GULF STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION

73rd ANNUAL FALL MEETING

OCTOBER 16 - 19, 2022

SAN ANTONIO MARRIOTT RIVERWALK

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

Wednesday, October 19, 2022

Commission Business Meeting
11:00am – 5:00pm

1. Call to Order, Introductions, Opening Comments – *Doug Boyd, Chairman*
   - Brief Overview of Commission Voting Procedures – *Dave Donaldson*
2. Adoption of Agenda – *Doug Boyd*
3. Approval of Minutes (March 17, 2022) – *Doug Boyd* A
4. GSMFC Standing Committee Reports
   a. Law Enforcement Committee – *Patrick Carron*
   b. Technical Coordinating Committee – *Darin Topping*
      1. Artificial Reef Subcommittee
      2. Data Management Subcommittee
      3. Molluscan Shellfish Subcommittee
      4. SEAMAP Subcommittee
   c. State-Federal Fisheries Management Committee – *Scott Bannon*
      1. GulfFIN Priorities
      2. SEAMAP Priorities
      3. IJF Priorities
      4. Menhaden Advisory Committee
5. Sea Grant Fisheries Extension Advisory Panel Meeting Report – *Laura Picariello*
6. NOAA Fisheries Southeast Regional Office Comments – *Jack McGovern*
7. USFWS Region 4 Office Comments – *Allan Brown*/*Glenn Constant*
8. NOAA Fisheries Budget Update – *Dave Donaldson* B C

--LUNCH--

9. Discussion of GSMFC's Involvement in NRDA Shrimp Effort Pilot Project – *Rebeccah Hazelkorn* D
10. Discussion of Purchasing Airline Travel Insurance for Commission Travel – *All*
11. Review and Approve GSMFC Administrative Manual – *All* E F
12. Selection of 2023 Lyles-Simpson Award Recipient – *All* G
13. GSMFC Program Reports
    a. Interjurisdictional Fisheries Program – *Steve VanderKooy* H
    b. Aquaculture Program – *Steve VanderKooy* I
    c. SEAMAP – *Jeff Rester* J
    d. CARES Act – *Jeff Rester* K
    e. Sportfish Restoration – *James Ballard* L
    f. Aquatic Nuisance Species Programs – *James Ballard* M
    g. Fisheries Information Network – *Gregg Bray* N
    h. SEFHIER – *Gregg Bray* O
    i. Fisheries Restoration – *Charlie Robertson* P

--BREAK--

Wednesday, October 19, 2022

Commission Business Meeting
11:00am – 5:00pm (continued)

14. Executive Committee Report – *Doug Boyd*
    a. GSMFC Audit — Q
    b. Financial Statement (9/2022)
    c. FY2023 Budget — R
    d. Staff Compensation

15. State Directors' Reports
    a. Florida – *Dan Ellinor* — S
    b. Alabama – *Scott Bannon* — T
    c. Mississippi – *Joe Spraggins* — U
    d. Louisiana – *Jason Froeba* — V
    e. Texas – *Chris Mace* — W

16. Future Meetings – *Nancy Marcellus*
    a. October 19-21, 2023 – Louisiana
    b. October 19-21, 2024 – Mississippi

17. Publications List and Web Statistics – *Dave Donaldson*
    a. Publications — X
    b. GSMFC Website — Y

18. Election of Officers – *All* — Z
    a. Chairman – Alabama Rotation
    b. 1st Vice-Chairman – Louisiana Rotation
    c. 2nd Vice-Chairman – Mississippi Rotation

19. Other Business

    Adjourn

Commission Business Session
Thursday, March 17, 2022
Panama City Beach, FL

Call to Order

Chairman Doug Boyd called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m. The following Commissioners and/or Proxies were present:

Doug Boyd, ***Chairman,*** *Citizen Representative from Texas*, Boerne, TX
Scott Bannon, ADCNR/MRD, Gulf Shores, AL *(Proxy for Chris Blankenship)*
Chris Nelson, *Citizen Representative from Alabama*, Bon Secour Fisheries, Bon Secour, AL
Joe Spraggins, MSDMR, Biloxi, MS
Read Hendon, *Citizen Representative from Mississippi,* USM/GCRL, Ocean Springs, MS
Christopher Mace, TPWD, Corpus Christi, TX *(Proxy for Carter Smith)*
Jason Froeba, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA *(Proxy for Jack Montoucet)*

Virtual:
Dan Ellinor*,* FWC, Tallahassee, FL *(Proxy for Eric Sutton)*
Senator Jay Luneau, Alexandria, 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
Doug Snyder, *RecFIN (SE) Programmer/Survey Coordinator*
Angie Rabideau, *Senior Accountant*, Ocean Springs, MS
Deanna Valentine, *Scanning Specialist*, Ocean Springs, MS
Debbie McIntyre, *Staff Assistant*, Ocean Springs, MS
Ali Wilhelm, *Staff Assistant*, Ocean Springs, MS
Charlie Robertson, *Fisheries Restoration Coordinator*, Ocean Springs, MS

Others

Rick Burris, MSDMR, Biloxi, MS
Allan Brown, USFWS, Atlanta, GA
Glenn Constant, USFWS, Baton Rouge, LA
Jack McGovern, NOAA Fisheries, St. Petersburg, FL
Trevor Moncrief, MSDMR, Biloxi, MS
Darin Topping, TPWD, Rockport, TX
Jill Hendon, GCRL/USM, Ocean Springs, MS
Deke Tompkins, ASMFC/USGS, Annapolis, MD
Laura Picariello, TXSG, Galveston, TX

Julie Falgout, LASG, Houma, LA
Tony Reisinger, TXSG, San Benito, TX

Virtual:
Brian Pawlak, NOAA Fisheries, Silver Spring, MD

D. Donaldson gave a brief overview of the Commission's voting procedures and stated there was a quorum.

Adoption of Agenda
A break was added after Item No. 4 and there will be a discussion of Travel Insurance under Other Business. J. Spraggins moved to adopt the agenda with changes. S. Bannon seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes (October 21, 2021 - *Virtual*)
S. Bannon moved to approve the October 21, 2021 minutes as submitted. R. Hendon seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

GSMFC Standing Committee Reports
Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC)

D. Topping stated the TCC held a General Session at the beginning of the meeting which focused on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) Small Grants Program's current research on nonindigenous invasive species. A summary of the presentations will be available on the website in the near future.

D. Topping stated Jamie Reinhardt provided an update on the DWH Fish and Water Column Invertebrate Strategic Plan. The purpose of the plan is to help guide restoration planning. He stated USGS Wetland and Aquatic Research Center (WARC) staff gave a presentation that highlighted the importance of the history of the partnership between USGS and GSMFC. They provided an overview of the primary research areas they are involved in and emphasized building partnerships to improve the acoustic telemetry capabilities for species of interest.

> **Motion: TCC recommends GSMFC and USGS develop a cooperative partnership to work together on shared research needs in the Gulf of Mexico.**
>
> **The Commission approved the motion unanimously**.

D. Topping reported Mike Celata updated the group on the progress BOEM has made with regards of renewable wind energy leasing in the gulf. He addressed some of the major FAQs received during the comment period and discussed next steps in the leasing process for the Gulf. He said S. VanderKooy gave the IJF updates and provided and overview of the SuRF funding for the 2022 projects. They are hoping to finalize the red drum profile by October 2022 and a task force will soon be established to start working on a profile for mangrove snapper. J. Rester gave an update on the CARES Act Program which has distributed over $26M to approved applicants in Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama.

Subcommittee Reports

Artificial Reef (AR)
The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission and Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission are planning to hold a joint AR Subcommittee meeting in-person this summer. Possible agenda topics include wind farms, Gulf/Atlantic AR footprint estimations, socioeconomic benefits, biological opinions, sea turtle entrapment and entanglement issues, damage of reef modules from hurricanes and commercial fishing, eDNA monitoring, and rig decommissioning due to bankruptcy.

Crab Subcommittee
The Subcommittee heard a presentation on predatory habitat impacts to blue crab populations. States gave updates on terrapin work related to bycatch reduction devices and updates on landings and fishery independent monitoring. There was also a discussion on alternative gears for harvesting recreational blue crabs.

GulfFIN
GulfFIN data storage and dissemination of state survey data was discussed. Federal partners would like access to this data via GulfFIN but some states are not currently doing this and would need to consider this process. Other considerations need to be made concerning short -term and long-term data availability and a working group may need to be developed to determine the best way to handle this. The same working group may also be tasked with reviewing and updating the MRIP regional implementation plan that is out of date.

The committee discussed a request from the Gulf Council SSC to look at Shrimp Observer Bycatch data and identify priority species that state stock assessors could benefit from having timely access to catch estimates. There was also concern that some unspecified groups are reported as opposed to individual species as well as some of the bycatch estimates being large. After some discussion amongst committee members the committee made the following motion:

> **Motion: The TCC moves that Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission send a letter to the SEFSC requesting they present to the TCC the verification process of the bycatch of state managed priority species in the shrimp observer bycatch program.**
>
> **The Commission approved the motion unanimously**.

The Committee considered funding priorities for 2023 and decided to include all ongoing tasks as high priority for inclusion in the 2023 FIN Cooperative Agreement. The committee also included Biological Sampling as high priority since its funding is set to run out in December 2022.

> **Motion: The TCC moves to include all ongoing GulfFIN tasks (Coordination and Administration of FIN Activities, Collecting, Managing and Disseminating Marine Recreational Fisheries Data, Operation of FIN Data Management System, Trip Ticket Program) and reinstating Biological Sampling for Age Structures and Lengths as high priority funding items for 2023.**
>
> **The Commission approved the motion unanimously**.

Molluscan Shellfish Subcommittee

The Subcommittee learned about a database summarizing oyster restoration projects funded by DWH funds. They discussed impacts from hurricanes to alternative oyster aquaculture farms, which have been significant in recent years. They also covered oyster shell recycling programs, oyster management plans, and oyster restoration activities within each of the states. Remote setting hatchery facilities are being used by most states to supplement restoration.

SEAMAP

Subcommittee members discussed ongoing surveys, how they can be optimized, and made more cost efficient. They anticipate 2022 surveys to take place as normal. Members debated whether vertical longline sampling should continue based on concerns about how the data is/isn't being used. J. Rester informed the Subcommittee of Tom Van Devender's passing and stated he was a passed Subcommittee member and Coordinator, and contributed greatly towards Mississippi fishery resources. The Subcommittee approved a motion to provide a resolution in honor of Thomas Van Devender.

> **Motion: The TCC moves that the Commission to provides a resolution in honor of Thomas Van Devender in recognition of his efforts towards Mississippi fishery resources over the course of his career.**

D. Donaldson stated if passed, the resolution would be presented to a family member at the next Commission meeting. **J. Hendon** stated another option would be to have Harriet Perry accept it in his honor.

> **The Commission approved the motion unanimously**.

TCC Discussion of Election of Officers

D. Topping said the TCC continued a discussion on the election of officers from a previous meeting and the TCC passed the following motion:

> **Motion: The TCC moves to defer election of officers until the October meeting and revisit it on an annual basis.**
>
> **The Commission approved the motion unanimously**.

D. Donaldson noted that the Commission will be discussing election of officers for all Committees/Subcommittees under agenda item ***Future Meetings***.

State/Federal Fisheries Management Committee

Menhaden Advisory Committee (MAC)

T. Moncrieff reported the MAC met Tuesday and there are no actions or motions to consider. He said Ray Mroch (NOAA Beaufort) presented the 2021 landings. The NOAA forecast for 2022 is 387,000mt based on the fishing in 2021. There was a discussion about reviewing the forecast model, making improvements and adding in some variables to try to improve the accuracy of the model. He reviewed the Atlantic fishery and stated the TAC for reduction was reduced slightly to 194,000mt coastwide in 2021 and the ASMFC is beginning its next assessment for Atlantic menhaden.

T. Moncrief stated Jason Adriance provided an update on Louisiana's index of abundance (IOA) for the seine, gill net, and trawl projects from their fishery independent sampling. While there is some variability from year to year, the trend is generally stable in all the indices since the mid-2000s. Peter Himchak (Omega Protein) reported the surveillance audit for Gulf Menhaden MSC Certification was completed. Francois Kuttel (Daybrook) indicated the results of the turtle observer pilot that the industry was assisting with determined that drone observation did not work well nor did moving observers from the remote vessel to the steamer to view pump out. The camera systems on board did seem to identify targets which were deployed since no turtles were actually encountered during the tests. The system was able to identify the foam turtles that were randomly released into the net. Jason Adriance from Louisiana will be releasing an RFP later this spring for a bycatch study of the reduction fleet

Sea Grant Fisheries Extension Meeting Report

L. Picariello reported the Sea Grant Fisheries Extension Advisory Committee met yesterday. She said each state provided reports on current projects and regional updates were given to the Committee. She reviewed each states' reports and regional updates. **C. Nelson** asked about the potential upcoming closures for the oyster fishery in Texas and the impacts that is having throughout the supply chain across the Gulf. He said Texas is one of the most significant wild harvest fisheries at this point. He said discussions have taken place on possibly Sea Grant facilitating a meeting between all parties involved to discuss concerns on this issue and he wanted to make the Commission aware of this and to be involved in any further discussions or meetings. She will keep the Commission informed on this specific issue. Detailed information on the Sea Grant meeting is in the Sea Grant section of these minutes.

NOAA Fisheries Southeast Regional Office Comments

Jack McGovern introduced himself and stated he is the Assistant Regional Administrator for Sustainable Fisheries at the SERO. He said Kim Amendola is now Deputy Regional Administrator for SERO. He reported the for-hire red snapper season should be announced soon and they expect this season to be similar to the previous season. They are working on two red snapper framework amendments that were approved by the Gulf Council and they would increase catch limits and help calibrate the state surveys. The Gulf Council received an update on the Great Red Snapper Count and recommendations were made to increase catch levels. This will be discussed at the next Gulf Council meeting. He said Lane Snapper catch limits increased in December and they will close the harvest when the catch limit is expected to be reached. The Descend Act became effective on January 13, 2022 and it requires all vessels to have a venting tool, or descending device, rigged and ready to use when fishing for reef fish species in Gulf federal waters. He said they are working on Reef Fish Amendment 32 that will modify the catch limit, size limit and possession limits of cobia. They are working on 2 rulemaking actions for red grouper. One is based on Reef Fish Amendment 53 that would change sector allocations and reduce catch levels based on a new assessment that used data from MRIP, and the other is based on a new assessment that would increase the catch limits for red grouper based on an interim analysis by the science center that shows the stock has rebuilt some. The Gulf Council is also scheduled to take final action on historical captain conversions which would provide the opportunity for 3 of the remaining eligible individuals to replace their historical captain permits with standard for-hire permits. They will also act on Amendment 34 which changes catch limit and allocations for Atlantic King Mackerel. He said there are a number of ongoing actions by the Gulf Council including updating the Shrimp FMP to address the expiration of the 3G cellular units used for the electronic logbooks, working on amendments for gag and greater amberjack as stock assessments show they are being

overfished, and two actions for Gulf King Mackerel to change sector allocations then a framework amendment to increase the catch levels. He said the SEFHIER program is entering into phase 2 which is the requirement for the positioning of cellular VMS units and updating FAQ's working with fishermen to improve compliance. Also, they continue to work with the Commission to fund the dockside survey. He said lastly, Kelly Donnelly indicates the Bonnet Carré disaster spend plans from Alabama and Mississippi were sent to headquarters for review and submission to OMB, and the Louisiana plan is undergoing technical review.

USFWS Region 4 Office Comments

Allan Brown stated he will give this report with the FWS Budget Update Report.

NOAA Fisheries and US Fish & Wildlife Budget Updates

Brian Pawlak gave a virtual NOAA Fisheries Management & Budget Update. He stated the continuing resolution is over and the FY2022 Budget has been approved and signed. He said they expect to have the FY2023 Budget by the end of April. The FY2022 Budget is $1.02B which is an increase of $51.1M over FY2021. He reviewed how funding is split across the four primary activities which are Protected Resources, Fisheries Science and Management, Enforcement and Habitat Conservation and Restoration. There was an increase for the Regional Councils and Fisheries Commissions. He explained the many steps and challenges of distributing the funds to the various programs once appropriations are announced and approved. He said NMFS has received partial apportionment funding for GSMFC of $750K for FY2022. As soon as the remaining funds are approved, they will be sent to the Commission. He reviewed all FY2022 Programs and their budgets and the FY2022 Red Snapper Enacted Language. He then informed the Commission on the NAPA Report Recommendations and COVID policies for the future.

A. Brown gave a presentation on the USFWS budget explaining the federal budget process and how the appropriations are made to various programs. He reviewed a table with the President's budget, previous enacted budget, then the house and senate budget and the amounts for each subactivity. He said the final budget for the FWS and FAC program was $220M which is an increase from the previous budget. He reviewed the Southeast region's percent of the national allocation for each major funding category which are Hatchery OPS, Hatchery Maintenance, Habitat Assessment, Habitat PA, Population Assessment, FWCO Equipment and Aquatic Invasive Species. The Southeast region receives roughly 2.1% of the habitat population budget for the FWS and that supports 13 FTEs (full time employees) in 4 offices across the whole Southeast which consists of 10 states, Puerto Rico and the USVI. He said the Southeast has 62% of the freshwater fishes, 75% of the nation's muscles, 70 major river basins, 18% of the barriers, and 50% of the Nation's wetlands. The 13 employees in the four offices do an incredible job for the amount of resources they are responsible for. He reiterated the importance of continuing the cooperative efforts with the Commission and with the gulf states as they develop priorities in the future.

GSMFC Program Reports

Interjurisdictional Fisheries Program

S. VanderKooy stated the full report is in Tab B of the Briefing Book. He said they are close to finishing the Red Drum Management Profile and they will start a Mangrove Snapper Management Profile this summer after the TCC selects a Task Force. The Tripletail genetics work continues and fin clips from around the world have been processed. He will invite Dr. Saillant (USM) to present the results to the TCC at the October meeting. They are doing more acoustic work targeting Tripletail and have nearly gated the entire Mississippi Sound. Lastly, **S. VanderKooy** said the

Flounder Symposium will be held in Baton Rouge in two weeks and 84 people have registered to attend. He invited all to attend but they do not have time slots for anymore presentations.

Aquaculture Program

S. VanderKooy stated the Aquaculture update is in Tab C of the Briefing Bok. He reviewed a Table of the FY2022 Gulf of Mexico Marine Aquaculture Pilot Project Grants. Additional funds were provided to the Commission through NOAA for development of an Integrated Multi-Trophic Aquaculture (IMTA) demonstration project to culture native species of finfish, bivalve mollusks, and macroalgae in the region's states waters. The RFP was released in July with $1.8M available. There was only one project submission so it was awarded to Dr. John Valentine at DISL.

SEAMAP

J. Rester reported the Fall Shrimp/Groundfish Survey took place in October/November 2021 sampling 274 stations. The Environmental Data Work Group met and reviewed the environmental section of the trawling operations manual. The Commission worked with the Fish and Wildlife Foundation of Florida, Inc. to acquire acoustic cameras and hardware for sampling reef fish. FWRI will use the cameras to develop techniques and protocols for reef fish sampling that SEAMAP can use in the western Gulf of Mexico. SEAMAP continues to discuss the future of the Vertical Line Survey. If data from the Vertical Line Survey are not used in the next Red Snapper stock assessment, the survey will probably be discontinued. The Subcommittee has discussed several options for how SEAMAP partners can contribute to existing or new surveys if the survey is discontinued. SEAMAP will again be level funded for FY22 at $5.125M being split between the Gulf, South Atlantic and Caribbean components. SEAMAP plans to conduct the Spring Plankton, Bottom Longline, Vertical Line, Summer Shrimp/Groundfish, Reef Fish, Fall Plankton, and Fall Shrimp/Groundfish Surveys in 2022. The Commission continues to manage SEAMAP data and distribute the data to interested parties.

CARES Act

J. Rester reported the original CARES Act has been completed and over $20M was paid to almost 1,600 applicants. The CARES Act 2.0 was signed into law on December 27, 2020 with approximately $26M made available to affected applicants. He reviewed how the funds were/will be distributed throughout the states. The detailed amounts for each state are in Tab E of the Briefing Book.

Sportfish Restoration (SFRP)

J. Ballard stated the complete report is in Tab F of the Briefing Book. He showed a video on the water quality monitoring project. He said in an effort to better assess the water quality at artificial reef sites off the Mississippi Coast, they have deployed multiparameter datasondes at several sites. He explained the different steps in deploying the datasondes and stated they have collected over 11,000 data records during the first deployment. Three more units will be deployed in 2022. He reported the 4th year of the Jimmy Sanders Memorial Lionfish Challenge ended in December 2021. It was a virtual tournament using ***Fishing Chaos***. They collected 31 lionfish off of Mississippi throughout the entire year.

Aquatic Nuisance Species Programs (ANS)

J. Ballard said the ANS Report is in Tab G of the Briefing Book. He reported the general session in the TCC was presentations on the USFWS ANS Small Grants Program and there will be a report on the session posted on the GSMFC website. He said that 43 projects at almost $1.1M have been

funded over the last 7 years through this program. They are continuing their effort with the invasive species traveling trunk and over the last 3 months requests to utilize the trunk has increased. He reported he chairs the ANSTF Prevention Subcommittee which has been tasked with 5 action items and they just recently added 2 more items which are to identify some steps needed to conduct traffic assessments to inform strategic placement of roadside inspection stations and to establish a fish production and retail hitchhiker mitigation workgroup. The GSARP is hoping to have an in-person regional panel meeting this spring but they will have to get approval through FACA. The Task Force will hold their next meeting in May virtually on the 24-26th.

Fisheries Information Network (FIN)
G. Bray gave a slide presentation on the 2021 fisheries dependent collection and monitoring program. He said they accomplished all of their goals and considered 2021 a success. They also fully implemented electronic tablets for MRIP dockside surveys and implemented the SEFHIER dockside validation survey. He said they should be able to accomplish all 2022 goals at level funding that they will receive from NOAA.

Fisheries Restoration (FRP)
C. Robertson stated the report is in Tab I of the Briefing Book. The main focus of the program is to work with NOAA and Florida Sea Grant on the ***Return Em' Right*** program which focuses on best practices of using fish descending devices and distributing that information to all fishermen. The Human Dimensions Survey of that program began in April 2021 and it will focus on interviewing fishermen on their knowledge, behaviors and perceptions regarding best handling and release practices for reef fish. They are also working with Florida Sea Grant on education and outreach for the program to help distribute descending devices and building awareness of the program.

State Directors' Reports
D. Boyd stated all reports except Florida's have been submitted and will be included in the minutes. **D. Ellinor** stated Florida's report will be submitted after the meeting. **D. Boyd** asked each Director to give a brief overview of their report.

Alabama
S. Bannon reported their sampling went well and they met most of their goals. He said they received $8M to deploy about 1,700 additional artificial reefs. They completed the CARES Act packages and thanked staff for their help. He said they continue to work on developing a hatchery for oysters and they had a 79 day wild harvest season last year and harvested 50K sacks which doubled the previous year's harvest. They are working on a data system to have an online dashboard on Alabama's website to review oyster harvest including how much is being harvested and how many people are participating. They are participating in the SEFHIER program and the enforcement personnel have personally met with all the federal for-hire boat personnel to ensure they are participating. He said everyone is excited about using the tablets for all the dockside surveys.

Florida
D. Ellinor stated he will not give a report but will submit the detailed report when he gets back to the office.

Mississippi

J. Spraggins stated they have had a very busy year. The red snapper season opened May 28th with several closures to assess the stock. There were a total of 119 days fished and 143.0427 pounds were harvested, so they were actually under their ACL by about 7-8K pounds. He said the ***Tails 'n' Scales*** program will start again over Memorial Day weekend. They are also doing a new assessment on spotted sea trout; they participated in tripletail tagging with USFWS through SFRP; they tagged 102 southern flounder; and they continue their cobia sampling effort. He said Mississippi has not had a decent oyster harvest since 2019 when the Bonnet Carré was opened. There was a very small harvest in 2020 but none in 2021 due to record rainfall. They are working to rebuild oysters but it will take time. They also had one of the lowest shrimp and crab seasons on record in 2021. They are working to rebuild the artificial reefs and DMR has been working with homeland port security at the Ports of Gulfport and Pascagoula.

Louisiana

J. Froeba reported Louisiana has been working on Hurricane Ida impact assessments. As mentioned in the Sea Grant report, they worked with LASG to develop an economic damage and impact assessment model. There are almost $580M in losses and damages. They are working with the LA Commission to implement new spotted sea trout regulations and the Commission recently passed a fall closure for commercial and recreational flounder harvest. He said they have decided against a long-term flounder tagging program because they do not catch enough so they are working on establishing a long term monitoring program with a specific gear (modified fyke net with a box) for flounder to try to develop some indices of abundance for stock assessments. He said they received NRDA funding to put rock and cultch plants on 200 acres to start developing brood reefs for oysters. They lost all the fall season from the oyster hatchery due to Hurricane Ida but the facility did well and when electricity did come back it served as the base camp of operations for state personnel. He said the legislature passed a license restructure for the department so all of the commercial and recreational licenses were redone and simplified. It has been 40 years since this has been done so there was some "sticker" shock on the new prices. The restructure makes the licenses more user friendly than in the past.

Texas

C. Mace reported there has been a decline in the coastwide catch rate for spotted seatrout in both spring and fall sampling periods due to winter storm Uri. Therefore, a temporary 2-year reduction in daily bag limit and size change in the slot limit was enacted to help the species recover from the freeze. They have seen a long-term declining trend in population abundance estimates for southern flounder so regulation changes have been enacted. He said federal waters adjacent to Texas were closed to the take of red snapper August 5, 2021 and is forecasted to reopen in the summer of 2022. Texas state waters were closed on November 15, 2021 and reopened January 1, 2022. He said the ***iSnapper*** mobile reporting app will continue to be promoted through 2022 and both TPWD and TAMUCC creel surveys will be used to validate reporting in ***iSnapper*** and for calculating estimates through the non-mandatory reporting system. There is a proposal to close 3 Texas Bays to harvesting oysters. They are the Mesquite Bay, Carlos Bay and Aros Bay which are small primary and secondary Bays on the mid-Texas coast located between Aransas Bay and San Antonio Bay. Public opinion is currently being sought regarding this proposal and the proposal will be discussed with the Commission during next week's March meeting. Blue crab trends in Texas remains relatively unchanged from last year's report. Preliminary data collected during the 2022 abandoned crab trap clean-up documented 250 volunteers participating collecting about 1,258 derelict crab traps. During the TPWD 2021 creel survey year 1,108 surveys were conducted at boat access sites along the coast for private boat anglers. All 60 vertical longline stations were

completed for the SEAMAP program across all 3 depth strata and over 3 stat zones off of Texas and out of the 8 different species caught red snapper made up 90.6% percent of the catch composition.

Future Meetings

N. Marcellus stated the fall meeting is scheduled for October 18-20, 2022 and Texas will be the host state. She said no location has been selected and asked the Commissioners if they had a preference for where the meeting will be held. She asked them to please send that to her and she would solicit bids for hotels.

The Commission discussed changing the annual meeting format to one time a year in October. If an issue needs to be discussed or decided before the October meeting, the Commission or Executive Committee can meet virtually or via conference call. The Subcommittees can still meet in-person or virtually, as needed.

S. Bannon moved the GSMFC move to one general meeting in October of each year. In addition, Committees and Subcommittees may meet at their discretion anytime during the year. J. Spraggins seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

More discussion ensued on should officers serve only one meeting or two and questions were asked about changing the Rules and Regulations or Bylaws to change the meeting format. Staff will review the Rules and Regulations and Bylaws and inform the Commission if they have to be changed.

> **NOTE: Rules and Regulation updated August 2015**
> **ARTICLE II. MEETINGS**
>
> Section 1. Meetings shall be held at the call of the Chair. The Commission shall have at least two Regular meetings each year unless changed by unanimous consent of the Commission, one designated as the "Annual Meeting" shall begin during the week in the month of October that contains the third Thursday and Friday and one designated as the "Spring Meeting" shall begin during the week in the month of March that contains the third Thursday and Friday. Meeting dates may be changed by unanimous consent of the Commission. Other meetings shall be designated as Special Meetings and may be held in person or by conference call. Upon the written request of a majority of the Commissioners of each state from three or more states, the Chair shall call a Special Meeting of the Commission.
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> **ARTICLE IV. OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE**
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> Section 1. The officers of the Commission shall consist of a Chair, a First Vice-Chair and a Second Vice-Chair. In the temporary absence of the Chair, the First Vice-Chair shall have the power and authority of the Chair, and in the event the Chair ceases to be a Commissioner, the First Vice-Chair shall automatically become Chair of the Commission. In the absence of both the Chair and the First Vice-Chair, the Second Vice-Chair shall preside. No proxy, except as provided in Article IV, Section 3, shall serve as Chair, First Vice-Chair, or Second Vice-Chair.

Section 2. The Chair and two Vice-Chairs shall normally be elected at the Annual Meeting and shall serve until their successors have been duly elected and qualified, but may be elected at a Regular or Special Meeting of the Commission should vacancies occur provided due notification of such election is served as provided for in Article II, Section 3, of these Rules and Regulations.

Review of Committee Listings

D. Donaldson stated that in Tab N there is a Committee Listing of active committee representatives for each state. He asked the Commission to review their state and to send any changes to him. He said these representatives can be changed at their discretion anytime throughout the year by sending him an email for the record.

Publications List and Web Statistics

D. Donaldson stated this in informational only and if anyone has questions, to contact him.

Other Business

The Commission discussed paying travel insurance when purchasing airline tickets. **D. Donaldson** said there has only been a few times when someone had to cancel and the airline issued a credit that could be used for future Commission travel.

Action: The Commission asked staff to research if it would be beneficial to start purchasing travel insurance and to present the information at the next Commission meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:59pm.

ATTACHMENT I

STATE DIRECTORS' REPORTS

AUTHENTICATED
U.S. GOVERNMENT
INFORMATION
GPO

117TH CONGRESS
2d Session
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
REPORT
117–395

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2023

JUNE 30, 2022.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

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

R E P O R T

together with

MINORITY VIEWS

[To accompany H.R. 8256]

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, 2023, and for other purposes.

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47–905

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 and police reform; combating violent crime, financial fraud, terrorism, cyber threats, and espionage; 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 $85,546,000,000 in discretionary budget authority for fiscal year 2023. Within the level of funds provided, the bill prioritizes funding for Federal, State, and local law enforcement to help fight crime and improve public safety, while also helping to improve community policing practices and other measures to ensure the civil rights of all Americans. The bill includes funding for important initiatives aimed at protecting democracy in the United States. Furthermore, the bill prioritizes numerous public investments in job creation, infrastructure improvements, American competitiveness, climate and other scientific research, improved accuracy of weather forecasting, and legal assistance for low-income persons.

Protecting Democracy in the United States.—The bill funds the full Administration request of $34,144,000 for additional Federal prosecutorial resources to bring to justice those involved in perpetrating the January 6, 2021 insurrection at the United States Capitol building. In addition, the bill funds the full Administration request for $5,951,000 in additional resources within the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division to reinforce democratic institutions and protect the right to vote. Finally, the bill funds the full Administration request of $876,000 within the Justice Department's Criminal Division for the investigation and prosecution of election crimes.

Infrastructure, Job Creation, and Economic Growth.—This bill invests in our nation's infrastructure improvement needs by providing $510,000,000 for the Economic Development Administration (EDA), an increase of $136,500,000 above fiscal year 2022, including $70 million to support local labor markets and local communities experiencing high prime-age employment gaps, as well as strong increases for EDA's Assistance to Coal Communities program, and Regional Innovation Strategies program, and continued healthy funding levels for 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 helps expand economic growth in other ways as well. The recommendation includes $221,000,000 for the Manufacturing Extension Partnership program, an increase of $54,000,000 above fiscal year 2022. This program helps small- and medium-sized U.S. manufacturers create jobs and expand business growth opportunities. The bill also provides $18,000,000 for the Manufacturing USA program, an increase of more than nine percent above fiscal year 2022. A robust funding increase is provided for the International

Trade Administration, to create U.S. jobs by expanding U.S. exports and fighting the unfair trade practices of other countries. Furthermore, the full budget request of $4,253,404,000 is provided for the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (PTO), to enable PTO to promote innovation in the United States by protecting the Nation's intellectual property rights both at home and abroad. Finally, the bill provides $70,000,000 for the Minority Business Development Agency, an increase of $15,000,000 above fiscal year 2022, to help create jobs and expand business growth opportunities among minority-owned U.S. companies.

The bill also makes responsible investments in the future of the Nation's economy and workforce, with funding increases for STEM engagement at NASA, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and the National Science Foundation (NSF), as well as an increase for EDA's STEM Apprenticeship Program to create and expand STEM apprenticeships and other workforce training models. Within the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), strong funding increases are provided for research efforts related to key future technologies, including quantum information science and artificial intelligence. Furthermore, the bill includes a strong increase for the Broadening Participation in STEM program at NSF. Global leadership requires diverse ideas that will charge innovation.

