6,000)
Community Teams to Reduce the Sexual Assault Kit (SAK) Backlog	49,000
CASA—Special Advocates	12,500
Indian Tribal Assistance	39,500
Second Chance Act/Reoffender Reentry	100,000
Smart Probation	(6,000)
Children of Incarcerated Parents Demo Grants	(5,000)
Pay for Success	(7,500)
Pay for Success (Permanent Supportive Housing Model)	(5,000)
Project HOPE Opportunity Probation with Enforcement	(4,500)
Community Trust Initiative	77,500
Body Worn Camera Partnership Program	(27,500)
Justice Reinvestment Initiative	(30,000)
Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation Program	(20,000)
Opioid Initiative	412,000
Drug Courts	(85,000)
Mentally Ill Offender Act	(43,000)
Residential Substance Abuse Treatment	(35,000)
Veterans Treatment Courts	(30,000)
Prescription Drug Monitoring	(31,000)
Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Abuse Program	(188,000)
Keep Young Athletes Safe Act of 2018	2,500
STOP School Violence Act	87,000
Immigration Representation Pilot	15,000
Hate Crimes Prevention Act Grants	8,000
Emmett Till Grants	2,000
Pattern and Practice Investigations	100,000
Independent Investigation of Law Enforcement	250,000
Community-Based Improvement of Law Enforcement	25,000
Pilot Programs to Improve Management and Address Police Misconduct	25,000
Total, State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance	$2,402,000

Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (Byrne JAG) program.—The recommendation includes $525,000,000 for the Byrne JAG program Funding under this formula program is authorized for law enforcement programs including those that promote data interoperability between disparate law enforcement entities; prosecution and court programs; prevention and education programs; corrections programs; drug treatment and enforcement programs;

planning, evaluation, and technology improvement programs; and crime victim and witness programs, other than compensation. Within the amount provided, $12,500,000 is for the Officer Robert Wilson III Preventing Violence Against Law Enforcement and Ensuring Officer Resilience and Survivability (VALOR) Initiative; $7,500,000 is for Smart Policing; $8,500,000 is for Smart Prosecution; $3,000,000 is for juvenile indigent defense; $2,400,000 is for the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUS); $3,000,000 is for law enforcement training related to mental illness; $3,000,000 is for the John R. Justice program; $20,000,000 is for Project Safe Neighborhoods; $6,500,000 is for capital litigation and wrongful conviction review; $15,500,000 is for prison rape prevention and prosecution; $3,000,000 is for managed access systems; $1,500,000 is for a collaborative mental health and anti-recidivism initiative; $3,000,000 is for Kevin and Avonte's Law; $3,000,000 is for a regional law enforcement technology initiative; $2,000,000 is for a drug field testing and training initiative; $9,000,000 is for community-based violence prevention; $3,500,000 is for the National Center for Restorative Justice; $2,000,000 is for family friendly visitation spaces in correctional facilities; $50,000,000 is for police training addressing use of force, de-escalation, racial profiling, implicit bias, procedural justice, and duty to intervene; $5,000,000 is for Public Safety Innovation Grants; $15,000,000 is for technical assistance grants to law enforcement agencies, consistent with the requirements as described in section 224 of H.R. 7120 as passed by the House of Representatives on June 25, 2020; $5,000,000 is for competitive grants or contracts to law enforcement agencies, consistent with the requirements as described in subsections (a) and (b) of section 333 of H.R. 7120 as passed by the House of Representatives on June 25, 2020; and $7,200,000 is for grants to support State and local law enforcement agencies in complying with law enforcement reform efforts as a result of litigation.

Uses of Byrne JAG.—The committee understands that Byrne JAG funding is a major resource to state and local jurisdictions. Use of this funding is broad and flexible to address community needs and fill gaps within state and local criminal justice systems such as strategic planning, research, testing, training, equipment, technical assistance, prevention programs, innovation programs and community partnerships. The Committee is aware that Communities across our nation have called for reforms in state and local law enforcement agencies. To support these much-needed reform efforts, the Committee directs the Department to work with small jurisdictions that employ less than 100 officers as they apply for training and accreditation grants. In addition, the Committee expects the Department to prioritize Byrne JAG formula grants for applicants requesting law enforcement training focused on addressing use of force, racial profiling, implicit bias, procedural justice, and duty to intervene as detailed above, accreditation of law enforcement agencies, development of uniform standards, community-based efforts that can help develop innovative law enforcement and non-law enforcement strategies, and crisis intervention teams. The Committee supports the use of Byrne JAG funding for grantees seeking to provide immersive, reality-based training programs that utilize role-playing and live-action scenarios for law enforcement officers.

The Committee urges the Department to work with community-based organizations to identify and develop opportunities to train law enforcement officers with respect to encounters with individuals suffering from impaired mental health, homelessness, and addiction; to identify areas where social workers may be able to support law enforcement agencies; and to provide guidance regarding the development and implementation of co-responder programs, which involve social workers or other mental health professionals working alongside law enforcement officers so that they arrive and address situations together.

Public Safety Innovation Grants.—The Committee provides $5,000,000 within the Byrne JAG program for the development of best practices for, and the creation of, local task forces on public safety innovation. Such task forces shall be administrative entities, created from partnerships between community-based organizations and other local stakeholders, to explore and develop innovative law enforcement and non-law enforcement strategies to enhance just and equitable public safety, repair breaches of trust between law enforcement agencies and the communities they pledge to serve, and enhance accountability of law enforcement officers.

Consent Decrees and Other Litigation Related to Police Practices.—The Committee is aware of the Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division's investigations into law enforcement agencies and the resulting consent decrees. The Committee is also aware of the benefits received by the local communities and their citizens after a consent decree has been successfully enforced and the required reforms implemented. As tensions between certain communities and police departments have grown in recent years, the Committee seeks to ensure that consent decrees and other litigation-related efforts aimed at improving policing can be implemented successfully and as such, the Committee strongly encourages the Department of Justice to prioritize awards to such localities. These reform efforts have become increasingly common, and many experts say they are one of the best chances police departments have for taking on the daunting task of reform to address police misconduct and improve relations with a distrustful community. In order to ensure that all reforms can be implemented, cities need funding to support the kinds of training required and to buy needed equipment. The Committee recommends $7,200,000 for the establishment of a new grant program to provide funding to police departments for police training, equipment, and other necessities to help comply with law enforcement reform efforts as a result of litigation, including consent decrees, out-of-court settlements, memoranda of understanding, findings, technical assistance, and recommendation letters provided by reform authorities. Funding would cover the resource gap needed to fully implement such reform efforts and enable local governments to share the cost of implementing the decree with the Federal Government.

The Committee encourages the Byrne JAG program to provide additional resources to those communities that are taking part in programs that seek to lower homicide rates through data and performance measurement analysis. The Committee advises that some Byrne JAG funds be directed to provide newer, more efficient forensics testing tools for rural jurisdictions. The Committee requests additional consideration be given to applicants who seek to

hire service-connected disabled veterans. The Committee encourages the Department to support the use of these grant funds for the purchase of fentanyl detection equipment.

The Committee is concerned about the growing epidemic of prescription drug and heroin abuse and its impact on law enforcement, and notes that funds within this account may be used for the implementation of medication-assisted treatment to help maintain abstinence from all opioids and heroin.

Byrne Justice Assistance Grants have an important role to play in preventing gun violence. The Committee encourages the use of Byrne JAG program funding for evidence-based violence prevention and intervention programs, including, but not limited to, intervention focused deterrence, street outreach, hospital-based violence intervention programs, and community inclusive violence problem analyses. The Committee believes these types of programs will help ensure efficient and effective spending of Federal, state, and local dollars.

The Committee encourages the use of Byrne JAG program funding to provide additional resources to those states that are implementing criminal record clearing processes, including sealing and expungement. These initiatives are intended to help address collateral consequences of a criminal record, such as barriers to both employment and housing. The Committee notes that successful reentry for individuals with a criminal history is predicated on the ability to participate in society, such as maintaining employment and securing quality housing.

The Committee supports the use of grant funding for the acquisition of operational management software to track mission critical assets. Tracking and managing resources—including radio communications equipment, mobile technology, and protective equipment—enables and improves local law enforcement preparedness and operational planning. The Committee notes that Byrne JAG funds may be used for these purposes and encourages the Department to award funds for these purposes. The Committee is aware of existing community partnerships with local law enforcement to link video monitoring technology to reduce emergency response time and increase collaboration between community partners and law enforcement. The Committee notes that Byrne JAG funds may be used for these purposes and encourages the Department to award funds for these purposes. The Committee is aware of the value to law enforcement of gunfire detection and location technology and recommends Byrne JAG funds be awarded for this purpose.

Visitation of Incarcerated Parents.—The Committee recognizes that preserving positive family connections can yield positive societal benefits in the form of reduced recidivism, less intergenerational criminal justice system involvement, and promotion of healthy child development. The Committee recognizes that the environment of prisons can be intimidating and detrimental to child development. Therefore, the Committee provides $2,000,000 within Byrne JAG for the Department to provide grants to States and localities for construction, renovation, or upgrades of child-friendly family visitation spaces in correctional facilities. Any construction or buildout space should take into consideration the best interests of child visitors. The Department should consult with the Bureau

of Prisons to ensure the facilities meet the criteria for best practices.

Sentencing Alternatives Programs for Parents.—The Committee recognizes that incarcerating parents creates poor outcomes for children, wherein the lack of parental support and supervision have proven to result in increased crime and harm to communities, particularly in the communities of color most affected by mass incarceration. Therefore, the Committee urges OJP to promote opportunities to support and strengthen parenting sentencing alternative programs.

Byrne Justice Assistance Grant Funding for Police Patrols of At-Risk Non-Profits.—The Committee directs the department to prioritize grants for state and local law enforcement requesting to increase patrols and deployments that bolster the security of at-risk nonprofit organizations including synagogues, churches, mosques, and other places of worship.

High Risk Vehicle Events.—The Committee notes that Byrne JAG funding can be used for pursuit technology and training to reduce deaths and injuries during high-risk vehicle events. The Committee encourages the BJS to develop a data collection process to accurately capture the number of deaths and injuries from police pursuit and high-risk vehicle events.

STOP School Violence Act.—The recommendation provides $140,000,000 for the STOP School Violence Act grant program. Within this amount, $87,000,000 is provided to the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) for evidence-based school safety programs outlined in the Act and $53,000,000 is provided to the Community Oriented Policing Service (COPS) program.

Hate Crime Grants.—The Committee is concerned by the rise in hate crimes across the country, particularly the rise in crimes targeting the Latino and LGBTQ communities, the persistence and prominence of anti-Black attacks, and anti-Semitic attacks. The Committee also understands that individuals or communities may be targeted based on race, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, or gender, according to the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Uniform Crime Reporting Program. The enactment of the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act (Public Law 111–84) provided the Federal Government with more tools and data to help states address and combat these bias-motivated attacks. The recommendation provides no less than $8,000,000 for grant opportunities authorized in section 4704 of Public Law 111–84 to help states, localities, and tribal law enforcement agencies to conduct educational outreach and training on hate crimes and to investigate and prosecute hate crimes.

Emmett Till unsolved civil rights grants.—The recommendation includes $2,000,000 in grants to state and local law enforcement agencies for the expenses associated with the investigation and prosecution of criminal offenses involving civil rights, as authorized by the Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crimes Reauthorization Act of 2016 (Public Law 114–325).

Immigration Representation Pilot.—The recommendation includes $15,000,000 for the OJP to establish a competitive grant pilot program for legal representation of immigrants who seek asylum and other forms of legal protection in the United States after entering at the southwest border. The Committee recognizes the

compelling need to ensure due process for the growing number of immigrants who seek asylum and who must navigate a complex legal system for processing of asylum claims. Legal representation, which many asylum seekers do not currently have, will ensure that the system works more efficiently, cases are processed more quickly, and the legitimacy of asylum claims are correctly determined. Grants, including subgrants, shall be made to nonprofit organizations that are qualified legal services providers. The Committee expects that the pilot program will support direct representation, including pro bono representation where possible, of immigrants currently detained by ICE at one or two small or medium-sized detention facilities, immigrants released into the local communities around those facilities, and immigrants released from those facilities to one or two high-release cities. Grant awards should take into consideration continuity of representation to help ensure individuals are represented until their cases are complete. Within 90 days of enactment of this Act, the OJP shall submit a report to the Committee on the implementation of this program.

Officer Robert Wilson III Preventing Violence Against Law Enforcement and Ensuring Officer Resilience and Survivability Program (VALOR).—Within the amount provided for the Byrne JAG program, $12,500,000 is set aside for VALOR, of which no less than the fiscal year 2020 enacted level shall be obligated for active shooter training. The Committee recognizes that the VALOR initiative addresses increased violence directed at our law enforcement officers and prepares officers to anticipate and survive violent encounters.

Victims of trafficking grants.—The recommendation includes increased funding for human trafficking task force activities and for services for victims. These funds may also be used to develop, expand, and strengthen assistance programs for child victims of sex and labor trafficking. The Committee notes that the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act established a Domestic Trafficking Victims Fund, which will provide additional resources for these programs. The Committee directs DOJ to support the victim-centered approach to recognizing and responding to human trafficking, especially across partnerships between Federal and local law enforcement agencies and victim service providers. The Department shall include a planned allocation of these funds in its spending plan. The Committee encourages the Department to increase the number of human trafficking task forces funded by this program.

Internet Safety Grants.—The Committee is concerned that existing Federal laws to prevent the Internet-enabled exploitation of children have not been adequately enforced, leading to increased harm to minors from obscenity, child pornography, predation, sex trafficking, and cyberbullying. The Committee encourages the Department to award grants under the Economic, High-tech, White Collar and Cybercrime Prevention grant program for internet safety programs to educate adults and parents about the dangers children face on the internet.

Restricting Online Obscenity.—The Committee is concerned that the expansion of unrestricted Wi-Fi in Government, Educational, and Commercial facilities is creating unsafe public environments due to the freely available access to online obscenity. The Committee encourages the Department to award Economic, High-tech,

White Collar and Cybercrime Prevention grants for programs that encourage greater corporate, government, and institutional responsibility for safer, more secure public Wi-Fi networks using readily available technology solutions to filter illegal child abuse images and obscene content.

Opioid abuse.—The recommendation includes $412,000,000 for programs to reduce opioid abuse, as authorized by the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act of 2016 (CARA; Public Law 114–198). Within this amount is $85,000,000 for drug courts; $43,000,000 for the Mentally Ill Offender Act; $35,000,000 for Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT), $30,000,000 is for veterans treatment courts; $31,000,000 for prescription drug monitoring; $188,000,000 for the Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Program (COAP); and no less than amounts provided in fiscal year 2020 for additional replication sites employing the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) model, with applicants demonstrating a plan for sustainability of LEAD-model diversion programs, prioritizing sites with geographic barriers.

The Committee believes that communities must address opioid abuse through comprehensive strategies that incorporate enhanced enforcement, education and treatment. The Committee directs OJP to work with the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Department of Health and Human Services, and the NIJ to develop, and help communities implement, best practices to address opioid abuse.

The Committee encourages OJP to develop and apply metrics that incentivize stronger linkages between the responsible agencies, including but not limited to law enforcement, prosecutors, community-based treatment centers, hospitals, medical examiners, and public health departments. The Committee also encourages OJP to prioritize comprehensive, real-time, regional information collection, analysis, and dissemination.

The Committee supports the use of COAP funding to provide law enforcement with overdose reversal drugs, such as naloxone.

The Committee believes it is essential to any comprehensive opioid prevention strategy to include a vigorous program designed to strengthen the ability of States and tribes to develop identifiable and accessible take-back programs for unused controlled substances found in the home and used by hospitals and long-term care facilities.

The Committee encourages the Department to administer drug court grants with maximum flexibility in order to best accommodate the needs and available resources of eligible jurisdictions, including rural jurisdictions.

The Committee is aware that there can be a correlation between those suffering from mental health disturbances and repeat criminal offenders. Therefore, the Committee recommends that funds allocated to the Mentally Ill Offender Act should prioritize the operational expenses for centers that aid those with severe mental health needs who are at risk of recidivism. These mental health centers can provide, but are not limited to, the following services: crisis care, residential treatment, outpatient mental health and primary care services, and community re-entry supports. The Committee recommends that funding levels for grants be commensurate with demonstrated community needs.

The Committee is concerned by the high rates of re-incarceration among individuals with serious mental illness due to the inadequate management of their illness and encourages the Department to include long-acting injectable anti-psychotic medications as an allowable expense to improve treatment adherence and reduce risk for relapse and re-incarceration.

Strategic Mobile and Response Teams (SMART).—The Committee encourages DOJ to investigate the opportunity to conduct pilot programs to implement SMART at the Southwest Border. Border SMART Pilot programs should combine the use of officers and technology, including ground sensors and drones. The pilot programs should have inter-agency partnership and multi-layered security efforts, including marine, air, and terrestrial components, with the goal of increasing border security while reducing cost. The Committee reiterates its interest in receiving the briefing as directed in House Report 115–704, and the fiscal year 2020 Explanatory Statement, not later than 60 days after enactment of this Act.

Sexual assault kit backlog grants.—The recommendation includes $49,000,000 for grants to address the sexual assault kit (SAK) backlog. The Committee understands that efforts to test the backlog of sexual assault kits in numerous jurisdictions have led to the identification of thousands of perpetrators and new and significant insights on the behavior of serial predators that will be useful in future investigation and prevention activities. The Committee believes it is extremely important that the Department maximize the results of investments in sexual assault kit testing through continued research to identify best practices for state, local, and tribal jurisdictions in handling the myriad issues that arise from perpetrator identification—such as victim notification, investigation, prosecution, documentation, forensic advancements, inter-jurisdiction sharing, and tracking. The Committee further believes it is critically important to fund efforts to support cross-jurisdiction and cross-site data sharing to identify and pursue repeat offenders operating in multiple jurisdictions. Finally, the Committee believes that further work to validate the extensive cost savings that result from the prevention of future offenses as a result of SAK testing is needed. The Committee directs the Department to support efforts that advance these objectives.

Sex Offender Tracking.—The Committee understands that sex offender management assistance grants can be used to purchase sex offender tracking software, provided that the purchase directly contributes to a jurisdiction's overall Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (SORNA) implementation strategy or plan. The Committee encourages the Department to raise awareness of this eligible use and award up to $5,000,000 of the amounts made available for Adam Walsh Act Implementation for grants for this purpose.

DNA Initiative.—The Committee continues its strong support for DNA backlog and crime lab improvements by recommending $142,000,000 to strengthen and improve Federal and State DNA collection and analysis systems that can be used to accelerate the prosecution of the guilty while simultaneously protecting the innocent from wrongful prosecution. Within funds provided, $108,000,000 is for Debbie Smith DNA Backlog Reduction grants, $9,000,000 is for Kirk Bloodsworth Post-Conviction DNA Testing

grants, and $6,000,000 is for Sexual Assault Forensic Exam Program grants. The Committee expects that OJP will make funding for DNA analysis and capacity enhancement a priority in order to meet the purposes of the Debbie Smith DNA Backlog Grant Program. The Committee directs the Department to submit to the Committee, as part of the Department's spending plan for State and Local Law Enforcement Activities, a plan with respect to funds appropriated for DNA-related and forensic programs, including the alignment of appropriated funds with the authorized purposes of the Debbie Smith DNA Backlog Grant Program.

Rapid DNA Initiative.—The Committee recognizes the growing importance of Rapid DNA technology in federal, state, local and tribal law enforcement operations. The Committee supports broad deployment of Rapid DNA technology that meets FBI quality assurance standards to help local, state and federal law enforcement agencies meet their mission requirements, improve the efficacy and efficiency of investigations, and protect and bring justice to the innocent. The Committee acknowledges that deployment of Rapid DNA has been shown to be a critical law enforcement tool for combatting human trafficking, suppressing gang activity, supporting drug interdiction and counter-drug activities, and disrupting transnational criminal organization activities. It has also helped improve disaster response and victim identification. The Committee has repeatedly expressed concern with the nationwide backlog of sexual assault kits and believes that in some jurisdictions the unfortunate and long-standing backlog of sexual assault kits could be addressed with rapid DNA technology. The Committee further believes that Rapid DNA technology should be deployed early in sexual assault investigations to prevent backlogs from forming in the first place. The Committee therefore directs the Department to ensure that recipients of all existing grant programs that help Federal, state, local and tribal agencies build capacity for DNA analysis, address the sexual assault kit backlog, enhance investigative methods, and adopt innovative criminal justice strategies are made aware that Rapid DNA implementation and sustainment are permissible uses of grant funds. The Committee directs the Department to provide a report to the Committee no later than 60 days after enactment of this Act that describes how Rapid DNA technology is being deployed to prevent violence against women, support illicit opioid interdiction, improve criminal investigations, prevent human trafficking, combat transnational criminal activities, and prevent sexual assault kit backlog creation.

Capital Litigation Improvement and Wrongful Conviction Review.—The Committee recognizes the need for legal representation and investigation services for individuals with post-conviction claims of innocence. Given the urgent need to identify and remediate wrongful convictions, the Committee directs that at least 50 percent of the appropriated amount to the Capital Litigation Improvement and Wrongful Conviction Review grant programs shall be used to support Wrongful Conviction Review grantees providing high quality and efficient post-conviction representation for defendants in postconviction claims of innocence. Wrongful Conviction Review grantees shall be nonprofit organizations, institutions of higher education, and/or State or local public defender offices that have inhouse post-conviction representation programs that show demon-

strable experience and competence in litigating post-conviction claims of innocence. Grant funds shall support grantee provision of post-conviction legal representation of innocence claims; case review, evaluation, and management; experts; potentially exonerative forensic testing; and investigation services related to supporting these post-conviction innocence claims.

Grants to Combat Contraband Cell Phones & Communication Devices.—The Committee remains concerned about the rising use of contraband cellular phones and devices in State and local correctional facilities. The Committee encourages the awarding of grants, based on the recommendations of the fiscal year 2016 report submitted to Congress, to deploy Managed Access telecommunications technologies to thwart illegal inmate telecommunications covering all commercial networks through managed access while not interfering with the legitimate use of the spectrum. The technology to be deployed must manage prison cell phone use while simultaneously preserving the rights of law-abiding citizens to enjoy the benefits of the public airwaves without interference.

Second Chance Act/offender reentry programs.—The recommendation includes $100,000,000 for Second Chance Act grants, an increase of $10,000,000 above fiscal year 2020. The Committee is aware that case studies of innovative, evidence-based practices provide strong indication that recidivism patterns can be reversed. The Committee expects that Second Chance Act grants will foster the implementation of strategies that have been proven to reduce recidivism and ensure safe and successful reentry back to their communities of adults released from prisons and jails. The Committee expects DOJ to designate funds for proven, evidenced-based programs that will further the goal of maximizing public safety.

The Committee is aware that university programs are available for inmates to study business and entrepreneurship principles with the goal of providing them with the skills and training necessary to start and operate their own businesses upon release. The Committee encourages DOJ to support, through its Second Chance Act funding, programs that further the goal of reducing recidivism by supplementing state-funded vocational programs in prisons with university-based learning initiatives based on entrepreneurship principles and necessary skills training that can be directed into successful post-incarceration enterprises.

The Committee encourages the Department of Justice (DOJ) to explore programs that reduce offender recidivism and end repeated cycles of violence and abuse by teaching skills for reducing stress, processing past trauma, and providing practical knowledge of how to cope with negative emotions. The Committee further encourages the DOJ to explore rehabilitation methods such as mindfulness and meditation which encourage incarcerated individuals to live to one's highest potential and contribute to society.

Human Trafficking Court Report.—The Committee applauds the successes of drug courts and veteran treatment courts and how they take a holistic approach to treat and hold individuals accountable for their actions. The Committee urges the Department of Justice to evaluate a similar model for victims of human trafficking, especially for women and minors involved in prosecution. The Committee directs the Department to submit a report to the Committee, no later than 180 days after enactment of this Act, out-

lining the possibility of creating a human trafficking court in the model of drug and veterans treatment courts.

Prison Rape Prevention and Prosecution.—Facility audits are a key component in helping agencies move their sexual abuse prevention and response policies from written documents to everyday practices. Congress recently made changes to the audit process to ensure greater oversight of the audit process and improved audits. The Committee supports the Department providing the necessary resources to carry out this work.

Veterans Treatment Courts.—The Committee directs the Department to conduct a national outcome study on veterans treatment courts in order to continue advancing evidence-based practices at the Bureau of Justice Assistance.

Human Trafficking Court Report.—The Committee applauds the successes of drug courts and veterans treatment courts and how they take a holistic approach to treat and hold individuals accountable for their actions. The Committee urges the Department of Justice to evaluate a similar model for victims of human trafficking, especially for women and minors involved in prosecution. The Committee directs the Department to report to the Committee, not later than 180 days after enactment of this Act, outlining the possibility of creating a human trafficking court in the model of drug and veterans courts.

Rural law enforcement.—The Committee is concerned that many rural law enforcement agencies are understaffed and underfunded, and often have no access to local or regional mental health and drug treatment services. In addition, recruiting and retention of qualified officers is difficult, and access to training is often out of reach because small departments do not have the funds to travel or to replace officers in their schedule to accommodate leave for training. While some rural agencies participate in multi-jurisdictional task forces, conducting proactive investigations in small communities is difficult. Therefore, the Committee encourages the Department to develop programs aimed specifically at providing the funding, resources, training, and support that rural law enforcement agencies need to address the consequences of drug abuse, drug-related crime and mental health crises in their communities.

Smart Prosecution.—The Committee notes that throughout much of the United States, local prosecutors' offices carry attorney caseloads well above recommended levels, lack critical support staff, and rely on outdated information technology to manage their caseloads. The Committee is concerned these conditions can negatively impacts victims, criminal defendants, and public safety. The Committee recommendation includes no less than $2,000,000 from amounts provided for a competitive program dedicated to State and local prosecutor office modernization and caseload reduction.

Community trust initiative.—The recommendation includes $77,500,000 for a program to improve police-community relations. Included in this initiative is $20,000,000 for the Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation Program, $30,000,000 for justice reinvestment, and $27,500,000 for a body-worn camera partnership initiative.

Justice Reinvestment Initiative.—As the Committee believes that improving police-community relations will require more than just equipment procurement, the recommendation provides $30,000,000 for the Justice Reinvestment Initiative, which provides assistance

to jurisdictions to implement data-driven strategies to improve public safety by reducing corrections spending and reinvesting those savings in efforts to decrease crime and strengthen neighborhoods. The Committee notes concerns regarding trial delays and bail conditions for incarcerated youth. Of the funds for Justice Reinvestment, $8,000,000 is for innovative efforts among States and localities to reduce trial delays, ensure speedy bond consideration, guarantee that a juvenile's ability to pay is considered in setting any bond amount, provide mental health services for youth who are incarcerated, and reduce the use of solitary confinement on youth.

The Committee believes that comprehensive, career-long, sequential leadership education and development for all local law enforcement officers, from newly sworn officers to those with command level experience, remains critical to reduce crime, control emergent situations, decrease liability and risk, and strengthen relationships between law enforcement agencies and the communities they serve. The Committee directs the Department to develop a multi-year strategy to build local problem-solving capacity with law enforcement via ethical leadership development, which may include an online learning system and pilot projects, that could be matched with funding from Byrne JAG or other programs.

JUVENILE JUSTICE PROGRAMS

The Committee recommends $337,000,000 for Juvenile Justice programs, which is $17,000,000 above fiscal year 2020 and $109,500,000 above the request. Funds are distributed as follows:

JUVENILE JUSTICE PROGRAMS

(In thousands of dollars)

Program	Amount
Part B—State Formula Grants	$65,000
Emergency Planning—Juvenile Detention Facilities	(500)
Youth Mentoring Grants	100,000
Title V—Delinquency Prevention Incentive Grants	44,000
Prevention of Trafficking of Girls	(3,000)
Tribal Youth	(5,000)
Children of Incarcerated Parents Web Portal	(500)
Girls in the Justice System	(2,000)
Opioid Affected Youth Initiative	(10,000)
Children Exposed to Violence	(8,000)
Victims of Child Abuse Programs	28,500
Missing and Exploited Children Programs	94,500
Training for Judicial Personnel	5,000
Total, Juvenile Justice	337,000

Youth mentoring grants.—The recommendation includes $100,000,000 for youth mentoring grants, which is $3,000,000 above fiscal year 2020 and $57,000,000 above the request.

The Committee recognizes the success of the Youth Mentoring program. Through trusted peer-to-peer mentoring relationships, in the community and in schools, Youth Mentoring grantees can provide needed attention and support to at-risk children. Mentoring relationships enhance a child's overall well-being by improving their emotional, social, and educational development.

The Committee directs that OJP provide at least $20,000,000 for mentoring programs that assist at-risk juveniles and their families who have been impacted by the opioid crisis and drug addiction.

Preventing trafficking of girls.—The recommendation includes $3,000,000 for grants for nonprofits and other nongovernmental entities that have undergone rigorous evaluation and have a successful track record of administering research-based prevention and early intervention programs for girls who are vulnerable to trafficking and are most likely to end up in the juvenile justice system. Funds shall be used to scale up and replicate these programs. This expansion will bolster prevention and early intervention strategies and curricula throughout the country, and place vulnerable girls on a path toward success, stability, and long-term contribution to our society. The Committee encourages the Office for Victims of Crime and the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention to examine ways to assist nonprofits and other nongovernmental entities with a proven track record of administering successful prevention and early intervention programs for girls vulnerable to trafficking. The Committee expects these funds to go toward early intervention programs, separate and distinct from law enforcement efforts.

Missing and exploited children programs.—The recommendation includes $94,500,000 for missing and exploited children programs, which is $7,000,000 above fiscal year 2020 and $9,500,000 above the request.

The Committee expects the Department to allocate $40,000,000 for task force grants, training and technical assistance, research and statistics, and administrative costs for the Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) program. The Department is directed to include in its ICAC Task Force grant solicitation a prioritization of proactive investigations of suspects possessing, distributing, or producing violent and sadistic child sexual abuse imagery. The Committee also encourages the Department to encourage ICAC grantees to dedicate increased efforts to proactive investigations, which have demonstrated potential to rescue children.

The Department is encouraged to support the development, refinement, and technological advancement of widely used tools, methods, and technologies that address child sexual exploitation and trafficking.

The Committee recognizes the diverse and unique challenges identified in the report to Congress directed by the Ashlynne Mike AMBER Alert in Indian Country Act (Public Law 115 166) for the integration of State AMBER Alert communications plans and tribal systems. Within the funds provided, the Committee recommends no less than $4,400,000 for the operation and activities of the existing AMBER Alert program. Of the funds provided for AMBER Alert activities, $1,000,000 shall be directed to addressing State/tribal integration consistent with (1) the findings of the both the report directed in Public Law 115–166 and (2) a long-term budget and plan by the Department for implementation across all states with affected tribal communities. The Committee directs the Department to submit to the Committee a long-term budget and plan for implementation across all States with affected tribal communities, not later than 90 days after enactment of this Act.

PROTECT Our Children Act.—The Department is directed to comply with the PROTECT Our Children Act (Public Law 110–401) and submit to the Committee a National Strategy for Child Exploitation Prevention and Interdiction as well as designate a Senior Executive Service (SES) level official at the Department of Justice to be responsible for coordinating the development of this National Strategy.

Four Core Requirements of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.—The Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDPA) is based on the consensus that youth involved with the juvenile and criminal courts should be guarded by federal standards for care and custody, while also upholding the interests of community safety and the prevention of victimization. The Act authorizes an annual formula grant allocation to those states that provide an acceptable plan to comply with four core requirements. The four requirements provide that: (1) States must keep status offenders out of secure detention or correctional facilities; (2) States cannot detain or confine juveniles in facilities in which they would have sight or sound contact with adult inmates; (3) Juveniles cannot be detained or confined in any jail or lockup for adults; and (4) States must show that they are working to address racial and ethnic disparities that exist in their juvenile justice systems. The Committee directs the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) to report to Congress on the technical assistance provided to states with respect to meeting the four requirements through evidence-based programs.

Bullying.—The Committee encourages the Department to provide funding within existing programs for evidence-based approaches to preventing bullying in schools, communities, and in cyberspace.

School discipline.—The Committee encourages the Department to explore implementing programs that are focused on disadvantaged students of color in elementary and secondary school that include a curriculum that prevents unnecessary trauma and harm, and counterproductive in-school arrests and expulsion, while incorporating positive alternatives to suspension, and promoting educational development and attainment. The Committee looks forward to the report directed in House Report 116–101, detailing how the Department could partner with relevant stakeholders to implement such a program.

Arts-based programs.—The Committee strongly supports a comprehensive and innovative approach to programs that work to improve the lives of the youth in our communities. The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention is encouraged to review opportunities to include and evaluate arts-based programming and art-therapies within existing activities and grants.

PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICER BENEFITS

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

The Committee recommends a total of $143,800,000 for the Public Safety Officer Benefits program, which is $2,000,000 above fiscal year 2020 and the same as the request. Within the funds provided, $119,000,000 is for death benefits for survivors, an amount estimated by the Congressional Budget Office that is considered mandatory for scorekeeping purposes. Also within the total,

$24,800,000 is recommended for disability benefits for public safety officers who are permanently and totally disabled as a result of a catastrophic injury sustained in the line of duty, and for education benefits for the spouses and children of officers who are killed in the line of duty or who are permanently and totally disabled as a result of a catastrophic injury sustained in the line of duty.

COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING SERVICES

COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING SERVICES PROGRAMS

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

The Committee recommends $343,000,000 for Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Programs, which is equal to fiscal year 2020 and $343,000,000 above the request. Funds are distributed as follows:

COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING SERVICES

(In thousands of dollars)

Program	Amount
COPS Hiring Grants	$231,000
Improving Tribal Law Enforcement Resources	(27,000)
Community Policing Development/ Training and Technical Assistance	(6,500)
Regional Information Sharing Activities	(40,000)
Tribal Access Program	(3,000)
Civilian Review Boards	(4,000)
Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Act	(5,000)
Police Act	11,000
Anti-Methamphetamine Task Forces	13,000
Anti-Heroin Task Forces	35,000
STOP School Violence Act	53,000
Total, Community Oriented Policing Services	$343,000

Community Oriented Policing Services.—The Committee urges that COPS grants be awarded based on a comprehensive assessment of the needs of the jurisdiction and that jurisdictions are not disqualified solely based on the size of their law enforcement budget.

Civilian Review Boards.—Within the amount provided for COPS, the Committee provides $4,000,000 for grants for the development of best practices for, and the creation of, civilian review boards to oversee local police departments. Civilian review boards funded under this program should be independent and adequately resourced, have investigatory authority and staff subpoena power, have representative community diversity, have policy making authority, provide advocates for civilian complainants, have mandatory police power to conduct hearings, and conduct statistical studies on prevailing complaint trends.

Hiring of Residential Law Enforcement Officers.—The committee urges the Department, as it implements the COPS Hiring program, to support the recruitment, hiring, retainment, development, and training of law enforcement officers who are residents of the communities they serve. Priority for grant awards shall be provided for the hiring of law enforcement officers who are residents of, or are willing to relocate to, communities that: (1) have poor or fragmented relationships between police and residents of the commu-

nity, or where there are high incidents of crime, and (2) are the communities that the law enforcement officers serve, or are close to the jurisdictions they serve. Data shall be collected on the numbers of law enforcement officers who are willing to relocate to the communities where they serve, and whether such law enforcement officer relocations have impacted crime in such communities. Within 180 days of enactment of this Act, the Department shall develop and publicly report strategies and timelines to recruit, hire, promote, retain, develop, and train a diverse and inclusive law enforcement workforce, consistent with merit system principles and applicable law.

STOP School Violence Act school hardening.—The recommendation includes $53,000,000, which is an increase of $3,000,000 above the fiscal year 2020 level for evidence-based school hardening measures including metal detectors, locks, lighting, ballistic glass, and other deterrent measures in coordination with law enforcement, as well as training for local law enforcement officers to prevent student violence, technology for expedited notification of local law enforcement during an emergency, and other measures determined to provide significant improvement in physical security of schools.

School resource officers (SROs).—The Committee supports initiatives through the COPS Hiring Program to assist State and local governments to recruit and train additional SROs to build working relationships with schools as a means to provide a safer and calmer learning environment.

The Committee acknowledges that school SROs are intended to serve in roles ranging from counselors, to tutors and mentors, in order to create opportunities for students to interact with law enforcement in a positive way. The Committee looks forward to receiving the report directed in House Report 116–101 which directs the Department of Justice to examine the current role of SROs on campuses and provide recommendations. on how SROs can better serve the needs of the students. Furthermore, the Committee is concerned about also protecting the civil liberties of students in school. Accordingly, the Committee requests that the Department conduct an assessment for fiscal year 2021 to determine what if any effort grantees make to ensure students are aware of their civil rights.

SROs across the country engage with students on a daily basis and provide a wide range of important services to our nation's youth, including identifying depression and suicidal behavior among school children. SROs are in a unique position to identify and assist children at-risk of depression and suicide. The Committee supports awarding SRO grants to communities that are dealing with high levels of youth suicide, especially in smaller towns with limited resources.

Regional Information Sharing Activities.—Regional information sharing activities play a key role in assisting our local, State and Federal law enforcement agencies fight crime and terrorism. Over the last decade, regional information sharing has yielded $23,000,000,000 in narcotics, property, and case seizures. This recommendation provides $40,000,000 for grants to State and local law enforcement for these activities.

Rural law enforcement staffing.—The Committee recognizes certain State and local law enforcement agencies in rural and low-populated counties are critically underfunded and understaffed. Some distressed regions have as few as two law enforcement officers on payroll to patrol its jurisdictions at a given time. These instances of chronic law enforcement understaffing pose a significant threat to communities. The Committee encourages the Department to fund grants for critically understaffed law enforcement agencies.

Law enforcement training.—The Committee recognizes the importance and success of the COPS Hiring program. Recent incidents of law enforcement killing unarmed civilians have highlighted the importance and need for strong, collaborative relationships between local police and the communities they serve. The Committee supports diversity hiring in local law enforcement to ensure that law enforcement reflects the communities they serve or are residents of the communities they serve. The Committee encourages the Department to provide the highest priority to COPS program applicants and law enforcement agencies that require their employees to complete evidence-based cultural sensitivity trainings, including training on ethnic and racial bias, racial profiling, gender bias, sexual orientation and gender identity bias, cultural diversity, use of force, procedural justice, and law enforcement interaction with people with disabilities, the mentally ill, and English Language Learners.

Active shooter response.—The recommendation includes $11,000,000 for the POLICE Act of 2016 (Public Law 114–199). The Committee notes the importance of training partnerships that offer nationwide, dynamic force-on-force scenario-based training. The Committee understands the training has been adopted by numerous States and agencies as their standard active shooter training and that the FBI has adopted this program as its national training standard for active shooter response. In addition, the Committee encourages the Department to ensure that such grants authorized under the POLICE Act may be made available for primary schools, secondary schools, and college campuses, and that such training is an integrated training with campus police officers and local law enforcement. The Department shall report to the Committee, within 180 days of enactment, on the number of schools that have received active shooter training and the number of schools' campus police officer units that have received active shooter training in connection with this program over the last three fiscal years.

Human trafficking intelligence.—The Committee encourages programs funded under the regional information sharing activities to hire criminal intelligence analysts to compile information, reports, and other intelligence on human trafficking into, out of, and within the borders of the United States.

GENERAL PROVISIONS—DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

The Committee has included the following general provisions for the Department of Justice:

Section 201 prohibits the use of funds to pay for an abortion, except in the case of rape, incest, or to preserve the life of the mother.

Section 202 prohibits the use of funds to require any person to perform or facilitate the performance of an abortion.

Section 203 establishes the obligation of the Director of the Bureau of Prisons to provide escort services to an inmate receiving an abortion outside of a Federal facility, except where this obligation conflicts with the preceding section.

Section 204 prohibits the use of certain funds for transporting prisoners classified as maximum or high security, other than to a facility certified by the Bureau of Prisons as appropriately secure.

Section 205 prohibits the use of funds for the purchase or rental by Federal prisons of audiovisual equipment, services and materials used primarily for recreational purposes, except for those items and services needed for inmate training, religious, or educational purposes.

Section 206 requires review by the Deputy Attorney General and the Department Investment Review Board prior to the obligation or expenditure of funds for major information technology projects.

Section 207 requires the Department to follow reprogramming procedures for any deviation from the program amounts specified in this title or the accompanying report, or the reuse of deobligated funds provided in previous years.

Section 208 prohibits the use of funds for OMB Circular A–76 competitions for work performed by employees of the Bureau of Prisons or of the Federal Prison Industries, Inc.

Section 209 prohibits U.S. Attorneys from holding additional responsibilities that exempt U.S. Attorneys from statutory residency requirements.

Section 210 permits up to 2 percent of grant and reimbursement program funds made available to the Office of Justice Programs to be used for training and technical assistance, and up to 2 percent of grant funds made available to that office to be used for criminal justice research, evaluation and statistics by the National Institute of Justice and the Bureau of Justice Statistics.

Section 211 provides cost-share waivers for certain DOJ grant programs.

Section 212 waives the requirement that the Attorney General reserve certain funds from amounts provided for offender incarceration.

Section 213 prohibits funds, other than funds for the National Instant Criminal Background Check System established under the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act, from being used to facilitate the transfer of an operable firearm to a known or suspected agent of a drug cartel where law enforcement personnel do not continuously monitor or control such firearm.

Section 214 places limitations on the obligation of funds from certain Department of Justice accounts and funding sources.

Section 215 permits DOJ to participate in Performance Partnership Pilot collaboration programs.

Section 216 increases the threshold for balances in the United States Trustee System Fund.

Section 217 prohibits EOIR's use of case completion quotas in immigration judge performance evaluations.

Section 218 amends Public Law 101–246 to provide for danger pay for United States Marshals Service for certain deployments outside the United States.

Section 219 prohibits the awarding of funds under the Byrne JAG or COPS programs unless the United States Attorney General certifies that the recipient State or unit of local government satisfies several conditions.

Section 220 establishes a National Task Force on Law Enforcement Oversight.

Section 221 prohibits Department of Justice funding from being made available to any law enforcement agency of any State, unit of local government, or Federally recognized Tribal government unless the Attorney General has certified that such agency has begun or completed the process of receiving accreditation from a law enforcement accreditation organization approved by the Attorney General.

Section 222 prohibits the awarding of funds under the Byrne JAG or COPS programs unless the United States Attorney General certifies that the recipient State or unit of local government has in effect a law prohibiting sexual activity while acting under color of law.

TITLE III

SCIENCE

OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY

The Committee recommends $5,544,000 for the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP), which is equal to the fiscal year 2020 appropriation.

Extreme weather.—The Committee looks forward to receiving the report directed in House Report 116–101 that directs OSTP to create and convene a Congressionally-mandated Interagency Council on Extreme Weather Resilience, Preparedness, and Risk Identification and Management ("Interagency Council"). The Committee further directs OSTP, in coordination with the Interagency Council, to develop a plan, on an agency-by-agency basis, for government-wide implementation of resilience, preparedness, and risk management priorities. This plan was directed to be produced no later than 180 days after the enactment of the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2020 (Public Law 116–93). To date, the Committee has not received this plan, nor the intermediate report that was directed within 90 days.

Federally Funded Scientific Research.—The Committee recognizes the considerable progress made by OSTP in bringing to completion the department and agency public access plans called for by the OSTP Memorandum "Increasing Access to the Results of Federally Funded Scientific Research," issued February 22, 2013. The Committee understands that 22 departments and agencies with annual expenditures on research and development of $100,000,000 or more now have completed their public access plans for increasing access to peer-reviewed scholarly publications and digital data resulting from Federally funded research. The Committee encourages OSTP to continue its efforts to coordinate the implementation of public access policies across Federal departments and agencies and to identify additional opportunities to enhance access to the results of Federally funded research. The Committee received OSTP's quarterly progress reports regarding department and agency public

access planning efforts, the most recent report being issued on January 9, 2017. Further, OSTP shall report to the Committee on an annual basis on the progress of departments and agencies in implementing their public access plans, including relevant measures of progress, and regarding additional steps being taken to improve access to the results of Federally funded research. In addition, at least 90 days prior to making any changes to the Federal Government's public access policies as outlined in the 2013 OSTP memorandum on ″Increasing Access to the Results of Federally Funded Scientific Research,″ the Committee directs OSTP to submit to the Committee a report on the costs and budgetary impact of such changes. The report shall include a complete analysis of any newly-created costs, including any potential new costs for grant recipients.

National Space Council

The Committee recommends $1,965,000 for the National Space Council, which is equal to the fiscal year 2020 appropriation and the same as the request.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

The Committee recommends $22,629,000,000 for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), which is equal to the fiscal year 2020 appropriation and $2,616,985,000 below the request.

NASA's fiscal year 2021 request, much like the 2020 amended budget request, reflected the Administration's ominous shift away from legacy programs and programs with clear environmental and educational benefits. The Administration's shift in priorities is most evident in its budget request of nearly $3,400,000,000 (nearly $2,800,000,000 above the fiscal year 2020 level) for the Human Landing System and Advanced Cislunar and Surface Capabilities initiatives. These programs are being rushed to meet a politically motivated timeline to again place humans on the Moon's lunar surface in a little over four years. In order to fund this massive expansion, the Administration chose to either reduce or eliminate many critical legacy programs, including Earth science programs that help monitor the environment, measure global climate change, and track rising sea levels. These programs include: The Plankton, Aerosol, Cloud, ocean Ecosystem (PACE) Earth-observing satellite; the Climate Absolute Radiance and Refractivity Observatory (CLARREO) sensor on the International Space Station, designed to lay the foundation for future long-term observations of Earth's climate; and NASA's Carbon Monitoring System that achieves levels of precision and accuracy to monitor, report, and verify the levels of carbon stocks and fluxes in Earth's atmosphere. Additional programs that were proposed for elimination in the Administration's budget request are: The Wide Field Infrared Survey Telescope (WFIRST), now named the Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope, a NASA observatory designed to work in conjunction with the James Webb Space Telescope, with a view 100 times greater than that of the Hubble Space Telescope; and the entire Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Engagement account. The Committee rejects these proposals and has included

nearly $1,500,000,000 above the request to support these critical programs, including additional funding for competitive research grants within Earth Science and a $6,000,000 increase over the fiscal year 2020 appropriation for the STEM Engagement account.

The Committee's program and project recommendations for NASA are included in the consolidated funding table below and in narrative direction throughout this report. The Committee reminds NASA that any deviations from the amounts included in the table below are subject to section 505 requirements of this Act. When executing its budget for fiscal year 2021, NASA shall incorporate the funding levels established in both the table and the narrative direction. NASA is reminded that comity has existed between the Congress and the Executive Branch with respect to abiding by language included in this report and in the accompanying bill. The Committee expects NASA to respect this long-standing practice.

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

(In thousands of dollars)

Program	Amount
Science:	
Earth Science	$2,021,800
Planetary Science	2,713,400
Astrophysics	1,306,200
James Webb Space Telescope	423,000
Heliophysics	633,100
Total, Science	7,097,500
Aeronautics	819,000
Space Technology	1,100,000
Exploration:	
Orion Multi-purpose Crew Vehicle	1,400,500
Space Launch System (SLS) Vehicle Deployment	2,600,000
Exploration Ground Systems	459,700
Exploration Research and Development	1,557,400
Total, Exploration	6,017,600
Space Operations	4,052,200
Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM)	126,000
Safety, Security and Mission Services	2,953,400
Construction and Environmental Compliance and Restoration	419,100
Office of Inspector General	44,200
Total, NASA	$22,629,000

SCIENCE

The Committee provides $7,097,500,000 for Science, which is $41,400,000 below the fiscal year 2020 appropriation and $791,000,000 above the request.

Earth Science.—The recommendation includes $2,021,800,000 for Earth Science programs. Despite the overwhelming benefits to the

economy, coastal regions, and to humankind generally, the Administration once again proposed for elimination virtually all major missions that incorporate selected ocean color and atmospheric aerosol measurement capabilities needed to ensure continuity and additional capability in the measurement record, and that demonstrate measurement technologies for a larger future mission to improve detection of climate trends. These missions, aimed at understanding the Earth system and its response to natural and human-induced forces and changes, will help determine how to predict future changes and mitigate or adapt to them. The President's fiscal year 2021 budget request, like the Administration's requests of prior years, chooses to eliminate missions totaling nearly $180,000,000 that address human-induced forces regarding climate change. The Committee rejects the Administration's proposal, has included adequate funding to continue such programs, and expects NASA to comply with Committee direction.

Earth Science Research and Analysis and Carbon Monitoring.—The Committee recommends no less than $346,400,000 for Earth Science Research, which is $36,500,000 greater than the requested level. Within this amount, $10,000,000 is directed for the Carbon Monitoring System, which was eliminated in the Administration's fiscal year 2021 budget request.

Plankton, Aerosol, Cloud, ocean Ecosystem (PACE).—The Committee provides $145,100,000, which is $14,100,000 greater than the fiscal year 2020 appropriation and $145,100,000 greater than the Administration's request, which would have eliminated the Plankton, Aerosol, Cloud, ocean Ecosystem (PACE) mission. The Committee does not concur with the Administration's proposal to terminate this mission, which it also proposed terminating in the fiscal year 2020 request, and instead the Committee maintains funding at this level due to this mission's unique scientific value, including for aiding critical parts of the U.S. coastal economy like commercial fishing. The data to be generated by PACE builds upon a multi-decade effort by NASA and other Federal agencies to generate information from space that helps, for example, to characterize and assess the health of the fisheries environment and to more accurately assess the status of fish stocks, as well as to help identify the extent and duration of harmful algal blooms. Such unique observational information cannot be replicated elsewhere, and industry itself does not have the financial means to acquire wide scale data such as that generated by PACE and its precursor missions. Therefore, the Committee sees any effort to terminate this mission as shortsighted and based upon incomplete analysis of the benefits of PACE's data to U.S. coastal economies, the provision of which is an inherently governmental responsibility. In providing this appropriation, the Committee directs NASA to provide a report, concurrent with the fiscal year 2021 operating plan, on NASA's efforts to maintain a 2022 launch date for this mission and directs NASA to include adequate funding for PACE in the fiscal year 2022 budget request.

Climate Absolute Radiance and Refractivity Observatory Pathfinder (CLARREO) Pathfinder.—The Committee provides $24,500,000 for this mission, $1,500,000 less than the fiscal year 2020 appropriation and $24,500,000 greater than the Administration's request, which would have eliminated the mission. The Com-

mittee does not concur with the Administration's proposal to terminate the mission in its fiscal year 2021 budget request, just at it did in the fiscal year 2020 request, because the CLARREO Pathfinder mission demonstrates measurement technologies required for a future mission recommended in the 2007 Earth science decadal survey focused on improving detection of climate trends. Therefore, the Committee additionally directs NASA to include adequate funding for CLARREO in the fiscal year 2022 budget request.

In situ Ocean Data.—In support of the need to understand Earth's systems through calibrated and validated global satellite observations, the Committee encourages NASA to continue collaborating with other Federal science agencies and to evaluate, expand, and formalize the use of in situ ocean data from Unmanned Surface Vehicles, including from commercial sources, as appropriate, to better inform the Agency's weather prediction capabilities. Further, within 90 days of enactment of this Act, NASA shall report to the Committee on the use of unmanned surface vehicles.

Earth System Science Pathfinder Venture Class and GeoCARB Missions.—Within the amounts provided for Earth Science, the Committee recommends up to $376,600,000 for NASA's Earth System Science Pathfinder missions. Within this amount, funding is included for Venture Class and Geostationary Carbon Cycle Observatory (GeoCARB) missions. NASA's Venture Class Missions provide frequent flight opportunities for high-quality, low-cost Earth science investigations that can be developed and flown in five years or less. NASA selects the investigations through open competitions to ensure broad community involvement and encourage innovative approaches. Successful investigations enhance our capability to understand the current state of the Earth system and enable continual improvement in the prediction of future changes. The GeoCARB mission is due to launch in Summer 2022 and will demonstrate the feasibility of using a commercial communications satellite to host a scientific instrument which will measure vegetation off-gassing and help detect fugitive methane emissions, while also serving as a cost-saving model for future Earth Science research needs.

University Small Satellite Missions.—The Committee supports NASA's collaborative efforts with U.S. colleges and universities to conduct research through small spacecraft missions, including CubeSat and SmallSat missions. The Committee believes these competitively selected projects led by principal investigators at institutions of higher education help train the next generation of scientists and provide much-needed research. The Committee directs NASA to provide not less than $30,000,000 for these missions.

Small Satellite Launch Services.—To enhance the breadth of research achieved using small satellite platforms and bolster NASA's overall scientific objectives, the Committee directs NASA to work with commercial industry to examine ways for small satellite missions to procure launch services that are more tailored to their mission dependent orbits, locations, and schedules, while minimizing launch costs. NASA shall report on such findings within 180 days of enactment of this Act.

Planetary Science Research and Analysis—Technosignature Research.—The Committee understands that NASA's Research Op-

portunities in Space and Earth Science Exoplanets Research Program (XRP) element, jointly managed by four Science Divisions (Earth Science, Planetary Science, Astrophysics, and Heliophysics), allows technosignature proposals, including observational, theoretical, and archival proposals focused upon the detection of technosignatures. Such proposals are within scope of the XRP, except for archival proposals that exploit data within a NASA public domain archive. The Committee encourages NASA to continue this research.

Lunar Discovery and Exploration.—The Committee provides $410,000,000 for the Lunar Discovery and Exploration program, including $22,000,000 for the Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter and $70,000,000 for the new Lunar Future initiative to address the strategic knowledge gaps important for human exploration of the Moon.

Commercial Lunar Payload Services (CLPS).—The Committee provides $212,500,000 for Commercial Lunar Payload Services (CLPS), which is $132,500,000 greater than the fiscal year 2020 appropriation. The Committee strongly encourages NASA to provide funding under this program for lunar landers and rovers majority-designed, developed, and built in the United States, and, in addition, to the extent practicable, designed, developed, or built by one or more U.S. small businesses.

Planetary Defense.—Within Planetary Science, Planetary Defense programs, the Committee provides $150,000,000, equal to the requested level, to fund NASA's Planetary Defense program, and within this amount, recommends not less than $66,400,000 for the Double Asteroid Redirection Test (DART) mission.

NASA shall continue to support a network of search and characterization observatories and the data processing and analysis required to understand the near-Earth population of small bodies. NASA shall continue instrument formulation for a potential space-based infrared capability, the NEO Surveillance Mission, that would support NEO survey objectives as identified in the 2019 National Academies study and the goal of finding at least 90 percent of the 140 meter and larger near-Earth asteroids.

Ground-based Observatories.—The Committee provides continued sustained funding for existing ground-based observatories, including the Arecibo Observatory. Accordingly, NASA shall maintain no less than the required full funding levels for its use of the National Science Foundation's ground-based telescopes to fulfill its planetary protection mission.

New Frontiers missions.—The Committee provides $179,000,000 for New Frontiers missions. The New Frontiers program explores our solar system with medium-class spacecraft missions. Within the New Frontiers program, possible mission destinations and the science goals for each competitive opportunity are limited to specific science targets announced for the competition aligned with the scientific goals and priorities as described in the Planetary Science Decadal Survey.

Mars Exploration Program.—The Committee provides $570,000,000, which is equal to the fiscal year 2020 appropriation and $41,500,000 greater than the requested level, for the Mars Exploration Program to ensure ongoing operations of Mars mission architecture ahead of the anticipated landing of the Mars 2020 mis-

sion as well as further development of a Mars Sample Return mission to be launched in 2026. Within funds provided, $250,000,000 is included for Mars Sample Return. Given that sample return was the highest priority of the previous planetary science decadal survey, NASA shall provide the Committee with a year-by-year future funding profile for a planned focused Mars sample return mission to be ready for a 2026 launch. In addition, the Committee endorses the mid-term decadal survey recommendation for NASA to develop a comprehensive Mars program architecture, strategic plan, and management structure that maximizes synergy among existing and future domestic and international missions and science optimization at the architectural level.

Mars 2020.—The Committee provides the requested level for Mars 2020. NASA is directed to ensure timely operations of Mars mission architecture ahead of the anticipated landing of the Mars 2020 mission as well as further development of a Mars Sample Return mission to be launched in 2026.

Mars Odyssey 2001.—Within the funds available, up to $11,000,000 is to continue ongoing operations of the Mars Odyssey 2001 mission. Mars Odyssey was launched in 2001 and is in its eighth extended mission phase. Mars Odyssey has served as a significant relay asset for communications with NASA Mars surface explorers over the past two decades.

Commercial Deep Space Communications Relay.—NASA is directed to study the feasibility of establishing a commercial deep space communications relay program to help ensure sustained operations in deep space. Within 180 days of enactment of this Act, the Committee directs NASA to submit a report outlining the findings of such a feasibility study.

Jupiter Europa Missions.—The Committee provides $403,500,000, which is $189,100,000 less than fiscal year 2020 appropriation and equal to the requested level, for the Europa Clipper Mission. The Clipper mission will explore Europa, the smallest of the four Galilean moons orbiting Jupiter, and investigate its habitability. The Committee understands that in order to stay on schedule, the mission desires to select a launch vehicle in 2020, and NASA is evaluating options to expedite time to orbit. The Committee believes that the Clipper mission should use a vehicle to support a launch to reduce overall mission costs and complexity and expedite science results in concert with the decadal survey. Since fiscal year 2016, funding for the Europa program has been conditioned on the use of an SLS rocket as the launch vehicle. This is because, among other advantages when compared to alternative expendable launch vehicles, an SLS will require less costly radiation mitigation measures, extend the life of the Clipper, reduce risk via a larger payload capacity, and return valuable data to scientists faster due to the greatly reduced travel time. Yet, the Committee still has not received a suitable explanation from NASA regarding whether there will be sufficient SLS launch vehicles to support this mission and human space exploration missions. The Committee strongly encourages NASA to proceed with plans to use the SLS and intends to investigate whether an SLS will be available for the mission.

The Committee directs that at any time following the enactment of this Act, that if NASA determines that it must initiate plans to

procure any launch vehicle other than an SLS for a Europa mission, an immediate report shall be provided to the Committee outlining the justification for such decision.

Jupiter Europa Lander.—The Committee provides no additional funding for the Jupiter Europa Lander. Development of an Ocean World Technology mission is a priority and the Committee encourages research and development to continue. The Committee understands that funding previously provided is sufficient to continue research and development through fiscal year 2021. However, the Committee directs NASA to include adequate funding in fiscal year 2022 for continued research and development in anticipation of the next planetary science decadal survey.

Icy Satellites Surface Technology.—The Committee provides no less than $35,000,000 for Icy Satellites Surface Technology to meet the science goals for the Jupiter Europa mission as recommended in previous Planetary Science Decadal surveys and to enable a lander and Ocean Worlds Technology mission by the next decade, based on input from the next Planetary Science Decadal survey. Investments in landing, mobility, sampling, communications, autonomous operations, and power technology for low-temperature environments should be prioritized.

Earth Science Decadal.—The Committee supports the recommendations of the National Academy of Sciences' Earth Science and Applications from Space Decadal Survey report and directs NASA to implement its findings to the extent practicable. As articulated by the report, NASA should plan to select future missions that address high-priority target observables in the designated and explorer categories. Within the funds provided, up to $75,000,000 is for NASA to begin development, planning, and technology for up to two designated observable missions to meet the application goals as recommended in the previous Earth Science Decadal survey.

Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy (SOFIA).—Within Astrophysics, the Committee provides $85,200,000, which is $73,200,000 greater than the requested level, for the Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy (SOFIA) ongoing scientific mission, for which the Administration had proposed minimal funding aimed at phasing out the program. Working collectively with other space telescopes, including Hubble and Spitzer, these observatories create a comprehensive web of information and data that spans both the electromagnetic spectrum and time itself.

Earth's Radiation Budget.—The Committee supports research into the Earth's radiation budget and encourages NASA to collaborate with NOAA to establish a baseline of understanding of the chemistry of the stratosphere through monitoring and observations.

Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope (formerly named the Wide Field Infrared Survey Telescope (WFIRST)).—The Committee provides $505,200,000, which is $505,200,000 greater than the Administration's requested level, which would have eliminated the Roman Telescope. This mission was included as the highest priority in the 2010 Astrophysics Decadal Survey. Within this total, the recommended amount shall include continued development of the coronagraph as a technology demonstration mission. The Roman Telescope continuation is essential to unravel the secrets of dark energy and dark matter, search for and image exoplanets, and explore many topics in infrared astrophysics.

James Webb Space Telescope (JWST).—The Committee provides $423,000,000, which is equal to the Administration's requested level. Additionally, as noted in section 534 of this Act, in determining the formulation and development costs under Section 536 of the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2020 (Public Law 116–93), such costs shall not be considered to include any costs directly related to preventing, preparing for, and responding to the impacts of a global pandemic health crisis.

Life and Physical Sciences.—The Committee encourages NASA to conduct studies that evaluate the effects of zero gravity and deep space radiation on development through non-human mammalian embryologic experiments using the International Space Station and for NASA to bolster its Development Biology program.

AERONAUTICS

The Committee provides $819,000,000 for Aeronautics, which is $35,100,000 greater than the fiscal year 2020 appropriation and equal to the requested level.

Hypersonics Technology Project.—Within amounts provided, not less than $60,000,000 is for NASA's ongoing Hypersonics Technology Project. Hypersonic flight involves speeds of Mach 5 and above and holds the potential for new military and civilian capabilities. Traditionally, NASA has pioneered advances in the flight regime and works closely with the Department of Defense (DoD) to mature necessary capabilities, while focusing on the fundamental research that will lead to new, long-term capabilities to lay the foundation for potential future civil and commercial use. Program managers should continue to coordinate closely with partners in the DoD to enable NASA to leverage investments in ground and flight activities and to develop and validate advanced physics-based computational models as building blocks toward a long-term vision for high-speed hypersonic air transport. The Committee strongly encourages NASA to continue to explore additional opportunities to increase hypersonics research by supplementing planned activities with public-private partnerships with the goal of developing advanced hypersonic capabilities and integrated systems through cost-sharing agreements with commercial partners, while sustaining hypersonic competency for national needs and simultaneously advancing fundamental hypersonic research.

Subsonic Aircraft Technologies.—To support a new generation of ultra-efficient, sustainable transonic transport aircraft, the Committee provides funding within Aeronautics, as requested, for subsonic advanced technology development and testing, as well as funding for research, development and demonstration of high-rate production composite materials.

The Committee remains supportive of X-Plane demonstrators currently in production and believes increased investments in innovative aircraft structures and advanced flight demonstrators will enable this new generation of aircraft.

Aerosciences Evaluation and Test Capabilities.—The committee fully funds the Aerosciences Evaluation and Test Capabilities wind tunnel management program at the requested level.

Advanced Carbon/Carbon Material Characterization.—The Committee recognizes that significant testing is required to mature ad-

vanced materials for future applications. Due to extreme temperatures, hypersonic glide vehicles require specialized three-dimensional woven carbon/carbon composite material. The Committee encourages NASA to collaborate with industry and academia to develop and test the next generation of lower cost advanced materials for hypersonic applications by combining the expertise of legacy three-dimensional carbon/carbon suppliers with advances in automation and material technologies developed for commercial aerospace.

Electric Air Flight.—The Committee encourages strengthening collaborations between NASA, the Department of Energy, and national laboratories to overcome energy storage challenges for mobility such as electric air flight. The Committee is encouraged by NASA's efforts within its Electrified Powertrain Flight Demonstration project, which focuses on flight demonstrations that advance the state-of-the-art in megawatt-class more-electric aircraft to enable enduring leadership of the U.S. aviation industry for the benefit of the country and the U.S. flying public. In fiscal year 2021, NASA plans to conduct testing of a flight-weight, flight-like electric inverter at megawatt-class power level under simulated altitude conditions of 30,000 feet.

Priority Technology Investments.—The Committee encourages NASA to accelerate research and development for next generation commercial engine technologies for Electrified Aircraft Propulsion, Small Core Gas Turbine, Transonic Truss-Braced Wing, and High-Rate Composite given these four key technology programs form the foundation of the 2030 Next Generation Propulsion system, which will offer both fuel consumption and carbon emission savings for Single Aisle aircraft.

SPACE TECHNOLOGY

The Committee recommends $1,100,000,000 for Space Technology, which is equal to the fiscal year 2020 appropriation and $478,300,000 below the requested level.

Space Technology Mission Directorate.—The Committee reaffirms its support for the independence of the Space Technology Mission Directorate and recognizes that its current status enables it to support the development of a wide array of various technologies. This diverse portfolio contains technology development activities that have broad applications beyond human exploration and that help to meet the agency's science objectives, establish new commercial and academic partnerships, and stimulate the growth of the nation's technology sector. This approach also ensures that NASA technologists and their external partners maintain the ability to address long-term strategic goals rather than only focusing on short-term, mission-specific objectives. In addition, the Directorate's direct engagement with the academic community is supporting the development of the next generation of space technologists. The Committee directs NASA to preserve the Directorate's focus across NASA and in support of each of the mission directorates.

Regional economic development.—The Committee provides $8,000,000, which is equal to the fiscal year 2020 appropriation and $8,000,000 above the Administration's requested level, which would have eliminated the program. NASA's regional economic de-

velopment program focuses on partnerships with State and regional economic development organizations as they expand space-related commercial opportunities designed to address NASA mission needs. Within 120 days of the enactment of this Act, NASA shall provide a report to the Committee that details the metrics for this program's success, economic development benefits realized from prior year funding, and anticipated economic development benefits resulting from fiscal year 2021 funding.

Technology Demonstration Mission—Satellite Servicing/Restore-L.—The Committee provides $227,000,000, which is $47,000,000 greater than the fiscal year 2020 appropriation and $93,500,000 greater than the requested level, for the Restore-L program to conduct an orbital refueling mission in 2022. These funds shall be used exclusively for activities related to and associated with the Restore-L spacecraft and any demonstrations that it will conduct or support. The Committee recognizes and encourages the development of satellite servicing to benefit not only NASA, but the Department of Defense, the Intelligence Community, and the private sector. Moreover, the Committee directs NASA to encourage other government entities to take full advantage of Restore-L's capabilities.

Solar Electric Propulsion.—The Committee provides $60,000,000, which is $1,600,000 greater than the fiscal year 2020 appropriation and $11,300,000 greater than the requested level, for solar electric propulsion activities. According to NASA, high-powered solar electric propulsion can efficiently propel more ambitious robotic science and human exploration missions beyond the Earth and into deep space. Furthermore, solar electric propulsion will enable more efficient orbit transfer of spacecraft and accommodate the increasing power demands for government and commercial satellites.

Flight Opportunities Program.—The Committee provides $30,000,000, which is $5,000,000 greater than the fiscal year 2020 appropriation and $10,000,000 greater than the request for the Flight Opportunities Program, to enable NASA to continue to partner with commercial industry to advance technologies for sub-orbital and orbital launch vehicles for small payloads, with the aim to increase affordability of those technologies and to allow for more frequent access to relevant launch environments, including low-Earth orbit. This funding fills a research gap by offering several minutes of microgravity research at a relatively low price. Of this amount, not less than $5,000,000 is dedicated for competitively selected opportunities in support of payload development and flight of K–12 and collegiate educational payloads. The Committee encourages NASA to leverage the Flight Opportunities Program for flights of payloads spanning the Agency's mission directorates, including Science, Human Exploration, and STEM Engagement, and for cross-cutting mission objectives, including both science and education.

Other Technology Demonstration, Archinaut.—The Committee provides $20,500,000 for On Orbit Servicing and Manufacturing Demonstration-2. In partnership with commercial industry, NASA develops and demonstrates technologies required to manufacture, assemble, and aggregate large and/or complex systems in space utilizing robotic and additive manufacturing technology.

Nuclear thermal propulsion technology.—The Committee provides $110,000,000, which is equal to the fiscal year 2020 enacted amount, and $110,000,000 greater than the Administration's requested level, which would have eliminated the program, for continued development and demonstration of a nuclear thermal propulsion system. The Committee looks forward to receiving a plan for the design of a flight demonstration, as directed in the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2020 (Public Law 116–93). To date, the Committee has not received this plan that was directed within 180 days of enactment.

EXPLORATION

The Committee provides $6,017,600,000 for Exploration, which is equal to the fiscal year 2020 appropriation and $2,744,100,000 below the requested level.

Orion.—The Committee provides $1,400,500,000, which is $6,200,000 less than the fiscal year 2020 appropriation and equal to the requested level for Orion. NASA shall keep the Committee informed of the status of activities related to Orion, the European Service Module, and ongoing activities related to integration of Orion with Space Launch System and associated ground infrastructure.

Space Launch System (SLS).—The Committee provides $2,600,000,000, an increase of $14,100,000 above fiscal year 2020 and $342,900,000 above the Administration's request. Within the amount provided, not less than $400,000,000 is provided for SLS Block 1B Development, $400,000,000 above the Administration's request. Additionally, the Committee encourages NASA to study the procedures required to designate an integrator for private sector customers who wish to acquire an SLS vehicle. Additionally, the Committee directs NASA to engage an independent reviewer with aerospace production management experience to conduct a review of SLS completion costs and provide such reviewer with direct access to SLS program managers and production and pricing data, to determine how the cost of future flights of the SLS can be reduced. Further, the Committee directs NASA to undertake all work necessary in fiscal year 2021 toward completion of the SLS Block 1B as though the Block 1B were in the critical path for Exploration Mission-3. Additionally, NASA shall make necessary facility modifications to accommodate SLS Block 1B missions.

Exploration Ground Systems (EGS).—The Committee provides $459,700,000, which is $130,300,000 less than the fiscal year 2020 appropriation and $75,000,000 greater than the requested level, for Exploration Ground Systems (EGS). Within this amount, the Committee provides $75,000,000 for the Second Mobile Launcher (ML-2). ML-2 is the ground structure that will be used to assemble, process, and launch the SLS Block 1B rocket and Orion spacecraft from launch complex LC-39B.

Advanced Cislunar and Surface Capabilities.—The recommendation includes funding for Advanced Cislunar and Surface Capabilities. As part of the formulation of the fiscal year 2022 budget request, the Committee directs NASA to assess use of current partnerships as well as new public-private partnerships, for services from large lunar cargo delivery systems. As part of this assessment, the Committee directs NASA to evaluate the possibility of

demonstration missions from large lunar cargo delivery systems prior to any operational mission.

Lunar Lander Development.—Funding is provided for the lunar lander office to lead the support of NASA's lunar lander development oversight.

SPACE OPERATIONS

The Committee provides $4,052,200,000 for Space Operations, which is $88,000,000 below the fiscal year 2020 appropriation and $135,100,000 below the requested level.

Commercial Crew and Cargo Program.—Within the amounts provided for Space Operations, the recommendation includes $1,778,000,000 for the Commercial Crew and Cargo program. The Committee strongly encourages NASA to invest these funds into a diverse group of cargo suppliers, with varying capabilities, to be able to meet future mission sizes, needs, and goals.

21st Century Launch Complex Program.—Within the amounts provided for Space Operations, the recommendation includes up to the fiscal year 2020 levels for the 21st Century Launch Complex Program. The Committee remains concerned with efforts directed toward filling critical maintenance, capacity, and range safety gaps at NASA launch facilities.

Rocket Propulsion Test program.—The Committee provides the requested amount for the Rocket Propulsion Test program, which is $1,100,000 greater than the fiscal year 2020 appropriation.

In-Space Manufacturing.—The Committee encourages NASA to continue its efforts to develop partnerships with universities to leverage efforts, complement ongoing work, and fill gaps in the development of manufacturing, recycling systems, and processes designed to operate in the space environment. Specifically, the partnership should have a special focus on in-situ generated materials, recycling, workforce development, and commercialization. As NASA missions accelerate, there will be an increased need to support sustainable missions. More sustainable exploration missions will need to be more flexible by providing in-space and on-surface manufacturing, as well as on-orbit servicing and assembly capabilities. Such capabilities have the potential to produce significant cost savings and reduce mission risks by reducing launch mass and giving in-space options rather than reliance on spares.

Active Debris Removal.—To support remediation efforts as well as future commercial ventures in active debris removal (ADR), the Committee urges NASA to develop a comprehensive strategy to transition technology concepts resulting from its investments in Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR), Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs, and Space Technology Research, Development, Demonstration, and Infusion (REDDI) programs to the commercial space industry.

Center for the Advancement of Science in Space (CASIS).—The Committee is aware of an independent review commissioned by NASA in August 2019 regarding the Center for the Advancement of Science in Space (CASIS). The report, completed on February 4, 2020 but not released until April 6, 2020, sharply criticized and found serious issues with the management of the International Space Station National Laboratory (ISSNL) by CASIS, the nonprofit organization contracted by NASA to manage the ISSNL. The

independent review team found fundamental issues with how the ISSNL was set up, including its inability to do work for NASA. The report stated, "To preclude the ISSNL from conducting work for its sponsor meets neither the spirit nor intent of a National Laboratory." The panel found that the agreement between NASA and CASIS was poorly structured, lacking flexibility, resulting in unprofessional behavior on the part of NASA and un-businesslike behavior on the part of CASIS. Further, the report found that there was no representation for the user community and that there is little insight into how projects are selected for flight by CASIS. The panel made several recommendations for improving the management of CASIS and the ISS National Lab, many of which NASA accepted and has ensured that it will take steps to implement. The Committee expects NASA to adhere to its commitment to implement the panel recommendations and directs that NASA and CASIS brief the Committee within 90 days of the enactment of this Act regarding its actions.

Commercial LEO Development.—The agreement includes $15,000,000 for Commercial LEO Development. As NASA works to develop a commercial ecosystem in low-Earth orbit, the Committee encourages NASA to continue working with U.S. industry to support supply-side proposals and demand-side proposals, including in-space manufacturing and regenerative medicine flight demonstrations. Not later than 180 days after enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall conduct an assessment of the costs, benefits, and challenges of repurposing launch vehicle upper stages as free-flying platforms for habitation or industrial modules.

Domestic Launch Services.—The Committee recognizes that global competition in the space launch market is increasing and the United States remains the only nation with domestic competition. The Committee also recognizes that NASA is dependent on a healthy domestic industrial base and first-rate space transportation infrastructure for United States launch providers and that the U.S. Government has made and continues to make major, strategic investments in the Nation's space transportation capabilities. Therefore, the Committee underscores the value of using domestic launch providers, U.S.-manufactured launch vehicles, and U.S. launch sites.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, AND MATHEMATICS (STEM) ENGAGEMENT

The Committee provides $126,000,000 for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Engagement, which is $6,000,000 greater than the fiscal year 2020 appropriation. Once again, the Administration requested no funding for STEM Engagement. The Committee expects NASA to continue implementing the programs that follow and to ensure that overhead costs to support these programs do not exceed five percent. Further, the Committee directs NASA to include an adequate funding level for STEM in the fiscal year 2022 budget request and future requests.

National Space Grant College and Fellowship Program.—The recommendation includes $50,000,000 for the Space Grant program, an increase of $2,000,000 above fiscal year 2020. Funding shall be allocated to State consortia for competitively awarded grants in support of local, regional, and national STEM needs.

Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR).—The recommendation includes $26,000,000 for EPSCoR, an increase of $2,000,000 above fiscal year 2020.

Minority University Research and Education Project (MUREP).—The recommendation includes $38,000,000 for MUREP, an increase of $2,000,000 above fiscal year 2020.

STEM Education and Accountability Projects (SEAP).—The recommendation includes $12,000,000 for SEAP.

SAFETY, SECURITY AND MISSION SERVICES

The Committee provides $2,953,400,000 for Safety, Security, and Mission Services, which is $40,100,000 above the fiscal year 2020 appropriation and $56,500,000 less than the requested level. In addition, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) (Public Law 116–136) included $60,000,000 for NASA to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus, domestically or internationally.

Working Capital Fund (WCF) reporting.—NASA shall continue to submit quarterly reports to the Committee on the expenditures and unobligated balances of NASA's WCF.

Mission Support Future Architecture Program (MAP).—Mission support services are the functions traditionally managed and operated at NASA centers and headquarters. The Committee directs NASA to brief the Committee on the new operating model and NASA's plan for ensuring maximum opportunities for small businesses.

Science, Space, and Technology Education Trust Fund.—The Department of Housing and Urban Development-Independent Agencies Appropriations Act of 1989 (Public Law 100–404) established and funded the Science, Space, and Technology Education Trust Fund, with the funds required to be subsequently invested in special issue securities, earning interest from the corpus fund to be credited to the Trust Fund for the purpose of making grants for programs directed at improving science, space, and technology education in the United States. Recipients of these grants are required to provide matching funds from non-Federal sources. The Committee is aware that, due to current interest rates, interest derived from the corpus fund may soon be insufficient to meet the levels of legally required disbursements of funds, as specified in the original Act. Therefore, up to $1,000,000 is made available from amounts under this heading, and the Committee urges NASA to explore alternative options for addressing this issue, including legislative proposals as appropriate.

CONSTRUCTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE AND RESTORATION

The Committee provides $419,100,000 for Construction and Environmental Compliance and Restoration, which is $45,700,000 above the fiscal year 2020 appropriation and $120,000,000 below the requested level.

Construction.—The recommendation includes $344,400,000 for Construction of Facilities, minor revitalization, planning and design, and demolition. Included in this amount is no less than $83,700,000 for two new start facilities requested by NASA, and no less than $25,000,000 for phase two of an ongoing replacement

project at NASA's primary large-scale aerospace manufacturing facility, as assumed in the budget request.

Environmental Compliance and Restoration.—The recommendation includes $74,700,000, which is $8,200,000 less than the fiscal year 2020 appropriation and equal to the requested level, for Environmental Compliance and Restoration activities. NASA's Environmental Compliance and Restoration (ECR) program cleans up hazardous materials and waste products released to the surface or groundwater at NASA installations, NASA-owned industrial plants supporting NASA activities, current or former sites where NASA operations have contributed to environmental problems, and other sites where the Agency is legally obligated to address hazardous pollutants. Included in this amount is funding to manage costs while remediating environmental contaminants at the Santa Susana Field Laboratory.

Santa Susana Field Laboratory.—The Committee is pleased with the progress of building demolition at the Santa Susana Field Laboratory but remains concerned about soil remediation. The Committee understands that NASA is working with the State of California under the 2007 Consent Order and 2010 Administrative Order on Consent regarding soil and groundwater cleanup at the site and on expediting the State's environmental impact report. The Committee encourages NASA to continue working with the State of California on cleanup of the site.

OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

The Committee recommends $44,200,000 for the Office of the Inspector General, which is $2,500,000 above fiscal year 2020 appropriation and equal to the requested level.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

The Committee has included the following administrative provisions for NASA:

The bill includes a provision that makes funds for any announced prize available without fiscal year limitation until the prize is claimed or the offer is withdrawn.

The bill includes a provision that establishes terms and conditions for the transfer of funds.

The bill includes a provision that requires NASA to submit its agency spending plan at the activity level and subjects both the spending plan and specified changes to that plan to reprogramming procedures under section 505 of this Act.

The bill includes a provision that limits the availability of funds for certain activities until a plan is submitted.

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

The Committee recommends $8,548,343,000 for the National Science Foundation (NSF). This significant investment, which is $270,013,000 above fiscal year 2020 and $806,943,000 above the request, shows the Committee's continued support for science, the academic community, and the next generation of scientists, mathematicians, astronomers, and engineers across the country. The Committee underscores the importance of basic research that both

improves the lives of Americans and expands our understanding of the Earth, the depths of our oceans, our solar system, the universe, and oceans on other planets.

In addition, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) (Public Law 116–136) included $75,000,000 for Research and Related Activities and $1,000,000 for Agency Operations and Award Management to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus, domestically or internationally.

The Committee supports infrastructure investments that expand our understanding of the universe and inspire students to pursue careers in the sciences. The Committee recognizes that current and future large scientific facilities represent an enormous investment of Federal resources that must be administered wisely. The Committee supports basic research in fundamental science areas and expects that as NSF uses the 10 Big Ideas as a focusing tool, the funding for the fundamental scientific disciplines will be maintained. Within amounts provided, NSF shall allocate no less than fiscal year 2020 levels to support its existing scientific research, research laboratories, observational networks, and other research infrastructure assets, including the astronomy assets, the current academic research fleet, Federally funded research and development centers, and the national high-performance computing centers, so that they may provide the support needed for cutting edge research.

Divestment activities.—The Committee is aware that NSF is working with a variety of academic, private sector, and other government agencies with respect to the future operation of some of its observatories. NSF shall continue to keep the Committee informed regarding the status of these activities. Any proposal by NSF to divest the Foundation of these facilities shall be proposed as part of any future NSF budget request and is subject to NSF administrative provisions included in the accompanying bill.

Innovation Corps.—The Committee recognizes the value of translating basic research for public benefit, and the recommendation includes $40,000,000 for the Innovation Corps program to continue to build on the initial successes of its highly innovative public-private partnership model and recent expansion of the program to additional academic institutions.

HBCU Student Diversity and Success Research.—The Committee recognizes the value of understanding how students of diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds may succeed in an academic setting. Of the funds appropriated, NSF is encouraged to support research to identify and understand how HBCUs with diverse academic cultures successfully graduate African American students at a higher rate than other institutions; produce a higher rate of African American STEM students receiving PhDs; and instill in students a greater sense of well-being. Within 180 days of enactment of this Act, NSF shall provide a report to the Committee on how NSF funded research is contributing to the success of HBCUs.

Foundation for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act Implementation.—Within 90 days of enactment of this Act, the Committee directs NSF to report on the implementation of the Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018 (Public Law 115 435) and progress being made by NSF in this area.

Agency-wide Evidence Participation.—The Committee encourages NSF to develop guidance to ensure that all relevant internal and external stakeholders are involved in Agency-wide processes for prioritizing and conducting evidence generation activities.

RESEARCH AND RELATED ACTIVITIES

The Committee recommends $6,967,123,000 for Research and Related Activities, which is $229,923,000 above fiscal year 2020 and $754,103,000 above the request. The Committee believes that strategic investments in the physical sciences are vitally important for the United States to remain the global leader in innovation, productivity, economic growth, and high-paying jobs for the future.

This Committee commends the National Science Foundation for issuing its plan entitled, *Increasing Access to the Results of Research Funded by the National Science Foundation*, on March 18, 2015. The Committee urges the National Science Foundation to continue its efforts of the plan and requires an update on the agency's activities be included in its fiscal year 2022 budget request.

Artificial intelligence (AI).—The Committee believes it is important to maintain leadership in artificial intelligence and commends NSF for its significant investments in this area. The Committee recognizes the potential of artificial intelligence to transform the economy, foster economic growth, support national security, and enhance well-being.

To continue the progress in this emerging field, the Committee recommends no less than the fiscal year 2020 levels to support AI-related grants and interdisciplinary research initiatives. The committee encourages NSF to continue its efforts in workforce development for AI and other emerging technologies, with focused outreach to community colleges, Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic Serving Institutions, and Minority Serving Institutions.

The Committee continues to urge NSF to invest in the ethical and safe development of AI. The Committee acknowledges receiving the NSF Leadership and Investments in Artificial Intelligence Research Report and further encourages NSF to report to the Committee on any cooperative projects on Artificial Intelligence between United States entities and international partners.

Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR).—The recommendation includes no less than $205,000,000 for the EPSCoR program to help targeted jurisdictions strengthen STEM capacity and capability to broaden the expertise base, impact jurisdictional economic growth, and develop a skilled workforce capable of generating high-tech jobs in all states of the nation. EPSCoR states have many unmet needs including equipment and computing/networking resources, sufficient numbers of researchers, especially at the graduate and post-doctoral levels, and better integration into regular NSF programs, which co-funding can help overcome.

Existing astronomy assets.—The Committee underscores that a critical component of the nation's scientific enterprise is the infrastructure that supports researchers in discovery science, including planetary protection. Investments to advance the frontiers of research and education in science and engineering are critical to the nation's innovation enterprise. U.S.-based astronomy facilities con-

tinue to make groundbreaking discoveries and maintain excellent world-class scientific research. The Committee instructs NSF to sustain support for the programs and scientific facilities funded by the Astronomical Sciences Division at no less than the fiscal year 2020 levels to maintain full scientific and educational operations. The Committee is aware that NSF is working with Federal, academic, and private sector partners to develop plans to share future operations and maintenance costs of NSF astronomical infrastructure. NSF shall keep the Committee informed of these activities. Further, any proposal by NSF to divest the Foundation of these facilities shall be proposed as part of any future NSF budget request and is subject to NSF administrative provisions included in the accompanying bill.

Quantum initiative.—The Committee supports NSF's research program in quantum information science and technology in support of the authorized activities included in section 401 and section 402 of the National Quantum Initiative Act (Public Law 115 368). This emerging field of science promises to yield revolutionary new approaches to computing, sensing, and communication. NSF should remain committed to developing and supporting systems that facilitate tremendous leaps in computational simulation, including artificial intelligence, storage, quantum computing, and data analyses that enable a broad range of scientific research. Leading edge high-performance computing infrastructure is vital for continued U.S. world leadership and international scientific competitiveness, particularly given computational investments and technical achievements in high-performance computing by other nations. The recommendation provides no less than the fiscal year 2020 level for these activities.

Historically Black Colleges and Universities Excellence in Research Program.—The agreement includes $20,000,000 for the Historically Black Colleges and Universities Excellence in Research Program.

Arctic Research.—As NSF continues its Navigating the New Arctic program, the Committee encourages NSF to formulate research programs that also address non-Arctic populations in the continental United States, funding research and training initiatives that focus on global impacts of Arctic change. Specifically, NSF should consider change in the North Atlantic sector of the Arctic and resultant impacts on communities in North America.

Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs).—The Committee supports the work of the Oceans and Human Health program to better understand the public health risk of environmental exposures and encourages NSF to continue to support research into the human health impacts of HABs in marine coastal regions, the Great Lakes Basin, and other freshwater systems. HABs jeopardize the integrity of drinking water resources in these regions. The recommendation provides no less than the fiscal year 2020 level for HAB research activities.

Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences (SBE).—The Committee supports SBE and recognizes the fundamental importance of the research it supports in advancing our understanding of human behavior and its application to a wide range of human systems, including public health, national defense and security, education and learning, and the integration of human and machine. SBE funds

over half of our nation's university-based social and behavioral science research but remains one of the smallest NSF directorates. The Committee believes this research provides an evidence-based understanding of the human condition, resulting in more-informed policymaking and better-informed spending on a full range of national issues. The committee believes SBE-supported research makes the US unique among other nations and recommends no less than the fiscal year 2020 levels for SBE activities.

Decadal Survey on Astronomy and Astrophysics 2020 (Astro2020).—NSF funding enables astronomical research in the U.S., at facilities across the globe, and through its flagship observatories at NSF's National Optical-Infrared Astronomy Research Laboratory, the National Radio Astronomy Observatory, the National Astronomy and Ionosphere Center, and the National Solar Observatory. NSF should continue its support for existing astronomical facilities in its budget planning, including through its Windows on the Universe Big Idea. As Congress awaits recommendations from the 2020 Astrophysics and Astronomy Decadal Survey, the Committee also reiterates its support for preliminary investments in emerging priority facilities, such as the next generation Very Large Array and the Extremely Large Telescopes. The Committee is aware that NSF is providing funding in preparation for these future facilities, and the Committee encourages NSF to continue to do so over the coming year.

Algorithmic bias research.—The Committee encourages NSF to continue to partner with non-government organizations, academic institutions, and other government agencies including the National Institute of Standards and Technology, to fund research on algorithmic bias in artificial intelligence, machine learning and intelligent systems and its impacts on decisions related to employment, housing, creditworthiness, and many other areas, and to develop methods, tools, and programs for resolving bias within an algorithm. The Committee recognizes that the science sponsored through such collaboration is important for studying the impact that algorithms have on protected classes and for developing an understanding of what kinds of discrimination and bias protected classes face in these particular activities.

The Committee directs NSF to prepare a report on artificial intelligence and bias. This report should include but is not limited to: (1) a description of the current NSF research related to the issue of artificial intelligence and bias; (2) an outline of what research could be done to better understand the issue of artificial intelligence and bias; (3) a description of current NSF initiatives to promote diversity in computer science and machine learning; (4) recommendations for what could be done to further promote diversity in computer science and machine learning; (5) recommendations for how NSF-funded artificial intelligence research can help prevent biased results and (6) any other relevant observations or recommendations within the field of artificial intelligence and bias. Some specific topics could include transparency, explainability, accountability, potential adverse biases and effects, mitigation strategies, validation of fairness, and consideration of inclusivity. This report shall be made publicly available on the NSF website within 270 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

Solar Astronomy.—The Committee commends NSF's ongoing efforts to partner with academic institutions and the National Solar Observatory (NSO) to operate the Richard B. Dunn Solar Telescope (DST) that provides opportunities for solar astronomers to continue to use DST and its associated instrumentation, in the continental United States, in addition to the Daniel K. Inouye Solar Telescope. The Committee encourages NSF to continue it partnerships to ensure this valuable resource is available for continued research.

Facility Operations.—The Committee is supportive of NSF's role in building and operating groundbreaking research facilities, especially in areas that maintain or enhance U.S. leadership in key disciplines. Furthermore, the need for continued investment in world-class major research facilities is not expected to diminish over the coming decade. The Committee supports NSF's acknowledgement of the findings and recommendations of National Science Board Report 2018–17, including the Facility Operation Transition pilot program. Within 90 days of the enactment of this Act, NSF shall report to the Committee how it is implementing the report findings and how NSF will ensure continued health of existing facilities.

MAJOR RESEARCH EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES CONSTRUCTION

The Committee recommends $243,230,000 for Major Research Equipment and Facilities Construction, which is equal to the fiscal year 2020 level and $13,480,000 above the request. The recommendation includes $1,000,000, as requested, for enhanced oversight. NSF shall continue to provide quarterly briefings to the Committee on the activities funded in this account.

Antarctica Infrastructure Modernization for Science (AIMS).—The recommendation includes $97,890,000 for AIMS to replace major facilities at McMurdo Station, Antarctica. The Committee supports the AIMS program and the recommendations for increased efficiencies included in the U.S. Antarctic Program Blue Ribbon Panel report, *More and Better Science in Antarctica through Increased Logistical Effectiveness*.

High Luminosity-Large Hadron Collider Upgrade (HL–LHC).—The recommendation includes $33,000,000 for upgrades to the detectors at the Large Hadron Collider, as requested.

Vera C. Rubin Observatory.—The recommendation includes $40,750,000, equal to the requested level, for the Vera C. Rubin Observatory, which was ranked as the top large ground-based astronomy project by the National Research Council 2010 Decadal Survey. This observatory will produce the deepest, widest-field sky image ever and issue alerts for moving and transient objects within 60 seconds of discovery.

Mid-scale research infrastructure.—The recommendation includes $70,590,000, within the MREFC account, for mid-scale research infrastructure. The Committee commends NSF for its planned investments in mid-scale research infrastructure, including the provision of larger mid-scale instrumentation and the facility operation transition program to better enable support for facilities over their complete lifespan.

The Committee directs NSF to report, within 180 days of the enactment of this Act, on the implementation of the recommendations in the National Science Board 2018 report entitled *Bridging the*

Gap: Building a Sustained Approach to Mid-scale Research Infrastructure and Cyberinfrastructure at NSF.

Infrastructure planning.—The Committee is concerned about NSF's planning for the construction and development of the next-generation of competitive large-scale facilities to support NSF-funded science disciplines, including ground-based telescopes. Failure to plan for the next generation of facilities handicaps the U.S. science community and risks our nation's global leadership in science. The Committee encourages NSF to develop a comprehensive and prioritized list of large-scale facilities requested by NSF-supported science disciplines.

EDUCATION AND HUMAN RESOURCES

The Committee recommends $970,000,000 for Education and Human Resources, which is $30,000,000 above fiscal year 2020 and $39,070,000 above the request.

Broadening participation programs.—To broaden the participation of underrepresented populations in STEM education programs and, ultimately, the STEM workforce, the recommendation provides no less than $51,000,000 for the Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation; no less than $70,000,000 for the Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program; no less than $75,000,000 for the Advanced Technological Education Program; and no less than $18,000,000 for the Tribal Colleges and Universities Program.

Inclusion across the Nation of Communities of Learners of Underrepresented Discoverers in Engineering and Science (NSF INCLUDES).—The Committee supports the NSF INCLUDES program, which is a comprehensive national initiative designed to enhance U.S. leadership in science, technology, engineering and mathematics discoveries and innovations focused on NSFs commitment to diversity, inclusion, and broadening participation in these fields. The recommendation includes no less than $20,000,000 for the NSF INCLUDES program.

IUSE Program.—The Committee supports the Improving Undergraduate STEM Education (IUSE) Program and the recommendation provides no less than $95,000,000 for program activities.

Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs).—Hispanic Serving Institutions and the HSI grant program play an important role in increasing the recruitment, retention, and graduation rates of Hispanic students pursuing STEM degrees, particularly at institutions of higher education that typically do not receive high levels of NSF funding. The recommendation includes no less than $48,000,000 for the HSI program.

The Committee is concerned by the severe underrepresentation of Hispanic Ph.D. graduates in the STEM fields and directs NSF to collaborate with stakeholders in preparing a plan that addresses this issue and leads to an increase in the rate of Hispanic Ph.D. graduates in the STEM fields. NSF shall report back to the Committee on the status of this plan not later than 120 days after the enactment of this Act.

Historically Black Colleges and Universities Undergraduate Program (HBCU–UP).—The recommendation provides no less than $38,000,000 for the HBCU–UP. This initiative provides strategic programs and opportunities for Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) that stimulate sustainable improvement in

their research and development capacity and competitiveness. The Committee encourages NSF to continue to use research infrastructure improvement grants, co-funding programs, and other innovative mechanisms to boost HBCU participation and capacity throughout NSF research programs.

Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institutions (AANAPISIs).—The Committee notes that among the minority-serving institutions with whom NSF provides grant opportunities, AANAPISIs are not designated. The Committee urges NSF to increase grant funding opportunities for AANAPISIs, and to reach out to these institutions to raise awareness regarding these grants.

Computer Science for All (CSforAll).—CSforAll will help facilitate research into effective approaches to the teaching and learning of computer science across grades Pre-K–12; it is critical to NSF's mission and to ensure America's children are prepared for a 21st century economy. The Committee supports this new program and is encouraged by its promise.

Early Childhood STEM Education.—The Committee urges NSF, in awarding grants under its Discovery Research Pre-K–12 program, to consider age distribution in order to more equitably allocate funding for research studies with a focus on early childhood.

Cybersecurity research.—The Committee encourages NSF to form partnerships with Hispanic Serving Institutions and Historically Black Colleges and Universities with respect to cybersecurity research.

CyberCorps.—The Committee provides no less than $58,000,000 for CyberCorps: Scholarships for Service program and urges NSF to use the CyberCorps Faculty Fellows pilot program to address the critical shortage of cybersecurity faculty in U.S. institutions of higher education. In addition, the Committee urges NSF to continue work with qualified community colleges including through providing scholarships and apprenticeship opportunities.

AGENCY OPERATIONS AND AWARD MANAGEMENT

The Committee recommends $345,640,000 for Agency Operations and Award Management, which is $8,740,000 above fiscal year 2020 and the same as the request.

OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL SCIENCE BOARD

The Committee recommends $4,500,000 for the National Science Board, which is the same as fiscal year 2020 and $290,000 above the request.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

The Committee recommends $17,850,000 for the Office of Inspector General, which is $1,350,000 above fiscal year 2020 and the equal to the request.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

The bill includes a provision that establishes thresholds for the transfer of funds.

The bill includes a provision regarding notification prior to acquisition or disposal of certain assets.

TITLE IV

RELATED AGENCIES

COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

The Committee recommends $12,000,000 for the Commission on Civil Rights, which is $1,500,000 above fiscal year 2020 and $1,935,000 above the request.

Field Hearings.—The Committee encourages the Commission to conduct field hearings on priority civil rights topics such as policing, fair housing, and the Census.

Policing Reform.—The Committee commends the Commission for its report, *Police Use of Force: An Examination of Modern Policing Practices*, and directs the Commission to continue disseminating the findings and recommendations on constitutional policing reform found in that and other related Commission reports. The Committee provides additional funding in support of the Commission's efforts to further research and advise on this topic.

Donations.—The Committee includes bill language granting the Commission the authority to accept donations to carry out its mission, similar to authority provided to 45 other Federal agencies. The Commission shall provide to the Committee quarterly updates on all gifts and donations, as well as the terms of, and specific activities funded by, the gift or donation. Additionally, anticipated funding from gifts or donations shall be included in the Commission's annual spend plan.

Territories.—Within the amount provided, the Committee directs the Commission to establish Advisory Committees in Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Northern Marianas Islands, as well as to provide for appropriate staffing and related costs. The Committee believes it is important to provide these territories with equal resources to shed light on ongoing civil rights concerns under the American flag.

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

The Committee recommends $408,700,000 for the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), which is $19,200,000 above fiscal year 2020 and $46,219,000 above the request. The recommended additional funding is provided to increase front-line and investigative staff to reduce wait times for intake appointments, provide live help via the hotlines, modernize information technology, and to collect information required by the revised EEO 1 form.

Summary of Equal Pay Data and Report.—Within the amount provided, the EEOC shall analyze summary pay information collected through the revised EEO I form for 2017 and 2018, publish a publicly available report describing the methodology of results of

the analysis, and develop a revised proposal for collecting pay data from employers, including a process and timeline for doing so.

Within 90 days of the enactment of this Act, the EEOC shall submit a report to the House Appropriations Committee setting forth a timeline and process for analyzing the summary pay information collected through the revised EEO I form, and for publishing a publicly available report describing the methodology and the results of the analysis. The Committee encourages the Commission's report to include an analysis of the feasibility of disaggregating pay data by industry, by role or position, and with data disaggregated by race, ethnicity, and gender.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

The Committee recommends $105,000,000 for the International Trade Commission (ITC), which is $5,600,000 above fiscal year 2020 and $5,400,000 above the request.

The Committee recognizes the Nation's diverse and unique geographic regions allow for year-round availability of a variety of agricultural produce important to U.S. consumers. However, the Committee is concerned that some regions that specialize in seasonal produce that may only be grown during certain months of the year are also vulnerable to competition and unfair trade practices from foreign markets. Therefore, the Committee directs the ITC to study the effects of seasonal produce dumping, how it impacts different geographic regions throughout the year, and existing challenges to addressing these issues.

LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

PAYMENT TO THE LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

The Committee recommends $465,000,000 for the Legal Services Corporation (LSC), which is $25,000,000 above fiscal year 2020 and $446,800,000 above the request.

In addition, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) (Public Law 116–136) included $50,000,000 for payment to the Legal Services Corporation to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus, domestically or internationally.

LSC is a nonprofit corporation established to promote equal access to justice and to provide grants for high-quality civil legal assistance to low-income persons. LSC grants help the most vulnerable people, including thousands of low-income individuals, veterans, children, families and seniors with civil legal assistance with matters addressing family law, including domestic violence, child support, and custody, as well as with housing matters, including evictions and foreclosures. The recommended funding level includes $423,400,000 for basic field grants, an increase of $20,700,000 above fiscal year 2020.The increased funding will enable LSC's grantees to expand their outreach and assist more low-income Americans. With State, local, pro bono, and private sources underfunded, LSC is critical to closing the access-to-justice gap.

Evictions.—The Committee continues to be concerned with the high rate of evictions in certain States and territories and the limited available legal aid. LSC should continue its plan to conduct

and publish an analysis regarding areas within States and territories with high rates of unmet legal needs involving evictions and with consideration of variations in local laws. LSC should use data regarding eviction rates, availability of legal aid or other free legal advocates, and differences among laws and procedures affecting evictions in different areas. In addition, LSC is urged to explore opportunities to increase access to eviction-related legal aid in such States and territories, including through LSC's Pro Bono Innovation Fund.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISION—LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

The bill continues certain restrictions on the uses of LSC funding.

MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

The Committee was disappointed by the proposal to close the Marine Mammal Commission and rejects that proposal. Instead the recommendation includes $3,769,000 for the critical ongoing work of the commission to protect these important species.

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

The Committee recommends $70,000,000 for the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR), which is $1,000,000 above fiscal year 2020 and $3,000,000 below the request. In addition, Title IX of the United States-Mexico-Canada Implementation (USMCA) Act (Public Law 116–113) included $90,000,000 in supplemental appropriations for obligation until fiscal year 2023. The Committee reminds USTR of the quarterly expenditure report directed in House Report 116–101. The Committee directs the continuation of this report for fiscal year 2021 and expects the inclusion of all funds provided to USTR, including supplemental appropriations. Further, the report should include information on staffing and hires that are supporting the implementation of the USMCA. The report is due no later than 30 days after the end of each quarter in the fiscal year.

Bilateral Trade Agreements.—As the USTR continues multiple and simultaneous bilateral trade agreement discussions on behalf of the United States with various countries, including China and India, the Committee encourages USTR to continue to prioritize key U.S. export markets to ensure U.S. exporters are treated fairly, and where applicable, USTR is encouraged to prioritize resources to monitor compliance with trade obligations and enforce terms of such agreements. The Committee supports USTR's work to provide equitable market access for United States exports, including American-produced boric acid and American-grown almonds, pistachios, and walnuts, in India, and fresh citrus and other specialty crops, in China, and urges USTR to continue to prioritize fair treatment for American companies and enforcement of all of our trading partners' obligations.

Section 505 Notifications.—The Committee was disappointed to learn that USTR announced the creation of a new Office of American Competitiveness and Enterprise and began advertising for

new positions for this office both internally and externally without notifying the Committee. The Committee reminds USTR that the creation of a new office within its organization requires notification to the Committees on Appropriations in accordance with section 505 of this Act and prior Appropriations Acts.

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

The Committee recommends $55,000,000 for the salaries and expenses of USTR, which is $1,000,000 above fiscal year 2020 and $5,000,000 below the request.

TRADE ENFORCEMENT TRUST FUND

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

The Committee recommends $15,000,000, which is to be derived from the Trade Enforcement Trust Fund, for trade enforcement activities authorized by the Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act of 2015 ("TFTEA").

The recommendation is $2,000,000 above the request and equal to the amount for fiscal year 2020.

STATE JUSTICE INSTITUTE

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

The Committee recommends $7,700,000 for the State Justice Institute, which is $1,145,000 above fiscal year 2020.

The additional funding is provided to enhance the Institute's efforts to help State courts address the opioid epidemic. The Committee expects the Institute to make addressing the opioid epidemic a priority.

TITLE V

GENERAL PROVISIONS

(INCLUDING RESCISSIONS)

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

Section 501 prohibits the use of funds for publicity or propaganda purposes unless expressly authorized by law.

Section 502 prohibits any appropriation contained in this Act from remaining available for obligation beyond the current fiscal year unless expressly authorized.

Section 503 provides that the expenditure of any appropriation contained in this Act for any consulting service through procurement contracts shall be limited to those contracts where such expenditures are a matter of public record and available for public inspection, except where otherwise provided under existing law or under existing Executive order issued pursuant to existing law.

Section 504 provides that if any provision of this Act or the application of such provision to any person or circumstance shall be held invalid, the remainder of the Act and the application of other provisions shall not be affected.

Section 505 prohibits a reprogramming of funds that: (1) creates or initiates a new program, project, or activity; (2) eliminates a program, project, or activity; (3) increases funds or personnel by any

means for any project or activity for which funds have been denied or restricted; (4) relocates an office or employees; (5) reorganizes or renames offices, programs, or activities; (6) contracts out or privatizes any function or activity presently performed by Federal employees; (7) augments funds for existing programs, projects, or activities in excess of $500,000 or 10 percent, whichever is less, or reduces by 10 percent funding for any program, project, or activity, or numbers of personnel by 10 percent; or (8) results from any general savings, including savings from a reduction in personnel, which would result in a change in existing programs, projects, or activities as approved by Congress, unless the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations are notified 15 days in advance of such reprogramming of funds.

Section 506 provides that if it is determined that any person intentionally affixes a "Made in America" label to any product that was not made in America that person shall not be eligible to receive any contract or subcontract made with funds made available in this Act. The section further provides that to the extent practicable, with respect to purchases of promotional items, funds made available under this Act shall be used to purchase items manufactured, produced, or assembled in the United States or its territories or possessions.

Section 507 requires quarterly reporting on the status of balances of appropriations.

Section 508 provides that any costs incurred by a department or agency funded under this Act resulting from, or to prevent, personnel actions taken in response to funding reductions in this Act, or, for the Department of Commerce, from actions taken for the care and protection of loan collateral or grant property, shall be absorbed within the budgetary resources available to the department or agency, and provides transfer authority between appropriation accounts to carry out this provision, subject to reprogramming procedures.

Section 509 prohibits funds made available in this Act from being used to promote the sale or export of tobacco or tobacco products or to seek the reduction or removal of foreign restrictions on the marketing of tobacco products, except for restrictions that are not applied equally to all tobacco or tobacco products of the same type. This provision is not intended to impact routine international trade services to all U.S. citizens, including the processing of applications to establish foreign trade zones.

Section 510 limits the obligation of receipts deposited into the Crime Victims Fund to $2,650,000,000 during fiscal year 2021. The language also provides for a tribal set-aside.

Section 511 prohibits the use of Department of Justice funds for programs that discriminate against or denigrate the religious or moral beliefs of students participating in such programs.

Section 512 prohibits the transfer of funds made available in this Act to any department, agency or instrumentality of the United States Government, except for transfers made by, or pursuant to authorities provided in, this Act or any other appropriations Act.

Section 513 requires the Inspectors General of the Departments of Commerce and Justice, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the National Science Foundation, and the Legal Serv-

ices Corporation to conduct reviews of activities funded in this Act and requires certifications regarding conflicts of interest.

Section 514 prohibits funds for acquisition of certain information systems unless the acquiring department or agency has reviewed and assessed certain risks. Any acquisition of such an information system is contingent upon the development of a risk mitigation strategy and a determination that the acquisition is in the national interest. Each department or agency covered by this section shall consult with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and other relevant agencies when reviewing supply chain risks and making a determination that the acquisition is in the national interest. Each department or agency covered by this section is directed to ensure it is following the criteria established by the FBI and the National Institute of Standards and Technology when acquiring or renewing certain information systems. Each department or agency covered under this section shall submit a quarterly report to the Committees on Appropriations of the House and Senate describing reviews and assessments of risk made pursuant to this section and any associated findings or determinations.

Section 515 prohibits the use of funds made available in this Act to support or justify the use of torture by any official or contract employee of the United States Government.

Section 516 prohibits the use of funds made available in this Act to include certain language in trade agreements.

Section 517 prohibits the use of funds made available in this Act to authorize or issue a national security letter (NSL) in contravention of certain laws authorizing the FBI to issue NSLs.

Section 518 requires congressional notification regarding any project within the Departments of Commerce or Justice, the National Science Foundation or the National Aeronautics and Space Administration totaling more than $75,000,000 that has cost increases of 10 percent or more.

Section 519 deems funds for intelligence or intelligence related activities as authorized by Congress during fiscal year 2021 until the enactment of the Intelligence Authorization Act for fiscal year 2021.

Section 520 prohibits contracts or grant awards in excess of $5,000,000 unless the prospective contractor or grantee certifies that the organization has filed all Federal tax returns, has not been convicted of a criminal offense under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, and has no unpaid Federal tax assessment.

(RESCISSIONS)

Section 521 provides for rescissions of unobligated balances from the Departments of Commerce and Justice.

Section 522 prohibits the use of funds made available in this Act for the purchase of first class or premium air travel in contravention of certain Federal regulations.

Section 523 prohibits the use of funds made available in this Act to pay for the attendance of more than 50 department or agency employees, who are stationed in the United States, at any single conference outside the United States, except for certain law enforcement and scientific conferences.

Section 524 requires tracking and reporting of undisbursed balances in expired grant accounts.

Section 525 requires funds, to the extent practicable, to be used to purchase light bulbs that are "Energy Star" qualified or have the "Federal Energy Management Program" designation.

Section 526 prohibits the use of funds made available in this Act by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) or the National Space Council (NSC) to engage in bilateral activities with China or a Chinese-owned company unless the activities are authorized by subsequent legislation or NASA, OSTP or NSC after consultation with the Federal Bureau of Investigation have made a certification pursuant to subsections (c) and (d) of this section.

Section 527 prohibits the use of funds made available in this Act to establish or maintain a computer network that does not block pornography, except for law enforcement or victim assistance purposes.

Section 528 requires each department and agency funded in the bill to submit spending plans.

Section 529 prohibits funds to pay for award or incentive fees for contractors with below satisfactory performance or performance that fails to meet the basic requirements of the contract.

Section 530 prohibits funds from being used by the Department of Justice or Drug Enforcement Administration in contravention of section 7606 of Agricultural Act of 2014.

Section 531 prohibits the Department of Justice from preventing certain States and territories from implementing State or territory laws regarding the use of medical marijuana.

Section 532 requires a quarterly report from the Department of Commerce, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and the National Science Foundation on official travel to China.

Section 533 requires not less than 10 percent of the funds provided for certain programs be provided to persistent poverty counties or any territory or possession of the United States.

Section 534 clarifies that the formulation and development cost of the James Webb Space Telescope, as specified in division B of Public Law 116–93, shall not include any costs directly related to preventing, preparing for, and responding to the impacts of a global pandemic health crisis.

Section 535 prohibits funds for the Census Bureau to use information or records through data sharing agreements in contravention of existing law, including sections 9 and 214 of title 13, United States Code.

Section 536 prohibits funds to move a Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives facility.

Section 537 prohibits funds for the Census Bureau to compile or produce certain data products or tabulations under certain circumstances.

Section 538 prohibits funds from being used to implement the Attorney General Memorandum dated November 7, 2018, entitled "Principles and Procedures for Civil Consent Decrees and Settlement Agreements with State and Local Governmental Entities".

Section 539 prohibits funds from being used to carry out or support any law enforcement action taken to support or control a crowd or public demonstration, unless the law enforcement officer wears clearly visible identification of the law enforcement agency

that vests such individual with authority to carry out or support such action.

Section 540 prohibits funding for salaries and expenses of more than five political and Presidential appointees in the Bureau of the Census.

Section 541 prohibits funding to enable the United States Attorney General to travel more than 50 miles from the Robert F. Kennedy Department of Justice Building in the District of Columbia.

Section 542 amends section 510 of division B of Public Law 116–93.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

The following materials are submitted in accordance with various requirements of the Rules of the House of Representatives:

FULL COMMITTEE VOTES

FULL COMMITTEE VOTES

Pursuant to the provisions of clause 3(b) of rule XIII of the House of Representatives, the results of each roll call vote on an amendment or on the motion to report, together with the names of those voting for and those voting against, are printed below:

Roll Call 1

Date: July 14, 2020
Measure: Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, FY2021
Motion by: Mr. Cole
Description of Motion: Exempts federally recognized Indian Tribes from the requirements of section 219 of the Bill.
Results: Defeated 22 yeas to 30 nays

Members Voting Yea	*Members Voting Nay*
Mr. Aderholt	Mr. Aguilar
Mr. Amodei	Mr. Bishop
Mr. Calvert	Mrs. Bustos
Mr. Carter	Mr. Cartwright
Mr. Cole	Mr. Case
Mr. Diaz-Balart	Ms. Clark
Mr. Fleischmann	Mr. Crist
Mr. Fortenberry	Mr. Cuellar
Ms. Granger	Ms. DeLauro
Mr. Graves	Ms. Frankel
Dr. Harris	Ms. Kaptur
Ms. Herrera Beutler	Mr. Kilmer
Mr. Hurd	Mrs. Kirkpatrick
Mr. Joyce	Mrs. Lawrence
Mr. Moolenaar	Ms. Lee
Mr. Newhouse	Mrs. Lowey
Mr. Palazzo	Ms. McCollum
Mr. Rogers	Ms. Meng
Mr. Rutherford	Ms. Pingree
Mr. Simpson	Mr. Pocan
Mr. Stewart	Mr. Price
Mr. Womack	Mr. Quigley
	Ms. Roybal-Allard
	Mr. Ruppersberger
	Mr. Ryan
	Mr. Serrano
	Mrs. Torres
	Mr. Visclosky
	Ms. Wasserman Schultz
	Mrs. Watson Coleman

FULL COMMITTEE VOTES

Pursuant to the provisions of clause 3(b) of rule XIII of the House of Representatives, the results of each roll call vote on an amendment or on the motion to report, together with the names of those voting for and those voting against, are printed below:

Roll Call 2

Date: July 14, 2020
Measure: Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, FY2021
Motion by: Mr. Diaz-Balart
Description of Motion: Exempts school hardening measures from the requirements of section 219 of the Bill.
Results: Defeated 22 yeas to 30 nays

Members Voting Yea	*Members Voting Nay*
Mr. Aderholt	Mr. Aguilar
Mr. Amodei	Mr. Bishop
Mr. Calvert	Mrs. Bustos
Mr. Carter	Mr. Cartwright
Mr. Cole	Mr. Case
Mr. Diaz-Balart	Ms. Clark
Mr. Fleischmann	Mr. Crist
Mr. Fortenberry	Mr. Cuellar
Ms. Granger	Ms. DeLauro
Mr. Graves	Ms. Frankel
Dr. Harris	Ms. Kaptur
Ms. Herrera Beutler	Mr. Kilmer
Mr. Hurd	Mrs. Kirkpatrick
Mr. Joyce	Mrs. Lawrence
Mr. Moolenaar	Ms. Lee
Mr. Newhouse	Mrs. Lowey
Mr. Palazzo	Ms. McCollum
Mr. Rogers	Ms. Meng
Mr. Rutherford	Ms. Pingree
Mr. Simpson	Mr. Pocan
Mr. Stewart	Mr. Price
Mr. Womack	Mr. Quigley
	Ms. Roybal-Allard
	Mr. Ruppersberger
	Mr. Ryan
	Mr. Serrano
	Mrs. Torres
	Mr. Visclosky
	Ms. Wasserman Schultz
	Mrs. Watson Coleman

FULL COMMITTEE VOTES

Pursuant to the provisions of clause 3(b) of rule XIII of the House of Representatives, the results of each roll call vote on an amendment or on the motion to report, together with the names of those voting for and those voting against, are printed below:

Roll Call 3

Date: July 14, 2020
Measure: Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, FY2021
Motion by: Mr. Rutherford
Description of Motion: Exempts certain programs funded under the "Community Oriented Policing Services" heading from the requirements of section 219 of the Bill.
Results: Defeated 22 yeas to 30 nays

Members Voting Yea
Mr. Aderholt
Mr. Amodei
Mr. Calvert
Mr. Carter
Mr. Cole
Mr. Diaz-Balart
Mr. Fleischmann
Mr. Fortenberry
Ms. Granger
Mr. Graves
Dr. Harris
Ms. Herrera Beutler
Mr. Hurd
Mr. Joyce
Mr. Moolenaar
Mr. Newhouse
Mr. Palazzo
Mr. Rogers
Mr. Rutherford
Mr. Simpson
Mr. Stewart
Mr. Womack

Members Voting Nay
Mr. Aguilar
Mr. Bishop
Mrs. Bustos
Mr. Cartwright
Mr. Case
Ms. Clark
Mr. Crist
Mr. Cuellar
Ms. DeLauro
Ms. Frankel
Ms. Kaptur
Mr. Kilmer
Mrs. Kirkpatrick
Mrs. Lawrence
Ms. Lee
Mrs. Lowey
Ms. McCollum
Ms. Meng
Ms. Pingree
Mr. Pocan
Mr. Price
Mr. Quigley
Ms. Roybal-Allard
Mr. Ruppersberger
Mr. Ryan
Mr. Serrano
Mrs. Torres
Mr. Visclosky
Ms. Wasserman Schultz
Mrs. Watson Coleman

FULL COMMITTEE VOTES

Pursuant to the provisions of clause 3(b) of rule XIII of the House of Representatives, the results of each roll call vote on an amendment or on the motion to report, together with the names of those voting for and those voting against, are printed below:

Roll Call 4

Date: July 14, 2020
Measure: Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, FY2021
Motion by: Mr. Kaptur
Description of Motion: To report the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill to the House, as amended.
Results: Approved 30 yeas to 22 nays

Members Voting Yea	*Members Voting Nay*
Mr. Aguilar	Mr. Aderholt
Mr. Bishop	Mr. Amodei
Mrs. Bustos	Mr. Calvert
Mr. Cartwright	Mr. Carter
Mr. Case	Mr. Cole
Ms. Clark	Mr. Diaz-Balart
Mr. Crist	Mr. Fleischmann
Mr. Cuellar	Mr. Fortenberry
Ms. DeLauro	Ms. Granger
Ms. Frankel	Mr. Graves
Ms. Kaptur	Dr. Harris
Mr. Kilmer	Ms. Herrera Beutler
Mrs. Kirkpatrick	Mr. Hurd
Mrs. Lawrence	Mr. Joyce
Ms. Lee	Mr. Moolenaar
Mrs. Lowey	Mr. Newhouse
Ms. McCollum	Mr. Palazzo
Ms. Meng	Mr. Rogers
Ms. Pingree	Mr. Rutherford
Mr. Pocan	Mr. Simpson
Mr. Price	Mr. Stewart
Mr. Quigley	Mr. Womack
Ms. Roybal-Allard	
Mr. Ruppersberger	
Mr. Ryan	
Mr. Serrano	
Mrs. Torres	
Mr. Visclosky	
Ms. Wasserman Schultz	
Mrs. Watson Coleman	

Statement of General Performance Goals and Objectives

Pursuant to clause 3(c)(4) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following is a statement of general performance goals and objectives for which this measure authorizes funding: The Committee on Appropriations considers program performance, including a program's success in developing and attaining outcome-related goals and objectives, in developing funding recommendations.