Preventing and Prosecuting Gun Violence and Other Violent Crime.—The bill takes important steps towards addressing the problem of gun violence in our country. The recommendation maintains 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 to ensure that persons legally prohibited from purchasing a firearm are unable to do so. The bill also provides the full Administration request of $1,732,528,000 for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), an increase of more than 13 percent, to hire additional special agents and investigative personnel, expand oversight of Federal Firearms Licensees, and increase the capacity of the National Integrated Ballistic Information Network to expand its reach to communities as an essential tool in combatting gun violence. Furthermore, the bill provides $150,000,000 for Community Violence Intervention and Prevention, as well as $40,000,000 to help States implement and enforce extreme risk protection orders to prevent guns from going to individuals at an elevated risk of harming themselves or others.

To improve school safety, the bill provides $175,000,000, an increase of $40,000,000 above fiscal year 2022, for grants under the STOP School Violence Act of 2018. In addition, the bill increases funding for other activities that will help prevent school violence, including strong funding increases for youth mentoring grants and grants for juvenile justice and delinquency prevention.The bill also funds a new grant program aimed at providing effective alternatives to youth incarceration.

The bill further supports law enforcement by providing strong funding increases for both Federal law enforcement and State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance. This includes COPS programs (including COPS Hiring), Byrne Justice Assistance Grants, and $225,140,000 for community projects aimed at enhancing public

safety and reforming the justice system. Finally, the bill provides enhanced resources for U.S. Attorneys to prosecute violent crime.

Support for Crime Victims.—Section 510 of the bill provides $2,050,000,000 for Crime Victims Fund programs, including a five percent set-aside for Tribes. For programs under the Violence Against Women Act, the bill provides $642,000,000, an increase of $67,000,000 above fiscal year 2022, including a strong increase for the Sexual Assault Services Program and increases for legal and transitional housing assistance for victims. A strong funding level of $90,000,000 is provided to reduce the backlog of unprocessed rape kits, an increase of $40,000,000 above fiscal year 2022. The bill includes $20,000,000 for a new grant program for regional sexual assault investigative training academies. Within the funding level for the Civil Rights Division, a new initiative is funded aimed at fighting gender-based violence, discrimination, and harassment. The bill additionally includes $36,000,000 for Victims of Child Abuse Programs.

Fighting the Opioid Epidemic.—The bill provides very substantial resources to help effectively 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. This includes increases for Drug Courts, Veterans Treatment Courts, and the Comprehensive Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program (JMHCP). In addition, the Drug Enforcement Administration and Interagency Crime and Drug Enforcement are funded at the Administration's requested levels of $3,104,603,000 and $550,458,000, respectively.

First Step Act and Second Chance Act.—The recommendation includes not less than $409,483,000 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 $125,000,000 for Second Chance Act grants, an increase of $10,000,000 above fiscal year 2022.

Protecting Civil Rights.—The Committee bill includes numerous recommendations and initiatives aimed at greatly advancing civil rights, equal opportunity, and racial justice in the United States. These include the following:

- $215,192,000 for the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice, an increase of $52,672,000 above fiscal year 2022.
- Directs the Attorney General to provide an update on efforts to improve evidence-based training for Federal law enforcement officers on the use of force.
- Provides $10,000,000 for grants to train State and local law enforcement officers on racial profiling, de-escalation, and duty to intervene when witnessing other officers using excessive force, as well as $50,000,000 for community policing development, including funding for co-responder crisis teams, accreditation support, de-escalation training, and diversity and anti-bias training.
- Provides $4,000,000 for the development of best practices for, and the creation of, civilian review boards to oversee local police departments.

- Provides $25,024,000 for the Community Relations Service, an increase of $4,024,000 above fiscal year 2022.
- Provides $14,350,000 for the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, an increase of $1,350,000 above fiscal year 2022, including continued funding for the Commission on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys.
- Provides $464,650,000 for the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), an increase of $44,650,000 above fiscal year 2022, to continue prioritization of the enforcement of Federal anti-discrimination laws and to pursue litigation and strategic initiatives quickly and aggressively.
- Provides $70,000,000 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. An additional $30,000,000 is provided for community groups for efforts to prevent hate crimes, as well as $2,500,000 for a youth-focused hate crime prevention and intervention initiative. Furthermore, $15,000,000 is included for grants under the Jabara-Heyer NO HATE Act to help States create hate crime reporting hotlines and to assist States and localities in preventing, addressing, and responding to hate crimes, including through the implementation of the National Incident-Based Reporting System. Finally, within the funding increase for the Civil Rights Division, resources are provided for an initiative aimed at confronting the rising tide of hate and bias.
- Provides $15,500,000 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 strong funding levels for an array of programs dedicated to broadening participation in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields among underrepresented groups, including $48,000,000 for NASA's Minority University Research Education Project; $22,500,000 for the NOAA Educational Partnership Program with Minority Serving Institutions; and the following funding levels for NSF program: no less than $57,000,000 for the Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation, no less than $71,000,000 for the Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program, and no less than $19,000,000 for the Tribal Colleges and Universities Program.

Efforts to Address Climate Change.—The bill provides very 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's Earth Science activities and aeronautics research aimed at producing more environmentally sustainable aviation.

The recommendation also includes $254,216,000 for NOAA climate research activities, an increase of $54,216,000 above fiscal year 2022, including efforts to improve sea level rise forecasts and

identify impacts of climate change on fisheries. A strong funding increase is also provided for NOAA's efforts to help facilitate the expansion of offshore wind energy. The recommendation further includes $34,000,000 for the National Oceans and Coastal Security Fund and $89,000,000 for NOAA's Coastal Zone Management grant program. These grant programs fund green and grey coastal infrastructure solutions to help protect coastal areas threatened by rising sea level and other impacts of climate change.

In addition, the recommendation includes an increase of $83,390,000 for NOAA's National Weather Service to enhance its ability to accurately forecast extreme weather events. Numerous other investments are included across NOAA in support of the weather mission, including funding to improve the understanding and prediction of wildfire behavior that will help inform suppression efforts and provide more advanced notice to communities at risk from wildfires, as well as funding to maintain and recapitalize NOAA's hurricane hunter aircraft. The Committee notes that wildfire research is a priority at NASA as well, and urges NASA and NOAA to continue to improve collaboration to improve efficiency of research and avoid overlap in studying and improving response to wildfires.

Finally, the bill provides a major increase for climate and clean energy-related research at NSF to improve our understanding of climate change, increase innovative energy technologies, enhance sustainability, and mitigate climate change.

Fighting Cyberthreats.—Throughout the bill, robust funding is provided to strengthen agencies' cybersecurity, necessary in the face of increased threats to Federal assets. Additionally, the bill provides $103,000,000, an increase of $18,000,000, for NIST's role in supporting the strengthening of Federal and private cybersecurity efforts, and also provides strong funding increases for the efforts of the FBI and the Justice Department's National Security Division to deter, investigate, and pursue cyberthreats and cybercrime. Furthermore, the bill provides no less than $74,000,000 for NSF's CyberCorps Scholarships for Service program, an increase of $11,000,000 above fiscal year 2022, to help recruit and train the next generation of U.S. cybersecurity professionals.

Legal Services Corporation.—The recommendation makes a historic investment to help ensure access to justice for all Americans by providing $675,000,000 for the Legal Services Corporation, an increase of $186,000,000 above fiscal year 2022. This increase will ensure that low-income individuals and families have greater access to assistance to help resolve civil legal problems.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).—For NASA, the bill includes $25,446,200,000, an increase of $1,404,900,000 above fiscal year 2022, including strong funding levels for NASA's science, aeronautics research, human space exploration, space technology, and STEM Engagement programs.

Other Science Investments.—The recommendation makes other strong investments in science as well, providing $9,631,243,000 overall for the National Science Foundation, an increase of $793,243,000 above fiscal year 2022, and $953,000,000 for scientific and technical research and services of the National Institute of Standards and Technology, an increase of $103,000,000 above fiscal year 2022.

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 full funding for the work of agency inspectors general to help prevent waste, fraud, and abuse.

—Requires agencies to submit spending plans for the Committee's review.

—Requires quarterly reporting of unobligated balances.

—Requires agencies to track undisbursed grant balances.

—Withholds funding from NASA's Mobile Launcher 2 project until detailed cost and schedule information are provided to Congress, the Government Accountability Office (GAO), and the NASA Office of Inspector General.

—Requires agencies procuring sensitive information technology systems to conduct supply chain risk assessments.

—Requires agencies to notify the Committee of project cost overruns and mitigation plans.

—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.

—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.

—Requires agency computer networks to block pornography.

Sexual Harassment and Assault.—The Committee recognizes that harassment, including sexual harassment and assault, continue to be pervasive in the workplace, and that the use of predispute nondisclosure and nondisparagement clauses as conditions of employment can perpetuate illegal conduct by silencing survivors and shielding perpetrators. The Committee directs the departments and agencies funded in this bill to assess the prevalence of predispute nondisclosure and nondisparagement clauses in employment contracts used by contractors and grantees receiving Federal funds. The Committee further directs each department and agency funded in this bill to include proposals in its fiscal year 2024 budget request to eliminate the use of grants and contracts to employers that use this practice.

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 date of enactment of this Act.

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 the date of enactment of this Act.

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.

Advertising Contracts.—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 to include the following information in its fiscal year 2024 budget justification: expenditures for fiscal year 2022 and expected expenditures for fiscal year 2024 for: (1) all contracts for advertising services; and (2) contracts for the advertising services of (A) socially and economically disadvantaged small businesses 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.

Research Impacted by the Pandemic.—During the pandemic, the U.S. research enterprise has suffered greatly, particularly impacting early career researchers, putting at risk U.S. leadership in global research and innovation. The changing environment brought on by COVID–19 resulted in halted research projects and uncertain career prospects, not only for this generation, but also future generations of scientists and the overall U.S. research pipeline. To help address these problems, the Committee encourages the Department of Commerce, NASA, and NSF to provide funding to continue to support these researchers whose work in support of science agency missions has been impacted by the pandemic, with a particular focus on the needs of early career researchers.

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 intended 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 2023, and non-appropriated resources such as fee collections that are used to meet program requirements in fiscal year 2023. 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 var-

ious 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 $629,876,000 in total resources for the programs of the International Trade Administration (ITA), which is $59,876,000 above fiscal year 2022. This amount is offset by $12,000,000 in estimated fee collections, resulting in a direct appropriation of $617,876,000. 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 includes funding for the continued expansion of the Survey of International Air Travelers. Additionally, the recommendation supports the requested increase for ITA to fulfill new requirements on supply chain resilience across manufacturing and services industries.

Enforcement and Compliance.—The recommendation for Enforcement and Compliance includes no less than the fiscal year 2022 enacted level. The recommendation includes the requested program increase to continue the hiring for the ninth Anti-Dumping and Countervailing Duties (AD/CVD) enforcement office and directs ITA to continue to make AD/CVD enforcement a priority, including thoroughly investigating the extent of the harm caused to domestic industries. The recommendation includes no less than the fiscal year 2022 enacted level for ITA's web-based aluminum licensing and import monitoring system, known as the Aluminum Import Monitoring (AIM) system. The Committee continues to encourage ITA to regularly consult with the aluminum industry on market dynamics to ensure the AIM system is supporting U.S. aluminum producers.

Global Markets.—The recommendation provides $391,807,000 for Global Markets, as requested. This amount will help increase U.S. export competitiveness and the United States' ability to counter unfair trade practices and economic coercion by the People's Republic of China. The Committee notes that with this funding, ITA will be able to enhance its staffing in three overseas regions: the Indo-Pacific; the Western Hemisphere; and the Middle East-Africa, to identify positive opportunities for companies. Additionally, the Com-

mittee looks forward to receiving the report directed in the Explanatory Statement accompanying Public Law 117–103 outlining the Department's recommendations and estimated costs to increase U.S. trade and investment opportunities, including the expansion of the U.S. Commercial Service in Africa and regions of international strategic significance, such as Latin America, the Caribbean, and the Pacific.

U.S. Foreign Commercial Service Minority Fellowship.—The bill includes a new provision providing authority for ITA to establish a fellowship program to recruit students for a career with the U.S. Foreign Commercial Service, a complement program to existing Department of State fellowships. The Committee recognizes the importance of representing the diversity of our Nation overseas as part of ITA's mission to expand opportunities for U.S. businesses within global markets. The Committee directs ITA to include an implementation plan for the fellowship program as part of its fiscal year 2023 spend plan.

U.S. Export Assistance Centers (USEACs).—The Committee continues its directives regarding the staffing of USEACs and expects ITA to continue to update the Committee, as described in House Report 117–97, in its quarterly updates. The Committee understands ITA has made progress in onboarding full-time staff for previously vacant USEACs and directs ITA to provide a supplement report, due no later than 180 days after the enactment of this Act, providing a staffing plan for any USEAC that did not have a full-time permanent staff person in fiscal year 2022, including a breakdown of all related costs to maintain these locations and a timeframe for staffing these locations, with projected out-year costs.

Promoting Rural Exports.—ITA's Rural Export Initiative began over two decades ago, providing export counseling and services to rural businesses through the USEAC networks and the Rural Global Team. Beginning in fiscal year 2020, ITA established a "virtual" Rural Export Center (REC) to enhance its rural outreach efforts and provide customized market research for rural businesses. The REC and USEACs throughout the United States provide rural businesses with export business development assistance, and when appropriate, certain fee-based services like the Rural America's Intelligence Service for Exporters (RAISE). The Committee is aware that demand for REC services, such as RAISE, continues to grow and in fiscal year 2022, ITA is actively in the process of hiring a full-time REC Director, to be staffed at a physical location, focused exclusively on rural exports. The Committee directs ITA to report to the Committee on the REC's effectiveness, including the assistance provided to rural companies, the customized market research produced for these companies, and their ultimate export successes, no later than a year after the enactment of this Act.

Ukraine Reconstruction Plan.—As the unprovoked aggression against Ukraine continues, planning for a post-conflict rebuilding is critical and the Committee encourages ITA to contribute to any such effort. The Committee values the national security and economic importance of U.S. relations with Ukraine and directs the Secretary, as part of any reconstruction plan, to help facilitate the expansion of the U.S. economic footprint in Ukraine and increase direct engagement with Ukrainian businesses.

BUREAU OF INDUSTRY AND SECURITY

OPERATIONS AND ADMINISTRATION

The Committee recommends $191,389,000 for the Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS), $50,389,000 above fiscal year 2022. The recommendation includes the requested funding for new initiatives: National Information and Communications Technology and Services (ICTS) Supply Chain Security, Defense Production Act Industrial Studies, and Securing the U.S. Technology Ecosystem. BIS is directed to keep the Committee apprised of any positions it plans to transition from temporary to permanent pursuant to the authorities included in Division N of the Ukraine Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2022 (Public Law 117–103).

Congressional Notifications.—The Committee notes that BIS recently issued a final rule that amends the Export Administration Regulations (EAR) to add a new section to the EAR to adopt a congressional notification requirement for certain license applications of semiautomatic firearms, previously under the jurisdiction of the State Department's International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR), which meet certain value and destination requirements that will take effect on July 18, 2022. The Committee appreciates this return to a prior practice when these firearms were originally regulated through the ITAR.

Government Accountability Office (GAO) Study on Munitions Exports.—The Committee is aware that several categories of munitions were brought under the BIS review process as a result of a rule change that went into effect in March 2020. The Committee remains concerned that there is a continued lack of coordination between the State Department and BIS in ensuring that suspect, sanctioned, and prohibited end users do not end up with dangerous weapons. The Committee directs the GAO to conduct a study examining how the authorization process for certain firearms exports has changed since the primary responsibility for reviewing and approving these export requests was transferred to the Department of Commerce. Among any other issues GAO deems relevant to this review, the study should address BIS' license determination process for firearms exports, including whether there is information that the State Department uses that BIS does not in making these license determinations. The study should examine the extent to which BIS is using relevant screening lists, including 'Watch List' information provided by the State Department and other databases containing information on suspect or sanctioned end users, particularly any allegations of human rights abuses. The study should also examine approval and rejection rates for these firearms export authorizations and identify whether there have been any situations in which suspect or sanctioned end users, either individuals or foreign security units, have received firearms exports since the new rules were promulgated.

BIS Efforts to Address Spyware and Digital Surveillance Threats.—As of June 2, 2022, BIS has added 357 entities to the Entity List, almost double the total amount added in all of fiscal year 2021. The Committee commends the Department's use of the Entity List as a tool to confront the threat to U.S. national security from foreign mercenary spyware companies and urges BIS to continue its use of the Entity List to ensure American companies do

not inadvertently contribute to the development of dangerous surveillance technologies. Furthermore, the Committee requests that the Department consider the inclusion of additional items and services with surveillance capabilities to the Commerce Control List that could be used to abuse human rights, with subsequent license requirements imposed on end user destinations with a history of internal repression.

Semiconductor Supply Chain and Export Controls.—The Committee recognizes the important role BIS plays to maintain its mission to protect U.S. national security and prevent our adversaries from obtaining dual use technologies, and urges BIS to consider the impact of U.S. semiconductor related export control policies on the global semiconductor shortage, and the resulting impact on the U.S. industrial base, particularly in the automotive, home appliance, agricultural machinery, aerospace and defense industries. BIS should continue to carry out industrial base analysis as required to support these activities. The Committee notes that if export controls are not targeted and strategic, then there is potential for a slowdown in innovation in the semiconductor industry and reduction in global chip manufacturing capability for the U.S. and its allies, and risks inadvertently disadvantaging the U.S. national strategy on semiconductor leadership.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION

The Committee recommends $510,000,000 for the programs and administrative expenses of the Economic Development Administration (EDA), which is $7,482,000 more than the request and $136,500,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

The Committee provides $445,000,000 for the Economic Development Assistance Programs account for grants to economically distressed areas. EDA is playing a pivotal role in helping communities mitigate the impacts of the COVID–19 pandemic, and the recommended funds will allow EDA to help build and strengthen communities for long-term growth.

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:

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

(In thousands of dollars)

Program	Amount
Public Works	$120,500
Partnership Planning	36,000
Technical Assistance	13,000
Research and Evaluation	2,000
Trade Adjustment Assistance	13,500
Economic Adjustment Assistance	42,000
Assistance to Coal Communities	80,500
Assistance to Nuclear Closure Communities	13,000
Regional Innovation Program Grants	50,000
Recompete Pilot Program	70,000
STEM Apprenticeship Program	4,500
Total, Economic Development Assistance Programs	$445,000

Assistance to Coal Communities.—The Committee appreciates the strong support in the budget request that builds on the Committee's prior efforts to assist communities that are suffering from the long decline of the coal industry and related decline in economic activity. Accordingly, the recommendation includes $80,500,000 for Assistance to Coal Communities, which is equal to the request and an increase of $39,000,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level. EDA is directed 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. The Committee expects EDA to creatively work with local communities to develop comprehensive, well-orchestrated strategies to promote economic growth.

Public Works.—The Committee provides $120,500,000 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.

Sustainable Development.—The Committee supports efforts by EDA to assist local- and state-level public-private partnerships working on sustainable development and climate change, especially through stakeholder-based frameworks that measure progress through open-data platforms that inform public decision-making.

University Centers.—In order to promote equity in economic development, the Committee encourages EDA's University Centers initiative to consider the importance of assisting less-resourced institutions, such as Minority Serving Institutions, whose mission is educating students of color.

Build to Scale.—The Committee continues to support the Build to Scale program—also known as the Regional Innovation Strategies program—and provides an increase of $5,000,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level. Further, 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. Further, 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, patent creation, and promoting technology commercialization through business startups.

Nuclear Power Plant Closures.—The Committee notes that closures of nuclear power plants throughout the United States continue to impact the economic foundation of surrounding communities through sudden job losses and a dramatic reduction to the local tax base. The Committee recognizes that the closure threat of nuclear power plants undermines the stability of communities' local tax base, which disproportionately rely on the power plants as a bedrock for their economic future. The Committee appreciates the work EDA has undertaken to assist such communities in prior years and provides $13,000,000 for competitive economic adjustment assistance to continue 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 EDA to report to the Committee no later than 90 days after enactment of this Act on the status of these efforts.

STEM Apprenticeship 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, apprenticeships will be instrumental in meeting the urgent demand for a STEM-literate workforce. Therefore, the Committee provides $4,500,000 to expand the STEM Apprenticeship Program 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. 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 2016–2020 5-year data series available from the American Community Survey of the Census Bureau. 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 by section 533 of this Act. 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 Committee further directs the Department to develop and implement additional measures to increase the share of investments from all Department programs in persistent poverty counties, high-poverty areas, and any other impoverished communities the Department determines to be appropriate areas to target. The Committee directs the Department to submit a report to the Committee that includes a list of the programs under which the amount of Federal investments targeted to such areas were increased in fiscal year 2023, and, for each such program, the amount of funds that were targeted to such areas; the percent change from fiscal year 2022 in the amount of funds that were targeted toward such areas; and, to the extent practicable, an assessment of the economic impact of the program on the areas, including data on the categories of individuals impacted by the targeting of funds to such areas under the program, disaggregated by household income, race, gender, age, national origin, disability status, and whether the individuals live in an urban area, suburban area, or rural area.

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 that 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 $65,000,000 for EDA salaries and expenses.

MINORITY BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

MINORITY BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

The recommendation includes $73,000,000 for the Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA), an increase of $18,000,000 over the fiscal year 2022 enacted level.

Business Center and Specialty Project Center Programs.—As a result of the COVID–19 pandemic, small businesses around the country are facing enormous financial challenges, with minority-owned businesses suffering at a disproportionate rate. The Committee provides no less than $28,500,000, an increase of $7,500,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level, for MBDA's Business Center and Specialty Project Center programs to ensure their network of business counselors, minority chambers of commerce, and other resources are able to continue providing assistance to minority-owned small businesses in need.

Minority Chambers of Commerce.—The Committee recognizes the important role of minority chambers of commerce in supporting the mission of MBDA and encourages the Agency to utilize national and local minority chambers and their members in implementing the program's mission of providing resources to underserved populations. MBDA shall provide a report to the Committee no later than 180 days after the enactment of this Act summarizing its coordination efforts with national and local minority chambers.

Native American Business Development.—The Committee provides not less than $5,000,000 for MBDA to award grants to Tribes and American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian populations to address barriers to economic development. MBDA shall coordinate with the Department's Office of Native American Business Development on these efforts and to implement innovative programs to support Tribal small business owners.

Minority Serving Institutions Entrepreneurship Pilot.—The Committee provides no less than $1,500,000 to continue the Minority Serving Institutions Entrepreneurship Pilot as established in Public Law 116–260 to support entrepreneurship for undergraduate students at Minority Serving Institutions.

ECONOMIC AND STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

The Committee recommends $132,320,000 for the Economics and Statistics Administration, $16,320,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level. The recommendation assumes the requested amount of $127,820,000 for the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) which

includes $2,713,000 to improve and expand distributional measures of growth. The Committee directs BEA to further research methods that will allow a quarterly release schedule with minimal lag.

Outdoor Recreation Satellite Account.—Within the amounts provided, up to $1,500,000 is provided for the Outdoor Recreation Satellite Account (ORSA) that was created through the Outdoor Recreation Jobs and Economic Impact Act of 2016 (Public Law 114–249). The Committee expects that if the impacts of the COVID–19 pandemic on the outdoor recreation economy continue, they will be highlighted in the fiscal year 2023 ORSA release.

Data Collection Sources.—The Committee recognizes the value and importance of real-time economic data for the purpose of identifying economic trends and consumer sentiment. The Committee encourages BEA and the Department to use a competitive process to procure consumer sentiment and economic indicator data. Further, as the Department prepares future solicitations for economic data and research, the Committee encourages the Department to conduct robust market research to identify potential new market entrants and to prioritize those leveraging consumer-sourced data that have a strong record of performance and most effectively apply technology to acquire real-time information.

Alternative Economic Indicators.—The Committee is aware that BEA has been engaged in an agenda to better measure economic well-being. In 2020, BEA published "GDP and Beyond: Priorities and Plans" that laid out a comprehensive plan to best report on the well-being of the American public. In support of this effort the Committee directs BEA, in coordination with other Federal agencies, to report to the Committee not later than one year after enactment of this Act on updates to its research on alternative economic metrics, including projected milestones and costs for the development, implementation, and administration of alternative economic metrics alongside existing measures and methodologies.

Modernizing Economic Statistics in the Territories.—The Committee reiterates its interest in BEA producing quarterly economic surveys and personal income statistics for the territories, in the same manner that such data is produced and collected for the 50 States and the District of Columbia. The Committee looks forward to receiving the overall cost estimate and implementation plan directed in House Report 117–97 to achieve this goal and integrate the five territories into the full set of the National Income and Product Accounts, which will require the territory-level GDP data to meet BEA's quality standards.

BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

The Committee recommends a total of $1,505,470,000 for the Bureau of the Census, as requested and $151,470,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level. The recommendation does not assume the new appropriation account structure proposed by the Administration.

The Committee looks forward to receiving the report directed in House Report 117–97 under the heading "Modernizing the collection and publication of race and ethnicity data" and continues to urge the Census Bureau to continue its work with the Office of Management and Budget to facilitate appropriate, scientifically-guided revisions to those standards that will allow the Bureau to

modernize its collection of race and ethnicity data, including the addition of a Middle Eastern and North African (MENA) ethnicity category and a combined race and Hispanic origin question, as soon as practicable.

CURRENT SURVEYS AND PROGRAMS

The Committee recommends $336,176,000 for Current Surveys and Programs, which is $36,176,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted amount.

High Frequency Data Program.—The Committee directs no less than the fiscal year 2022 enacted level for the High Frequency Data Program and encourages the Bureau to include frequent and timely measures of poverty and material hardship, including measures focused on child poverty and children and family wellbeing, as part of the continued expansion of the program. The Committee encourages the Bureau to consider measures of children and family wellbeing related to housing and food insecurity; access to child care and transportation; ability to balance work, educational, and caregiving responsibilities; ability to pay household expenses; family savings and debt; and ability to afford educational and extracurricular activities for children. Where appropriate, the Committee encourages the Bureau to include a breakdown of data by race and ethnicity, including for Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) racial and ethnic subgroups and for American Indians and Alaska Natives (AIAN). Additionally, the Committee directs the Bureau to report to the Committee not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act on these efforts.

Improving Annual Poverty Data Collection.—Annual estimates of the Official Poverty Measure and the Supplemental Poverty Measure both come from the Annual Social and Economic Supplement (ASEC) sample of the Census' Current Population Survey (CPS)—sometimes referred to as the "March sample." The CPS is a monthly survey of employment and labor force activity—and the March sample has additional questions measuring incomes over the prior calendar year that allows both the Census and academic researchers to measure poverty. As with all surveys, estimates are limited by the statistical "power" associated with the sample size. The Committee recognizes that the cost of collecting data for CPS to maintain current sample size and quality requirements has increased significantly over recent years. The recommendation includes the requested increase for CPS in the budget proposal and recognizes the Census Bureau, in coordination with the Bureau of Labor Statistics, will use these additional resources to assess the feasibility of combining CPS survey data with other sources of information, such as administrative data and population estimates, to produce estimates on topics of interest. The Committee recognizes the interest in poverty measures for discrete populations—including AAPI and AIAN, groups of certain ethnicities, or even poverty measures for a congressional district. Within the funds provided, the Committee urges the Census Bureau to increase the sample size of the March supplement of the CPS. Additionally, the Committee recognizes the Census Bureau's work in determining the feasibility of expanding this survey to Puerto Rico and appreciates the report including estimated costs for implementation provided to the Committee in June 2020. The Committee urges that,

within funds provided, steps are taken to begin this work. The Committee encourages the Census Bureau to review the feasibility of expansion in the remaining territories and to report to the Committee on these efforts no later than 120 days after enactment of this Act.

PERIODIC CENSUSES AND PROGRAMS

The Committee recommends $1,169,294,000 for Periodic Censuses and Programs, which is $115,294,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level.

The Committee is concerned over the accuracy of the 2020 Decennial Census and the impact the Department's unprecedented engagement in technical matters with the Census Bureau during the years leading up to the 2020 Decennial may have had on the efficacy of response rates. The Committee directs a briefing from the Census Bureau, in coordination with the Scientific Integrity Task Force, no later than 45 days after enactment of this Act on steps it is taking to minimize interference in the 2030 Decennial Census. Additionally, the Committee recognizes that pandemic-related disruptions to the 2020 Decennial Census operations may have resulted in significant undercounts in some localities. The Committee notes that decennial census counts are the basis for annual population estimates that are used to distribute Federal resources, and therefore, those estimates should be as accurate as possible. As the Census Bureau reinstates the Population Estimates Challenge Program this decade, the Census Bureau should consider more flexible methodologies and broader use of administrative data to ensure meaningful opportunities to improve the accuracy of the estimates, including appropriate improvements to the estimates base. Additionally, the Committee directs GAO to review the Census Bureau's efforts and brief the Committee within 180 days of the Census Bureau completing its related work on the Population Estimates Challenge Program.

NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

The Committee recommends $62,000,000 for the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), which is $12,000,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level. The recommendation includes the requested increases for IT Security Maintenance and Resilience and to Build Capacity for Cybersecurity and International Standards.

Telecommunications Role in Hate Crimes.—The Committee continues to wait for the report regarding the role of telecommunications in hate crimes as directed in House Report 116–101, adopted by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020, Public Law 116–93. The Department shall provide the Committee with an update on the status of the report on a monthly basis.

Office of Internet Connectivity and Growth.—The recommendation includes no less than $19,485,000, an increase of $2,500,000 above the fiscal year 2022 level for the Office of Internet Connectivity and Growth.

Broadband Access for Urban Areas.—The Committee notes that access to broadband is a determinant for success for all individuals and that there should not be digital discrimination in supporting unserved and underserved populations based on whether they are in urban or rural areas. As such, the Committee directs the Department of Commerce, in conjunction with the States and Territories of the United States, to ensure that States and Territories can demonstrate that they will be able to provide service to unserved and underserved urban areas when they apply for funding from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act's Broadband, Equity, Access, and Deployment Program.

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, 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. NTIA shall submit a report to the Committee, not later than 90 days after the enactment of this Act, on progress made in this regard.

Public Safety Communications.—The Committee supports and fully funds the request to continue the activities of the Office of Public Safety Communications (OPSC).

911 Training Grants.—911 professionals are a critical part of the emergency response effort and are asked to deal with a large variety of emergency situations and technologies. The job is both increasingly critical and complex. To help ensure that 911 professionals have the resources and training to correctly and quickly respond to a variety of emergency situations, the Committee directs NTIA, through OPSC, to develop a plan for a competitive grant program to provide 911 call centers and agencies with resources to help 911 professionals address critical training needs, including, but not limited to, training on new next generation technologies, addressing mental health crises, responding to reports of wildfires, responding to reports of active shooter situations, addressing hostage crisis negotiations, conducting witness interviews, and opioid specific responses. This plan shall be provided to the Committee no later than 180 days after the enactment of this Act, and funding for this program shall be included in the fiscal year 2024 budget request.

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 the 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 recommendation includes $289,000 for NTIA to work with the FCC and the Department of

State to provide support for activities authorized 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.

Spectrum Coordination.—The Committee remains concerned about ongoing, public disputes among Federal agencies that disrupt spectrum reallocation initiatives, harm efforts to deploy new commercial wireless technologies, and undermine U.S. competitiveness with peer nations. The Committee is encouraged that NTIA and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) have launched a new Spectrum Coordination Initiative to improve Federal coordination on spectrum management issues, including committing to update the 20-year Memorandum of Understanding between the two agencies. The Committee expects NTIA to take further action to help eliminate the potential for future interagency spectrum disputes, including promptly implementing the relevant recommendations from GAO report 21–474, entitled "Spectrum Management: Agencies Should Strengthen Collaborative Mechanisms and Processes to Address Potential Interference."

In addition, NTIA shall perform a review of its internal capacity for spectrum management in the face of ever-increasing demand for spectrum from Federal partners. The review shall identify required investments to fully meet the mission of the management of spectrum for the entire Federal Government. The findings of this review, including recommendations and detailed cost estimates, shall be provided in a report to the Committee no later 180 days after the enactment of this Act.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

The Committee recommends $4,253,404,000 for the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), the full amount of fiscal year 2022 fee collections estimated by the Congressional Budget Office. USPTO shall continue to provide monthly reports to the Committee on USPTO's actual and projected fee collections, application volumes, performance, and staffing.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY

The Committee recommends $1,474,181,000 for the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), which is $244,118,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level.

Small Manufacturing Cybersecurity Support.—The Committee encourages NIST, including through the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP), to explore opportunities to partner with the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment and Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency to leverage expertise and help small manufacturers enhance the protection of controlled unclassified information within the supply chain, respond quickly to crippling cyber-attacks and theft of intellectual property, and prepare small manufacturing clients for Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification.

SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL RESEARCH AND SERVICES (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

The Committee recommends $953,000,000 for NIST's Scientific and Technical Research and Services (STRS) programs, which is $103,000,000 above fiscal year 2022. Within these funds, the Committee provides the following increases above the fiscal year 2022 enacted levels: no less than $8,000,000 for Supporting the American Bioeconomy; $5,000,000 for the NIST Center for Neutron Research Controls and Corrective Actions; $10,000,000 for Public Communications Research and Advanced Technology Accelerator; $6,500,000 for Measurement Service Modernization; and $2,000,000 for the iEdison System.

The Committee further supports efforts at NIST to strengthen its workforce, including those initiatives aimed at ensuring that NIST's workforce is fully representative of the diversity of the Nation.

Climate and Energy Measurement, Tools, and Testbeds.—The recommendation includes an increase of no less than $20,000,000 above the fiscal year 2022 amount to support the request for Climate and Energy Measurement, Tools, and Testbeds. Within these initiatives, no less than $5,000,000 shall be for carbon dioxide removal, utilization, and sequestration research, including for developing standard reference materials and standard testing procedures for direct air capture and for supporting carbonate materials development, testing, and certification for construction markets.

Forward-Looking Building Standards.—The Committee provides not less than $3,500,000 for continuing the work required by the directive under this heading contained in the Joint Explanatory Statement that accompanied Public Law 117–103. Not later than 90 days after the enactment of this Act, NIST shall submit a report to the Committee on progress it has made toward aiding both Federal and non-Federal bodies in developing standards, building codes, and voluntary standards that account for increasingly extreme weather events and other climate change challenges.

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 research and development (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 $17,500,000 for the Greenhouse Gas Program and Urban Dome Initiative to continue and expand sensor network deployments and other related activities.

Wildfires and the Wildland-Urban Interface.—The Committee commends the work of NIST's Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) Fire Group, which conducts research into reducing the impact to life and property in WUI communities exposed to wildfires. The Committee notes that further efforts are needed to help ensure that building standards incorporate the most recent practices, science-based understanding, and research to help preserve human life and property, and to ensure that future city planning draws on

this work. To further these efforts, as well as to improve understanding of fire behavior in WUI communities exposed to wildfires, the recommendation includes no less than $1,500,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level for this work as part of the Climate and Energy Measurement, Tools, and Testbed initiatives.

Disaster Resilience Research Grants.—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2022 level for Disaster Resilience Research Grants.

Quantum Information Science.—The Committee provides no less than $10,000,000 above the fiscal year 2022 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 R&D of measurement science and standards.

Quantum computing is an important emerging technology to which the private sector and government should have access. The Committee encourages NIST to support quantum computing hardware that is technology neutral, and directs NIST to evaluate the potential for public-private partnerships to develop and deploy practical quantum applications that government and the private sector can utilize within one to three years so that the government may have the benefit of near-term applications, while also researching next-generation technology. The Committee looks forward to the report required on this topic in House Report 117–97.

Critical and Emerging Technologies.—The Committee recognizes NIST's important role in U.S. engagement on standards development across areas of critical and emerging technologies. NIST's partnership with the private sector and international standards coordination bodies, its work to drive information sharing across the Federal Government related to emerging standards issues, and its critical contributions to the development of a National Strategy for Critical and Emerging Technologies will only grow in importance throughout the coming years, particularly as the People's Republic of China grows its engagement in international standard-setting fora. To that end, the Committee provides not less than $9,500,000 for these activities, which is an increase of $6,500,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level.

Artificial Intelligence.—The recommendation includes no less than $9,000,000 above the fiscal year 2022 level for Artificial Intelligence (AI) that has the potential to produce transformative technologies and scientific breakthroughs that will improve Americans' lives. The Committee looks forward to receiving NIST's review of the National Security Commission on Artificial Intelligence report as required in House Report 117–97.

Framework for Managing AI Risks.—The Committee reminds NIST of the direction provided in fiscal year 2021 regarding the Framework for Managing AI Risks and directs NIST to provide the Committee an update on its progress with this work as soon as is practicable.

Algorithmic Bias.—The Committee encourages NIST to explore ways to understand, measure, and manage algorithmic bias in AI systems. NIST is further encouraged to provide technical guidance for how organizations might test algorithms against bias prior to adopting their use.

Cybersecurity.—The Committee is alarmed by the recent spate of cyberattacks against the Nation and therefore provides no less than $103,000,000 for NIST's Cybersecurity program, which is an increase of $18,000,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level.

The threat of cyberattacks is exacerbated by the shortage of cybersecurity professionals across the government and private sector, from entry-level applicants to experienced professionals. The Committee therefore provides, from within the increase for cybersecurity, no less than $5,000,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level for the National Initiative for Cybersecurity Education (NICE).

Cybersecurity and Privacy.—The proliferation of data generation, storage, and use 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 organizations, and nation-states. The Committee encourages NIST to address the rapidly emerging threats in this field, including quantum cryptography and the challenges posed by quantum computing, by furthering the development of new and needed cryptographic standards and technologies. To continue the progress in this emerging field, the Committee funds cybersecurity and privacy activities across NIST at the requested level.

The Committee provides an additional $2,000,000, within the funds for Cybersecurity, to address the cybersecurity issues facing industrial control systems (ICS) devices procured by the Federal government. The Committee encourages NIST to develop criteria to inform cybersecurity considerations in the procurement of ICS devices in different contexts, including in critical infrastructure owned or operated by the private sector. Within 270 days of the enactment of this Act, NIST shall report to the Committee on the viability of developing the criteria into a certification system and any authorities or resources necessary to support widespread, including international, adoption of the criteria developed and any subsequent certification systems.

Development of Standards to Secure Federal Agency Critical Applications and Data.—The U.S. has been subject to numerous cyberattacks across Federal, State, and local governments, as well as the private sector, and the Committee expects the intensity of these attacks to continue to increase in the future. In recognition of potential Russian cyberattacks subsequent to Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the Administration published urgent specific warnings of attacks on the United States Government and other critical infrastructure providers. However, there is no Federal agency guidance or standards as to how to protect either Federal data or private critical infrastructure data from malware or ransomware attacks from a successful penetration of these data and network systems. The Committee is aware that there are several commercial capabilities available that could secure the critical Federal Government systems applications and data in a data vault that backs up critical data each day and secures that information in an immutable system that would allow Federal agency data systems to continue to function even in the midst of a malware or ransomware attack, but no guidance exists as to how those systems should oper-

ate. Therefore, the Committee urges NIST to conduct focused research on data protection and recovery capabilities, and to develop, with public input, proposed standards and/or guidelines for the use of such capabilities by Federal agencies.

Multi-Cloud Security.—The Committee supports NIST's establishment of the Multi-cloud Security Public Working Group ("Working Group"). In carrying out the Working Group, NIST should examine how multi-cloud architecture that allows for portability and interoperability across multiple cloud vendors can be used to implement secure multi-cloud systems. In particular, the Working Group should include recommendations for using cloud management software technology that allows for applications, data, and programs to be portable and interoperable between public, private, and edge cloud environments, without the cost and complexity that comes with refactoring applications.

Forensic Sciences.—The Committee provides $23,000,000 for forensic science research, an increase of $2,500,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level. Within these funds, the Committee provides no less than $3,500,000 to support the Organization of Scientific Area Committees and no less than $1,500,000 to support technical merit evaluations previously funded by transfer from the Department of Justice.

Circular Economy.—The Committee supports the proposed expansion of NIST's work on the circular economy and provides an increase of $5,000,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level for these activities with plastics and other materials in the supply chain. Within these funds, not less than $1,000,000 shall be to support further work on other classes of materials, including electronics waste, battery and solar waste, and other waste streams.

Synthetic Biology.—The Committee recognizes NIST's important role in creating the metrics necessary for researchers and companies to continue translating synthetic biology discoveries into solutions. The Committee encourages NIST to sustain and expand its work to develop synthetic biology metrology and standards. This includes convening consortia that bring together government, industry, and academia to develop advanced measurement capabilities. To support interoperability between new component technologies and processes for synthetic biology and biomanufacturing in the private and nonprofit sectors, the Committee encourages NIST to expand its work to develop standard reference materials to support synthetic biology industry need, as well as to continue to recruit technical experts in synthetic biology and expand synthetic biology laboratories to accelerate innovation.

CURES Act Mandates.—The recommendation provides no less than $3,000,000 for NIST and the Standards Coordinating Body to meet its Cures Act mandates.

Pyrrhotite Testing and Mitigation.—The recommendation includes not less than $750,000 for NIST to continue its efforts with regard to the mineral pyrrhotite in concrete used in residential foundations and municipal structures that can cause premature cracking and structural failure. The Committee further notes that an additional $4,000,000 is included for similar work in NIST Community Project Funding.

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 technologies. The Committee encourages NIST to support these technologies.

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 no less than $2,500,000 for the Malcolm Baldrige Performance Excellence Program.

Emerging Industries.—The Committee encourages NIST to support emerging industries, including cross-laminated timber.

Alternatives to Plastics.—China remains the world's largest producer of plastics and accounts for nearly one-third of global plastics. Consequently, the U.S. remains the largest importer of Chinese-made plastics. The Committee recognizes that plastics are critical engineering materials for products ranging from food packaging and automobiles to medical devices. The Committee understands the need for environmentally safer, bio-based, U.S. alternatives. NIST is directed to report on such alternatives currently in use and the potential for new and expanded use of U.S. alternatives, including hemp.

NIST STRS Community Project Funding.—The recommendation includes $18,075,000 for NIST STRS Community Project Funding as detailed in the table below. NIST shall provide the amounts listed in the table and shall perform the same level of oversight and due diligence as with any other external partners.

NIST STRS COMMUNITY PROJECT FUNDING

Recipient	Project	Amount
Desert Research Institute	Quantifying Carbon Fluxes	$2,500,000
Griffiss Institute	Smart-X Internet of Things (IOT) Living Lab	3,000,000
Mentoring Youth Through Technology.	Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) After School Program.	100,000
Morgan State University	Center for Equitable Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning	2,000,000
NH Manufacturing Extension Partnership.	Building the Next Generation of Skilled Workforce in Manufacturing	450,000
Oakland University	Oakland University Vehicular Wireless Communications System Testing and Standards Facility.	3,000,000
Rochester Institute of Technology	Rochester Institute of Technology	2,000,000
Schoolcraft Community College District.	Industry 4.0 Training at Schoolcraft College's Manufacturing & Engineering Center.	1,025,000
University of Connecticut	Long-term Risk Management and Mitigation Strategies of Crumbling Foundations.	4,000,000

INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

The Committee recommends $230,000,000 for Industrial Technology Services, including $212,000,000 for the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) program and $18,000,000 for Manufacturing USA, which represent increases of $54,000,000 and $1,500,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted levels, respectively.

MEP Supply Chain Database.—The Committee notes that the U.S. supply chain experienced widespread and significant disruptions since 2020 due to the COVID–19 pandemic. These issues exposed the need for manufacturers and suppliers to be able to communicate more effectively so as to rapidly respond when various national emergencies occur. The Committee provides up to

$10,000,000 for NIST to create a national supply chain database for MEP Centers that would connect manufacturers and suppliers across the country in order to enhance the Nation's preparedness for future events that could disrupt supply chains.

Biosynthetic Heparin.—The Committee recommends that NIST thoroughly consider projects to scale the manufacturing of biosynthetic heparin to allow for domestically made heparin in order to reduce the reliance on China, prevent shortages, and provide patients the care they need. Even though heparin is on the World Health Organization's list of essential drugs, shortages from adulteration due to African swine fever and Blue Ear Virus have threatened supply.

CONSTRUCTION OF RESEARCH FACILITIES

The Committee recommends $291,181,000 for NIST construction, an increase of $85,618,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level. Of these funds, no less than $150,000,000 is provided for Safety, Capacity, Maintenance, and Major Repairs (SCMMR) to address the growing backlog of facilities maintenance and improvements. NIST shall continue to provide updates on the projects funded within this account, to include milestones and total amount of funding necessary for completion.

NIST Construction Community Project Funding.—The recommendation includes $141,181,000 for Community Project Funding as detailed in the table below. NIST shall provide the amounts listed in the table and shall further perform the same level of oversight and due diligence as with any other external partners.

NIST CONSTRUCTION COMMUNITY PROJECT FUNDING

Recipient	Project	Amount
Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences.	Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences Innovation and Education Wing Project.	$10,622,000
Claflin University	Claflin University Bioscience Research and Technology Center	17,417,000
Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology (CCAT).	Connecticut Manufacturing Technology & Innovation Center	16,173,000
Florida International University	Robotics and Autonomous Systems Laboratory for Coastal Conservation and Restoration.	9,562,000
Harris County	Institute of Forensic Sciences Design and Renovation	12,164,000
Institute for Sustainable Biotechnology at the Inter-American University of Puerto Rico.	Center for Food Security and Sustainable Agriculture	942,000
Mount St. Mary's University	Mount St. Mary's Expanding STEM Access, Innovation and Workforce Development in Rural Maryland.	4,000,000
Ohio University	Russ Research Center Digital Design Studio Development	1,500,000
St. Mary's University	Construction and Equipment for the Innovation Center at St. Mary's University.	5,561,000
Tennessee State University	Tennessee State University Harned Hall Biological Sciences Research Building Renovation.	3,000,000
The Ohio State University	Battery Innovation Laboratory and Education Center	$4,500,000
The University of Scranton	Workforce Development, Applied Research and Outreach Center in Health, Science and Cybersecurity.	16,623,000
The University of Toledo	Health Sciences Bioresearch Lab	6,900,000
University of Colorado Boulder	University of Colorado Boulder JILA	2,000,000
University of Missouri—Columbia	Next Generation University of Missouri Research Reactor	20,000,000
University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez Campus.	Aerospace Research Institute	7,500,000
Utica University	Utica University Crime Lab	717,000
Wright State University	The Wright State University Power House Research Center	2,000,000

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

The Committee recommends a total of $6,785,881,000 in discretionary funds for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), which is $908,532,000 above fiscal year 2022.

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 tables below are subject to section 505 requirements of this Act. When executing its budget for fiscal year 2023, NOAA shall incorporate the funding levels established in both the table and the narrative direction.

OPERATIONS, RESEARCH, AND FACILITIES

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

The Committee recommends a total program level of $4,974,603,000 under Operations, Research, and Facilities (ORF) for the coastal, fisheries, marine, weather, satellite, and other programs of NOAA. This total funding consists of $4,608,232,000 in direct appropriations, a transfer of $348,871,000 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 $4,608,232,000 is $450,921,000 above fiscal year 2022. The bill includes a transfer of $2,000,000 from NOAA ORF to the Marine Mammal Unusual Mortality Event (UME) Fund to support the marine mammal stranding network to investigate and respond to UMEs.

Climate Ready Nation.—The Committee recognizes NOAA's role as the lead Federal agency providing climate services and supports the expansion of NOAA's efforts to provide climate services, information, and outreach as part of its Climate Ready Nation initiative.

In support of this initiative and NOAA's role in implementing Executive Order 14008, "Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad," as described in the Joint Explanatory Statement that accompanied the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022, Public Law 117–103, under the heading "Climate Change Adaptation and Resilient Infrastructure," the Committee provides an increase of $30,280,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level. This total includes: (1) $9,000,000 for Climate Change Projections out to 2050 to Inform Risk Management; (2) $3,300,000 for NOAA Open Data Dissemination, formerly known as the NOAA Big Data Project; (3) $2,500,000 for the NOAA Cloud Program; (4) $4,000,000 for Marine Ecosystem Responses to Climate Change; (5) $7,000,000 for Climate-Ready Fisheries; and (6) $3,280,000 for the National Ocean Service for Data Development and Products and Services for Coastal Resilience, Coastal Hazards, and Climate Adaptation.

The Committee supports the designation of a Senior Climate Advisor for NOAA and directs NOAA to provide funding for this position in fiscal year 2023 from Mission Support Executive Leadership. The recommendation provides an increase of $1,000,000 above fiscal year 2022 within this PPA to support this position as part of the funding identified above for the Climate Ready Nation initia-

tive, as well as to coordinate and integrate climate services delivery across the breadth of NOAA. Each line office has an important role to play in meeting the dramatically increasing demands of the Nation for these services. It is critical that regular communication and coordination occurs across NOAA to ensure that climate research, climate service product development, and climate service delivery are aligned with the ultimate goal of meeting stakeholders' demands.

The Committee also repeats direction from fiscal year 2022 that NOAA shall, as part of this larger effort to expand the provision of climate information and services, identify and support the utilization by 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. These data shall include projections of both chronic climate impacts, such as sea level rise, and extreme weather events, such as hurricanes and droughts. This effort shall include building internal capacity 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. In coordination with NIST, NOAA shall provide the Committee, not later than 180 days after the enactment of this Act, a written assessment of priority Federal agency needs for these data, including infrastructure planning decision support tools.

Oyster Aquaculture, Research, and Restoration.—The Committee provides no less than $10,000,000 to support ongoing research on shellfish genetics to improve shellfish survival and growth rates and to classify and preserve natural genetic variation. As part of this work, NOAA is encouraged to support regional partnerships with research institutions on the Gulf of Mexico, East, and West Coasts.

Nature-based Flood Mitigation Measures.—The Committee recognizes that environment-based mitigation measures such as the creation of wetlands, conservation easements, and natural flood plains to slow the flow rate of rivers, creeks, and streams, are innovative tools to mitigate the severity of future floods in the Great Lakes region. In addition to flood protection, such mitigation and climate resiliency measures offer both aesthetic and recreational value and provide a variety of environmental and conservation benefits including erosion control, species habitat, and improved air and water quality. The Committee urges NOAA to participate and coordinate as an essential Federal stakeholder with the Departments of Agriculture and Interior, Environmental Protection Agency, Federal Emergency Management Agency, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, as well as State, local, and Tribal governments, and business and non-profit stakeholders, on developing and supporting conservation and nature-based flood mitigation measures to reduce the impact of floods on communities, lives, and livelihoods in the Great Lakes region.

Fire Weather.—The Committee is concerned with the increasing number and severity of wildfires, especially in the Western United States, and notes the important role NOAA plays in providing advanced notice of wildfire risks and active wildfire-weather coupled forecasts. The recommendation therefore provides an increase of $15,000,000 to fully support fire weather initiatives across NOAA,

as requested in fiscal year 2022. The Committee encourages NOAA to utilize its satellite and artificial intelligence assets in these efforts and to continue working with interested Federal, State, Tribal, and local partners and land managers to improve information dissemination related to wildfire events. Further, the Committee encourages NOAA to prioritize this work in the allocation of the additional high performance computing capacity.

National Ocean Service.—The recommendation provides $689,193,000 for National Ocean Service (NOS) Operations, Research, and Facilities, an increase of $51,493,000 above the fiscal year 2022 level.

NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE
OPERATIONS, RESEARCH, AND FACILITIES
(In thousands of dollars)

Program	Amount
Navigation, Observations and Positioning	
Navigation, Observations and Positioning	$176,702
Hydrographic Survey Priorities/Contracts	32,000
IOOS Regional Observations	44,000
Navigation, Observations and Positioning	252,702
Coastal Science and Assessment	
Coastal Science, Assessment, Response and Restoration	102,791
Competitive Research	25,500
Coastal Science and Assessment	128,291
Ocean and Coastal Management and Services	
Coastal Zone Management and Services	52,000
Coastal Zone Management Grants	89,000
National Oceans and Coastal Security Fund	34,000
Coral Reef Program	34,000
National Estuarine Research Reserve System	31,200
Sanctuaries and Marine Protected Areas	68,000
Ocean and Coastal Management and Services	308,200
Total, National Ocean Service, Operations, Research, and Facilities	$689,193

Seafloor Mapping.—The Committee provides $176,702,000 for Navigation, Observations, and Positioning, $7,702,000 above the level provided in fiscal year 2022. Within the increase, the Committee encourages NOS to partner with States to provide accessible, high resolution integrated ocean and coastal mapping of U.S. near shore waters to support navigation, infrastructure, habitat mapping, restoration projects, resource management, emergency response, coastal resiliency, and hazard studies. The Committee further encourages NOAA to partner with relevant cooperative institutes in this effort.

Geospatial Modeling Grants.—The Committee provides no less than $6,000,000 for the competitive Geospatial Modeling Grants program.

National Water Level Observation Network (NWLON).—The recommendation includes an additional $2,000,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level to support NWLON and to address any maintenance backlog.

Integrated Ocean Observing System.—The Committee continues to support the Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS) and provides $44,000,000, an increase of $3,000,000 over the fiscal year 2022 enacted level. The Committee supports IOOS' effort 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.

Harmful Algal Blooms.—The Committee remains highly concerned about the increasing prevalence of HABs in every U.S. State and Territory and the corresponding impacts on human health, drinking water, fisheries, and the broader economy. The recommendation includes not less than $4,500,000 to support and expand the ongoing work at IOOS to enhance the Nation's capacity for monitoring and detection of HABs by leveraging the expertise of the IOOS regional associations—including through expanding the deployment of in situ observing assets as part of the National Harmful Algal Bloom Observing Network (HABON)—in order to improve HABs warning and forecast accuracy. IOOS is directed to coordinate with the National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS) on the implementation of these funds.

The Committee also provides no less than $15,000,000 for HABs research. The Committee encourages this research to include an evaluation of the impacts of HAB-causing nutrients, particularly nitrogen and phosphorus, as they enter coastal areas from tributaries. Further research should prioritize 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, including the possible contamination of drinking water. The Committee encourages NOAA to work to ensure that new technology and mitigation efforts have minimal environmental impacts. Within funding provided for HABs across NOAA, no less than $1,000,000 may be used to expand both existing and new program support for States to assess domoic acid levels of HAB species in the marine environment. For all HABs-related work, NOAA shall coordinate with the Interagency Working Group on Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Act.

Red Tide.—The Committee is increasingly concerned about red tide events and their impact on ecosystems, marine life, human health, and the economy of coastal areas. The recommendation, therefore, includes an increase of $3,000,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level to deepen the understanding of the formation of red tides, to improve the forecasting and monitoring of them, and to further the development of control technologies to mitigate their impacts.

Blue Carbon.—The Committee notes the importance of the coastal zone as a potential carbon sink and the increased public interest in blue carbon. The Committee encourages NOAA, within the increase provided to NCCOS, to collaborate with other interested Federal agencies and other non-Federal stakeholders as part of their ongoing coastal work in this field, including the U.S. Geological Survey, as well as the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

These collaborations should capitalize on shared resources and skill sets that can expand the Nation's knowledge of coastal blue carbon.

Marine Debris.—The recommendation provides an increase of $1,000,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level for Marine Debris. Within available funds, the Committee directs NOAA to create a regional pilot program to coordinate with Federal, state, or Tribal partners on efforts to inventory and remove derelict vessels and fishing gear, with a goal of developing a cost-effective national strategy for mitigating these sources of marine debris.

Sea Level Rise and Coastal Resilience.—The Committee commends NOAA for the recent release of the 2022 Sea Level Rise Technical Report, which provides a high level of certainty about the amount of sea level rise to expect in the near and medium terms. To further the Nation's understanding of sea level rise, NOAA shall lead an interagency report on approaches to establish regional coastal flood metrics (depth and frequency) that are tied to specific impacts in each region that will most dramatically disrupt modern life in coastal communities. For this work, and for Data Development and Products and Services for Coastal Resilience, Coastal Hazards, and Climate Adaptation, the recommendation includes an increase of no less than $3,280,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level.

Coastal Zone Management Grants.—The recommendation includes $89,000,000 for Coastal Zone Management Grants, an increase of $10,000,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level. The Committee notes that States are facing increased costs associated with the implementation of funding provided for coastal projects through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), Public Law 117–58. The increase provided for this program is intended to address this need. The grants are vital to the local-state-Federal investment needed to address the coastal hazards that threaten communities and coastal dependent economies.

Coastal Zone Management.—The Committee provides $52,000,000 for Coastal Zone Management and Services, including no less than $4,000,000 for implementation of the Digital Coast Act, Public Law 116–234. Within this Program, Project, or Activity (PPA), the recommendation also includes no less than $2,500,000 for Regional Ocean Data Portals that continue to be supported through IIJA.

National Oceans and Coastal Security Fund.—The Committee provides $34,000,000 for the National Oceans and Coastal Security Fund, including for project planning and design, such as 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. The Committee encourages support for projects that strengthen natural infrastructure of communities in which coastal flooding poses the greatest risk to public safety.

Coral Reefs.—The Committee continues to be 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 for the Coral Reef Program, as well as an additional $5,241,000 for coral reef related NOAA Community Project Funding. Within the increases provided for the Coral Reef Program and Competitive Research, NOAA shall 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. 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. Collaborative research focused on coral disease and degradation is required to address current declines in reef health and productivity in U.S waters in the Pacific, Atlantic, and Caribbean. 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. Further, the Committee directs NOAA to explore the establishment of a NOAA cooperative institute for Coral Reef Ecosystem Science.

National Estuarine Research Reserve System (NERRS).—The Committee applauds the recent expansion of the NERRS network and provides an increase of $1,500,000 over the fiscal year 2022 enacted level for the program. The Committee supports this important partnership between NOAA and the coastal States and Territories that protects and studies estuarine systems and encourages the continued expansion of the network.

Sanctuaries and Marine Protected Areas.—The Committee provides $68,000,000 for Sanctuaries and Marine Protected Areas, which is $7,000,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level. The Committee continues to support the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries and the expansion of the network of protected marine and Great Lakes areas. The Committee notes that a number of sites have languished in the inventory of successful nominations without progressing to final designation as new National Marine Sanctuaries. Therefore, within these additional funds, NOAA shall prioritize the final designation of such sites. The Committee also notes the unique maritime history and ecological importance of the Great Lakes and supports efforts to identify and preserve the most notable of these elements. Further, the Committee directs NOAA to prioritize conservation, education, mapping, and research efforts across the agency in the National Marine Sanctuary system.

Marine National Monuments.—Within funding provided for National Marine Sanctuaries, up to $1,500,000 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.

National Marine Fisheries Service.—The Committee recommends $1,099,964,000 for National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Operations, Research, and Facilities, which is $84,009,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level. NMFS shall continue to provide quarterly updates to the Committee consistent with direction in fiscal year 2022.

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	$164,136
Species Recovery Grants	8,000
Atlantic Salmon	7,000
Pacific Salmon	73,000
Protected Resources Science and Management	252,136
Fisheries Science and Management	
Fisheries and Ecosystem Science Programs and Services	169,000
Fisheries Data Collections, Surveys, and Assessments	213,768
Observers and Training	55,135
Fisheries Management Programs and Services	141,369
Aquaculture	18,179
Salmon Management Activities	65,000
Regional Councils Fisheries Commissions	44,500
Interjurisdictional Fisheries Grants	3,377
Fisheries Science and Management	710,328
Enforcement	80,000
Habitat Conservation and Restoration	57,500
Total, National Marine Fisheries Service, operations, Research, Facilities	$1,099,964

Offshore Wind.—The Committee applauds the President's initiative to support the growth of offshore wind energy as part of the broader goal of reducing carbon emissions. As such, the recommendation includes an increase of no less than $39,149,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level for NOAA's initiatives in support of wind energy, fully funding the requested increases.

Transition to Climate-Ready Fishery Management.—The Committee recognizes the serious impacts of climate change on fisheries and protected species, and the corresponding need for increased resources to prepare for climate-ready management of living marine resources. Sustainable fisheries management and protected species conservation made more challenging by climate change driven impacts, including changes to the distribution, productivity, and abundance of fish stocks, protected species, and the habitats on which they depend. The Committee supports NMFS' proposals to address these new requirements and provides an increase of $7,000,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level, including no less than $5,000,000 from Fisheries and Ecosystem Science Programs and Services, to support this work to prioritize activities that will make fisheries and fishing-dependent communities more adaptable to climate change. NMFS is also directed to increase the scope and pace of efforts and consider new initiatives that will maintain sustainability and yield greater stability in Federal fishery and protected species management as the oceans change.

Protected Resources Science and Management.—The recommendation includes $250,136,000 for Protected Resources Science and Management, an increase of $21,886,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level. Within this amount, the Committee

provides no less than $4,900,000 for the John H. Prescott Marine Mammal Rescue Assistance grant program.

Endangered Species Act (ESA) Consultations and Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) Permitting.—The Committee provides no less than $6,500,000 across NMFS to continue to prioritize reducing the backlog of ESA and MMPA permit applications.

In-Water Construction Permitting.—The Committee is disappointed by the continuing delays in the permitting of in-water construction, particularly in the Pacific Northwest. The Committee therefore directs NOAA and NMFS, in collaboration with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, to provide timely services to, and proactive communication with, applicants for permits for in-water construction, and to increase outreach to other relevant stakeholders. NOAA shall continue to provide the Committee with monthly updates on its efforts to clear the permitting backlog.

North Atlantic Right Whales (NARW).—Within Marine Mammals, Sea Turtles, and Other Species, the Committee provides no less than $29,400,000 for NARW. Within this funding, $14,000,000 shall be provided to States through the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission to cover costs incurred by the fishing industry to comply with the final 2021 rule to modify the Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan (ALWTRP) (FR–210827–0171). This assistance may also be used by the relevant States to help defray the cost of compliance with new regulations, including for gear modification, configuration, and marking within the Northeast lobster and Jonah crab fisheries, both in Federal and State waters. Additional eligible uses of the funds may include implementing electronic tracking requirements within the Northeast lobster fishery and research to inform future management actions, including in preparation for potential subsequent modifications to the ALWTRP.

Further, in fiscal year 2023, NOAA shall continue the pilot programs for innovative lobster and other fishing gear, as well as to work with Canada to develop risk reduction measures that are comparable in effectiveness for both vessels and fisheries, and to incorporate Canadian fishery measures, Canadian vessel restrictions, and U.S. vessel restrictions into the evaluations under the Conservation Framework, as soon as possible. NOAA is also encouraged to improve regional management efforts by including pertinent States and interstate bodies in bilateral engagements with Canadian officials regarding coordinated efforts to enhance NARW recovery.

NOAA shall also support monitoring efforts, including aerial surveys, vessel surveys, and passive acoustic monitoring in the waters of the Atlantic Ocean that are equivalent to or greater than the efforts supported by the fiscal year 2022 enacted level, particularly in the Gulf of Maine and other areas where there are data gaps on NARW habitat or increased risk from human activities, including vessel traffic.

Southern Resident Killer Whales (SRKW).—The Committee provides an increase of not less than $1,000,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level for the SRKW program for research and monitoring to improve the recovery of the species. The Committee further encourages NMFS to support existing partnerships between Federal and State agencies, Native American tribes, public ports,

and nonprofits to monitor and reduce noise impacts on this endangered species.

Rice's Whale.—Within Marine Mammals, Sea Turtles, and Other Species, the Committee provides not less than $1,000,000 for implementation of the recovery outline and development and implementation of the recovery plan for Rice's whale. The Committee recognizes the need to move expeditiously on recovery of the Rice's whale given the low population abundance of the species.

Foreign Fisheries.—The Committee provides $1,150,000 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.

Atlantic Salmon.—The Committee recognizes the importance of diadromous species projects and directs NOAA to collaborate with State partners to develop priorities for recovery work for Atlantic salmon and provides $7,000,000 for these purposes.

Pacific Salmon.—The Committee provides $73,000,000 for Pacific Salmon, $6,000,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level. The recommendation provides no less than $6,500,000, an increase of $1,500,000, within Pacific Salmon to implement NMFS' Hatchery and Genetic Management Plans (HGMPs) and to continue to address the backlog of HGMPs as directed in previous fiscal years.

The Committee directs NOAA to examine opportunities to leverage the existing civilian conservation corps model to develop a dedicated workforce to accomplish priority salmon habitat improvement projects and other priority near-shore restoration goals that have been identified as part of the recovery strategy for one or more of the twenty-eight populations of salmon and steelhead currently listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act.

Fisheries Data Collections, Surveys, and Assessments.—The Committee provides $213,768,000 for Fisheries Data Collections, Surveys, and Assessments, $26,268,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level. The recommendation includes an increase of $5,000,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level for additional surveys and assessments, including to support the Climate-Ready Fisheries initiative. The Committee encourages NMFS to consider increasing evaluations on species that are listed by the International Union for Conservation of Nature as vulnerable, endangered, critically endangered, or are listed under the Endangered Species Act; as well as those that have outdated stock assessments or no stock assessments at all; if they lack annual catch limits; or if rebuilding progress has not been evaluated.

Fishery Information Networks.—Within funding provided for Fisheries Data Collections, Surveys, and Assessments, the Committee provides no less than $24,000,000 for the Fishery Information Networks.

Data Collection for Recreational Fisheries.—The agreement provides up to $3,500,000 to support collaborative programs focused on improving recreational fishery data collection, as articulated in sections 102, 201, and 202 of the Modernizing Recreational Fisheries

Management Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–405). This funding should focus on assisting States to establish, test, and implement more reliable recreational fishery data collection tools, such as smartphone applications or text messaging supplements.

South Atlantic Reef Fish.—The committee provides $500,000 to provide baseline and enhanced fisheries independent monitoring of South Atlantic reef fish stocks conducted through the Southeast Monitoring and Assessment Program (SEAMAP) and deep water snapper grouper surveys. Such monitoring should occur throughout the South Atlantic region to ensure survey coverage.