Rescission of Funds

Pursuant to clause 3(f)(2) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following table is submitted describing the rescissions recommended in the accompanying bill:

Department of Commerce:	
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Fisheries Enforcement Asset Forfeiture Fund	$10,000,000
Department of Justice:	
Working Capital Fund	75,000,000
Office of Justice Programs	70,000,000
Community Oriented Policing Services	15,000,000

Transfers of Funds

Pursuant to clause 3(f)(2) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following is submitted describing the transfers of funds provided in the accompanying bill:

In title I, under Bureau of the Census, Periodic Censuses and Programs, language is included to transfer funds to the Department of Commerce, Office of Inspector General.

Under U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Salaries and Expenses, language is included to transfer funds to the Civil Service Retirement and Disability Fund, the Federal Employees Health Benefit Fund, the Federal Employees Group Life Insurance Fund, and the Department of Commerce, Office of Inspector General.

Under National Institute of Standards and Technology, Scientific and Technical Research and Services, language is included allowing for transfers to the Working Capital Fund.

Under National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Operations, Research, and Facilities, language is included to transfer funds from the Promote and Develop Fishery Products and Research Pertaining to American Fisheries fund.

Under National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Procurement, Acquisition, and Construction, language is included to transfer funds to the Department of Commerce, Office of the Inspector General.

Under Office of the Inspector General, language is included to transfer funds from the Public Safety Trust Fund.

Section 103 provides language for the transfer of funds between Department of Commerce appropriations in certain circumstances.

In title II, under General Administration, Justice Information Sharing Technology, language is included allowing for the transfer of funds.

Under General Administration, Executive Office for Immigration Review, language is included to transfer funds to the Executive Of-

fice for Immigration Review from fees deposited in the Immigration Examinations Fee account.

Under Legal Activities, Salaries and Expenses, General Legal Activities, language is included allowing for the transfer of funds in certain circumstances.

Under Legal Activities, Salaries and Expenses, Community Relations Service, language is included allowing for the transfer of funds in certain circumstances.

Under National Security Division, Salaries and Expenses, language is included to allow the transfer of funds in certain circumstances.

Under Federal Prison System, Salaries and Expenses, language is included to allow the transfer of funds to the Department of Health and Human Services.

Under State and Local Law Enforcement Activities, Office on Violence Against Women, Violence Against Women Prevention and Prosecution Programs, language is included to allow the transfer of funds in certain circumstances.

Under State and Local Law Enforcement Activities, State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance, language is included to allow the transfer of funds in certain circumstances.

Under State and Local Law Enforcement Activities, Public Safety Officer Benefits, language is included to allow the transfer of funds in certain circumstances.

Under Community Oriented Policing Services, Community Oriented Policing Services Programs, language is included to allow the transfer of funds to the Office of Justice Programs.

Section 210 provides language for the transfer of funds between certain grant funds and the National Institute of Justice and the Bureau of Justice Statistics.

In title III, under National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Administrative Provisions, language is included allowing for the transfer of funds between appropriations.

Under National Science Foundation, Administrative Provisions, language is included allowing for the transfer of funds among appropriations.

Under United States Trade Representative, Trade Enforcement Trust Fund, language is included providing for the transfer of funds.

Under General Provisions, Section 508 provides for the transfer of funds in certain circumstances.

Under General Provisions, Section 510 provides for the transfer of funds to the Department of Justice, Office of Inspector General.

DISCLOSURE OF EARMARKS AND CONGRESSIONALLY DIRECTED SPENDING ITEMS

Neither the bill nor the report contains any Congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

COMPLIANCE WITH RULE XIII, CL. 3(E) (RAMSEYER RULE)

In compliance with clause 3(e) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, changes in existing law made by the bill, as reported, are shown as follows (existing law proposed to be omit-

ted is enclosed in black brackets, new matter is printed in italics, existing law in which no change is proposed is shown in roman):

SECTION 151 OF THE FOREIGN RELATIONS AUTHORIZATION ACT, FISCAL YEARS 1990 AND 1991

SEC. 151. DANGER PAY ALLOWANCE.

The Secretary of State may not deny a request by the Drug Enforcement Administration [or], *the* Federal Bureau of Investigation*, or the United States Marshals Service* to authorize a danger pay allowance (under section 5928 of title 5, United States Code) for any employee of such agency.

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2020

(Public Law 116-93, division B)

DIVISION B—COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2020

* * * * * * *

TITLE V

GENERAL PROVISIONS

(INCLUDING RESCISSIONS)

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

* * * * * * *

SEC. 510. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, amounts deposited or available in the Fund established by section 1402 of chapter XIV of title II of Public Law 98-473 (34 U.S.C. 20101) in any fiscal year in excess of $2,641,000,000 shall not be available for obligation until the following fiscal year: *Provided*, That notwithstanding section 1402(d) of such Act, of the amounts available from the Fund for obligation: (1) $10,000,000 shall be transferred to the Department of Justice Office of Inspector General and remain available until expended for *crime victim-related* oversight and auditing purposes [associated with this section]; and (2) 5 percent shall be available to the Office for Victims of Crime for grants, consistent with the requirements of the Victims of Crime Act, to Indian tribes to improve services for victims of crime.

* * * * * * *

CHANGES IN THE APPLICATION OF EXISTING LAW

Pursuant to clause 3(f)(1)(A) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted describing the effect of provisions in the accompanying bill that directly or indirectly change the application of existing law.

Language is included for a number of accounts placing limitations on representation and reception allowances in order to restrict the amount of money that would otherwise be spent on these activities. The bill also provides that a number of appropriations shall remain available for obligation beyond the current fiscal year. While these provisions are not specifically authorized for all of the items, it is deemed desirable to include such language for certain programs in order to provide for orderly administration and effective use of funds.

In title I, Department of Commerce, under International Trade Administration, Operations and Administration, language is included providing that funds may be used for engaging in trade promotion activities abroad, including facilitating business investments, expenses of grants and cooperative agreements, for the purposes of promoting exports of U.S. firms. Language is also provided allowing for full medical coverage for dependent members of immediate families of employees stationed overseas and employees temporarily posted overseas; travel and transportation of employees of the International Trade Administration; employment of Americans and aliens by contract for services; rental of space abroad and expenses of alteration, repair, or improvement; purchase or construction of temporary demountable exhibition structures for use abroad; and payment of tort claims. In addition, language is included regarding official representation expenses abroad, purchase of passenger motor vehicles for official use abroad, obtaining insurance on official motor vehicles, and rental of tie lines. Language is also recommended deriving a portion of available funds from fees. Furthermore, language is included designating funding for China antidumping and countervailing duty enforcement and compliance activities. Moreover, language is included providing for two-year availability for a portion of the funds. Finally, language is included regarding the contributions under the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961.

Under Bureau of Industry and Security, Operations and Administration, the language provides for no-year availability of funds. Language is included regarding the costs associated with the performance of export administration field activities both domestically and abroad; full medical coverage for dependent members of immediate families of employees stationed overseas; employment of Americans and aliens by contract for services abroad; payment of tort claims; official representation expenses abroad; awards of compensation to informers; and purchase of passenger motor vehicles for official use and motor vehicles for law enforcement use without regard to any price limitation established by law. In addition, language is included regarding the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961. Finally, language is recommended providing that payments and contributions collected and accepted for materials or services may be retained for use in covering the cost of those activities and other communications.

Under Economic Development Administration, Economic Development Assistance Programs, the language provides for no-year availability of funds.

Also, under Salaries and Expenses, language is included regarding the monitoring of approved projects.

Under Minority Business Development Agency, Minority Business Development, language is included making funds available for fostering, promoting, and developing minority business enterprises, including expenses of grants, contracts and other agreements.

Under Economic and Statistical Analysis, Salaries and Expenses, language is included providing for two-year availability of funds.

Under Bureau of the Census, Current Surveys and Programs, language is included providing that funds may be used for collecting, compiling, analyzing, preparing and publishing statistics and for promotion, outreach and marketing activities.

Also, under Periodic Censuses and Programs, language is included providing three-year availability of funds. Language is also included providing that funds may be used for collecting, compiling, analyzing, preparing and publishing statistics and for promotion, outreach and marketing activities. In addition, language is included providing for a transfer to the "Office of Inspector General" account for activities associated with carrying out investigations and audits related to the Bureau of the Census.

Under National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), Salaries and Expenses, language is included permitting the Secretary of Commerce to charge Federal agencies for costs in spectrum management, analysis, operations, and related services; and to use such collections in telecommunications research. The language also allows the Secretary to retain and use as offsetting collections all funds transferred, or previously transferred for telecommunications research, engineering and activities by the Institute for Telecommunication Sciences of NTIA. Finally, language is included providing that funds so transferred shall remain available until expended.

Also, under Public Telecommunications Facilities, Planning and Construction, language is included allowing recoveries and unobligated balances of funds previously appropriated to be available for the administration of all open grants until their expiration.

Under United States Patent and Trademark Office, Salaries and Expenses, language is included providing that appropriated funds be reduced as offsetting collections are assessed and collected. Language is including making funds available until expended and providing that funds received in excess of appropriations be deposited in a Patent and Trademark Fee Reserve Fund, to be available until expended pursuant to the Director submitting a spending plan subject to section 505 of this Act, after which the funds shall be transferred to the Salaries and Expenses account. In addition, language is included limiting representation expenses. Language is also included regarding basic pay and certain retirement benefits. Additional language is included regarding USPTO's financial statements. Furthermore, language is included providing that fees and surcharges charged are available to USPTO pursuant to section 42(c) of title 35, United States Code. Finally, the language provides that an amount be transferred to the Office of Inspector General (OIG).

Under National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), Scientific and Technical Research and Services, language is included providing for no-year availability of funds. In addition, language is included allowing transfers to the Working Capital Fund. Language is included limiting funds for official reception and rep-

resentation expenses. Finally, language is included allowing NIST to provide local transportation for a certain fellowship program.

Also, under Industrial Technology Services, language is included providing no-year availability of funds. The language also designates an amount for the Manufacturing Extension Partnership and the National Network for Manufacturing Innovation.

In addition, under Construction of Research Facilities, language is included providing for no-year availability of funds. Language is also included regarding the submission of certain materials in support of construction budget requests.

Under National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Operations, Research, and Facilities, language is included allowing for two-year availability for funds. Language is also included allowing maintenance, operation, and hire of aircraft and vessels; grants, contracts, or other payments to nonprofit organizations for the purposes of conducting activities pursuant to cooperative agreements; and relocation of facilities. Language is included allowing fees and donations received by a particular office to be retained and used for expenses related to certain activities. In addition, language is included that provides that certain funds be derived from various sources and restricting their use to certain activities. Moreover, language is included specifying that deviations from amounts included in the report accompanying the Act shall be subject to section 505 of this Act. Finally, language is included providing for retired pay expenses.

Also, under Procurement, Acquisition and Construction, language is included providing for three-year availability for funds, except for construction funds, which are available until expended. Language is also included included providing that certain funds be derived from various sources. In addition, language is included specifying that deviations from amounts included in the report accompanying the Act shall be subject to section 505 of this Act. Language is included regarding the submission of certain materials in support of construction budget requests. Language is included transferring an amount to the OIG.

In addition, under Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery, language is included providing for two-year availability of funds. Language is also included allowing the Secretary of Commerce to issue grants to specific States and Federally recognized tribes for conservation projects for listed endangered or threatened salmon and steelhead populations, populations at risk to be so listed, and for maintaining populations necessary for the exercise of tribal treaty fishing rights, and for conservation of Pacific coastal salmon and steelhead habitat, to be allocated under scientific and merit principles and not available for marketing activities; and requiring a State match.

Furthermore, under Fishermen's Contingency Fund, language is included providing for the appropriation of funds to be derived from receipts collected pursuant to Title IV of Public Law 95 372 and provides that these funds are available until expended.

Additionally, under Fishery Disaster Assistance language is included providing two-year availability of funds.

Moreover, under Fisheries Finance Program Account, language is included placing limitations on individual fishing quota loans and traditional direct loans.

Under Departmental Management, Salaries and Expenses, language is included limiting funds for official reception and representation expenses. Further, language is included requiring reimbursement for Commerce employees detailed to offices within the Office of the Secretary of the Department of Commerce for more than 30 days.

In addition, under Renovation and Modernization, language is included making available funds for expenses towards Department of Commerce facilities.

Additionally, under the Nonrecurring Expenses Fund, language is included making available funds for expenses towards the modernization of its business application system. Further, language is included providing three-year availability of the funds.

Moreover, under the Office of Inspector General, language is included making funds available for purposes of carrying out provisions of the Inspector General Act of 1978. Additionally, funds are provided from the Public Safety Trust Fund for activities associated with carrying out investigations and audits related to the First Responder Network Authority.

Under Department of Commerce, General Provisions, the following general provisions that fall within the rule are recommended:

Section 101 makes funds available for advanced payments only upon certification of officials designated by the Secretary that such payments are considered to be in the public interest.

Section 102 makes appropriations for the Department available for hire of passenger motor vehicles, for services, and for uniforms and allowances as authorized by law.

Section 103 provides language for the transfer of funds between Department of Commerce appropriations in certain circumstances and requires the Secretary of Commerce to notify the Committee of certain actions.

Section 104 extends Congressional notification requirements for NOAA satellite programs and includes life cycle cost amounts for certain satellites.

Section 105 provides for reimbursement for services within Department of Commerce buildings.

Section 106 clarifies that grant recipients under the Department of Commerce may continue to deter child pornography, copyright infringement, or any other unlawful activity over their networks.

Section 107 provides the Administrator with the authority to avail NOAA of needed resources, with the consent of those supplying the resources, to carry out responsibilities of any statute administered by NOAA.

Section 108 prohibits the National Technical Information Service from charging customers for certain publications, except under certain conditions and requires charges be limited to recovering costs.

Section 109 authorizes NOAA to receive payments from other entities to defray some costs of permitting and regulatory activities.

Section 110 provides authority for the programs of the Bureau of Economic Analysis and the Bureau of the Census to enter into cooperative agreements in order to assist in improving statistical methodology and research.

In title II, Department of Justice, under General Administration, Salaries and Expenses, language is included providing for an

amount for security and construction of Department of Justice facilities, which shall remain available until expended. Language is also included providing funding to implement section 220 of this Act related to a Task Force on Law Enforcement Oversight.

Also, under Justice Information Sharing Technology, language is included providing that funds be available until expended. Language is also included allowing transfers up to a certain amount to this account for information technology initiatives, and that these funds may be transferred subject to requirements in this Act and shall be available until expended.

In addition, under Executive Office for Immigration Review, language is included providing that an amount shall be derived by transfer from the Executive Office for Immigration Review fees deposited in the "Immigration Examinations Fee" account. Language is also included making an amount available for a two-year period for certain purposes.

Moreover, under Office of Inspector General, language is included providing for not to exceed $10,000 to meet unforeseen emergencies of a confidential character. Language is also included making certain funds available for two years.

Under United States Parole Commission, Salaries and Expenses, language is included providing that upon the expiration of a term of office of a Commissioner, the Commissioner may continue to act until a successor has been appointed.

Under Legal Activities, Salaries and Expenses, General Legal Activities, language is included providing not to exceed a certain amount for expenses of collecting evidence, to be expended under the direction of, and to be accounted for solely under the certificate of, the Attorney General. Language is also included providing for the administration of pardons and clemency petitions. Language is also included providing for rental of space in the District of Columbia. Language is included making an amount available until expended for litigation support contracts. In addition, language is included making certain funds available to INTERPOL available until expended. Also, language is included limiting the amount of funds for official representation and reception expenses available to INTERPOL Washington and to the Criminal Division. Additional language is included providing funds for the Civil Rights Division related to additional expenses related to enforcement of authorities under Titles 34 and Titles 18 of United States Code, including compliance with consent decrees or judgments. Furthermore, language is included providing funds to the Civil Rights Division for expenses associated with election monitoring, authority to reimburse the Office of Personnel Management for such expenses, and availability of such funds until expended. Language is also included regarding the transfer of funds for Civil Division litigation activities, which shall be subject to the provisions of section 505 of this Act. Finally, language is included for expenses associated with processing cases under the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986.

Also, under Salaries and Expenses, Antitrust Division, language is included providing for no-year availability of funds and the use of offsetting collections, and limiting the amount of funds for official representation and reception expenses. The language also provides that fees collected for premerger notification filings, regard-

less of the year of collection, shall be retained and used for necessary expenses in this appropriation, and shall remain available until expended.

In addition, under Salaries and Expenses, United States Attorneys, language is included regarding inter-governmental and cooperative agreements and limiting funds for official reception and representation expenses. Additional language is included for additional expenses related to enforcement of authorities under Titles 18 and 34 of the United States Code, including compliance with consent decrees or judgments. Language is also included extending the availability of certain funds. Finally, language is included requiring each United States Attorney to establish or participate in a task force on human trafficking.

Furthermore, under United States Trustee System Fund, language is included regarding refunds due depositors. Language is also included providing for the extended availability of certain funds and the use of offsetting collections.

Moreover, under Fees and Expenses of Witnesses, language is included regarding contracts for the procurement and supervision of expert witnesses. In addition, language is included regarding funds for construction of buildings for safesites, armored and other vehicles, and telecommunication equipment. The language also provides for no-year availability of funds. Under Salaries and Expenses, Community Relations Service, language is included regarding the transfer of funds for conflict resolution and violence prevention activities, which shall be subject to the provisions of section 505 of this Act.

Under United States Marshals Service, Salaries and Expenses, language is included limiting official reception and representation expenses, and providing for no-year availability for part of the appropriation.

Also, under Construction, language is included providing for no-year availability of funds.

In addition, under Federal Prisoner Detention, language is included providing for no-year availability of funds. Language is included limiting the amount of funds considered "funds appropriated for State and local law enforcement assistance". Language is also included providing that the United States Marshals Service shall be responsible for managing the Justice Prisoner and Alien Transportation System.

Under National Security Division, Salaries and Expenses, language is included providing for the no-year availability of funds for IT systems. Language is also included providing that upon a determination by the Attorney General that emergent circumstances require additional funding for the activities of the National Security Division, the Attorney General may transfer such amounts to this heading from available appropriations for the current fiscal year for the Department of Justice, as may be necessary to respond to such circumstances. The language provides that such a transfer shall be treated as a reprogramming under section 505 of this Act.

Under Interagency Law Enforcement, Interagency Crime and Drug Enforcement, language is included providing for no-year availability for some of the funds. Language is also included regarding authorities under which funds may be used.

Under Federal Bureau of Investigation, Salaries and Expenses, language is included providing for no-year availability of certain funds. Additional language is provided related to funding for the Corruption/Civil Rights Section for enforcement of authorities under Titles 18 and 34 of the United States Code, including compliance with consent decrees or judgments. Language is included providing for a limitation on official reception and representation expenses.

Under Construction, language is included specifying the purpose of the appropriation and making it available until expended.

Under Drug Enforcement Administration, Salaries and Expenses, language is included providing for funds to meet unforeseen emergencies of a confidential character. Language is also included allowing conduct of drug education and training programs, including travel and related expenses for participants in such programs and the distribution of items of token value that promote the goals of such programs. In addition, language is included providing for no-year availability of certain funds. Language is included providing for a limitation on official reception and representation expenses. Finally, language is included permitting use of some of the appropriation to reimburse expenses incurred to clean up and safely dispose of certain substances which may present a danger to public health or the environment.

Under Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, Salaries and Expenses, language is included allowing training of State and local law enforcement agencies with or without reimbursement, including training in connection with the training and acquisition of canines for explosives and fire accelerants detection, and allowing provision of laboratory assistance to State and local law enforcement agencies, with or without reimbursement. Language is also included limiting official reception and representation expenses. In addition, language is included providing funds for the payment of attorneys' fees. Additional language is included prohibiting expenses to investigate or act upon applications for relief from Federal firearms disabilities under section 925(c) of title 18, United States Code. Language is further included regarding expenses to investigate applications filed by corporations for relief from section 925(c) of title 18, United States Code. In addition, language is included providing for no-year availability of certain funds. Moreover, language is included that prohibits funds to transfer the functions, missions or activities of ATF to other agencies or departments.

Additionally, under Construction, language is included specifying the purpose of the appropriation and providing five-year availability of the funds.

Under Federal Prison System, Salaries and Expenses, language is included making certain funds available for the First Step Act of 2018. Language also provides for the transfer to the Department of Health and Human Services funds necessary for medical relief for inmates. Language is also included that provides authority to the Director to enter into contracts to furnish health care. In addition, language is included placing a limitation on funds for reception and representation expenses. Furthermore, language is included extending the availability of certain funds. Finally, language is included providing authority for the Federal Prison System to accept donated property and services.

Also, in Building and Facilities, language is included providing for no-year availability of funds. Language is also included stating labor of prisoners may be used for work under this heading.

Additionally, under Federal Prison Industries, Incorporated, language is included authorizing Federal Prison Industries, Incorporated, to make such expenditures, within the limits of funds and borrowing authority available, and in accord with the law, and to make such contracts and commitments, without regard to fiscal year limitations, as may be necessary in carrying out the program set forth in the budget for the current fiscal year for such corporation.

Furthermore, under Limitation on Administrative Expenses, Federal Prison Industries, Incorporated, language is included making available funds for its administrative expenses, and for certain services, to be computed on an accrual basis to be determined in accordance with the corporation's current prescribed accounting system, and such amounts shall be exclusive of depreciation, payment of claims, and expenditures that such accounting system requires to be capitalized or charged to cost of commodities acquired or produced, including selling and shipping expenses, and expenses in connection with acquisition, construction, operation, maintenance, improvement, protection, or disposition of facilities and other property belonging to the corporation or in which it has an interest.

Under State and Local Law Enforcement Activities, Office on Violence Against Women, Violence Against Women Prevention and Prosecution Programs, language is included making funds available until expended. Language is also included placing a limitation on funds to be made available for expenses related to evaluation, training, and technical assistance. In addition, language is included providing for specific appropriations for various programs within the Office on Violence Against Women. Furthermore, language is included making available certain unobligated balances for specified programs. The language also applies certain conditions to specified grants. It provides for certain funds to be transferred to "Research, Evaluation and Statistics" for administration by the Office of Justice Programs.

Under Office of Justice Programs, Research, Evaluation and Statistics, language is included to provide for no-year availability of funds. Language is also included to provide for specific appropriations for various programs within the Office of Justice Programs.

Also, under State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance, language is included to provide for no-year availability of funds. Language is also included regarding an Officer Robert Wilson III Memorial Initiative on Preventing Violence Against Law Enforcement Officer Resilience and Survivability Initiative, Smart Policing, Smart Prosecution, juvenile indigent defense, Convention Security, a National Missing and Unidentified Persons System, a training program to improve response for those with mental illness, the John R. Justice grant program, Capital Litigation and Wrongful Conviction Review, Prison Rape Prevention and Prosecution, Kevin and Avonte's Law, Emergency Federal Law Enforcement Assistance, managed access systems, regional law enforcement technology, Community Based Violence Prevention, family friendly visitation spaces in correctional facilities, Public Safety Innovation

Grants, Law Enforcement Training, grants to improves reporting on the use of force, hit rates data collection demonstration grants, police report in jurisdictions responding to litigation, and the application of certain sections and special rules. In addition, language is included regarding Federal immigration and other detainees housed in State and local detention facilities. Language is included for an immigration legal aid pilot. Furthermore, language is included regarding local government use of funds to increase the number of law enforcement officers. Language is also included regarding DNA training and education for law enforcement, correctional personnel, and court officers. There is further language regarding certain time limitations under the Second Chance Act. Furthermore, language is included waiving a provision of law that terminated the COPS Hiring Program after September 2000. Language is also included regarding smart policing, smart prosecution, tribal law enforcement, regional information sharing activities, and certain police training. Additional language is included regarding pattern and practice investigations, independent prosecution of law enforcement, community-based improvement of law enforcement and pilot programs to improve management and address police misconduct. The language also provides for certain funds to be transferred to "Research, Evaluation and Statistics". The included language specifies appropriations for various programs within the Office of Justice Programs.

In addition, under Juvenile Justice Programs, language is included providing for no-year availability of funds. Language is also included waiving a provision of law with respect to funding for missing and exploited children programs. Finally, the language delineates certain amounts for various programs under this heading.

Furthermore, under Public Safety Officer Benefits, language is included providing for no-year availability of funds. Language is also included providing for the transfers of funds in emergent circumstances, which shall be subject to the provisions of section 505 of this Act.

Within the COPS Hiring program, language is included regarding the Tribal Resources grant program, Tribal Access Program, Community Policing, the Regional Information Sharing System, Civilian Review Boards and Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Act. In addition, the language includes Police Act grants, Anti-Methamphetamine and Anti-Heroin Task Forces as well as grants under the STOP School Violence Act.

Under Department of Justice, General Provisions, the following general provisions that fall within the rule are recommended:

Section 201 prohibits the use of funds to pay for an abortion, except in the case of incest, rape or to preserve the life of the mother.

Section 202 prohibits the use of funds to require any person to perform or facilitate the performance of an abortion.

Section 203 establishes that the Director of the Bureau of Prisons (BOP) is obliged to provide escort services to an inmate receiving an abortion outside of a Federal facility, except where this obligation conflicts with the preceding section.

Section 204 prohibits the use of certain funds for transporting prisoners classified as maximum or high security, other than to a facility certified by the Bureau of Prisons as appropriately secure.

Section 205 prohibits the use of funds for the purchase or rental by Federal prisons of audiovisual equipment, services and materials used primarily for recreational purposes, except for those items and services needed for inmate training, religious, or educational purposes.

Section 206 requires review by the Deputy Attorney General and the Department Investment Review Board prior to the obligation or expenditure of funds for major information technology projects.

Section 207 requires the Department to follow reprogramming procedures prior to any deviation from the program amounts specified in this title or the reuse of specified deobligated funds provided in previous years.

Section 208 prohibits funding from being used for certain public-private competitions.

Section 209 prohibits U.S. Attorneys from holding dual or additional responsibilities that exempt U.S. Attorneys from statutory residency requirements.

Section 210 permits up to 2 percent of grant and reimbursement program funds made available to OJP to be used for training and technical assistance, and up to 2 percent of grant or reimbursement funds made available to that office to be used for criminal justice research, evaluation and statistics.

Section 211 gives the Attorney General the authority to waive matching requirements for Second Chance Act adult and juvenile reentry demonstration projects; State, tribal and local reentry courts; and drug treatment programs.

Section 212 waives the requirement that the Attorney General reserve certain funds from amounts provided for offender incarceration.

Section 213 prohibits funds, other than funds for the National Instant Criminal Background Check System established under the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act, from being used to facilitate the transfer of an operable firearm to a known or suspected agent of a drug cartel where law enforcement personnel do not continuously monitor or control such firearm.

Section 214 places limitations on the obligation of funds from certain Department of Justice accounts and funding sources.

Section 215 provides authority to use certain grant funding for Performance Partnership Pilots.

Section 216 increases the threshold for balances in the United States Trustee System Fund.

Section 217 prohibits the use of case closure metrics for immigration judge performance evaluations.

Section 218 amends Section 151 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1990 and 1991, to enable United States Marshals Service employees to be eligible for danger pay in certain circumstances.

Section 219 prohibits funds made available under this Act for the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant program or Community Oriented Policing Services from being used unless the Attorney General certifies that the State or unit of local government (1) maintains adequate policies and procedures designed to eliminate racial profiling in law enforcement, and has eliminated any existing practices that permit or encourage racial profiling in law enforcement; (2) requires each law enforcement officer in the

State or unit of local government to complete training programs on racial profiling, implicit bias, de-escalation use of force and a duty to intervene in cases where another law enforcement officer is using excessive force against a civilian, and procedural justice; (3) has in effect a law that prohibits law enforcement officers in the State or other jurisdiction from using a chokehold or carotid hold; (4) has in effect a law that prohibits law enforcement officers in the State or other jurisdiction from using less lethal force; (5) has in effect a law that prohibits law enforcement officers in the State or other jurisdiction from using deadly force, (6) has in effect a law that prohibits the issuance of a "no-knock warrant" in a drug case; (7) has provided the United States Attorney General a law enforcement practice report that includes information on the race, ethnicity, age, and gender of the officers and employees of the law enforcement agency and of members of the public involved in, (A) traffic violation stops, (B) pedestrian stops, (C) frisk and body searches, (D) instances where officers or employees of the law enforcement agency used deadly force; and (8) will not make such funds available to a law enforcement agency that has entered into or renewed any contractual arrangement, including a collective bargaining agreement with a labor organization, that (A) would prevent the Attorney General from seeking or enforcing equitable or declaratory relief against a law enforcement agency engaging in a pattern or practice of unconstitutional misconduct or, (B) conflicts with any terms or conditions contained in a consent decree.

Section 220 establishes a National Task Force on Law Enforcement Oversight.

Section 221 prohibits Department of Justice funding from being made available to any law enforcement agency of any State, unit of local government, or Federally recognized Tribal government unless the Attorney General has certified that such agency has begun or completed the process of receiving accreditation from a law enforcement accreditation organization approved by the Attorney General.

Section 222 prohibits the awarding of funds under the Byrne JAG or COPS programs unless the United States Attorney General certifies that the recipient State or unit of local government has in effect a law prohibiting sexual activity while acting under color of law.

In title III, Science, under Office of Science and Technology Policy, language is included providing that certain funds be available for reception and representation expenses, and rental of conference rooms.

Under National Space Council, language is included providing that certain funds be available for reception and representation expenses.

Under National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Science, language is included providing for the two-year availability of funds. Language is also included regarding a limitation on formulation and development costs of a certain program with an associated notification requirement and language is also included concerning a planetary science mission.

Also, under Aeronautics, language is included providing for the two-year availability of funds.

In addition, under Space Technology, language is included providing for the two-year availability of funds.

Under Exploration, language is included providing for the two-year availability of funds. Language is also included that delineates amounts for program components. Language is also included describing certain reports and requiring the inclusion of estimates in future budget requests.

In Space Operations, language is included providing for the two-year availability of funds.

Additionally, under Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Engagement, language is included providing for the multi-year availability of funds. Language is also included delineating amounts for program components.

Under Safety, Security and Mission Services, language is included providing for the two-year availability of funds. Language is also included to limit official reception and representation expenses.

Under Construction and Environmental Compliance and Restoration, language is included providing for the multi-year availability of funds. Language is also included restricting receipts and expenditures made pursuant to enhanced use lease arrangements and requiring the inclusion of estimates in future budget requests.

Under Office of Inspector General, language is included providing for the two-year availability of certain funds.

In the Administrative Provisions, language is included regarding: availability of funds for announced prizes; limitations on transfers of funds among NASA accounts; the submission of a spending plan; and language limiting obligation of certain funds pending submission of certain reports.

Under National Science Foundation, Research and Related Activities, language is included that provides for the multi-year availability of funds. Language is also included that governs funding availability for polar research and operation support. In addition, language is included providing that certain receipts may be credited to this appropriation.

Also, under Major Research Equipment and Facilities Construction, language is included providing for no-year availability of funds.

In addition, under Education and Human Resources, language is included providing for the multi-year availability of funds.

Furthermore, under Agency Operations and Award Management, language is included regarding contracts for maintenance and operation of facilities and other services. Language is also included limiting representation expenses.

Under Office of the National Science Board, language is included limiting funds for official reception and representation.

Under Office of Inspector General, language is included providing for the multi-year availability of certain funds.

Under Administrative Provision, language is included regarding transfers of funds. Also, language is included requiring the Director to submit notification of certain activities 30 days in advance.

In title IV, Related Agencies, under Commission on Civil Rights, Salaries and Expenses, language is included prohibiting expenses to employ in excess of a specific level of full-time individuals or to reimburse Commissioners for certain billable days. Language is

also included prohibiting certain unauthorized activities. Finally, language is included authorizing the Chair to accept donations or gifts to carry out the work of the Commission.

Under Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Salaries and Expenses, language is included designating an amount for payments to State and local enforcement agencies. Language is also included limiting funds for official reception and representation expenses. Finally, language is included authorizing the Chair to accept donations or gifts to carry out the work of the Commission.

Under International Trade Commission, Salaries and Expenses, language is included limiting funds for official reception and representation expenses. Language is also included providing for no-year availability of funds.

Under Legal Services Corporation, Payment to the Legal Services Corporation, language is included regarding pay for officers and employees. Language is also included delineating amounts for specific programs and regarding authorities to transfer funds. In addition, language is included designating the Legal Services Corporation as an agency of the Federal Government for the purposes of reprogramming.

Under Administrative Provision, Legal Services Corporation, language is included that prohibits the use of funds for certain activities.

Under Office of the United States Trade Representative, Salaries and Expenses, language is included providing for the no-year availability of some funds. Language is also included limiting funds for official reception and representation expenses.

Also, under Trade Enforcement Trust Fund, language is included regarding certain notifications.

Under State Justice Institute, Salaries and Expenses, language is included limiting funds for reception and representation expenses. Language is also included providing for multi-year availability of certain funds. In addition, language is included designating the State Justice Institute as an agency of the Federal Government for the purposes of reprogramming.

In title V, General Provisions, the following general provisions that fall within the rule are recommended:

Section 501 prohibits the use of funds for publicity or propaganda purposes unless expressly authorized by law.

Section 502 prohibits any appropriation contained in this Act from remaining available for obligation beyond the current fiscal year unless expressly authorized.

Section 503 provides that the expenditure of any appropriation contained in this Act for any consulting service through procurement contracts shall be limited to those contracts where such expenditures are a matter of public record and available for public inspection, except where otherwise provided under existing law or under existing Executive order issued pursuant to existing law.

Section 504 provides that if any provision of this Act or the application of such provision to any person or circumstance shall be held invalid, the remainder of the Act and the application of other provisions shall not be affected.

Section 505 prohibits a reprogramming of funds that: (1) creates or initiates a new program, project, or activity; (2) eliminates a program, project, or activity; (3) increases funds or personnel by any

means for any project or activity for which funds have been denied or restricted; (4) relocates an office or employees; (5) reorganizes or renames offices, programs, or activities; (6) contracts out or privatizes any function or activity presently performed by Federal employees; (7) augments funds for existing programs, projects, or activities in excess of $500,000 or 10 percent, whichever is less, or reduces by 10 percent funding for any program, project, or activity, or numbers of personnel by 10 percent; or (8) results from any general savings, including savings from a reduction in personnel, which would result in a change in existing programs, projects, or activities as approved by Congress, unless the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations are notified 15 days in advance of such reprogramming of funds.

Section 506 provides that if it is determined that any person intentionally affixes a "Made in America" label to any product that was not made in America that person shall not be eligible to receive any contract or subcontract made with funds made available in this Act. The section further provides that to the extent practicable, with respect to purchases of promotional items, funds made available under this Act shall be used to purchase items manufactured, produced, or assembled in the United States or its territories or possessions.

Section 507 requires quarterly reporting on the status of balances of appropriations.

Section 508 provides that any costs incurred by a department or agency funded under this Act resulting from, or to prevent, personnel actions taken in response to funding reductions in this Act, or, for the Department of Commerce, from actions taken for the care and protection of loan collateral or grant property, shall be absorbed within the budgetary resources available to the department or agency, and provides transfer authority between appropriation accounts to carry out this provision, subject to reprogramming procedures.

Section 509 prohibits funds made available in this Act from being used to promote the sale or export of tobacco or tobacco products or to seek the reduction or removal of foreign restrictions on the marketing of tobacco products, except for restrictions that are not applied equally to all tobacco or tobacco products of the same type. This provision is not intended to impact routine international trade services to all U.S. citizens, including the processing of applications to establish foreign trade zones.

Section 510 limits the obligation of receipts deposited into the Crime Victims Fund to $2,650,000,000 during fiscal year 2021, and provides for a transfer of $10,000,000 to the Department of Justice, Office of Inspector General for oversight and auditing of the fund. It also provides for a tribal set-aside.

Section 511 prohibits the use of Department of Justice funds for programs that discriminate against or denigrate the religious or moral beliefs of students participating in such programs.

Section 512 prohibits the transfer of funds made available in this Act to any department, agency or instrumentality of the United States Government, except for transfers made by, or pursuant to authorities provided in, this Act or any other appropriations Act.

Section 513 requires certain timetables of audits performed by Inspectors General of the Departments of Commerce and Justice,

the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the National Science Foundation and the Legal Services Corporation and sets limits and restrictions on the awarding and use of grants or contracts funded by amounts appropriated by this Act.

Section 514 prohibits funds for acquisition of certain information systems unless the acquiring department or agency has reviewed and assessed certain risks. Any acquisition of such an information system is contingent upon the development of a risk mitigation strategy and a determination that the acquisition is in the national interest. Each department or agency covered by this section shall consult with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and other relevant agencies when reviewing supply chain risks and making a determination that the acquisition is in the national interest. Each department or agency covered by this section is directed to ensure it is following the criteria established by the FBI and the National Institute of Standards and Technology when acquiring or renewing certain information systems. Each department or agency covered under this section shall submit a quarterly report to the Committees on Appropriations of the House and Senate describing reviews and assessments of risk made pursuant to this section and any associated findings or determinations.

Section 515 prohibits the use of funds made available in this Act to support or justify the use of torture by any official or contract employee of the United States Government.

Section 516 prohibits the use of funds made available in this Act to include certain language in trade agreements.

Section 517 prohibits the use of funds made available in this Act to authorize or issue a national security letter (NSL) in contravention of certain laws authorizing the FBI to issue NSLs.

Section 518 requires congressional notification regarding any project within the Departments of Commerce or Justice, the National Science Foundation or the National Aeronautics and Space Administration totaling more than $75,000,000 that has cost increases of 10 percent or more.

Section 519 deems funds for intelligence or intelligence related activities as authorized by Congress during fiscal year 2021 until the enactment of the Intelligence Authorization Act for fiscal year 2021.

Section 520 prohibits contracts or grant awards in excess of $5,000,000 unless the prospective contractor or grantee certifies that the organization has filed all Federal tax returns, has not been convicted of a criminal offense under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, and has no unpaid Federal tax assessment.

Section 521 provides for rescissions of unobligated balances from the Departments of Commerce and Justice.

Section 522 prohibits the use of funds made available in this Act for the purchase of first class or premium air travel in contravention of certain Federal regulations.

Section 523 prohibits the use of funds made available in this Act to pay for the attendance of more than 50 department or agency employees, who are stationed in the United States, at any single conference outside the United States, unless the conference is a law enforcement training or operational event where the majority of Federal attendees are law enforcement personnel stationed outside the United States.

Section 524 requires tracking and reporting of undisbursed balances in expired grant accounts.

Section 525 requires, when practicable, the use of funds in this Act to purchase light bulbs that have the "Energy Star" or "Federal Energy Management Program" designation.

Section 526 prohibits the use of funds made available in this Act by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) or the National Space Council (NSC) to engage in bilateral activities with China or a Chinese-owned company unless the activities are authorized by subsequent legislation or NASA, OSTP or NSC after consultation with the Federal Bureau of Investigation have made a certification pursuant to subsections (c) and (d) of this section.

Section 527 prohibits the use of funds made available in this Act to establish or maintain a computer network that does not block pornography, except for law enforcement or victim assistance purposes.

Section 528 requires each department and agency funded in the bill to submit spending plans.

Section 529 prohibits the use of funds to pay for unsatisfactory contractor performance.

Section 530 prohibits the use of funds by the Department of Justice or the Drug Enforcement Administration in contravention of a certain section of the Agricultural Act of 2014.

Section 531 prohibits the Department of Justice from preventing certain States or territories from implementing their laws regarding the use of medical marijuana.

Section 532 requires quarterly reports from the Department of Commerce, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and the National Science Foundation on official travel to China.

Section 533 requires not less than 10 percent of the funds provided for certain programs be provided to persistent poverty counties.

Section 534 makes a clarification regarding the formulation and development costs for the James Webb Space Telescope.

Section 535 prohibits funds to be used by the Bureau of the Census in contravention of existing law.

Section 536 prohibits funds to move a Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives facility.

Section 537 prohibits funds from being used for the development of data products in connection with the 2020 Decennial Census that do not meet specific requirements.

Section 538 prohibits funding to implement a November 2018 Attorney General Memorandum entitled "Principles and Procedures for Civil Consent Decrees and Settlement Agreements with State and Local Governmental Entities".

Section 539 prohibits funds to carry out or support law enforcement actions taken to support or control a crowd or public demonstration unless certain clearly visible law enforcement identification is worn.

Section 540 prohibits funds for the salaries and expenses of more than five political and presidential appointees in the Bureau of the Census.

Section 541 prohibits funds to pay for Attorney General travel more than 50 miles from the Robert F. Kennedy Department of Justice Building in the District of Columbia.

Section 542 amends section 510 of division B of Public Law 116–93.

Appropriations Not Authorized By Law

The Committee, in a number of instances, has found it necessary to recommend funding for ongoing activities and programs for which authorizations have not been enacted to date. Pursuant to clause 3(f)(1)(B) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following table lists the appropriations in the accompanying bill that are not authorized by law for the period concerned:

UNAUTHORIZED APPROPRIATIONS

[In thousands of dollars]

Program	Last year of authorization	Authorization level in year of authorizations	Appropriations in last year of authorization	Appropriations in this bill
Department of Commerce:				
International Trade Administration:				
Operations and Administration:				
Export Promotion Activities	1996	such sums	264,885	*
Bureau of Industry and Security:				
Operations and Administration	1994	such sums	34,747	137,664
Economic Development Administration:				
Salaries and Expenses	2008	Such sums	30,832	42,000
Economic Development Assistance Programs		Various		314,000
Public Works and Economic Development Act Programs	2008	500,000	349,100	*
Minority Business Development Agency:				
Minority Business Development	n/a	n/a	n/a	52,000
Economics and Statistics Administration:				
Salaries and Expenses.	n/a	n/a	n/a	111,855
National Telecommunications and Information Administration:				
Salaries and Expenses	1993	17,900	18,493	45,500
National Institute of Standards and Technology:				
Scientific and Technical Research and Services	2013	676,700	609,514	789,000
Industrial technology services	2013	241,709	140,316	170,000
Manufacturing extension partnerships	2013	(165,100)	(126,088)	(153,000)
Construction of research facilities	2013	121,300	58,874	85,000
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration:				
Operations, Research and Facilities:				
National Ocean Service	1993	121,183	150,864	625,406
Integrated Ocean Observing System Regional Observations	2013	Such sums	(334,932)	(40,500)
Coastal Science, Assessment, Response and Restoration		Various		(88,500)
Competitive External Research		Various		(22,000)
Coastal Zone Management and Services	n/a	n/a	n/a	(47,700)
Coastal Zone Management Grants	1999	(50,500)	(52,700)	(78,000)
Title IX Fund	2019	such sums	(30,000)	(36,000)

UNAUTHORIZED APPROPRIATIONS—Continued

[In thousands of dollars]

Program	Last year of authorization	Authorization level in year of authorizations	Appropriations in last year of authorization	Appropriations in this bill
Coral Reef Program	2004	(16,000)	(26,100)	(34,000)
Sanctuaries and Marine Protected Areas	2005	(40,000)	(58,750)	(58,000)
National Estuarine Research Reserve System	1999	(4,600)	(4,300)	(28,250)
National Marine Fisheries Services:				967,586
Marine Mammals, Sea Turtles and Other Species				(127,905)
Species Recoveries Grants	1992	†	††	(7,000)
Atlantic Salmon	1992	†	†	(6,500)
Pacific Salmon	1992	†	†	(67,250)
Fisheries and Ecosystem Science Programs and Services		Various		(150,018)
Fisheries Data Collections, Surveys and Assessments		Various		(173,709)
Observers and Training		Various		(50,000)
Fisheries Management Programs and Services		Various		(124,500)
Salmon Management Activities		Various		(59,643)
Regional Councils and Fisheries Commissions		Various		(46,446)
Interjurisdictional Fisheries Grants	2012	3,400	1,157	(3,365)
Enforcement		Various		(77,000)
Habitat Conservation and Restoration		Various		(59,000)
Oceanic and Atmospheric Research	1993	1,589,081	202,172	††
Climate Laboratories and Cooperative Institutes	1993	(109,877)	(79,948)	(78,000)
Regional Climate Data and Information		Various		(43,000)
Climate Competitive Research	n/a	n/a	n/a	(69,000)
Ocean and Coastal Laboratories and Cooperative Institutes		Various		(37,000)
National Sea Grant College Program	2014	†	(62,800)	(71,000)
Marine Aquaculture Program	2014	†	(4,500)	(13,000)
Ocean Exploration and Research	2015	(59,436)	(28,000)	(42,742)
Integrated Ocean Acidification	2012	(20,000)	(6,359)	(16,000)
Sustained Ocean Observations and Monitoring	n/a	n/a	n/a	(46,000)
High Performance Computing Initiatives	1996	(4,500)	(6,500)	(17,800)
National Weather Service:	1993	395,822	†	†
Observations		Various		(241,000)
Central Processing	1993	∫	∫	(102,538)
Analyze, Forecast and Support		Various		(538,000)

UNAUTHORIZED APPROPRIATIONS—Continued

[In thousands of dollars]

Program	Last year of authorization	Authorization level in year of authorizations	Appropriations in last year of authorization	Appropriations in this bill
Dissemination	1993	∫	∫	(79,112)
Science and Technology Integration		Various		(151,423)
National Environmental Satellite, Data and Information Service:				285,606
Office of Satellite and Production Operations	1993	†	†	(189,099)
Product Development, Readiness and Application	1993	†	†	(28,907)
Commercial Remote Sensing Regulatory Affairs	n/a	n/a	n/a	(1,800)
Office of Space Commerce	n/a	n/a	n/a	(1,800)
Group on Earth Observations	1993	n/a	n/a	(500)
National Centers for Environmental Information	1993	39,596	32,646	(63,500)
Mission Support:				
Mission Support Services	1993	75,750	71,433	270,954
NOAA Office of Education	n/a	n/a	n/a	33,500
Office of Marine and Aviation Operations:				
Marine Operations and Maintenance	1993	68,518	61,222	174,000
Aviation Operations	1993	10,336	9,872	29,466
Unmanned Systems Operations	n/a	n/a	n/a	10,665
Procurement, Acquisition and Construction:				
National Ocean Service:				
National Estuarine Research Reserve Construction	n/a	n/a	n/a	2,000
Marine Sanctuaries Construction	2005	6,000	10,000	4,000
Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research:.				
Research Supercomputing/CCRI	n/a	n/a	n/a	42,000
National Weather Service:				
Observations	1993	†	84,516	15,745
Central Processing	n/a	n/a	n/a	66,761
Dissemination	n/a	n/a	n/a	9,934
Weather Forecast Office Construction	n/a	n/a	n/a	15,000
National Environmental Satellite, Data and Information Service:				
GOES R	n/a	n/a	n/a	334,500
Space Weather Follow-on	n/a	n/a	n/a	108,115
Polar Weather Satellites	n/a	n/a	n/a	657,835
CDARS	1993	2,300	n/a	14,400
Low Earth Orbit	n/a	n/a	n/a	33,202
Geostationary Earth Orbit	n/a	n/a	n/a	10,000
System Architecture and Advanced Planning	n/a	n/a	n/a	44,822
Satellite CDA Facility	n/a	n/a	n/a	2,450
Mission Support:				
NOAA Construction	1993	94,500	64,500	50,000

UNAUTHORIZED APPROPRIATIONS—Continued

[In thousands of dollars]

Program	Last year of authorization	Authorization level in year of authorizations	Appropriations in last year of authorization	Appropriations in this bill
Office of Marine and Aviation Operations:				
Fleet Capital Improvements and Technology Infusion.	n/a	n/a	n/a	27,500
Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery	2009	90,000	80,000	65,000
Fishermen's Contingency Fund	n/a	n/a	n/a	349
Fisheries Disaster Assistance	2013	such sums	5,000	300
Fisheries Finance Program Account	n/a	n/a	n/a	−8,000
Departmental Management:				
Salaries and Expenses	n/a	n/a	n/a	73,080
Renovation and Modernization	n/a	n/a	n/a	1,123
Office of Inspector General	n/a	n/a	n/a	35,520
Department of Justice:				
General Administration:				
Salaries and Expenses	2009	181,561	105,805	120,041
Justice Information Sharing Technology	2009	204,152	80,000	33,875
Executive Office for Immigration Review	2009¶	n/a	n/a	734,000
Office of Inspector General	2009	81,922	80,681	113,985
United States Parole Commission:				
Salaries and Expenses	2009	12,711	12,570	13,539
Legal Activities:				
Salaries and Expenses, General Legal Activities	2009	764,526	805,655	969,211
Salaries and Expenses, Antitrust Division	2009	162,488	157,788	180,274
Salaries and Expenses, United States Attorneys	2009	1,829,194	1,851,336	2,347,177
Salaries and Expenses, Foreign Claims Settlement Commission	2009	1,429	1,823	2,366
Fee and Expenses of Witnesses	2009	203,755	168,300	270,000
Salaries and Expenses, Community Relations Service	2009	10,977	9,873	20,300
Assets Forfeiture Fund (discretionary)	2009	22,000	20,990	20,514
United States Marshals Service	2009	900,178	954,000	3,366,645
Salaries and Expenses	.....	§	(960,000)	(1,484,184)
Construction	.....	§	(4,000)	(15,000)
Federal Prison Detention	2009	1,858,509	1,355,319	(1,867,461)
National Security Division:				
Salaries and Expenses	n/a	n/a	n/a	114,837
Interagency Law Enforcement:				
Interagency Crime and Drug Enforcement	2009	744,593	515,000	565,000
Federal Bureau of Investigation	2009	6,480,608	7,301,191	9,755,243
Salaries and Expenses	.....	§	(7,182,700)	(9,703,348)
Construction	.....	§	(153,491)	(51,895)
Drug Enforcement Administration:				
Salaries and Expenses	2009	1,930,462	1,959,084	2,331,370
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives:				
Salaries and Expenses	2009	1,038,939	1,078,215	1,550,000
Construction	2009	.....	.....	5,000
Federal Prison System	2009	5,698,292	6,171,561	7,880,000
Salaries and Expenses	.....	§	(5,600,792)	(7,770,000)
Building and Facilities	.....	§	(575,807)	(110,000)

UNAUTHORIZED APPROPRIATIONS—Continued

[In thousands of dollars]

Program	Last year of authorization	Authorization level in year of authorizations	Appropriations in last year of authorization	Appropriations in this bill
Office on Violence Against Women:				
Violence Against Women Prevention and Prosecution Programs:				
STOP Grants	2018	215,000	215,000	223,000
Transitional Housing Assistance	2018	35,000	35,000	39,000
Research and Evaluation on Violence Against Women	n/a	n/a	n/a	3,500
Consolidated Youth-oriented Program	.....	Various	.....	12,000
Engaging Men and Youth in Prevention	n/a	n/a	n/a	††
Grants to Assist Children and Youth Exposed to Violence	n/a	n/a	n/a	††
Supporting Teens Through Education Program	2011	5,000	**	††
Services to Advocate and Respond to Youth	n/a	n/a	n/a	††
Grants to Encourage Arrest Policies	2018	53,000	53,000	53,000
Homicide Reduction Initiative	n/a	n/a	n/a	(4,000)
Sexual Assault Victims Services	2018	40,000	35,000	42,500
Rural Domestic Violence and Child Abuse Enforcement	2018	50,000	40,000	45,000
Violence on College Campuses	2018	12,000	20,000	21,000
Civil Legal Assistance	2018	57,000	45,000	47,500
Elder Abuse Grant Program	2018	9,000	5,000	6,000
Family Civil Justice	.....	Various	.....	17,500
Court Training and Improvements Program	2011	5,000	**	.....
Safe Havens Program	2011	5,000	**	.....
Education and Training for Disabled Female Victims	2018	9,000	6,000	6,000
National Resource Center on Workplace Responses	2018	1,000	500	1,000
Research on Violence Against Indian Women	2015	1,000	940	1,000
Indian Country- Sexual Assault Clearinghouse	n/a	n/a	n/a	500
Tribal Special Domestic Violence Criminal Jurisdiction	2018	n/a	n/a	4,300
Rape Survivor Child Custody Act	2019	5,000	1,500	2,200
Office on Justice Programs:				
Research Evaluation and Statistics:				
Bureau of Justice Statistics	1995	33,000	32,335	45,000
NCS–X Implementation Program	n/a	n/a	n/a	(5,000)
National Institute of Justice	1995	33,000	58,879	43,500
Domestic Radicalization Research	n/a	n/a	n/a	(6,000)
State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance:				
Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grants	2012	1,095,000	470,000	515,000
Officer Robert Wilson III VALOR Initiative	n/a	n/a	n/a	(12,500)
Smart Policing	n/a	n/a	n/a	(7,500)
Smart Prosecution	n/a	n/a	n/a	(8,500)

UNAUTHORIZED APPROPRIATIONS—Continued

[In thousands of dollars]

Program	Last year of authorization	Authorization level in year of authorizations	Appropriations in last year of authorization	Appropriations in this bill
Juvenile Indigent Defense	n/a	n/a	n/a	(3,000)
John R. Justice Grant Program	2014	.....	Such sums	(3,000)
Prison Rape Prevention and Prosecution	2010	40,000	15,000	(15,500)
Emergency Federal Law Enforcement Assistance	2016	20,000	n/a	.....
Managed Access	n/a	n/a	n/a	(3,000)
Regional Law Enforcement Training Initiative	n/a	n/a	n/a	(3,000)
Family Friendly Visitation in Correctional Facilities	n/a	n/a	n/a	2,000
Local Task Forces on Public Safety Innovation	n/a	n/a	n/a	5,000
Grants to Improve Reporting on Use of Force	n/a	n/a	n/a	15,000
Hit Rates Data Collection Demonstration Grants	n/a	n/a	n/a	5,000
Police Reform in Jurisdictions Responding to Litigation	n/a	n/a	n/a	7,200
Law Enforcement Training	n/a	n/a	n/a	50,000
State Criminal Alien Assistance Program	2011	950,000	n/a	251,500
Adam Walsh Act Implementation	2009	Such sums	18,000	20,500
National Sex Offender Public Website	n/a	n/a	n/a	1,000
Community Teams to Reduce the Sexual Assault Kit (SAK) Backlog	n/a	n/a	n/a	49,000
CASA Special Advocates	2018	12,000	12,000	12,500
Community Trust Initiative	n/a	n/a	n/a	77,500
Body-won Camera Partnership	n/a	n/a	n/a	(27,500)
Justice Reinvestment Initiative	n/a	n/a	n/a	(30,000)
Immigration Representation Pilot	n/a	n/a	n/a	15,000
Hate Crimes Prevention Act Grants	2012	n/a	n/a	8,000
Grants for Pattern and Practice Investigations	n/a	n/a	n/a	100,000
Grants to Implement Independent Investigations of Law Enforcement	n/a	n/a	n/a	250,000
Community-based Organizations Aimed at Improving Law Enforcement	n/a	n/a	n/a	25,000
Pilot Program to Improve Management and Address Misconduct by Law Enforcement Officers	n/a	n/a	n/a	25,000
Juvenile Justice Programs:				
Youth Mentoring Grants	2007	Such sums	§ §	100,000

UNAUTHORIZED APPROPRIATIONS—Continued

[In thousands of dollars]

Program	Last year of authorization	Authorization level in year of authorizations	Appropriations in last year of authorization	Appropriations in this bill
Juvenile Accountability Block Grant Missing and Exploited Children Programs	2018	Various	84,000	.....
Missing and Exploited Children grants	.....	*	*	*
Training for Judicial Personnel	2018	2,300	2,000	5,000
Community Oriented Policing Services:				
COPS Hiring Grants	2009	1,047,117	1,000,000	231,000
Regional information sharing activities	2003	100,000	29,000	(40,000)
Tribal Access Program ...	n/a	n/a	n/a	(3,000)
Community Policing Development/Training and Technical Assistance	n/a	n/a	n/a	(6,500)
Civilian Review Boards ..	n/a	n/a	n/a	4,000
POLICE Act	2016	Various	n/a	11,000
Anti-Methamphetamine Task Forces	n/a	n/a	n/a	11,000
Anti-Heroin Task Forces	n/a	n/a	n/a	13,000
Science:	n/a	n/a	n/a	35,000
National Aeronautics and Space Administration:				
Science	2017	5,500,000	5,764,900	7,097,500
Aeronautics	2017	640,000	660,000	819,000
Space Technology	2017	686,000	686,500	1,100,000
Exploration	2017	4,330,000	4,324,000	6,017,600
Space Operations	2017	5,023,000	4,950,700	4,052,200
STEM Engagement	2017	115,000	100,000	126,000
Safety, Security and Mission Services	2017	2,788,600	2,768,600	2,953,400
Construction and Environmental Compliance and Restoration..	2017	388,000	360,700	419,100
Office of Inspector General	2017	37,400	37,900	44,200
National Science Foundation:				
Research and Related Activities	2013	6,637,879	5,983,280	6,967,123¶¶
Major Research Equipment and Facilities Construction	2013	236,764	196,170	243,230
Education and Human Resources ...	2013	1,041,762	895,610	970,000
Agency Operations and Award Management	2013	363,670	299,400	345,640
Office of the National Science Board	2013	4,906	4,440	4,500
Office of Inspector General	2013	15,049	14,200	17,850
Related Agencies:				
Commission on Civil Rights:				
Salaries and Expenses	1995	9,500	8,904	12,000
International Trade Commission:				
Salaries and Expenses	2004	57,240	58,925	105,000
Legal Services Corporation:				
Payment to the Legal Services Corporation	1980	205,000	300,000	465,000
Marine Mammal Commission:				
Salaries and Expenses	1999	1,750	1,240	3,769
Office of the U.S. Trade Representative:				
Salaries and Expenses	2004	33,108	41,552	55,000
State Justice Institute:				
Salaries and Expenses	2008	7,000	3,760	7,700

*The recommendation does not provide a specific amount for this program.
†Auuthorization provides a single amount for activities spread across multiple NOAA Control Table lines.
††The National Integrated Drought Information System Reauthorization Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–423) authorized Weather and Air Chemistry Research Programs. Other programs are unauthorized.

int; The last time the NWS was comprehensively authorized was 1993. Though specific programs, like the Tsunami Warning and Education Program, are currently authorized the recommendation does not provide a specific amount for those programs.