The Committee recognizes concerns by the State of Florida regarding the economic implications of possible area closures currently under consideration for the South Atlantic snapper-grouper recreational fishery. The Committee notes its $5,100,000 investment in independent survey data over the last three fiscal years, including $3,300,000 for the South Atlantic Great Red Snapper Count, along with language encouraging NMFS to incorporate this data into the agency's own stock assessments as expeditiously as possible to better inform fishery management decisions. The Committee continues to support full integration of the South Atlantic Great Red Snapper Count data into the next stock assessment so that the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council can appropriately use this new abundance data when making management decisions regarding red snapper.

State Management for Recreational Red Snapper.—Within the amount provided for Fisheries Data Collections, Surveys, and Assessments, the Committee provides $5,000,000 for NMFS to continue to work with the Gulf States to ensure successful implementation of State management for recreational red snapper. These efforts shall be a top priority for NOAA and shall be done in coordination with the Gulf States. In addition, the Committee supports full integration of the Great Red Snapper Count data and Gulf States catch data into the SEDAR 74 red snapper research track stock assessment to be completed in 2023 and in the operational assessment that will follow in 2024, so that the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council can appropriately use this new abundance and more targeted catch data when making management decisions regarding red snapper.

For-Hire Electronic Monitoring and Reporting Implementation.—The Committee provides no less than $4,000,000 to support the continued, timely implementation of electronic logbooks for the federally permitted charter-for-hire sector in the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic.

Video Review of Electronic Monitoring Data.—Within funding provided for Fisheries Management Programs and Services, the recommendation provides no less than $600,000 for the video review of the West Coast Groundfish electronic monitoring data.

Highly Migratory Species (HMS).—The Committee urges continued collaboration between Sea Grant and NMFS HMS Research Initiative for Atlantic, Pacific, and Gulf of Mexico HMS. The Committee provides $1,000,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level for research grants to improve science-based management of domestic and international HMS in the Pacific regions.

Carbon Sequestration Through Aquaculture.—The Committee recognizes advances in aquaculture such as deep-water kelp se-

questration and oyster farming play an important role in mitigating the impacts of a changing climate. Like land forests, kelp forests act as powerful carbon banks, removing up to twenty times more carbon per acre than land forests. The Committee encourages NOAA and the Office of Aquaculture to support sustainable carbon sequestration demonstration projects in deep ocean water.

Salmon Management Activities.—The Committee provides an increase of $2,000,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted amount for Salmon Management Activities. This level includes no less than $39,500,000 for the Pacific Salmon Treaty activities and no less than $25,000,000 for Mitchell Act Hatcheries.

Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing.—The Committee is troubled by the increasing accounts of IUU fishing—not only in the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone, but around the world—which 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. The Committee recommendation includes an increase of up to $1,000,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level in Enforcement to address IUU fishing, among other priorities.

The Committee is aware of innovative commercial space-based radio frequency (RF) detection technologies that can be used to track maritime vessels even when those vessels turn off their Automatic Identification System, which is a common practice among foreign fleets engaged in IUU fishing. Identifying when and where IUU fishing may be occurring is critical to the NMFS' enforcement mission. Within the increase for IUU fishing, the Committee encourages NOAA to continue to test and evaluate the effectiveness of U.S. commercial space-based RF data collection capabilities to track foreign vessels engaged in IUU fishing activities in the U.S. exclusive economic zone and other remote maritime regions of economic, environmental, and national security significance.

Western Pacific Sustainable Fisheries Fund.—The Committee directs NOAA to report to the Committee, no later than 90 days after the enactment of this Act, on the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council's (WPRFMC) actions to address the Department of Commerce's Inspector General's findings in Audit Report OIG–22–004–A, "WPRFMC's Governance of Western Pacific Sustainable Fisheries Fund Awards Was Inadequate."

Seafood Import Monitoring Program.—The recommendation includes $6,200,000 for the Seafood Import Monitoring Program (SIMP), an increase of $1,000,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level. Within the increase, NOAA is encouraged to pursue the most efficient, effective, and sustainable mechanisms to determine a chain of custody for fish or fish products, and to improve systems used to identify and bar fish or fish products sourced using convict, child, forced, or indentured labor. NOAA is encouraged to consult with the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Labor, and other relevant agencies to develop a strategic plan to develop, mature, and adopt artificial intelligence and machine learning technologies to detect imports of fish and fish products at risk of being associated with IUU fishing.

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 commer-

cial 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.

Seafood Inspection Program.—The Committee does not support the increase requested for the Seafood Inspection Program out of NMFS ORF. The Committee further reminds NOAA of the direction provided in the Joint Explanatory Statement that accompanied Public Law 117–103 that stated that this program shall not rely on appropriated funds. Rather, NOAA should fund these activities from other available balances for seafood promotion.

Oceanic and Atmospheric Research.—The Committee recommends $699,132,000 for Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) Operations, Research, and Facilities, which represents an increase of $99,684,000 over fiscal year 2022.

OFFICE OF OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC RESEARCH

OPERATIONS, RESEARCH, AND FACILITIES

(In thousand of dollars)

Program	Amount
Climate Research	
Climate Laboratories and Cooperative Institutes	$104,000
Regional Climate Data and Information	48,000
Climate Competitive Research	102,216
Climate Research	254,216
Weather and Air Chemistry Research	
Weather Laboratories and Cooperative Institutes	91,500
U.S. Weather Research Program	36,000
Tornado Severe Storm Research/Phased Array Radar	20,916
Joint Technology Transfers Initiative	14,500
Weather and Air Chemistry Research	162,916
Ocean, Coastal, and Great Lakes Research	
Ocean Laboratories Cooperative Institutes	42,000
National Sea Grant College Program	82,000
Sea Grant Aquaculture Research	14,500
Ocean Exploration and Research	47,500
Integrated Ocean Acidification	19,000
Sustained Ocean Observations and Monitoring	52,500
National Oceanographic Partnership Program	2,500
Ocean, Coastal, and Great Lakes Research	260,000
Innovative Research and Technology	
High Performance Computing Initiatives	20,000
Uncrewed Systems	2,000
Innovative Research and Technology	22,000
Total, Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, Operations, Research, and Facilities	$699,132

Climate Research.—The Committee continues to be alarmed by the impacts of the changing climate and notes the critical importance of NOAA's climate change science and research to inform decisions about how best to prepare for and adapt to these changes. The Committee, therefore, provides $254,216,000 for Climate Research, an increase of $54,216,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level.

Water in the West Initiative.—The Committee continues to support the Water in the West Initiative, first adopted by Public Law 117–103 and described in the accompanying Joint Explanatory Statement under the heading, "Changing Hydroclimatology of the Western United States," to study, in coordination with other Federal agencies, as appropriate, the future of water in the Western U.S. The recommendation includes $23,000,000 to expand this work, including $2,500,000 for related improved water prediction at the National Weather Service and $2,500,000 for the National Centers for Environmental Information for data stewardship and other related activities.

Additionally, within the increase provided to Research Supercomputing, the Water in the West Initiative shall be prioritized for the allocation of compute resources. These efforts should be integrated as much as is feasible with other efforts at NOAA regarding Sub-Seasonal to Seasonal weather predictions as they relate to water.

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 not less than $6,000,000 from Facilities Maintenance and Capital Improvements to modernize these observatories' aging infrastructure to ensure measurement integrity and safety of the observatory facilities.

Earth's Radiation Budget.—The Committee provides $11,000,000 for continued modeling, scientific studies, grant programs, and, as possible, observations and monitoring of stratospheric conditions and the Earth's radiation budget, including the impact of the introduction of material into the stratosphere from changes in natural systems, increased air and space traffic, and the assessment of solar climate interventions. OAR is also directed, in coordination with NASA and the Department of Energy, as appropriate, to continue to improve the understanding of the impact of atmospheric aerosols on radiative forcing, as well as on the formation of clouds, precipitation, and extreme weather.

The Committee notes that an expansion of efforts will be required in the progression of this work as NOAA supports the previously directed five-year plan and accompanying scientific assessment led by the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) on solar and other climate interventions in the context of near-term climate risks and hazards. Furthermore, NOAA is directed to continue to support OSTP, in coordination with other agencies, as relevant, in an interagency effort to coordinate research in climate intervention.

Aircraft-Based Greenhouse Gas Observations.—The Committee provides no less than $5,000,000 for a pilot program, in cooperation with other Federal agencies, as relevant, and leveraging NWS' Aircraft-Based Observation Program, as appropriate, of instrumentation for observing greenhouse gases and other atmospheric factors deployed on commercial aircraft and to support the evaluation of a sustained observing network using such platforms.

Climate Adaptation Partnerships (CAPs).—As part of the NOAA-wide effort to increase climate services, the Committee supports

the proposed expansion of CAPs, formerly known as the Regional Integrated Sciences and Assessments (RISAs), and provides $16,800,000 for the program, an increase of $2,500,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level, to help communities plan for and build lasting and equitable climate resilience.

Subseasonal to Seasonal (S2S) Research.—The Committee supports S2S Research and provides no less than $8,500,000 for this work in OAR. The recommendation also includes no less than $2,000,000 for the Precipitation Prediction Grand Challenge.

Collaboration Across Laboratories and Cooperative Institutes.—The Committee notes the inherent connection between climate, weather, and oceans, and expects all of OAR's research laboratories and cooperative institutes to work collaboratively—despite funding being provided across separate budget lines. For example, the full integration of the best models of ocean dynamics into the broader climate and weather models is critical for the advancement of climate and weather science and research. Hence, it is important that budget categories do not prevent all OAR research laboratories and cooperative institutes from participating in climate research, as appropriate. The Committee encourages OAR to consider adopting a broader, matrixed approach to certain research activities so as to incorporate the best science, knowledge, and talent from across the agency that will ensure the most pressing scientific questions are addressed with the priority they deserve.

Phased Array Radar Research and Development Follow-On Plan.—The Committee supports the request for research and development activities on the Phased Array Radar program. These funds compliment and align with the partnership between NOAA and its external partners for a dual polarization demonstration for which funds have been provided in the Procurement, Acquisition and Construction account.

VORTEX–USA.—The recommendation includes an increase of no less than $4,000,000 above the fiscal year 2022 level for the VORTEX–USA initiative to improve understanding of tornadoes, provide more accurate forecasts, and increase the lead times of tornado warnings. Of these funds, no less than $10,000,000 is provided for the continuation and expansion of the VORTEX–SE portion of the broader VORTEX–USA initiative.

Earth Prediction Innovation Center (EPIC).—The Committee continues to support EPIC, as authorized by the NIDIS Reauthorization Act of 2018, Public Law 115–423. Within available funds in U.S. Weather Research Program, OAR shall direct EPIC to increase outreach, training, and user community engagement with a goal of increasing the accessibility of EPIC to a broader range of the weather community and academia. These efforts should lead to more improvements being suggested for NOAA's weather models, and funding within the increase to Joint Technology Transfer Initiative shall be prioritized to support faster adoption of operationalizable upgrades.

Flood Mapping Technologies.—The Committee recognizes that innovative, science-based flood mapping technologies help communities and businesses to better prepare for and mitigate flood-related disasters. Weather-based technologies provide real-time information on soil moisture, watersheds, precipitation, and stream levels to ensure communities in flood susceptible areas have the prop-

er resources to respond before flooding disasters occur, and to help minimize impacts and associated damages. The Committee encourages NOAA to continue to support advancing weather and flood mapping technologies and enhanced data collection, and to partner with interested Federal agencies, Tribes, institutions of higher education, and State centers to become more resilient to flood disasters, such as with Joint Technology Transfer Initiative (JTTI) activities.

Ocean, Coastal, and Great Lakes Research Laboratories and Cooperative Institutes.—The Committee provides $42,000,000 for Ocean, Coastal, and Great Lakes Research Laboratories and Cooperative Institutes, an increase of $4,890,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level. Within the increased funds, NOAA shall expand its work on genomics, including work on the evolving structure and function of marine ecosystems such as the real-time forecasting of HABs and their toxicity, and testing of remote observing systems and environmental sample processors. Further, the Committee expects NOAA to fund these cooperative institutes at appropriate levels in future budget requests, 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. NOAA shall further support partnerships with universities on ocean observations, hurricane monitoring, ocean glider research, and research related to offshore wind energy.

Coastal Aquatic Invasive Species Mitigation Grant Program.—The recommendation includes $3,000,000 for the Coastal Aquatic Invasive Species Mitigation Grant Program, authorized by the Frank LoBiondo Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2018, Public Law 115–282. Aquatic invasive species wreak havoc on ecosystems throughout the Nation, and this program will support efforts to improve the understanding, prevention, mitigation of, and response to these species.

Uncrewed Ocean Observations for Research.—The Committee encourages NOAA to continue to support the deployment of uncrewed ocean observing systems for research to improve hurricane intensity forecasts and to augment traditional data collection platforms in the Tropical Pacific Observation System and fill observing gaps in the eastern tropical Pacific Ocean.

National Sea Grant College Program.—The Committee strongly supports the National Sea Grant College Program and provides $96,500,000, an increase of $7,000,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level.

Sea Grant Coastal Resilience Pilot Project.—Within funding provided for the Sea Grant program, no less than $3,000,000 is provided to launch a pilot Sea Grant Resilient Coasts Initiative to support up to three coastal resilience projects with partners. This work may include recruitment of resilience-focused staff and enhancements to research, engagement, decision support, and project implementation. NOAA is encouraged to support efforts to enhance the coastal resilience of remote communities most at-risk for natural disasters and chronic events, with a priority given to challenges faced by Tribal, indigenous, or economically disadvantaged communities.

American Lobster Research.—Within funding for the Sea Grant program, the Committee provides $2,000,000 for partnerships among State agencies, academia, and industry to address American lobster research priorities. Research should focus on stock resilience in the face of environmental changes, including life history parameters, distribution and abundance, and species interactions, with the purpose of informing future management actions or topics necessary to respond to newly implemented or future modifications of the ALWTRP.

Young Fishermen's Development Grant Program.—Within funding for the Sea Grant program, the Committee directs not less than $1,000,000 to launch the Young Fisherman's Development Grant Program to prioritize providing training, education, outreach, and technical assistance for young fishermen, as authorized by the Young Fishermen's Development Act, Public Law 116–289.

Sea Grant Aquaculture Research Program.—The Committee recognizes the importance of NOAA's 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 $14,500,000 for the Sea Grant Aquaculture Research Program. The Committee further encourages Sea Grant to partner with Historically Black Colleges and Universities that conduct aquaculture research to help provide affordable seafood to urban communities.

Ocean Exploration and Research.—The Committee provides $47,500,000 for Ocean Exploration and Research, an increase of $4,090,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level, to accelerate America's Ocean Exploration Program.

Integrated Ocean Acidification Program.—The Committee is increasingly concerned about the growing impacts of ocean acidification on coastal communities and industries and therefore provides $19,000,000 for the Integrated Ocean Acidification program, an increase of $3,000,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level.

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) for the purpose of stimulating innovation to advance our Nation's ability to understand, research, or monitor ocean acidification or its impacts, or to develop management or adaptation options for responding to ocean acidification.

Sustained Ocean Observations and Monitoring.—The recommendation provides $52,500,000 for Sustained Ocean Observations and Monitoring, an increase of $3,500,000 above the fiscal year 2022 level. 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. Further, NOAA is directed to encourage international partners to meet their obligations for shared ocean science and observations.

National Oceanographic Partnership Program (NOPP).—Within the funds provided for NOPP, the Committee encourages NOAA to partner with existing colleges, research universities, private indus-

tries, and non-profits to promote, develop, and implement a program that will increase workforce participation of underrepresented minorities across all sectors of the U.S. Blue Economy. NOAA shall provide a report to the Committee, no later than one year after enactment of this Act, on the NOPP's development as it addresses its STEM diversity needs and that of the Nation.

Uncrewed Systems Research Transition Office (UxSR2O).—The Committee supports the proposal for a new office for research into the expanded use of uncrewed systems to meet NOAA's large environmental data collection needs. The Committee notes the immense potential of these technologies to accomplish NOAA's operational requirements. As such, the Committee directs NOAA to focus on applications of uncrewed systems (UxS) which can be transitioned in the near to medium term into operations. This work shall include active engagement and partnership with the private sector to assess their capacities to provide future data streams as a service. NOAA is further directed to be aggressive in the testing of new technologies and data collection methods, especially in cases where successful pilots will have the potential to meaningfully augment NOAA capabilities or reduce ongoing operational costs with limited future investments.

Ocean Data for the New Blue Economy.—NOAA has committed to growing the blue economy through in-house work as well as by collaborating with partners around the country. To enhance blue economy growth and development, the Committee encourages NOAA to investigate the use of autonomous low- to zero-carbon, wave-powered buoys and autonomous UxS that can be fitted with sensors to collect oceanographic and meteorological data to supplement ocean exploration and data collection capacity to advance the blue economy. Through public-private partnerships, NOAA can bolster blue economy growth and encourage innovation by the private sector to support the agency's data collection and ocean exploration needs.

National Weather Service.—The Committee recommends $1,258,860,000 for National Weather Service (NWS) Operations, Research, and Facilities, which is $84,390,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level. The Committee reaffirms its commitment to the weather enterprise and the necessity of maintaining within the Federal Government the mission of protecting life and property.

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

OPERATIONS, RESEARCH, AND FACILITIES

[In thousands of dollars]

Program	Amount
Observations	$250,962
Central Processing	110,892
Analyze, Forecast and Support	588,560
Dissemination	121,808
Science and Technology Integration	186,638
Total, National Weather Service, Operations, Research, and Facilities	$1,258,860

NWS Staffing.—The Committee continues to be concerned about staffing and management challenges within NWS, especially as the organization recovers from pandemic-related attrition and the need to meet the growing demand for real-time high resolution weather

data and critical impact-based decision support services (IDSS). NOAA and the Department of Commerce are directed to ensure that NWS fulfills its critical missions by filling all NWS vacancies as expeditiously as possible and to continue to work closely with all stakeholders, including by seeking and incorporating input from employees on the optimum level of staffing going forward.

To that end, the recommendation includes all requested adjustments to base for NWS. In addition, the Committee provides an increase of $13,000,000 above fiscal year 2022 to further address staffing requirements, including $7,500,000 for staffing at weather forecast offices to enhance equitable NWS IDSS and to increase the number of trained and qualified Incident Meteorologists (IMETs) for wildfires and other extreme events; and $5,500,000 to accelerate hiring at the National Centers for Environmental Prediction (NCEP). Within these increases, NWS shall provide IDSS support for products generated by other line offices, as appropriate, such as harmful algal bloom forecasts.

In its fiscal year 2023 spend plan, NWS shall follow direction as provided in fiscal year 2022 regarding details of all NWS funded positions. The Committee further directs NWS to continue the quarterly briefings to the Committee consistent with prior year direction.

National Mesonet Program.—The recommendation includes not less than $24,700,000, an increase of $2,000,000 above the fiscal year 2022 level, for the continuation and expansion of the National Mesonet Program. Investments going forward should sustain coverage of data types and areas now included within the National Mesonet Program, expand in situ and remote sensing capabilities to provide weather measurements in high-risk areas, such as vulnerable communities, and enhance coverage by the National Mesonet Program in non-contiguous States and Territories and other data sparse areas. NOAA is directed to report to the Committee within 120 days of enactment of this Act on the geographical distribution and use of the increased funds. The Committee encourages the National Mesonet Program to continue to proactively work with other Federal agencies, including the National Science Foundation and the U.S. Geological Survey, to identify observations and platforms of opportunity in areas with sparse instrumentation that may be transferred to the National Mesonet Program. Of the funds provided, up to $1,000,000 may be used for Meteorological Assimilation Data Ingest System activities, and up to $600,000 may be used for costs associated with the National Mesonet Program Office.

Space Weather.—The recommendation includes $3,000,000 across Central Processing and Science and Technology Integration to support the requests from fiscal year 2022 for Space Weather Research to Operations, including the development of a space weather testbed, as part of NOAA's implementation of the Promoting Research and Observations of Space Weather to Improve the Forecasting of Tomorrow (PROSWIFT) Act, Public Law 116–181.

Tsunami Warning Program.—The Committee appreciates the investments NOAA is making in support of the Tsunami Warning Program with funds provided by IIJA. The recommendation provides no less than the fiscal year 2022 level for this critical program.

Improving NWS Dissemination Activities.—The Committee continues to be concerned with the issues with NWS' forecast dissemination systems, but notes that progress has been made in recent months. Disseminating accurate, timely information to broadcasters, emergency managers, and the general public during severe weather events is critical. Tools such as NWSChat are essential for ensuring that communities and businesses in rural farming communities and elsewhere have the proper time to respond. The Committee urges NWS to prioritize and continue to find ways to improve information dissemination to rural and other underserved areas. Further, the recommendation fully funds the requested increase to Optimize and Upgrade the Integrated Dissemination Program.

Weather Alerts.—The Committee appreciates the steps taken by NWS to provide Spanish translation of their weather products. However, more steps must be taken to ensure that all weather forecast and warning products can be understood by limited English proficiency individuals. Therefore, NOAA is directed, within the increases provided for NWS, to expand these efforts. Further, no later than 90 days after the enactment of this Act, the Committee directs NWS to submit a plan and timeline for how it will provide translation of all its weather products and warnings, not just for Spanish, but for the main dialects of other commonly used languages, considering both the number of speakers and the density of those speakers in various geographic locations. The Committee expects the fiscal year 2024 budget request to include additional funding for this purpose.

Further, the Committee directs the Government Accountability Office to conduct a report analyzing the overall Emergency Alert, weather alert, and weather forecast systems to assess the ability of the relevant agencies, including NOAA, to provide their products and alerts in languages other than English, and to provide recommendations to better allow limited English proficiency individuals to understand and use these products.

Sub-seasonal to Seasonal (S2S) Prediction and Decision Support Services.—The recommendation includes no less than $17,800,000 for the fiscal year 2022 proposals across NWS for Sub-Seasonal to Seasonal Decision Support Services as well as the Seasonal Forecast System. These investments will enable NWS to expand decision support services for near to medium term weather events as well as to develop critical long-range predictions for extreme disruptive weather events, particularly flood and drought, in the months to one year, or seasonal timeframes.

Consumer Option for an Alternative System To Allocate Losses (COASTAL) Act Implementation.—The recommendation includes the requested amount for development and implementation of the COASTAL Act (Public Law 112–141).

Priorities for Weather Research.—The Committee applauds and thanks NOAA's Science Advisory Board (SAB) for the report it produced titled, "Priorities for Weather Research," which will be a useful guidepost for future investments in the weather enterprise. The Committee directs NOAA, no later than 180 days after the enactment of this Act, to provide to the Committee a briefing on its response to this report. This briefing shall include: (1) any disagreements with the SAB's findings; (2) a description of how NOAA is

currently addressing each of the identified recommendations; and (3) proposals for further addressing each of the identified recommendations.

National Environmental Satellite, Data and Information Service.—The Committee recommends $409,572,000 for National Environmental Satellite, Data and Information Service (NESDIS) Operations, Research, and Facilities, an increase of $87,441,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level.

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	$248,500
Product Development, Readiness and Application	66,000
U.S. Group on Earth Observations	1,000
Environmental Satellite Observing Systems	315,500
National Centers for Environmental Information	94,072
Total, National Environmental Satellite, Data and Information Service, Operations, Research, and Facilities	$409,572

National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI).—The Committee continues to support the NCEI and their efforts to provide more products and services for the Nation. The recommendation supports the requests for Climate Data Records, Sustainment of Cloud Framework for Environmental Data, and Enhance Enterprise Data Stewardship and Archiving. Further, the Committee provides $6,000,000 for Improving Local, State, and Regional Climate Services (RCS), including an increase of no less than $2,000,000 for the Regional Climate Centers (RCCs). Within the increase for RCS, NESDIS shall support outreach and engagement to regional constituents to capture user needs and requirements and develop and operationalize tools related to the Water in the West Initiative.

Uncrewed Systems Data.—The Committee notes the importance of maximizing the utility of NOAA investments in the collection of UxS data. The Committee encourages NOAA to consider the Coastal Data Development program as the central repository to manage data collections from NOAA UxS, as authorized by the Commercial Engagement Through Ocean Technology (CENOTE) Act, Public Law 115–394. Within the increase to NCEI, the Committee directs NOAA to begin to develop a Data Assembly Hub for UxS. Also within NCEI, the Committee encourages NOAA to fully support critical international partnerships, including the Global Climate Observing System.

Mission Support.—The recommendation includes $447,726,000 for Mission Support Operations, Research, and Facilities.

MISSION SUPPORT

OPERATIONS, RESEARCH, AND FACILITIES

(In thousands of dollars)

Program	Amount
Mission Support Services:	
Executive Leadership	$31,743
Mission Services and Management	188,992
IT Security	16,393
Payment to the DOC Working Capital Fund	71,298
Facilities Maintenance and Capital Improvements	11,250
Office of Space Commerce	87,700
Mission Support Services	407,376
Office of Education:	
BWET Regional Programs	9,250
José E. Serrano Educational Partnership Program with Minority Serving Institutions	22,500
NOAA Education Program Base	8,600
Office of Education	40,350
Total, Mission Support, Operations, Research, and Facilities	$447,726

Tribal Liaison.—The Committee provides an additional $500,000 in Executive Leadership to create two new full-time NOAA Tribal Liaison positions to provide timely government to government consultation on NOAA policies and actions that have Tribal implications.

Mission Support Services.—The recommendation includes an increase of $10,380,000 for priorities identified in the budget request for Mission Support Services. Of these funds, not less than $2,500,000 shall be in support of the Increase Facility Program Capacity request to assist the Chief Administrative Officer in managing the complex, and growing, facilities challenges facing NOAA across the country.

Office of Space Commerce.—The Committee provides $87,700,000 for the Office of Space Commerce, an increase of $71,700,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level, and approves the requested transfer of the Office to Mission Support. NOAA shall provide quarterly updates to the Committee on the status of the efforts to reach full operational capability of space situational awareness by the fiscal year 2025 deadline outlined in the request.

Office of Education.—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 $40,350,000 for NOAA's Office of Education, an increase of $6,600,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level. Further, as part of all of its educational programming, the Committee encourages NOAA to prioritize improving Americans' understanding of climate change, including providing formal and informal learning opportunities to individuals of all ages, including individuals of diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds, emphasizing actionable information to help people understand and promote implementation of new technologies, programs, and incentives related to climate change, climate adaptation and mitigation, and climate resilience.

Office of Marine and Aviation Operations (OMAO).—The recommendation includes $314,375,000 for the Office of Marine and Aviation Operations, Operations, Research, and Facilities, an increase of $42,125,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level. 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 2022.

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	$203,646
Aviation Operations and Aircraft Services	40,792
Autonomous Uncrewed Technology Operations	14,500
NOAA Commissioned Officer Corps	55,437
Total, Office of Marine and Aviation Operations, Operations, Research, and Facilities	$314,375

Marine Operations and Maintenance.—The Committee appreciates and supports the proposal to increase the number of days at sea, and further directs OMAO to continue to implement the progressive maintenance program developed over the last few years to keep NOAA's ships available and operational at the highest possible rate. The Committee notes that missions in the Pacific Islands and Territories have been delayed due to a lack of ship availability and the pandemic. The increase in funding for Marine Operations and Maintenance is intended, in part, to alleviate these constraints.

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 provides no less than $3,000,000, an increase of $1,000,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level, for use of airborne assets to conduct increased winter storm observation to better observe and predict these extreme weather events.

NOAA Commissioned Officer Corps.—The recommendation adopts all of the requested technical transfers across line offices to NOAA Commissioned Officer Corps. The Committee also approves the requests to increase the size of the NOAA Corps, especially to help meet the increased demands on aviation operations.

Autonomous and Uncrewed Technology Operations (AUTO).—The recommendation includes $14,500,000 for AUTO. Within these funds and those provided to UxSR20, up to $3,000,000 shall be used to support extramural partnerships with universities and oceanographic institutions for UxS research, development, testing, and training that can serve as a cost effective augmentation for traditional crewed assets.

NOAA Community Project Funding.—The recommendation includes $55,781,000 for NOAA Community Project Funding as detailed in the table below. The Committee directs NOAA to provide the amounts listed in the table consistent with NOAA's existing authorities, jurisdictions, and procedures, as appropriate. NOAA shall further perform the same level of oversight and due diligence as with any other external partners.

NOAA COMMUNITY PROJECT FUNDING

Recipient	Title	Amount
Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper	Shoreline Monitoring and Assessment in the Eastern Basin of Lake Erie.	$480,000
Center for Marine Science at UNC Wilmington.	UNC Wilmington Marine Science Center Research	750,000
Coral World Ocean and Reef Initiative, Inc.	Coral and Aquatic Research and Restoration	900,000
Florida Gulf Coast University	Examining the Influence of Discharges on Coastal Ecosystems Health and HAB Dynamics.	440,000
Florida International University	Coastal Subsurface Water Table and Saltwater Intrusion Monitoring Systems.	9,776,000
Gulf Shellfish Institute	Estuary Habitat Restoration and Resilience	2,500,000
Hudson River Park Trust	Hudson River Habitat Enhancement Project	750,000
Louisiana State University, Office of Research & Economic Development.	Coastal High Frequency RADAR System for Coastal Protection and Prediction.	5,000,000
Mississippi State University Global Center for Aquatic Health and Food Security.	Gulf Coast Aquatic Health Laboratory	1,800,000
Mote Marine Laboratory, Inc	Mote Marine Laboratory's Florida Seagrass Project	750,000
Nature Conservancy	Building Coastal Resilience through Community-Based Conservation	500,000
New England Aquarium Corporation.	New England Aquarium Modernization and Educational Programming	2,400,000
Nova Southeastern University	Coastal Ecosystems Disease Etiology, Remediation, and Restoration for Community Ecological and Economic Health.	3,841,000
Noyo Center for Marine Science	Fighting Climate-Driven Collapse in Coastal Habitats	294,000
Oklahoma State University	Oklahoma Center for Hydrological Integrated Monitoring, Modeling, and Mitigation.	1,800,000
Port of Morgan City	Meteorological Stations Operations and Maintenance	200,000
Regents of the University of Washington.	Equity and Ecosystem Health Through Water Column Observation	1,500,000
Texas State University	Texas State University Meadows Center Climate Change Impact on Water Initiative.	2,000,000
Desert Research Institute	Lake Tahoe Basin Instrumentation and Data Sharing	2,000,000
The Nature Conservancy in Florida	Modernization of Recreational Fishing Catch Data and Support Humane Catch and Release Education in the South Atlantic.	750,000
The Regents of the University of California; University of California, San Diego.	Aerosolized Coastal Water Pollution Impacts Study	1,500,000
The Water Institute of the Gulf	The Resilience Center	2,500,000
University of Iowa	Advanced Hydrologic Monitoring, Assessment, and Flood Forecasting for Eastern Iowa.	1,000,000
University of Louisiana Monroe	State Mesonet Network Project	2,000,000
University of Miami	University of Miami Marine Aquaculture Pilot-Scale Grow-Out Module	750,000
University of Nevada, Las Vegas	Water Analyzing Equipment for Climate Research and Education	200,000
University of South Florida	Surveillance of Pollution from Emerging Chemical Threats in Tampa Bay.	3,400,000
University of Washington Tacoma	Center for Urban Waters—Protecting Salmon from Toxic Chemicals	1,000,000
Upper Columbia United Tribes	Upper Columbia United Tribes Salmon Reintroduction Project	5,000,000

PROCUREMENT, ACQUISITION AND CONSTRUCTION

The Committee recommends a total program level of $2,144,000,000 for Procurement, Acquisition, and Construction (PAC), of which $2,131,000,000 is appropriated from the general fund and $13,000,000 is derived from recoveries of prior year obligations.

PROCUREMENT, ACQUISITION AND CONSTRUCTION

[In thousands of dollars]

Program	Amounts
National Ocean Service	
National Estuarine Research Reserve Construction	$7,500
Marine Sanctuaries Construction	10,000
Total, NOS—PAC	17,500
Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research	
Research Supercomputing	93,500
Research Acquisitions	40,000
Total, OAR—PAC	133,500
National Weather Service	
Observations	16,200
Central Processing	70,000
Dissemination	10,000
Facilities Construction and Major Repairs	10,000
Total, NWS—PAC	106,200
National Environmental Satellite, Data and Information Service	
Geostationary Systems—R	301,000
Polar Weather Satellites	217,937
Space Weather Follow On	136,200
Geostationary Earth Orbit	320,000
Low Earth Orbit	96,430
Space Weather Next	145,000
Projects, Planning, and Analysis	6,606
Systems/Services Architecture and Engineering	71,000
Common Ground Services	105,433
Satellite CDA Facility	2,450
Total, NESDIS—PAC	1,402,056
Mission Support	
NOAA Construction	145,700
Office of Marine and Aviation Operations	
Fleet Capital Improvements and Technology Infusion	28,000
Vessel Recapitalization and Construction	92,500
Aircraft Recapitalization and Construction	218,544
Total, OMAO—PAC	339,044
Total, Procurement, Acquisition and Construction	$2,144,000

Marine Sanctuaries Construction.—The recommendation includes $10,000,000 for Marine Sanctuaries Construction. This represents an increase of $5,000,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level that is intended to support construction projects at existing sites as well as to build facilities at newly designated sanctuaries.

Research Supercomputing.—The Committee notes that the NOAA Science Advisory Board's Priorities for Weather Research (PWR) report calls for NOAA to expand its high performance computing capacity by two orders of magnitude over the next 10 years. As a first step towards that objective, the Committee provides $93,500,000 for Research Supercomputing, an increase of $45,000,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level.

Maximizing Value of Environmental Observations.—The Committee is concerned that too little value is being extracted from the plethora of environmental observations collected and/or purchased by NOAA to inform weather, climate, and ecosystem models that then generate forecasts and predictions. Therefore, the Committee provides an increase of no less than $5,000,000 in Research Supercomputing to develop artificial intelligence systems to support preprocessing of dense observation datasets so extraction of the most useful information will be included in data assimilation for model initialization.

Phased Array Radar Research and Development Follow-On Plan.—The Committee supports the request for a dual polarization Phased Array Radar (PAR) to demonstrate and evaluate advanced techniques needed to perform the rapid updates required with a rotating planar array, which is the next step for the agency's evaluation of dual polarization PAR technology to meet NOAA's future weather radar requirements. The Committee provides the requested $40,000,000 to acquire a demonstration system, which will help NOAA and the NWS address the looming need to replace the nation's legacy NEXRAD weather radar systems between 2030 and 2040.

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 2022. 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. In addition to the topics required for these briefings in prior years, NOAA shall also include a discussion of satellite data management and efforts to maximize the value of said data.

America's Next Generation Weather Satellite System.—The Committee supports NOAA's next generation weather satellites architecture plan, as developed through the NOAA Satellite Observing System Architecture (NSOSA) study and recognizes that many of that study's recommendations are included in the request. The Committee notes, however, that significant amounts of satellite data are discarded prior to assimilation for weather model initialization, the first step towards creating a weather forecast. It is further noted that limited information has been provided to date to the Committee regarding NOAA's data management plan for the next generation of weather satellites. Therefore, NOAA shall, no later than 270 days after the enactment of this Act, provide to the Committee a robust plan to manage the vastly increased quantity of data that these new NOAA and partner organization satellites will provide. The plan shall outline how NOAA will ingest, transmit, receive, store, assimilate, integrate, and share this new quantity of data. It shall further include cost estimates of new staff, hardware, facilities, and contract services required for each of the activities listed in the previous sentence.

NESDIS.—The Committee does not adopt the proposed budget restructure for NESDIS, but approves the proposed new organizational alignment.

Commercial Data.—The Committee provides $2,500,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level for purchase and piloting of commercial weather data. Consistent with direction from the Promoting Research and Observations of Space Weather to Improve

the Forecasting of Tomorrow (PROSWIFT) Act, Public Law 116–171, the Committee encourages NOAA to collaborate with commercial companies for the testing and analysis of space weather data.

NOAA Construction.—There is significant concern that several NMFS laboratories will soon be unable to perform basic scientific functions, given the age of the infrastructure, state of disrepair, and changing physical environments in which they are located. Within the funds provided for NOAA Construction, NOAA shall prioritize investments in the Northeast and Southeast where regional footprint studies identified NOAA's most pressing facilities challenges, and continue the implementation of the Northwest Regional Footprint Study, as requested. As part of this work, NOAA is encouraged to accelerate the competitive solicitation process for proposals from academic, university, and nonprofit partners to colocate NMFS laboratories as a means of leveraging extramural research and enhancing scientific capabilities. The Committee further reiterates direction adopted by Public Law 117–103 for NOAA to establish a five-year budget framework to address regional facility modernization planning and redevelopment of priority labs, particularly those in the Northwest, Northeast, and Southeast regions. The budget shall be updated yearly as additional information and funding needs are refined as projects mature from planning estimates through design phases.

Vessel Recapitalization and Capital Improvements.—The Committee reaffirms its support for NOAA's Fleet Recapitalization Plan by providing $92,500,000 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. 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.

Hurricane Hunters.—The recommendation includes $205,544,000 to begin the procurement cycle for the new hurricane hunter aircraft to replace the WP–3D that are nearing the end of their useful lives.

Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery

The Committee provides $65,000,000 for Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery.

FISHERIES DISASTER ASSISTANCE

The Committee accepts the proposal for Fisheries 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.

FISHERMEN'S CONTINGENCY FUND

The Committee recommends $349,000 for the Fishermen's Contingency Fund, which is the same as fiscal year 2022. 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.

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 $195,413,000 for Departmental Management (DM), $48,530,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level. 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. The Committee looks forward to receiving the following plans and reports as directed and described in House Report 117–97 under the headings "Human Rights Violations," and "Data Collection Under U.S. Territories".

Manufacturing and Industrial Innovation.—The Committee acknowledges the Department's jurisdiction over existing manufacturing programs and initiatives and highlights the importance of robust participation and engagement with the Administration's effort to reassert America's manufacturing legacy, especially in strategies to re-shore critical manufacturing and further advanced manufacturing.

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 on 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 toward the implementation and future year requirements.

Solid Sodium Cyanide Briquettes.—The Committee is aware that the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has an ongoing investigation, in coordination with the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Transportation, regarding the national security, health, and safety implications of imports of solid sodium cyanide briquettes, as described in the explanatory statement accompanying Public Law 116–260. The Committee encourages the Secretary of Commerce to make Department resources available upon request, to support this ongoing investigation.

Semiconductor Manufacturing.—The Committee recognizes the constructive role played by the Department in ensuring U.S. domestic producers of semiconductors and semiconductor production components can competitively price their products in the global

market. The Committee recognizes that foreign subsidies have caused pricing fluctuations from manufacturers in China, distorting the market and acting as an inhibitor to U.S. domestic production investment. The Department is directed to report to the Committee regarding the impact of foreign subsidies on the domestic semiconductor industry's ability to compete with competitors in China, and potential solutions to address this problem.

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

The Committee recommends $98,000,000 for DM Salaries and Expenses, $18,000,000 above fiscal year 2022. The recommendation includes the requested adjustments to base, which includes the Office of Native American Business Development, in compliance with the Indian Community Economic Enhancement Act (Public Law 116–261). The Committee directs the Department to provide a briefing, within 90 days of enactment of this Act, on the actions taken to date to implement the new duties, activities, and coordination activities of the Office of Native American Business Development.

The recommendation also supports the rightsizing of the offices within Executive Direction, including the Office of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs (OLIA). The Committee notes the value and importance of career staff across all governmental functions for the Department's continuity of operations and institutional knowledge and agrees with the need to increase the ranks of career staff in OLIA to improve the relationship and support comity between the first and second branches of the Federal Government.

RENOVATION AND MODERNIZATION

The Committee recommends $1,142,000 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 $44,000,000 for the Nonrecurring Expenses Fund.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

The Committee recommends a total of $52,271,000 for the Office of Inspector General (OIG), which fully funds the OIG without transfers from USPTO, the Census Bureau, or NOAA. The Committee expects the OIG to continue its oversight work on cybersecurity; satellite, aircraft, and vessel procurements; the National Weather Service; telework; patent quality; and the work of the Census Bureau.

The Committee acknowledges the ongoing work of the OIG regarding the "Evaluation of the U.S. Census Bureau's Award and Use of a Cooperative Agreement (#2022–420)" and expects the OIG to keep the Committee apprised of its findings.

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 requires 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 supplying 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.

Section 111 removes the requirement for matching funds for amounts provided in this Act through the Manufacturing Extension Partnership.

Section 112 allows the Secretary of Commerce to waive the cost sharing requirements for funds provided in this Act under sections 306, 306A, and 315 of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972.

TITLE II

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

The Committee recommends $148,000,000 for Department of Justice, General Administration, Salaries and Expenses, which is $20,206,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level and $48,531,000 below the request. The funding will maintain current operations of the Department's leadership offices, and includes requested increases for record management and participation in the Not Invisible Act Joint Commission; compliance with statutory re-

quirements for evidence-based policymaking; improved personnel operations; oversight and evaluation of bodyworn cameras; and partial funding for energy-saving transportation infrastructure at DOJ.

The Committee has provided separate funding recommendations by decision unit as follows:

Department Leadership	$20,350,000
Intergovernmental Relations/External Affairs	13,150,000
Executive Support/Professional Responsibility	22,000,000
Justice Management Division	92,500,000
Total, Salaries and Expenses	148,000,000

Prosecutions Related to January 6, 2021 Attack on the U.S. Capitol, Violent Extremism and Domestic Terrorism.—The Committee expects the Department to seek prosecution of all persons involved in planning, supporting or carrying out the insurrectionary attack on the U.S. Capitol, and any attempts to interfere with Congress' exercise of its Constitutional duties (to include tabulating election results), or to threaten and inflict violence on Congress, its Members, U.S. Capitol Police or other public servants.

The Committee has included funding increases under the United States Attorneys to support the unprecedented workload generated by the U.S. Capitol prosecutions, and additional funding requested by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) to address increased concerns from extremist violence and domestic terrorism, and by the U.S. Marshals Service (USMS) to meet such violence, particularly to ensure judicial security.

Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crimes Reauthorization Act of 2016.—The bill includes not less than $15,500,000 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 continue to include, as part of the annual spending plan required under section 505 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. These resources and oversight provided will continue efforts to solve outstanding civil rights crimes, improve public engagement with the Department, and bring healing, truth, and peace to the affected families, friends, communities, and our entire Nation.

National Task Force on Law Enforcement Oversight and Use of Force Database.—Public Law 116–260 directed the Department to provide up to $5,000,000 for the establishment and operation of a National Task Force on Law Enforcement Oversight, and section

222 of that Act appropriated $5,000,000 for the development and operation of a database concerning substantiated instances of excessive use of force and officer misconduct. Those funds have not yet been obligated, nor have actions yet been taken to establish and operate the Task Force and the database as directed by and funded through that Act. The Attorney General shall implement these efforts, and apply the funding, as directed. Furthermore, the reporting requirements included in the joint explanatory statement accompanying Public Law 117–103 shall be submitted not later than 15 days after enactment of this Act.

Use of Force Incidents.—The Committee strongly supports efforts to promote participation in the National Use of Force Data Collection (NUOFDC) by Federal, State, and local enforcement agencies. The Committee looks forward to the report required by the joint explanatory statement that accompanied Public Law 117–103 that directed the Department and FBI to provide the Committee with a detailed description of the methods for collecting use of force data and an assessment of strategies for increasing participation by Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies. In addition, the fiscal year 2022 joint explanatory statement accompanying Public Law 117–103 also directed the Department and FBI to provide a briefing on the NUOFDC that the Committee has not yet received.

National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS).—The Committee continues direction, as specified in the Explanatory Statement accompanying the fiscal year 2022 Department of Justice Appropriations Act, Public Law 117–103, including with regard to NICS notifications to State and local authorities, and publication of monthly data on the Justice Department website by State and prohibition category.

Federal police and Federal Task Force Officer Body-worn Cameras.—The Committee strongly supports the June 2021 Department announcement that Federal law enforcement officers will wear body-worn cameras when making arrests or in pre-planned operations, and the October 2020 announcement that DOJ will permit State, local, territorial, and Tribal task force officers to use body-worn cameras on Federal Task forces around the Nation. The Committee has included the full $106,300,000 requested for the Department's law enforcement agency body-worn camera programs for its own officers and agents, as well as for State and local law enforcement officers serving as members of DOJ agency task forces.

DNA Immigrant Detainee Sample Collection Processing and Backlog.—The Committee understands that the collection, use, and retention of immigration detainee DNA, pursuant to the rule change "DNA Sample Collection from Immigration Detainees" (March 9, 2020), resulted in significant increases in legally-owed submissions to the FBI laboratories for testing. That increase, combined with pandemic-related supply chain issues, has led to a growing backlog in processing samples awaiting processing, and in some cases has adversely affected the ability of Federal law enforcement to follow investigative leads, and accomplish other law enforcement missions that depend on timely production of DNA analysis. The Committee urges the Department to ensure it identifies the funding needed to ensure the FBI labs can reduce or eliminate the processing backlog, and include such requirements in future budget requests, or in forthcoming reprogramming requests as appropriate.

Facial Recognition Technology.—The Committee expects the Department will soon report on the status of establishing policies for the use and deployment of facial recognition technology, including for privacy protection, and incorporating Government Accountability Office (GAO) recommendations, as specified in House Report 117–97, and incorporated by reference in the explanatory statement accompanying Public Law 117–103.

Office of Legal Counsel (OLC) opinions.—The Committee reminds the Department to comply with the directions and reporting requirements regarding its OLC opinions that were specified in House Report 117–97, and incorporated by reference the explanatory statement accompanying Public Law 117–103.

Infiltration Threat.—The Committee is deeply concerned with the threat that White supremacist and extremist infiltration in law enforcement poses to our national security. For example, based on multiple public reports, one such extremist group, the Oath Keepers, is comprised mainly of former or current military and law enforcement personnel, and actively seeks to recruit them. The Committee recognizes that the FBI and DOJ have published reports on domestic terrorism, as well as sensitive reports provided to Congress. To gain a better understanding of this problem, the Committee directs the Department, in coordination with the Director of the FBI, to report, in both classified and unclassified form, not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, on the scale and character of the infiltration and recruitment threat posed to law enforcement from terrorist and racially-motivated violent extremists. While the Committee understands reasonable constraints on publishing sensitive information on active investigations or intelligence assessments, it also supports greater transparency and public information on this issue, and expects the Department and the FBI to share new and significant information related to such threats with the Committee on a regular and continuing basis.

Ammunition Background Checks.—The Committee recognizes that the devastating physical damage inflicted by a gunshot is the result of both the firearm used and the ammunition fired. Under current law, individuals prohibited from purchasing or possessing firearms, including those with certain criminal convictions, or domestic violence restraining orders, or other prohibitors, are likewise prohibited from purchasing or possessing ammunition. However, unlike firearms, Federal law does not require a background check to prevent the illegal purchase of ammunition. The Committee directs the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to report, not later than one year after the date of enactment of this Act, regarding: (1) how best to implement a requirement that background checks be conducted for all ammunition sales, including sales by Federal firearms licensees and private sellers; (2) whether, and if so, how, to include any funding required, the National Criminal Background Check System (NICS) could be expanded to included Federal background check requirements for ammunition purchases; (3) how other countries with similar requirements have implemented such policies and their effectiveness at preventing unauthorized access to ammunition; and; (4) what obstacles, if any, have State or local governments encountered in their efforts to implement background checks for ammunition purchasers.

McGirt v. Oklahoma.—The Committee notes that the Federal government has had to assume broader law enforcement and judicial responsibilities in Oklahoma as a result of the 2020 *McGirt* Supreme Court ruling. The Committee includes full funding of the President's request to implement public safety measures required to comply with the *McGirt* decision in fiscal year 2023. These resources will allow Federal, Tribal, State, and local stakeholders to collaborate and share pertinent information to protect all victims and bring all those who commit a crime to justice. Additionally, the Committee expects DOJ to closely monitor the *McGirt*-related enforcement programs and provide the Committee as soon as possible an estimate of long-term costs of sustaining those programs.

Northern Triangle Transnational Criminal Organizations (TCOs).—The Committee remains concerned by reports of engagement by TCOs in drug trafficking, dangerous human smuggling and trafficking, and the 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. DOJ, DEA, the Office of Overseas Prosecutorial Development, Assistance and Training (OPDAT), and the International Criminal Investigative Training Assistance Program (ICITAP) in coordination with the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Forces (OCDETF) and other Federal agencies, shall continue to follow the direction in House Report 117–97 regarding the provision of technical assistance to disrupt the ability of TCOs to smuggle illicit drugs and persons to the United States along these routes.

Data-Analytics.—The proliferation of digital services has resulted in vast amounts of data being collected concerning virtually every aspect of life. While the field of data analytics has made tremendous strides in industry, these efforts have not translated well to law enforcement. As a result, DOJ agencies, particularly including the FBI, increasingly must process overwhelming amounts of digital data as part of conducting investigations, which can often lead to delays as data sets are dissected in an effort to find the right data. In order to advance law enforcement-specific data analytics, the Committee encourages DOJ and the FBI, working with the National Institute of Justice, to partner with universities on research aimed at advancing tools and technologies to acquire and analyze large digital data sets.

Train Cargo Theft.—The Committee is concerned by a recent increase in train cargo theft, which not only harms interstate commerce and weakens our national supply chain, but also contributes to increased violent crime. The Committee directs DOJ to review barriers to Federal investigation and prosecution of train cargo theft and report not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act with recommendations to improve the Federal enforcement efforts, including through support to State and local law enforcement who are encountering increased incidents of such theft.

Privacy Impact Assessments.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, DOJ is directed to publish the text of all finalized Privacy Impact Assessments currently in effect, and to do so on an ongoing basis, providing redacted versions if required by law.

Illegal Pirate Sites.—Significant commercial scale infringing activities continue unabated, posing a significant threat to the livelihoods of authors, creators, and copyright owners, while perpetrating a fraud on unsuspecting, law-abiding consumers. A Study by Frontier Economics on "The Economic Impacts of Counterfeiting and Piracy" estimates that by 2022, the global value of piracy would be $384–856 billion, with estimated tax losses to governments at $199–$270 billion. Because of the harm to consumers and the creative sector, the Committee directs the Department of Justice to prioritize criminal copyright infringement cases, to work closely with prosecutors in local district U.S. Attorney's Offices, and to detail within existing reports on copyright enforcement activities the investigations and prosecutions brought under existing legal authorities.

Federal law enforcement operations in the U.S. Caribbean.—The Committee remains deeply concerned with the pervasively high homicide rates in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands and that such crime is linked to illegal narcotics trafficking in the Caribbean. The Committee expects DOJ, DEA, FBI, the U.S. Marshals Service, and OCDETF to continue prioritizing resources and operations to identify, dismantle, and prosecute drug trafficking and money laundering organizations in the region, including through the Caribbean Corridor Strike Force, the OCDETF Co-located Strike Force in Puerto Rico.

Digital Evidence.—The Department is directed to brief the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, regarding the use of evidence from digital devices in the course of investigations conducted by DOJ and its agencies. The report shall address opportunities and challenges the bureau is currently facing within the following areas: digital evidence processing backlogs; training requirements for digital forensic examiners and agents that use digital evidence in criminal investigations; any technical, legal or other barriers or impediments to sharing digital evidence between agencies or between Federal, State and local partners; and resource requirements.

Blockchain Analysis Tools.—The Committee remains concerned that ransomware, fraud, theft, and the illicit use of cryptocurrency by criminals, terrorists, and nation states continue to be major cybersecurity and national security issues for both the public and private sectors. Ransomware is one of the largest growing cryptocurrency-related crimes, and attackers show no sign of slowing. Blockchain analysis tools allow government agencies to gain important intelligence and insight into the illicit networks essential to identifying the individuals and entities behind attacks. The Committee supports DOJ efforts to deter, detect, and dismantle these groups, and expects that, within the substantial funding increases for cyber investigations the Committee has included, the Department will acquire improved blockchain analysis tools, training on cryptocurrency and cryptocurrency-related investigations, and investigative support to reduce crimes involving ransomware attacks or exploiting the use of cryptocurrency.

Psilocybin Report.—The Committee directs GAO to report to Congress within one year of the date of enactment of this Act on the barriers to State, local, and Tribal programs that incorporate

psilocybin products, including for therapeutic use and religious, Indigenous, or spiritual practices. The report shall: (1) review the impact of Controlled Substances Act enforcement on psilocybin use legally sanctioned by States, local governments, and Tribes; (2) identify barriers to accessing therapeutic use of psilocybin in States that have made such use legal under State law; (3) recommend ways to improve the processes used to obtain Federal authorization to conduct research with psilocybin-related substances; and (4) identify barriers to legal access to and use of psilocybin for religious, Indigenous, or spiritual practices under the Religious Freedom Restoration Act.

Task Force KleptoCapture.—The Committee recommendation includes robust funding resources to continue Task Force KleptoCapture's initiatives. The Committee also directs DOJ to report on the efforts and results of this initiative not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of the Act.

Marijuana impairment.—The Committee supports the development of an objective standard to measure marijuana impairment to ensure highway safety. Essential to that development are high-quality scientific studies using marijuana and products containing marijuana lawfully available to patients or consumers in a State on a retail basis. The Committee understands that the majority of Federal research on marijuana has been limited to a single strain of marijuana that is not fully representative of varieties used or commercially available across the country. Section 25026 of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA, Public Law 117–58), requires the Secretary of Transportation, in consultation with the Attorney General and Secretary of Health and Human Services, to issue a report and recommendations for increasing and improving access to samples and strains by scientific researchers studying impairment while driving under the influence of marijuana. The Committee emphasizes the need for research that encompasses the diversity, quality, and potency of products commonly available to patients or consumers in a State on a retail basis. The Department shall provide a briefing to the Committee no later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act regarding interim progress toward expanded researcher access in advance of publication of the report required by the IIJA.

Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC).—The Committee urges the Department to ensure its law enforcement components that utilize FLETC continue consulting with FLETC annually to ensure it is able to provide training commensurate with each component's needs and hiring goals, and directs the Department to update the Committee no later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act on these efforts.

Diversity in DOJ Hiring.—The Committee encourages the Department to recruit and hire diverse candidates from Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs), Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institutions (AANAPISIs), Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs), and other minority-serving institutions. As the Nation continues to become more diverse, culturally and linguistically, the Department should ensure its workforce is representative of the national population in order to accomplish its mission. Within 45 days of enactment of this Act, the Department is di-

rected to brief the Committee on its plans to hire diverse candidates from minority-serving institutions.

Liability Claims.—The Committee is aware of concerns about accident victims with significant outstanding liability claims made against companies prior to company bankruptcies that were not addressed under the terms of bankruptcy restructuring settlements. The Department is directed to report, not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, on steps that the Department could take to help such plaintiffs gain access to legal remedies for claims made prior to bankruptcy restructurings.

JUSTICE INFORMATION SHARING TECHNOLOGY

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

The Committee recommends $143,902,000 for Justice Information Sharing Technology (JIST), which is $105,902,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level. Cybersecurity continues to be a major vulnerability at DOJ, which was one of nine Federal agencies targeted in the SolarWinds supply chain attack, and the Committee supports the reiterated JIST request of $75,024,000 to address immediate cybersecurity response needs and modernize cybersecurity capabilities. This includes Justice Security Operations Center modernization; endpoint detection and response and logging capability; upgraded cloud security; and centralized identity authentication. Because the Committee recognizes the elevated risk to DOJ across all its components, the recommendation also provides $30,845,000 of the requested increase to strengthen essential DOJ cybersecurity and supply chain workforce development. The Department is expected to use recovered balances from prior year obligations or its discretionary transfer authority to meet any other emergent 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 $964,423,000 for the Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR), of which $4,000,000 is from immigration examination fees. The recommendation is $204,423,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level. The Committee recognizes that beginning in fiscal year 2008, EOIR has received, through transfer, $4,000,000 from immigration examination fees collected by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). This fee is the primary funding source for U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) within DHS. The Committee continues to encourage EOIR to engage with its DHS counterparts regarding EOIR's requirements that need to be considered as part of any future USCIS fee rules and during its annual budget formulation process. The Committee directs EOIR to keep the Committee apprised of these efforts. The Committee directs EOIR to continue to provide a quarterly report on all expenditures during the fiscal year as directed in House Report 117–97.

The recommendation includes funding for EOIR for its Adjudicatory Expansion Initiative in support of reducing the over 1.6 mil-

lion case backlog, which includes the hiring of additional immigration judges and support personnel beyond the authorized staffing levels for fiscal year 2022. The Committee looks forward to receiving the briefing required on EOIR's resource optimization strategy as directed in House Report 117–97. The recommendation supports the continuation of an ongoing pilot associated with unaccompanied children and notes that all immigration judges are provided specialized training regarding the handling of cases involving children who are placed on a specialized docket, separate from adult cases, to provide appropriate safeguards and procedural due process.

The Committee emphasizes that the primary mission of EOIR is to adjudicate immigration cases by fairly, expeditiously, and uniformly interpreting and administering the Nation's immigration laws, and it is critical that EOIR hires highly qualified, diverse immigration judges to ensure the adjudication process is impartial and consistent with due process. The Committee directs consistency in its training for all current and new immigration judge hires and directs EOIR to update the Committee on any changes to the training program, as appropriate. The Committee directs EOIR to continue to submit monthly reports on performance and immigration judge hiring, as directed in the fiscal year 2022 Explanatory Statement, including additional information on the status of hiring support personnel positions.

The Committee is aware that pursuant to Executive Order 14012, "Restoring Faith in Our Legal Immigration Systems and Strengthening Integration and Inclusion Efforts for New Americans", EOIR is reviewing existing regulations, orders, guidance documents, policies, and other similar agency actions, to include the case quotas policies put into effect in 2018 and video teleconferencing (VTC). The Committee directs EOIR to keep the Committee updated on any changes to these and all policies following its review.

Within the amounts provided, the Committee provides $75,000,000 for necessary build-out and modifications of courtroom space. The Committee recommends EOIR continue its ongoing work with the General Services Administration but encourages EOIR to also collaborate with DHS to explore co-location opportunities for DHS and DOJ components with immigration-related responsibilities. The Committee makes these funds available for five fiscal years to ensure EOIR makes a concerted effort to obligate these funds as quickly and efficiently as possible. The Committee expects information on these efforts will be captured in the monthly hiring report.

Additionally, the Committee understands that EOIR is in ongoing discussions with DHS regarding full implementation of the DHS-led Unified Immigration Portal (UIP) and understands that EOIR has raised data sharing and privacy concerns that require resolution prior to connecting to this system. The Committee notes that the overall costs for EOIR to connect to UIP will be assumed within the funds provided. The Committee directs the Department to provide a status update on its UIP-related efforts within 60 days of enactment of this Act.

Legal Orientation Program (LOP).—The recommendation includes $34,000,000 for LOP and related activities and expects no less than the fiscal year 2022 enacted level will be provided 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 LOP for Custodians of Unaccompanied Children (LOPC) and the ICH. 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 reminds EOIR that funding for this program is mandated by law, and any diversion from the funds' intended purpose must be formally communicated and convincingly justified to the Committee.

The recommendation also includes the proposed increase for the LOPC National Call Center.

Video teleconferencing (VTC).—While the Committee's recommendation supports the requested increase toward the Virtual Court Initiative, the Committee notes the fiscal year 2022 Explanatory Statement for VTC under the heading "VTC Data and Reporting" and expects EOIR to continue its compliance with those directives. The Committee encourages EOIR to evaluate whether the current policy is equally applicable for children under the age of 18. The Committee urges EOIR to consider methods to permit respondents to elect for VTC hearings versus in-person hearings similar to VTC policies under the Social Security Administration.

Alternatives to Detention (ATD) Program.—The Committee looks forward to receiving the briefing and analysis of alternatives directed in House Report 116–455 to improve the timeliness of resolving cases before EOIR for individuals in the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) ATD program.

Finally, the Committee looks forward to receiving the report directed in the fiscal year 2022 Explanatory Statement under the heading "EOIR–NGO Working Group."

Office of Inspector General

The Committee recommends $135,856,000 for the Office of Inspector General (OIG), $17,856,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level and the same as the request. The recommendation includes critical increases for secure facilities and information technology infrastructure, as well as for staff and technology enhancements to enable OIG to meet its growing data analytics and cyber forensics workload.

United States Parole Commission

salaries and expenses

The Committee recommends $14,591,000 for the United States Parole Commission.

LEGAL ACTIVITIES

SALARIES AND EXPENSES, GENERAL LEGAL ACTIVITIES

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

The Committee recommends $1,164,000,000 for General Legal Activities. The Committee sustains current services for all Department litigating divisions and agencies funded under this account, and includes some significant and targeted increases for long-underfunded programs. A $45,100,000 increase, as requested, is provided for the Civil Rights Division (CRT) priorities: to reinforce democratic institutions, in particular the right to vote, and protect fair housing and disability rights; confront rising hate and bias crime, including gender-based crime; and address challenges posed by artificial intelligence. CRT funding continues to include $5,000,000 to implement the Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crimes Reauthorization Act, and also continues to include not less than $10,000,000 for expenses of enforcing 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 directs the Department to report on progress in these efforts not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

The Committee funds the Criminal Division (CRM) request, including $19,000,000 in targeted increases for COVID–19 fraud investigations and efforts to combat child exploitation and white collar crime, and prosecute election crimes; and includes an additional $1,000,000 to enforce the Global Magnitsky Act.

An increase of $11,240,000 is provided to the Civil Division (CIV) to support COVID–19 and other civil fraud investigations, as well as prescription opioid and data privacy litigation. An additional $14,000,000 is provided to CIV to cover costs to implement the Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring Our PACT Act of 2022. An increase of $6,200,000 is included for the Environment and Natural Resources Division for the Office of Environmental Justice and for efforts to combat the climate crisis; $10,900,000 to enhance the executive clemency function; and $5,050,000 for the Office for Access to Justice. Partial funding is included for requests for Tax Division enforcement.

The Committee has provided separate funding recommendations by office and decision unit as follows:

Office of the Solicitor General	$14,460,000
Tax Division	120,014,000
Criminal Division	231,205,000
Civil Division	363,905,000
Environment and Natural Resources Division	134,217,000
Office of Legal Counsel	10,986,000
Civil Rights Division	215,192,000
Office for Access to Justice (A2J)	9,763,000
INTERPOL	41,796,000
Office of Pardon Attorney	22,462,000
Total, General Legal Activities	$1,164,000,000

Voting Rights Enforcement.—The Committee is concerned that multiple factors including the effects of the Supreme Court's deci-

sion in *Shelby County* v. *Holder*; the increasing proposal and adoption of restrictive, discriminatory State and local voting policies following the 2020 Presidential Election; and the ongoing need to negotiate agreements that ensure compliance with Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act (VRA) will require the Voting Section of the Civil Rights Division (CRT) to undertake an increased caseload of resource-intensive litigation to meet its responsibility under the VRA to ensure equal access to elections regardless of race, ethnicity, and linguistic ability. The Committee directs that a significant amount of the increase in funding provided to CRT be applied to expenses relating to the enforcement of Sections 2, 4(e), 5, 10, 11, 203, and 208 of the VRA (52 U.S.C. §§ 10301–10311; 10503–10505; 10508).

Civil Rights Division Performance and Workload.—The Committee remains interested in understanding CRT section caseloads and performance metrics related to enforcement of anti-discrimination laws such as, but not limited to, fair housing and voting rights enforcement, and directs the Department to include such detail in future budget requests.

Human Trafficking Prosecution Unit.—CRT plays a lead role in the Department's efforts to enforce laws against human trafficking, including both sex trafficking and forced labor. Working with U.S. Attorneys Offices nationwide, and leading the multi-agency Anti-Trafficking Coordination Team (ACTeam) initiative, the CRT Criminal Section's Human Trafficking Prosecution Unit (HTPU) leads prosecutions of novel, complex, multi-jurisdictional, and international cases. The Committee encourages the Division and the Anti-Trafficking Coordination Teams to continue working with victim service providers and non-governmental organizations to ensure victim needs are prioritized as part of the overall strategy to combat human trafficking and particularly forced labor in the United States, and to devote increases provided to implement section 15 of Public Law 115–392. Furthermore, the Committee directs CRT to report to the Committee no later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act on: (1) the total number of human trafficking cases the Department of Justice prosecuted within the last three years disaggregated by type of trafficking, to indicate the numbers of cases involving primarily forced labor, primarily sex trafficking of minors, or primarily sex trafficking of adults; (2) the number of Assistant U.S. Attorneys who received training on human trafficking within the past three years; and (3) the number of Assistant U.S. Attorneys who received training on restitution for human trafficking victims within the past three years.

Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act.—The Committee includes an additional $1,000,000 to enhance efforts of the Criminal Division 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).

Illegal Streaming Services.—Streaming has become a dominant distribution medium for copyrighted works, both through legally licensed means and illegal piracy services. In addition to significant consumer threats posed by streaming piracy services identified by the Federal Trade Commission and Department of Homeland Security, a 2019 study estimated that streaming piracy drains at least $29.2 billion annually from the U.S. economy and that 80 percent

of copyright piracy occurs via streaming. Congress responded to the Department's repeated calls to close the legal loophole that treated streaming piracy differently than other forms of digital piracy with the bipartisan Protecting Lawful Streaming Act, enacted within the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021, which authorized DOJ to bring felony cases against services designed expressly to illegally stream copyrighted works. Because of the harm to American consumers and creative community, the Committee directs the Department to prioritize streaming piracy cases and to detail within existing reports on copyright enforcement activities the actions it brings under 18 U.S.C. § 2319C.

Menstrual Health and Civil Rights.—The Committee is concerned over reports of female inmates being sexually abused by corrections officers in exchange for access to menstrual products, as well as reports of prison staff rationing access to menstrual products as a form of punishment. The Committee encourages the Civil Rights Division and the Special Litigation Section to investigate these reports as potential civil rights violations and take any necessary steps to bring and pursue litigation to rectify potential violations. The Committee requests an update on these cases be included in the biennial report on Activities Under the Civil Rights of Institutional Persons Act.