¶ The authorization authorizes funding for the ''Administrative Review and Appeals'' account, which encompassed the activities of the Executive Office for Immigration Review and the Office of Pardon Attorney. The recommendation separates these into different accounts.

§ Authorization does not provide amounts for specific accounts within this agency.

This was formerly the ''General Administration, Detention Trustee'' account.

** The authorization for this program expired in FY 2011. Since the government was funded by a full-year continuing resolution, the Committee did not provide a specific appropriation for this program.

†† These programs have been combined into the Consolidated Youth-oriented Program.

§§ The authorization for this program expired in FY 2007. Since the government was funded by a full-year continuing resolution, the Committee did not provide a specific appropriation for this program.

¶¶ Within the Research and Related Activities account, funding for Dyslexia and windstorm research are authorized.

Comparison With the Budget Resolution

Section 308(a)(1)(A) of the Congressional Budget Act requires the report accompanying a bill providing new budget authority to contain a statement comparing the levels in the bill to the suballocations submitted under section 302(b) of the Act for the most recently agreed to concurrent resolution on the budget for the applicable fiscal year.

[In millions of dollars]

	302(b) Allocations		This Bill	
	Budget Authority	Outlays	Budget Authority	Outlays
Comparison of amounts in the bill with Committee allocations to its subcommittees: Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies				
Discretionary	71,473	74,000	71,473 [1]	73,414
Mandatory	342	340	342 [1]	340

[1] Includes outlays from prior-year budget authority.

Note.—The amounts in this report do not include $838,000,000 in discretionary outlays from such funding that was provided by the CARES Act (Public Law 116–136). Consistent with the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, in the House of Representatives such amounts do not count against the Committee's allocation.

Five-Year Outlay Projections

In compliance with section 308(a)(1)(B) of the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 (Public Law 93–344), as amended, the following table contains five-year projections associated with the budget authority provided in the accompanying bill:

[In millions of dollars]

	Outlays
Projection of outlays associated with the recommendation:	
2021	[1] 44,285
2022	18,294
2023	6,048
2024	2,595
2025 and future years	2,773

[1] Excludes outlays from prior-year budget authority.

Assistance to State and Local Governments

In accordance with section 308(a)(1)(C) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, as amended, the Congressional Budget Office has provided the following estimates of new budget authority and outlays provided by the accompanying bill for financial assistance to State and local governments:

[In millions of dollars]

	Budget Authority	Outlays
Financial assistance to State and local governments for 2021	204 [1]	643

[1] Excludes outlays from prior-year budget authority.

COMMITTEE HEARINGS

For the purposes of section 103(i) of H. Res. 6 of the 116th Congress—

The following hearings were used to develop or consider the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2021:

The Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies held a budget hearing on March 4, 2020 entitled "Member Day Hearing." The Subcommittee received testimony from:

The Honorable Peter J. Visclosky, Member of Congress.
The Honorable Ted Yoho, Member of Congress.
The Honorable Danny Davis, Member of Congress.
The Honorable French Hill, Member of Congress.
The Honorable Ed Perlmutter, Member of Congress.
The Honorable Jenniffer González-Colón, Member of Congress.
The Honorable Joseph Kennedy, Member of Congress.
The Honorable Anthony Gonzalez, Member of Congress.
The Honorable Brad Schneider, Member of Congress.

The Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies held a budget hearing on March 10, 2020, entitled "Department of Commerce Budget Request for Fiscal Year 2021." The Subcommittee received testimony from:

Wilbur Ross, Secretary, U.S. Department of Commerce.

PROGRAM DUPLICATION

No provision of this bill establishes or reauthorizes a program of the Federal Government known to be duplicative of another Federal program, a program that was included in any report from the Government Accountability Office to Congress pursuant to section 21 of Public Law 111–139, or a program related to a program identified in the most recent Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY

The following table provides a detailed summary, for each department and agency, comparing the amounts recommended in the bill with fiscal year 2020 enacted amounts and budget estimates presented for fiscal year 2021:

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR 2020
AND BUDGET REQUESTS AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL FOR 2021
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2020 Enacted	FY 2021 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
TITLE I - DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE					
International Trade Administration					
Operations and administration	521,250	485,407	542,428	+21,178	+57,021
Offsetting fee collections	-11,000	-11,000	-11,000	---	---
Direct appropriation	510,250	474,407	531,428	+21,178	+57,021
Bureau of Industry and Security					
Operations and administration	87,652	96,664	96,664	+9,012	---
Defense function	40,000	41,000	41,000	+1,000	---
Total, Bureau of Industry and Security	127,652	137,664	137,664	+10,012	---
Economic Development Administration					
Economic Development Assistance Programs	292,500	---	314,000	+21,500	+314,000
Salaries and expenses	40,500	31,593	42,000	+1,500	+10,407
Total, Economic Development Administration	333,000	31,593	356,000	+23,000	+324,407
Minority Business Development Agency					
Minority Business Development	42,000	10,281	52,000	+10,000	+41,719

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR 2020
AND BUDGET REQUESTS AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL FOR 2021
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2020 Enacted	FY 2021 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
Economic and Statistical Analysis					
Salaries and expenses	107,990	111,855	111,855	+3,865	---
Bureau of the Census					
Current Surveys and Programs	274,000	279,268	288,403	+14,403	+9,135
Periodic censuses and programs	4,784,319	1,392,709	1,392,709	-3,391,610	---
2020 Census (H. Res. 293; HR 2021)	2,500,000	---	---	-2,500,000	---
Subtotal	7,284,319	1,392,709	1,392,709	-5,891,610	---
Total, Bureau of the Census	7,558,319	1,671,977	1,681,112	-5,877,207	+9,135
National Telecommunications and Information Administration					
Salaries and expenses	40,441	72,203	45,500	+5,059	-26,703
United States Patent and Trademark Office					
Salaries and expenses, current year fee funding	3,450,681	3,695,295	3,695,295	+244,614	---
Offsetting fee collections	-3,450,681	-3,695,295	-3,695,295	-244,614	---
Total, United States Patent and Trademark Office	---	---	---	---	---

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR 2020
AND BUDGET REQUESTS AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL FOR 2021
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2020 Enacted	FY 2021 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
National Institute of Standards and Technology					
Scientific and Technical Research and Services	754,000	652,027	789,000	+35,000	+136,973
(transfer out)	(-9,000)	(-9,000)	(-9,000)	---	---
Industrial Technology Services	162,000	25,252	170,000	+8,000	+144,748
Manufacturing extension partnerships	(146,000)	---	(153,000)	(+7,000)	(+153,000)
National Network for Manufacturing Innovation	(16,000)	(25,252)	(17,000)	(+1,000)	(-8,252)
Construction of research facilities	118,000	40,644	85,000	-33,000	+44,356
(Legislative Proposal)	---	294,000	---	---	-294,000
Working Capital Fund (by transfer)	(9,000)	(9,000)	(9,000)	---	---
Total, National Institute of Standards and Technology	1,034,000	1,011,923	1,044,000	+10,000	+32,077
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration					
Operations, Research, and Facilities	3,763,939	3,165,124	3,871,659	+107,720	+706,535
(by transfer)	(174,774)	(183,834)	(253,171)	(+78,397)	(+69,337)
Promote and Develop Fund (transfer out)	(-174,774)	(-183,834)	(-253,171)	(-78,397)	(-69,337)
Subtotal	3,763,939	3,165,124	3,871,659	+107,720	+706,535
Procurement, Acquisition and Construction	1,530,890	1,466,669	1,524,360	-6,530	+57,691
Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery	65,000	---	65,000	---	+65,000
Fishermen's Contingency Fund	349	349	349	---	---
Fishery Disaster Assistance	---	300	300	+300	---
Fisheries Finance Program Account	-8,000	-7,600	-7,600	+400	---
Total, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration	5,352,178	4,624,842	5,454,068	+101,890	+829,226

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR 2020
AND BUDGET REQUESTS AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL FOR 2021
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2020 Enacted	FY 2021 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
Departmental Management					
Salaries and expenses	61,000	96,134	73,080	+12,080	-23,054
Renovation and Modernization	1,000	1,123	1,123	+123	---
Office of Inspector General	33,000	35,520	35,520	+2,520	---
Collection from the Public Safety Trust Fund	---	(-2,000)	(-2,000)	(-2,000)	---
Public Safety Trust Fund transfer	(2,000)	(2,000)	(2,000)	---	---
Department of Commerce Nonrecurring Expenses Fund	20,000	38,038	20,000	---	-18,038
Total, Departmental Management	115,000	170,815	129,723	+14,723	-41,092
Total, title I, Department of Commerce	15,220,830	8,317,560	9,543,350	-5,677,480	+1,225,790
(by transfer)	185,774	194,834	264,171	+78,397	+69,337
(transfer out)	-183,774	-194,834	-264,171	-80,397	-69,337

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR 2020
AND BUDGET REQUESTS AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL FOR 2021
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2020 Enacted	FY 2021 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
TITLE II - DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE					
General Administration					
Salaries and expenses	114,740	121,769	120,041	+5,301	-1,728
Justice Information Sharing Technology	33,875	34,064	33,875	---	-189
Total, General Administration	148,615	155,833	153,916	+5,301	-1,917
Executive Office for Immigration Review	672,966	882,872	734,000	+61,034	-148,872
Transfer from immigration examinations fee account	-4,000	-4,000	-4,000	---	---
Direct appropriation	668,966	878,872	730,000	+61,034	-148,872
Office of Inspector General	105,000	107,211	113,985	+8,985	+6,774
United States Parole Commission					
Salaries and expenses	13,308	13,539	13,539	+231	---
Legal Activities					
Salaries and expenses, general legal activities	920,000	971,429	969,211	+49,211	-2,218
Vaccine Injury Compensation Trust Fund	13,000	19,000	19,000	+6,000	---
Salaries and expenses, Antitrust Division	166,755	188,524	180,274	+13,519	-8,250
Offsetting fee collections - current year	-141,000	-150,000	-150,000	-9,000	---
Direct appropriation	25,755	38,524	30,274	+4,519	-8,250

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR 2020
AND BUDGET REQUESTS AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL FOR 2021
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2020 Enacted	FY 2021 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
Salaries and expenses, United States Attorneys	2,254,541	2,378,418	2,347,177	+92,636	-31,241
United States Trustee System Fund	227,229	234,464	232,361	+5,132	-2,103
Offsetting fee collections	-309,000	-318,000	-318,000	-9,000	---
Direct appropriation	-81,771	-83,536	-85,639	-3,868	-2,103
Salaries and expenses, Foreign Claims Settlement Commission	2,335	2,366	2,366	+31	---
Fees and expenses of witnesses	270,000	239,000	270,000	---	+31,000
Salaries and expenses, Community Relations Service	16,000	---	20,300	+4,300	+20,300
Assets Forfeiture Fund	20,514	20,514	20,514	---	---
Total, Legal Activities	3,440,374	3,585,715	3,593,203	+152,829	+7,488
United States Marshals Service					
Salaries and expenses	1,430,000	1,608,073	1,484,184	+54,184	-123,889
Construction	15,000	15,000	15,000	---	---
Federal Prisoner Detention	1,867,461	2,046,609	1,867,461	---	-179,148
Total, United States Marshals Service	3,312,461	3,669,682	3,366,645	+54,184	-303,037

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR 2020
AND BUDGET REQUESTS AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL FOR 2021
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2020 Enacted	FY 2021 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
National Security Division					
Salaries and expenses	110,000	117,451	114,837	+4,837	-2,614
Interagency Law Enforcement					
Interagency Crime and Drug Enforcement	550,458	585,145	565,000	+14,542	-20,145
Federal Bureau of Investigation					
Salaries and expenses	3,841,128	3,955,100	3,936,648	+95,520	-18,452
Counterintelligence and national security	5,626,774	5,793,729	5,766,700	+139,926	-27,029
Subtotal, Salaries and expenses	9,467,902	9,748,829	9,703,348	+235,446	-45,481
Construction	485,000	51,895	51,895	-433,105	---
Total, Federal Bureau of Investigation	9,952,902	9,800,724	9,755,243	-197,659	-45,481
Drug Enforcement Administration					
Salaries and expenses	2,722,295	2,859,304	2,791,869	+69,574	-67,435
Diversion control fund	-443,142	-460,499	-460,499	-17,357	---
Total, Drug Enforcement Administration	2,279,153	2,398,805	2,331,370	+52,217	-67,435
High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas Program	---	254,000	---	---	-254,000

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR 2020
AND BUDGET REQUESTS AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL FOR 2021
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2020 Enacted	FY 2021 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives					
Salaries and expenses	1,400,000	1,637,574	1,550,000	+150,000	-87,574
Construction	---	28,685	5,000	+5,000	-23,685
Total, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives	1,400,000	1,666,259	1,555,000	+155,000	-111,259
Federal Prison System					
Salaries and expenses	7,470,000	7,611,126	7,770,000	+300,000	+158,874
Buildings and facilities	308,000	99,453	110,000	-198,000	+10,547
Limitation on administrative expenses, Federal Prison Industries, Incorporated	2,700	2,700	2,700	---	---
Total, Federal Prison System	7,780,700	7,713,279	7,882,700	+102,000	+169,421
State and Local Law Enforcement Activities					
Office on Violence Against Women:					
Prevention and prosecution programs	---	---	---	---	---
(by transfer)	(435,000)	---	(435,000)	---	(+435,000)
Crime Victims Fund (transfer out)	(-435,000)	---	(-435,000)	---	(-435,000)
Violence Against Women Prevention & Prosecution Programs	67,500	---	90,000	+22,500	+90,000

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR 2020
AND BUDGET REQUESTS AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL FOR 2021
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2020 Enacted	FY 2021 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
Office of Justice Programs:					
Research, evaluation and statistics	79,000	86,500	88,500	+9,500	+2,000
State and local law enforcement assistance	1,892,000	1,511,200	2,402,000	+510,000	+890,800
Juvenile justice programs	320,000	227,500	337,000	+17,000	+109,500
Public safety officer benefits:					
Death benefits	117,000	119,000	119,000	+2,000	---
Disability and education benefits	24,800	24,800	24,800	---	---
Subtotal	141,800	143,800	143,800	+2,000	---
Total, Office of Justice Programs	2,432,800	1,969,000	2,971,300	+538,500	+1,002,300
Community Oriented Policing Services:					
COPS programs	343,000	---	343,000	---	+343,000
Total, State and Local Law Enforcement Activities	2,843,300	1,969,000	3,404,300	+561,000	+1,435,300
Total, title II, Department of Justice	32,605,237	32,915,515	33,579,738	+974,501	+664,223

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR 2020
AND BUDGET REQUESTS AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL FOR 2021
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2020 Enacted	FY 2021 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
TITLE III - SCIENCE					
Office of Science and Technology Policy	5,544	5,000	5,544	---	+544
National Space Council	1,965	1,965	1,965	---	---
National Aeronautics and Space Administration					
Science	7,138,900	6,306,500	7,097,500	-41,400	+791,000
Aeronautics	783,900	819,000	819,000	+35,100	---
Space Technology	1,100,000	1,578,300	1,100,000	---	-478,300
Exploration	6,017,600	8,761,700	6,017,600	---	-2,744,100
Space Operations	4,140,200	4,187,300	4,052,200	-88,000	-135,100
Science, Technology Engineering, and Mathematics Engagement	120,000	---	126,000	+6,000	+126,000
Safety, Security and Mission Services	2,913,300	3,009,900	2,953,400	+40,100	-56,500
Construction and environmental compliance and restoration	373,400	539,085	419,100	+45,700	-119,985
Office of Inspector General	41,700	44,200	44,200	+2,500	---
Total, National Aeronautics and Space Administration	22,629,000	25,245,985	22,629,000	---	-2,616,985
National Science Foundation					
Research and related activities	6,666,200	6,142,020	6,896,123	+229,923	+754,103
Defense function	71,000	71,000	71,000	---	---
Subtotal	6,737,200	6,213,020	6,967,123	+229,923	+754,103

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR 2020
AND BUDGET REQUESTS AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL FOR 2021
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2020 Enacted	FY 2021 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
Major Research Equipment and Facilities Construction..	243,230	229,750	243,230	---	+13,480
Education and Human Resources.....	940,000	930,930	970,000	+30,000	+39,070
Agency Operations and Award Management.....	336,900	345,640	345,640	+8,740	---
Office of the National Science Board.....	4,500	4,210	4,500	---	+290
Office of Inspector General.....	16,500	17,850	17,850	+1,350	---
Total, National Science Foundation.....	8,278,330	7,741,400	8,548,343	+270,013	+806,943
Total, Title III, Science.....	30,914,839	32,994,350	31,184,852	+270,013	-1,809,498

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR 2020
AND BUDGET REQUESTS AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL FOR 2021
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2020 Enacted	FY 2021 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
TITLE IV - RELATED AGENCIES					
Commission on Civil Rights					
Salaries and expenses	10,500	10,065	12,000	+1,500	+1,935
Equal Employment Opportunity Commission					
Salaries and expenses	389,500	362,481	408,700	+19,200	+46,219
International Trade Commission					
Salaries and expenses	99,400	99,600	105,000	+5,600	+5,400
Legal Services Corporation					
Payment to the Legal Services Corporation	440,000	18,200	465,000	+25,000	+446,800
Marine Mammal Commission					
Salaries and expenses	3,616	2,449	3,769	+153	+1,320

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR 2020
AND BUDGET REQUESTS AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL FOR 2021
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2020 Enacted	FY 2021 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
Office of the U.S. Trade Representative					
Salaries and expenses	54,000	60,000	55,000	+1,000	-5,000
Trade Enforcement Trust Fund	15,000	13,000	15,000	---	+2,000
State Justice Institute					
Salaries and expenses	6,555	8,000	7,700	+1,145	-300
Total, title IV, Related Agencies	1,018,571	573,795	1,072,169	+53,598	+498,374

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR 2020
AND BUDGET REQUESTS AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL FOR 2021
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2020 Enacted	FY 2021 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
TITLE V - GENERAL PROVISIONS					
Crime Victims Fund (transfer out) (Sec. 510)	(-10,000)	---	(-10,000)	---	(-10,000)
Department of Justice OIG (by transfer)	(10,000)	---	(10,000)	---	(+10,000)
DOC National Institute of Standards and Technology, Industrial Technology Services (rescission)	---	-20,000	---	---	+20,000
Economic Development Assistance Programs (rescission)	-17,000	-38,000	---	+17,000	+38,000
NOAA, Fisheries, Enforcement Asset Forfeiture Funds (rescission)	-5,000	---	-10,000	-5,000	-10,000
Periodic Censuses and Programs (rescission)	---	-88,600	---	---	+88,600
DOJ, Working Capital Fund (rescission)	-107,000	-75,000	-75,000	+32,000	---
DOJ, Fees and Expenses of Witnesses (rescission)	---	---	---	---	---
FBI, Salaries and Expenses:					
nondefense (rescission)	-29,200	-32,456	---	+29,200	+32,456
defense (rescission)	-42,774	-47,544	---	+42,774	+47,544
FBI, Construction (rescission)	---	-150,000	---	---	+150,000
Federal Prison System, Buildings and Facilities (rescission)	---	-505,000	---	---	+505,000
Violence against women prevention and prosecution programs (rescission)	---	-10,000	---	---	+10,000
Office of Justice programs (rescission)	-70,000	-85,000	-70,000	---	+15,000
COPS (rescission)	-13,000	---	-15,000	-2,000	-15,000
NASA Science (rescission)	-70,000	---	---	+70,000	---
DEA, salaries & expenses (rescission)	-10,000	---	---	+10,000	---
Total, title V, General Provisions	-363,974	-1,051,600	-170,000	+193,974	+881,600

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR 2020
AND BUDGET REQUESTS AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL FOR 2021
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2020 Enacted	FY 2021 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
OTHER APPROPRIATIONS					
USMCA SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2019 (P.L. 116-113)					
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration					
Operations, Research and Facilities (emergency).....	16,000	---	---	-16,000	---
Office of the U.S. Trade Representative					
Salaries and expenses (emergency).....	50,000	---	---	-50,000	---
Trade Enforcement Trust Fund (emergency).....	40,000	---	---	-40,000	---
Total, Office of the U.S. Trade Representative..	90,000	---	---	-90,000	---
Total, USMCA Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2019.....	106,000	---	---	-106,000	---

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR 2020
AND BUDGET REQUESTS AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL FOR 2021
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2020 Enacted	FY 2021 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
EMERGENCY APPROPRIATIONS FOR CORONAVIRUS HEALTH RESPONSE AND AGENCY OPERATIONS (P. L. 116-136 DIV B)					
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE					
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION					
Economic Development Assistance Programs (emergency)..	1,500,000	---	---	-1,500,000	---
(transfer out) (emergency).....	(-33,000)	---	---	(+33,000)	---
Salaries and Expenses (by transfer) (emergency).....	(33,000)	---	---	(-33,000)	---
National Institute of Standars and Technology					
Scientific and Technical Research and Services (emergency).....	6,000	---	---	-6,000	---
Industrial Technology Services (emergency).....	60,000	---	---	-60,000	---
Manufacturing Extension Partnership (emergency)...	(50,000)	---	---	(-50,000)	---
National Network for Manufacturing Innovation (emergency).....	(10,000)	---	---	(-10,000)	---
Total, National Institute of Standards and Technology.....	66,000	---	---	-66,000	---

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR 2020
AND BUDGET REQUESTS AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL FOR 2021
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2020 Enacted	FY 2021 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration					
Operations, Research, and Facilities (emergency).....	20,000	---	---	-20,000	---
Fisheries Disaster Assistance (emergency).....	300,000	---	---	-300,000	---
Total, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.....	320,000	---	---	-320,000	---
Departmental Management					
Office of Inspector General (by transfer) (emergency).	(3,000)	---	---	(-3,000)	---
Total, Department of Commerce.....	1,886,000	---	---	-1,886,000	---

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR 2020
AND BUDGET REQUESTS AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL FOR 2021
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2020 Enacted	FY 2021 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE					
General Administration					
Justice Information Sharing Technology (emergency)	2,000	---	---	-2,000	---
Office of Inspector General (emergency)	2,000	---	---	-2,000	---
Total, General Administration	4,000	---	---	-4,000	---
Office of United States Attorneys					
Salaries and Expenses (emergency)	3,000	---	---	-3,000	---
United States Marshals Service					
Salaries and Expenses (emergency)	15,000	---	---	-15,000	---
Federal Bureau of Investigation					
Salaries and Expenses (emergency)	8,000	---	---	-8,000	---
Defense (emergency)	12,000	---	---	-12,000	---
Drug Enforcement Administration					
Salaries and Expenses (emergency)	15,000	---	---	-15,000	---
Federal Prison System					
Salaries and Expenses (emergency)	100,000	---	---	-100,000	---
Office of Justice Programs					
State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance (emergency)	850,000	---	---	-850,000	---
Total, Department of Justice	1,007,000	---	---	-1,007,000	---

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR 2020
AND BUDGET REQUESTS AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL FOR 2021
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2020 Enacted	FY 2021 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
National Aeronautics and Space Administration					
Safety, Security, and Mission Services (emergency)....	60,000	---	---	-60,000	---
National Science Foundation					
Research and Related Activities (emergency).....	75,000	---	---	-75,000	---
Agency Operations and Award Management (emergency)....	1,000	---	---	-1,000	---
Total, National Science Foundation.....	76,000	---	---	-76,000	---
Legal Services Corporation					
Payment to the Legal Services Corporation (emergency).	50,000	---	---	-50,000	---
Total, Emergency Appropriations for Cornoavirus Health Response and Agency Operations.....	3,079,000	---	---	-3,079,000	---
Total, Other Appropriations.....	3,185,000	---	---	-3,185,000	---

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR 2020
AND BUDGET REQUESTS AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL FOR 2021
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2020 Enacted	FY 2021 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
Grand total	82,580,503	73,749,620	75,210,109	-7,370,394	+1,460,489
Appropriations	(77,259,477)	(74,801,220)	(75,380,109)	(-1,879,368)	(+578,889)
Rescissions	(-363,974)	(-1,051,600)	(-170,000)	(+193,974)	(+881,600)
Emergency appropriations	(3,185,000)	---	---	(-3,185,000)	---
Census Cap Adjustment	(2,500,000)	---	---	(-2,500,000)	---
(by transfer)	666,774	194,834	709,171	+42,397	+514,337
(transfer out)	-661,774	-194,834	-709,171	-47,397	-514,337
PTO pre-funding payments (Health benefits fund)	-94,000	-99,000	-99,000	-5,000	---
Crime Victims Fund (Sec. 510)	-5,737,000	---	-3,249,000	+2,488,000	-3,249,000
Independent counsel	2,000	---	---	-2,000	---
Medicare-eligible retiree health fund contributions, NOAA	1,497	1,591	1,591	+94	---

MINORITY VIEWS

We appreciate the efforts of the Majority in producing a Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies (CJS) Appropriations bill that addresses many priorities of Members on both sides of the aisle. We also want to thank Chairman Serrano and his staff for their diligent efforts to incorporate many of our Members' proposed modifications into his Manager's Amendment.

We are pleased that the bill provides no less than $400,000,000 for the Block lB version of the Space Launch System and continues strong funding for deep space exploration technologies, such as nuclear thermal propulsion. We also appreciate the strong support for the agencies that ensure compliance with our trade laws and agreements, as well as funding for the Commerce Department's recently created Aluminum Import Monitoring and Analysis system.

In addition to these key priorities, the bill addresses issues impacting all of our communities. It increases funding for drug court programs and other vital initiatives that address the opioid epidemic, as well as DNA programs that are helping to analyze the backlog of sexual assault evidence and solve cold cases.

Still, we have many unaddressed concerns with this bill. The bill makes new investments in science, but only selectively. The flat funding for NASA reveals a deliberate effort to undercut our path toward renewed American space dominance, and it imperils the goal of landing on the moon in 2024. Specifically, the bill fails to provide adequate funding for an essential component of NASA's Artemis program: the human landing systems on which the first woman will travel to the surface of the moon. It also fails to provide adequate resources for critical ground infrastructure in support of the Artemis program.

This is shortsighted, to say the least. Sending American astronauts to the south pole of the moon will showcase the global leadership and technological advances of the United States. It will also enhance our national security by allowing us to establish a strategic presence on the moon. Our nation is facing serious threats in space, specifically from China. Being the world leader in space will be expensive, but it will not be nearly as costly as letting China dominate in space. For far too long, we have allowed China to challenge us, with negative implications both for our economy and our national security.

In addition, by imposing new, unauthorized conditions on the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) program and programs administered by the Office on Community Oriented Policing, the Majority is effectively halting funding for many authorized programs with strong bipartisan support. Among other purposes, funding for these programs supports active shooter response training under the POLICE Act (P.L. 114–199), grants for the purchase of school hardening equipment under the STOP School Violence Act (Title V of

P.L. 115–141), suicide prevention measures for police officers under the Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Act (P.L. 115–113), and law enforcement assistance in tribal communities, where homicide rates among American Indians and Alaska Natives are more than double the rate for the U.S. as a whole. Conditioning needed funding for schools and communities on policies far outside the control of law enforcement—in the name of social justice—is inappropriate.

Moreover, in their effort to appease voices calling for the defunding of police, the Majority also underfunds all of the Federal law enforcement agencies of the Department of Justice, halts funding for anti-methamphetamine and heroin task forces, and directs resources to a misconduct registry that would be required by law to report baseless accusations. In doing so, they contribute to a climate wherein far too many good law enforcement officers are considering a career change because they feel their efforts are unsupported and the sacrifices they are willing to make are unappreciated.

The bill also includes several partisan immigration-related riders opposed by the Minority. It provides $15,000,000 for a new, unauthorized program to provide direct legal representation of aliens arriving at our Southern border, prohibits the use of case completion benchmarks to evaluate immigration judge performance, and includes unauthorized restraints on the Census Bureau that will preclude it from using any of the data it legally collects to develop estimates of citizens, lawfully present non-citizens and unauthorized aliens in the U.S.

Finally, the bill eliminates several long-standing Second Amendment protections that have enjoyed historical, bipartisan support. The elimination of freedoms that are not even associated with the criminal misuse of firearms is indicative of a gun control agenda with no basis in the science of criminal justice.

We do commit, as always, to working with the Majority in good faith as we proceed through the legislative process, to cure these and other deficiencies.

KAY GRANGER.
ROBERT B. ADERHOLT.

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AUTHENTICATED
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Union Calendar No. 366

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7667

[Report No. 116–455]

Making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2021, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 16, 2020

Mr. SERRANO, from the Committee on Appropriations, reported the following bill; which was committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

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A BILL

Making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2021, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the following sums are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2021, and for other purposes, namely:

TITLE I

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

INTERNATIONAL TRADE ADMINISTRATION

OPERATIONS AND ADMINISTRATION

For necessary expenses for international trade activities of the Department of Commerce provided for by law, to carry out activities associated with facilitating, attracting, and retaining business investment in the United States, and for engaging in trade promotional activities abroad, including expenses of grants and cooperative agreements for the purpose of promoting exports of United States firms, without regard to sections 3702 and 3703 of title 44, United States Code; full medical coverage for dependent members of immediate families of employees stationed overseas and employees temporarily posted overseas; travel and transportation of employees of the International Trade Administration between two points abroad, without regard to section 40118 of title 49, United States Code; employment of citizens of the United States and

aliens by contract for services; rental of space abroad for periods not exceeding 10 years, and expenses of alteration, repair, or improvement; purchase or construction of temporary demountable exhibition structures for use abroad; payment of tort claims, in the manner authorized in the first paragraph of section 2672 of title 28, United States Code, when such claims arise in foreign countries; not to exceed $294,300 for official representation expenses abroad; purchase of passenger motor vehicles for official use abroad, not to exceed $45,000 per vehicle; obtaining insurance on official motor vehicles; and rental of tie lines, $542,428,000, of which $75,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2022: *Provided*, That $11,000,000 is to be derived from fees to be retained and used by the International Trade Administration, notwithstanding section 3302 of title 31, United States Code: *Provided further*, That, of amounts provided under this heading, not less than $16,400,000 shall be for China antidumping and countervailing duty enforcement and compliance activities: *Provided further*, That the provisions of the first sentence of section 105(f) and all of section 108(c) of the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2455(f) and 2458(c)) shall apply in carrying out these activities; and that for the purpose of this Act, contributions under the provisions of the Mutual

Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961 shall include payment for assessments for services provided as part of these activities.

BUREAU OF INDUSTRY AND SECURITY

OPERATIONS AND ADMINISTRATION

For necessary expenses for export administration and national security activities of the Department of Commerce, including costs associated with the performance of export administration field activities both domestically and abroad; full medical coverage for dependent members of immediate families of employees stationed overseas; employment of citizens of the United States and aliens by contract for services abroad; payment of tort claims, in the manner authorized in the first paragraph of section 2672 of title 28, United States Code, when such claims arise in foreign countries; not to exceed $13,500 for official representation expenses abroad; awards of compensation to informers under the Export Control Reform Act of 2018 (subtitle B of title XVII of the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019; Public Law 115–232; 132 Stat. 2208; 50 U.S.C. 4801 et seq.), and as authorized by section 1(b) of the Act of June 15, 1917 (40 Stat. 223; 22 U.S.C. 401(b)); and purchase of passenger motor vehicles for official use and motor vehicles for law enforcement use with special requirement vehi-

cles eligible for purchase without regard to any price limitation otherwise established by law, $137,664,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That the provisions of the first sentence of section 105(f) and all of section 108(c) of the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2455(f) and 2458(c)) shall apply in carrying out these activities: *Provided further*, That payments and contributions collected and accepted for materials or services provided as part of such activities may be retained for use in covering the cost of such activities, and for providing information to the public with respect to the export administration and national security activities of the Department of Commerce and other export control programs of the United States and other governments.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

For grants for economic development assistance as provided by the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965, for trade adjustment assistance, and for grants authorized by sections 27 and 28 of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3722 and 3723), $314,000,000, to remain available until expended, of which $35,000,000 shall be for grants under

such section 27 and $4,500,000 shall be for grants under such section 28.

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of administering the economic development assistance programs as provided for by law, $42,000,000: *Provided*, That funds provided under this heading may be used to monitor projects approved pursuant to title I of the Public Works Employment Act of 1976, title II of the Trade Act of 1974, sections 27 and 28 of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3722 and 3723), and the Community Emergency Drought Relief Act of 1977.

MINORITY BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

MINORITY BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

For necessary expenses of the Department of Commerce in fostering, promoting, and developing minority business enterprises, including expenses of grants, contracts, and other agreements with public or private organizations, $52,000,000, of which not more than $16,000,000 shall be available for overhead expenses, including salaries and expenses, rent, utilities, and information technology services.

ECONOMIC AND STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses, as authorized by law, of economic and statistical analysis programs of the Department of Commerce, $111,855,000, to remain available until September 30, 2022.

BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

CURRENT SURVEYS AND PROGRAMS

For necessary expenses for collecting, compiling, analyzing, preparing, and publishing statistics, provided for by law, $288,403,000: *Provided*, That, from amounts provided herein, funds may be used for promotion, outreach, and marketing activities.

PERIODIC CENSUSES AND PROGRAMS

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses for collecting, compiling, analyzing, preparing, and publishing statistics for periodic censuses and programs provided for by law, $1,392,709,000, to remain available until September 30, 2023: *Provided*, That, from amounts provided herein, funds may be used for promotion, outreach, and marketing activities: *Provided further*, That within the amounts appropriated, $3,556,000 shall be transferred to the ''Office of Inspector General'' account for activities as-

sociated with carrying out investigations and audits related to the Bureau of the Census.

National Telecommunications and Information Administration

salaries and expenses

For necessary expenses, as provided for by law, of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), $45,500,000, to remain available until September 30, 2022: *Provided*, That, notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 1535(d), the Secretary of Commerce shall charge Federal agencies for costs incurred in spectrum management, analysis, operations, and related services, and such fees shall be retained and used as offsetting collections for costs of such spectrum services, to remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Commerce is authorized to retain and use as offsetting collections all funds transferred, or previously transferred, from other Government agencies for all costs incurred in telecommunications research, engineering, and related activities by the Institute for Telecommunication Sciences of NTIA, in furtherance of its assigned functions under this paragraph, and such funds received from other Government agencies shall remain available until expended.

PUBLIC TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES, PLANNING AND CONSTRUCTION

For the administration of prior-year grants, recoveries and unobligated balances of funds previously appropriated are available for the administration of all open grants until their expiration.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses of the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) provided for by law, including defense of suits instituted against the Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the USPTO, $3,695,295,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That the sum herein appropriated from the general fund shall be reduced as offsetting collections of fees and surcharges assessed and collected by the USPTO under any law are received during fiscal year 2021, so as to result in a fiscal year 2021 appropriation from the general fund estimated at $0: *Provided further*, That during fiscal year 2021, should the total amount of such offsetting collections be less than $3,695,295,000, this amount shall be reduced accordingly: *Provided further*, That any amount received in excess of $3,695,295,000 in fiscal year 2021 and deposited in the

Patent and Trademark Fee Reserve Fund shall remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That the Director of USPTO shall submit a spending plan to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate for any amounts made available by the preceding proviso and such spending plan shall be treated as a reprogramming under section 505 of this Act and shall not be available for obligation or expenditure except in compliance with the procedures set forth in that section: *Provided further*, That any amounts reprogrammed in accordance with the preceding proviso shall be transferred to the United States Patent and Trademark Office ''Salaries and Expenses'' account: *Provided further*, That from amounts provided herein, not to exceed $900 shall be made available in fiscal year 2021 for official reception and representation expenses: *Provided further*, That in fiscal year 2021 from the amounts made available for ''Salaries and Expenses'' for the USPTO, the amounts necessary to pay (1) the difference between the percentage of basic pay contributed by the USPTO and employees under section 8334(a) of title 5, United States Code, and the normal cost percentage (as defined by section 8331(17) of that title) as provided by the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) for USPTO's specific use, of basic pay, of employees subject to subchapter III of chap-

ter 83 of that title, and (2) the present value of the otherwise unfunded accruing costs, as determined by OPM for USPTO's specific use of post-retirement life insurance and post-retirement health benefits coverage for all USPTO employees who are enrolled in Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) and Federal Employees Group Life Insurance (FEGLI), shall be transferred to the Civil Service Retirement and Disability Fund, the FEGLI Fund, and the Employees FEHB Fund, as appropriate, and shall be available for the authorized purposes of those accounts: *Provided further*, That any differences between the present value factors published in OPM's yearly 300 series benefit letters and the factors that OPM provides for USPTO's specific use shall be recognized as an imputed cost on USPTO's financial statements, where applicable: *Provided further*, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, all fees and surcharges assessed and collected by USPTO are available for USPTO only pursuant to section 42(c) of title 35, United States Code, as amended by section 22 of the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act (Public Law 112–29): *Provided further*, That within the amounts appropriated, $2,000,000 shall be transferred to the ''Office of Inspector General'' account for activities associated with carrying out investigations and audits related to the USPTO.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY

SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL RESEARCH AND SERVICES

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), $789,000,000, to remain available until expended, of which not to exceed $9,000,000 may be transferred to the ''Working Capital Fund'': *Provided*, That not to exceed $5,000 shall be for official reception and representation expenses: *Provided further*, That NIST may provide local transportation for summer undergraduate research fellowship program participants.

INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

For necessary expenses for industrial technology services, $170,000,000, to remain available until expended, of which $153,000,000 shall be for the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership, and of which $17,000,000 shall be for the National Network for Manufacturing Innovation (also known as ''Manufacturing USA'').

CONSTRUCTION OF RESEARCH FACILITIES

For construction of new research facilities, including architectural and engineering design, and for renovation and maintenance of existing facilities, not otherwise provided for the National Institute of Standards and Tech-

nology, as authorized by sections 13 through 15 of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278c–278e), $85,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That the Secretary of Commerce shall include in the budget justification materials that the Secretary submits to Congress in support of the Department of Commerce budget (as submitted with the budget of the President under section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code) an estimate for each National Institute of Standards and Technology construction project having a total multi-year program cost of more than $5,000,000, and simultaneously the budget justification materials shall include an estimate of the budgetary requirements for each such project for each of the 5 subsequent fiscal years.

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

OPERATIONS, RESEARCH, AND FACILITIES

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses of activities authorized by law for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, including maintenance, operation, and hire of aircraft and vessels; pilot programs for state-led fisheries management, notwithstanding any other provision of law; grants, contracts, or other payments to nonprofit organizations for the purposes of conducting activities pursuant to coopera-

tive agreements; and relocation of facilities, $3,871,659,000, to remain available until September 30, 2022: *Provided*, That fees and donations received by the National Ocean Service for the management of national marine sanctuaries may be retained and used for the salaries and expenses associated with those activities, notwithstanding section 3302 of title 31, United States Code: *Provided further*, That in addition, $253,171,000 shall be derived by transfer from the fund entitled ''Promote and Develop Fishery Products and Research Pertaining to American Fisheries'', which shall only be used for the Fishery Science and Management program activities: *Provided further*, That not to exceed $66,389,000 shall be for payment to the Department of Commerce Working Capital Fund: *Provided further*, That of the $4,142,330,000 provided for in direct obligations under this heading, $3,871,659,000 is appropriated from the general fund, $253,171,000 is provided by transfer, and $17,500,000 is derived from recoveries of prior year obligations: *Provided further*, That any deviation from the amounts designated for specific activities in the report accompanying this Act or any use of deobligated balances of funds provided under this heading in previous years, shall be subject to the procedures set forth in section 505 of this Act: *Provided further*, That, in addition, for necessary retired pay expenses under the

Retired Serviceman's Family Protection and Survivor Benefits Plan, and for payments for the medical care of retired personnel and their dependents under the Dependents' Medical Care Act (10 U.S.C. ch. 55), such sums as may be necessary.

PROCUREMENT, ACQUISITION AND CONSTRUCTION

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For procurement, acquisition and construction of capital assets, including alteration and modification costs, of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, $1,524,360,000, to remain available until September 30, 2023, except that funds provided for acquisition and construction of vessels and construction of facilities shall remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of the $1,537,360,000 provided for in direct obligations under this heading, $1,524,360,000 is appropriated from the general fund and $13,000,000 is provided from recoveries of prior year obligations: *Provided further*, That any deviation from the amounts designated for specific activities in the report accompanying this Act or any use of deobligated balances of funds provided under this heading in previous years, shall be subject to the procedures set forth in section 505 of this Act: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Commerce shall include in budget justification materials that the Secretary submits to Congress

in support of the Department of Commerce budget (as submitted with the budget of the President under section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code) an estimate for each National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration procurement, acquisition or construction project having a total of more than $5,000,000 and simultaneously the budget justification shall include an estimate of the budgetary requirements for each such project for each of the 5 subsequent fiscal years: *Provided further*, That, within the amounts appropriated, $1,302,000 shall be transferred to the ''Office of Inspector General'' account for activities associated with carrying out investigations and audits related to satellite procurement, acquisition and construction.

PACIFIC COASTAL SALMON RECOVERY

For necessary expenses associated with the restoration of Pacific salmon populations, $65,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2022: *Provided*, That, of the funds provided herein, the Secretary of Commerce may issue grants to the States of Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Nevada, California, and Alaska, and to the Federally recognized tribes of the Columbia River and Pacific Coast (including Alaska), for projects necessary for conservation of salmon and steelhead populations that are listed as threatened or endangered, or that are identified

by a State as at-risk to be so listed, for maintaining populations necessary for exercise of tribal treaty fishing rights or native subsistence fishing, or for conservation of Pacific coastal salmon and steelhead habitat, based on guidelines to be developed by the Secretary of Commerce: *Provided further*, That all funds shall be allocated based on scientific and other merit principles and shall not be available for marketing activities: *Provided further*, That funds disbursed to States shall be subject to a matching requirement of funds or documented in-kind contributions of at least 33 percent of the Federal funds.

FISHERMEN'S CONTINGENCY FUND

For carrying out the provisions of title IV of Public Law 95–372, not to exceed $349,000, to be derived from receipts collected pursuant to that Act, to remain available until expended.

FISHERY DISASTER ASSISTANCE

For salaries and expenses associated with the administration of fishery disaster assistance, $300,000, to remain available until September 30, 2022: *Provided*, That funds shall be used for administering the fishery disaster programs authorized by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act and the Interjurisdictional Fisheries Act of 1986.

FISHERIES FINANCE PROGRAM ACCOUNT

Subject to section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, during fiscal year 2021, obligations of direct loans may not exceed $24,000,000 for Individual Fishing Quota loans and not to exceed $100,000,000 for traditional direct loans as authorized by the Merchant Marine Act of 1936.

DEPARTMENTAL MANAGEMENT

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses for the management of the Department of Commerce provided for by law, including not to exceed $4,500 for official reception and representation, $73,080,000: *Provided*, That no employee of the Department of Commerce may be detailed or assigned from a bureau or office funded by this Act or any other Act to offices within the Office of the Secretary of the Department of Commerce for more than 30 days in a fiscal year unless the individual's employing bureau or office is fully reimbursed for the salary and expenses of the employee for the entire period of assignment using funds provided under this heading.

RENOVATION AND MODERNIZATION

For necessary expenses for the renovation and modernization of the Herbert C. Hoover Building, $1,123,000.

NONRECURRING EXPENSES FUND

For necessary expenses for a business application system modernization, $20,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2023.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

For necessary expenses of the Office of Inspector General in carrying out the provisions of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.), $35,520,000: *Provided*, That notwithstanding section 6413 of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 (Public Law 112–96), an additional $2,000,000, to remain available until expended, shall be derived from the Public Safety Trust Fund for activities associated with carrying out investigations and audits related to the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet).

GENERAL PROVISIONS—DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 101. During the current fiscal year, applicable appropriations and funds made available to the Department of Commerce by this Act shall be available for the activities specified in the Act of October 26, 1949 (15 U.S.C. 1514), to the extent and in the manner prescribed by the Act, and, notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3324, may be used for advanced payments not otherwise authorized only upon the certification of officials designated by the

Secretary of Commerce that such payments are in the public interest.

SEC. 102. During the current fiscal year, appropriations made available to the Department of Commerce by this Act for salaries and expenses shall be available for hire of passenger motor vehicles as authorized by 31 U.S.C. 1343 and 1344; services as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109; and uniforms or allowances therefor, as authorized by law (5 U.S.C. 5901–5902).

SEC. 103. Not to exceed 5 percent of any appropriation made available for the current fiscal year for the Department of Commerce in this Act may be transferred between such appropriations, but no such appropriation shall be increased by more than 10 percent by any such transfers: *Provided*, That any transfer pursuant to this section shall be treated as a reprogramming of funds under section 505 of this Act and shall not be available for obligation or expenditure except in compliance with the procedures set forth in that section: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Commerce shall notify the Committees on Appropriations at least 15 days in advance of the acquisition or disposal of any capital asset (including land, structures, and equipment) not specifically provided for in this Act or any other law appropriating funds for the Department of Commerce.

SEC. 104. The requirements set forth by section 105 of the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2012 (Public Law 112–55), as amended by section 105 of title I of division B of Public Law 113–6, are hereby adopted by reference and made applicable with respect to fiscal year 2021: *Provided*, That the life cycle cost for the Joint Polar Satellite System is $11,322,125,000 and the life cycle cost for the Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite R-Series Program is $10,828,059,000.

SEC. 105. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary may furnish services (including but not limited to utilities, telecommunications, and security services) necessary to support the operation, maintenance, and improvement of space that persons, firms, or organizations are authorized, pursuant to the Public Buildings Cooperative Use Act of 1976 or other authority, to use or occupy in the Herbert C. Hoover Building, Washington, DC, or other buildings, the maintenance, operation, and protection of which has been delegated to the Secretary from the Administrator of General Services pursuant to the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 on a reimbursable or non-reimbursable basis. Amounts received as reimbursement for services provided under this section or the authority under which the use or occupancy

of the space is authorized, up to $200,000, shall be credited to the appropriation or fund which initially bears the costs of such services.

SEC. 106. Nothing in this title shall be construed to prevent a grant recipient from deterring child pornography, copyright infringement, or any other unlawful activity over its networks.

SEC. 107. The Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is authorized to use, with their consent, with reimbursement and subject to the limits of available appropriations, the land, services, equipment, personnel, and facilities of any department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States, or of any State, local government, Indian tribal government, Territory, or possession, or of any political subdivision thereof, or of any foreign government or international organization, for purposes related to carrying out the responsibilities of any statute administered by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

SEC. 108. The National Technical Information Service shall not charge any customer for a copy of any report or document generated by the Legislative Branch unless the Service has provided information to the customer on how an electronic copy of such report or document may be accessed and downloaded for free online. Should a cus-

tomer still require the Service to provide a printed or digital copy of the report or document, the charge shall be limited to recovering the Service's cost of processing, reproducing, and delivering such report or document.

SEC. 109. To carry out the responsibilities of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the Administrator of NOAA is authorized to: (1) enter into grants and cooperative agreements with; (2) use on a non-reimbursable basis land, services, equipment, personnel, and facilities provided by; and (3) receive and expend funds made available on a consensual basis from: a Federal agency, State or subdivision thereof, local government, tribal government, territory, or possession or any subdivisions thereof: *Provided*, That funds received for permitting and related regulatory activities pursuant to this section shall be deposited under the heading ''National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration—Operations, Research, and Facilities'' and shall remain available until September 30, 2023, for such purposes: *Provided further*, That all funds within this section and their corresponding uses are subject to section 505 of this Act.

SEC. 110. Amounts provided by this Act or by any prior appropriations Act that remain available for obligation, for necessary expenses of the programs of the Economics and Statistics Administration of the Department

of Commerce, including amounts provided for programs of the Bureau of Economic Analysis and the Bureau of the Census, shall be available for expenses of cooperative agreements with appropriate entities, including any Federal, State, or local governmental unit, or institution of higher education, to aid and promote statistical, research, and methodology activities which further the purposes for which such amounts have been made available.

This title may be cited as the ''Department of Commerce Appropriations Act, 2021''.

TITLE II

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

General Administration

salaries and expenses

For expenses necessary for the administration of the Department of Justice, $120,041,000, of which not to exceed $4,000,000 for security and construction of Department of Justice facilities shall remain available until expended, and of which $5,000,000 is available only for the purposes of carrying out provisions related to a Task Force on Law Enforcement Oversight established pursuant to section 220 of this Act.

JUSTICE INFORMATION SHARING TECHNOLOGY

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses for information sharing technology, including planning, development, deployment and departmental direction, $33,875,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That the Attorney General may transfer up to $40,000,000 to this account, from funds available to the Department of Justice for information technology, to remain available until expended, for enterprise-wide information technology initiatives: *Provided further*, That the transfer authority in the preceding proviso is in addition to any other transfer authority contained in this Act: *Provided further*, That any transfer pursuant to the first proviso shall be treated as a reprogramming under section 505 of this Act and shall not be available for obligation or expenditure except in compliance with the procedures set forth in that section.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE FOR IMMIGRATION REVIEW

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For expenses necessary for the administration of immigration related activities of the Executive Office for Immigration Review, $734,000,000, of which $4,000,000 shall be derived by transfer from the Executive Office for Immigration Review fees deposited in the ''Immigration Examinations Fee'' account, and of which not less than

$25,000,000 shall be available for services and activities provided by the Legal Orientation Program: Provided, That not to exceed $35,000,000 of the total amount made available under this heading shall remain available until September 30, 2022.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

For necessary expenses of the Office of Inspector General, $113,985,000, including not to exceed $10,000 to meet unforeseen emergencies of a confidential character: Provided, That not to exceed $2,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2022.

UNITED STATES PAROLE COMMISSION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the United States Parole Commission as authorized, $13,539,000: *Provided*, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, upon the expiration of a term of office of a Commissioner, the Commissioner may continue to act until a successor has been appointed.

LEGAL ACTIVITIES

SALARIES AND EXPENSES, GENERAL LEGAL ACTIVITIES

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For expenses necessary for the legal activities of the Department of Justice, not otherwise provided for, including not to exceed $20,000 for expenses of collecting evi-

dence, to be expended under the direction of, and to be accounted for solely under the certificate of, the Attorney General; the administration of pardon and clemency petitions; and rent of private or Government-owned space in the District of Columbia, $969,211,000, of which not to exceed $20,000,000 for litigation support contracts shall remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of the amount provided for INTERPOL Washington dues payments, not to exceed $685,000 shall remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That of the total amount appropriated, not to exceed $9,000 shall be available to INTERPOL Washington for official reception and representation expenses: *Provided further,* That of the total amount appropriated, not to exceed $9,000 shall be available to the Criminal Division for official reception and representation expenses: *Provided further*, That $10,000,000 shall be for the Civil Rights Division for additional expenses relating to the enforcement of section 210401 of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (34 U.S.C. 12601), criminal enforcement under sections 241 and 242 of title 18, United States Code, and administrative enforcement by the Department of Justice, including compliance with consent decrees or judgments entered into under such section 210401: *Provided further*, That upon a determination by the Attorney General that

emergent circumstances require additional funding for litigation activities of the Civil Division, the Attorney General may transfer such amounts to ''Salaries and Expenses, General Legal Activities'' from available appropriations for the current fiscal year for the Department of Justice, as may be necessary to respond to such circumstances: *Provided further*, That any transfer pursuant to the preceding proviso shall be treated as a reprogramming under section 505 of this Act and shall not be available for obligation or expenditure except in compliance with the procedures set forth in that section: *Provided further*, That of the amount appropriated, such sums as may be necessary shall be available to the Civil Rights Division for salaries and expenses associated with the election monitoring program under section 8 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. 10305) and to reimburse the Office of Personnel Management for such salaries and expenses: *Provided further*, That of the amounts provided under this heading for the election monitoring program, $3,390,000 shall remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That of the amount appropriated, not less than $198,744,000 shall be available for the Criminal Division, including related expenses for the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty Program.

In addition, for reimbursement of expenses of the Department of Justice associated with processing cases under the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, not to exceed $19,000,000, to be appropriated from the Vaccine Injury Compensation Trust Fund and to remain available until expended.

SALARIES AND EXPENSES, ANTITRUST DIVISION

For expenses necessary for the enforcement of antitrust and kindred laws, $180,274,000, to remain available until expended, of which not to exceed $2,000 shall be made available for official reception and representation expenses: *Provided*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, fees collected for premerger notification filings under the Hart-Scott-Rodino Antitrust Improvements Act of 1976 (15 U.S.C. 18a), regardless of the year of collection (and estimated to be $150,000,000 in fiscal year 2021), shall be retained and used for necessary expenses in this appropriation, and shall remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That the sum herein appropriated from the general fund shall be reduced as such offsetting collections are received during fiscal year 2021, so as to result in a final fiscal year 2021 appropriation from the general fund estimated at $30,274,000.

SALARIES AND EXPENSES, UNITED STATES ATTORNEYS

For necessary expenses of the Offices of the United States Attorneys, including inter-governmental and cooperative agreements, $2,347,177,000: *Provided*, That of the total amount appropriated, not to exceed $7,200 shall be available for official reception and representation expenses: *Provided further*, That $10,000,000 shall be for additional expenses relating to the enforcement of section 210401 of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (34 U.S.C. 12601), criminal enforcement under sections 241 and 242 of title 18, United States Code, and administrative enforcement by the Department of Justice, including compliance with consent decrees or judgments entered into under such section 210401: *Provided further*, That not to exceed $25,000,000 shall remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That each United States Attorney shall establish or participate in a task force on human trafficking.

UNITED STATES TRUSTEE SYSTEM FUND

For necessary expenses of the United States Trustee Program, as authorized, $232,361,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, deposits to the United States Trustee System Fund and amounts herein appropriated shall be available in such amounts as may be necessary

to pay refunds due depositors: *Provided further*, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, fees deposited into the Fund pursuant to section 589a(b) of title 28, United States Code (as limited by section 1004(b) of the Bankruptcy Judgeship Act of 2017 (division B of Public Law 115–72)), shall be retained and used for necessary expenses in this appropriation and shall remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That to the extent that fees deposited into the Fund in fiscal year 2021, net of amounts necessary to pay refunds due depositors, exceed $232,361,000, those excess amounts shall be available in future fiscal years only to the extent provided in advance in appropriations Acts: *Provided further*, That the sum herein appropriated from the general fund shall be reduced (1) as such fees are received during fiscal year 2021, net of amounts necessary to pay refunds due depositors, (estimated at $318,000,000) and (2) to the extent that any remaining general fund appropriations can be derived from amounts deposited in the Fund in previous fiscal years that are not otherwise appropriated, so as to result in a final fiscal year 2021 appropriation from the general fund estimated at $0.

SALARIES AND EXPENSES, FOREIGN CLAIMS SETTLEMENT COMMISSION

For expenses necessary to carry out the activities of the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission, including services as authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, $2,366,000.

FEES AND EXPENSES OF WITNESSES

For fees and expenses of witnesses, for expenses of contracts for the procurement and supervision of expert witnesses, for private counsel expenses, including advances, and for expenses of foreign counsel, $270,000,000, to remain available until expended, of which not to exceed $16,000,000 is for construction of buildings for protected witness safesites; not to exceed $3,000,000 is for the purchase and maintenance of armored and other vehicles for witness security caravans; and not to exceed $25,000,000 is for the purchase, installation, maintenance, and upgrade of secure telecommunications equipment and a secure automated information network to store and retrieve the identities and locations of protected witnesses.

SALARIES AND EXPENSES, COMMUNITY RELATIONS SERVICE

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses of the Community Relations Service, $20,300,000: *Provided*, That upon a determina-

tion by the Attorney General that emergent circumstances require additional funding for conflict resolution and violence prevention activities of the Community Relations Service, the Attorney General may transfer such amounts to the Community Relations Service, from available appropriations for the current fiscal year for the Department of Justice, as may be necessary to respond to such circumstances: *Provided further*, That any transfer pursuant to the preceding proviso shall be treated as a reprogramming under section 505 of this Act and shall not be available for obligation or expenditure except in compliance with the procedures set forth in that section.

ASSETS FORFEITURE FUND

For expenses authorized by subparagraphs (B), (F), and (G) of section 524(c)(1) of title 28, United States Code, $20,514,000, to be derived from the Department of Justice Assets Forfeiture Fund.

UNITED STATES MARSHALS SERVICE

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the United States Marshals Service, $1,484,184,000, of which not to exceed $6,000 shall be available for official reception and representation expenses, and not to exceed $25,000,000 shall remain available until expended.

CONSTRUCTION

For construction in space controlled, occupied or utilized by the United States Marshals Service for prisoner holding and related support, $15,000,000, to remain available until expended.

FEDERAL PRISONER DETENTION

For necessary expenses related to United States prisoners in the custody of the United States Marshals Service as authorized by section 4013 of title 18, United States Code, $1,867,461,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That not to exceed $20,000,000 shall be considered ''funds appropriated for State and local law enforcement assistance'' pursuant to section 4013(b) of title 18, United States Code: *Provided further*, That the United States Marshals Service shall be responsible for managing the Justice Prisoner and Alien Transportation System.

NATIONAL SECURITY DIVISION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For expenses necessary to carry out the activities of the National Security Division, $114,837,000, of which not to exceed $5,000,000 for information technology systems shall remain available until expended: *Provided*, That upon a determination by the Attorney General that emergent circumstances require additional funding for the ac-

tivities of the National Security Division, the Attorney General may transfer such amounts to this heading from available appropriations for the current fiscal year for the Department of Justice, as may be necessary to respond to such circumstances: *Provided further*, That any transfer pursuant to the preceding proviso shall be treated as a reprogramming under section 505 of this Act and shall not be available for obligation or expenditure except in compliance with the procedures set forth in that section.