Deinstitutionalization.—The Committee is aware of concerns about displacement of vulnerable persons from institutional programs as the result of litigation or the threat of litigation. The Committee also notes that in Olmstead v. L.C. (1999), a majority of the Supreme Court held that the Americans with Disabilities Act does not condone or require removing individuals from institutional settings when they are unable to handle or benefit from a community-based setting, and that Federal law does not require the imposition of community-based treatment on patients who do not desire it. The Committee is also aware of concerns that the approach taken by both Federally-supported Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act programs and the DOJ in its related prosecutorial discretion may in some instances adversely impact individuals who may be unable to handle or benefit from community integration and do not desire such care. The Committee strongly urges the Department to ensure that the Civil Rights Division properly accounts for the needs and desires of persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities in licensed intermediate care facilities, their families, caregivers and legal representatives, and the importance of affording patients the proper setting for their care, in its enforcement of the Americans with Disabilities Act and the 'Olmstead' decision.

Passenger rail service.—When Amtrak was created by Congress, it assumed the common carrier obligations of private railroads in exchange for the right to priority access to the private railroad tracks for an incremental cost. Host railroads are generally required under 49 U.S.C. § 24308(c) to give preference to Amtrak trains over their own freight trains. Today, about 75 percent of the miles traveled by Amtrak trains are on tracks owned by such host railroads. The Committee understands that host railroads can experience challenges balancing the demands of passenger and freight trains, which can result in "freight train interference" (FTI). The Committee reminds the Department of Justice of its authori-

ties under 49 U.S.C. § 24103(a), and encourages the Department to be responsive to parties who seek legal resolution of such FTI cases in Federal civil court proceedings in which the Department may be asked to provide counsel and support.

Technology-Facilitated Crime.—Although the Internet has been a boon for the American citizenry, it has also facilitated new criminal activity that preys on American business and consumers. The Committee understands that the number of personnel dedicated to investigating computer crime activities has remained flat, despite increasing demands for technology-based evidence gathering and increased criminal activity online, including from Russia and China. The Committee recommends DOJ substantially increase its resources and capabilities for the prosecution of computer and intellectual property crimes, and report not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act on its efforts and what resources are needed to effectively counter technology-facilitated criminal activity.

VACCINE INJURY COMPENSATION TRUST FUND

The recommendation includes $31,738,000, 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 $230,000,000 for salaries and expenses of the Antitrust Division (ATR), $37,224,000 above fiscal year 2022. The recommended funding level is offset by $190,000,000 in estimated fee collections for a net direct appropriation of $40,000,000. The Committee recognizes the danger consolidation and monopoly power pose to our economy and democracy, and supports enhancing ATR's capacity to meet its large and increasingly complex workload, including international and technology dimensions of that workload. While the recommendation does not fund the entire request, the Committee expects it will permit ATR to begin to build up its enforcement workforce and invest in necessary information technology over the coming decade, and to detail how it applies the increase in its fiscal year 2023 expenditure plan.

Agribusiness.—The Committee recognizes that consolidation in agribusiness can be detrimental to farmers, consumers, workers, and the environment. The Committee is encouraged by the ongoing cooperation between DOJ, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) and the Department of Agriculture (USDA) in enforcement of antitrust laws in the food, agriculture, and meatpacking space. DOJ is directed to continue collaborating with USDA and the FTC to ensure food, poultry production and meatpacking, seed and other industries are free of unfair practices that ultimately harm consumers and threaten the vitality of the marketplace.

SALARIES AND EXPENSES, UNITED STATES ATTORNEYS

The Committee recommends $2,700,000,000 for the Executive Office for United States Attorneys (EOUSA) and the 94 United States Attorneys' offices, which is $280,132,000 above fiscal year 2022.

The Committee has provided separate funding recommendations by decision unit as follows: $2,041,173,000 for criminal litigation; $626,981,000 for civil litigation; and $31,846,000 for legal education.

The recommendation includes funding needed to sustain operations at the fiscal year 2022 level, and provides $196,500,000 in requested increases, including $74,140,000 to pursue prosecution workload increases arising from the January 6 U.S. Capitol attack and domestic terrorism cases; $26,380,000 to address fraud related to the COVID–19 pandemic; $64,300,000 to fund the costs of meeting Federal responsibilities mandated pursuant to the U.S. Supreme Court's 2020 *McGirt* v. *Oklahoma* decision; and $20,000,000 to support the EOUSA eLitigation initiative; $8,000,000 for civil rights and white collar crime investigations; and $3,600,000 to go towards the EOUSA cyber initiative. The Committee continues to provide $10,000,000 for continued 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.

Human trafficking.—The recommendation continues bill language requiring that each U.S. Attorney Office (USAO) participate in human trafficking task forces, and DOJ shall continue to submit semiannual reports on the performance of these task forces. USAOs work closely with Federal, state, and local law enforcement authorities to investigate and prosecute sex trafficking cases. Each USAO takes a victim-centered approach to human trafficking, partnering with non-governmental organizations to ensure that trafficking victims receive the trauma recovery and outreach services they need, while prosecuting traffickers to the fullest extent authorized by Congress.

UNITED STATES TRUSTEE SYSTEM FUND

The Committee recommends $255,000,000 for the United States Trustee Program (USTP), which is $16,000,000 above the fiscal year 2022 appropriation. The Committee has included an increase above current services funding of $8,953,000 for criminal enforcement coordinators and to help the Trustees meet growing bankruptcy filing workloads following the COVID–19 pandemic.

SALARIES AND EXPENSES, FOREIGN CLAIMS SETTLEMENT COMMISSION

The Committee recommends $2,504,000 for the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission (FCSC), which is $70,000 above the fiscal year 2022 appropriation and equal to the request.

FEES AND EXPENSES OF WITNESSES

The Committee recommends $270,000,000, which is the same amount as fiscal year 2022, 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 $25,024,000 for the Community Relations Service (CRS), which is $4,024,000 above fiscal year 2022 and the same as the request. 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 an additional $1,475,000 above current services for expanded mediation and conciliation services for communities experiencing tensions.

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 and engaging in healing and conflict resolution. It facilitates the development of mutual understanding in communities challenged by tension and helps them develop local capacity and tools to defuse tension and prevent hate crimes from reoccurring. It also complements DOJ law enforcement activities, particularly when those activities involve members of vulnerable and marginalized communities. The Committee expects these efforts to expand, and CRS's services to be offered in more communities, in fiscal year 2023.

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 2022 amount and the budget request.

Section 528 of this Act requires the Department to submit a spending plan for fiscal year 2023. 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 $1,725,000,000 for the salaries and expenses of the United States Marshals Service (USMS), which is $145,000,000 above fiscal year 2022. The recommendation fully funds USMS current services at the fiscal year 2022 level, and provides increases requested to enhance judicial security access systems; equip USMS deputies and task force officers with body-worn cameras; and assume expanded workload mandated by the *McGirt* v. *Oklahoma* Supreme Court decision. It would also fund increased costs of fiscal year 2022 initiatives to return international fugitives to stand trial in the United States, pursue missing child investigations pursuant to the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act; upgrade fugitive apprehension communications technology; assume expanded workload mandated by the *McGirt* v. *Oklahoma* Supreme Court decision; enhance judicial security; and expand USMS spe-

cial operations capacity to address domestic terrorism and violent crime. The Committee also sustains funding to enforce 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	$582,000,000
Fugitive Apprehension	700,000,000
Prisoner Security and Transportation	299,436,000
Protection of Witnesses	71,427,000
Tactical Operations	72,137,000
Total, Salaries and Expenses	$1,725,000,000

Supreme Court Security.—The system of government created by our nation's founders includes an independent judiciary that resolves disputes based on law. The threat of violence against judges, Justices and their families undermines the rule of law and the independence of the Third Branch. The Committee appreciates that the USMS is providing security to address threats to Supreme Court Justices. Within the level of funds provided, the Committee directs the USMS to continue providing necessary security to address such threats throughout fiscal year 2023. The USMS is directed to keep the Committee informed of their funding needs to provide appropriate security for the Justices and will consider reprogrammings or transfers if additional funding is required.

CONSTRUCTION

The Committee recommends $19,260,000, which is $4,260,000 above fiscal year 2022, and the same as 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 $2,129,789,000 for Federal Prisoner Detention (FPD), which is $6,774,000 above the fiscal year 2022 appropriation and the same as the request. The funding continues to include requested funding to facilitate transition from commercial contract detention facilities to facilities owned and operated by Federal, State, or local government, with associated program oversight. USMS is directed to continue to submit monthly reports on individuals in the detention system, as directed in the explanatory statement accompanying the fiscal year 2022 Appropriations Act, and to anticipate funding needs so as to avoid funding shortfalls or a need for emergency reprogramming.

Contract Detention.—As the Committee has previously noted, USMS does not own or operate any of its own facilities and historically relied on contract facility operators to maintain the necessary flexibility to manage fluctuating populations in an efficient and cost-effective way that best supports the courts as well as those in custody awaiting court action. Executive Order 14006 changed USMS' ability to continue or enter into new contract facility operations, although the Committee notes its understanding that the Department has discretion to make exceptions where there is a lack of suitable government-operated detention space, and to mini-

mize impacts on due process and civil rights of pre-trial defendants.

Because the Committee is concerned with the effect of the E.O. on USMS operations, USMS is directed to publish a report and provide the Committee a briefing, not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, on the impact of E.O. 14006 on the USMS, to include the effects on custody and transportation logistics, budgets, finances, as well as on the U.S. Courts and communities they serve, including proximity to courts, and the ways in which these impacts are being mitigated.

NATIONAL SECURITY DIVISION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

The Committee recommends $133,512,000 for the National Security Division (NSD), which is $12,831,000 above fiscal year 2022 and equal to the request. This amount will sustain NSD operations at no less than the fiscal year 2022 level to address its national security and counterterrorism workload, including its responsibilities under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) and the Foreign Agents Registration Act (FARA). The Committee has included the requested increase for enhanced intelligence collection and oversight to support NSD's FISA mission, combat terrorism, respond to cyber attacks, and enable secure classified processing capabilities.

Counterespionage Office.—The Department is urged to consider establishing an office in the National Security Division dedicated to countering espionage and influence efforts of the People's Republic of China targeting American businesses, research institutions, and academia.

INTERAGENCY LAW ENFORCEMENT

INTERAGENCY CRIME AND DRUG ENFORCEMENT

The Committee recommends $550,458,000 for Interagency Crime and Drug Enforcement, which is equal to both the fiscal year 2022 enacted level and 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.

Decision unit subtotals.—The recommendation includes the requested funding of $386,513,000 for investigations and $163,945,000 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 continue to focus 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 2024 budget request.

Transnational criminal organizations (TCOs) in the Caribbean.—The Committee remains deeply concerned with the threats posed by TCOs operating in the Caribbean, particularly in and around Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, and notes that pervasively high homicide rates in the two U.S. territories are linked to illegal narcotics trafficking in the region. The Committee recognizes the importance of the Caribbean Corridor Strike Force, the OCDETF Co-located Strike Force in Puerto Rico, to tackle these threats, and expects the Department to prioritize efforts of OCDETF and other DOJ components to identify, disrupt, and dismantle drug trafficking and money laundering organizations in the Caribbean.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

The Committee recommends $10,676,000,000 for the salaries and expenses of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), which is $539,705,000 above fiscal year 2022. The recommendation includes funding to sustain all programs carried out in fiscal year 2022, to include the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS), continues $5,000,000 in funding as authorized to implement the Emmett Till Civil Rights Act, and $5,000,000 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 includes requested increases of $51,975,000 for programs to address cyber threats and cybercrime; $76,189,000 to counter acts of mass violence, threats to public safety, domestic terrorism, and emergent national security threats; $34,142,000 for counterintelligence requirements; $36,948,000 for cybersecurity; $17,786,000 to expand civil rights enforcement; $20,574,000 to combat crime and corruption; $16,928,000 for data and technology tools; $27,351,000 for the body-worn camera program; and $22,513,000 for costs of workload associated with the *McGirt v. Oklahoma* decision.

The Committee has provided separate funding recommendations by decision unit as follows:

Intelligence	$1,959,824,000
Counterterrorism/Counterintelligence	4,328,648,000
Criminal Enterprise and Federal Crimes	3,740,492,000
Criminal Justice Services	647,036,000
Total, Salaries and Expenses	10,676,000,000

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).

Cybersecurity Information Sharing.—The Committee is concerned with the security of our Nation's sensitive networks and encourages the establishment and enhancement of two-way information sharing between cleared sector partners and the U.S. Government. In order to strengthen the security of critical network sectors, the Committee encourages the FBI, as part of its cybersecurity enhancements included in this bill, to consider how it might leverage partnerships among the FBI (such as through its Innovation Center), academia and private industry through its Office of Private Sector to improve information sharing for the energy and electricity sector and the academic research institution sector.

Cyber Programs.—The Committee strongly supports the Cyber Assistant Legal Attaché (ALAT) program, which facilitates intelligence sharing and helps coordinate joint law enforcement investigations, in the U.S. and working at key overseas missions. Eliminating safe havens for cyber criminals is a key priority, and international cooperation is essential to holding bad actors accountable. The Committee therefore encourages the FBI to consider increasing funding for the Cyber ALAT program.

Cyber Threat Response.—The Committee strongly supports the Bureau's activities in furtherance of its role as the lead agency for threat response pursuant to Presidential Policy Directive 41. The Committee encourages the FBI to consider increasing funding for the National Cyber Investigative Joint Task Force as part of its essential mission and to support information sharing for cyber threat investigations.

Resources to Address Domestic White Supremacist Terrorist Activity and Report.—The recent surge of domestic terrorism cases poses difficult challenges to the security of our Nation. The Committee is aware that the FBI, jointly with the National Counterterrorism Center and Department of Homeland Security, released in May 2021 its report titled, "Strategic Intelligence Assessment and Data on Domestic Terrorism." It is also cognizant of the multifaceted approach to domestic terrorism exercised by the FBI and its Federal, State and local partners, through the FBI's own Counterterrorism Division, through its many Joint Terrorism Task Forces, and with partner agencies across the national security and law enforcement communities. The Committee supports funding requested by the FBI to address these threats. In order to assist the Committee in understanding the nature of the challenge facing the Department and FBI, the FBI is directed to provide an updated report on Domestic White Supremacist Terrorist Activity, at the level of detail specified in House Report 116–455, not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, to include the period of 1 October 2020 through 30 September 2022.

Elder fraud.—The Committee remains 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 and Elder Justice Initiatives and has Elder Fraud Strike Forces at six of its field offices. It is also aware that the Department has a National Elder Fraud Hotline, and that the FBI has complementary channels to report elder fraud perpetrated by foreign actors, in addition to the FBI tiplines and the Internet Crime Complaint Center. The Committee directs the FBI to put in-

creased energy into efforts to prevent or investigate such guardianship abuse, including enforcement of Public Law 115–70, the Elder Abuse Prevention and Prosecution Act of 2017 (EAPPA), and to provide detailed reporting on the FBI's progress in reducing such fraud, to include data on cases closed and convictions made, as part of the annual EAPPA report to Congress, and to request any necessary funding and staffing for such efforts in its fiscal year 2024 budget request.

Counter Explosives Research.—The Committee supports the critical counter explosive mission of the Critical Incidence Response Group. It is also aware that traditional Improvised Explosive Devices (IED) or Homemade Explosive Devices (HED) include both ground- and airborne explosive threats, such as via unmanned aerial vehicles. Therefore, the Committee encourages the FBI, as it pursues its counter-explosives mission, to consider expanding its ongoing research through its Research and Prototyping for IED Defeat (RAPID) program to bridge science and technology gaps needed to defeat both ground and airborne security threats and mitigate emerging IED/HED threats while also providing for improved training programs for counterterrorism and hazardous device personnel.

National Instant Background Check System (NICS).—Federal Firearms Licensees rely on NICS to be effective to ensure the lawful transfer of firearms to law-abiding citizens. To keep up with the growing number of background checks, the growing number of gun owners (an estimated 8,400,000 first time buyers in 2020), and to help ensure that firearms stay out of the wrong hands, additional resources are needed to provide timely and accurate determinations of an individual's eligibility to purchase or own a firearm under Federal law. NICS verifies that a prospective purchaser does not have a criminal record or isn't otherwise ineligible to purchase or own a firearm. Providing NICS with the necessary resources will help to: ensure that NICS remains operational, benefiting the lawful commerce of firearms throughout the U.S.; prevent further application backlogs; and protect lives throughout the nation by helping to keep firearms out of the wrong hands. The Committee therefore directs the FBI to provide NICS with no less than $125,000,000.

Operational Medicine Program Partnership.—The health and safety of its agents should be a top priority for the FBI, given the routine risk of physical harm they face daily carrying out critical national security missions. The Committee continues to strongly support the FBI's use of external partnerships as part of its Operational Medicine Program to support medical contingency planning and improve the delivery of medical care for high-risk law enforcement missions.

Addressing Bias in Research Security.—The Committee is aware that the Department ended its "China Initiative", which was originally announced in 2018 to combat Chinese government efforts to steal U.S. technology, research and intellectual property; and is also aware of concerns the initiative may have reflected bias against those of Chinese ancestry. The Committee expects the Department to take all appropriate steps to counter the threat posed by the Chinese government to U.S. national and economic security, but to do so under the highest standards of objectivity, with no hint

of ethnic or racial bias. The Committee directs the Department to collaborate with the National Science Foundation (NSF) on the disclosure requirements the NSF uses to make referrals of cases to the FBI.

Business Email Compromise (BEC).—The Committee notes that the FBI has assessed that "BEC is one of the fastest growing, most financially damaging Internet-enabled crimes. It is a major threat to the global economy," and welcomes the recent online publication by the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) of the *2021 Internet Crime Report*, detailing the impact of BEC (which targets businesses) and Email account compromise (EAC) that targets individuals. The Committee encourages the FBI to explore ways to increase collaboration and coordination with industry and other private sector partners in addressing BEC and EAC, and to update its reporting on these scams and enforcement efforts on the IC3 website.

Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS).—The Committee recognizes that the FBI's Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) division deploys emerging technologies, such as biometrics and AI, to enhance Federal, State, and local law enforcement situational awareness, capabilities, and public safety, while strictly adhering to internal privacy protocols, known as Privacy Impact Assessments and Systems of Records Notice, which provide the public an accurate, transparent, and complete explanation of how FBI components are using face recognition (FR) in support of the FBI's mission to defend against terrorism, enforce criminal laws, and protect civil liberties. For one-to-many FR searches, CJIS uses the FBI Next Generation Identification (NGI) System in conjunction with the Interstate Photo System (IPS) to solely produce investigative leads that are disseminated by the Facial Analysis, Comparison, and Evaluation (FACE) Services Unit at the request of FBI inquiries. The probe photo must be collected pursuant to applicable legal authorities as part of an active and authorized FBI assessment, preliminary investigations, or full investigations. NGI–IPS enables the FACE Unit to probe photo searches against criminal databases and support investigatory efforts solely for the basis of producing investigative leads that require additional oversight. These investigatory and privacy protocols are validated by 2021 statistics wherein CJIS received 9,255 FR search requests supporting over 794 investigative cases and returned 1,769 likely candidates as investigative leads to FBI agents. The Committee urges CJIS to expand internal and interagency research capabilities and to ensure the FBI acquires highly accurate and reliable FR technologies. The FBI shall include, with its expenditure plan for fiscal year 2023, a report on how the FBI can reconcile its obligations to comply with statutory requirements governing privacy while responding to future threats.

Data Analytics.—The proliferation of digital services has resulted in vast amounts of data being collected concerning virtually every aspect of life. As a result, the FBI now finds itself with overwhelming amounts of digital data to process as part of conducting investigations. This can often lead to delays as large data sets are dissected in an effort to find the right data. While the field of data analytics has made tremendous strides in industry, these efforts have not translated well to law enforcement. In order to better ad-

vance law enforcement specific data analytics, the Committee encourages the FBI in partnership with universities to develop research focused on developing and advancing tools and technologies that will provide data solutions to quickly and accurately acquire and analyze digital data sets, overcoming the lengthy obstacles that currently face law enforcement.

Foreign Language Program.—Since its inception, the FBI Foreign Language Program and National Virtual Translation Center (NVTC) have complemented the U.S. intelligence community (USIC) elements' foreign language translation capabilities with support tasks from high-volume surges to immediate translation requirements in 142 language dialects. The committee encourages FBI efforts to adopt commercially available adaptive neural machine learning translation technologies to supplement existing trained linguists and analysts.

Section 702.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the FBI shall submit a report detailing how many queries of information acquired under Section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 (50 U.S.C. 1881a) using United States person selectors were performed in 2020 and 2021, and no later than March 31, 2023, shall report to the Committee and make publicly available the number of such queries performed in 2022.

Retention Bonuses.—Rising costs of living, statutory pay limits, and resource constrains have combined to make it difficult for the FBI to sufficiently compensate employees who effectively protect our country from criminal and terrorist threats. In order to address these concerns, the Committee encourages the FBI to provide retention and relocation bonuses to FBI employees in accordance with the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 5759. FBI employees who the Director determines are performing their duties in an outstanding or exceptional manner should be considered eligible for bonuses under 5 USC 5759(a)(1).

Cyber Assistant Legal Attache.—The Committee strongly supports the FBI's Cyber Assistant Legal Attache (cyber ALAT) Program, which facilitates intelligence sharing and helps coordinate joint law enforcement investigations. Eliminating safe havens for cyber criminals is a key priority, and international cooperation is essential to holding bad actors accountable.

Cyber Security Integration.—The Committee remains concerned about the growing threat of cyber-attacks and recognizes the work done across agencies to develop cyber tactics, techniques, procedures, and tools to address these challenges. The Committee has supported the development and deployment of a Cyber Security Operations Center (CSOC) through the Department of Defense and is interested in the opportunity for the integration of cross-Agency resources. The FBI is directed to conduct a study and provide a report on the feasibility of integrating compatible FBI and CSOC activities to improve threat information, allowing for sharing of sensitive cyber threat profiles and analysis. The report shall include an assessment of the utility and costs associated with such integration.

CONSTRUCTION

The Committee recommends $61,895,000, 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, including necessary secure work environment building and modifications, and safety and security upgrades at Quantico.

The Committee reminds the FBI that it expects to receive the report on the construction a new headquarters for the FBI in the National Capital Region, as specified in section 534 of the fiscal year 2022 Appropriations Act, Public Law 117–103.

DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

The Committee recommends total budget authority of $3,104,603,000 for Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) salaries and expenses, of which $581,487,000 is derived from fees deposited in the Diversion Control Fund, and $2,523,116,000 is provided by direct appropriation. The recommended appropriation is $171,422,000 above fiscal year 2022 and equal to the request.

The funding sustains core activities at the fiscal year 2022 level of effort, including its expanded community efforts through Operation Engage, and includes the requested increases for information sharing and information technology infrastructure, the body-worn camera program, and increased workload resulting from the *McGirt* v. *Oklahoma* Supreme Court ruling.

The Committee has provided separate funding recommendations by decision unit for salaries and expenses as follows:

International Enforcement	$475,609,000
Domestic Enforcement	2,034,812,000
State and Local Assistance	12,695,000
Total, Salaries and Expenses	2,523,116,000

Methamphetamine and fentanyl cleanup.—The funding recommendation includes the requested $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.

Special Registration for Telemedicine.—In October 2018, Congress took necessary steps in passing the Substance Use-Disorder Prevention that Promotes Opioid Recovery and Treatment for Patients and Communities (SUPPORT) Act (P.L. 115–271) to combat the worsening opioid overdose epidemic. Section 3232 of the Act amends the Controlled Substance Act (CSA) Section 311(h)(2) to require that no later than one year after enactment, the Attorney General, in consultation with the Secretary of Health & Human Services (HHS), propagate final regulations specifying a Special Registration for the use of telemedicine to prescribe controlled substances under the Ryan Haight Act. More than three full years have elapsed since the SUPPORT Act was signed into law with no appreciable progress in moving forward a rulemaking process to implement this key telemedicine provision. The Committee sup-

ports efforts by the DEA to enable health care providers to safely prescribe controlled substances remotely and to provide mechanisms that can be used to prevent illegal online drug sales and drug diversion. The Committee directs the DEA to promulgate final regulations specifying the circumstances in which a Special Registration for telemedicine may be issued and the procedure for obtaining the registration.

Takeback Programs.—The Committee remains concerned about the ongoing opioid crisis, which has seen an increased death rate of almost 30 percent from 2020 to 2021. The Committee encourages DEA to consider updating regulations within its jurisdiction to enhance and expand opioid takeback programs, thereby improving patients' options to safely and easily return unused opioid medications.

Buprenorphine.—The Committee is concerned by reports of patients not being able to fill buprenorphine prescriptions at pharmacies. Reports indicate that pharmacies are unable or unwilling to stock sufficient buprenorphine products because of unclear regulations on suspicious orders, fear of DEA raids, overly burdensome distributor processes and paperwork requirements, or distributor confusion over whether DEA has caps or quotas on distribution of opioids and/or buprenorphine. The Committee directs the DEA Administrator to clarify the difference between suspicious orders of opioids and suspicious orders of buprenorphine, clarify the difference between suspicious orders and caps or quotas, clarify that the DEA has no quotas or caps on buprenorphine, and clarify how distributor-imposed quotas or caps on opioids or buprenorphine do or do not satisfy suspicious order regulations. Within 180 days of the date of enactment of this Act, the Committee requests DEA report on what actions it has taken to prevent individuals from being inappropriately denied access to medications for opioid use disorder.

Language Skills.—The Committee urges DEA to prioritize hiring agents with Chinese-language (Mandarin and Cantonese) skills and cultural awareness, and agents with the necessary skills (language and culture) to engage with Chinese money and banking institutions. The DEA is further directed to submit a report, not later than 180 days of the date of enactment of this Act, on what resources it needs to investigate and prosecute money laundering from Chinese money and banking institutions.

Express Consignment Couriers.—The Committee urges the DEA, with support from the DOJ, to work with Express Consignment Carriers (ECCs) to develop industry-wide best practices for automated screening algorithms to detect domestic consignments of synthetic opioids. These best practices should be informed by law enforcement metrics. The DEA is directed to submit a report, within 180 days of the date of enactment of this Act, on the status of these efforts.

Illegal Grow Operations.—Within 30 days of the date of enactment of this Act, the Department of Justice is directed to submit a report detailing the prevalence of illegal grow operations in States with legal production and sales frameworks; the number and types of crimes associated with the presence of illegal grow operations in States with legal production and sales frameworks; challenges faced by Federal, State, and local law enforcement agen-

cies in combatting illegal grow operations; and recommendations for changes in DOJ policy to improve DOJ support to local law enforcement agencies who are combatting illegal grow operations in States with legal marijuana production and sales frameworks.

Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR) Aircraft.—DEA's mission to enforce controlled substances laws requires a well-equipped fleet of aircraft to provide operational and intelligence support to enforcement efforts. DEA currently manages 106 aircraft that provide surveillance, reconnaissance, extraditions, and transportation. However, the age of DEA's aircraft fleet has reduced reliability and increased operational costs, affecting its ability to provide mission support. DEA's Aviation Program 2021 Fleet Overview and Modernization Plan illustrates how the Administration intends to replace aircraft and fill capability gaps. The Committee is aware that DEA is considering acquiring a Multi-Role Enforcement Aircraft (MEA), equipped with ISR capability, which would support DEA's mission of disrupting and dismantling drug trafficking organizations. The Committee encourages DEA, within funding provided, to explore ways to incorporate MEA capability in its fleet modernization schedule, and to include requirements for funding such actions in its future budget requests.

DEA Community Engagement.—The Committee encourages the DEA to employ health professionals who are representative of the community they serve at large and that they report their collaborative work with DEA field offices to prove community engagement. The Committee encourages the DEA to institutionalize cultural competence training in field offices and report its efforts.

BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, FIREARMS AND EXPLOSIVES

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

The Committee recommends $1,732,528,000 for the salaries and expenses of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), which is $201,457,000 above fiscal year 2022 and equal to the request. The recommendation fully funds the requested increase towards combatting gun violence and to implement the Administration's budget proposals to prevent and respond to gun crime, including responding to ghost guns, improving trace data, and firearms trafficking strike force initiative. Bill language is included to prohibit the transfer of ATF's current enforcement authorities. A general provision is included to prohibit the move of ATF's National Canine Training Center or the ATF National Canine Division.

The recommendation assumes that within the resources provided, ATF will prioritize funding for the National Firearms Act Division to improve firearms licensing processing timelines. The Committee is concerned about the large number of pending applications awaiting processing by ATF. In 2013, ATF established eForms, an electronic filing process, to reduce submission and processing times as well as data entry processing backlogs. The Committee is aware ATF is currently developing ATF Form 4 into eForms and encourages ATF to prioritize funding for this continued development within the funds provided. Completing the modernization of the processing system and automating ATF Form 4 applica-

tions is critical and will free up additional resources for improved customer service and prevent backlogs from continuing to mount.

National Tracing Center (NTC) Modernization.—The Committee includes full funding for the NTC Modernization effort to support technology upgrades that will permit more expeditious firearms tracing as well as increased staffing to support the increased volume of work trending at a seven percent annual growth. The Committee recognizes these investments help increase ATF's ability to identify gun traffickers, potential suspects, and patterns of violent gun crime to help law enforcement agencies solve criminal cases. The Committee notes the investment in the e-Trace Program will not only enhance data sharing capabilities, but reduce out-year operations and maintenance costs, improve accuracy, and significantly reduce trace completion times. The Committee directs ATF to produce a report, no later than one year after the enactment of this Act and annually thereafter, to the Committee providing an overview of the e-Trace workload and operational costs in the fiscal year to best understand the workload and ensure the program is adequately resourced. The report should include the number of personnel allocated to assist with the tracing of firearms and all associated NTC operations and maintenance costs, the total number of trace requests in the fiscal year and a comparison to the prior fiscal year, the number of successfully processed requests and trace completion times, the number of unsuccessful traces with a summary of the reasons for the trace not being completed, and a summary of any resource or funding challenges to the program.

Central America Tracing Efforts.—The Committee appreciates ATF's efforts to help foreign governments, especially those in Central America, to trace firearms that are used in crimes in those countries. A recent GAO report, "Firearms Trafficking: More Information is Needed to Inform U.S. Efforts in Central America" (GAO 22 104680) indicates that some 40 percent of firearms traced by ATF from these countries originate in the United States, and approximately half of those are legitimately purchased and exported from the United States. The Committee notes that ATF shares trace information with BIS and the State Department. The Committee recognizes that not every firearm recovered in these countries is submitted, which creates discrepancies between seizure data and trace data for recovered crime guns. The Committee encourages ATF, in coordination with all Federal partners, to help increase the participation and engagement of law enforcement in the region and to report on these efforts no later than 180 days after the enactment of this Act.

National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN).—The Committee recommendation includes $21,208,000 in support of National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN) and Crime Gun Intelligence (CGI) and supports the expansion of NIBIN and increasing field support for the remainder of ATF Field Divisions to allow for more participation from law enforcement partners. This initiative will integrate CGI and NIBIN principals for intelligence-led policing to reduce violent crime and protect communities. The Committee is encouraged by the promise of improved CGI and information sharing, and expects funding provided in this bill will aid in interdicting crime guns and preventing gun trafficking.

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, in particular the expansion of the NIBIN National Correlation and Training Center (NNCTC). The Committee appreciates the investments being made by State and local law enforcement partners to collect and share ballistics evidence across geographically separated law enforcement jurisdictions and encourages ATF to continue to build on these investments. Further, the Committee recognizes the ongoing work ATF has underway in an effort to expand NIBIN training and technology to Tribal law enforcement and encourages ATF to continue these efforts to ensure Tribal jurisdictions have access to NIBIN correlation services.

The Committee supports efforts to include both cartridge casings and bullets, where feasible, 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 institutions of higher education to use NIBIN as part of their criminal justice training programs. The Committee notes that funding under State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance for the Forensics Ballistics Programs in Higher Education Program aids in this effort, as it exposes and educates students on the importance of firearm ballistics through the utilization of NIBIN. The initiative allows universities to develop programs to provide students with hands-on training in the processing of firearms evidence used to generate actionable crime gun intelligence.

The Committee is aware of efforts by ATF to increase the presence of NIBIN on the Southwest border, including an increase to Crime Gun Intelligence Centers allotted to Southwest border field offices. The Committee supports and encourages ATF to continue these efforts. Further, the Committee is aware that the ATF's Firearms Trafficking Task Forces are working to combat the illegal flow of firearms into Mexico and encourages ATF, within the amounts provided, to continue its work with intergovernmental partners, including DHS, toward these efforts, and encourages colocation with law enforcement partners where feasible. ATF is directed to report to the Committee on progress in this regard within 60 days of the enactment of this Act.

Federal Firearm License (FFL) Theft.—The Committee supports the request for additional Industry Operations Investigators (IOIs) to support the prioritization and investigation of Federal Firearm License (FFL) burglaries and robberies. The Committee encourages ATF to continue to work with FLETC to ensure ATF is able to onboard and train the maximum number of IOIs in the fiscal year.