INTERAGENCY LAW ENFORCEMENT

INTERAGENCY CRIME AND DRUG ENFORCEMENT

For necessary expenses for the identification, investigation, and prosecution of individuals associated with the most significant drug trafficking organizations, transnational organized crime, and money laundering organizations not otherwise provided for, to include intergovernmental agreements with State and local law enforcement agencies engaged in the investigation and prosecution of individuals involved in transnational organized crime and drug trafficking, $565,000,000, of which $50,000,000 shall remain available until expended: *Provided*, That any amounts obligated from appropriations under this heading may be used under authorities available to the organizations reimbursed from this appropriation.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Federal Bureau of Investigation for detection, investigation, and prosecution of crimes against the United States, $9,703,348,000, of which not to exceed $216,900,000 shall remain available until expended: *Provided*, That $5,000,000 shall be for the Corruption/Civil Rights Section for additional expenses relating to the enforcement of section 210401 of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (34 U.S.C. 12601), criminal enforcement under sections 241 and 242 of title 18, United States Code, and administrative enforcement by the Department of Justice, including compliance with consent decrees or judgments entered into under such section 210401: *Provided further*, That not to exceed $284,000 shall be available for official reception and representation expenses.

CONSTRUCTION

For necessary expenses, to include the cost of equipment, furniture, and information technology requirements, related to construction or acquisition of buildings, facilities, and sites by purchase, or as otherwise authorized by law; conversion, modification, and extension of federally owned buildings; preliminary planning and design of projects; and operation and maintenance of secure work

environment facilities and secure networking capabilities; $51,895,000, to remain available until expended.

DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Drug Enforcement Administration, including not to exceed $70,000 to meet unforeseen emergencies of a confidential character pursuant to section 530C of title 28, United States Code; and expenses for conducting drug education and training programs, including travel and related expenses for participants in such programs and the distribution of items of token value that promote the goals of such programs, $2,331,370,000, of which not to exceed $75,000,000 shall remain available until expended and not to exceed $90,000 shall be available for official reception and representation expenses: *Provided*, That, notwithstanding section 3672 of Public Law 106-310, up to $10,000,000 may be used to reimburse States, units of local government, Indian tribal governments, other public entities, and multijurisdictional or regional consortia thereof for expenses incurred to clean up and safely dispose of substances associated with clandestine methamphetamine laboratories, conversion and extraction operations, tableting operations, or laboratories and processing operations for fentanyl and fentanyl-re-

lated substances which may present a danger to public health or the environment.

BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, FIREARMS AND EXPLOSIVES

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, for training of State and local law enforcement agencies with or without reimbursement, including training in connection with the training and acquisition of canines for explosives and fire accelerants detection; and for provision of laboratory assistance to State and local law enforcement agencies, with or without reimbursement, $1,550,000,000, of which not to exceed $36,000 shall be for official reception and representation expenses, not to exceed $1,000,000 shall be available for the payment of attorneys' fees as provided by section 924(d)(2) of title 18, United States Code, and not to exceed $25,000,000 shall remain available until expended: *Provided*, That none of the funds appropriated herein shall be available to investigate or act upon applications for relief from Federal firearms disabilities under section 925(c) of title 18, United States Code: *Provided further*, That such funds shall be available to investigate and act upon applications filed by corporations for relief from Federal firearms disabilities under section 925(c) of

title 18, United States Code: *Provided further*, That no funds made available by this or any other Act may be used to transfer the functions, missions, or activities of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives to other agencies or Departments.

CONSTRUCTION

For necessary expenses related to construction of laboratory facilities, to include the cost of equipment, furniture, and information technology requirements; construction or acquisition of buildings, facilities, and sites by purchase, or as otherwise authorized by law; conversion, modification and extension of Federally-owned buildings; and preliminary planning and design of projects; $5,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025.

FEDERAL PRISON SYSTEM

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses of the Federal Prison System for the administration, operation, and maintenance of Federal penal and correctional institutions, and for the provision of technical assistance and advice on corrections related issues to foreign governments, $7,770,000,000 of which not less than $165,000,000 shall be for the programs and activities authorized by the First Step Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–391): *Provided*, That the Attorney

General may transfer to the Department of Health and Human Services such amounts as may be necessary for direct expenditures by that Department for medical relief for inmates of Federal penal and correctional institutions: *Provided further*, That the Director of the Federal Prison System, where necessary, may enter into contracts with a fiscal agent or fiscal intermediary claims processor to determine the amounts payable to persons who, on behalf of the Federal Prison System, furnish health services to individuals committed to the custody of the Federal Prison System: *Provided further*, That not to exceed $5,400 shall be available for official reception and representation expenses: *Provided further*, That not to exceed $50,000,000 shall remain available until expended for necessary operations: *Provided further*, That, of the amounts provided for contract confinement, not to exceed $20,000,000 shall remain available until expended to make payments in advance for grants, contracts and reimbursable agreements, and other expenses: *Provided further*, That the Director of the Federal Prison System may accept donated property and services relating to the operation of the prison card program from a not-for-profit entity which has operated such program in the past, notwithstanding the fact that such not-for-profit entity furnishes services under contracts to the Federal Prison System relating to the op-

eration of pre-release services, halfway houses, or other custodial facilities.

BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES

For planning, acquisition of sites, and construction of new facilities; purchase and acquisition of facilities and remodeling, and equipping of such facilities for penal and correctional use, including all necessary expenses incident thereto, by contract or force account; and constructing, remodeling, and equipping necessary buildings and facilities at existing penal and correctional institutions, including all necessary expenses incident thereto, by contract or force account, $110,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That labor of United States prisoners may be used for work performed under this appropriation.

FEDERAL PRISON INDUSTRIES, INCORPORATED

The Federal Prison Industries, Incorporated, is hereby authorized to make such expenditures within the limits of funds and borrowing authority available, and in accord with the law, and to make such contracts and commitments without regard to fiscal year limitations as provided by section 9104 of title 31, United States Code, as may be necessary in carrying out the program set forth in the budget for the current fiscal year for such corporation.

LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES, FEDERAL PRISON INDUSTRIES, INCORPORATED

Not to exceed $2,700,000 of the funds of the Federal Prison Industries, Incorporated, shall be available for its administrative expenses, and for services as authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, to be computed on an accrual basis to be determined in accordance with the corporation's current prescribed accounting system, and such amounts shall be exclusive of depreciation, payment of claims, and expenditures which such accounting system requires to be capitalized or charged to cost of commodities acquired or produced, including selling and shipping expenses, and expenses in connection with acquisition, construction, operation, maintenance, improvement, protection, or disposition of facilities and other property belonging to the corporation or in which it has an interest.

STATE AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES

OFFICE ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN PREVENTION AND PROSECUTION PROGRAMS

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For grants, contracts, cooperative agreements, and other assistance for the prevention and prosecution of violence against women, as authorized by the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10101

et seq.) (''the 1968 Act''); the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (Public Law 103–322) (''the 1994 Act''); the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 (Public Law 101–647) (''the 1990 Act''); the Prosecutorial Remedies and Other Tools to end the Exploitation of Children Today Act of 2003 (Public Law 108–21); the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 (34 U.S.C. 11101 et seq.) (''the 1974 Act''); the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000 (Public Law 106–386) (''the 2000 Act''); the Violence Against Women and Department of Justice Reauthorization Act of 2005 (Public Law 109–162) (''the 2005 Act''); the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 (Public Law 113–4) (''the 2013 Act''); the Rape Survivor Child Custody Act of 2015 (Public Law 114–22) (''the 2015 Act''); and the Abolish Human Trafficking Act (Public Law 115–392); and for related victims services, $525,000,000, to remain available until expended, of which $435,000,000 shall be derived by transfer from amounts available for obligation in this Act from the Fund established by section 1402 of chapter XIV of title II of Public Law 98–473 (34 U.S.C. 20101), notwithstanding section 1402(d) of such Act of 1984, and merged with the amounts otherwise made available under this heading: *Provided*, That except as otherwise provided by law, not

to exceed 5 percent of funds made available under this heading may be used for expenses related to evaluation, training, and technical assistance: *Provided further*, That of the amount provided—

(1) $223,000,000 is for grants to combat violence against women, as authorized by part T of the 1968 Act;

(2) $39,000,000 is for transitional housing assistance grants for victims of domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, or sexual assault as authorized by section 40299 of the 1994 Act;

(3) $3,500,000 is for the National Institute of Justice and the Bureau of Justice Statistics for research, evaluation, and statistics of violence against women and related issues addressed by grant programs of the Office on Violence Against Women, which shall be transferred to ''Research, Evaluation and Statistics'' for administration by the Office of Justice Programs;

(4) $12,000,000 is for a grant program to provide services to advocate for and respond to youth victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking; assistance to children and youth exposed to such violence; programs to engage men and youth in preventing such violence; and as-

sistance to middle and high school students through education and other services related to such violence: *Provided*, That unobligated balances available for the programs authorized by sections 41201, 41204, 41303, and 41305 of the 1994 Act, prior to its amendment by the 2013 Act, shall be available for this program: *Provided further*, That 10 percent of the total amount available for this grant program shall be available for grants under the program authorized by section 2015 of the 1968 Act: *Provided further*, That the definitions and grant conditions in section 40002 of the 1994 Act shall apply to this program;

(5) $53,000,000 is for grants to encourage arrest policies as authorized by part U of the 1968 Act, of which $4,000,000 is for a homicide reduction initiative;

(6) $42,500,000 is for sexual assault victims assistance, as authorized by section 41601 of the 1994 Act;

(7) $45,000,000 is for rural domestic violence and child abuse enforcement assistance grants, as authorized by section 40295 of the 1994 Act;

(8) $21,000,000 is for grants to reduce violent crimes against women on campus, as authorized by section 304 of the 2005 Act;

(9) $47,500,000 is for legal assistance for victims, as authorized by section 1201 of the 2000 Act;

(10) $6,000,000 is for enhanced training and services to end violence against and abuse of women in later life, as authorized by section 40801 of the 1994 Act;

(11) $17,500,000 is for grants to support families in the justice system, as authorized by section 1301 of the 2000 Act: *Provided*, That unobligated balances available for the programs authorized by section 1301 of the 2000 Act and section 41002 of the 1994 Act, prior to their amendment by the 2013 Act, shall be available for this program;

(12) $6,000,000 is for education and training to end violence against and abuse of women with disabilities, as authorized by section 1402 of the 2000 Act;

(13) $1,000,000 is for the National Resource Center on Workplace Responses to assist victims of domestic violence, as authorized by section 41501 of the 1994 Act;

(14) $1,000,000 is for analysis and research on violence against Indian women, including as authorized by section 904 of the 2005 Act: *Provided*, That such funds may be transferred to ''Research, Evaluation and Statistics'' for administration by the Office of Justice Programs;

(15) $500,000 is for a national clearinghouse that provides training and technical assistance on issues relating to sexual assault of American Indian and Alaska Native women;

(16) $4,300,000 is for grants to assist tribal governments in exercising special domestic violence criminal jurisdiction, as authorized by section 904 of the 2013 Act: *Provided*, That the grant conditions in section 40002(b) of the 1994 Act shall apply to this program; and

(17) $2,200,000 is for the purposes authorized under the 2015 Act.

OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS

RESEARCH, EVALUATION AND STATISTICS

For grants, contracts, cooperative agreements, and other assistance authorized by title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (Public Law 90-351) (''the 1968 Act''); the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (Public Law 103-322)

(''the 1994 Act''); the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 (Public Law 93-415) (''the 1974 Act''); the Prosecutorial Remedies and Other Tools to end the Exploitation of Children Today Act of 2003 (Public Law 108–21) (''the PROTECT Act''); the Justice for All Act of 2004 (Public Law 108–405); the Violence Against Women and Department of Justice Reauthorization Act of 2005 (Public Law 109–162) (''the 2005 Act''); the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 (Public Law 101–647); the Second Chance Act of 2007 (Public Law 110–199); the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 (Public Law 98–473); the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006 (Public Law 109–248) (''the Adam Walsh Act''); the PROTECT Our Children Act of 2008 (Public Law 110–401); subtitle C of title II of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (Public Law 107–296) (''the 2002 Act''); the Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003 (Public Law 108-79); the NICS Improvement Amendments Act of 2007 (Public Law 110–180); the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 (Public Law 113–4) (''the 2013 Act''); the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act of 2016 (Public Law 114-198); the First Step Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-391); and other programs, $88,500,000, to remain available until expended, of which—

(1) $45,000,000 is for criminal justice statistics programs, and other activities, as authorized by part C of title I of the 1968 Act; and

(2) $43,500,000 is for research, development, and evaluation programs, and other activities as authorized by part B of title I of the 1968 Act and subtitle C of title II of the 2002 Act, and for activities authorized by or consistent with the First Step Act of 2018, of which $6,000,000 is for research targeted toward developing a better understanding of the domestic radicalization phenomenon, and advancing evidence-based strategies for effective intervention and prevention; $1,500,000 is for research to study the root causes of school violence to include the impact and effectiveness of grants made under the STOP School Violence Act; $1,500,000 is for a national study to understand the responses of law enforcement to sex trafficking of minors; and $3,000,000 is for a national center on forensics.

STATE AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For grants, contracts, cooperative agreements, and other assistance authorized by the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (Public Law 103–322) (''the 1994 Act''); the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe

Streets Act of 1968 (Public Law 90-351) (''the 1968 Act''); the Justice for All Act of 2004 (Public Law 108–405); the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 (Public Law 101–647) (''the 1990 Act''); the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2005 (Public Law 109–164); the Violence Against Women and Department of Justice Reauthorization Act of 2005 (Public Law 109–162) (''the 2005 Act''); the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006 (Public Law 109–248) (''the Adam Walsh Act''); the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000 (Public Law 106–386); the NICS Improvement Amendments Act of 2007 (Public Law 110–180); subtitle C of title II of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (Public Law 107–296) (''the 2002 Act''); the Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003 (Public Law 108-79); the Second Chance Act of 2007 (Public Law 110–199); the Prioritizing Resources and Organization for Intellectual Property Act of 2008 (Public Law 110–403); the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 (Public Law 98–473); the Mentally Ill Offender Treatment and Crime Reduction Reauthorization and Improvement Act of 2008 (Public Law 110–416); the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 (Public Law 113–4) (''the 2013 Act''); the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act of 2016 (Public Law 114–198) (''CARA''); the Justice for All Re-

authorization Act of 2016 (Public Law 114–324); Kevin and Avonte's Law (division Q of Public Law 115–141) (''Kevin and Avonte's Law''); the Keep Young Athletes Safe Act of 2018 (title III of division S of Public Law 115–141) (''the Keep Young Athletes Safe Act''); the STOP School Violence Act of 2018 (title V of division S of Public Law 115–141) (''the STOP School Violence Act''); the Fix NICS Act of 2018 (title VI of division S of Public Law 115–141); the Project Safe Neighborhoods Grant Program Authorization Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–185); the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act (Public Law 115–271); the Second Chance Reauthorization Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–391); and the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act (Public Law 111-84); and other programs, $2,402,000,000, to remain available until expended as follows—

(1) $525,000,000 for the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant program as authorized by subpart 1 of part E of title I of the 1968 Act (except that section 1001(c), and the special rules for Puerto Rico under section 505(g) of title I of the 1968 Act shall not apply for purposes of this Act), of which, notwithstanding such subpart 1; $12,500,000 is for an Officer Robert Wilson III me-

morial initiative on Preventing Violence Against Law Enforcement and Ensuring Officer Resilience and Survivability (VALOR); $7,500,000 is for an initiative to support evidence-based policing; $8,500,000 is for an initiative to enhance prosecutorial decision-making; $2,400,000 is for the operationalization, maintenance and expansion of the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System; $3,000,000 is for an academic based training initiative to improve police-based responses to people with mental illness or developmental disabilities; $3,000,000 is for a student loan repayment assistance program pursuant to section 952 of Public Law 110–315; $15,500,000 is for prison rape prevention and prosecution grants to States and units of local government, and other programs, as authorized by the Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003 (Public Law 108–79); $3,000,000 is for a grant program authorized by Kevin and Avonte's Law; $3,000,000 is for a regional law enforcement technology initiative; $20,000,000 is for grants authorized under the Project Safe Neighborhoods Grant Authorization Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–185); $2,000,000 is for a grant to provide a drug field testing and training initiative; $6,500,000 is for the Capital Litigation

Improvement Grant Program, as authorized by section 426 of Public Law 108–405, and for grants for wrongful conviction review; $3,000,000 is for grants to States and units of local government to deploy managed access systems to combat contraband cell phone use in prison; $1,500,000 is for a collaborative mental health and anti-recidivism initiative; $3,000,000 is for a program to improve juvenile indigent defense; $9,000,000 is for community-based violence prevention initiatives; $3,500,000 is for a national center for restorative justice; $2,000,000 is for grants for construction, renovation, or upgrades of child-friendly family visitation spaces in correctional facilities; $5,000,000 is for the development of best practices for and the creation of local task forces on public safety innovation consistent with the requirements as described in section 366 of H.R. 7120 as passed by the House of Representatives on June 25, 2020; $15,000,000 is for technical assistance grants to law enforcement agencies, consistent with requirements as described in section 224 of H.R. 7120 as passed by the House of Representatives on June 25, 2020, regarding reporting data on the use of force by law enforcement officers; $5,000,000 is for competitive grants or contracts to

law enforcement agencies, for the purpose of developing and implementing data collection programs on hit rates for stops and searches by law enforcement agencies, consistent with requirements as described in subsections (a) and (b) of section 333 of H.R. 7120 as passed by the House of Representatives on June 25, 2020; $7,200,000 is for grants to support State and local law enforcement agencies in complying with law enforcement reform efforts as a result of litigation, including consent decrees, out-of-court settlements, memoranda of understanding, findings, technical assistance, and recommendation letters provided by reform authorities; and $50,000,000 is for training programs for State and local law enforcement officers on racial profiling, implicit bias, de-escalation, use of force and a duty to intervene, and procedural justice: *Provided*, That of the grant awards funded from amounts provided herein and not otherwise specified under this paragraph, each applicant shall provide assurance that, for each fiscal year covered by an application, the applicant will use not less than 10 percent of the total amount of the grant award for the fiscal year to develop and implement best practice devices and systems to eliminate racial profiling, including train-

ing to prevent racial profiling and to encourage more respectful interaction with the public, the acquisition and use of technology to facilitate the accurate collection and analysis of data, the development and acquisition of feedback systems and technologies that identify law enforcement agents or units of agents engaged in, or at risk of engaging in, racial profiling or other misconduct, and the establishment and maintenance of an administrative complaint procedure or independent auditor program: *Provided further*, That of the grant awards funded from amounts provided herein and not otherwise specified under this paragraph, each applicant shall provide assurance that, for each fiscal year covered by an application, the applicant will use not less than 5 percent of the total amount of the grant award for the fiscal year to assist law enforcement agencies of the applicant, including campus public safety departments, to gain or maintain accreditation from certified law enforcement accreditation organizations, consistent with the requirements as described in section 113 of H.R. 7120 as passed by the House of Representatives on June 25, 2020: *Provided further*, That of the grant awards funded from amounts provided herein and not otherwise specified under this para-

graph, each applicant shall provide assurance that the applicant will use not less than 5 percent of the total amount of the grant award for the fiscal year to study and implement effective management, training, recruiting, hiring, and oversight standards and programs to promote effective community and problem solving strategies for law enforcement agencies, consistent with the requirements as described in section 114 of H.R. 7120 as passed by the House of Representatives on June 25, 2020: *Provided further*, That of the grant awards funded from amounts provided herein and not otherwise specified under this paragraph, each applicant shall provide assurance that, for each fiscal year covered by an application, the applicant will use not less than 5 percent of the total amount of the grant award for the fiscal year to develop policies and procedures in compliance with section 382 of H.R. 7120 as passed by the House of Representatives on June 25, 2020: *Provided further*, That for purposes of this paragraph, the term ''applicant'' means a recipient and a subrecipient of funds under a program described in this paragraph: *Provided further*, That awards hereunder, shall not be subject to restrictions or special conditions that are the same as (or substantially

similar to) those, imposed on awards under such subpart in fiscal year 2018, that forbid interference with Federal law enforcement;

(2) $251,500,000 for the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program, as authorized by section 241(i)(5) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1231(i)(5)): *Provided*, That no jurisdiction shall request compensation for any cost greater than the actual cost for Federal immigration and other detainees housed in State and local detention facilities;

(3) $95,000,000 for victim services programs for victims of trafficking, as authorized by section 107(b)(2) of Public Law 106–386, for programs authorized under Public Law 109–164, or programs authorized under Public Law 113–4;

(4) $14,500,000 for economic, high technology, white collar, and Internet crime prevention grants, including as authorized by section 401 of Public Law 110–403, of which $2,500,000 is for competitive grants that help State and local law enforcement tackle intellectual property thefts, and $2,000,000 for a competitive grant program for training students in computer forensics and digital investigation;

(5) $20,500,000 for sex offender management assistance, as authorized by the Adam Walsh Act, and related activities;

(6) $29,000,000 for the Patrick Leahy Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program, as authorized by section 2501 of title I of the 1968 Act: *Provided*, That $1,500,000 is transferred directly to the National Institute of Standards and Technology's Office of Law Enforcement Standards for research, testing and evaluation programs;

(7) $1,000,000 for the National Sex Offender Public Website;

(8) $88,000,000 for grants to States to upgrade criminal and mental health records for the National Instant Criminal Background Check System, of which no less than $25,000,000 shall be for grants made under the authorities of the NICS Improvement Amendments Act of 2007 (Public Law 110–180) and Fix NICS Act of 2018;

(9) $30,500,000 for Paul Coverdell Forensic Sciences Improvement Grants under part BB of title I of the 1968 Act;

(10) $142,000,000 for DNA-related and forensic programs and activities, of which—

(A) $108,000,000 is for the purposes authorized under section 2 of the DNA Analysis Backlog Elimination Act of 2000 (Public Law 106–546) (the Debbie Smith DNA Backlog Grant Program): *Provided*, That up to 4 percent of funds made available under this paragraph may be used for the purposes described in the DNA Training and Education for Law Enforcement, Correctional Personnel, and Court Officers program (Public Law 108–405, section 303);

(B) $19,000,000 is for other local, State, and Federal forensic activities;

(C) $9,000,000 is for the purposes described in the Kirk Bloodsworth Post-Conviction DNA Testing Grant Program (Public Law 108–405, section 412); and

(D) $6,000,000 is for Sexual Assault Forensic Exam Program grants, including as authorized by section 304 of Public Law 108–405;

(11) $49,000,000 for a grant program for community-based sexual assault response reform;

(12) $12,500,000 for the court-appointed special advocate program, as authorized by section 217 of the 1990 Act;

(13) $39,500,000 for assistance to Indian tribes;

(14) $100,000,000 for offender reentry programs and research, as authorized by the Second Chance Act of 2007 (Public Law 110–199) and by the Second Chance Reauthorization Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–391), without regard to the time limitations specified at section 6(1) of such Act, of which not to exceed $6,000,000 is for a program to improve State, local, and tribal probation or parole supervision efforts and strategies, $5,000,000 is for Children of Incarcerated Parents Demonstrations to enhance and maintain parental and family relationships for incarcerated parents as a reentry or recidivism reduction strategy, and $4,500,000 is for additional replication sites employing the Project HOPE Opportunity Probation with Enforcement model implementing swift and certain sanctions in probation, and for a research project on the effectiveness of the model: *Provided*, That up to $7,500,000 of funds made available in this paragraph may be used for performance-based awards for Pay for Success projects, of which up to $5,000,000 shall be for Pay for Success programs implementing the Permanent Supportive Housing Model;

(15) $77,500,000 for initiatives to improve police-community relations, of which $27,500,000 is for a competitive matching grant program for purchases of body-worn cameras for State, local and Tribal law enforcement, $30,000,000 is for a justice reinvestment initiative, for activities related to criminal justice reform and recidivism reduction, and $20,000,000 is for an Edward Byrne Memorial criminal justice innovation program;

(16) $412,000,000 for comprehensive opioid abuse reduction activities, including as authorized by CARA, and for the following programs, which shall address opioid, stimulant, and substance abuse reduction consistent with underlying program authorities—

(A) $85,000,000 for Drug Courts, as authorized by section 1001(a)(25)(A) of title I of the 1968 Act;

(B) $43,000,000 for mental health courts and adult and juvenile collaboration program grants, as authorized by parts V and HH of title I of the 1968 Act, and the Mentally Ill Offender Treatment and Crime Reduction Reauthorization and Improvement Act of 2008 (Public Law 110–416);

(C) $35,000,000 for grants for Residential Substance Abuse Treatment for State Prisoners, as authorized by part S of title I of the 1968 Act;

(D) $30,000,000 for a veterans treatment courts program;

(E) $31,000,000 for a program to monitor prescription drugs and scheduled listed chemical products; and

(F) $188,000,000 for a comprehensive opioid, stimulant, and substance abuse program;

(17) $2,500,000 for a competitive grant program authorized by the Keep Young Athletes Safe Act;

(18) $87,000,000 for grants to be administered by the Bureau of Justice Assistance for purposes authorized under the STOP School Violence Act;

(19) $2,000,000 for grants to state and local law enforcement agencies for the expenses associated with the investigation and prosecution of criminal offenses, involving civil rights, authorized by the Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crimes Reauthorization Act of 2016 (Public Law 114–325);

(20) $8,000,000 for grants to State, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies to conduct educational outreach and training on hate crimes and to investigate and prosecute hate crimes, as authorized by section 4704 of the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act (Public Law 111–84);

(21) $15,000,000 for a competitive grant pilot program for qualified nonprofit organizations to provide legal representation to immigrants arriving at the southwest border seeking asylum and other forms of legal protection in the United States; and

(22) $400,000,000 for Law Enforcement Accountability Grants, of which—

(A) $350,000,000 is for grants to hold law enforcement accountable in the courts: *Provided*, That of the amounts provided under this paragraph, $100,000,000 shall be for grants to assist States in conducting pattern and practice investigations at the State level, consistent with the requirements as described in section 103(b) of H.R. 7120 as passed by the House of Representatives on June 25, 2020: *Provided further*, That of the amounts provided, $250,000,000 shall be for grants to States and

Tribal Governments to assist in implementing statutes providing for independent investigation of law enforcement officers, consistent with the requirements as described in section 104 of H.R. 7120 as passed by the House of Representatives on June 25, 2020; and

(B) $50,000,000 is for Law Enforcement Trust and Integrity Grant Programs: *Provided*, That of the amounts provided under this subparagraph—

(i) $25,000,000 shall be for grants to allow community-based organizations to study management and operations standards for law enforcement agencies, consistent with the requirements as described in subsections (b) and (c) of section 114 of H.R. 7120 as passed by the House of Representatives on June 25, 2020; and

(ii) $25,000,000 shall be for grants to develop pilot programs and implement effective standards and programs, consistent with the requirements as described in subsections (c) and (d) of section 114 of H.R. 7120 as passed by the House of Representatives on June 25, 2020.

JUVENILE JUSTICE PROGRAMS

For grants, contracts, cooperative agreements, and other assistance authorized by the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 (''the 1974 Act''); the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (''the 1968 Act''); the Violence Against Women and Department of Justice Reauthorization Act of 2005 (Public Law 109–162) (''the 2005 Act''); the Missing Children's Assistance Act (34 U.S.C. 11291 et seq.); the Prosecutorial Remedies and Other Tools to end the Exploitation of Children Today Act of 2003 (Public Law 108–21); the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 (Public Law 101–647) (''the 1990 Act''); the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006 (Public Law 109–248) (''the Adam Walsh Act''); the PROTECT Our Children Act of 2008 (Public Law 110–401); the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 (Public Law 113–4) (''the 2013 Act''); the Justice for All Reauthorization Act of 2016 (Public Law 114–324); the Juvenile Justice Reform Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–385); and other juvenile justice programs, $337,000,000, to remain available until expended as follows—

(1) $65,000,000 for programs authorized by section 221 of the 1974 Act, and for training and technical assistance to assist small, nonprofit organi-

zations with the Federal grants process: *Provided*, That of the amounts provided under this paragraph, $500,000 shall be for a competitive demonstration grant program to support emergency planning among State, local and tribal juvenile justice residential facilities;

(2) $100,000,000 for youth mentoring grants;

(3) $44,000,000 for delinquency prevention, of which, pursuant to sections 261 and 262 of the 1974 Act—

(A) $3,000,000 shall be for grants to prevent trafficking of girls;

(B) $5,000,000 shall be for the Tribal Youth Program;

(C) $500,000 shall be for an Internet site providing information and resources on children of incarcerated parents;

(D) $2,000,000 shall be for competitive grants focusing on girls in the juvenile justice system;

(E) $10,000,000 shall be for an opioid-affected youth initiative; and

(F) $8,000,000 shall be for an initiative relating to children exposed to violence;

(4) $28,500,000 for programs authorized by the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990;

(5) $94,500,000 for missing and exploited children programs, including as authorized by sections 404(b) and 405(a) of the 1974 Act (except that section 102(b)(4)(B) of the PROTECT Our Children Act of 2008 (Public Law 110–401) shall not apply for purposes of this Act); and

(6) $5,000,000 for child abuse training programs for judicial personnel and practitioners, as authorized by section 222 of the 1990 Act:

Provided, That not more than 10 percent of each amount may be used for research, evaluation, and statistics activities designed to benefit the programs or activities authorized: *Provided further*, That not more than 2 percent of the amounts designated under paragraphs (1) through (3) and (6) may be used for training and technical assistance: *Provided further*, That the two preceding provisos shall not apply to grants and projects administered pursuant to sections 261 and 262 of the 1974 Act and to missing and exploited children programs.

PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICER BENEFITS

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For payments and expenses authorized under section 1001(a)(4) of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and

Safe Streets Act of 1968, such sums as are necessary (including amounts for administrative costs), to remain available until expended; and $24,800,000 for payments authorized by section 1201(b) of such Act and for educational assistance authorized by section 1218 of such Act, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That upon a determination by the Attorney General that emergent circumstances require additional funding for such disability and education payments, the Attorney General may transfer such amounts to ''Public Safety Officer Benefits'' from available appropriations for the Department of Justice as may be necessary to respond to such circumstances: *Provided further*, That any transfer pursuant to the preceding proviso shall be treated as a reprogramming under section 505 of this Act and shall not be available for obligation or expenditure except in compliance with the procedures set forth in that section.

COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING SERVICES

COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING SERVICES PROGRAMS

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For activities authorized by the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (Public Law 103–322); the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (''the 1968 Act''); the Violence Against Women and Department of Justice Reauthorization Act of 2005

(Public Law 109–162) (''the 2005 Act''); the American Law Enforcement Heroes Act of 2017 (Public Law 115–37); and the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act (Public Law 115–271), $343,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That any balances made available through prior year deobligations shall only be available in accordance with section 505 of this Act: *Provided further*, That of the amount provided under this heading—

(1) $231,000,000 is for grants under section 1701 of title I of the 1968 Act (34 U.S.C. 10381) for the hiring and rehiring of additional career law enforcement officers under part Q of such title notwithstanding subsection (i) of such section: *Provided*, That, notwithstanding section 1704(c) of such title (34 U.S.C. 10384(c)), funding for hiring or rehiring a career law enforcement officer may not exceed $125,000 unless the Director of the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services grants a waiver from this limitation: *Provided further*, That within the amounts appropriated under this paragraph, $27,000,000 is for improving tribal law enforcement, including hiring, equipment, training, anti-methamphetamine activities, and anti-opioid activities: *Provided further*, That of the amounts ap-

propriated under this paragraph, $6,500,000 is for community policing development activities in furtherance of the purposes in section 1701: *Provided further*, That of the amounts appropriated under this paragraph $40,000,000 is for regional information sharing activities, as authorized by part M of title I of the 1968 Act, which shall be transferred to and merged with ''Research, Evaluation, and Statistics'' for administration by the Office of Justice Programs: *Provided further*, That within the amounts appropriated under this paragraph, no less than $3,000,000 is to support the Tribal Access Program: *Provided further*, That within the amounts appropriated under this paragraph, $5,000,000 is for training, peer mentoring, and mental health program activities as authorized under the Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Act (Public Law 115–113): *Provided further*, That within the amount appropriated under this paragraph, no less than $4,000,000 is for grant programs to develop best practices for, and to create, civilian review boards, consistent with the requirements as described in section 104(b) of H.R. 7120 as passed by in the House of Representatives on June 25, 2020.

(2) $11,000,000 is for activities authorized by the POLICE Act of 2016 (Public Law 114–199);

(3) $13,000,000 is for competitive grants to State law enforcement agencies in States with high seizures of precursor chemicals, finished methamphetamine, laboratories, and laboratory dump seizures: *Provided*, That funds appropriated under this paragraph shall be utilized for investigative purposes to locate or investigate illicit activities, including precursor diversion, laboratories, or methamphetamine traffickers;

(4) $35,000,000 is for competitive grants to statewide law enforcement agencies in States with high rates of primary treatment admissions for heroin and other opioids: *Provided*, That these funds shall be utilized for investigative purposes to locate or investigate illicit activities, including activities related to the distribution of heroin or unlawful distribution of prescription opioids, or unlawful heroin and prescription opioid traffickers through statewide collaboration; and

(5) $53,000,000 is for competitive grants to be administered by the Community Oriented Policing Services Office for purposes authorized under the

STOP School Violence Act (title V of division S of Public Law 115–141).

GENERAL PROVISIONS—DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 201. None of the funds appropriated by this title shall be available to pay for an abortion, except where the life of the mother would be endangered if the fetus were carried to term, or in the case of rape or incest: *Provided*, That should this prohibition be declared unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, this section shall be null and void.

SEC. 202. None of the funds appropriated under this title shall be used to require any person to perform, or facilitate in any way the performance of, any abortion.

SEC. 203. Nothing in the preceding section shall remove the obligation of the Director of the Bureau of Prisons to provide escort services necessary for a female inmate to receive such service outside the Federal facility: *Provided*, That nothing in this section in any way diminishes the effect of section 202 intended to address the philosophical beliefs of individual employees of the Bureau of Prisons.

SEC. 204. None of the funds made available under this title may be used by the Federal Bureau of Prisons or the United States Marshals Service for the purpose of

transporting an individual who is a prisoner pursuant to conviction for crime under State or Federal law and is classified as a maximum or high security prisoner, other than to a prison or other facility certified by the Federal Bureau of Prisons as appropriately secure for housing such a prisoner.

SEC. 205. (a) None of the funds appropriated by this Act may be used by Federal prisons to purchase cable television services, or to rent or purchase audiovisual or electronic media or equipment used primarily for recreational purposes.

(b) Subsection (a) does not preclude the rental, maintenance, or purchase of audiovisual or electronic media or equipment for inmate training, religious, or educational programs.

SEC. 206. None of the funds made available under this title shall be obligated or expended for any new or enhanced information technology program having total estimated development costs in excess of $100,000,000, unless the Deputy Attorney General and the investment review board certify to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate that the information technology program has appropriate program management controls and contractor oversight mecha-

nisms in place, and that the program is compatible with the enterprise architecture of the Department of Justice.

SEC. 207. The notification thresholds and procedures set forth in section 505 of this Act shall apply to deviations from the amounts designated for specific activities in this Act and in the report accompanying this Act, and to any use of deobligated balances of funds provided under this title in previous years.

SEC. 208. None of the funds appropriated by this Act may be used to plan for, begin, continue, finish, process, or approve a public-private competition under the Office of Management and Budget Circular A–76 or any successor administrative regulation, directive, or policy for work performed by employees of the Bureau of Prisons or of Federal Prison Industries, Incorporated.

SEC. 209. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no funds shall be available for the salary, benefits, or expenses of any United States Attorney assigned dual or additional responsibilities by the Attorney General or his designee that exempt that United States Attorney from the residency requirements of section 545 of title 28, United States Code.

SEC. 210. At the discretion of the Attorney General, and in addition to any amounts that otherwise may be available (or authorized to be made available) by law, with

respect to funds appropriated by this title under the headings ''Research, Evaluation and Statistics'', ''State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance'', and ''Juvenile Justice Programs''—

(1) up to 2 percent of funds made available to the Office of Justice Programs for grant or reimbursement programs may be used by such Office to provide training and technical assistance; and

(2) up to 2 percent of funds made available for grant or reimbursement programs under such headings, except for amounts appropriated specifically for research, evaluation, or statistical programs administered by the National Institute of Justice and the Bureau of Justice Statistics, shall be transferred to and merged with funds provided to the National Institute of Justice and the Bureau of Justice Statistics, to be used by them for research, evaluation, or statistical purposes, without regard to the authorizations for such grant or reimbursement programs.

SEC. 211. Upon request by a grantee for whom the Attorney General has determined there is a fiscal hardship, the Attorney General may, with respect to funds appropriated in this or any other Act making appropriations for fiscal years 2018 through 2021 for the following programs, waive the following requirements:

(1) For the adult and juvenile offender State and local reentry demonstration projects under part FF of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10631 et seq.), the requirements under section 2976(g)(1) of such part (34 U.S.C. 10631(g)(1)).

(2) For grants to protect inmates and safeguard communities as authorized by section 6 of the Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003 (34 U.S.C. 30305(c)(3)), the requirements of section 6(c)(3) of such Act.

SEC. 212. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, section 20109(a) of subtitle A of title II of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (34 U.S.C. 12109(a)) shall not apply to amounts made available by this or any other Act.

SEC. 213. None of the funds made available under this Act, other than for the national instant criminal background check system established under section 103 of the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act (34 U.S.C. 40901), may be used by a Federal law enforcement officer to facilitate the transfer of an operable firearm to an individual if the Federal law enforcement officer knows or suspects that the individual is an agent of a drug cartel, un-

less law enforcement personnel of the United States continuously monitor or control the firearm at all times.

SEC. 214. (a) None of the income retained in the Department of Justice Working Capital Fund pursuant to title I of Public Law 102–140 (105 Stat. 784; 28 U.S.C. 527 note) shall be available for obligation during fiscal year 2021, except up to $12,000,000 may be obligated for implementation of a unified Department of Justice financial management system.

(b) Not to exceed $30,000,000 of the unobligated balances transferred to the capital account of the Department of Justice Working Capital Fund pursuant to title I of Public Law 102–140 (105 Stat. 784; 28 U.S.C. 527 note) shall be available for obligation in fiscal year 2021, and any use, obligation, transfer or allocation of such funds shall be treated as a reprogramming of funds under section 505 of this Act.

(c) Not to exceed $10,000,000 of the excess unobligated balances available under section 524(c)(8)(E) of title 28, United States Code, shall be available for obligation during fiscal year 2021, and any use, obligation, transfer or allocation of such funds shall be treated as a reprogramming of funds under section 505 of this Act.

SEC. 215. Discretionary funds that are made available in this Act for the Office of Justice Programs may

be used to participate in Performance Partnership Pilots authorized under such authorities as have been enacted for Performance Partnership Pilots in appropriations acts in prior fiscal years and the current fiscal year.

SEC. 216. Notwithstanding section 219 of division B of Public Law 116—93, section 1930(a)(6)(B) of title 28, United States Code, shall be applied for fiscal years 2021 and 2022 by substituting ''$300,000,000'' for ''$200,000,000''.

SEC. 217. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used by the Executive Office for Immigration Review to implement case performance numeric metrics that are linked to performance evaluations for individual immigration judges.

SEC. 218. Section 151 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1990 and 1991 (Public Law 101-246; 5 U.S.C. 5928 note), is amended—

(a) by striking ''or'' after ''Drug Enforcement Administration'' and inserting '', the'', and

(b) by inserting '', or the United States Marshals Service'' after ''Federal Bureau of Investigation''.

SEC. 219. None of the funds made available under this Act for the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant program or Community Oriented Policing Services program may be awarded to a State or unit of

local government unless the United States Attorney General certifies that the State or unit of local government—

(1) maintains adequate policies and procedures designed to eliminate racial profiling in law enforcement, and has eliminated any existing practices that permit or encourage racial profiling in law enforcement;

(2) requires each law enforcement officer in the State or unit of local government to complete training programs on racial profiling, implicit bias, de-escalation, use of force and a duty to intervene in cases where another law enforcement officer is using excessive force against a civilian, and procedural justice;

(3) has in effect a law that prohibits law enforcement officers in the State or other jurisdiction from using a chokehold or carotid hold, consistent with the requirements as described in section 363 of H.R. 7120 as passed by the House of Representatives on June 25, 2020;

(4) has in effect a law that prohibits law enforcement officers in the State or other jurisdiction from using less lethal force, consistent with the requirements as described in section 364 of H.R. 7120

as passed by the House of Representatives on June 25, 2020;

(5) has in effect a law that prohibits law enforcement officers in the State or other jurisdiction from using deadly force, consistent with the requirements as described in section 364 of H.R. 7120 as passed by the House of Representatives on June 25, 2020;

(6) has in effect a law that prohibits the issuance of a ''no-knock warrant'' in a drug case, consistent with the requirements as described in section 362 of H.R. 7120 as passed by the House of Representatives on June 25, 2020;

(7) has provided the United States Attorney General a law enforcement practice report that includes information on the race, ethnicity, age, and gender of the officers and employees of the law enforcement agency and of members of the public involved in—

(A) traffic violation stops;

(B) pedestrian stops;

(C) frisk and body searches;

(D) instances where officers or employees of the law enforcement agency used deadly force including—

(i) a description of when and where deadly force was used, and whether it resulted in death;

(ii) a description of deadly force directed against an officer or employee and whether it resulted in injury or death; and

(iii) the law enforcement agency's justification for use of deadly force, if the agency determines it was justified; and

(8) will not make such funds available to a law enforcement agency that has entered into or renewed any contractual arrangement, including a collective bargaining agreement with a labor organization, that—

(A) would prevent the Attorney General from seeking or enforcing equitable or declaratory relief against a law enforcement agency engaging in a pattern or practice of unconstitutional misconduct; or

(B) conflicts with any terms or conditions contained in a consent decree.

SEC. 220. NATIONAL TASK FORCE ON LAW ENFORCEMENT OVERSIGHT.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established within the Department of Justice a task force to be known

as the Task Force on Law Enforcement Oversight (hereinafter in this section referred to as the ''Task Force'').

(b) COMPOSITION.—The Task Force shall be composed of individuals appointed by the Attorney General, who shall appoint not less than one individual from each of the following:

(1) The Special Litigation Section of the Civil Rights Division;

(2) The Criminal Section of the Civil Rights Division;

(3) The Federal Coordination and Compliance Section of the Civil Rights Division;

(4) The Employment Litigation Section of the Civil Rights Division;

(5) The Disability Rights Section of the Civil Rights Division;

(6) The Office of Justice Programs;

(7) The Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS);

(8) The Corruption/Civil Rights Section of the Federal Bureau of Investigation;

(9) The Community Relations Service;

(10) The Office of Tribal Justice; and

(11) The unit within the Department of Justice assigned as a liaison for civilian review boards.

(c) POWERS AND DUTIES.—The Task Force shall consult with professional law enforcement associations, labor organizations, and community-based organizations to coordinate the process of the detection and referral of complaints regarding incidents of alleged law enforcement misconduct.

SEC. 221. None of the funds appropriated by this title shall be made available for any law enforcement agency of any State, unit of local government, or Federally recognized Tribal government unless the Attorney General of the United States has certified that such agency has begun or completed the process of obtaining accreditation from a law enforcement accreditation organization (as defined in section 112(2) of H.R. 7120 as passed by the House of Representatives on June 25, 2020) approved by the Attorney General.

SEC. 222. None of the funds made available under this Act for the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant program or Community Oriented Policing Services program may be awarded to a State or unit of local government unless the United States Attorney General certifies that the State or unit of local government has in effect a law that—

(1) makes it a criminal offense for any person acting under color of law of the State or unit of local

government to engage in a sexual act with an individual, including an individual who is under arrest, in detention, or otherwise in the actual custody of any law enforcement officer; and

(2) prohibits a person charged with an offense described herein from asserting the consent of the other individual as a defense.

In the case of a multi-jurisdictional or regional consortium that would be eligible to receive funds under the Community Oriented Policing Services grant program, if any member of that consortium is a State or unit of local government that does not have in effect a law described in paragraphs (1) and (2), that consortium shall not be eligible to receive such funds.

This title may be cited as the ''Department of Justice Appropriations Act, 2021''.

TITLE III

SCIENCE

Office of Science and Technology Policy

For necessary expenses of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, in carrying out the purposes of the National Science and Technology Policy, Organization, and Priorities Act of 1976 (42 U.S.C. 6601 et seq.), hire of passenger motor vehicles, and services as authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, not to exceed

$2,250 for official reception and representation expenses, and rental of conference rooms in the District of Columbia, $5,544,000.

NATIONAL SPACE COUNCIL

For necessary expenses of the National Space Council, in carrying out the purposes of Title V of Public Law 100–685 and Executive Order 13803, hire of passenger motor vehicles, and services as authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, not to exceed $2,250 for official reception and representation expenses, $1,965,000: *Provided*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, the National Space Council may accept personnel support from Federal agencies, departments, and offices, and such Federal agencies, departments, and offices may detail staff without reimbursement to the National Space Council for purposes provided herein.

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

SCIENCE

For necessary expenses, not otherwise provided for, in the conduct and support of science research and development activities, including research, development, operations, support, and services; maintenance and repair, facility planning and design; space flight, spacecraft control, and communications activities; program management; personnel and related costs, including uniforms or allowances

therefor, as authorized by sections 5901 and 5902 of title 5, United States Code; travel expenses; purchase and hire of passenger motor vehicles; and purchase, lease, charter, maintenance, and operation of mission and administrative aircraft, $7,097,500,000, to remain available until September 30, 2022: *Provided*, That, $2,021,800,000 shall be for Earth Science; $2,713,400,000 shall be for Planetary Science; $1,306,200,000 shall be for Astrophysics; $423,000,000 shall be for the James Webb Space Telescope; and $633,100,000 shall be for Heliophysics: *Provided further*, That of the amounts provided, $403,500,000 is for an orbiter to meet the science goals for the Jupiter Europa mission as recommended in previous Planetary Science Decadal surveys: *Provided further*, That the National Aeronautics and Space Administration shall use the Space Launch System, if available, as the launch vehicles for the Jupiter Europa missions, plan for an orbiter launch no later than 2025 and a lander launch no later than 2027, and include in the fiscal year 2022 budget the 5-year funding profile necessary to achieve these goals.

AERONAUTICS

For necessary expenses, not otherwise provided for, in the conduct and support of aeronautics research and development activities, including research, development,

operations, support, and services; maintenance and repair, facility planning and design; space flight, spacecraft control, and communications activities; program management; personnel and related costs, including uniforms or allowances therefor, as authorized by sections 5901 and 5902 of title 5, United States Code; travel expenses; purchase and hire of passenger motor vehicles; and purchase, lease, charter, maintenance, and operation of mission and administrative aircraft, $819,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2022.

SPACE TECHNOLOGY

For necessary expenses, not otherwise provided for, in the conduct and support of space technology research and development activities, including research, development, operations, support, and services; maintenance and repair, facility planning and design; space flight, spacecraft control, and communications activities; program management; personnel and related costs, including uniforms or allowances therefor, as authorized by sections 5901 and 5902 of title 5, United States Code; travel expenses; purchase and hire of passenger motor vehicles; and purchase, lease, charter, maintenance, and operation of mission and administrative aircraft, $1,100,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2022: *Provided*, That $227,000,000 shall be for RESTORE–L/SPace In-

frastructure DExterous Robot: *Provided further*, That $110,000,000 shall be for the development, production and demonstration of a nuclear thermal propulsion system, of which $80,000,000 shall be for the design of a flight demonstration system: *Provided further*, That, not later than 180 days after the enactment of this Act, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration shall provide a plan for the design of a flight demonstration.

EXPLORATION

For necessary expenses, not otherwise provided for, in the conduct and support of exploration research and development activities, including research, development, operations, support, and services; maintenance and repair, facility planning and design; space flight, spacecraft control, and communications activities; program management; personnel and related costs, including uniforms or allowances therefor, as authorized by sections 5901 and 5902 of title 5, United States Code; travel expenses; purchase and hire of passenger motor vehicles; and purchase, lease, charter, maintenance, and operation of mission and administrative aircraft, $6,017,600,000, to remain available until September 30, 2022: *Provided*, That not less than $1,400,500,000 shall be for the Orion Multi-Purpose Crew Vehicle: *Provided further*, That not less than $2,600,000,000 shall be for the Space Launch System

(SLS) launch vehicle, which shall have a lift capability not less than 130 metric tons and which shall have core elements and an Exploration Upper Stage developed simultaneously to be used to the maximum extent practicable, including for Earth to Moon missions and Moon landings: *Provided further*, That of the amounts provided for SLS, not less than $400,000,000 shall be for SLS Block 1B development including the Exploration Upper Stage and associated systems including related facilitization: *Provided further*, That $459,700,000 shall be for Exploration Ground Systems including infrastructure in support of SLS Block 1B missions: *Provided further*, That the National Aeronautics and Space Administration shall provide to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate, concurrent with the annual budget submission, a 5-year budget profile for an integrated system that includes the SLS, the Orion Multi-Purpose Crew Vehicle, and associated ground systems that will ensure a crewed launch as early as possible, as well as a system-based funding profile for a sustained launch cadence that contemplates the use of an SLS Block 1B cargo variant and associated ground systems: *Provided further*, That $1,557,400,000 shall be for exploration research and development.

SPACE OPERATIONS

For necessary expenses, not otherwise provided for, in the conduct and support of space operations research and development activities, including research, development, operations, support and services; space flight, spacecraft control and communications activities, including operations, production, and services; maintenance and repair, facility planning and design; program management; personnel and related costs, including uniforms or allowances therefor, as authorized by sections 5901 and 5902 of title 5, United States Code; travel expenses; purchase and hire of passenger motor vehicles; and purchase, lease, charter, maintenance and operation of mission and administrative aircraft, $4,052,200,000, to remain available until September 30, 2022.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, AND MATHEMATICS ENGAGEMENT

For necessary expenses, not otherwise provided for, in the conduct and support of aerospace and aeronautical education research and development activities, including research, development, operations, support, and services; program management; personnel and related costs, including uniforms or allowances therefor, as authorized by sections 5901 and 5902 of title 5, United States Code; travel expenses; purchase and hire of passenger motor vehicles;

and purchase, lease, charter, maintenance, and operation of mission and administrative aircraft, $126,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2022, of which $26,000,000 shall be for the Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research and $50,000,000 shall be for the National Space Grant College and Fellowship Program.

SAFETY, SECURITY AND MISSION SERVICES

For necessary expenses, not otherwise provided for, in the conduct and support of science, aeronautics, space technology, exploration, space operations and education research and development activities, including research, development, operations, support, and services; maintenance and repair, facility planning and design; space flight, spacecraft control, and communications activities; program management; personnel and related costs, including uniforms or allowances therefor, as authorized by sections 5901 and 5902 of title 5, United States Code; travel expenses; purchase and hire of passenger motor vehicles; not to exceed $63,000 for official reception and representation expenses; and purchase, lease, charter, maintenance, and operation of mission and administrative aircraft, $2,953,400,000, to remain available until September 30, 2022: *Provided*, That if available balances in the ''Science, Space, and Technology Education Trust

Fund'' are not sufficient to provide for the grant disbursements required under the third and fourth provisos under such heading in the Department of Housing and Urban Development-Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, 1989, (Public Law 100-404), as amended by the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, 1995, (Public Law 103-327), up to $1,000,000 shall be available from amounts made available under this heading to make such grant disbursements.

CONSTRUCTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE AND RESTORATION

For necessary expenses for construction of facilities including repair, rehabilitation, revitalization, and modification of facilities, construction of new facilities and additions to existing facilities, facility planning and design, and restoration, and acquisition or condemnation of real property, as authorized by law, and environmental compliance and restoration, $419,100,000, to remain available until September 30, 2026: *Provided*, That proceeds from leases deposited into this account shall be available for a period of 5 years to the extent and in amounts as provided in annual appropriations Acts: *Provided further*, That such proceeds referred to in the preceding proviso shall be available for obligation for fiscal year 2021 in an amount not

to exceed $18,700,000: *Provided further*, That each annual budget request shall include an annual estimate of gross receipts and collections and proposed use of all funds collected pursuant to section 20145 of title 51, United States Code.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

For necessary expenses of the Office of Inspector General in carrying out the Inspector General Act of 1978, $44,200,000, of which $500,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2022.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

Funds for any announced prize otherwise authorized shall remain available, without fiscal year limitation, until a prize is claimed or the offer is withdrawn.

Not to exceed 5 percent of any appropriation made available for the current fiscal year for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration in this Act may be transferred between such appropriations, but no such appropriation, except as otherwise specifically provided, shall be increased by more than 10 percent by any such transfers. Any funds transferred to ''Construction and Environmental Compliance and Restoration'' for construction activities shall not increase that account by more than 20 percent. Balances so transferred shall be merged with and

available for the same purposes and the same time period as the appropriations to which transferred. Any transfer pursuant to this provision shall be treated as a reprogramming of funds under section 505 of this Act and shall not be available for obligation except in compliance with the procedures set forth in that section.

Not to exceed 5 percent of any appropriation provided for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration under previous appropriations Acts that remains available for obligation or expenditure in fiscal year 2021 may be transferred between such appropriations, but no such appropriation, except as otherwise specifically provided, shall be increased by more than 10 percent by any such transfers. Any transfer pursuant to this provision shall retain its original availability and shall be treated as a reprogramming of funds under section 505 of this Act and shall not be available for obligation except in compliance with the procedures set forth in that section.

The spending plan required by this Act shall be provided by NASA at the theme, program, project and activity level. The spending plan, as well as any subsequent change of an amount established in that spending plan that meets the notification requirements of section 505 of this Act, shall be treated as a reprogramming under section 505 of this Act and shall not be available for obliga-

tion or expenditure except in compliance with the procedures set forth in that section.

Not more than 40 percent of the amounts made available in this Act for the Gateway; Advanced Cislunar and Surface Capabilities; Commercial LEO Development; Human Landing System; and Lunar Discovery and Exploration, excluding the Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter, may be obligated until the Administrator submits a multi-year plan to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate that identifies estimated dates, by fiscal year, for Space Launch System flights to build the Gateway; the commencement of partnerships with commercial entities for additional LEO missions to land humans and rovers on the Moon; and conducting additional scientific activities on the Moon. The multi-year plan shall include key milestones to be met by fiscal year to achieve goals for each of the lunar programs described in the previous sentence and funding required by fiscal year to achieve such milestones.

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

RESEARCH AND RELATED ACTIVITIES

For necessary expenses in carrying out the National Science Foundation Act of 1950 (42 U.S.C. 1861 et seq.), and Public Law 86–209 (42 U.S.C. 1880 et seq.); services as authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States

Code; maintenance and operation of aircraft and purchase of flight services for research support; acquisition of aircraft; and authorized travel; $6,967,123,000, to remain available until September 30, 2022, of which not to exceed $544,000,000 shall remain available until expended for polar research and operations support, and for reimbursement to other Federal agencies for operational and science support and logistical and other related activities for the United States Antarctic program: *Provided*, That receipts for scientific support services and materials furnished by the National Research Centers and other National Science Foundation supported research facilities may be credited to this appropriation.

MAJOR RESEARCH EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES CONSTRUCTION

For necessary expenses for the acquisition, construction, commissioning, and upgrading of major research equipment, facilities, and other such capital assets pursuant to the National Science Foundation Act of 1950 (42 U.S.C. 1861 et seq.), including authorized travel, $243,230,000, to remain available until expended.

EDUCATION AND HUMAN RESOURCES

For necessary expenses in carrying out science, mathematics and engineering education and human resources programs and activities pursuant to the National Science

Foundation Act of 1950 (42 U.S.C. 1861 et seq.), including services as authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, authorized travel, and rental of conference rooms in the District of Columbia, $970,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2022.

AGENCY OPERATIONS AND AWARD MANAGEMENT

For agency operations and award management necessary in carrying out the National Science Foundation Act of 1950 (42 U.S.C. 1861 et seq.); services authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code; hire of passenger motor vehicles; uniforms or allowances therefor, as authorized by sections 5901 and 5902 of title 5, United States Code; rental of conference rooms in the District of Columbia; and reimbursement of the Department of Homeland Security for security guard services; $345,640,000: *Provided*, That not to exceed $8,280 is for official reception and representation expenses: *Provided further*, That contracts may be entered into under this heading in fiscal year 2021 for maintenance and operation of facilities and for other services to be provided during the next fiscal year.

OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL SCIENCE BOARD

For necessary expenses (including payment of salaries, authorized travel, hire of passenger motor vehicles, the rental of conference rooms in the District of Columbia,

and the employment of experts and consultants under section 3109 of title 5, United States Code) involved in carrying out section 4 of the National Science Foundation Act of 1950 (42 U.S.C. 1863) and Public Law 86–209 (42 U.S.C. 1880 et seq.), $4,500,000: *Provided*, That not to exceed $2,500 shall be available for official reception and representation expenses.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

For necessary expenses of the Office of Inspector General as authorized by the Inspector General Act of 1978, $17,850,000, of which $400,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2022.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

Not to exceed 5 percent of any appropriation made available for the current fiscal year for the National Science Foundation in this Act may be transferred between such appropriations, but no such appropriation shall be increased by more than 10 percent by any such transfers. Any transfer pursuant to this paragraph shall be treated as a reprogramming of funds under section 505 of this Act and shall not be available for obligation except in compliance with the procedures set forth in that section.

The Director of the National Science Foundation (NSF) shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of

the House of Representatives and the Senate at least 30 days in advance of any planned divestment through transfer, decommissioning, termination, or deconstruction of any NSF-owned facilities or any NSF capital assets (including land, structures, and equipment) valued greater than $2,500,000.

This title may be cited as the ''Science Appropriations Act, 2021''.

TITLE IV

RELATED AGENCIES

Commission on Civil Rights

salaries and expenses

For necessary expenses of the Commission on Civil Rights, including hire of passenger motor vehicles, $12,000,000: *Provided*, That none of the funds appropriated in this paragraph may be used to employ any individuals under Schedule C of subpart C of part 213 of title 5 of the Code of Federal Regulations exclusive of one special assistant for each Commissioner: *Provided further*, That none of the funds appropriated in this paragraph shall be used to reimburse Commissioners for more than 75 billable days, with the exception of the chairperson, who is permitted 125 billable days: *Provided further*, That the Chair may accept and use any gift or donation to carry out the work of the Commission: *Provided further*, That

none of the funds appropriated in this paragraph shall be used for any activity or expense that is not explicitly authorized by section 3 of the Civil Rights Commission Act of 1983 (42 U.S.C. 1975a).

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission as authorized by title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967, the Equal Pay Act of 1963, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, section 501 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Civil Rights Act of 1991, the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act (GINA) of 2008 (Public Law 110–233), the ADA Amendments Act of 2008 (Public Law 110–325), and the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act of 2009 (Public Law 111–2), including services as authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code; hire of passenger motor vehicles as authorized by section 1343(b) of title 31, United States Code; nonmonetary awards to private citizens; and up to $32,600,000 for payments to State and local enforcement agencies for authorized services to the Commission, $408,700,000: *Provided*, That the Commission is authorized to make available for official reception and representation expenses not to exceed $2,250 from available funds:

Provided further, That the Commission may take no action to implement any workforce repositioning, restructuring, or reorganization until such time as the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate have been notified of such proposals, in accordance with the reprogramming requirements of section 505 of this Act: *Provided further*, That the Chair may accept and use any gift or donation to carry out the work of the Commission.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the International Trade Commission, including hire of passenger motor vehicles and services as authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, and not to exceed $2,250 for official reception and representation expenses, $105,000,000, to remain available until expended.

LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

PAYMENT TO THE LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

For payment to the Legal Services Corporation to carry out the purposes of the Legal Services Corporation Act of 1974, $465,000,000, of which $423,400,000 is for basic field programs and required independent audits; $5,600,000 is for the Office of Inspector General, of which such amounts as may be necessary may be used to conduct

additional audits of recipients; $24,000,000 is for management and grants oversight; $5,000,000 is for client self-help and information technology; $5,000,000 is for a Pro Bono Innovation Fund; and $2,000,000 is for loan repayment assistance: *Provided*, That the Legal Services Corporation may continue to provide locality pay to officers and employees at a rate no greater than that provided by the Federal Government to Washington, DC-based employees as authorized by section 5304 of title 5, United States Code, notwithstanding section 1005(d) of the Legal Services Corporation Act (42 U.S.C. 2996d(d)): *Provided further*, That not to exceed 5 percent of any appropriation made available for the current fiscal year for the Legal Services Corporation in this Act may be transferred between such appropriations, but no such appropriation shall be increased by more than 10 percent by any such transfers: *Provided further*, That any transfer pursuant to the preceding proviso shall be treated as a reprogramming of funds under section 505 of this Act and shall not be available for obligation or expenditure except in compliance with the procedures set forth in that section: *Provided further*, That, for the purposes of section 505 of this Act, the Legal Services Corporation shall be considered an agency of the United States Government.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISION—LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

None of the funds appropriated in this Act to the Legal Services Corporation shall be expended for any purpose prohibited or limited by, or contrary to any of the provisions of, sections 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, and 506 of Public Law 105–119, and all funds appropriated in this Act to the Legal Services Corporation shall be subject to the same terms and conditions set forth in such sections, except that all references in sections 502 and 503 to 1997 and 1998 shall be deemed to refer instead to 2020 and 2021, respectively.

MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Marine Mammal Commission as authorized by title II of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1361 et seq.), $3,769,000.

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Office of the United States Trade Representative, including the hire of passenger motor vehicles and the employment of experts and consultants as authorized by section 3109 of title 5,

United States Code, $55,000,000, of which $1,000,000 shall remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of the total amount made available under this heading, not to exceed $124,000 shall be available for official reception and representation expenses.

TRADE ENFORCEMENT TRUST FUND

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For activities of the United States Trade Representative authorized by section 611 of the Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act of 2015 (19 U.S.C. 4405), including transfers, $15,000,000, to be derived from the Trade Enforcement Trust Fund: *Provided*, That any transfer pursuant to subsection (d)(1) of such section shall be treated as a reprogramming under section 505 of this Act.

STATE JUSTICE INSTITUTE

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the State Justice Institute, as authorized by the State Justice Institute Act of 1984 (42 U.S.C. 10701 et seq.) $7,700,000, of which $500,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2022: *Provided*, That not to exceed $2,250 shall be available for official reception and representation expenses: *Provided further*, That, for the purposes of section 505 of this Act, the State

Justice Institute shall be considered an agency of the United States Government.

TITLE V

GENERAL PROVISIONS

(INCLUDING RESCISSIONS)

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 501. No part of any appropriation contained in this Act shall be used for publicity or propaganda purposes not authorized by the Congress.

SEC. 502. No part of any appropriation contained in this Act shall remain available for obligation beyond the current fiscal year unless expressly so provided herein.

SEC. 503. The expenditure of any appropriation under this Act for any consulting service through procurement contract, pursuant to section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, shall be limited to those contracts where such expenditures are a matter of public record and available for public inspection, except where otherwise provided under existing law, or under existing Executive order issued pursuant to existing law.

SEC. 504. If any provision of this Act or the application of such provision to any person or circumstances shall be held invalid, the remainder of the Act and the application of each provision to persons or circumstances other

than those as to which it is held invalid shall not be affected thereby.

SEC. 505. None of the funds provided under this Act, or provided under previous appropriations Acts to the agencies funded by this Act that remain available for obligation or expenditure in fiscal year 2021, or provided from any accounts in the Treasury of the United States derived by the collection of fees available to the agencies funded by this Act, shall be available for obligation or expenditure through a reprogramming of funds that: (1) creates or initiates a new program, project, or activity; (2) eliminates a program, project, or activity; (3) increases funds or personnel by any means for any project or activity for which funds have been denied or restricted; (4) relocates an office or employees; (5) reorganizes or renames offices, programs, or activities; (6) contracts out or privatizes any functions or activities presently performed by Federal employees; (7) augments existing programs, projects, or activities in excess of $500,000 or 10 percent, whichever is less, or reduces by 10 percent funding for any program, project, or activity, or numbers of personnel by 10 percent; or (8) results from any general savings, including savings from a reduction in personnel, which would result in a change in existing programs, projects, or activities as approved by Congress; unless the House and Senate Com-

mittees on Appropriations are notified 15 days in advance of such reprogramming of funds.

SEC. 506. (a) If it has been finally determined by a court or Federal agency that any person intentionally affixed a label bearing a ''Made in America'' inscription, or any inscription with the same meaning, to any product sold in or shipped to the United States that is not made in the United States, the person shall be ineligible to receive any contract or subcontract made with funds made available in this Act, pursuant to the debarment, suspension, and ineligibility procedures described in sections 9.400 through 9.409 of title 48, Code of Federal Regulations.

(b)(1) To the extent practicable, with respect to authorized purchases of promotional items, funds made available by this Act shall be used to purchase items that are manufactured, produced, or assembled in the United States, its territories or possessions.

(2) The term ''promotional items'' has the meaning given the term in OMB Circular A–87, Attachment B, Item (1)(f)(3).

SEC. 507. (a) The Departments of Commerce and Justice, the National Science Foundation, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration shall provide to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Rep-

resentatives and the Senate a quarterly report on the status of balances of appropriations at the account level. For unobligated, uncommitted balances and unobligated, committed balances the quarterly reports shall separately identify the amounts attributable to each source year of appropriation from which the balances were derived. For balances that are obligated, but unexpended, the quarterly reports shall separately identify amounts by the year of obligation.

(b) The report described in subsection (a) shall be submitted within 30 days of the end of each quarter.

(c) If a department or agency is unable to fulfill any aspect of a reporting requirement described in subsection (a) due to a limitation of a current accounting system, the department or agency shall fulfill such aspect to the maximum extent practicable under such accounting system and shall identify and describe in each quarterly report the extent to which such aspect is not fulfilled.

SEC. 508. Any costs incurred by a department or agency funded under this Act resulting from, or to prevent, personnel actions taken in response to funding reductions included in this Act shall be absorbed within the total budgetary resources available to such department or agency: *Provided*, That the authority to transfer funds between appropriations accounts as may be necessary to

carry out this section is provided in addition to authorities included elsewhere in this Act: *Provided further*, That use of funds to carry out this section shall be treated as a reprogramming of funds under section 505 of this Act and shall not be available for obligation or expenditure except in compliance with the procedures set forth in that section: *Provided further*, That for the Department of Commerce, this section shall also apply to actions taken for the care and protection of loan collateral or grant property.

SEC. 509. None of the funds provided by this Act shall be available to promote the sale or export of tobacco or tobacco products, or to seek the reduction or removal by any foreign country of restrictions on the marketing of tobacco or tobacco products, except for restrictions which are not applied equally to all tobacco or tobacco products of the same type.

SEC. 510. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, amounts deposited or available in the Fund established by section 1402 of chapter XIV of title II of Public Law 98–473 (34 U.S.C. 20101) in any fiscal year in excess of $2,650,000,000 shall not be available for obligation until the following fiscal year: *Provided*, That notwithstanding section 1402(d) of such Act, of the amounts available from the Fund for obligation: (1) $10,000,000 shall be transferred to the Department of Justice Office

of Inspector General and remain available until expended for crime victim-related oversight and auditing purposes; and (2) 5 percent shall be available to the Office for Victims of Crime for grants, consistent with the requirements of the Victims of Crime Act, to Indian tribes to improve services for victims of crime.

SEC. 511. None of the funds made available to the Department of Justice in this Act may be used to discriminate against or denigrate the religious or moral beliefs of students who participate in programs for which financial assistance is provided from those funds, or of the parents or legal guardians of such students.

SEC. 512. None of the funds made available in this Act may be transferred to any department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States Government, except pursuant to a transfer made by, or transfer authority provided in, this Act or any other appropriations Act.

SEC. 513. (a) The Inspectors General of the Department of Commerce, the Department of Justice, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the National Science Foundation, and the Legal Services Corporation shall conduct audits, pursuant to the Inspector General Act (5 U.S.C. App.), of grants or contracts for which funds are appropriated by this Act, and shall submit reports to Congress on the progress of such audits, which

may include preliminary findings and a description of areas of particular interest, within 180 days after initiating such an audit and every 180 days thereafter until any such audit is completed.

(b) Within 60 days after the date on which an audit described in subsection (a) by an Inspector General is completed, the Secretary, Attorney General, Administrator, Director, or President, as appropriate, shall make the results of the audit available to the public on the Internet website maintained by the Department, Administration, Foundation, or Corporation, respectively. The results shall be made available in redacted form to exclude—

(1) any matter described in section 552(b) of title 5, United States Code; and

(2) sensitive personal information for any individual, the public access to which could be used to commit identity theft or for other inappropriate or unlawful purposes.

(c) Any person awarded a grant or contract funded by amounts appropriated by this Act shall submit a statement to the Secretary of Commerce, the Attorney General, the Administrator, Director, or President, as appropriate, certifying that no funds derived from the grant or contract will be made available through a subcontract or in any

other manner to another person who has a financial interest in the person awarded the grant or contract.

(d) The provisions of the preceding subsections of this section shall take effect 30 days after the date on which the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, in consultation with the Director of the Office of Government Ethics, determines that a uniform set of rules and requirements, substantially similar to the requirements in such subsections, consistently apply under the executive branch ethics program to all Federal departments, agencies, and entities.

SEC. 514. (a) None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available under this Act may be used by the Departments of Commerce and Justice, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, or the National Science Foundation to acquire a high-impact or moderate-impact information system, as defined for security categorization in the National Institute of Standards and Technology's (NIST) Federal Information Processing Standard Publication 199, ''Standards for Security Categorization of Federal Information and Information Systems'' unless the agency has—

(1) reviewed the supply chain risk for the information systems against criteria developed by NIST and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) to

inform acquisition decisions for high-impact and moderate-impact information systems within the Federal Government;

(2) reviewed the supply chain risk from the presumptive awardee against available and relevant threat information provided by the FBI and other appropriate agencies; and

(3) in consultation with the FBI or other appropriate Federal entity, conducted an assessment of any risk of cyber-espionage or sabotage associated with the acquisition of such system, including any risk associated with such system being produced, manufactured, or assembled by one or more entities identified by the United States Government as posing a cyber threat, including but not limited to, those that may be owned, directed, or subsidized by the People's Republic of China, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, or the Russian Federation.

(b) None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available under this Act may be used to acquire a high-impact or moderate-impact information system reviewed and assessed under subsection (a) unless the head of the assessing entity described in subsection (a) has—

(1) developed, in consultation with NIST, the FBI, and supply chain risk management experts, a mitigation strategy for any identified risks;

(2) determined, in consultation with NIST and the FBI, that the acquisition of such system is in the national interest of the United States; and

(3) reported that determination to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate and the agency Inspector General.

SEC. 515. None of the funds made available in this Act shall be used in any way whatsoever to support or justify the use of torture by any official or contract employee of the United States Government.

SEC. 516. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to include in any new bilateral or multilateral trade agreement the text of—

(1) paragraph 2 of article 16.7 of the United States–Singapore Free Trade Agreement;

(2) paragraph 4 of article 17.9 of the United States–Australia Free Trade Agreement; or

(3) paragraph 4 of article 15.9 of the United States–Morocco Free Trade Agreement.

SEC. 517. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to authorize or issue a national security

letter in contravention of any of the following laws authorizing the Federal Bureau of Investigation to issue national security letters: The Right to Financial Privacy Act of 1978; The Electronic Communications Privacy Act of 1986; The Fair Credit Reporting Act; The National Security Act of 1947; USA PATRIOT Act; USA FREEDOM Act of 2015; and the laws amended by these Acts.

SEC. 518. If at any time during any quarter, the program manager of a project within the jurisdiction of the Departments of Commerce or Justice, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, or the National Science Foundation totaling more than $75,000,000 has reasonable cause to believe that the total program cost has increased by 10 percent or more, the program manager shall immediately inform the respective Secretary, Administrator, or Director. The Secretary, Administrator, or Director shall notify the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations within 30 days in writing of such increase, and shall include in such notice: the date on which such determination was made; a statement of the reasons for such increases; the action taken and proposed to be taken to control future cost growth of the project; changes made in the performance or schedule milestones and the degree to which such changes have contributed to the increase in total program costs or procurement costs; new esti-

mates of the total project or procurement costs; and a statement validating that the project's management structure is adequate to control total project or procurement costs.

SEC. 519. Funds appropriated by this Act, or made available by the transfer of funds in this Act, for intelligence or intelligence related activities are deemed to be specifically authorized by the Congress for purposes of section 504 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3094) during fiscal year 2021 until the enactment of the Intelligence Authorization Act for fiscal year 2021.

SEC. 520. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used to enter into a contract in an amount greater than $5,000,000 or to award a grant in excess of such amount unless the prospective contractor or grantee certifies in writing to the agency awarding the contract or grant that, to the best of its knowledge and belief, the contractor or grantee has filed all Federal tax returns required during the three years preceding the certification, has not been convicted of a criminal offense under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, and has not, more than 90 days prior to certification, been notified of any unpaid Federal tax assessment for which the liability remains unsatisfied, unless the assessment is the subject of an installment agreement or

offer in compromise that has been approved by the Internal Revenue Service and is not in default, or the assessment is the subject of a non-frivolous administrative or judicial proceeding.

(RESCISSIONS)

SEC. 521. (a) Of the unobligated balances available under the heading ''National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Fisheries Enforcement Asset Forfeiture Fund'', $10,000,000 is hereby permanently rescinded, not later than September 30, 2021.

(b) Of the unobligated balances available to the Department of Justice, the following funds are hereby permanently rescinded, not later than September 30, 2021, from the following accounts in the specified amounts—

(1) ''Working Capital Fund'', $75,000,000;

(2) ''State and Local Law Enforcement Activities, Office of Justice Programs'', $70,000,000; and

(3) ''State and Local Law Enforcement Activities, Community Oriented Policing Services'', $15,000,000.

(c) The Departments of Commerce and Justice shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate a report no later than September 1, 2021, specifying the amount of each rescission made pursuant to subsections (a) and (b).

(d) The amounts rescinded in subsections (a) and (b) shall not be from amounts that were designated by the Congress as an emergency or disaster relief requirement pursuant to the concurrent resolution on the budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

SEC. 522. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to purchase first class or premium airline travel in contravention of sections 301–10.122 through 301–10.124 of title 41 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

SEC. 523. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to send or otherwise pay for the attendance of more than 50 employees from a Federal department or agency, who are stationed in the United States, at any single conference occurring outside the United States unless—

(1) such conference is a law enforcement training or operational conference for law enforcement personnel and the majority of Federal employees in attendance are law enforcement personnel stationed outside the United States; or

(2) such conference is a scientific conference and the department or agency head determines that such attendance is in the national interest and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of the House

of Representatives and the Senate within at least 15 days of that determination and the basis for that determination.

SEC. 524. The Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall instruct any department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States receiving funds appropriated under this Act to track undisbursed balances in expired grant accounts and include in its annual performance plan and performance and accountability reports the following:

(1) Details on future action the department, agency, or instrumentality will take to resolve undisbursed balances in expired grant accounts.

(2) The method that the department, agency, or instrumentality uses to track undisbursed balances in expired grant accounts.

(3) Identification of undisbursed balances in expired grant accounts that may be returned to the Treasury of the United States.

(4) In the preceding 3 fiscal years, details on the total number of expired grant accounts with undisbursed balances (on the first day of each fiscal year) for the department, agency, or instrumentality and the total finances that have not been obligated to a specific project remaining in the accounts.

SEC. 525. To the extent practicable, funds made available in this Act should be used to purchase light bulbs that are ''Energy Star'' qualified or have the ''Federal Energy Management Program'' designation.

SEC. 526. (a) None of the funds made available by this Act may be used for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP), or the National Space Council (NSC) to develop, design, plan, promulgate, implement, or execute a bilateral policy, program, order, or contract of any kind to participate, collaborate, or coordinate bilaterally in any way with China or any Chinese-owned company unless such activities are specifically authorized by a law enacted after the date of enactment of this Act.

(b) None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to effectuate the hosting of official Chinese visitors at facilities belonging to or utilized by NASA.

(c) The limitations described in subsections (a) and (b) shall not apply to activities which NASA, OSTP, or NSC, after consultation with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, have certified—

(1) pose no risk of resulting in the transfer of technology, data, or other information with national security or economic security implications to China or a Chinese-owned company; and

(2) will not involve knowing interactions with officials who have been determined by the United States to have direct involvement with violations of human rights.

(d) Any certification made under subsection (c) shall be submitted to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, no later than 30 days prior to the activity in question and shall include a description of the purpose of the activity, its agenda, its major participants, and its location and timing.

SEC. 527. (a) None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to maintain or establish a computer network unless such network blocks the viewing, downloading, and exchanging of pornography.

(b) Nothing in subsection (a) shall limit the use of funds necessary for any Federal, State, tribal, or local law enforcement agency or any other entity carrying out criminal investigations, prosecution, adjudication, or other law enforcement- or victim assistance-related activity.

SEC. 528. The Departments of Commerce and Justice, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the National Science Foundation, the Commission on Civil Rights, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, the International Trade Commission, the Legal Services

Corporation, the Marine Mammal Commission, the Offices of Science and Technology Policy and the United States Trade Representative, the National Space Council, and the State Justice Institute shall submit spending plans, signed by the respective department or agency head, to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate not later than 45 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 529. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, none of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used to pay award or incentive fees for contractor performance that has been judged to be below satisfactory performance or for performance that does not meet the basic requirements of a contract.

SEC. 530. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used in contravention of section 7606 (''Legitimacy of Industrial Hemp Research'') of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (Public Law 113–79) by the Department of Justice or the Drug Enforcement Administration.

SEC. 531. None of the funds made available under this Act to the Department of Justice may be used, with respect to any of the States of Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Ken-

tucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming, or with respect to the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the United States Virgin Islands, Guam, or Puerto Rico, to prevent any of them from implementing their own laws that authorize the use, distribution, possession, or cultivation of medical marijuana.

SEC. 532. The Department of Commerce, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and the National Science Foundation shall provide a quarterly report to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate on any official travel to China by any employee of such Department or agency, including the purpose of such travel.

SEC. 533. Of the amounts made available by this Act, not less than 10 percent of each total amount provided, respectively, for Public Works grants authorized by the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 and grants authorized by section 27 of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3722) shall

be allocated for assistance in persistent poverty counties: *Provided*, That for purposes of this section, the term ''persistent poverty counties'' means any county that has had 20 percent or more of its population living in poverty over the past 30 years, as measured by the 1990 and 2000 decennial censuses and the most recent Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates, or any territory or possession of the United States.

SEC. 534. In determining the formulation and development costs of the James Webb Space Telescope for purposes of section 536 of the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2020 (division B of Public Law 116-93), such costs shall not be considered to include any costs directly related to preventing, preparing for, and responding to the impacts of a global pandemic health crisis.

SEC. 535. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used by the Bureau of the Census to use information or records received through data sharing agreements in contravention of existing law, including sections 9 and 214 of title 13, United States Code.

SEC. 536. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to relocate the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) Canine Training Center or the ATF National Canine Division.

SEC. 537. (a) None of the funds made available to the Bureau of the Census in this Act or any other Act may be used to compile or produce any data product or tabulation as part of, in combination with, or in connection with, the 2020 decennial census of population or any such census data produced pursuant to section 141(c) of title 13, United States Code, that is based in whole or in part on data that is not collected in such census.

(b) The limitation in subsection (a) shall not apply to any data product or tabulation that is required by sections 141(b) or (c) of such title, that uses the same or substantially similar methodology and data sources as a decennial census data product produced by the Bureau of the Census before January 1, 2019, or that uses a methodology and data sources that the Bureau of the Census finalized and made public prior to January 1, 2018.

SEC. 538. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to implement the Attorney General Memorandum dated November 7, 2018, entitled ''Principles and Procedures for Civil Consent Decrees and Settlement Agreements with State and Local Governmental Entities''.

SEC. 539. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to carry out or support any law enforcement action taken to support or control a crowd or public

demonstration, by any individual employed by a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency unless such individual wears a clearly visible identification of the law enforcement agency that vests such individual with authority to carry out or support such action.

SEC. 540. None of the funds made available in this or any other Act (including prior Acts and Acts other than appropriations Acts) may be used for the salaries or expenses of more than five political and presidential appointees in the Bureau of the Census.

SEC. 541. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to pay any cost to enable the Attorney General of the United States to travel more than 50 miles from the Robert F. Kennedy Department of Justice Building in the District of Columbia.

SEC. 542. Section 510 of division B of Public Law 116-93 is amended—

(a) by inserting ''crime victim-related'' after ''expended for''; and

(b) by striking ''associated with this section''.

This Act may be cited as the ''Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2021''.

Union Calendar No. 366

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7667

[Report No. 116–455]

A BILL

Making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2021, and for other purposes.

JULY 16, 2020

Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

Page 453 of 575
Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission
March 2021

Commission Meetings

2 Meetings vs. 1 Meeting per Year

November 2015 – March 2020

Meeting Costs average $25.5K

Travel average 37 attendees @ $21.5K – average of $577/attendee

Average cost of 2 Commission meetings $94K/year

1 Commission meeting per year

Expand number of paid attendees to 65 and increase the number of days attendees participate

Average cost of 1 Commission meeting $65K – $75K/year

CHARLES H. LYLES/LYLES-SIMPSON AWARD RECIPIENTS

October 2020	Harriet Perry – Mississippi
October 2019	Borden Wallace – Louisiana
October 2018	Christopher M. Blankenship – Alabama
October 2017	Joseph I. Gill, Jr. – Mississippi
October 2016	Michael S. Ray – Texas
November 2015	Ellie Francisco Roche – NMFS/Florida
October 2014	Michael C. Voisin (*Posthumous*) – Louisiana

(Award name changed to Lyles-Simpson Award)

March 2013	Larry B. Simpson – Mississippi
October 2012	R. Vernon Minton (*Posthumous*) – Alabama
October 2011	Virginia Vail – Florida
October 2010	Albert L. King, Sr. – Alabama
October 2009	William S. “Corky” Perret – Mississippi
October 2008	Ralph Rayburn (*Posthumous*) – Texas
October 2007	Wayne E. Single – Florida
October 2006	Robert P. Jones – Florida
October 2005	Leroy T. Kiffe – Louisiana
October 2004	Hal Osburn – Texas
October 2003	Andrew J. Kemmerer – NMFS/Mississippi
October 2002	Jerald K. Waller – Alabama
October 2001	Walter Fondren, III – Texas
October 2000	James M. Barkuloo – FWS/Florida

October 1999	Senator Trent Lott – Congressional/Mississippi
October 1998	Thomas Heffernan – Texas
October 1997	Walter M. Tatum – Alabama
October 1996	Tommy D. Candies – Louisiana
October 1995	Edwin A. Joyce – Florida
October 1994	Theodore H. Shepard – Louisiana
October 1993	Louis A. Villanova – Alabama
October 1992	J. Burton Angelle – Louisiana
October 1991	John A. Mehos – Texas
October 1990	Hugh A. Swingle – Alabama
October 1989	I. B. “Buck” Byrd – NMFS/Florida
October 1988	John Ray Nelson – Alabama
October 1987	Senator John Breaux – Congressional/Louisiana
October 1986	J. Y. Christmas – Mississippi
October 1985	Theodore B. Ford (*Posthumous*) – Louisiana
March 1984	Charles H. Lyles – Mississippi

Spring 2021 IJF Activities

Red Drum Management Profile

The Red Drum Technical Task Force held a call in November to see where the members were in the drafting process. Delays continue due to limited work schedules and COVID protocols. There have been some data requests from various members of the TTF for inclusion in their chapters but other tasks are definitely taking priority. As before, each member was encouraged to continue drafting as time allowed but the group will refocus their efforts as routine work moves to more normal operations.

Mangrove Snapper Management Profile

With the delays on Red Drum, the Mangrove Snapper Task Force will be addressed after the pandemic has eased up and the other task force can get back on track.

Otolith Manual Revision

The IJF and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) staff, along with three other state agency editors, completed the third edition of the ageing manual. The document was released to the public at the end of November. The latest revision is the culmination of six years of development from over 60 contributors from state resource agencies, three NOAA labs, and a number of universities along both the Gulf and Atlantic coasts. The latest revision includes a total of 46 species in 17 species group chapters (Groupers, Snappers, Small Drum, Large Drum, etc.) with the addition of opercles to the list of ageing structures. The manual is available on both the Gulf and Atlantic Commission websites for download.

Other Activities

Tripletail Genetics

The IJF program has requested all Tripletail tissue samples to be sent to the Commission office for processing. We have been collecting samples since 2016 and have provided over 600 samples from the Gulf and South Atlantic as well as worldwide. Dr. Saillant at GCRL is continuing to receive samples from his collaborators around the eastern Atlantic and Indian Ocean and we anticipate having some final analysis later this summer along with a full report and publication. This project includes Dr. Saillant and Dr. Jim Franks at GCRL, Pearce Cooper and Dr. Sean Powers at DISL, and Chris Kalinowsky at the Georgia Department of Natural Resources.

Acoustic Tagging

The IJF staff, in collaboration with GCRL, continues to receive detection reports from the 50 acoustically tagged Tripletail released in the northern Gulf and the Florida Keys in late 2019. Due to COVID, a number of the receiver array owners had limited access to downloading their equipment in 2020, but reports are beginning to trickle in. Fish tagged in Mississippi were found moving south through the Tampa area and fish released in Florida Bay in December stayed in the area all through the spring in the Everglades and Florida Bay. Movement outside of that area over the summer has not been shown yet but is expected.

The IJF and the GCRL staff are preparing to place 26 Vemco VR2W receivers as a gate on the eastern end of Mississippi Sound along the MS/AL line. Those units, in conjunction with existing stations and

proposed receivers should effectively close the Mississippi portion of the sound and detect any number of species moving in or out of our state waters. Additional collaboration with the MDMR and USM's Gulf Sturgeon project is being discussed to potentially place an additional 12 receivers as a gate between the west end of Ship Island and Cat Island in the western Sound later this year. The combination of current projects between GCRL and MDMR and the Commission supported gates will result in fully networking the waters in the Mississippi portion of the Sound such that any acoustically tagged fish moving in and out should be able to be detected. This will further contribute to other projects that are ongoing in the adjacent Louisiana and Alabama waters as well as Texas and Florida.

Regional Flounder Symposium

The IJF staff, working with Drs. Midway and Dance at LSU, still plan to host a large symposium on Flounder issues but COVID delayed the plans for this past summer. We have been in contact and, assuming that the rate of vaccination picks up, we could host the symposium in later summer 2021. Fishery experts from each state in the Gulf and South Atlantic will be invited along with other disciplines such as climatology and oceanography to discuss what might be going on with Flounder and develop a plan to address the population declines moving forward.

IJF Small Grants

Each state agency has been approved for their various IJF research funding for 2021 and work has begun. The projects include work on Blue Crab, Southern Flounder, and Eastern Oysters with three states adding acoustic tagging and expanding receiver arrays. The individual state projects are as follows:

FWC	Fisheries Dependent Recreational Scallop Creel Survey
	Commercial Sampling of State Priority Species
ADCNR/MRD	Flounder Research and Stocking Program
	Cryogenic Technology for Southern Flounder Sperm
	Investigating Movement and Habitat Associations of Southern Flounder in Alabama
MDMR	Alternative Gear Studies in Mississippi Waters – Traps, Seines, and Trawls
	Acoustic Monitoring of Southern Flounder in Mississippi Inshore Waters
	Mississippi Fishery Independent Data Integration
	Southern Flounder in Mississippi Inshore Waters – Directed Sampling Strategies
	Eastern Oyster Recruitment and Settlement Patterns on Oyster Reefs in the Mississippi Sound
LDWF	Collect biological data from blue crabs at commercial docks
	Southern Flounder Sampling
TPWD	Bioacoustic Receiver Installation and Use in Sabine Lake System
	Investigating the use of environmental DNA (eDNA) for assessing presence and abundance of marine finfish in the coastal waters of Texas
	Preliminary evaluation of temperature-dependent sex determination in hatchery released Southern Flounder in the natural environment.

Aquaculture Spring 2021 Update

Extensions were awarded to nearly all the grant recipients as a result of the COVID shutdown and work was delayed for most. As a result, all the current awards have end dates well into 2021. The Commission was also granted an extension for another year to allow the existing awards to be completed. Therefore, there is not a lot of progress to report as of March 2021 with a few notable exceptions.

FY2019/2020 Gulf of Mexico Oyster Aquaculture Consortia Award

The Consortium is continuing to work although poor spawning last fall affected the production of the initial generation of breeding. Broodstocks were collected from a total of 17 sites from all five states. Crosses were planned for May 2020 but delayed until September due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The spawn at Auburn was successful (204 families produced). The USM broodstock displayed gonads in poor conditions and yielded low fecundity due to the late date of the spawning trial. The USM broodstock was therefore saved for spawning event in spring 2021 if additional families are needed to increase diversity in the initial generation.

FY2019 Regional Pilot Projects for Aquaculture in the Gulf of Mexico

Three of the pilots are continuing to work with COVID extensions. The Auburn Shellfish Lab was very successful with their Urchin production prior to the COVID shutdown and were able to continue work with the hatchery partner over the summer. The UFL Hard Clam project suffered a very poor fall spawn in 2020 after holding the animals over the entire year when they missed the primary spawn in the spring due to COVID. The broodstock (selected and control clams) in the grow-out lease are expected to be in good condition for the coming spawning season in 2021 (March to May 2021). Finally, the Manna Fish Farm project suffered the loss of the survey contractor requiring new bids to be able to complete the necessary extended benthic survey for site approval. The new contractor completed the additional survey in December. The USM team and the permitting agencies will get the opportunity to review the draft archaeologist report to request any clarifications or additional information that may be needed prior to declaring the report final. As this process is being completed the engineering team will begin to site the cages based on the survey information. The timeline for permit submission will be guided by the engineering team site analysis but will hopefully move forward by early summer.

FY2020 Regional Pilot Projects for Aquaculture in the Gulf of Mexico

The seven new pilot projects began just prior to the COVID shutdown and most have been awarded extensions as a result. The multi-use of offshore O&G platforms project was completed and a final report has been submitted. Work on hybrid Hard Clams and Anglewing Clams have continued to move forward but most have been put on pause until normal operations return. The end dates for the projects vary through the summer and fall with two projects extending to January 2021. The Commission award runs out in May 2022 so all projects will be completed by next spring.

FY2021 Region Pilot Projects for Aquaculture in the Gulf of Mexico

The three Commissions have received the next round of funds for Pilots for 2021 but the Gulf has elected to wait while the current projects are delayed. NOAA Office of Aquaculture has concurred and as a result, the Gulf Commission will combine the funds with next year's to make a larger award opportunity in the fall of 2021 with projects beginning in 2022. The 2021/2022 RFP should have close to $1M available for competitive projects.

Southeast Area Monitoring and Assessment Program (SEAMAP)
March 2021

The Fall Shrimp/Groundfish Survey took place last year from October 1 – December 11, 2020. SEAMAP sampled 251 stations during the survey. We had originally hoped to sample approximately 300 stations, but sampling effort was impacted by hurricanes and bad weather.

SEAMAP has been working to improve the identification of invertebrates captured during sampling activities. SEAMAP has held several invertebrate identification workshops online over the past few months to help field staff in the identification of various invertebrates including commercial shrimp, noncommercial shrimp, and lobsters and lobster like shrimp. The workshops are part of a larger effort to hold a face to face meeting at some point in the next year to provide a more hands on approach to help in the identification of invertebrates in the Gulf of Mexico.

SEAMAP received our FY2021 budget figure of $1,953,625 in February. This is approximately $28,000 less than last year. The SEAMAP Subcommittee met to discuss the budget and proposed survey activities for 2021. The Subcommittee also discussed ways to spend remaining 2020 funds. Carryover funds will allow SEAMAP to sample at historic levels, but sampling in 2022 will have to be curtailed from historic levels if funding does not increase next year.

SEAMAP plans to resume our usual surveys in 2021. SEAMAP plans to conduct the Spring Plankton Survey, Bottom Longline Survey, Vertical Line Survey, Summer Shrimp/Groundfish Survey, Reef Fish Survey, Fall Plankton Survey, and Fall Shrimp/Groundfish Survey this year.

The Commission continues to manage SEAMAP data and distribute the data to interested parties. The Commission has fulfilled three SEAMAP data requests since October.

CARES Act Program
March 2021

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) was signed into law on March 27, 2020. On May 7, 2020, the Secretary of Commerce announced the allocation of $300 million in fisheries assistance funding provided by Sec. 12005 of the CARES Act to states, Tribes, and territories with coastal and marine fishery participants who were negatively affected by COVID–19. Fishery participants include Tribes, persons, fishing communities, aquaculture businesses, processors, or other fishery-related businesses, who have incurred a loss, as a direct or indirect result of the coronavirus pandemic.

Eligible fishery participants must have incurred an economic revenue loss greater than 35 percent as compared to the prior 5-year average revenue; or any negative impacts to subsistence, cultural, or ceremonial fisheries. NOAA Fisheries will be disbursing the fisheries assistance through the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission, Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, and the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission

The Gulf states allocations are as follows.

Texas	$ 9,237,949
Louisiana	$14,785,244
Mississippi	$ 1,534,388
Alabama	$ 3,299,821
Florida*	$23,636,600

*Florida did not split their coast and will be working with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission.

Louisiana began accepting applications on September 14, 2020 and the application process was originally scheduled to close on October 26, 2020. Due to several hurricanes affecting Louisiana during this time period, the application window was extended to November 23, 2020. Louisiana received 1,696 total applications although not all of the applicants will qualify for payment. So far, the Commission has received 957 applicants and the Commission has made $2,486,409.35 in payments. Since LDWF did not know how many applicants to expect across their application period, LDWF decided to send out two rounds of payments. Depending on which sector the applicant applied for, each applicant received the same amount during the first round of funding. After paying all applicants for the first round, Louisiana will be calculating how much funding is left for each sector and sending out a second payment to all applicants.

Alabama began accepting applications on September 14 and the application process was originally scheduled to close on November 13, but was extended to November 27 due to hurricane impacts. Alabama received 104 applications during their application period. Seventy-four applicants were deemed eligible. The Commission is in the process of getting approval to pay $3,254,064 in claims for the 74 applicants.

The Mississippi application process began on November 9 and closed on December 8. Mississippi received 237 applicants in their initial application period. During the application process Mississippi encountered a problem where Mississippi residents who held fishing licenses in

Louisiana did not qualify for payment in Louisiana because they were not Louisiana residents and were denied in Mississippi because they did not hold Mississippi fishing licenses. Mississippi worked with the Commission and NOAA Fisheries personnel to help assist this small group in their spend plan. The Mississippi spend plan was modified in December to allow applicants who held licenses in other states, but resided in Mississippi, to qualify and the application process was reopened from December 28, 2020 through January 5, 2021. The second application period was opened to all affected sector groups licensed out of state and an additional 19 applicants applied for funding. The Commission received 223 eligible applicants on January 28, 2021 and $1,414,684.83 in claims were paid on February 11.

The Texas Spend Plan was approved on January 26, 2021. The application process began on February 1 and is scheduled to close on March 18, 2021.

Sport Fish Restoration Program Update

Spring 2021

- The ASMFC and GSMFC are targeting some time latter this year for our next joint Artificial Reef Subcommittee meeting in hopes of being able to holding it in-person.

- Gulf Artificial Reef Monitoring and Assessment Program Pilot Study: During the sampling events carried out in 2019, extremely low dissolved oxygen levels were detected at several sampling location. In an effort to better assess the water quality, including dissolved oxygen levels at artificial reef sites off the coast of Mississippi, the Program Coordinator will employ water quality monitoring multiparameter datasondes at several offshore sites. These datasondes will be deployed on the bottom and will utilize an acoustic release system so there will be no entanglement issues associated with a surface buoy and mooring line system. The datasondes will be deployed year-round in order to assess seasonal changes in water quality at the sites and to determine the prevalence and duration of low dissolved oxygen events. The Program Coordinator has acquired the datasondes and has been conducting lab test to assess battery life and deployment duration. He is also working to equip the datasondes with anti-fouling modification that will help to insure accurate data collection throughout the planned three-month deployments. The GSMFC's System Administrator is working on developing a database that will house all the collected data and website updates to make the data available to the public. The plan is to pilot test the datasondes at reef sites within the sound this summer with hopes of moving into offshore water latter this year or early in 2022. The long-term goal of this effort is to develop a program that will provide standardized baseline data for artificial reefs across the Gulf of Mexico. This will allow states to assess impacts from natural and man-made disasters in the future, and to understand how their reefs are functioning over time, compared to natural reefs.

- The Program Coordinator has been in discussions with the USGS and FWS on the possibility of establishing and pilot testing an Early Detection and Rapid Response program for AIS (Asian Carp) in the southeast region utilizing eDNA.

- The Program Coordinator worked with MS DMR to carry out the third year of the Jimmy Sanders Memorial Lionfish Challenge in 2020. Do to current circumstances we switched to a virtual tournament utilizing Fishing Chaos. The new format worked very well and we were able to increase 2019's number of lionfish collected by about 50%. These efforts are made possible by the support from sponsors like Engel Coolers, Neritic Diving, ZooKeeper, and Fishing Chaos.

- We are working to increase funding for the program so the Commission can help to support and coordinate more Sport Fish Restoration activities across the Gulf of Mexico.

Aquatic Nuisance Species Program Update

Spring 2021

- The Program Coordinator set up and hosted the fall Gulf and South Atlantic Regional Panel (GSARP) virtual meeting on December 17th.

- The Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force's (ANSTF) fall meeting was held virtually on December 8-10th.

- Region 4 USFWS AIS Small Grants Program: Over the last six years of this program, we have been able to fund 39 projects totaling $850K. The Program Coordinator will work with FWS to get the RFP for this year's funding opportunity distributed as soon as the Regional office has a budget.

- Invasive Species Traveling Trunk: The GSARP's Education and Outreach workgroup will continue to explore other materials that can be added to the trunks to keep them new and relevant. They will also look at developing lesson plans to make it easier for teachers to incorporate the materials in the trunks into their science curriculums. The trunks have been utilized for 1,552 days since they were made available to the public in the summer of 2012.

- The Program Coordinator is chairing the ANSTF's Prevention Committee which is tasked with addressing five key outputs of the new ANSTF Strategic Plan:
  - Evaluate and refine the NISC/ANSTF pathway risk assessment process, consistent with the 2009 National Research Council publication "Science and Decisions: Advancing Risk Assessment"; and complete guidelines for the use and interpretation of these tools.
  - Work with applicable Federal agencies and responsible industry sectors to make organisms in trade importation data electronically available, searchable for organisms (wildlife and plants) imported into the United States, and ensure this data is correctly identified to species.
  - Assess new ANS introductions to determine where prevention measures may have been lacking, been ineffective, or resulted from gaps in authority.
  - Establish an ad-hoc committee to evaluate and implement the roles and responsibilities of the ANSTF under the Vessel Incidental Discharge Act (VIDA).
  - Enter into national prevention practices and agreements with natural resource agencies and responsible industry sectors that consider invasion risks within operations.

- The GSARP is scheduled to hold its spring meeting virtually on April 21st.

- The spring ANSTF meeting will be held virtually on May 4-6.

FISHERIES INFORMATION NETWORK PROGRAM

The Fisheries Information Network (FIN) is a state-federal cooperative program to collect, manage, and disseminate statistical data and information on the marine commercial and recreational fisheries of the Southeast Region. The FIN consists of two components: Commercial Fisheries Information Network (ComFIN) and the Southeast Recreational Fisheries Information Network [RecFIN(SE)].

The scope of the FIN includes the Region's commercial and recreational fisheries for marine, estuarine, and anadromous species, including shellfish. Constituencies served by the program are state and federal agencies responsible for management of fisheries in the Region. Direct benefits will also accrue to federal fishery management councils, the interstate marine fisheries commissions, the National Park Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the NOAA National Marine Sanctuaries Program. Benefits that accrue to management of fisheries will benefit not only commercial and recreational fishermen and the associated fishing industries, but the resources, the states, and the nation.

The mission of the FIN is to cooperatively collect, manage, and disseminate marine commercial, anadromous and recreational fishery data and information for the conservation and management of fishery resources in the Region and to support the development of a national program. The four goals of the FIN include planning, managing, and evaluating commercial and recreational fishery data collection activities; to implement a marine commercial and recreational fishery data collection program; to establish and maintain a commercial and recreational fishery data management system; and to support the establishment of a national program.

The organizational structure consists of the FIN Committee, two geographic subcommittees (Caribbean and Gulf), standing and ad hoc subcommittees, technical work groups, and administrative support. The FIN Committee consists of the signatories to the MOU or their designees, and is responsible for planning, managing, and evaluating the program. Agencies represented by signatories to the MOU are the National Marine Fisheries Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Mississippi Department of Marine Resources, Puerto Rico Department of Environmental and Natural Resources, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, U.S. Virgin Islands Department of Planning and Natural Resources, Caribbean Fishery Management Council, Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council and Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission.

The FIN Committee is divided into two standing subcommittees representing the major geographical areas of the Region: Caribbean and Gulf of Mexico. These subcommittees are responsible for making recommendations to the Committee on the needs of these areas. Standing and ad hoc subcommittees are established as needed by the FIN Committee to address administrative issues and technical work groups are established as needed by the Committee to carry out tasks on specific technical issues. Coordination and administrative support of the FIN is accomplished through the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission.

ONGOING TASKS FOR FUNDING IN 2021 FIN COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT

Coordination and Administration of FIN Activities ***$226,940***

This task will provide for the coordination, planning, and administration of FIN activities throughout the year as well as provide recreational and commercial information to the FIN participants and other interested personnel. This is a continuation of an activity from the previous year and pertains to all modules of the program.

Collecting, Managing and Disseminating Marine Recreational Fisheries Data $4,630,908

This task will provide for the conduct of the MRIP survey in Mississippi, Alabama and Florida for shore, for-hire, and private modes and will provide partial funding for LA Creel in Louisiana. Recent increases in Congressional funding through the Modernizing Recreational Fisheries Management Act have allowed for increased dockside field sampling to improve precision and accuracy of harvest and effort estimates. This task will provide for coordination of the survey, an intercept survey of shore, for-hire and private boat anglers to estimate angler catch using the existing MRIP methodology, and entry of the data. The states will also conduct weekly telephone calls to a 10% random sample of the Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida charter boat captains to obtain estimates of charter boat fishing effort. This is a continuation of an activity from the previous year.

Operations of FIN Data Management System ***$246,281***

This task will provide for operations of the data management system for the FIN. This task will provide funding for the FIN Data Base Manager, and ComFIN Programmer. Responsibilities include further development of data modules structures; routine loading of commercial catch data; recreational landings, effort, and biological data; and maintenance of DMS. This is a continuation of an activity from the previous year.

Trip Ticket Program Development and Operation ***$1,509,285***

This task will provide for the further development and implementation of commercial trip ticket systems in the Gulf of Mexico. This task provides funding for Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama to operate their trip ticket programs. Funding for Texas trip ticket activities will be supported by the IJF program in 2020. All five Gulf States have operating trip ticket programs, which allows for a complete census of all commercial fisheries landings in the Gulf of Mexico. In addition, it provides funding for Bluefin Data to implement and operate an electronic trip ticket reporting program that allows for a more efficient means for dealers to report the necessary data.

State Reef Fish Surveys ***$300,000***

This task provides support for state surveys designed to improve the accuracy of reef fish landings in the Gulf of Mexico and East Florida. Funding provided through the Modernizing Recreational Fisheries Management Act are fully supporting Alabama Snapper Check, Mississippi Tails n' Scales and supporting the development of electronic data collection applications for Florida State Reef Fish Survey.

Southeast For-Hire Electronic Reporting Validation Survey ***T.B.D.***

This task provides to support for a dockside survey in all five Gulf states to validate landings and releases from federally permitted charter vessels required to participate in the Southeast For-Hire Electronic Reporting program. Year 1 funding was received in 2020 to be utilized for the 2021 sampling season but delays in implementation have delayed the start of the validation survey.

Uncertainty in Congressional funding levels have delayed NOAA's ability to determine how much funding can be provided for the 2022 sampling year (project year 2). When that amount is determined we will work with NOAA and the state partners to develop budgets and include that funding in our final 2021 Cooperative Agreement amendment.

NEW TASKS FOR FUNDING IN 2021 FIN COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT

Commercial Conversion Factor Research – Phase 2 ***$277,698***

This task will continue current research on the accuracy of current commercial conversion factors. Conversion factors are used in the commercial data world to convert landed units for given species to whole (live) weight. Much of the current conversion factors were determined 15+ years ago and most have no information as to the amount of data and methods used for collection leaving state scientists wondering if they are truly accurate for use today. In 2019 through an RFP awarded funding by the NOAA FIS program we started researching conversion factors for shrimp as they were the highest priority species. That project has been completed successfully and there is a desire to move into additional species. This proposal would support research for red, gag, and yellowedge groupers in FL, AL, and TX; red gray and vermillion snapper in FL, AL, MS, LA, TX, and also black drum in LA.

GulfFIN Strategic Planning Session ***$49,506***

This task will support an in-person meeting to continue with the Hoshin strategic planning that has successfully helped guide GulfFIN's vision and work priorities over the last 10 years. Funding was acquired through the NOAA FIS 2021 RFP and will be used to support facilitator costs, meeting costs and travel for state partners to attend. The goal will be to hold this meeting in late fall of 2021 if travel can be accomplished safely.

TOTAL **$7,240,618**

Fisheries Restoration Program Update – March 2021

Reduction of Post-release Mortality from Barotrauma in Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Recreational Fisheries

The Program Coordinator continues to collaborate with the NOAA, FL Sea Grant, and members of the project management team (PMT) working through the developmental stages of the project focusing on reducing post-release mortality from barotrauma in Gulf of Mexico reef fish recreational fisheries. The project plans to begin implementation of several major project components later this year.

- Research and Monitoring: GSMFC is in the final selection stage for data collection and monitoring studies investigating post-release mortality estimates for priority Gulf of Mexico reef fish species, and the effectiveness of FDD use and how it is related to depredation from a Gulf-wide perspective. Currently, we are considering four proposals that address those objectives and have the potential to benefit fisheries restoration efforts and provide valuable data to inform future fisheries management in the Gulf. We hope to complete selection and have agreements in place to begin funding several research projects during the 2021 fishing season.

- Human Dimensions Survey: Currently, GSMFC is in the process of finalizing an agreement with an independent firm to administer a series of Gulf-wide reef fish angler surveys to gather data measuring their knowledge, behaviors, attitudes, and perceptions regarding handling and release practices of reef fish in the Gulf of Mexico. Two surveys will be administered: a pre-survey to collect baseline data and a follow-up survey to measure the effectiveness of outreach and education materials and rate of adoption of best handling and release practices. We plan to field the initial survey in August-September 2021 prior to implementation of other project components and a follow-up survey between 2024 and 2025 to measure changes from the baseline.

- Distribution of Devices and Tools: The program coordinator is working closely with the PMT to develop and implement a strategy to distribute fish descender devices and other tools that promote best handling and release practices to reduce post-release mortality of reef fish in the Gulf of Mexico. Through a multi-phase process, and in coordination with several Gulf States, the project plans to begin distributing devices in Fall of 2021, focusing first on for-hire reef fish anglers and expanding to private recreational reef fish anglers in subsequent phases during the following year.

- Next Steps: The Project Coordinator plans to reach out to relevant state resource management agencies to better understand the most effective ways to engage Gulf reef fish anglers in each respective state and gather interest on state-level involvement for key components of the project.

For more project details, please click here to understand how NOAA is supporting this effort to restore reef fish species impacted by the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. You may also use the following URL: https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/feature-story/noaa-and-gulf-states-marine-fisheries-commission-partner-restore-recreational-fish

Alabama State Report
Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission's
Spring 2021 – Online meeting

Emerging Issues Pertinent to Gulf of Mexico Fisheries.

1. Regulatory/Administration

Beginning in 2021, owner/operators of recreational vessels (private and for-hire) with Gray Triggerfish or Greater Amberjack landing the fish in Alabama must report their catches to the Alabama Marine Resources Division (AMRD) Snapper Check program. The two species have been added to the prior reporting requirement for recreationally caught Red Snapper to enhance data collection.

Enrollment in Alabama's Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act program was extended to November 13, 2020, to allow eligible fishery participants the opportunity to provide required application documentation. The extension was needed to allow extra time for applicants who were impacted from Hurricane Sally. AMRD has determined 74 applications out of 107 applications were eligible for CARES Act distributions. Preliminary calculations indicate each eligible applicant will receive $0.25 of CARES funds for every dollar in damages. The list of eligible applicants with distributions has been sent to NOAA Fisheries for final approval.

Activities Related to Artificial Reef Programs.

Phase II of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Alabama Artificial Reef and Habitat Enhancement Project continues to provide funding for reef fish habitat enhancement and monitoring projects in the inshore, nearshore, and offshore waters of Alabama.

AMRD continues to coordinate with BOEM, USACE, and NMFS for authorization to designate approximately 110 square miles of water bottoms as artificial reef zones. A $742,724.42 contract to perform a Phase I cultural resource survey, required for compliance with Section 106 of the National Historical Preservation Act, has been completed to meet federal regulatory requirements for permit evaluation. Additionally, A formal consultation with NMFS was initiated to confirm compliance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act and the project plans were amended to mitigate damages to threatened/endangered species and their critical habitats. Approximately 48 square miles between 6 and 10 miles offshore of Baldwin County, approximately 62 square miles between 10 and 20 miles offshore of Mobile County, and four

reef sites in Mobile Bay will be enhanced with reef structures to provide habitat for various estuarine and marine reef-associated finfish after federal regulatory requirements are satisfied.

A total of 345 individual reefs constructed by members of the public were inspected and permitted for deployment in the Offshore General Reef Permit Zones offshore of Alabama. The majority of the reef structures consisted of chicken transport cages, prefabricated concrete reef modules, and steel frame boxes. The structures were deployed between approximately 10nm to 50nm offshore of Alabama along water bottoms authorized for artificial reef construction activities.

Activities Associated with the Gulf of Mexico Crab Fisheries.

No derelict trap collection program has been finalized for 2021. AMRD continues to monitor for the number of derelict traps and is currently working with our partners in deciding if a derelict cleanup will be conducted in 2021.

Activities Related to Fisheries Dependent Data Collection.

1. APAIS

AMRD continued the collection of dockside Access Point Angler Intercept Survey (APAIS) interviews and validation of charter vessel activity. From September 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020, AMRD samplers completed a total of 155 out of 221 APAIS assignments and out of the completed assignments, 1,109 anglers were interviewed. During the reporting period, a total of 66 of 221 (30%) scheduled assignments were cancelled. Majority of the cancellations were due to site closures caused by Hurricane Sally on September 15th, 2020. More than a dozen Marina's, boat ramps and shore sites were significantly damaged causing months' worth of repairs. Approximately, eight public access points remained closed post Hurricane Sally with an estimated re-opening date of March 1, 2021. COVID-19 outbreaks had little to no effect on assignment completion during this reporting period. Semi-annual training and fish tests were given to APAIS staff in February and August.

2. Biological sampling

AMRD continued operation of the Biological Sampling Program for the collection of otoliths from recreationally harvested marine finfish. The program was re-implemented on March 1, 2020 and will continue for 18-months. From September 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020, a total of 362 sets of otoliths with 9 additional length measurements representing 11 out of 13 primary target species were collected by AMRD's staff. The COVID-19 pandemic had not impacted biological sampling activities during this reporting period. However, Hurricane Sally influenced sampling opportunities by damaging angler public access points such as boat ramps,

marina's and shore sites. Therefore, field samplers were limited on places to go, thus, restricting the collection of otoliths from a variety of saltwater finfish typically obtained in the fall.

3. Snapper Check

Alabama did not utilize the entire red snapper quota prior to the initial season closure on July 3rd. After the closure, it was determined there was sufficient quota remaining to re-open the season within limited weekends. The season re-opened on Saturday, October 10th and closed Sunday; December 6th having been open a total of 17 weekend days during the second season. A total of 580 and 73 vessel landing reports were submitted by representatives from private recreational and state-licensed vessels, respectively. An estimated 39% of private recreational vessels landing Red Snapper in Alabama reported through Snapper Check. The private recreational harvest was estimated to be 80,463 pounds and the state-licensed charter vessel harvest was estimated to be 2,953 pounds. When the first and second season harvest totals were combined, there were 19,939 pounds remaining of the 1,122,662 pounds quota. Beginning in 2021, recreational anglers landing Gray Triggerfish or Greater Amberjack in Alabama must report their catches through Snapper Check.

4. Shrimp conversion

The AMRD completed a project with the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission (GSMFC), other Gulf States, and federal partners to validate commercial conversion factors of processed brown and white shrimp. Samples were collected from Alabama seafood dealers during the reporting period. Samples were processed and analyzed, and the final report was submitted.

Activities Related to Fisheries Independent Sampling.

1. Shellfish

After analysis of the 2020 oyster reef quadrat surveys, the AMRD decided to open the public oyster reefs to harvest on October 12, 2020. The reefs remained opened until December 23, 2020 for a total of 47 working days. During the season, a total of 22,070 sacks of oysters were harvested from Heron Bay, Cedar Point West, and Cedar Point East. The average amount of sacks harvested per day was 469. The average number of harvesters per day was 83. The average amount of sacks/harvester/day was 5.5 within a six-sack limit.

The AMRD also opened the reefs on four Saturdays at the beginning of the season to provide an opportunity for younger generation to harvest oysters. The decision was made to stop harvesting on Saturdays due to low participation of young harvesters. We may revisit Saturday harvest in fall of 2021.

A new grid system utilizing 500 x 500-meter grids was employed to manage harvest on individual reef areas. The AMRD monitored grids in which harvest was taking place and opened

and closed specific grids as needed to move oyster catchers off sufficiently harvested areas so that there was a more even distribution of harvest across productive reefs. Harvesters were able see which grids were open and monitor their position within the grid system by accessing a web link on their smart phones.

The AMRD obtained Natural Resources Disaster Assessment (NRDA) funding for the construction of an Eastern oyster hatchery and remote larval setting facilities. Construction should begin in spring of 2021 with oyster spat production anticipated spring of 2022.

2. SEAMAP

Fall activities were completed for vertical line survey. The fall trawl cruise was completed in conjunction with Gulf Coast Research Laboratory . Staff from Alabama and Mississippi have worked together and completed fall trawl sampling October 1-5 from the Mississippi River to Panama City in an effort to maximize the use of funding. Vertical line fall sampling completed 28 stations; catches comprised of seven species totaling 110 fish with Gray Triggerfish and Vermilion Snapper being the next most abundant species after Red Snapper. Sampling period was extended (August – December) due to Coronavirus issues which halted sampling for an extended period. The AMRD scheduled the Fall 2020 SEAMAP ichthyoplankton survey off Alabama for September 2, 2020 but due to the COVID-19 pandemic, NOAA cancelled all ichthyoplankton cruises. The AMRD and NOAA are currently discussing which SEAMAP operations will be conducted in Alabama 2021 and will finalize these plans moving forward.

3. Inshore Gillnet

From August 2020 to the end of December 2020 gillnet sampling was conducted each month using small mesh perpendicular sets with mesh ranging from 2-4 inches, and large mesh parallel sets with mesh ranging from 4.5-6 inches. A total of 93 hour-long sets were completed with a total of 45 different species sampled comprising 2,862 observed individuals. Two Hurricanes, and a Tropical Storm prevented us from completing the full 106 sets normally conducted in those months. Over 600 otoliths were collected from captured individuals and measurements of length, weight, sex, and gonad weight were taken. Whole specimens of gilled/wedged Gulf Menhaden were collected at 10 individuals/mesh/month to perform a paired scale/otolith age comparison and better estimate differences in processing time. 340 Menhaden were processed in total for 2020 collecting fish weight, female gonad weight, measuring length, extracting otoliths, and then mounting 10 scales per fish between slides. We are currently in the process of separately ageing whole Gulf Menhaden otoliths and scales using image analysis to denote annuli and generating a side-by-side images for each fish. The table below is a list for each species of number caught, catch per unit effort (net sets), and otoliths collected from August through December 2020 from gillnets, trawls, seines, marine enforcement seizures, and other sources.