Preventing Firearm Straw Purchases.—The Committee notes that preventing firearms purchases by prohibited persons is critical to the mission of ATF in preventing violent crime and protecting the Nation. ATF has designed a public awareness and educational program, "Don't Lie for the Other Guy", to assist firearm retailers in the detection and possible deterrence of "straw purchases," the illegal purchase of a firearm by one person for a prohibited individual, or one who does not want to be associated with the sale of a firearm. The goal of the program is to reduce firearm straw purchases at the retail level and to educate would-be straw purchasers of the penalties of knowingly participating in an illegal firearm purchase.

The Department's Project Safe Neighborhoods initiative supplements this program by providing funding to raise public awareness of the criminality involved in purchasing a firearm for a prohibited person. Within the funds provided, the Committee encourages ATF to contribute additional resources to further enhance both ongoing and future public awareness initiatives with its partner organizations supporting these activities.

Violent Gun Crime Reduction.—In July 2021, the Department launched five cross-jurisdictional firearms trafficking strike forces to help reduce violent crime by addressing illegal gun trafficking in significant firearms trafficking corridors across the country, as part of the Department's broader Violent Crime Reduction Initiative, announced on May 26, 2021, which supports local communities in preventing, investigating, and prosecuting gun violence and other violent crime. The Committee recognizes that ATF is utilizing every available resource, including NIBIN and firearms tracing, to identify, investigate, and produce evidence to prosecute violent offenders. The Committee encourages ATF, within the funds provided, to improve its geospatial collaboration and information sharing with State, local, and Federal partners, in compliance with section 759 of the Geospatial Data Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–254), and to include resource requirements in future year budget requests on both technology and personnel to more fully develop this type of investment.

FEDERAL PRISON SYSTEM

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

The Committee recommends $8,415,550,000 for salaries and expenses of the Bureau of Prisons (BOP), which is $550,550,000 above fiscal year 2022 and $409,599,000 above the request. The Committee recommendation includes the requested funding of not less than $409,483,000 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 BOP operations at no less than the fiscal year 2022 level of operations, and provides an additional amount of $203,422,000 for BOP to increase hiring efforts to reduce the use of staff augmentation and understaffing at high-security institutions.

The Committee has provided separate funding recommendations by decision unit as follows:

Inmate Care and Programs	$3,127,516,000
Management Security and Administration	$4,449,209,000
Contract Confinement	$838,825,000
Total, Salaries and Expenses	$8,415,550,000

Augmentation, Reassignment and Staffing.—Overcrowding at BOP medium- and high-security institutions continues to threaten Correctional Officer and inmate safety, notwithstanding the BOP practice of augmentation or reassignment, whereby a non-custody correctional employee is assigned custody responsibilities, rather

than limiting such practice to rare or exceptional circumstances. The Committee has provided $203,422,000 above the request to enable BOP to continue to hire more full-time Correctional Officers until such augmentation or reassignment is no longer needed, as well as to improve staffing beyond mission-critical levels in custody and all other departments. The Committee expects BOP to increase staffing, as directed in the explanatory statement accompanying the fiscal year 2022 Appropriations Act, and to eliminate staffing shortfalls that the Committee understands have grown and in cases led to significant overtime costs. In filling staff vacancies, the Committee expects BOP to ensure that comparable institutions, including those with changing missions, should have comparable staffing levels. BOP shall continue to follow directions in Public Law 117–103, the fiscal year 2022 Appropriations Act, on (1) reporting on its use of augmentation and reduction of such use; (2) reporting on its inmate-to-correctional officer ratio and progress in ensuring each high-security institution housing unit has at least two correctional officers on duty for each shift; and (3) reducing vacancy rates.

Staffing.—Under the First Step Act at the end of 2018, ensuring BOP has adequate programming staff has become essential. However, because BOP eliminated over 5,000 positions during its hiring freeze in 2017–2019, programming areas became severely understaffed. Most Federal Prisons are short staffed, either due to the elimination of key positions or because such staff are being augmented/reassigned to cover for a shortage of Correctional Officers. With the increase provided, the Committee expects BOP to hire additional Correctional Officers and eliminate or significantly decrease augmentation or reassignment of programming staff.

Another key component of the First Step Act is a mandatory screening of all inmates in the Federal Prison System for Dyslexia. The Committee directs BOP to take action to ensure it has Special Education Teachers in all its facilities, and a Special Populations Manager at each BOP institution to ensure that First Step Act Programming can be delivered.

BOP Retention Bonuses.—The Committee recognizes that agencies have the authority to approve a retention incentive without Office of Personnel Management (OPM) approval for payments of up to 10 percent for a group or category of employees. OPM approval is required when an agency would like to exceed these limits, based on critical agency need. Under an OPM retention incentive waiver, an agency could approve a retention incentive of up to 50 percent of basic pay. The Committee continues to encourage BOP to work with OPM to provide retention incentives for groups and categories of employees at BOP facilities in which 10 percent or more of the total available positions are vacant, prioritizing facilities with the largest number of vacancies, and to include funding for such incentives in future budget requests. BOP is also encouraged to initiate a retention program for nonsupervisory staff who have reached retirement eligibility.

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 once again 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.

Correctional Officer Compensation Pay Bands.—BOP, in consultation with the DOJ Justice Management Division, is encouraged to consider increasing the pay bands for the position of Correctional Officer. The current pay band of GL 5/6/7 with a competitive GL–8 is far behind other Federal Law Enforcement Agencies and other jobs within the private sector, making BOP less competitive with other Federal Law Enforcement Agencies. The Committee encourages BOP to consider raising the Correctional Officer pay to the pay band of GL 7/8/9. Although this level is still below that of some other agencies, it will reduce the compensation gap and help BOP address its current staffing crisis.

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.

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 directs the BOP Director to continue to report to the Committee on progress in implementing the Act, as specified in House Report 116–455.

Private Sector Partnerships.—The Committee notes that Section 102 of the First Step Act (Public Law 115–391) directs the Attorney General to develop policies for the warden of each BOP institution to enter into partnerships with private entities that employ prisoners or assist prisoners in prerelease custody or supervised release in finding employment. The Committee recognizes the barriers to entering the labor market for formerly incarcerated individuals and the role stable employment plays in reducing recidivism. The Committee directs the BOP to build formal partnerships with private sector businesses and local BOP facilities to promote the development of job pipelines for individuals leaving incarceration. The BOP should also prepare prisoners to assume job responsibilities immediately upon release by providing job-specific and soft-skills trainings inside BOP facilities. The BOP is further directed to submit a report, within 90 days of the date of enactment of this Act, on such efforts, including steps the BOP plans to take to build these partnerships.

Improving Methods for Reducing Recidivism.—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 the DOJ to explore rehabilitation methods such as mindfulness and meditation that encourage incarcerated individuals to live to each one's highest potential and contribute to society.

Voting rights.—Several jurisdictions authorize BOP to provide voting access and education in Federal prisons. The Committee di-

rects the Director of the Bureau of Prisons to prioritize enabling all eligible persons in BOP custody to access the ballot and ensure that all those in custody have the information and resources needed to exercise their fundamental right to vote.

Government Identification.—Section 604 of the First Step Act (Public Law 115–391) directs BOP to establish procedures to help prisoners obtain identification, including a social security card, driver's license or other official photo identification, and a birth certificate; prior to release from a sentence to a term of imprisonment in a Federal prison or if the individual was not sentenced to a term of imprisonment in a Federal prison, prior to release from a sentence to a term of community confinement, subject to any limitations in law. The Committee recognizes that without a government identification, returning citizens are often unable to access life-sustaining essentials, including housing, employment, and public benefits. BOP is directed to immediately take steps to ensure compliance with FSA requirements, and ensure that all facilities have procedures in place to help prisoners obtain identification prior to release. The BOP is further directed to report, within 180 days of the enactment of this Act, on such efforts, including the number of inmates currently sentenced to a term in community confinement, as defined in Section 604(a)(2) of the First Step Act, and how many of these inmates currently have a valid form of government identification, disaggregated by facility or contractor. The report should also include the number of inmates sentenced to a term of imprisonment in a Federal prison who were released without being transferred to a community confinement facility, and how many of these inmates had a valid form of government identification on date of release, disaggregated by federal facility. The report should also identify what steps the BOP plans to take to ensure that prisoners have a government ID before release.

Land Mobile Radio and Video Security Upgrades.—The Committee considers Land Mobile Radio (LMR) communications and video security equipment used by BOP critical to officer and inmate safety and security. 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 therefore includes $25,560,000, $10,000,000 above the request, for needed upgrades to help address issues with aging systems, blind spots, inoperable cameras, or limited functionality. The Committee urges BOP to apply this funding to the highest priority radio and video security upgrades, to develop a technology refresh plan for its LMR radios and video security systems, and identify such costs as part of its annual budget process, to ensure communications infrastructure and equipment support, rather than compromise, officer safety.

Contract Detention.—The Committee directs the Bureau of Prisons to submit a report to the Committee on its implementation of the GAO and the IG's recommendations on how to increase reporting and oversight of government-funded, privately operated contract prisons.

Studying population fluctuation.—The Committee recognizes that the BOP prison population is at a 20 year low and understands from recent BOP reporting that the Federal prison population is

expected to fluctuate due to a variety of factors, to include the impact of legislation (such as the Fair Sentencing Act and First Step Act), increased use of home confinement and compassionate release programs, and the increased number of cases since the reopening of courts after Covid–19 pandemic closures. The recommendation provides no less than $1,570,000 for the Department of Justice to conduct a study for the purposes of monitoring the anticipated fluctuation in prison population that may necessitate movement of incarcerated persons and Federal prison occupancy. The Committee directs the DOJ to monitor and conduct a study, and report its progress by April 1, 2023, with a final report due not later than September 30, 2023. The study is to include but should not be limited to the following: identifying which facilities may need to be closed based on factors including facility disrepair, history of corruption, and utilization, including appropriate cost-benefit analysis; the ability of the BOP to provide adequate healthcare for special needs populations; estimating the cost and complexity of transferring incarcerated individuals; identifying how closures and transfers may impact proximity to primary residence and family support systems; understanding how closures and transfers may impact overcrowding concerns, new staffing needs, programming access and space; developing public health mitigation strategies; evaluating the opportunity to place people into home confinement; estimating the impact closures may have on local economies; and identifying potential job training and placement initiatives needed for BOP employees impacted by closure.

BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES

The Committee recommends $300,000,000 for the construction, acquisition, modernization, maintenance, and repair of prison and detention facilities housing Federal inmates. This amount is $65,000,000 above fiscal year 2022, and $120,700,000 above the request. The Committee directs BOP to utilize not less than $298,000,000 of this funding to address its significant and longstanding backlog of maintenance, repair and modernization projects, which the Committee understands may approach $1,800,000,000. This investment in BOP infrastructure is an essential part of the effort to mitigate crowding at its high and medium security facilities. The Bureau directs BOP to prioritize its funding for repairs that address life and safety issues, to include those due to geological or seismological factors, and directs BOP to obligate not less than $40,000,000 for facilities with geological or seismological deficiencies. BOP shall continue to provide monthly status of construction reports and notify the Committee of any changes reflected in those reports, to include for facilities with geological and seismic deficiencies.

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 2022.

STATE AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES

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. Further, the Committee recognizes the resources available through OVC for victims of gun violence. 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.

Tribal Access.—The recommendation includes a 5 percent set-aside for Tribal Victims Assistance within the Crime Victims Fund. The Office for Victims of Crime is directed to consult closely with Tribal stakeholders to improve services for Tribal victims of crime, to include expanded purpose areas described in the OVC final rule effective August 8, 2016. OVC shall continue to follow direction required by House Report 116–455 regarding grant application requirements, accountability, and assistance. The Department is directed to give Tribes maximum flexibility in use of funds in order to best meet the unique needs of victims in Tribal communities. The Department is also directed to streamline administrative requirements as much as possible to increase accessibility for those most in need in Indian Country.

OFFICE ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN PREVENTION AND PROSECUTION PROGRAMS

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

The Committee recommends $642,000,000 for the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW), which is $67,000,000 above fiscal year 2022. Funds are to be distributed as follows:

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN PREVENTION AND PROSECUTION PROGRAMS

[In thousands of dollars]

Program	Amount
STOP Grants	$225,000
Transitional Housing Assistance	45,000
Research and Evaluation on Violence Against Women	2,500
Consolidated Youth-Oriented Program	17,000
Engaging Men and Youth in Prevention	(3,500)
Improving Criminal Justice Responses	65,000
Homicide Reduction Initiative	(4,000)
Domestic Violence Firearms Lethality Reduction Initiative	(4,000)
Policing and Prosecution Initiative	(7,500)

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN PREVENTION AND PROSECUTION PROGRAMS—Continued

[In thousands of dollars]

Program	Amount
Prosecution and Investigation of Online Abuse Initiative	(1,500)
Sexual Assault Services Program	67,850
Rural Domestic Violence and Child Abuse Enforcement	50,000
Violence on College Campuses	25,000
HBCU, HSI and Tribal Colleges	(12,000)
Legal Assistance for Victims	55,000
Abuse Later in Life Program	8,000
Justice for Families Program	22,000
Disabilities Program	9,000
National Resource Center on Workplace Responses	1,000
Research on Violence Against Indian Women	1,090
Indian Country Sexual Assault Clearinghouse	500
Tribal Special Domestic Violence Criminal Jurisdiction	5,500
Rape Survivor Child Custody Act	3,500
Restorative Justice Responses and Evaluations	11,000
Culturally Specific Programs	12,410
Tribal Special Assistant US Attorneys	3,150
Emerging Issues Related to Violence Against Women	1,500
LGBT Specific Services Program	1,000
National Deaf Services Line	1,000
Underserved Populations Program	5,000
Financial Assistance Program	4,000
Total, Violence Against Women Prevention and Prosecution Programs	$642,000

Domestic Violence Resources.—The Committee remains concerned with the increase in domestic violence cases, especially as seen during the COVID–19 pandemic and stay at home orders. The Committee provides grants to reduce domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking as well as to enhance services to victims including through the Improving Criminal Justice Responses (ICJR) program, as authorized by Part U of the 1968 Act, and provides funding for two new initiatives under ICJR aimed at filling gaps in domestic violence resources for law enforcement agencies and prosecutors' offices to ensure the justice system provides viable avenues to safety and justice for victims, including those who have experienced harassment and abuse online. The Committee expects these new programs will help law enforcement agencies implement evidence-based, trauma-informed policies as they seek to bring justice to victims, including as authorized by the Abby Honold Act (Public Law 117–103).

Rural Victims.—The Committee is concerned about victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking in rural communities and reports that victims within these communities are often reluctant to report to law enforcement due to fear of exposure. The Committee encourages 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 no later than 90 days after enactment of this Act on these efforts, including progress from the prior fiscal year.

Underserved Populations Program.—The Committee provides $5,000,000 in direct resources to support the Underserved Populations Program and develop and implement outreach strategies and enhance services for adult and youth victims of domestic and sexual violence in underserved populations. The Underserved Populations Program is one of OVW's most competitive programs and

was only able to serve a fifth of the applications received in fiscal years 2018 through 2020. The Committee highlights the program would be a resource for religious minorities.

Savanna's Act.—The Committee appreciates the steps taken by the Department to date to implement the provisions of Savanna's Act (Public Law 116–165). The Committee believes improved data collection is critical to better address the crisis of Murdered and Missing Indigenous Persons (MMIP). The Committee notes that beginning with the Indian Country Investigations and Prosecutions report to Congress for calendar year 2022, the Department will start to include available statistics related to MMIP, pursuant to requirements in Public Law 116–165. The Committee looks forward to this data release.

OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS

RESEARCH, EVALUATION AND STATISTICS

The Committee recommends $80,000,000 for Research, Evaluation and Statistics, which is $10,000,000 above fiscal year 2022. 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	35,000
Domestic Radicalization Research	(8,000)
Research on School Safety	(1,000)
Violence Against American Indian/Alaskan Natives at Extraction Sites	(2,000)
Gun Violence Prevention	(1,000)
Campus Sexual Assault Climate Survey	(1,000)
Total, Research, Evaluation and Statistics	$80,000

Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS).—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. The data produced by BJS is an indispensable resource for policymakers and researchers in understanding and advancing equality in the justice system. The Committee's recommendation provides $45,000,000 for BJS, an increase of $5,000,000 above fiscal year 2022.

Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Hiring Program.—The Committee directs BJS to collect and analyze data, to be made publicly available, on the following: a measure showing how representative is the existing workforce of the average police and sheriff department, compared to the community served, based on demographics including, at a minimum, gender and race; the percentage of those employed by the average police and sheriff department that live in the jurisdiction in which they are currently employed; a measure of average officer pay in police and sheriff departments compared to cost of living in the jurisdiction in which they are currently employed; and legislative and administrative recommendations for increasing the percentage of officers that live in the jurisdiction in which they are employed and how representative the law enforcement agency is of the community it serves. The

Committee directs BJS to provide an update to the Committee on the status of its efforts no later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

National Institute of Justice (NIJ).—The recommendation includes $35,000,000 for NIJ. Within this amount, the Committee recommends $8,000,000 for domestic radicalization research, $1,000,000 for school safety research, $2,000,000 for research on violence against American Indians/Alaskan Natives (AIAN) at extraction sites, $1,000,000 for gun violence prevention research, and $1,000,000 for a climate survey on sexual harassment and sexual assault on college campuses. In addition, $1,090,000 is to be transferred from the Office on Violence Against Women for research and evaluation on violence against Indian women.

White Supremacist Domestic Radicalization Research.—The Committee is alarmed at warnings from the FBI and other authorities that white supremacists and violent anti-government domestic extremists pose the greatest present risk to national security. These groups are infiltrating security and law enforcement agencies and the military, 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, which manifested in the attempted insurrection of January 6, 2021, the Committee provides $8,000,000, an increase of $2,000,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level for funding for research concerning domestic white supremacy and violent anti-government ideology, and directs the National Institute of Justice to direct this increase toward research efforts that trace the most common methods and sites of radicalization of Americans to white supremacist and violent anti-government extremism. The Department is encouraged to partner with academic institutions to evaluate the effectiveness of existing targeted violence and terrorism prevention programs and to increase understanding of, and effectiveness at countering, white supremacist and violent anti-government extremism.

Petitions for Habeas Relief.—The Committee recognizes that the Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act (Public Law 104–132) substantially changed the appeals process for Federal review of state petitioners. The Committee directs NIJ, within the funds provided, to examine petitions for habeas relief and report to the Committee on the status of the study, with an estimated timeline to share the results of the study, no later than 90 days after the enactment of this Act. The study should include the number of habeas petitions in federal courts, the subsequent results, and the reasoning for successful claims of habeas relief.

Study on Animal Cruelty and Future Violence.—The Committee is concerned about the link between animal cruelty and future violence, and recognizes the need for a further study into the underlying factors that contribute to acts of animal cruelty as a predictor of future violence against humans. The Committee directs the Department to carry out a study on: (1) evidence-informed risk factors associated or correlated with individuals who commit acts of animal cruelty, (2) whether certain acts of animal cruelty can be correlated with certain evidence-informed risk factors, (3) whether certain acts of animal cruelty demonstrate a tendency or likelihood to

commit a future act of violence against humans, (4) the types of interpersonal violence most commonly associated with certain acts of animal cruelty, and (5) recommendations of areas in which future research on animal cruelty is needed. The study shall also develop best practices for early interventions that prevent acts of animal cruelty, and interventions with individuals who have committed acts of animal cruelty, to prevent future acts of violence.

STATE AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

The Committee recommends $2,749,689,000 for State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance programs, which is $536,689,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level and $231,689,000 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	$716,939
Officer Robert Wilson III VALOR Initiative	(15,000)
Smart Prosecution	(8,000)
NamUS	(5,000)
Officer Training for Responding to People with Mental Illness and Disabilities	(10,000)
John R. Justice Grant Program	(5,000)
Prison Rape Prevention and Prosecution	(18,000)
Kevin and Avonte's Law	(3,000)
Project Safe Neighborhoods	(40,000)
Capital Litigation Improvement and Wrongful Conviction Review	(15,000)
National Center for Restorative Justice	(4,000)
Ashanti Alert Network	(1,000)
Family-Based Alternative Sentencing Pilot	(4,500)
Child Advocacy Training	(2,000)
Rural Violent Crime Initiative	(8,000)
Missing Persons and Unidentified Remains Act.	(5,500)
Forensics Ballistics Programs in Higher Education	(3,000)
Byrne Discretionary Community Project Grants	(131,613)
Grants to Combat Contraband Cellphone Use	(2,000)
Child-Friendly Family Visitation Centers in Correctional Facilities	(2,000)
Training on Racial Profiling and De-Escalation and Duty to Intervene Programs	(10,000)
Cybercrime Enforcement and National Resource Center	(7,000)
State Criminal Alien Assistance Program	234,000
Victims of Trafficking Grants	95,000
Economic, High-tech, White Collar and Cybercrime Prevention	13,000
Intellectual Property Enforcement Program	(2,500)
Internet of Things	(2,000)
Adam Walsh Act Implementation	20,000
Patrick Leahy Bulletproof Vests Partnerships	30,000
Transfer to NIST/OLES	(1,500)
National Sex Offender Public Website	1,250
National Instant Criminal Background Check Systems (NCIS) Initiative	110,000
NICS Acts Record Improvement Program	(25,000)
Paul Coverdell Forensic Science	40,000
DNA Initiative	168,000
Debbie Smith DNA Backlog Grants	(128,000)
State and Local Forensic Activities	(20,000)
Kirk Bloodsworth Post-Conviction DNA Testing Grants	(14,000)
Sexual Assault Forensic Exam Program Grants	(6,000)
Sexual Assault Kit Initiative (SAKI)	90,000
CASA—Special Advocates	15,000
Tribal Assistance	55,000
Second Chance Act/Reoffender Reentry	125,000
Smart Probation	(8,000)

STATE AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE—Continued

(In thousands of dollars)

Program	Amount
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	(5,000)
Crisis Stabilization and Community Reentry	(10,000)
Anti-Opioid Initiative	460,000
Drug Courts	(100,000)
Mentally Ill Offender Act	(45,000)
Residential Substance Use Treatment	(42,000)
Veterans Treatment Courts	(38,000)
Prescription Drug Monitoring	(35,000)
Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Use Program	(200,000)
Keep Young Athletes Safe Act of 2018	2,500
STOP School Violence Act	120,000
Emmett Till Grants	4,000
Hate Crimes Prevention Act Grants	70,000
Community-Based Approaches to Advancing Justice	30,000
Community Trust Initiative	225,000
Body Worn Camera Partnership Program	(35,000)
Justice Reinvestment Initiative	(40,000)
Community Violence Intervention and Prevention Program	(150,000)
Jabara-Heyer NO HATE Act	15,000
Emergency Law Enforcement Assistance	10,000
Extreme Risk Protection Order Initiative	40,000
Public Defender Improvement Program	25,000
Regional Sexual Assault Investigative Training Academies	20,000
Accelerating Justice System Reform	15,000
Total, State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance	$2,749,689

Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (Byrne JAG) Formula program.—In addition to the carveouts mentioned in the table above, the recommendation includes $417,326,000 for the Byrne JAG Formula grant program, $35,433,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level. 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. 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 Department is urged to release funding as expeditiously as possible. Recipients are urged to provide meaningful language access to their programs and services to individuals with limited English proficiency.

The Committee would like to reiterate the following allowable uses of Byrne JAG formula grant funding: body-worn cameras; gun-shot detection technology; law enforcement training including immersive training; newer, more efficient forensics testing tools; immersive, reality-based training programs that utilize role-playing and live-action scenarios for law enforcement officers; radio communications to provide secure communications systems; supporting expungement and record clearing initiatives; human trafficking

prevention initiatives; accreditation assistance; computer-aided dispatch equipment; gun storage safety initiatives; and cloud-native, multi-tenant records management systems.

The Committee acknowledges the need for law enforcement to have lifesaving equipment to better protect officers in the field and the people they serve. This includes enhanced video surveillance capabilities such as cameras and license plate readers to better identify and respond to various planned and unplanned events; radio communications to provide a secure communications system; and items on the Controlled Equipment List to protect officers on the front lines of large-scale incidents such as riot batons, riot shields, and riot helmets. The Committee notes that lifesaving equipment to better protect officers in the field is an allowable expense under Byrne JAG.

The Committee recognizes the importance of virtual reality de-escalation training and the use of humane remote restraint devices that enable law enforcement to restrain an uncooperative subject without requiring the infliction of pain. Providing such training and equipment can significantly improve the ability of law enforcement to de-escalate confrontations with non-compliant subjects and avoid potential lethal use of force, particularly with respect to individuals with mental health conditions. The Committee notes that Byrne JAG funding may be used for such research, procurement, and training and encourages the Department to award funds for these purposes.

The Committee understands the critical importance of immersive, real-life, scenario-based police training in ensuring the safety of both police officers and the communities they serve. The Committee recommends that the Department prioritize support for the implementation of new training systems that enable customizable scenario-based training, particularly those that utilize Virtual Reality, Augmented Reality, and Artificial Intelligence, to equip police officers to safely and appropriately respond to the full range of situations they may encounter in the line of duty. Particular focus should be placed on de-escalation techniques. Training scenarios should include interactions with all members of the community, including youth; LGBTQ individuals; individuals with limited English proficiency; individuals with disabilities; multicultural communities; individuals with an impairment, such as a mental health condition or being under the influence of drugs or alcohol; and individuals experiencing homelessness.

The Committee is concerned by the impact on law enforcement of the growing epidemic of opioid and synthetic drug use, and notes that funds within this account may be utilized for the implementation of medication-assisted treatment to maintain abstinence from drugs.

Finally, the Committee provides $7,000,000 for a new cybercrime enforcement program as authorized by Sections 1401 and 1402 of Title XIV of Public Law 117–103. The Department is directed to brief the Committee on its implementation plan for these funds prior to the submission of its fiscal year 2023 spend plan. The Committee reminds the Department of direction in House Report 117–97 on "Cybercrime as an Area of Emphasis" and encourages the Department to incorporate those priorities as part of its implementation of these funds.

STOP School Violence Act.—The Committee recommends $175,000,000 for the STOP School Violence Act grant program. Within this amount, $120,000,000 is provided to the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) for evidence-based school safety programs outlined in the Act and $55,000,000 is provided within 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; 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 significant emotional impact of the COVID–19 pandemic on youth and teachers and directs BJA to prioritize evidence-based programming and students to identify warning signs and prevent tragedies such as suicide, mental health crisis, and interpersonal violence; develop and operate school-based teams to help receive, triage, and intervene when warning signs are reported; and create and implement anonymous reporting systems, among other allowable uses, as permitted under the Act.

National Criminal History Improvement Program (NCHIP).—The Committee recommends $110,000,000 for NCHIP to support States, territories, and Tribes in ensuring the effective and efficient exchange of complete and accurate criminal history records. These records are necessary for criminal-justice decisions on pretrial release, career-criminal charging, sentencing, and correctional assignments; and for pre-employment, licensing, and other noncriminal-justice decision-making purposes. The Committee is aware that many State laws and policies provide for the expungement or sealing of certain criminal records, making it possible for people with past convictions to access employment and housing, or exercise their social and civic rights, but many States do not have the resources for appropriate technology to effectively implement such policies. The Committee urges the Department to ensure that within the funds provided, grants awarded under NCHIP are made available for supporting the implementation of records systems that allow for the efficient expungement or sealing of criminal history records.

Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERPO) Initiative.—The Committee recognizes that twenty states and the District of Columbia have some form of an Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERPO) law. The Committee believes that proper implementation and enforcement of ERPOs can better protect the health and safety of law enforcement, individuals subject to these orders, families, and the general public. The Committee's recommendation provides $40,000,000 for competitive grants to States, Tribes and localities who have strong due process protections both to develop and im-

prove the implementation of existing ERPO laws. The Committee encourages that grant funds support a comprehensive implementation, including trainings and technical assistance for local law enforcement, judges, and support personnel in the safe and equitable application of the law; the creation of and support for multidisciplinary implementation teams, including a professional or specialist trained in crisis intervention and mental health coordination, and other activities as determined by the Attorney General.

Community Trust Initiatives.—The Committee includes $225,000,000 for Community Trust Initiatives, and within this amount, recommends $150,000,000 for the Community Violence Intervention and Prevention (CVI) Program. The Committee further encourages the Department to give priority consideration to applicants under other applicable discretionary grant programs, such as Project Safe Neighborhoods, to support CVI strategies.

The Committee also includes $35,000,000 for the Body Worn Camera (BWC) Partnership program. The Committee recognizes that BWC programs are an important tool that when strategically implemented can be an integrated part of a jurisdiction's holistic problem-solving and community-engagement strategy, helping to increase both trust and communication between the police and the communities they serve. The Committee also acknowledges that review of BWC footage by officers for lessons on issues such as procedural justice, constitutional policing, and courtesy-professionalism-and-respect is being done in some departments for officer performance review and training and encourages this type of review. The Committee urges the Department to encourage grantees to implement continuous training programs that use first-person body-worn camera footage to bolster office accountability, training, and honesty.

Combatting Hate.—The Committee recommends $117,500,000 in grant funds through State and Local Law Enforcement Activities and Juvenile Justice for hate crime prevention programs. 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 $70,000,000 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. The Committee further urges the Department and agency recipients of these grants to prioritize efforts to identify, investigate, report on, and prevent hate crimes that occur online or are related to bias-motivated harassment and criminal activity occurring online. Furthermore, the Committee remains concerned that hate crimes remain substantially underreported. Victim reluctance to contact law enforcement may arise from perceptions of police bias, distrust of law enforcement or the criminal justice system, or barriers such as language or concerns about their immigration status. The Committee believes that accurate data reporting is critical to be able to address hate crimes and provides $15,000,000 for the Jabara-Heyer NO HATE program to support the Department's efforts with State, local, and Tribal jurisdictions on increasing the compliance of localities reporting into the FBI's National Incident Based Reporting

System (NIBRS). DOJ is directed to conduct outreach and provide technical assistance to law enforcement agencies that have not consistently reported hate crimes data, with particular attention to small agencies with the fewest resources for administrative management and data analysis.

Community Support for Victims of Hate Crime.—In addition to the Shepard-Byrd hate crime prevention grants, the Committee recommends $30,000,000 for grants awarded to community-based organizations that will further community-based strategies for conflict resolution and community empowerment and education. Grants will be provided to community-based organizations and civil rights groups to implement and facilitate educational classes and community services for defendants convicted of hate crimes directly related to the community harmed by the offense; culturally competent and linguistically appropriate public education campaigns on the collection of data and public reporting of hate crimes; safety ambassadors to escort vulnerable community members in public places; in-language support for victims and/or surviving families of hate crimes, including mental health support; the provision of upstander, de-escalation trainings in multiple languages; and other community-based strategies deemed appropriate for communities of color and other vulnerable and historically disadvantaged communities.

Officer Training for Responding to People with Mental Illness or Disabilities.—Of the amounts available for Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grants, $10,000,000 shall be made available for "Officer Training for Responding to People with Mental Illness or Disabilities" Programs. Grants shall be awarded for State and local law enforcement officers or corrections officers to receive training from a program, and the cost of transportation and lodging associated with law enforcement officers or corrections officers attending such programs. Training shall include law enforcement or corrections officers' responses to people suspected to be under the influence of a drug or psychoactive substance, and response to circumstances in which a person is suspected to be suicidal or suffering from a mental illness; training on techniques and strategies designed to protect the health and safety of law enforcement officers and the public, including the person or persons a law enforcement officer encounters during a behavioral health crisis response; and the health and safety of corrections officers and inmates at the correctional facility, including the inmate a corrections officer encounters during a behavioral health crisis response, or in the normal course of business of interactions with the inmate. Training provided pursuant to grants awarded under this section shall be developed in conjunction with healthcare professionals, including behavioral health professionals, individuals with lived experience and peer support specialists, and care coordinators or case managers to provide crisis intervention training focused on understanding mental and behavioral health, developing empathy, navigating community resources, de-escalation skills, and practical application training for officers.

Consent Decrees and Other Litigation Related to Police Practices.—The Committee is aware of the Civil Rights Division's increasing investigations into law enforcement agencies and the resulting consent decrees currently being enforced. 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. The Committee believes the Department should work with these agencies to identify funding opportunities to cover the resource gap needed to fully implement such reform efforts.

Capital Litigation and Wrongful Conviction Review.—The Committee recognizes the need for legal representation and investigation services for individuals with post-conviction claims of innocence. The Committee recommends $15,000,000, an increase of $3,000,000 over fiscal year 2022, for the Capital Litigation Improvement and Wrongful Conviction Review program. This program works to improve the quality and effectiveness of representation in death penalty cases through State-level training for both the prosecutors who represent the public and the defense attorneys who represent indigent defendants in State capital cases, including forensic training. 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 post-conviction 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 demonstrable 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.

Mentally Ill Offender Act.—The Committee is aware that there is often a correlation between those suffering from mental health disturbances and repeat criminal offenders. The Committee recommends $45,000,000 for the Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program, $5,000,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level. In addition, the Committee recommends prioritization of funds for the operational expenses for centers that provide assistance to 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 wraparound supports such as case management and connections to permanent supportive housing. The Committee recommends that funding levels for grants made be commensurate with demonstrated community needs. Additionally, the Committee encourages the Department to include appropriate Medication Assisted Treatment including long-acting medications, such as injectable anti-psychotic medication, as an allowable expense to improve treatment adherence and reduce risk for relapse and re-incarceration.