Species	Caught	CPUE	Otoliths			
			Gillnet	Trawl	Seine	Other/ Enforcement
Sp. Seatrout	88	0.94624	88	--	--	7
S. Mullet	152	1.63441	110	--	--	--
W. Mullet	174	1.87097	89	--	--	--
Sheepshead	10	0.10753	9	--	--	4
G. Flounder	--	--	--	--	--	--
So. Flounder	13	0.13978	7	--	1	--
Red Drum	17	0.1828	19	--	--	--
Atl. Croaker	204	2.19355	75	--	--	--
S. Kingfish	7	0.07527	6	--	--	--
Sp. Mackerel	45	0.48387	41	--	--	--
Bl. Drum	16	0.17204	15	--	--	--
G. Menhaden	965	10.37634	65	--	--	--
Red Snapper	--	--	--	--	--	--
Sand Seatrout	43	0.46237	41	4	--	--
Lane Snapper	--	--	0	3	--	--
Gray Snapper	1	0.01075	1	4	2	--
Bluefish	--	--	--	--	--	--
Cobia	1	0.01075	1	--	--	--
Tripletail	1	0.01075	1	--	--	--
Fl. Pompano	10	0.10753	8	--	--	--
Gulf Kingfish	1	0.01075	1	--	--	--
Totals	***1748**	--	**577**	**11**	**3**	**11**

Other State Activities.

1. Mariculture

Stock enhancement efforts continued at the Claude Peteet Mariculture Center (CPMC). Approximately 30,000 Spotted Seatrout (*Cynoscion nebulosus*) were released into coastal Alabama waters late last year. A Southern Flounder spawning event was initiated in January and February this year. The first spawning event resulted in approximately 15,000 ½" flounder which are scheduled for release in March. The second spawning event resulted in approximately 85,000 larvae. Release of those flounder will occur in April. Spawning is planned for Florida Pompano and Spotted Seatrout later this year.

CPMC staff assisted researchers from Auburn University who have been contracted using Inter Jurisdictional Funds (IJF) to conduct a cryogenic preservation study of Southern Flounder sperm. Results from spawning activities last year indicated procurement, maturation and sperm collection timed with egg development in females is somewhat problematic. The purpose of the

research is to determine the most appropriate technique to maximize sperm survival and motility after cryopreservation. Having southern flounder sperm stored for future use could lead to greater fertilization success. The results from the initial collection in January yielded positive results and a second trial is underway.

2. Boating Access

As a result of Hurricane Sally repairs are in progress to repair the parking areas of the Boggy Point and Weeks Bay boat ramps. Fort Morgan Boat ramp is under current renovations to remove sedimentation from the basin. Renovations to the Delta Port boat launch will begin in March to maximize available space and stabilize the surface for parking. In addition, the boating access facilities at Little Billy Goat Hole boat ramp on Dauphin Island and the boat ramp at the Bayou La Batre State Docks will be improved in FY2021.

3. Outreach

AMRD Fisheries section participation in outreach events (e.g., Mobile Boat Show) were cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Alabama Seafood Marketing Program continued with public relations, television commercials, print ads and articles, radio ads, billboards, distribution of marketing materials and sponsorships of events. The marketing program's website is www.eatalabamaseafood.com.

4. Enforcement

From October 2020 through February 2021, AMRD enforcement officers conducted 2,405 commercial fishermen intercepts, 2,397 recreational fishermen intercepts, 357 seafood dealer and processor inspections, 3,613 hours of patrol (combined vessel patrol and shore patrol) and boarded 1,818 vessels.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Enforcement Section's participation in outreach events has been greatly reduced. The Enforcement Section has managed to participate in two live outreach events during this time, both were quite successful considering the circumstances.

In January 2021, the Enforcement Section received final approval to move ahead with implementing the second expansion of the Coastal Remote Monitoring System that was partially paid for with Port Security Grant 2019 funding, totaling more than $273,865 This expansion will update and expand the capabilities of the network of cameras throughout coastal Alabama. Several new camera locations as well as higher resolution cameras along with a more robust communications system will be coupled with a much larger storage capacity that provides a much higher quality video as well as the ability to store the archived video longer. The construction and additions to the current system under this phase of enhancement will be completed by April 2021.

In November of 2020, the Enforcement section worked closely with the Dauphin Island Sea Lab staff (and many other organizations) to help deal with a Sperm Whale that had stranded itself in

Mobile Bay. The animal was eventually euthanized and removed for further study by the Dauphin Island Sea Lab biologist.

The Enforcement and Fisheries Sections continue work on the grant intended to monitor and protect marine mammals and marine turtles. This grant will utilize specialized monitoring equipment to monitor turtle nesting areas and established nesting sites. Along with turtle nesting and protection, the grant provides funding to educate the public and enforcement about marine mammal and turtle interactions and current laws related to these interactions. Two portal camera units that are solar/battery-powered that feed into our existing network of cameras were purchased with monies from this grant. Both are in service and waiting for the coming turtle nesting season. These cameras will help track turtle movement, human interaction and monitor known nesting sites.

Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission
Technical Coordinating Committee
Mississippi State Report (July 1, 2020 – Dec 31, 2020)

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1. Emerging Issues Pertinent to Gulf of Mexico Fisheries

COVID-19

On May 7, 2020 $300 million of CARES Act funds were allocated to US fishery participants, of which Mississippi received $1,520,087. The Mississippi Department of Marine Resources (MDMR) developed a spend plan to distribute those funds to eligible commercial fishermen, charter fishermen and seafood dealer/processors in an equitable manner. Mississippi's spend plan was approved by NOAA on October 13, 2020.

The first application period for the CARES Act funding resulted in 237 participants applying, of which 211 were found eligible by MDMR. This first eligible group consisted of 164 commercial fishermen, 34 charter captains, and 13 dealers. Mississippi residents with the eligible in-state licenses self-certified over 35% lost revenue for the varying months identified in the spend plan, when compared to the same months in previous years.

Upon review, it was found that the remaining appeals applicants appeared to be primarily Mississippi residents that were licensed in fisheries out of state. As a result, an amendment was submitted to NOAA and approved on December 23, 2020 to include this group in Mississippi's spend plan. The application process reopened only for Mississippi residents licensed in fisheries out of state and ran from December 28, 2020 through January 5, 2021.

2. Activities Related to Artificial Reef Programs

The Artificial Reef Bureau (ARB) continued monthly monitoring of fish assemblages and physiochemical parameters at selected inshore reef sites. In conjunction with the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission (GSMFC), the third annual Jimmy Sanders' Memorial Lionfish Challenge began May 1, 2020 and will ran through December 1, 2020. Six participants harvested a total of 52 invasive lionfish.

In December 2020, ARB staff began deployments of materials donated by Ingall's Shipyard into FH-13. When completed, this project will contribute 4,455 tons of clean concrete material and 1,872 tons of steel H-beams to new artificial reef structures.

ARB staff obtained permit renewals for all inshore keys and Cat Island reef. Efforts to renew permits for all nearshore artificial reefs are ongoing.

3. Activities Associated with the Gulf of Mexico Crab Fisheries

No updates or regulatory changes to report.

4. Activities Related to Fisheries Dependent Sampling

MRIP

The Finfish Bureau (FB) continued to oversee the Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) in Mississippi. A total of 223 assignments and 1,244 surveys were completed July through December 2020 in Jackson, Harrison, and Hancock Counties.

Trip Tickets

FB collected commercial landings data from processors, dealers, and fishermen utilizing the Mississippi Trip Ticket program. This data allows management of the resource and effective monitoring of the quota on Red Drum, Spotted Seatrout, and Southern Flounder. From July through December 2020, there were 2,919 paper and electronic trip tickets submitted by 346 active commercial fishermen and 69 dealers participating in the trip ticket program. The number of commercial fishermen selling their catch using a Fresh Product Permit and participating in the trip ticket program was 83. The FB and the Shrimp and Crab Bureau (SCB) is continuing to work with BlueFin Data to develop the electronic trip ticket reporting application known as VESL. A beta version has been tested and staff is currently attempting to go live with the system by the next license year – May 2021. SCB is also working with BlueFin Data to develop an electronic monthly dealer ticket for the Mississippi Live Bait industry. The finalized form is expected to be completed concurrently with the electronic trip ticket and will be available to live bait dealers tentatively by summer 2021.

Age and Growth

The FB collected and processed 192 otoliths as part of the MDMR Biological Sampling Program from eight select species: Red Snapper, Sand Seatrout, Spotted Seatrout, Black Drum, Sheepshead, Striped Mullet, Atlantic Tripletail and Southern Flounder.

Tails ‘n’ Scales

Mississippi’s recreational Red Snapper electronic reporting system, Tails n’ Scales was updated for use in the 2020 season. Under amendment 50c passed by the Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Management Council, Mississippi managed the 2020 recreational Red Snapper season in state and federal waters. The state charter for-hire and private recreational components were managed together this year with a season opening date of May 22nd and closing date of July 5th with a one-day re-opening on September 5th. The federal for-hire season was 62 days, although vessels with federal reef fish permits were not included under amendment 50c. Mississippi’s total annual quota for the 2020 season was 151,584 pounds for both the private

recreational and state charter for-hire components. The Tails n' Scales reporting system began offseason maintenance and updates for use in 2021.

5. Activities Related to Fisheries Independent Sampling

Finfish Sampling

Long-term fishery independent sampling continued in conjunction with the NOAA Project "Monitoring and Assessment of Mississippi's Interjurisdictional Marine Resources". The FB completed 56 gill nets at ten stations to collect finfish species for subsequent age-and-growth analysis as well as other biological data. A total of 280 otoliths were collected from July through December 2020 and samples were collected from seven different species: Red Snapper, Sand Seatrout, Spotted Seatrout, Southern Kingfish, Sheepshead, Black Drum, and Southern Flounder.

Through a project funded by the USFWS Sport Fish Restoration Program, the FB intended to deploy 11 additional satellite tags on Atlantic Tripletail in the fall of 2020 as continuation of the 2019 Atlantic Tripletail deployment dataset. Programmatic changes during the target tagging period resulted in only one tag deployment. The remaining 10 tags are scheduled for deployment on Atlantic Tripletail in 2021.

An extension of the acoustic telemetry work funded by the USFWS Sport Fish Restoration program resulted in additional acoustic receiver deployments in ten new locations in Mississippi state waters for interagency, cooperative tracking of multiple species. In September 2020, six Cobia were tagged using acoustic transmitters prior to the programmatic changes during the Fall tagging period. Additional acoustic transmitters are scheduled for deployment on Southern Flounder in 2021.

The Fyke Net sampling program, which is used to target Southern Flounder, resumed in May 2020. A total of 12 sampling events occurred from May – October. Reduced sampling efforts compared to previous years were primarily due to hurricanes and Covid-19 restrictions. Fyke nets were set and retrieved on a bi-weekly basis at the three sampling locations, Davis Bayou, Deer Island, and Belle Fontaine. Throughout the year, 30 Southern Flounder were collected. Other species observed in the fyke nets included Blue Crab, Red Drum, Atlantic Croaker, Hardhead Catfish, Atlantic Spadefish, Black Drum, Spot, Gray Snapper, Spotted Seatrout, Sheepshead, Striped Mullet, Atlantic Stingray, Pinfish, and Southern Kingfish.

The FB, in conjunction with the Gulf Coast Research Lab (GCRL), is currently in year five of sampling for the NFWF Reef Fish project. Due to impacts from COVID-19, both entities were forced to engage in limited sampling efforts throughout the timeframe.

Shrimp and Crab Sampling

The Shrimp and Crab Bureau (SCB) continued to conduct monthly fishery independent trawl sampling under the project "Monitoring and Assessment of Mississippi's Interjurisdictional Marine Resources". This sampling program includes 14 fixed stations located across the Mississippi Sound from Herron Bay east to Bernard Bayou using a 16' otter trawl with liner in the cod end. A total of 75 trawls were completed from July to December 2020.

The SCB continued fishery independent trap surveys for Blue Crabs within the three major bay systems – St. Louis Bay, Biloxi Bay, and the lower Pascagoula River. Each bay system was sampled monthly from July to December 2020 for a total of 18 sample sets. This program, which began in September 2014, provides data on CPUE, sex composition, abundance of Blue Crabs, and bycatch composition and 237 sample sets have been completed since the beginning of the project.

The SCB continued to conduct monthly fishery independent shrimp trawls to monitor seasonal abundance of penaeid shrimp within the Mississippi Sound. This sampling program includes 10 fixed stations located across the Mississippi Sound from the mouth of St. Louis Bay east to the Round Island using a standard 16' otter trawl. A total of 54 trawls were completed from July to December 2020.

Shellfish Sampling

The MDMR Shellfish Bureau (SB) conducts an extensive oyster reef assessment on all significant public oyster resources in state waters each year. This assessment includes one-minute dredge tows and diver square meter samples for analysis of oyster health, growth, productivity, abundance, and predatory behavior. This data is used for resource management and enhancement. From April to November 2020, the Shellfish Bureau conducted 67 dredge tows and 206 square meter samples at 164 sites.

6. Other State Activities

State Records for Recreational Fishing

A total of 13 recreational fishing records were approved as state records between July 1 and December 31, 2020. All tackle category records had six approved record submissions: Permit (spear), Red Grouper (spear), Spanish Hogfish (spear), Ocean Triggerfish (spear), Red Lionfish (spear), and Striped Mullet (gig). There were four Conventional Tackle records approved: Spot (twice), Silver Perch, and Atlantic Needlefish. There were also three Youth Records approved during the timeframe: Spotted Seatrout, Spot, and Atlantic Tripletail.

Commercial Shrimp Conversion Project

The SCB completed sampling and data analysis on the GSMFC funded project "MDMR/ GSMFC U.S. Gulf of Mexico Commercial Shrimp Conversion Factors Validation." The project was completed in collaboration with the four other Gulf states to validate industry-accepted historical conversion factors that are used by states to convert whole shrimp landings to headless (tail weight only) prior to reporting overall landings to National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). The project included dockside procurement of commercially harvested brown, white and pink shrimp from Mississippi shrimpers and lab processing of shrimp samples including head-on, head-off, and peeled, deveined weights, and standard length. SCB staff collected and processed 1,032 total shrimp – 520 brown shrimp, 505 white shrimp, and 7 pink shrimp. Sample collection and processing was completed in July 2020 and data compilation was completed in August 2020. MDMR data was combined with other states' data for final analysis.

Live Bait Shrimp Licensing and Special Permits

The SCB manages the live bait shrimp licensing program. Inspections and technical assistance were provided, as needed, to the 12 licensed dealers across Mississippi's three coastal counties. The SCB also manages the MDMR Special Permitting program which includes Scientific Research Permits, Brood Stock Permits, Non-profit Harvesters Permits, and Experimental Gear Permits. SCB staff issued 15 Special Permits from July to December 2020.

Skimmer TED reimbursement Program

MDMR Office of Marine Fisheries staff continued development of a program to reimburse shrimpers who purchase turtle excluder devices (TEDs) for their skimmer vessels. This project is intended to mitigate financial impacts to those vessels effected by the forthcoming TED rule change, which will require all skimmer vessels 40' in length or smaller to use TEDs in their nets beginning April 1, 2021.

Oyster Aquaculture

The Shellfish Bureau (SB) began training the third class of Off-Bottom Oyster Aquaculture Program (OBOA) in 2020. The Off-Bottom Oyster Aquaculture Program addresses all aspects of off-bottom oyster farming appropriate to the local and regional area in oyster aquaculture operations, including business development and aquaculture methodologies. Participants will be positioned to operate and maintain economically and environmentally sustainable off-bottom oyster farms in the state of Mississippi, increasing the quantity and value of Mississippi's annual oyster harvest. MDMR established a two-phase off-bottom oyster aquaculture program, as well as offered post-program business incubation services. Phase 1 of the program included classroom and field education on aquaculture, business operations and demonstrations of off-bottom aquaculture techniques. During this phase, participants received

the training and assistance needed to deploy and manage approximately 10,000 oysters with the use of MDMR rental equipment such as cages and bags as well as the MDMR small and large tube tumbler. During Phase 2 of the program, training participants opened their own off-bottom oyster aquaculture operations and continued training with instruction from the program to refine skills before beginning an individual operation.

The acreage of available off bottom leases has also increased from 2018 to 2021 in a total of three phases. Phase I included the ten-acre aquaculture training park and 75 acres available for commercial lease. In 2020, Phase II comprised of 135 additional acreage to the west of Phase I, providing commercial oyster farmers with a deep-water profile option as well as closer to the Biloxi Small Craft Harbor. In 2021, the final Phase III will be available to commercial farmers which opens an additional 245 acres. Phase III is located north of Phase I and II, giving farmers the opportunity to farm in more shallow waters closer to Deer Island. In 2021, there will be a total of 465 acres available for commercial farming. The continuation of MDMR Off Bottom Oyster Aquaculture Program will allow aquaculture staff to train more farmers and lease out all acreage in approximately five to ten years. MDMR currently has 51 acres leased by 24 farmers and upwards of 2.8 million oyster seed being cultured. Commercial operations harvested approximately 423,895 oysters in 2020.

Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) Event

From July 13, 2020 to July 23, 2020, a harmful algal bloom (HAB) of *Alexandrium* spp., *Cochlodinium* spp., *Prorocentrum* spp., and *Nitzschia* spp. persisted on the south side of Deer Island in Approved Area 5C which encloses the state aquaculture park. Over the course of the bloom, a total of 22 whole water samples were collected to monitor the HAB activity. Both seawater samples and oyster meat samples were sent off for toxin analysis which included: saxitoxins, domic acid, okadaic acid and dinophysistoxins. The toxin results for the seawater samples and tissue samples were nondetectable above their respective method detection limits.

Shellfish Management

The Shellfish Bureau conducts the shellfish sanitation and compliance program in order to maintain oyster growing water classifications defined by the FDA. This monitoring program mitigates the risk to human health from consuming raw oysters contaminated by fecal coliforms. These bacteria indicate the possible presence of pathogenic bacteria, viruses, and protozoans found in human and animal wastes. In addition to maintaining oyster growing waters classifications, these samples are used to manage the openings and closings of oyster reefs for harvest. The samples are collected by boat, in sterile bottles, one-half meter below the surface on the windward side and transported to an FDA certified microbiology laboratory.

From July through December 2020, SB staff collected 381 routine water samples and 1 tissue sample from 62 sites across the Mississippi Sound.

Seafood Technology Bureau

The Seafood Technology Bureau (STB) conducted a total of 126 inspections (routine, follow-up, and certification inspections). A total of 59 sanitation and Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) deficiencies were cited. The required bi-annual water quality sampling for seafood processing facilities for September was completed with a total of 51 samples taken.

The STB staff conducted one foodborne illness investigation for an undetermined Vibrio spp. related to oyster consumption, the oysters were traced to a Louisiana harvest area. Staff conducted damage assessments of the industry for two storms, Cristobal and Zeta, the industry mostly sustained structural damage. All damaged facilities have since been able to reopen for business.

The STB originally planned to host five HACCP workshops and two Sanitation Control Procedures (SCP) workshops in 2020. Only one class was completed with 15 participants. Due to COVID-19 restrictions all remaining 2020 workshops were rescheduled for 2021.

Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission
Technical Coordinating Committee
2021 Louisiana Spring State Report

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Emerging Issues Pertinent to Gulf of Mexico Fisheries

COVID-19 / CARES Act

The World Health Organization (WHO) declared COVID-19 a pandemic on March 11, 2020. COVID-19 directly affected the United States (US) economy due to Stay at Home orders and the closing of all nonessential businesses. The US government acted quickly to assist the public when Congress passed the CARES Act and it was signed into law by President Trump n March 27,2020. The CARES Act was an over $2 trillion economic relief package that contained $300 million for the US Secretary of Commerce to provide to affected fishery participants. The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) compiled a report showing losses in economic value by fishery and submitted to NOAA for approval. Louisiana is to receive a total of $14,785,244 in economic assistance for eligible fishery participants. The GSMFC will administer economic assistance to the eligible participants in LA through direct payments based on the approved LA Spending Plan.

LDWF developed an online application portal for its CARES ACT Program and contracted with South Central Planning and Development Commission (SPDC) for assistance with the application process. LDWF set its initial application period to open at 8am September 14th and set it to close on October 26th at 11:59 pm. During this time, 1335 application were received by LDWF. Due to the low turnout and a very active hurricane season, LDWF extended the application period until 11:59pm November 23rd. On November 14th, LDWF held an in person application event in Lake Charles to assist those in SW LA who were affected by Hurricanes Laura and Delta. Thirty four people showed up at the event and LDWF collected 21 applications. By the end of the application period on November 23rd, LDWF received 1695 applications. By December 31st, LDWF had approved 826 applications and had submitted 758 to GSMFC for payment.

Oyster Lease Moratorium

The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission (LWFC) has approved a notice of intent for lifting the oyster lease moratorium. This public comment period has passed and the new regulations have been ratified. Currently, LDWF is coordinating with the Office of State Lands (OSL) and the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) to work through Phase 0 oyster lease applications which is expected to conclude in the third quarter of 2021.

Activities Related to Artificial Reef Programs

Offshore

LDWF's Artificial Reef Program continues to assess and permit reef deployments related to offshore oil and gas structures. The Program has accepted one new structure. There are 43 structures permitted for deployment as permanent artificial reefs, and one new reef site has been recently proposed. Permitting of an additional 8 structures is currently underway. The Program also has a permit to reef a vessel in its Main Pass 300 Reef.

Multi-beam surveying of the Program's offshore reefs is ongoing (annually) and is available on the Program's website. The Program has completed two pilot projects using remotely-operated

vehicle (ROV) surveys to sample offshore reefs and is developing plans to create a comprehensive biological monitoring Program for these reefs.

Inshore
LDWF's Artificial Reef Program built no new inshore artificial reefs, however the Program continues to hold a permit to enhance the Independence Island artificial reef site with 15,000 tons of material through NRDA Recreational Use Restoration funding. The project went out to bid and has been awarded.

Nearshore
LDWF's Artificial Reef Program enhanced the Grand Isle 9 reef (also known as the Sulphur Mine). The reef site was enhanced using four hundred and fifty (450) concrete "boxes" that were six feet tall and six feet wide. This reef was completed with NRDA Recreational Use funds. Ship Shoal 26 (the Pickets) reef site using 8,000 tons of limestone. The Grand Isle 9 reef is permitted and under contract. Ship Shoal 26 and Grand Isle 9 will be completed using Recreational Use Restoration funding. The Program has finalized the acceptance of four new nearshore reefs: The Ship Shoal 94 and 108 and Vermilion 119 and 124 reefs were deployed with funding from the Artificial Reef Fund. Vermilion 119 and 124 were done in partnership with Coastal Conservation Association of Louisiana (CCA). The Program reached an agreement with CCA to enhance one existing reef and create two new reefs.

Monitoring
Through funds provided by the Louisiana Restoration Area Trustee Implementation Group, LDWF continued the monitoring of all completed inshore and nearshore artificial reef enhancement sites. This is part of a 5-year plan to assess the success of artificial reefs enhanced in an effort to mitigate for recreational use opportunities lost during the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill. Monitoring efforts include the study of the aquatic organisms utilizing the reef enhancement sites via the use of gillnetting, rod and reel sampling, and benthic tray observations, as well as observations of recreational users. Together, those efforts are intended to provide insight into the overall biological health of the reef enhancement sites as well as insight into whether those sites are providing enhanced recreational opportunities to the public.

Activities Associated with the Gulf of Mexico Crab Fisheries

Policy and Regulations

The most recent (2019) Louisiana blue crab stock assessment indicated that the Louisiana blue crab stock was not identified as overfished nor experiencing overfishing. Due to the improvement in stock status, no additional regulations were implemented during the 2020 harvest year.

Derelict Crab Trap Program

The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission (LWFC) adopted a Notice of Intent in August 2020 to establish four defined derelict crab trap cleanup areas during the 2021 harvest season. Within the four areas, the use of crab traps would be prohibited during the 14-day cleanup, or closure, period. These closure areas are to be held within the Pontchartrain Basin (x2), Terrebonne Basin, and Vermilion-Tech Basin. A scheduled volunteer event was planned to take place on the first Saturday of the Terrebonne Basin closure.

The Department has contracted the Pontchartrain Conservancy to assist in soliciting the Louisiana blue crab industry for specific input towards improving the current derelict crab trap program and developing options that may be used as an alternative towards the current program. The focus within this is to develop a program that incentivizes the commercial blue crab industry to participate in removal of derelict crab traps, to increase the number of derelict or abandoned crab traps removed from state waters, and to reduce the overall cost of the current program. These program goals would reduce competition from traps that are not actively fished, or "ghost fishing", increase the resilience of the blue crab population by allowing more escapement for spawning, and assist the industry with sustainability by reducing bycatch. A formal report with program alternatives is to be completed by December 31, 2020 and submitted to the Department for review, editing, and approval.

Sustainability

The fourth surveillance audit and reassessment of the Louisiana blue crab commercial trap fishery against the Audubon Nature Institute's Gulf United for Lasting Fisheries Responsible Fisheries Management (Gulf-RFM) Standard v1.2 was scheduled to take place during the fall of 2020. This audit and reassessment was granted a 6-month extension in order to increase the Fiscal Year (FY) budget for the Crab Promotion and Marketing fund, which is used by the Louisiana Crab Task Force to promote and support their fishery. The request to increase the FY21 budget came in response to the crab task force voting in favor to fund the Gulf-RFM fourth audit and reassessment in fall of 2020. The extension allowed for the Louisiana Legislation to grant the budget increase. The audit and reassessment is scheduled for spring 2021.

Stock Assessments

No formal stock assessment was completed for the Louisiana blue crab stock in 2020. Blue crab indices of abundance and model estimates were developed to assist with the two sustainability certification audits. Indices for adult and juvenile blue crab decreased slightly, while young of the year saw an increase. Model estimates indicated that the Louisiana blue crab is not overfished or experiencing overfishing.

Landings

All landings data presented in this section are preliminary and subject to change.

Blue crab landings from July – December in 2020 totaled 17.3 million pounds with a dockside value of approximately $24.4 million. Landings from this period in 2020 showed a decrease of nearly 31 percent when compared to the five-year average (2019-2015), while the dockside value decreased by 15 percent. Although landings show a significant decline when compared to the 5-year average, the average price per pound during this period was $1.41, or 19 percent, higher than the 5-year average. Overall 2020 landings for November and December are still incomplete and the reduction in landings and dockside value may be reduced once data has been compiled.

While COVID-19 negatively impacted all Louisiana commercial fisheries, the price for blue crab increased during 2020. The annual dockside value for the blue crab fishery in 2020 was nearly $55.7 million, with landings of 33.2 million pounds. While landings show an annual reduction of approximately 22 percent compared to the 5-year average, the annual dockside value in 2020 was less than 2 percent below the 5-year average. Average price per pound during 2020 was $1.68, which is 20 percent above the 5-year average.

Activities Related to Fisheries Dependent Data Collection

LA Creel

Through the LA Creel program, 6,404 recreational fishing trips, comprised of 16,689 individual anglers, were surveyed during 2020 Sample Weeks 27 – 52 (June 29, 2020 – January 3, 2021). Fifty-three different interviewers completed 738 of the 837 assignments as drawn during the sample period. The difference between the number of assignments worked and the number drawn is due in large part to Hurricane Laura which closed our Lake Charles office for several weeks and kept the majority of their LA Creel sample sites closed for even longer.

Fish kept by anglers and allowed to be viewed by interviewers are referred to as observation Type 1 fish. Fish in possession of the angler at the time of survey but not seen by the interviewer are classified as observation Type 2 fish. For the sample period as above, there were 46,639 Type 1's and 17,546 Type 2's, which equates to 73 percent of all fish in possession of the angler at the time of survey were identified and counted by staff. Type 1 fish numbers rebounded in the second half of 2020 after accounting for only 52 percent during the first half of the year due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Eighty-eight species were represented among Type 1 fish, including some shellfish. Spotted Seatrout was the most commonly counted species with 24,736. Red Drum was second with 6,223 counted and Sheepshead was the third most common with 3,454 counted.

Certain species returned to the water or caught and used for bait are also recorded. Those species are:

1. Black Drum
2. Gray Snapper

3. Gray Triggerfish
4. Greater Amberjack
5. King Mackerel
6. Largemouth Bass
7. Red Drum
8. Red Snapper
9. Sheepshead
10. Southern Flounder
11. Spanish Mackerel
12. Spotted Seatrout

Fish thrown back because they were under the legal minimum length are coded as Type 3. Fish caught and used as bait during the trip are coded as Type 4. Fish thrown back or given away prior to interview for any reason not covered by codes 3 and 4, such as too big, not wanted, etc., are coded as Type 5. Discard data is collected as per the Department's contract with GSMFC.

During the same time period as provided above, staff recorded 45,112 Type 3's, 0 Type 4's, and 5,628 Type 5's.

To generate harvest estimates, angler effort must be determined. LA Creel uses two separate surveys for the purposes of determining angler effort. One survey targets charter captains in which ten percent of the approximately 1,000 charter license holders and thirty percent of the approximately 140 charter license holders who also have a Recreational Offshore Landing Permit (ROLP) are drawn at random each sample week. The ROLP is a free permit that is required to possess tunas, billfish, swordfish, amberjacks, groupers, snappers, hinds, cobia, wahoo, and dolphinfish in Louisiana waters. The purpose of the ROLP is to increase the chances of drawing anglers who fish offshore for effort surveys. During a Red Snapper season (federal and/or state), one hundred percent of ROLP holding charter captains are drawn. Department staff attempt to contact drawn captains to ask about the number of charter trips taken during the sample week, how many paying customers where on each trip, and in what basin the trip occurred.

During 2020 Sample Weeks 1 – 26, a total of 3,323 captains were drawn, with replacement. Of those, a total of 2,235 captains (67%) completed the survey.

The other effort survey pertains to private anglers exclusively. Each sample week, not including weeks that fall within Red Snapper seasons, a total of 1,600 Louisiana recreational saltwater fishing license holders are drawn at random for participation in the effort survey. Twelve hundred of the 1,600 are derived by drawing 300 licensed anglers from each of the four regions La Creel uses to generate landings estimates. A separate random selection of 400 is made from ROLP holders. During Red Snapper seasons the number of private ROLP anglers drawn for the effort survey increases from 400 to 800. A service contracted by the Department is tasked with

contacting drawn license holders to ask questions, such as basin fished in, number of trips taken, about any saltwater fishing trips they may have taken during the sample week.

During 2020 Sample Weeks 27 – 52, a total of 46,800 Louisiana recreational saltwater fishing license holders were drawn, with replacement. Of those, a total of 23,607 (50%) completed the survey. The estimated number of saltwater fishing trips taken during the time period was 1.2 million.

The iPad application used for data entry of dockside surveys was to undergo a rebuild in the spring of 2019, but was pushed back to the spring of 2020. The contractor hired to perform the rebuild finished their work as scheduled and the rebuild was released to field staff in the fall of 2020. However, there were several issues that affected performance and reliability. Although the app remains on field iPads, a new contract is being developed for a vendor to provide ongoing maintenance support so faults can be corrected and improvements made as needed. There is no timeline for contract execution.

Age and Growth

Since the new BIOFIN agreement covers recreational species only, LDWF's Age and Growth Lab in Baton Rouge relies on the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) TIP sampling for commercial otoliths. The lab has processed recreational, commercial and independent otoliths during 2020. From July 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020, the lab has received 3,361 recreational marine fisheries otoliths and aged 2,305 of these otoliths. All otolith collection and ageing data has been transferred to GSMFC through the month of July. Staff are currently completing October-December otolith processing. The Age & Growth lab lost two biologists and one manager in 2020 which caused delays in processing and aging.

Otolith totals are as follows:

- Black Drum – 140
- Cobia – 2
- Gray Snapper – 94
- Greater Amberjack – 28
- Gray Triggerfish – 2
- King Mackerel – 0
- Red Drum – 795
- Red Snapper – 335
- Sheepshead – 273
- Southern Flounder – 151
- Spotted Seatrout – 1,560
- Striped Mullet – 0
- Tripletail - 18

- Vermilion Snapper – 9

Commercial Shrimp, Oyster, and Crab Seasons and Landings

Shrimp

The spring inshore shrimp season closed in portions of state inshore waters from the Mississippi/Louisiana state line westward to the eastern shore of South Pass of the Mississippi River on July 1, 2020 except for the following waters, the Louisiana portion of the Mississippi Sound and the open waters of Breton and Chandeleur Sounds. The remaining inshore state waters closed on July 6, 2020.

The fall inshore shrimp season was set by the LWFC and was to open statewide on August 10, 2020 except for the following areas: The Biloxi Marsh and the Mermentau River, which would open on August 24, 2020. After further independent sample data indicated that a large number of small white shrimp were present within the two closed areas, the LDWF Secretary, through authority designated by the LWFC, delayed opening these areas until September 11, 2020.

Shrimp landings (all species combined and heads on unless specified otherwise) between July – December 2020 totaled approximately 42.2 million pounds with a dockside value of $61.7 million. The 2020 shrimp landings during this period decreased by nearly 23 percent compared to the 5-year average, while the dockside value decreased by 24 percent. While overall numbers in 2020 were low compared to the five-year average, the shrimp average price per pound in this period was only 2 percent above the five-year average. Louisiana brown shrimp landings during the time period mentioned above in 2020 were above the 5-year average by approximately 4 percent; the dockside value of brown shrimp was 5 percent higher. The average price per pound for brown shrimp during this period was only $0.01 below the 5-year average. Brown shrimp annual landings in 2020 were the lowest on record since 2000 (when trip tickets became available). In a more recent comparison, brown shrimp landings were nearly 5 million pounds below 2019, the historic flood year, and 13 million pounds below the 5-year average, which includes low landings in 2019. Since 2000, only three years have had landings that were below 20 million pounds: 2010 (oil spill), 2019 (flooding), and 2020 (COVID). Similar to landings, the annual dockside value of brown shrimp was 35% below the 5-year average. Average annual price per pound in 2020 was higher than the previous 5 years.

White shrimp landings in 2020 also showed a fairly large reduction in landings from July – December in 2020. Landings from this period were 36.2 million pounds with a dockside value of $53.5 million. The 5-year average dockside landings for this period is 48.5 million pounds with a dockside value of $73.5 million; this is 25 percent higher than landings in 2020 and 27 percent higher than the 2020 dockside value. Average price per pound during this period was also below the 5-year average. Annual white shrimp landings in 2020 were 48.4 million pounds with a dockside value of $72.6 million, while the 5-year average is 65.2 million pounds and $102.1 million. This is a 26 percent decrease in annual landings and a drop in annual dockside

value of 29 percent. The average annual price per pound in 2020 was $0.06 below the 5-year average.

Blue Crab

Described in the Activities Associated with the Gulf of Mexico Crab Fisheries section above.

Oyster

The table below summarizes the 2020-2021 Louisiana public oyster ground season through December 2020. This year, the goal was to reduce harvest stress on the resource, allowing for a recovery after the 2019 flooding event and associated mortalities, while continuing to use thresholds from the shell budget model.

2020-2021 LDWF Oyster Season Summary (through Dec 28, 2020)						
CSA	**Area**	**Season Opening**	**Season Closure**	**Season/type**	**Days open**	**Harvest ***
1	**POSG East of Mississippi river and North of MRGO**	Closed				
	POSG East of Mississippi river and South of MRGO	Closed				
3	**Hackberry Bay**	16-Nov	16-Nov	Seed Harvest	1	525 barrels
		17-Nov	23-Nov	Sack Harvest	5	100 sack
	Little Lake, Barataria Bay	Closed				
5	**Deep Lake, Lake Chien, Lake Felicity and Lake Tambour**	Closed				
	Sister Lake, Lake Mechant	Closed				
	Bay Junop	16-Nov	16-Nov	Seed Harvest	1	4 barrels
		17-Nov	23-Nov	Sack Harvest	5	0
6	**Vermilion Bay**	Closed				
7	**Calcasieu Lake**	30-Oct	TBD	East Cove: Sack Harvest	42	0
		30-Oct	TBD	West Cove: Sack Harvest	42	0

*Harvest numbers are reported through LDWF surveys conducted during oyster fishing activities. Seed harvest reported in barrels, while market-sized oysters are reported in sacks. 1 barrel equals 2 sack of oysters.

Activities Related to Fisheries Independent Sampling

Stock Assessments

LDWF completed an update stock assessment of Striped Mullet in November of 2020 that will be presented to the LFWC for transmittal to the Louisiana Legislature in February 2021. This assessment uses a statistical catch-at-age model to estimate annual time-series of spawning stock biomass and fishing mortality rates. Time-series of fishery catches-at-age along with a relative abundance index developed from the LDWF fishery independent marine experimental gillnet survey are the primary model inputs. Based on results of this assessment, the Striped Mullet stock is currently not overfished or undergoing overfishing. LDWF began a stock assessment of Red Drum in late 2020 that will be completed in 2021.

Fisheries Research Lab

LDWF's Fisheries Research Lab in Grand Isle is the base for the state's offshore fisheries independent monitoring and research projects. The lab also serves as a point of contact for the public, visiting researchers, and educational programs. Some current activities at the lab are summarized below:

Southeast Area Monitoring and Assessment Program (SEAMAP)

LDWF typically participates in three SEAMAP surveys: Shrimp/Groundfish, Vertical Line, and Bottom Longline during the January through June time period. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Fall Shrimp/Groundfish survey was completed over five days with a reduced crew to allow for social distancing. Environmental and biological data were collected at 23 stations during the survey period. Vertical Line and Bottom Longline were conducted but at a very reduced rate. On these surveys, teams of three to nine fisheries biologists collect, process, and enter both catch data and environmental parameters, including a water column profile. These surveys are conducted from April through October with data management and reporting completed during the winter. During the reporting period, sampling and reporting were completed for 17 bottom longline and 22 vertical line stations. LDWF representatives participated in the Spring GSMFC meeting.

Twenty-five sets were completed by the LDWF bottom longline survey in Louisiana's territorial waters. Longline efforts resulted in four hundred and sixty-eight captures. Elasmobranchs composed 58.3 percent of the catch, teleosts composed 41.5 percent, and sea turtles composed the remaining 0.2 percent. The most frequently captured shark was the Blacktip Shark, comprising 72.4 percent of the total shark captures, followed by the Bull Shark (8.5 percent), and the Finetooth Shark (7.3 percent). The most frequently captured teleost was the Gafftopsail Catfish, comprising 76.3 percent of the teleost captures, followed by the Red Drum (16.5 percent). One-hundred-and-fifty-nine sharks were tagged with metal tags.

Black Drum Life History Study

In January 2021, the Fisheries Research Lab sampled 20 Black Drum ovaries from a total of 57 fish on bottom longline. In the spring of 2020, 210 ovary samples were histologically processed and analyzed, but the project was cut short by the pandemic and not enough data was collected to estimate spawning fraction and frequency. None of the 210 ovary samples yielded fecundity estimates. When combined with future samples, this data will determine if spawning stock biomass is an appropriate proxy for total egg production and will further inform managers for establishing regulations.

Sheepshead Life History Study

In February and March 2020, LDWF biologists sampled 84 Sheepshead ovaries. All 84 have been histologically processed and analyzed. However, the project was cut short due to the pandemic and not enough data was collected to estimate spawning fraction and frequency. There were four fecundity estimates that came from the 84 ovarian samples. When coupled with future samples, this data will determine if spawning stock biomass is an appropriate proxy for total egg production and will further inform managers for establishing regulations.

Offshore Red Drum Age Structure

During the 2018, 2019, and 2020 SEAMAP bottom longline survey, LDWF collected otoliths from 160, 269, and 30 Red Drum, respectively. The low sample size in 2020 was due to the pandemic precautions taken and sampling trips eliminated. Though the majority of those landings occurred outside of the spawning season during spring sampling, 64 gonads were collected from female Red Drum closer to the spawning season during summer and fall bottom longline sampling. Ages for Red Drum collected offshore ranged from 4 to 39 years. These data have been incorporated into a Louisiana stock assessment.

Southern Flounder Experimental Gear/Fyke Net Pilot Survey

Southern Flounder adults are not well represented in the current LDWF independent sampling. Gillnet and trammel net surveys have been sampling very low numbers of Southern Flounder and the trawl surveys have mainly caught juveniles. Because of this data gap, a new gear is currently being tested to potentially establish a new fisheries independent survey. A fyke net with two 8 foot (2.5m) wings and a 100 foot (30.5m) lead net with 1.5 inch (3.81cm) bar mesh is set perpendicular to the shoreline in order to capture flounder traveling parallel to the shore. Each site is randomly chosen from a group of pass/channel and marsh (backside of the barrier islands) sites. The start of the project was delayed to mid-November of 2020 due to a delay in Section 7 gear approval, but sampling began in November 2020 and continued through December 2020 and January of 2021. The gear testing was not very successful with only three Southern Flounder captured with the fyke net at a Grand Terre pass/channel site. This resulted in the reevaluation of the survey design. Initially the nets were to be soaked for a maximum of 24 hours with a check at the first 2 and 4 hours after the set. However, no flounder were caught during any of those soak durations. In late December it was decided to test a soak time of 48

hours which resulted in three Southern Flounder caught in the first attempt. Given these results, in January the soak times were expanded to 72 hours with a check at 24 and 48 hours. Despite weather making this problematic, 72 hour soaks were completed for multiple sites, but it was during neap tide which may have had an effect on flounder movement. The eastern barrier island sites were also problematic due to their remote locations which made them very time consuming and difficult to access. It was decided to replace the eastern Barataria Bay barrier island sites with more sites on the western barrier islands (Elmer's, Grand Isle, and Grand Terre Islands). We have learned quite a bit from our initial attempts to utilize this experimental gear and will continue to tweak the survey design to improve our sampling numbers next Fall during the Southern Flounder migration offshore.

Artificial Reef Monitoring for Sportfish

In order to enhance the monitoring of sportfish species on artificial reef structures, LDWF biologists from the Grand Isle Fisheries Research Lab are using a combination of vertical line sampling, video sampling, and diver surveys. Approximately ten percent of the artificial reef structures in the LDWF Offshore Artificial Reef Program were randomly selected and assigned to the 2020 vertical line survey. Due to an active tropical storm season and COVID-19 restrictions, vertical line sampling was limited to three sampling days within the reporting period. A total of 11 artificial reef structures were sampled using both hooked vertical line and camera gear, with 24 of 31 video surveys meeting visibility requirements for further analysis. Vertical line catch data was entered into the database and video analysis is pending.

Additionally, LDWF included a roving diver survey component into the LDWF artificial reef monitoring effort. While LDWF has previously conducted dive surveys at standing platforms, no dive surveys had been conducted at artificial reef sites prior to 2018. Biologists surveyed finfish species at the artificial reef site and the nearest standing platform. During this reporting period sampling opportunities were limited due to COVID-19 restrictions as well as the many tropical systems that impacted the area. No dive surveys were able to be accomplished during the timeframe. All data and video review were already completed for previous surveys. Thus far, in total 50 species from 33 genera have been identified and recorded. Planning has begun for 2021 sampling.

Shrimp Sampling

LDWF conducts fisheries independent sampling for shrimp year-round statewide using three trawl sizes: 6-foot, 16-foot, and 20-foot. The 6-foot trawl samples gather data in the interior marshes of Louisiana and are used to set the opening and closing dates for the spring inshore shrimp season. These samples are typically taken throughout April and again at the end of June and beginning of July, depending on environmental conditions. From July – December 2020, a total of 6 6-foot trawl samples were conducted. These samples were collected as a component of a monitoring agreement with another state agency and not for monitoring resource for a closure; the closure date had been determined using previously collected data. In 2020, a total of 305 6-foot trawl samples were conducted statewide.

The 16-foot trawl sampling data are used to constantly monitor the state shrimp resource, along with other species of interest, and set the opening date for the fall inshore shrimp season. During July – December 2020, a total of 813 16-foot trawl samples were conducted. These data were used to open state inshore waters for the 2020 fall inshore shrimp season, as well as, monitor statewide resources monthly. A total of 1,718 16-foot trawl samples were conducted statewide in 2020.

The 20-foot trawl sampling data are used to monitor shrimp resources in state offshore waters. A total of 114 20-foot trawl samples were conducted during July - December 2020. Data collected in the 20-foot trawl samples were used to open the portions of state offshore waters described earlier. These samples are primarily taken during the winter and spring months. There was a total of 303 20-foot trawl samples conducted statewide in 2020.

Crab Sampling

Fisheries independent sampling data for blue crab is collected with 16-foot trawls. These data are used to calculate juvenile and adult blue crab indices of abundance for the blue crab stock assessment.

Oyster Sampling

LDWF conducts fisheries independent sampling for oysters year-round, statewide, using two gear types (24-inch hand dredge and square-meter frame: m2) within the public oyster areas, and analyzes the data collected to determine overall health of the oyster resource throughout the year. Dredge sampling occurred monthly throughout the year, except the month of July, on 74 sampling stations located within the public oyster areas from the Louisiana/Mississippi state line to the western shore of Calcasieu Lake. In addition, six dredge stations in Sabine Lake were sampled quarterly during the reporting period. Two replicates were taken per station to monitor size frequency, presence and/or absence of resource, and mortality. A total of 821 dredge samples were collected between July 1 and December 31, 2020.

Sampling for the 2020 public oyster ground stock assessment was completed in July. LDWF biologists performed quantitative evaluations using SCUBA equipment to collect oyster samples from within a square-meter frame as part of regular stock assessment sampling. At each station, five replicate square-meter samples were collected and data were combined to produce average density of spat, seed, and sack oysters per meter. Oyster density was multiplied by the associated reef acreage to obtain an estimate of total oyster population size. Ninety-eight square-meter sites were sampling resulting in a total of 490 samples being collected. The 2020 oyster stock assessment showed approximately 362,783 barrels of oysters were present, representing an increase of 45 percent over the 2019 assessment, which was the lowest on record. This increase is attributed mainly to the rebound of market sized oysters in Calcasieu Lake which increased 145 percent from 2019 assessment. Calcasieu seed and market-sized oysters accounted for 80 percent of 2020 estimated stock availability. The estimated oyster stock in CSA 1 North and CSA 1 South (all public oyster water bottoms east of the

Mississippi River) decreased 7 percent compared to 2019 and is at an all-time low estimated at approximately 10,400 barrels of oysters (bbls).

Sabine Lake is closed to oyster harvest due to Act 159 (RS2018). Dredge sampling is conducted quarterly and square-meter sampling is conducted every other year, with the next sampling scheduled for July 2021. Additional sampling may occur as needed to monitor for possible mortality events.

Additional square-meter sampling was conducted in the Lake Pontchartrain and Barataria Basins in September/October 2020 as provided for under an agreement with the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA). In the Barataria Basin, additional sampling was conducted on private oyster leases per the CPRA agreement to better characterize the basin.

LDWF uses oyster stock assessment information to make recommendations regarding setting oyster seasons to the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission. Seasons can open as early as mid-September and can run through the end of April of the following year. Seasons may be closed or delayed if biological concerns or enforcement problems are encountered.

Finfish Sampling

LDWF conducts biological monitoring for finfish statewide in the coastal, nearshore, and offshore areas of Louisiana. During fiscal year 2019-20, the fisheries independent finfish sampling program collected 953 gillnet samples, 1,271 seine samples, and 271 trammel net samples for a 99.3 percent overall completion rate statewide. Electro-fishing samples (159 total) are being conducted within some Louisiana estuarine environments to provide fisheries data to CPRA.

Other State Activities

Finfish Seasons and Regulations

Louisiana waters opened to the commercial harvest of King Mackerel on July 1, 2020, concurrent with an opening in federal waters.

Louisiana waters reopened to the commercial harvest of Blacktip and small coastal sharks on July 1, 2020 after a seasonal closure from April 1, 2020 through June 30, 2020.

Louisiana waters reopened to the recreational harvest of Greater Amberjack on August 1, 2020 through October 31, 2020 after a seasonal closure from June 1, 2020 through July 31, 2020.

Louisiana waters reopened to the commercial harvest of Gray Triggerfish on August 1, 2020 after a seasonal closure from June 1, 2020 through July 31, 2020.

Louisiana waters opened to the commercial harvest of Florida Pompano with strike nets from

August 1, 2020 through October 31, 2020.

Louisiana and federal waters closed to the recreational harvest of Red Snapper on August 13, 2020 and reopened for the Labor Day weekend from September 4, 2020 through September 7, 2020.

Louisiana waters reopened to the recreational harvest of Gray Triggerfish from September 1, 2020 through October 26, 2020.

A final rule to adjust the minimum length limit of recreationally and commercially harvested Cobia in Louisiana waters from 33 to 36 inches fork length published on October 20, 2020.

A final rule to modify the commercial trip limit of Greater Amberjack harvested in Louisiana waters from 1,500 to 1,000 pounds gutted weight with an allowance for the Secretary of the Department to adjust commercial trip limits if so notified by the Regional Administrator of NOAA Fisheries published on October 20, 2020.

Louisiana waters opened to the commercial harvest of Striped Mullet with strike nets on October 19, 2020.

Louisiana waters closed to the commercial harvest of Gulf Menhaden for reduction on November 1, 2020.

Louisiana waters opened to the harvest of bait Gulf Menhaden on November 2, 2020 and closed on December 1, 2020.

Louisiana waters closed to the recreational harvest of Gag on December 31, 2020.

Louisiana waters closed to the commercial harvest of Spotted Seatrout on December 31, 2020.

Marine Mammal and Sea Turtle Monitoring

The marine mammal stranding program and the sea turtle stranding program are administered and coordinated directly by NOAA in Louisiana.

Michael C. Voisin Oyster Hatchery

The Michael C. Voisin Oyster Hatchery located on Grand Isle, Louisiana, is operated through a collaborative effort between LDWF and Louisiana Sea Grant (LSG). LSG assists with facility operations, provides technical guidance, manages the LSG Breeding Program, and supports the oyster industry through extension, outreach, and research projects. LDWF focuses on the production of diploid and triploid seed and larvae for state restoration projects, as well as commercial sales to support the industry.

Fall 2020 Season

The Fall 2020 hatchery production focused on producing diploid pediveligers and seed for LDWF sales. By July 2020, approximately 17 million diploid pediveligers were set on microcultch to produce diploid seed for sales. Since July 1st 2020, 1,090,338 diploid seed was sold to oyster farmers for LDWF sales.

Due to staffing shortages with COVID-19 restrictions the hatchery could not run at full capacity for most of the season. Therefore, less larvae were produced for sales and restoration. There was also an unknown issue with the tetraploids and egg/water quality that prevented the hatchery from supplying triploid pediveligers larvae. On top of these restrictions and limitations, the Michael C. Voisin Oyster Hatchery had six hurricane/storm evacuations. Grand Isle was evacuated for the following storms: Cristobal, Marco and Laura (back-to-back), Sally, Beta, Delta, and Zeta. During these storms, 23.8 million diploid eggs, 9.56 million d-stage larvae, and approximately 18 million veliger larvae were lost from these evacuations.

In addition to oyster larvae, the Michael C. Voisin Oyster Hatchery also produces all of its own marine microalgae to feed to the oyster larvae. In the Fall 2020 season, the microalgae began experiencing water quality issues. Different culprits were looked into such as: water quality (i.e. vibrio, bacteria, toxins, and heavy metals), filtration issues, and contamination. It was also determined that our LED lighting may not be optimal for the growth of our marine microalgae. Another lighting solution was researched and is set to begin a small trial in the beginning of the 2021 season. In conjunction, we could not pin point the water quality issue in the bags. Methods to further test water quality contaminants in house are being researched and will be implemented in the 2021 season. As mentioned with the larvae, there were six storm evacuations and this led to high mortality of algae bags throughout the fall 2020 season. Algae production continued in the Stock Room and Algal Production Room (APR) throughout the fall and early winter using Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) until it was shut down in late November to begin off-season maintenance.

Spat on Shell Projects

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Michael C. Voisin Oyster Hatchery produces diploid oyster larvae for setting on shell, which is then referred to as spat-on-shell and is used for State oyster restoration projects. To prepare for setting on shell, mesh bags that are three feet long are filled with recycled oyster shell and are called shellbags. Recycled shell is obtained through a collaboration with the Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana's Oyster Shell Recycling Program.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, no spat-on-shell restoration was performed during the Fall 2020 season. In October of 2020, a remote setting video demonstration was filmed by Louisiana SeaGrant in conjunction with Louisiana Fisheries Forward to provide a remote setting workshop while maintaining COVID-19 distance requirements. This video features the LSG Hatchery Director Dr. Brian Callam and Emily Baukema, a Biologist III and Spat-On-Shell Coordinator with

LDWF. The video goes over how to prepare shellbags/setting material, set-up setting tanks, and setting larvae in these tanks for restoration purposes. Three in person demonstrations were planned for the Fall season but due to the COVID-19 restrictions, the video was produced instead to encourage spat-on-shell restoration for oyster farmers and anyone with means to do so. The video is still going through the final stages of editing before being released to the public.

Boating and Non-Boating Access Projects

LDWF has several new and ongoing boating and fishing access projects, which are funded through the Sport Fish Restoration Program and administered by local entities. LDWF accepts project proposals on an annual basis and evaluates them based on ranking criteria and available funding. Current projects include:

- Port Sulphur Civic Drive Fishing Pier – construction completed
- St. Tammany Fishing Pier – construction contract has been awarded
- New Iberia Boat Slips Boating Infrastructure Grant Program – construction contract has been awarded
- City of New Iberia CVA Sanitation Facility – design phase
- Indian Creek Recreation Area Fishing Pier – construction phase
- City of New Iberia Civic Center Marina Phase I – design phase
- Marina Del Ray Renovations – permitting phase
- City of New Iberia Civic Center Marina Phase II – permitting phase
- Town of Leonville Boat Launch Improvements – design phase
- Town of Madisonville Boat Launch Improvements – construction contract awarded

Additional boating and fishing access projects were recently approved by the Louisiana Trustee Implementation Group for funding from the *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill and are currently being designed and implemented.

Seafood Industry Professionalism

LDWF seeks to give the state's seafood industry access and training to the latest trends, requirements, and technology in their profession, as expert training will yield higher quality products and give the seafood community a competitive advantage in the marketplace. Since the launch of Louisiana Fisheries Forward: Advancing Our Seafood Industry, this one-of-a-kind professionalism program for Louisiana's commercial fishing industry has received inquiry, acknowledgement, and recognition throughout many facets of local, regional, national and global fishing industries.

The Louisiana Fisheries Forward (LFF) contract was extended for one year beginning January 2020. During this contract period an educational oyster remote setting whiteboard video was created along with a corresponding fact sheet. Additionally, during the second half of 2020 fact sheets were developed on maintaining the quality of catfish after the catch, characterizing the black drum fishery, and the proper handling of harvested alligators. A report characterizing the

graying of the Louisiana commercial fishing fleet was completed and uploaded to the LFF website as well.

In the 3rd and 4th quarters of 2020 the Louisiana Fisheries Forward team continued to develop COVID-19 related materials. These informational materials focused on safety guidelines for commercial fishermen as well as seafood processors during the pandemic.

Aquatic Plant Control

Invasive aquatic vegetation continues to threaten access and recreational activities throughout Louisiana. Fall surveys conducted from October-November 2020 revealed an estimated 248,211 acres of nuisance aquatic plant coverage, mostly composed of water hyacinth (61,703 acres) and giant salvinia (49,803 acres). Fall surveys are conducted at the end of the growing season and usually reflect slightly higher coverage than spring surveys conducted at the beginning of the growing season. From July 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020, LDWF applied EPA-approved herbicides to 12,554 acres of nuisance vegetation across the state. The majority of plant control efforts focused on giant salvinia and water hyacinth, with 4,978 and 4,851 acres treated, respectively. A major area of focus was Black and Clear Lakes in Natchitoches Parish, both of which suffer from a chronic giant salvinia infestation. A total of 879 acres of giant salvinia were treated on Black and Clear Lakes. LDWF treated approximately 495 acres of water hyacinth in the Atchafalaya Basin.
Winter temperatures and isolated flood events have the potential to be major factors in determining the severity of aquatic vegetation impacts, especially giant salvinia, in Louisiana. Occurrences of below freezing temperatures, for the duration of several hours, provide excellent control of aquatic vegetation. The lack of below freezing temperatures experienced last winter, and a decreased amount of contractor spraying due to budget constraints, has led to higher than usual fall aquatic vegetation coverage. Drawdowns were conducted on several waterbodies throughout Louisiana, but results were less than favorable due to numerous major weather events. Vegetation assessments will be made in the spring, and herbicide applications will be made accordingly.

Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission
71st Annual Spring Meeting
Technical Coordinating Committee
Wednesday, 17 March 2021
Virtual Meeting

1. Emerging Issues Pertinent to Gulf of Mexico Fisheries.

Proposed Regulatory Changes

Statewide Recreational Fishing

Proposed changes to regulations - Aransas Bay Crab Fishing

- Allow recreational use of up to three crab traps/license in previously closed areas of Aransas County.
- Crab traps must be securely tethered to a fixed object (dock, pier, or bulkhead), no open-water traps.

Proposed changes to regulations - Clarify Red Snapper bag limit in federal waters

- When federal waters are open for private recreational fishing:
  a) Federal bag limit is 2 fish
  b) Red Snapper caught in federal waters count towards state bag limit

Freeze Event – February 2021

The February 2021 winter storms that gripped all of Texas also took a toll on Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) facilities, operations, and staff, as well as the natural resources of this state.

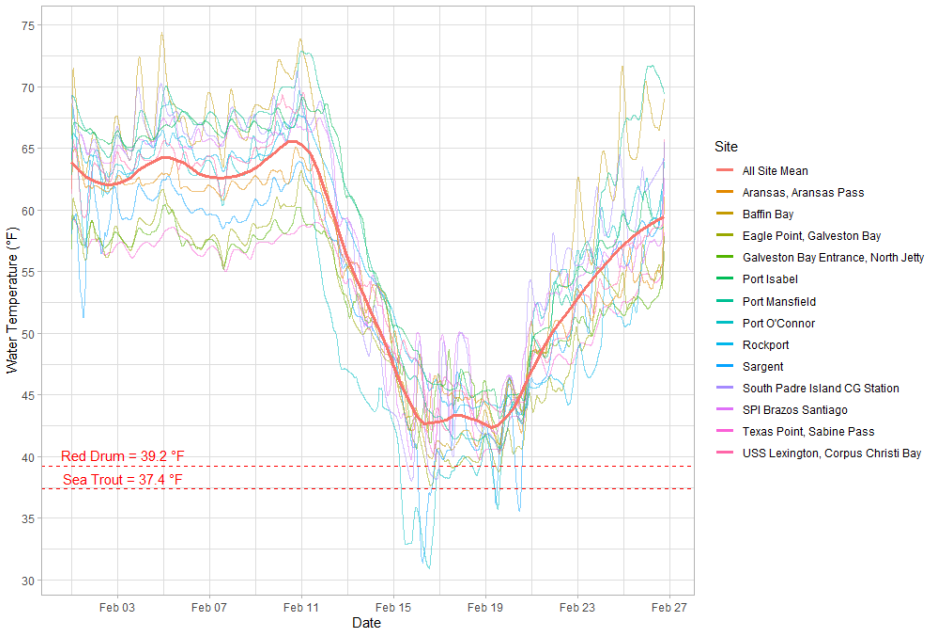

Figure 1. Texas coastwide water temperatures during 2021 freeze event.

Fish – Efforts to quantify the fish mortality event related to the frontal passage are ongoing. Information provided for report is considered preliminary, subject to change. Six bay systems most impacted by the event are: East Matagorda Bay, Matagorda Bay, San Antonio Bay, Aransas Bay, Upper Laguna Madre, and Lower Laguna Madre. Within these bay systems, an estimated 2 million fish estimated to have died. Less than 15 species were impacted to date. The majority of fish impacted were non-recreational species including silver perch, mullet, hardhead catfish, and other forging fish. Recreationally important species included red drum, black drum, spotted seatrout, sheepshead, grey snapper, red snapper, snook, and tarpon. Proportionally, these species accounted for less than 10% of the total mortality event. Along the Gulf of Mexico, staff fielded reports of fish kills along the Gulf Beach including Mustang Island, Matagorda Island and Boca Chica Beach.

Turtles - According to preliminary totals of cold stunned turtle recoveries provided by the Texas Coordinator of the Sea Turtle Stranding and Salvage Network (STSSN) Dr. Donna Shaver, 11,499 sea turtles have been reported along the entire Texas coast during the Winter Storm Uri event as of February 25th, 2021. This event's total is three times higher than Texas' last major winter cold stun event in 2017-2018 with 3,702 turtles reported and doubles the U.S. record held in Florida of 4,613 cold stunned turtles reported back in 2010. To date, 4,257 of the 11,499 cold stunned sea turtles reported from this event have been released into the Gulf of Mexico offshore alive, with many still held in rehabilitation facilities by TPWD agency partner organizations. Additional data will be provided by the National Park Service's Division of Sea Turtle Science and Recovery, the lead organization of the STSSN, as numbers become available. Please contact Dr. Shaver directly for further information or to formally cite this information. "

Management Action – Fishing closure for thermal refuge areas for 48 hours. Requested voluntary suspension of barge traffic from the Gulf Intracoastal Canal Association (GICA), which resulted in the voluntary and temporary suspension of tow operations in the Intracoastal Waterway (ICWW) from the John F. Kennedy Memorial Causeway south to Port Isabel beginning February 15, 2021 at 12:00 a.m. Concerns for barges transiting the section of the ICWW between Rockport and Ingleside also prompted public requests to divert barge traffic to the Lydia Ann Channel. GICA leadership responded to the appeal by issuing a request for barge operators to avoid transiting that section of the ICWW during the cold period.

Future Plans – Assessments concluding the weekend of Feb 27th will provide estimates of the magnitude of this event in terms of numbers of fish that died. Routine monitoring (gill nets, bay trawls, and bag seines) continues through the spring and early summer (April through June) will provide a benchmark of this event to against sampling efforts from previous years. For many of the key game species, data will start coming in with spring gill net sampling. Additionally, as a part of year-round survey efforts, biologists will soon begin collecting information from recreational anglers at boat ramps. These data will provide additional information regarding the impacts of this cold-weather event.

Oyster Updates

Commercial Oyster Mariculture (COM) Update

In 2019, the 86th Texas Legislature authorized the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission (TPWC) to create a Texas Oyster Mariculture Program. The TPWC adopted rules in May 2020, and the department continued work to develop the permitting system and guidelines to be able to accept mariculture applications in the fall of 2020. Significant program developments include the following:

- Development of program processes, procedures, guidance documents, application forms and online resources including an online permitting portal that will go live later this year.
- Coordination with other state and federal agencies regarding required permits for various aspects of the program.
- Established biosecurity protocols for the importation of out-of-state oyster seed to protect wild oyster genetics.
- Development of a standardized permit application and natural resource survey protocol to ensure no negative impacts to natural resources.
- Creation of a GIS tool that allows for the visualization of the user conflicts and natural resources around the proposed site.

The first two applications were received in January 2021, one for an 8-acre farm in Copano Bay, and the other for a 10-acre farm in East Galveston Bay. Additionally, coastal fisheries staff are in the pre-application consultation phase with nine other prospective applicants.

Oyster Shell Recovery

HB51 (85th Legislative Session, 2017) included a requirement that dealers purchasing oysters harvested from Texas bay systems return 30%, by volume, of the total quantity of oysters harvested during the previous license year. In lieu of returning this cultch back to public oyster reefs, dealers can pay the department a sack fee that will allow the department to return an equivalent amount to public reefs. The current amount of this fee per sack is $1.32 (has not been increased). The license year 2020 landings were 878,503 sacks (110 lbs/sack) of oysters reported to the Texas Commercial Landings Program (Sep 2019 - Jul 2020). In 2020, dealers placed 3,220 cubic yards of cultch; however, due to COVID-19, some dealers have had issues putting out cultch or paying their LY2020 dues, so we are working with them as much as possible to accommodate their issues. So far in LY21, 362,443 sacks have been harvested (Sep – Dec), and $35,969 in fees have been paid. The program in total, since 2018, has generated $776,347 toward cultch plants and 19,516 cubic yards of cultch have been placed in the bays by oyster dealers (Table 1).

Table 1. Summary of Oyster Shell Recovery program (LY2018-2021)

				Final Disposition	
LY (Sep-Aug)	**Sacks Harvested**	**Cultch Due (cu yds)**	**Fee in lieu of cultch**	**Cultch (cu yds)**	**Fee ($)**
2018	564,787	9,805.3	$745,518	6,590.6	$241,815
2019	754,565	13,100.0	$996,025	9,705.3	$205,972
2020	878,503	15,251.7	$1,159,624	3,220.0	$292,591
*2021	362,443	6,292.4	$478,424	0	$35,969
Total				19,516	$776,347

*as of January 2021

Oyster Shell Recovery Cultch Placement

Table 2. Total Restored Acreage and (Cubic Yards) of Dealer-Placed Cultch per Bay System per year.

Year	Galveston Bay	Matagorda Bay	Aransas Bay	Total Acreage
2018	2.46 (1,985)	5.7 (4,605)	0 (0)	8.16 (6,591)
2019	13.69 (9,213)	2.84 (2,292)	0 (0)	12.03 (9,705)
2020	3.99 (3,220)	0 (0)	2.3 (915)	3.99 (3,220)
Total	20.14 (14,419)	8.54 (6,897)	2.3 (915)	**24.18 (19,516)**

Texas Oyster Landings

Oyster landings in LY2020 were greater than landings in the last five years. There was some apparent reduction of catch at the end of the 2020 season most likely due to COVID. The LY2021 oyster season has been relatively average so far (first 60 days), as compared to the previous 4 years (Figure 2). At the end of the first 60 days, LY2021 saw about 50,000 less sacks landed than LY2020, but was similar to cumulative sacks landed at that point in LY2019. In LY2019, there were several areas closed to harvest in December due to rainfall/runoff, which resulted in a decrease in trips made in December, possibly explaining some reduction in harvest (Figure 2). TPWD Targeted oyster sampling in January 2021 did show that some bays fell below the threshold of both CPUE of market size oysters and the percentage of undersized oysters, so some bays were closed in late January.

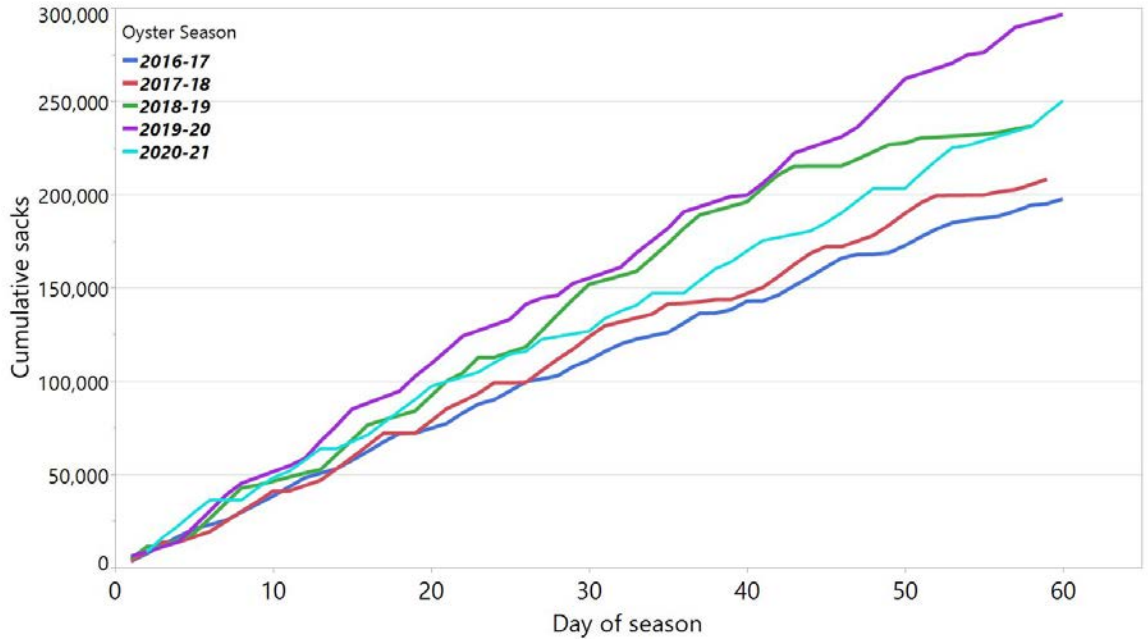

Figure 2. Cumulative number of sacks collected by the Texas oyster industry during the first 60 days (Nov-Dec) of the last 5 years of the public season.

Southern Flounder

The Southern Flounder is highly sought after in both the recreational and commercial fisheries in Texas. TPWD fishery-independent catch rate data show pronounced long-term (past 20 years) declining trends in all life stages, from juvenile recruits to adults. For example, recent gill net survey data for both the fall and the spring showed decreases in catch rates of 60% or greater compared to historic long-term trends.

Based on these long-term downward trends in abundance and declining commercial and recreational landings, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission approved regulation changes in May 2020 designed to increase spawning biomass. The recent changes were implemented in a phased approach. The change in the increased minimum length limit from 14 inches to 15 inches was implemented on September 1, 2020, and the second part of the action will close the season for both commercial and recreational harvest from November 1 - December 14 each year beginning on Sept. 1, 2021. The 15-inch minimum size limit allows larger numbers of females to reach sexual maturity prior to being harvested and the closed season during the fall migration is projected to increase escapement of females to the Gulf for spawning, therefore increasing recruitment.

Fall 2020 gill net surveys, which took place after the 15-inch minimum size took effect, showed increased abundance as compared to the previous three fall sampling years. This may reflect a combination of better than normal recruitment in 2018. The full benefits from these regulation changes will take a generation (approximately 6 years) to be realized.

2. Activities Related to Artificial Reef Programs.

All travel and non-essential meetings and field work has been placed on hold due to COVID-19.

Rigs-to-Reefs

The Reef Program did not receive any donations to the program between September 2020 and January 2021.

- A Material Donation Agreement (MDA) was signed between the Artificial Reef Program (ARP) and Fieldwood Energy, LLC for the deployment of the 8-pile platform HI-A-446 A at the HI-A-466 reef site. The donation agreement was finalized at $180,000.
- The 8-pile platform PN-956 B is targeted for a Spring 2021 deployment. A signed MDA between Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line, Company, LLC and the ARP agrees to a $230,000 donation amount for the structure to be towed and deployed at the PN-A-42 reef site.
- ARP received reauthorization construction permits from the USA Army Corps of Engineers for the HI-A-555 (2 October 2020), PS-1122 (20 November), HI-A-466 (10 December), and PN-A-42 (14 January). Each one of these reef sites has a proposed deployment project and the construction/deployment must be completed within two years from the acceptance date of the reauthorization.

- ARP met with Anadarko staff in September to discuss the potential reefing of 3 spar floating platforms off the Texas shelf. Anadarko will be removing the platforms between 2022-2025. We have identified a potential reef site on the continental shelf in over 400ft of water and the company is conducting a sidescan and archaeology survey for the USACOE reef permit application. Each spar is approximately 450ft long with a 100ft diameter.

Ships-to-Reefs / Nearshore Reefs

- ARP staff inspected a steel-hulled sailboat that was donated to the nearshore program by constituent in Freeport, TX. The "Cetus" was deployed October 2020 at Kate's Reef off Galveston. All work will be completed without any funding from, or liability on, TPWD.

Nearshore Reefs

- Laredo Construction LLC, in partnership with Atlantis Marine Habitats, was awarded the reefing contract for Big Man's, Kate's and Sabine Nearshore Reefs. Work is set to be completed by August 2021, with a total cost of $2.7m. Most of the funding is coming from Hurricane mitigation funds, with an additional $559,000 from CCA. The contract will place 1,150 pyramids and 255 low relief plates at the reefs. Due to COVID and weather compilations, the project is slightly behind schedule, but Laredo still hopes to have all materials deployed in August 2021.
- ARP staff submitted three reauthorization permits to the USACOE: GA-220, Kate's Reef; GA-220, Big Man's Reef; and HI-20, Sabine Nearshore. Each of these reef sites is part of the Laredo contract referenced above to deployed roughly 250 reef plates and 1100 pyramids between the three locations.
- A Memorandum of Agreement was drafted between TPWD and UT-RGV for conducting a side-scan survey of the entire PS-1105 Rio Grande Valley Nearshore Reef and is awaiting signature. Dr. Rick Kline will work with graduate students to complete the survey and provide hydrographic training to students. Training will also include the use of underwater scooters and the program's Outlander ROV.

Grants / Administration

- The Artificial Reef Program was awarded funding for a project under the Texas Coastal Management Program (CMP) Grant Cycle 26. This funding will allow for the deployment of 100 pyramids and 100 low-relief reef plates at the Sabine Nearshore Reef Site (HI-20). Funding will be available beginning October 2021.
- The GLO Asset Removal team and the ARP continue communications to discuss the planned removal of the old Queen Isabella Causeway off Port Isabel/South Padre Island. The GLO has ownership of the bridge and it must be removed at some point soon. Estimates show that it may require $10-12m for removal (and reefing).

Resource Sampling / Harvest Monitoring Updates / Science

- The ARP completed a summary report for the biological monitoring from 1990 – 2019. Shipley, J. Brooke, Katie A. O'Shaughnessy, Allison Baldwin, and J. Dale Shively. 2020. The Texas Artificial Reef Program: Fish Composition and Monitoring Efforts from 1993 – 2018. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Coastal Fisheries Division. Management Data Series No. 301. 68 pp.

3. Activities Associated with the Gulf of Mexico Crab Fisheries.

Abandoned Crab Trap Removal Program

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) closed state waters to crabbing (with crab traps) 10 consecutive days beginning February 19. However, due to the unprecedented winter weather that impacted the entire state, TPWD asked volunteers to delay any trap removals until February 22nd to allow the crabbers to have additional time to remove their gear, as well as improving the efficiency of picking up traps in better weather. During this time, crab traps encountered are classified as "abandoned" and may be removed by Law Enforcement personnel, Department staff, and any member of the general public. Since the beginning of this coordinated effort to remove abandoned traps from the bays in 2002, over 38,000 traps have been removed with the help of nearly 4,000 volunteers coastwide.

Blue Crab Updates

Based on TPWD fishery independent catch rates, coastwide relative abundance of blue crabs has shown significant declines since the 1980's. This trend is generally consistent in all Texas bays. While these trends have largely stabilized since the early 2010's, and gill net surveys suggest increased catch rates of adult blue crabs in recent years, bag seine and bay trawl catch-rates suggest that juvenile abundance continues to remain low (as low as 21% of the average 1980's catch-rate in the bay trawl surveys; Figure. 3). Further analysis of this data suggests that juvenile mortality is increasing and thus the population is not seeing an overall increase in abundance.

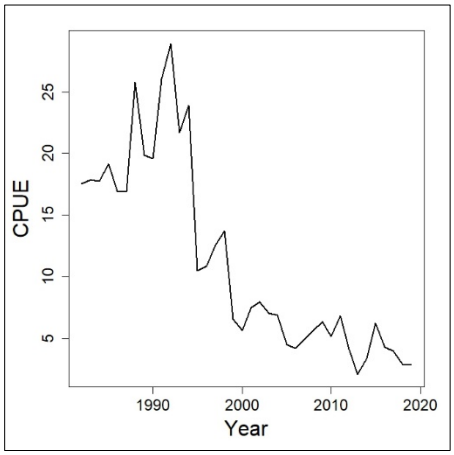

Figure 3. Blue crab catch-per-unit-effort (CPUE) in bay trawls.

Commercial Landings

Total commercial landings of blue crab have significantly declined since the 1980's. This is, in part, due to commercial license buy-back that began in the late-1990's. When adjusted for effort, landings of blue crab (per trip) in Texas have been relatively consistent over the last five years (2016-2020), though a slight decreasing trend is evident since the most recent peak in 2016 (Figure 4). In 2019, total landings of blue crab in Texas were 3,912,577 lbs. which is 31% lower than the 37-year annual average of 5,672,167 lbs; however, landings in 2019 were actually 2% greater than the previous 20-yr annual average (1999-2018: after buyback), and an increase of 17% from the previous 10-yr average. With reduced commercial landings and high demand, value has shown an increasing trend since 2014. The value of total landings in Texas in 2019 was $5,529,154 which is 57% higher than the 20-year average of $3,505,524, and still 40% higher than the 10-year annual average value. In 2020 (preliminary), both landings and value decreased slightly from 2019, but were almost identical to 2018 (pre-covid), so blue crab landings did not appear to be significantly affected by COVID-19 impacts (Figure 5).

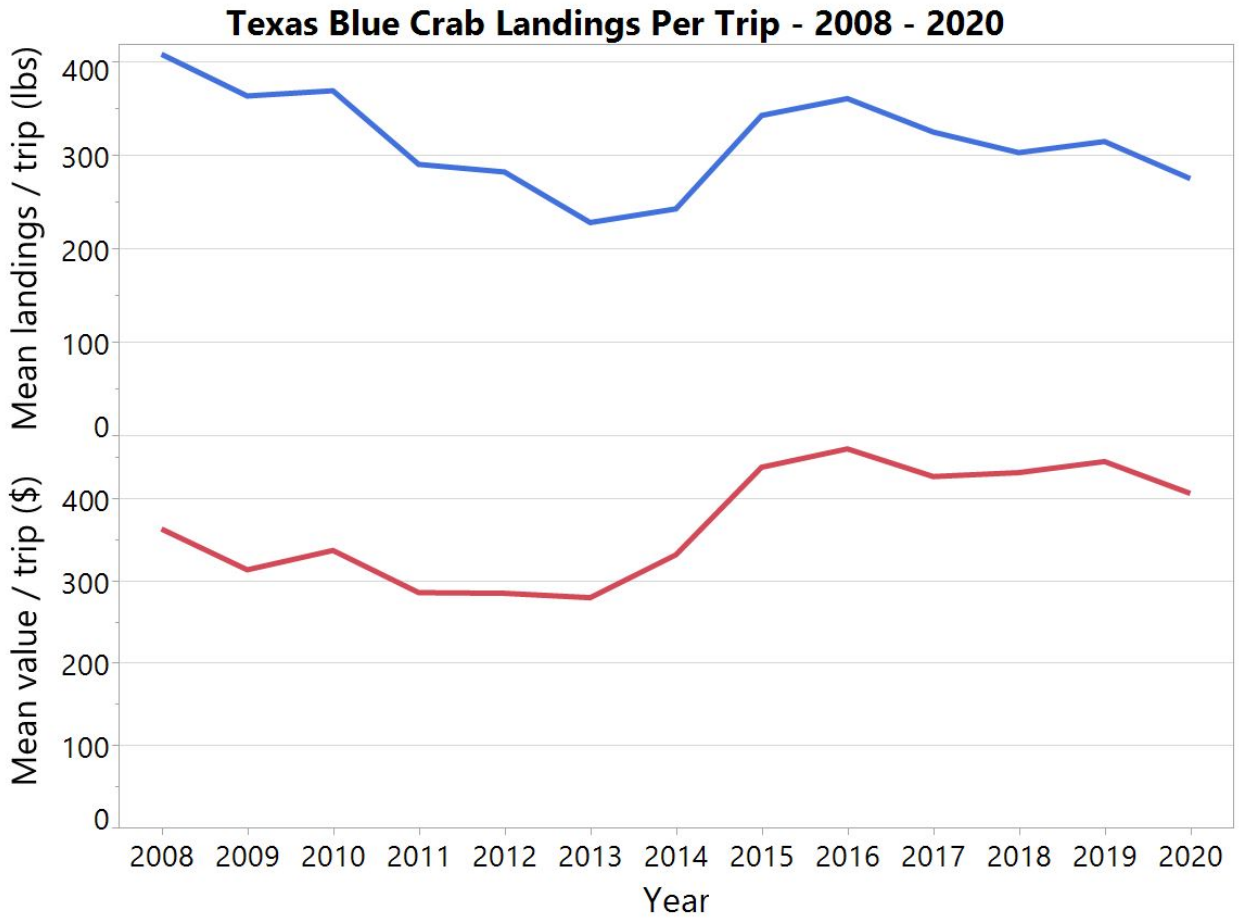

Figure 4. Mean Landings and value of blue crab per trip.

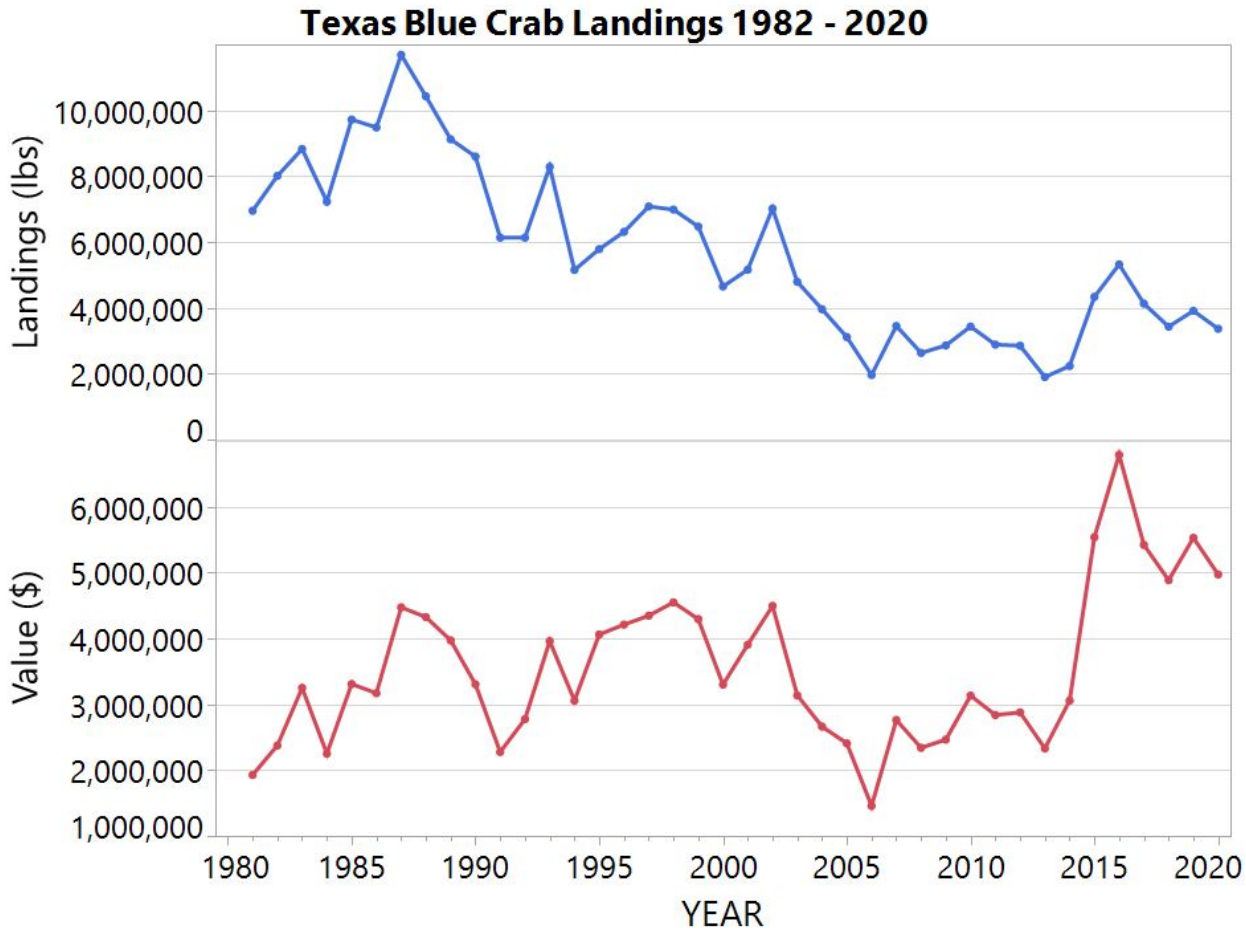

Figure 5. Total annual landings and value of blue crab in Texas.

Regulatory Proposals

Current Regulations for Blue Crab

Recreational – no bag limit, 5-inch minimum length, no more than 5% by number of undersized Blue Crab may be possessed for bait. May not possess egg-bearing females or female crab with abdominal apron removed. Only 6 crab traps at a time may be fished for non-commercial purposes.

Commercial – same regulations as recreational, but commercial license holders may fish a maximum of 200 crab traps at a time. A commercial finfish license holder may fish 20 crab traps at a time for the use of bait on trotlines.

Proposed changes to regulations - Aransas Bay Crab Fishing

- Allow recreational use only of up to three crab traps in areas of Aransas County
- Securely tethered to a fixed object (dock, pier, or bulkhead), no open-water traps

4. Activities Related to Fisheries Dependent Data Collection.

Fishery-Dependent harvest data collection (creel surveys)

During the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's 2019-20 creel survey year (15 May 2019 through 14 May 2020), 1,034 surveys were conducted at boat-access sites along the coast. From March 26, 2020 to May 13, 2020, procedures for conducting 87 surveys were modified to minimize contact with anglers due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Specifically, landings were not enumerated. These surveys were excluded from the estimation process and the survey count above.

For private-boat bay-pass anglers, an estimated 5,177,000 man-hours were expended to harvest an estimated 1,329,800 fishes. Staff conducted 10,643 target interviews involving 26,493 anglers. Of the 65 species encountered, Spotted Seatrout, Red Drum, and Black Drum were most frequently landed. Mean party size was 2.5 people and mean trip length was 5.5 hours. Staff observed 35,058 fishes and measured the length for 26,508 of them.

For private-boat Texas Territorial Sea anglers, an estimated 156,400 man-hours were expended to harvest an estimated 59,400 fishes. Staff conducted 466 target interviews involving 1,390 anglers. Of the 44 species encountered, Red Snapper, Spotted Seatrout, Sand Seatrout, and King Mackerel were most frequently landed. Mean party size was 3.0 people and mean trip length was 6.1 hours. Staff observed 2,773 fishes and measured the length for 1,645 of them.

For private-boat Exclusive Economic Zone anglers, an estimated 215,300 man-hours were expended to harvest an estimated 56,400 fishes. Staff conducted 422 target interviews involving 1,607 anglers. Of the 49 species encountered, Red Snapper, King Mackerel, Vermilion Snapper, and Dolphinfish were most frequently landed. Mean party size was 3.8 people and mean trip length was 7.7 hours. Staff observed 2,890 fishes and measured the length for 1,930 of them.

Fishery-dependent collection of otoliths for the Gulf States Biosampling program

We are collecting otoliths from multiple species in conjunction with the GSMFC biosampling program. Otoliths are being collected from recreational anglers and aged via independent contractors paid by GSMFC. To date, the following samples have been processed at our facility:

Table 3. Summary of otoliths collected from recreational species at boat ramps for Gulf States Biosampling program.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Processed	Requested
Gray Snapper	*Lutjanus griseus*	22	100
Vermillion Snapper	*Rhomboplites aurorubens*	50	200
Red Snapper	*Lutjanus campechanus*	288	400
Triggerfish	*Balistes capriscus*	0	50
King Mackerel	*Scomberomorus cavalla*	1	300
Sheepshead	*Archosargus probatocephalus*	122	100
Southern Flounder	*Paralichthys lethostigma*	178	200
Black Drum	*Pogonias cromis*	463	400
Red Drum	*Sciaenops ocellatus*	744	800
Spotted Seatrout	*Cynoscion nebulosus*	1616	1700

iSnapper – mobile reporting app

Despite the global pandemic, Red Snapper anglers were still out fishing during the federal season. As such, a total of 102 trips were submitted using the app, 93 occurring during the Federal season. However, we did not secure funding for the project for 2021. We are looking into the possibility of running the app for this season on a limited budget, since we have been collecting data for the last 5 years and would like to continue to provide private anglers the opportunity to self-report their catch.

5. Activities Related to Fisheries-Independent Sampling.

SEAMAP

Bottom longline and Vertical line sampling

2020 SEAMAP operations were cancelled due to COVID. Operations are planned to begin again during Spring 2021. We were able to acquire a longline winch for the field lab vessel in stat zone 21, so once sampling can commence, we can expand sampling into south Texas areas.

6. Other State Activities.

Fisheries Enhancement Program (Hatcheries)

During this fiscal year, the saltwater enhancement program has stocked 5,613,975 fingerlings in Texas' public waters. Hurricanes, the COVID pandemic, and a winter freeze have impacted this production season. (Note, most fingerlings are stocked during the summer).

Table 4. Total Red Drum, Spotted Seatrout, and Southern Flounder fingerlings produced and stocked into various Texas water bodies during FY 2021 (9/1/2020 – 2/23/2021).

FY 2021 Water Body	Red Drum Fingerlings Stocked	Spotted Seatrout Fingerlings Stocked	Southern Flounder Fingerlings Stocked
Aransas	0	142,337	16,766
Corpus Christi	43,705		
East Matagorda	125,527		
Galveston	1,039,059	134,883	606
Lower Laguna Madre	264,302	54,790	
Sabine Lake		445,601	
San Antonio		16,006	
West Matagorda	875,059	1,112,041	
Upper Laguna Madre	125,878		
Freshwater			
Calaveras	652,312		
Kleberg Park	4,876		
Lake Bryan	196,724		
Victor Brauning	363,503		
Total	**3,690,945**	**1,905,658**	**17,372**

License Buyback Program

Shrimp

Buyback Round 39

- Application period closed January 18, 2021 (Open approximately 60 days)
- 13 applications received
- Currently reviewing bids
- Purchased a total of 8 (5 bay and 3 bait)
- Total purchase price was $65,000
- Avg. purchase price was $8,125

Finfish

Buyback Round 27

- Application period closed January 18, 2021 (Open approximately 60 days)
- 1 application received
- Total purchase price was $3,000

Crab

Buyback Round 24

- Application period closed January 18, 2021 (Open approximately 60 days)
- No applications received

Oyster

Buyback Round 4

- Application period closed January 18, 2021 (Open approximately 60 days)
- No applications received

Perry R. Bass Marine Fisheries Research Station Updates

PRB Projects

Sciaenidae otolith collection

Data analysis is ongoing for the Spotted Seatrout and Red Drum otoliths age/length data. Significant trends in growth among years and among Texas estuaries have been observed, and these trends are being used to assess drivers of growth and mortality in Red Drum. Currently, work is ongoing on a publication dealing with spotted seatrout age and body growth over a near 30-year span. Spotted seatrout otolith collections were discontinued due to COVID-19, and these collections are unlikely to resume in the near future. Similarly, we are likely to discontinue Red Drum otolith collections in 2021.

Eastern oyster (*Crassostrea virginica*) population genomics

This project consists of sampling oysters throughout the Gulf and using high-throughput "next generation" approaches for generating a high resolution SNP genomic data set. This will allow us to assess patterns of migration and gene flow (stock structure) as well as potential genetic loci under localized natural selection. To date, we have received samples from Florida (n = 3), Louisiana (n = 2), Alabama (n = 1) and Texas (n = 11), and sampling has been completed. Genomic sequencing has also been completed. Sequencing and bioinformatics are being supported by the Marine Genomics lab at Texas A&M Corpus Christi (MGL). We anticipate final data analysis will

continue this year in cooperation with staff at MGL. We conducted a side project using these oyster samples, examining morphological (shell shape) differences among oysters at the sample and regional scale. This analysis yielded interesting results that validate previous analyses of population structure based on genetics, and the findings have been reviewed favorably by the editors at Marine and Coastal Fisheries (AFS). Revisions are ongoing.

Black Drum (*Pogonias cromis*) high-resolution population genomics

Previously noted life history differences between Black Drum from Baffin Bay as compared to other Texas inshore areas suggests the possibility of genetic divergence on a relatively small geographic scale. We have used microsatellite data, mtDNA and discriminant analysis of principle components (DAPC) to demonstrate weak but significant genetic divergence between Baffin Bay and other Texas bays. Samples were selected for a high-resolution genomic library, and these samples have now been sequenced using the reduced-representation "ddRAD" method. Two papers have resulted from this work, one is accepted at N. Am. J. Fish Mgmt., the second has been reviewed favorably by the same journal.

Detection of white spot syndrome virus (WSSV) in wild Gulf shrimp

We measured the presence and prevalence of white spot syndrome virus (WSSV) in Brown and White shrimp from Texas. We collaborated with Dr. Arun Dhar of the aquaculture pathology laboratory, University of Arizona, in obtaining an infection-positive control sample of *Litopenaeus vannamei* (Pacific white shrimp). Additionally, we identified and utilized an appropriate PCR-based laboratory assay for detecting WSSV in Texas shrimp. Sampling has been completed for this study, data is analyzed, and the manuscript has been reviewed favorably at J. Aquatic Animal Health. We do not intend to collect additional samples for this project.

Detection of shrimp black gill disease in wild Gulf shrimp

We are continuing work on a study on the presence and prevalence of shrimp black gill (sBG) in White (*Litopenaeus setiferus*) and Brown (*Farfantepenaeus aztecus*) shrimp in Texas. We have identified the pathogen that seems to drive this condition in Texas, using DNA sequencing technology. In 2019, n = 1,605 shrimp (White and Brown shrimp combined) were sampled and sBG detection was conducted using a PCR test coupled with lab examination/diagnosis. Seasonal patterns in prevalence were identified, as was linkage between prevalence, temperature, and salinity. A paper detailing these findings has been submitted and received favorable reviews at Marine and Coastal Fisheries (AFS journal). We are continuing and expanding our sampling effort for this project. In an effort to assess impacts to Gulf commercial shrimping, we have partnered with Texas Agrilife Sea Grant extension and the offshore shrimp trawl fishing community to expand sampling offshore and link it directly to the industry.

Observation of growth in two sizes of post-release Red Drum *Sciaenops ocellatus*

We are cooperating with the TPWD stock enhancement branch to determine whether there are differences in growth and body condition between stock enhancement Red Drum that are above versus below the size targeted at the time of harvest (35 mm). Samples of fish were collected at harvest, and individuals were fit with coded wire tags and released into wet lab tanks. Three trials have been completed (May, August, November 2020) and data analysis is ongoing. Preliminary

results suggest that fish below target have a higher mortality rate post-harvest, and there are also differences in daily growth between individuals above and below harvest targets.

Determination of hatching dates in wild Southern Flounder (*Paralichthys lethostigma*)

Young-of-the-year Southern Flounder are being collected during fishery independent sampling (TPWD). Otoliths are being extracted from all individuals and daily increment rings are being used to determine hatching dates for southern flounder. Hatching dates will be related back to environmental (water quality) conditions to understand spawning and hatching conditions for Southern Flounder in the wild. Daily rings are present and countable. We have also observed accessory growth centers that might be associated with metamorphosis. This year we included a collaborative component to this project with the TPWD stock enhancement program, and we have received and aged an additional n = 50 YOY flounder spawned in captivity, with known birth dates. Hatchery-reared flounder will be used to validate growth rings and accessory growth centers, and growth and timing of metamorphosis will be compared between wild and hatchery fish. Analysis is ongoing.

Taxonomic uncertainty in ladyfish (*Elops saurus versus E. smithi*) in the western Gulf of Mexico

Research conducted in the last decade described a new species of ladyfish, *Elops smithi*, which occurs in sympatry with *E. saurus* in the Gulf of Mexico. It is unknown with what regularity this species occurs in Texas waters. Preliminary observations based on DNA sequencing (in our lab) of ladyfish previously collected in Texas suggest that both species are present. We are in the process of collecting additional specimens *via* TPWD fishery independent sampling, paired with occasional angling. Morphological characters which diagnose each species are being counted and paired with mtDNA sequencing to take census of these species in Texas' waters. Additionally, if both species are present with regularity, we intend to construct a reduced-representation genomic library in an effort to identify historical admixture or contemporaneous hybridization between species. Expansion of this project to include other Gulf states will be considered, and coordination of this effort *via* GSMFC would be beneficial. To date, approximately 200 specimens have been received and processed. Preliminary results suggest that both species are present in Texas, although *E. saurus* seems to be considerably more common than *E. smithi*.

Determination of factors driving metamorphosis in Southern Flounder (*Paralichthys lethostigma*) (NEW)

We are working collaboratively with staff at TPWD's two salt water fish broodstock-holding hatcheries (CCA Marine Development Center in Corpus Christi and Sea Center Texas in Lake Jackson), to run wet lab trials to determine the factors involved with the timing and rate of metamorphosis in flounder reared in captivity. Hatched flounder will be transitioned to Artemia feed at one or both hatcheries (depending upon availability) and reared under different experimental densities. Trials are expected to commence in February 2021 for this work.

Investigating the use of environmental DNA (eDNA) for assessing presence and abundance of marine finfish in the coastal waters of Texas (NEW)

We are conducting a proof-of-concept study to test the efficacy of eDNA as a sampling methodology in the various estuarine habitats in Texas. We are testing both a species-specific assay (Red Drum, quantitative PCR approach) as well as holistic community assay (genetic

metabarcoding) to detect marine species. Study sites will include water sampling aquaria at Sea Center Texas (TPWD fish hatchery in Lake Jackson) where various tank finfish populations are known, water sampling alongside our routine fishery-independent gill nets (for comparison to know species catch), and the Lavaca River in Calhoun and Jackson counties (where it is expected that we will see a transition from marine/estuarine associated organisms to more freshwater associated organisms). This work is supported by IJF grant funds and is expected to be concluded in 2021.

Collaborative projects

Range-wide population genetic structure of Alligator Gar (*Atractosteus spatula*)

In collaboration with Dr. Brian Kreiser, (University of Southern Mississippi), we are analyzing mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) sequence data already on hand in our lab, in an effort to examine the range-wide population structure of the species. Dr. Kreiser is analyzing a microsatellite DNA data set, and together we will attempt to compare and contrast historical versus contemporary patterns of movement and demographic exchange among drainages in the Gulf of Mexico basin. Sampling has been completed, and all genetic data has been collected and analyzed.

Taxonomic uncertainty of *Menidia* sp. in Aransas and Galveston Bays

We are supporting the work of Dr. James Derek Hogan who is conducting targeted sampling for a rare all-female silverside species, *Menidia clarkhubbsi*. Dr. Hogan's group is looking for morphological characters that might distinguish this species from other species of *Menidia* and pairing his analysis with genomic sequencing in an effort to compare genomic loci among *M. clarkhubbsi* and the more common species *M. peninsulae* and *M. beryllina*.

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First (1949-1950)
Second (1950-1951)
Third (1951-1952)
Fourth (1952-1953)
Fifth (1953-1954)
Sixth (1954-1955)
Seventh (1955-1956)
Eighth (1956-1957)
Ninth (1957-1958)
Tenth (1958-1959)
Eleventh (1959-1960)
Twelfth (1960-1961)
Thirteenth (1961-1962)
Fourteenth (1962-1963)
Fifteenth (1963-1964)
Sixteenth (1964-1965)
Seventeenth (1965-1966)
Issues 18 through 25 (1966-1967 through 1973-1974) were not published
Twenty-sixth (1974-1975)
Issue 27 (1975-1976) was not published
Twenty-eighth (1976-1977)
Twenty-ninth (1977-1978)
Thirtieth (1978-1979)
Thirty-first (1979-1980)
Thirty-second (1980-1981)
Thirty-third (1981-1982)
Thirty-fourth (1982-1983)
Thirty-fifth (1983-1984)
Thirty-sixth (1984-1985)
Thirty-seventh (1985-1986)
Thirty-eighth (1986-1987)
Thirty-ninth (1987-1988)
Fortieth (1988-1989)
Forty-first (1989-1990)
Forty-second (1991)
Forty-third (1992)
Forty-fourth (1993)
Forty-fifth (1994)
Forty-sixth (1995)
Forty-seventh (1996)
Forty-eighth (1997)
Forty-ninth (1998)
Fiftieth (1999)
Fifty-first (2000)
Fifty-second (2001)
Fifty-third (2002)
Fifty-fourth (2003)
Fifty-fifth (2004)
Fifty-Sixth (2005)
Fifty-Seventh (2006)
Fifty-Eighth (2007)
Fifty-Ninth (2008)
Sixtieth (2009)
Sixty-First (2010)
Sixty-Second (2011)
Sixty-Third (2012)
Sixty-Fourth (2013)
Sixty-Fifth (2014)
Sixty-Sixth (2015)
Sixty-Seventh (2016)
Sixty-Eighth (2017)
Sixty-Ninth (2018)

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2018 October. Kemp's Ridley -

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"COMPACT NEWS," a newsletter from the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission Staff, is edited by Nancy K. Marcellus and currently published bi-annually (April and November).

For more information on publications, please contact:
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Fax (228) 875-6604

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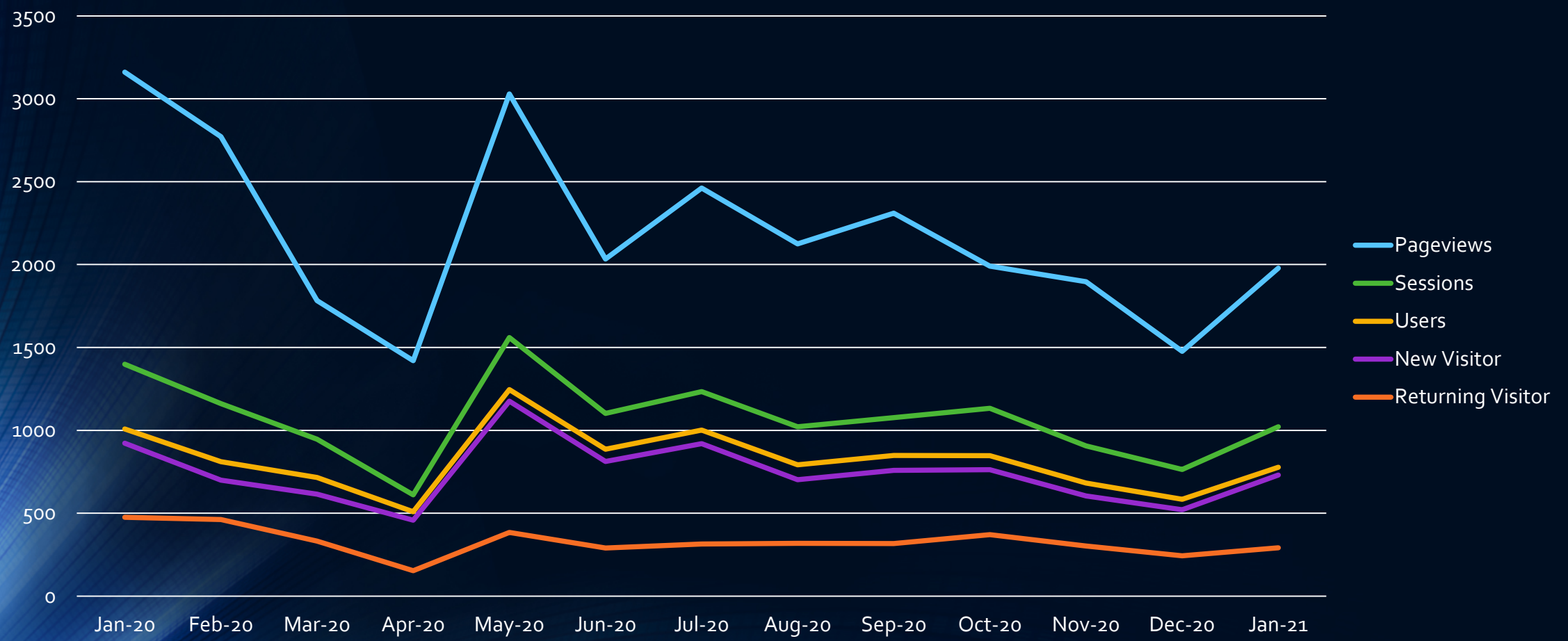

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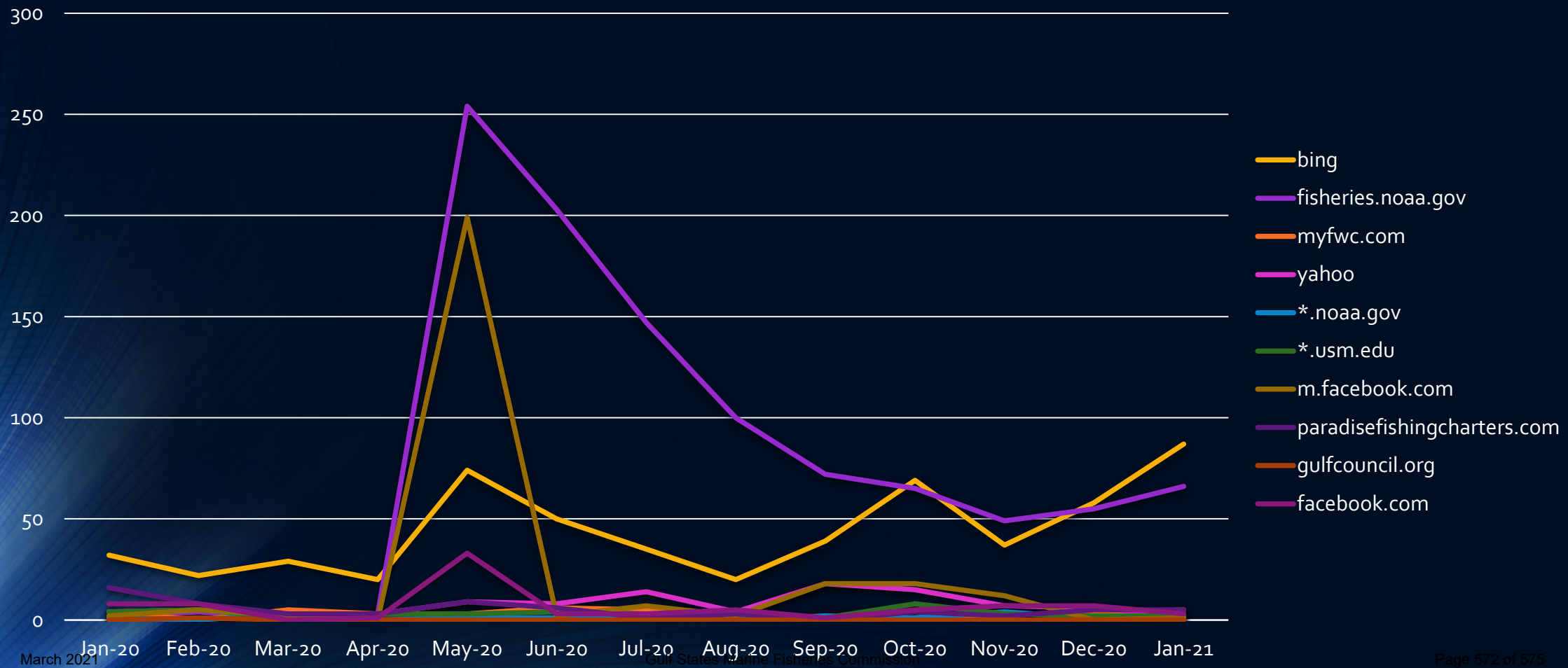

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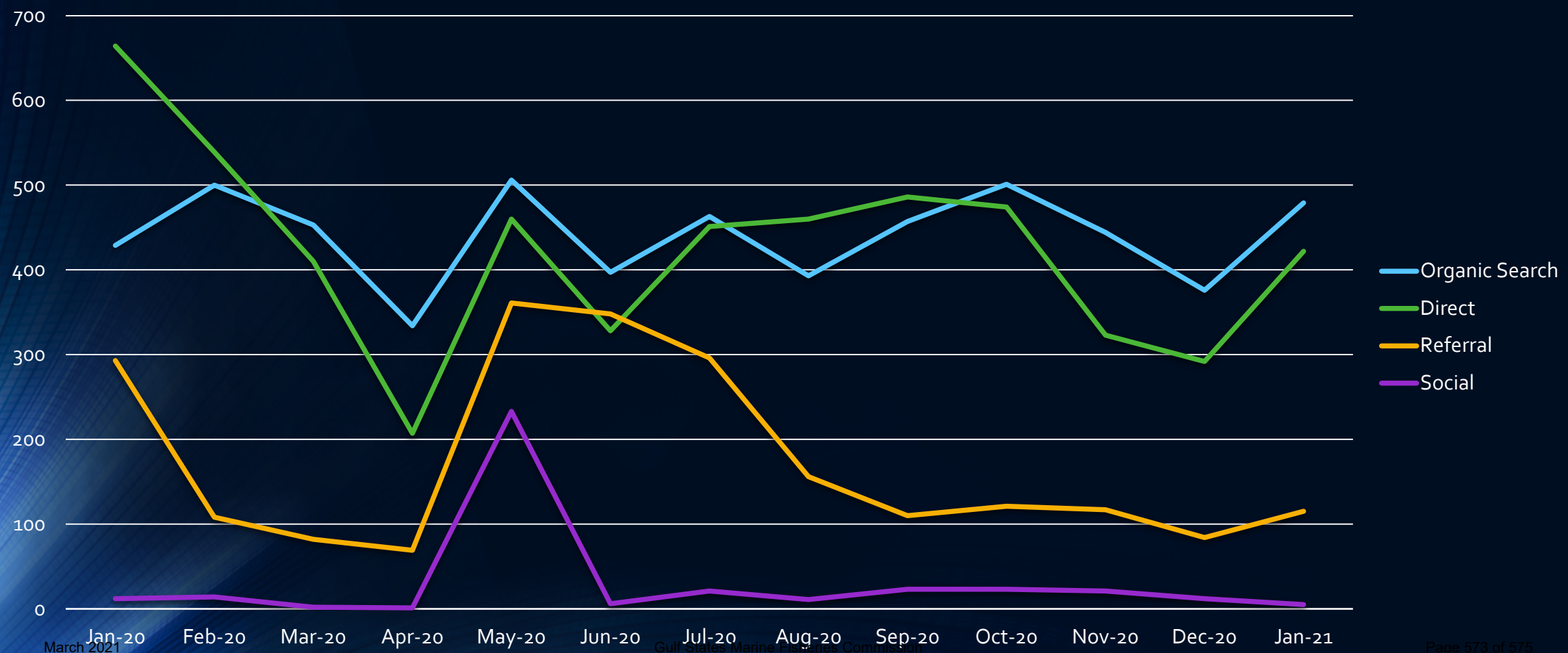

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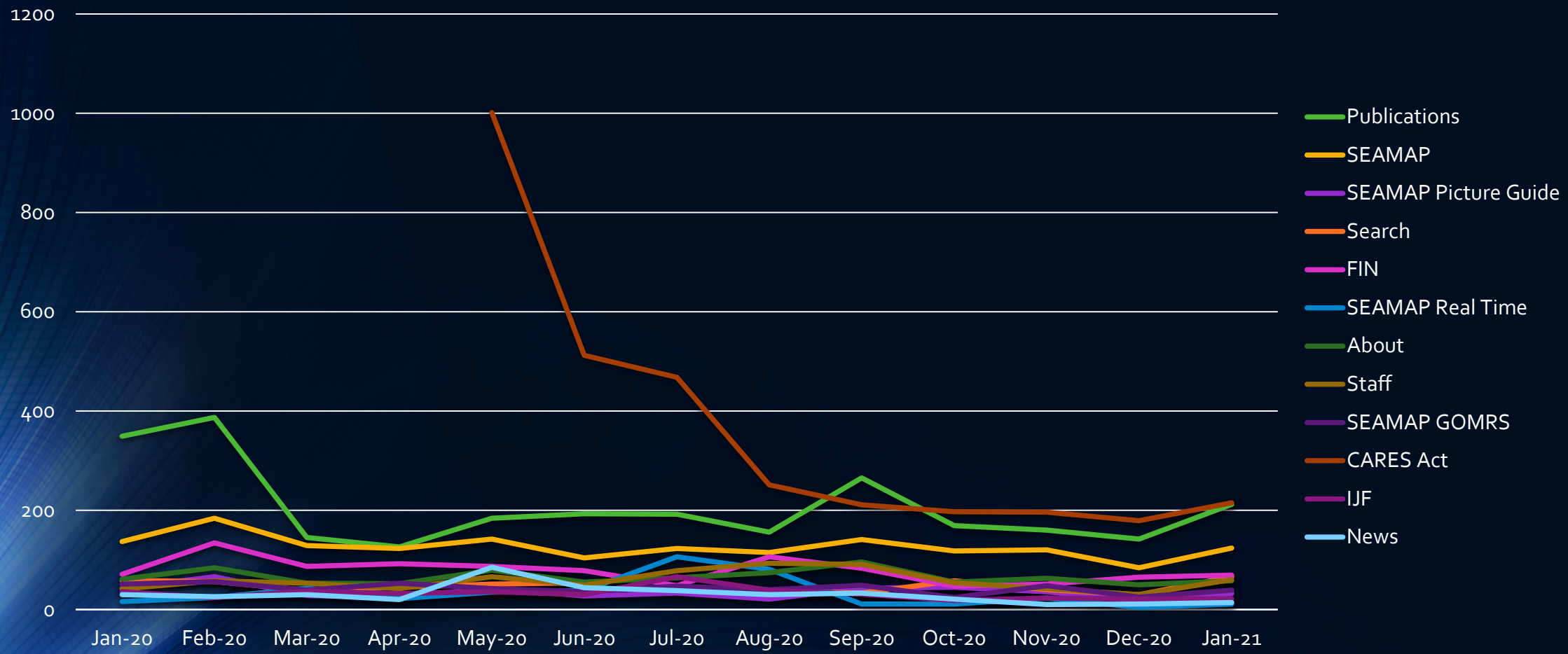
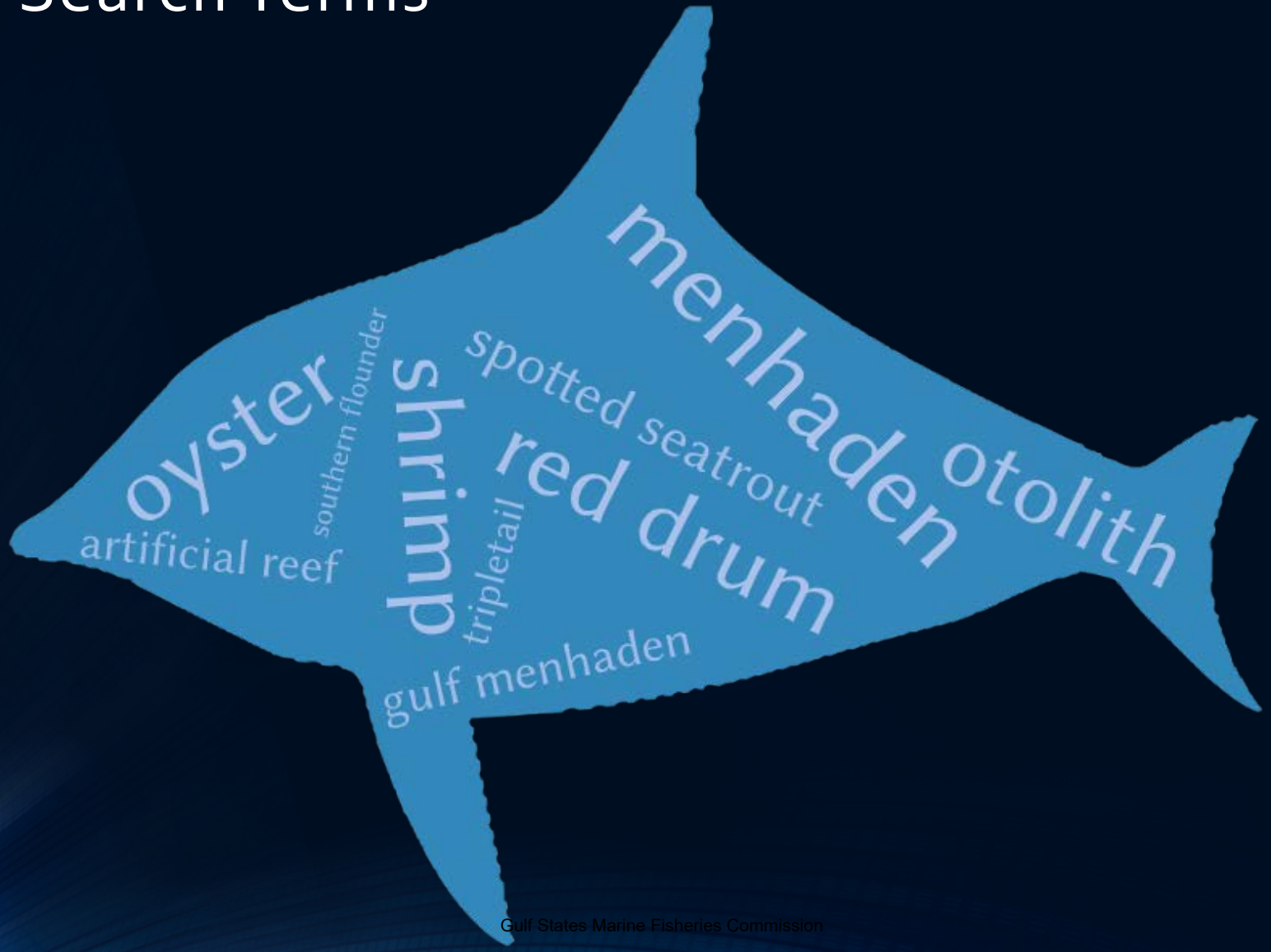
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