Economic, High-tech, White Collar and Cybercrime Prevention.—The Committee provides $13,000,000 for grant programs funded under Economic, High-tech, White Collar and Cybercrime Prevention, $1,000,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level. This

amount includes $2,500,000 for intellectual property enforcement and $2,000,000 to provide training to prosecutors with regard to the prosecution of cybercrime.

Sexual Assault Kit Initiative.—The Committee recognizes that the demand for forensic science services, including those related to sexual assault cases, remains exceptionally high, as outlined in the Department's needs assessment dated December 20, 2019. Accordingly, the Committee provides $90,000,000 for this initiative, an increase of $40,000,000 above fiscal year 2022.

The Committee notes that unsubmitted kits, including partially tested kits, are being addressed under SAKI. Further, CODIS-eligible testing of previously "partially tested rape kits" is also allowable under the Capacity Enhancement for Backlog Reduction (CEBR) program.

Research has provided DNA testing improvements and best practices, especially as they relate to sexual assault processing, and the Committee notes that research and development continues to be necessary in order to maximize crime laboratories' decision-making protocols on the selection of sexual assault kit DNA evidence and to develop research-based guidelines on how many and which swabs should have completed DNA analysis.

DNA Initiative.—The Committee recommends $168,000,000 for DNA backlog and crime lab improvements 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. 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. Within funds provided, $128,000,000 is for Debbie Smith DNA Backlog Reduction grants, $14,000,000 is for Kirk Bloodsworth Post-Conviction DNA Testing grants, $20,000,000 is for State and Local Forensic Activities, and $6,000,000 is for Sexual Assault Forensic Exam Program grants, of which up to $2,000,000 shall be expended to establish regional Supporting Access to Nurse Exams (SANE) training programs. Regional SANE training programs are identified as establishing a level of excellence in forensic nursing and are qualified to prepare current and future sexual assault nurse examiners/forensic nurse examiners to be profession-ready and meet the applicable State certification and licensure requirements.

The Committee understands that forensic genetic genealogical (FGG) DNA analysis is a powerful tool for human identification from forensic evidence where Combined DNA Index System (CODIS) has failed to lead to an identification. However, this type of advanced testing is cost prohibitive to many small or under-resourced law enforcement agencies. The Committee notes that FGG DNA activities are an eligible expense under several existing grant programs, including Byrne JAG, SAKI, and Shepard-Byrd Hate Crime Prevention Act grants. The Committee directs the Department to ensure these activities are highlighted in opportunity announcements. Further, the Committee urges that within the funds made available for "Local, State and Federal Forensic Activities", grants for FGG DNA are also eligible.

Rapid DNA.—The Committee understands that under certain conditions, Rapid DNA technology can help law enforcement agen-

cies 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 recognizes the local law enforcement community's interest in these uses as well as the technology's potential for generating investigative leads from crime scene samples and uses in the aftermath of disasters.

In 2017, Congress enacted the Rapid DNA Act (Public Law 115–50) with broad bipartisan support. Working with stakeholders, the FBI has developed a process for states to use Rapid DNA to analyze and upload qualifying arrestee DNA samples, per State law, to the national DNA database for near-immediate searches against the index of unsolved crimes. The Committee recognizes that while the FBI has not yet cleared the way for the direct upload of crime scene samples from Rapid DNA to the national database, it has published guidance for best practices for non-CODIS uses. The Committee appreciates the FBI's support of local law enforcement in this manner. By decentralizing DNA testing, some of the burden can be removed from crime laboratories that are experiencing significant backlogs. Therefore, in the interest of public safety, the Committee encourages the Department to work to expand the availability of grant funding for Rapid DNA use in non-CODIS environments.

Prison Rape Prevention and Prosecution (PREA) Audit Quality Initiative.—Facility audits are a key component in helping agencies move their sexual abuse prevention and response policies from written documents to everyday practices. Congress enhanced the audit process in 2018 to ensure greater oversight of the audit process and improved audits. More than four years later, these changes have not been fully implemented by the PREA Management Office, in large part due to insufficient resources. The Committee supports the Department providing the necessary resources.

Anti-Opioid Initiative.—The recommendation includes $460,000,000 for programs to reduce opioid addiction, as authorized by the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act of 2016 (CARA; Public Law 114–198). Within this amount is $100,000,000 for drug courts; $45,000,000 for the Mentally Ill Offender Act; $42,000,000 for residential substance use treatment, $38,000,000 for veterans treatment courts; $35,000,000 for prescription drug monitoring; and $200,000,000 for the Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Use Program (COSSUP), which includes no less than $11,000,000 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 continues to support funding that provides virtual transitional substance use and misuse services to individuals who are incarcerated. By building on and leveraging investments in medication assisted treatment and telehealth services, the Committee supports programs that offer internet-based substance use and misuse education, peer coaching and case management. Such programs facilitate a seamless transition from jails to the community and reduce relapse and recidivism. Of the amount made available for COSSUP, the Committee supports programs that provide

comprehensive, virtual transition of care from jails to the community for individuals struggling with substance use and misuse.

Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion Program.—The Department is encouraged to prioritize grant awards for law enforcement agencies that utilize Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) program models. These pre-arrest diversion programs give police the authority to divert low-level, non-violent offenders to community-based treatment instead of processing an arrest. As noted above, within the amounts provided for COSSUP, no less than $11,000,000 shall continue to be made available for sites employing models consistent with LEAD.

Pre-Trial Services for Women with Children.—The Committee recognizes that the incarceration of custodial parents swells the child welfare system and undermines child well-being, with approximately 20,000 children entering foster care in fiscal year 2018, due in part to parental incarceration. The Committee directs the Department to support pilot programs for Pre-Trial Services for Women with Children, utilizing existing programs to implement pre-trial diversion programs as alternatives to the prosecution and detention of custodial parents awaiting adjudication, with a priority for projects serving high-crime, high-poverty areas. The Committee encourages that the pilot programs promote alternatives to incarceration with supportive services for mothers and children to improve family stability, protect the well-being of the children, decrease entry into foster care due to parental incarceration, and lower the incarceration rate.

Supporting Local Communities.—The recommendation includes $131,613,000 for Byrne Discretionary Community Project Grants to prevent crime, improve the criminal justice system, provide victims' services, and for other related activities. The accompanying table details funding for congressionally-designated activities, which are incorporated by reference in the bill:

BYRNE DISCRETIONARY COMMUNITY PROJECT GRANTS

Recipient	Project	Amount
Anne Arundel County	Anne Arundel County Fresh START Program	$400,000
Anne Arundel County	Fresh START Program	400,000
Beaver County District Attorney's Office.	Ten-County SW PA Rapid DNA Law Enforcement Initiative	577,000
Boston Medical Center Corporation	Boston Medical Center (BMC) Violence Intervention Advocacy Program (VIAP).	370,000
Bucks County Department of Corrections.	Bucks County Dept. of Corrections Outmate Program	900,000
Bucks County District Attorney's Office.	Bucks County DA L.O.V.E. Is the Answer	545,000
Cambria County District Attorney's Office.	Multi-County Rapid DNA Law Enforcement Database Initiative	577,000
Camden County Prosecutor's Office	Lake Area Counties Against Human Trafficking and Organized Crime Program.	505,000
Chester County District Attorney's Office.	Chester County District Attorney's Office Rapid DNA Program	325,000
Chicago Police Memorial Foundation.	Get Behind the Vest	540,000
City of Alexandria	Full Deployment of Body-Worn Cameras in Alexandria Police Department.	1,000,000
City of Austin	City of Austin Neighborhood Peace Project Expansion	1,002,000
City of Binghamton	Binghamton Community Policing and Crime Prevention	864,000
City of Boulder City, Nevada	Boulder City Police Department Patrol Fleet	400,000
City of Charlotte	Alternatives To Violence: Cure Violence Implementation	1,000,000

BYRNE DISCRETIONARY COMMUNITY PROJECT GRANTS—Continued

Recipient	Project	Amount
City of Erie	Erie Youth Violence Prevention Program	500,000
City of Erie	Patrol Vehicle and Tactical Equipment	319,000
City of Glendale	Glendale Police Department Homeless Outreach Program	731,000
City of Hampton	Hampton Gun Violence Intervention Program	4,600,000
City of Harvey	Streetlight Improvement for Enhanced Public Safety	1,500,000
City of Hayward	The Hayward Evaluation and Response Teams (HEART) Program	709,000
City of Henderson	Mental Health Co-Responder Crisis Response Unit	2,955,000
City of Lancaster	Lancaster City Public Safety and Crime Prevention Project	1,100,000
City of Lovejoy Police Department	City of Lovejoy Police Tasers	34,000
City of Miramar	Public Safety Mental Health Program	100,000
City of Montclair	Montclair Police Body-Worn Camera Program	800,000
City of Montgomery	Safe Neighborhood Camera Initiative	200,000
City of New Bedford	Equitable Approaches to Public Safety in the City of New Bedford	563,000
City of Newport News	Gun Violence and Violent Crime Reduction Initiative	760,000
City of North Las Vegas	North Las Vegas Police Officer Wellness Program	145,000
City of Oakland	Procedural Justice/Community Police Trust	646,000
City of Orlando	City of Orlando Police Department In-Car Camera Systems Project	985,000
City of Portland	Community Safety Plan Design and Programming	2,000,000
City of Richmond, Office of Neighborhood Safety.	Office of Neighborhood Safety Community Violence Intervention Programs Project.	300,000
City of San Leandro	City of San Leandro Police Department Community Police Review Board.	300,000
City of Scranton	The Scranton Police Department Community Policing Technology and Equipment Initiative.	3,500,000
City of Spokane	City of Spokane Municipal Court Domestic Violence Intervention Program.	500,000
City of Virginia Beach, VA	City of Virginia Beach Law Enforcement Training Equipment Upgrades.	1,500,000
City of Washington	Washington, IL, Police Evidence Storage	583,000
Clark County	Clark County District Attorney's Office Case Management System—Criminal and Juvenile Divisions.	1,576,000
Clark County	Counseling Services for Domestic Violence and DUI to Reduce Recidivism for Indigent Clients.	175,000
Cleveland Peacemakers Inc.	Cleveland Peacemakers Alliance's Violence Prevention Program	500,000
Contra Costa County, Office of the District Attorney.	Transition Aged Youth Diversion Program (TAY)	1,000,000
Contra Costa County, Probation Department, Office of Reentry & Justice.	Strategies for Supporting Youth in the Community	1,180,000
County of Lassen	Lassen and Plumas County Emergency Communications Integration Project.	1,405,000
County of Orange	Orange County Intelligence Assessment Center Project	3,470,000
County of Ventura	Ventura County Family Justice Center Oxnard Satellite	640,000
Credible Messenger Mentoring Movement.	Credible Messenger Mentoring Initiative	530,000
Dakota County Sheriff's Office	Electronic Crimes Unit Outreach and Program Expansion	325,000
Detroit Police Department	Body-Worn Camera Program	1,000,000
Douglas County	Douglas County Youth Legal Services and Violence Reduction Initiative.	1,000,000
Downriver Community Conference	Technology Improvements for Downriver Mutual Aid Consortium	750,000
Durham County	Justice Movement Community Coordinated Violence Intervention Project.	700,000
Elk Grove Village Police Department.	Elk Grove Village Cares Program	500,000
Elko County Sheriff's Office	Rapid DNA Technology	486,000
Family & Children's Place	Louisville Collaboration to Prevent Child Abuse, Youth and Family Violence.	2,000,000
Full Gospel Christian Assemblies International.	Orchid Healing Circles for Victims of Gun Violence	120,000
Gary Police Department	Gary Police Department—Body-Worn and In-Car Cameras Project	1,000,000
Gentlemen By Choice Community Development Corporation.	Ty's Place—A Safe Place for Teens: Youth Personal Development and Leadership Program.	250,000
Grant Parish Sheriff's Office	Grant Parish Forensic Rapid DNA Technology for Investigations	462,000
Hamilton County Board of County Commissioners.	Hamilton County Justice Center Security Improvements	1,000,000

BYRNE DISCRETIONARY COMMUNITY PROJECT GRANTS—Continued

Recipient	Project	Amount
Henderson Police Department	Equipment for Eldorado Valley Regional Public Safety Training Facility.	1,087,000
Hennepin Technical College	Hennepin Technical College Procurement of Scenario-Based Training Equipment.	2,090,000
Houston Police Department	Houston Police Department Mobile Community Storefront Program and Equipment.	1,000,000
Indian River State College	Indian River State College Public Safety Complex Expansion for Emergency Response Training.	3,000,000
Ingham County	Advance Peace	500,000
Inspira Health Network	Youth Violence Reduction Initiative	1,000,000
Jacksonville State University	Northeast Alabama Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Program	500,000
Justice Innovation Inc.	New Rochelle Community Youth Violence Intervention Initiative	1,125,000
King County	King County Crisis Response Team	1,000,000
King County Sheriff's Office	King County Sheriff's Office Body-Worn Cameras	1,000,000
Kings County Sheriff's Office	Kings County Sheriff's Office Patrol Vehicle Replacement	234,000
L.E.A.D. Inc, Tennessee	Drug and Violence Prevention Program	203,000
Lake County State's Attorney	Lake County Gun Violence Prevention Initiative	750,000
Lamar University	Lamar University: Rapid and Remote Scanning of High-Risk Cargo Containers with Gamma Rays Technology at Texas Ports and Terminals.	
Lifeline to Success, Inc.	Reentry Services to Reduce Recidivism	500,000
Louisiana Department of Public Safety & Corrections, Public Safety Offices, Office of State Police.	Less Than Lethal and De-escalation Training Center	2,220,000
Luzerne County District Attorney's Office.	Luzerne County Emergency Services Unit	2,500,000
Madera County Sheriff's Office	Madera County Sherriff's Office Rapid DNA System Project	703,000
Maria Pew Family Foundation DBA Maria's Voice.	Expanding Community-wide Domestic Violence Primary Prevention Education.	250,000
Maricopa County Sheriff's Office	Rapid DNA Enhancement Project	600,000
Mecklenburg County Criminal Justice Services Department.	Data and Dashboards: Research and Enhancements to Ensure Mecklenburg County's Criminal Justice System is a Leader in Data-Informed Decision Making.	1,000,000
Merced County	Sheriff Merced County Rapid DNA System	457,000
Metro Solutions Inc.	DLIVE Violence Intervention	409,000
Michigan State Police	Support for Mid-Michigan Law Enforcement	4,347,000
Mississippi Forensics Laboratory	Unidentified and Missing Persons Digital and Skeletal Remains Repository.	500,000
Montgomery County District Attorney's Office.	The Racial Justice Improvement Project (RJIP)	443,000
Municipality of Ciales	Law Enforcement Equipment, Technology, and Training for the Ciales Municipal Police.	92,000
Municipality of Loiza	Acquisition of Two Police Patrol Boats for the Loiza Municipal Police	279,000
Municipality of Vieques	Municipality of Vieques Security Camera System	420,000
New Mexico Department of Public Safety.	The Forensic Laboratory Gas Chromatograph—Infrared Detector (GC IRD) Instrument Project.	411,000
New York Police Department	Patrol Response	1,000,000
North East Community Action Corporation.	Aspire Partnership Vocational Skills Training/Certificate Program	40,000
North Orange County Public Safety Collaborative.	North Orange County Public Safety Collaborative	5,000,000
Northern Regional Police Department.	Police K9 Program	170,000
Oakland County Sheriff's Office	Oakland County Sheriff's Office Training Equipment	410,000
Office of the Ocean County Prosecutor.	Comprehensive Officer Assistance Program	300,000
Office of the Sheriff of Bucks County.	Bucks County Sheriff Rapid DNA	750,000
OhioHealth Corporation	Sexual Assault Response Network of Central Ohio Outreach and Education.	400,000
One Step Further, Inc.	Gate City Coalition/Cure Violence Model Program	621,000
Orange County Sheriff's Office	Identification of Unidentified Murder Victims Using Genetic Genealogy	49,000
Orange County Sheriff's Office	OCSO Crisis Intervention Training (CIT)	185,000

BYRNE DISCRETIONARY COMMUNITY PROJECT GRANTS—Continued

Recipient	Project	Amount
Orleans Parish Sheriff's Office	Technology, Equipment, and Programming Improvements to Support People in Custody and Streamline Reentry.	3,907,000
Ouachita Parish Sheriff's Office	Ouachita Parish Forensic Rapid DNA Technology for Investigations	706,000
Police Activity League of Waterbury, Inc..	Police Activity League Program Expansion	172,000
Portage County Adult Probation Department.	POWER PROGRAM—(Probationers, Offered, Work, Empowerment, Redirection).	250,000
Prince George's County	Police Athletic League Partnerships and Program Expansion	1,117,000
Ramsey County	Familiar Faces: Engaging Frequent Users of Emergency and Shelter Services.	2,000,000
Riverside County Sheriff's Department.	Forensic Rapid DNA Technology	515,000
Salt Lake County	Salt Lake County Jail—Barriers for Suicide Prevention	4,000,000
Sandwich Police Department	Transparency Equipment Improvement	121,000
Sanford Police Department	Sanford Police Department Barricades and Related Equipment for Community Events.	99,000
Scott County Sheriff's Office	Scott County Sheriff's Office Purchase of Rescue Technology and Equipment.	84,000
Shaphat Outreach	No Shots Fired	1,200,000
Siskiyou County Sheriff's Office	Modernization of the Siskiyou County Sheriff's Department	899,000
Spokane County Sheriff's Office	Spokane County Sheriff Helicopter Replacement	500,000
Spokane Police Department	Spokane Police Department Technology Improvement Plan	1,317,000
St. Nicks Alliance Corp	North Brooklyn Anti-Violence Initiative	1,000,000
Stand with Parkland	Implementation of Threat Reporting Mobile Application for Local Education and Public Safety Agencies.	500,000
Stark County Sheriff's Office	Stark County Sheriff's Office Driving Simulator and Body-Worn Cameras.	350,000
Stratham Police Department	In-Car Camera System	43,000
The Foundation United	Foundation United Funding to Help Law Enforcement Reduce and Eliminate Human Trafficking.	800,000
The Womans Opportunity Rehabilitation Center Inc..	WORC Justice Services	638,000
Thurston County Sheriff's Office	Rapid DNA Forensic Technology for Investigations	448,000
Town of Chapmanville	Law Enforcement K–9 Drug Interdiction Project	14,000
Town of Danville	Danville Police Vehicle Upgrade	65,000
Town of Davie	Body-Worn Camera Program	800,000
Town of Eatonville	Eatonville Weed and Seed Community Policing Initiative	1,000,000
Town of Fishkill	Fishkill Police Department Body Camera Acquisition Project	600,000
Town of Fuquay-Varina	Continuous Operation Body Camera System	180,000
Town of Newton	First Response Communications Equipment	1,333,000
TRUCE of Baton Rouge, Inc.	High-Risk Youth Crime and Violence Diversion Program	375,000
Twelfth Judicial District Drug Task Force.	Technology Saving Arkansans	137,000
Urban Peace Institute	LA Peacemakers Coalition	7,400,000
Utah Department of Public Safety, State Bureau of Investigation.	Utah Forensic Genetic Genealogy DNA Testing Initiative	300,000
Village of Amityville	Village of Amityville Police Vehicles Request	210,000
Village of Blanchester Police Department.	Police Cruisers	100,000
Virgin Islands Police Department	Marine Enforcement Vessels	3,984,000
Volunteer UP Legal Clinic	South Jersey Pro Bono Legal Clinic	500,000
Washington County	Washington County Sheriff Office Hybrid Patrol Vehicles and River Patrol Boats.	1,600,000

JUVENILE JUSTICE PROGRAMS

The Committee recommends $410,000,000 for Juvenile Justice programs, which is $50,000,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level. The Committee looks forward to receiving the report directed in the fiscal year 2022 Explanatory Statement under the heading "Arts Programs and Therapies for At-Risk and Justice-Involved Youth" and continues the direction for a report identifying grant

opportunities within OJJDP for art-based programs and therapies for fiscal year 2023. Funds are distributed as follows:

JUVENILE JUSTICE PROGRAMS

(In thousands of dollars)

Program	Amount
Part B—State Formula Grants	$75,000
Emergency Planning—Juvenile Detention Facilities	(500)
Youth Mentoring Grants	110,000
Title V—Delinquency Prevention Incentive Grants	62,500
Prevention of Trafficking of Girls	(5,000)
Tribal Youth	(14,000)
Children of Incarcerated Parents Web Portal	(500)
Girls in the Justice System	(5,500)
Opioid Affected Youth Initiative	(12,000)
Children Exposed to Violence	(8,000)
Victims of Child Abuse Programs	36,000
Missing and Exploited Children Programs	107,500
Training for Judicial Personnel	4,500
Juvenile Indigent Defense	3,000
Alternatives to Youth Incarceration Initiative	3,500
Juvenile Justice and Child Welfare Collaboration Initiative	4,500
Eliminating Records-Related Barriers to Youth Success	1,000
Youth-Focused Hate Crime Prevention and Intervention Initiative	2,500
Total, Juvenile Justice	$410,000

Statutes of Limitations.—The Committee is aware that State statutes of limitation laws have prevented survivors of child sexual abuse, child exploitation, and child sex trafficking from seeking justice when their trauma causes them to delay disclosure of their abuse until later in life. The Committee encourages the Department to prioritize awards to grantees in States that have eliminated civil and criminal statutes of limitations laws and revived time-barred civil claims for child sexual abuse, child exploitation, and child sex trafficking for adults who were a child at the time of the sexual abuse claim in question.

Youth Mentoring Grants.—The recommendation includes $110,000,000 for youth mentoring grants, which is $8,000,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level.

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 recognizes the value of community partnerships, including from business, government, education, and labor, to advance career and technical education (CTE) and science, technology, engineering, arts and math (STEAM) concepts and goals for youth participating in mentorship programs. The Committee directs the continued solicitation towards youth mentorship programs pursuing these community partnerships in order to support the ability of youth to translate CTE and STEAM skills and concepts to future career achievement.

The Committee understands the importance of mentorship experiences tailored to mentees' backgrounds. Accordingly, the Committee encourages support for Black, Indigenous, and people of

color (BIPOC)-led organizations to increase the impact and availability of mentors serving whose identities reflect mentees' own identities.

The Committee believes that the Department must take a more aggressive approach to disrupt the school-to-prison pipeline and limit out-of-school suspensions. The Committee encourages the Department, in coordination with relevant partners such as the Department of Education, to explore implementing programs that are focused on disadvantaged students of color in elementary and secondary school; available to all schools in all districts; and include a curriculum that prevents unnecessary trauma and harm; incorporates positive alternatives to suspension, in-school arrests, and expulsion; and promotes educational development and attainment. The Committee looks forward to the report directed in House Reports 116–101 and 116–455, detailing how the Department could partner with relevant stakeholders to implement such a program.

Furthermore, the Committee notes that exposure to community violence, domestic violence, and violence in school—coupled with pervasive poverty—impacts the thinking, behavior, and well-being of girls. This results in high rates of school dropouts, physical and mental illness, and involvement in the juvenile justice system. The Committee directs the Department to encourage grantees to identify opportunities for prevention programs aimed toward girls who are at risk of contact with the juvenile justice system.

Prevention of Trafficking of Girls.—The recommendation includes $5,000,000 for grants for the Preventing of Trafficking of Girls program, $1,000,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level. The Committee notes these funds are eligible 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, and that funding should be used to scale up and replicate these programs.

Missing and Exploited Children Programs.—The recommendation includes $107,500,000 for missing and exploited children programs, which is $8,500,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level.

The Committee recommends $60,000,000 for task force grants, training and technical assistance, research and statistics, and administrative costs for the Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) program as authorized under Public Law 110–401. The Committee continues prior-year direction for the Department 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 supports the continuation of the Department encouraging ICAC grantees to dedicate increased resources and efforts to proactive investigations, which have demonstrated potential to rescue children.

Children Exposed to Violence.—The Committee recommends $8,000,000 for programs to support activities under the Children Exposed to Violence grant program, which supports coordinated and comprehensive efforts to build the capacity of families and communities to help children exposed to violence heal from trauma, increase protective factors to prevent youth violence or delinquency,

and develop intervention and awareness strategies to support children. The Committee recognizes that many of the programs funded under Children Exposed to Violence utilize trauma-informed practices that take into consideration the adverse childhood experiences (ACE) faced by the target population being served. The Committee notes that ACE response teams would be an allowable use of these funds.

In addition, the Committee recognizes that mentoring can play a role in effective approaches to address youth and community violence. The Committee urges the utilization of this grant funding to support partnerships between youth mentoring programs and agencies, community-based organizations, and partners in the private sector to create systems of collective impact and implement community-based approaches to address violence in high-crime, high-poverty areas. The Committee encourages that awardees also offer wraparound services to youth impacted by trauma, and programming designed specifically for victims of violence.

Juvenile Justice and Child Welfare Collaboration Initiative.—The Committee recommends $4,500,000 for a new program dedicated to youth who have come into contact with both the juvenile justice and child welfare systems, which includes foster care and other child protective services, also known as "dual status youth". Youth who have a history of child maltreatment and involvement in the child welfare system have an increased likelihood of involvement in risky or criminal behavior. However, the juvenile justice system is often not prepared to recognize or respond to the complex needs of dual status youth. Funds should be used to support the necessary collaboration between these two systems and ensure they are working together to develop comprehensive plans for youth while also engaging with foster families and group homes.

Alternatives to Youth Incarceration.—The cost of youth incarceration is astronomically high, especially when considering many youth who spend time in the juvenile justice system have a higher rate of recidivism into the adult system. Closing failed youth prisons would allow more young people and communities nationwide to receive much more effective and cost-efficient community-based alternatives that would dramatically improve outcomes, address racial disparities, and ensure public safety. Therefore, the Committee recommends $3,500,000 to develop a new initiative to fund State, local, and Tribal entities to close and repurpose youth prisons. The Committee encourages that the funding should be used by grantees to support a robust planning process to help redirect resources freed up by youth prison closures to support effective alternatives to incarceration and community-based programs for system-involved youth; needed services and opportunities outside of the justice system; and to address economic impact of youth prison closures on communities, such as the re-employment of laid-off employees of youth prisons.

Youth-Focused Hate Crime Prevention and Intervention Initiative.—The recommendation provides $2,500,000 for a new program aimed at youth who hold hate-related beliefs, including those in contact with the juvenile justice system. The Department is encouraged to fund the development of long-term prevention initiatives, including anti-bias education programs and early intervention initiatives designed to help inoculate both youth and the communities

in which they live against extremism and to help steer young people away from dangerous ideas and initiatives, including by combatting online hate and radicalization. The Committee also encourages the Department to ensure that the initiative promotes civics education, digital literacy, and pro-democracy education programs.

PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICER BENEFITS

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

The Committee recommends a total of $167,800,000 for the Public Safety Officer Benefits program, which is $11,000,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level. Within the funds provided, $133,000,000 is for death benefits for survivors, an amount estimated by the Congressional Budget Office that is considered mandatory for scorekeeping purposes. Additionally, within the total, $34,800,000 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 $543,927,000 for Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Programs, which is $32,183,000 above fiscal year 2022. Funds are distributed as follows:

COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING SERVICES

(In thousands of dollars)

Program	Amount
COPS Hiring Grants	$277,400
Tribal Resources Grant Program	(34,000)
Regional Information Sharing Activities	(44,000)
Tribal Access Program	(4,000)
Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Act	(10,000)
Collaborative Reform Model	(10,000)
Civilian Review Boards	(4,000)
Community Policing Development	50,000
POLICE Act	15,000
Anti-Methamphetamine Task Forces	16,500
Anti-Heroin Task Forces	36,500
STOP School Violence Act	55,000
COPS Technology and Equipment Community Projects	93,527
Total, Community Oriented Policing Services	$543,927

STOP School Violence Act.—The recommendation includes $55,000,000 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. The Com-

mittee encourages the Department to use funds for enhanced metal detectors at schools.

Active Shooter Training.—The recommendation includes $15,000,000 for the POLICE Act of 2016 (Public Law 114–199), an increase of $4,000,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level. 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.

The Committee directs the Department to ensure that such training authorized under the POLICE Act be made available for primary schools, secondary schools, and college campuses, and that such training is integrated with campus police officers and local law enforcement.

The Department shall report to the Committee, within 180 days of enactment of this Act, 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.

Community Policing Development (CPD).—The Committee recommends $50,000,000 for CPD, for competitive grants provided directly to law enforcement, including training programs. Of this amount, (1) $20,000,000 is for officer training in de-escalation techniques, of which no less than $4,000,000 is for grants to regional de-escalation training centers that are administered by accredited institutions of higher education and offer de-escalation training certified by a national certification program; (2) $10,000,000 is for assisting agencies with gaining accreditation to ensure compliance with national and international standards covering all aspects of law enforcement policies, procedures, practices, and operations, of which no less than $3,000,000 is to be provided for small and rural law enforcement agencies for this purpose; (3) $5,000,000 is for the CPD Microgrants program, which provides funding for demonstration and pilot projects that offer creative ideas to advance crime fighting, community engagement, problem solving, and organizational changes to support community policing; (4) $3,000,000 is for grants to support tolerance, diversity, and anti-bias training programs offered by organizations with well-established experience training law enforcement personnel and criminal justice professionals; and (5) $12,000,000 is to expand the use of crisis intervention teams in order to embed mental and behavioral health services with law enforcement, including funding for specialized training. The Committee directs the Department to provide a status update on the program within 60 days of the enactment of this Act.

Police Accountability and Community Engagement.—The Committee urges the Department to make CPD Microgrants funding 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 enforce-

ment 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 Screening and Training to Eliminate Bias.—The Committee recognizes the importance to effective policing of law enforcement personnel reflecting the communities they serve, and of officers identifying and eliminating biases that impair their ability to earn and maintain community trust, and carry out their duties fairly. In addition, to fulfill their mission, law enforcement agencies should implement best practices to prevent active proponents of white supremacy and violent anti-government extremism from joining their ranks, and to eliminate such individuals from officer corps. The Committee continues to encourage the Department to provide the highest priority to COPS Hiring program applicants and law enforcement agencies that request support for screening and counseling programs to identify, and prevent the radicalization of, applicants and personnel who endorse violent and hateful extremist movements. The Committee further applauds the Department's prioritization of COPS Hiring grants to program applicants and law enforcement agencies that require their employees to complete trainings on ethnic and racial bias, racial profiling, gender bias, sexual orientation and gender identity bias, and/or cultural diversity in fiscal year 2022 and supports its continuation in fiscal year 2023.

Civilian Review Boards.—Within the amount provided for COPS, the Committee recommends $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.

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. Law enforcement understaffing is a detriment to communities and public safety. The Committee encourages the Department to fund grants for critically understaffed law enforcement agencies.

COPS Technology and Equipment Community Projects.—The recommendation includes $93,527,000 for grants to State, local, and Tribal law enforcement to develop and acquire effective technologies and interoperable communications that assist in responding to and preventing crime. These project recommendations will allow recipients the opportunity to establish and enhance any of a variety of technical equipment and/or programs to encourage the

continuation and enhancement of community policing efforts within their jurisdictions. These projects should help improve police effectiveness and the flow of information among law enforcement agencies, local government service providers, and the communities they serve.

COPS is directed to ensure that all equipment funded under this program meets the requirements of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Office of Law Enforcement Standards. The accompanying table details funding for congressionally designated activities, which are incorporated by reference in the bill:

COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING SERVICES, TECHNOLOGY AND EQUIPMENT COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Recipient	Project	Amount
Amelia County	Amelia County Public Safety Interoperable Radio System	$1,000,000
Atlantic City Police Department	Atlantic City Police Department—City Wide Cameras	800,000
Benton County	SECOMM Microwave System Replacement	2,000,000
Bergen County Sheriff's Office	County Park/Road Cameras and Message Boards	954,000
Borough of Bogota Police Department.	Communications Equipment Upgrades	255,000
Boulder County Sheriff's Office, Office of Disaster Management.	Boulder County Sheriff Long Range Acoustical Device Siren System	1,080,000
Calhoun County Sheriff's Department.	Policing Equipment and Technology Upgrades	436,000
Cayuga County	Cayuga County Emergency 911 Radios Replacement Project	1,000,000
Chesterfield County Sheriff's Office	Virtual Realty Training System	175,000
Christian County Emergency Services.	Christian County Emergency Services SWINS Radio Project	8,547,000
Citrus Heights Police Department	Citrus Heights Police Department Emergency Communication Enhancements.	540,000
City of Aurora, IL	1Public Safety Modernization and Technology Infrastructure Upgrade	2,280,000
City of Baltimore	License Plate Readers	1,300,000
City of Battle Ground	Battle Ground Public Safety Technology Improvements	413,000
City of Boynton Beach	Emergency Operations Radio Tower Replacement Project	1,025,000
City of Chandler	Joint Mobile Command Center Equipment	680,000
City of Donna	Acquisition of Safety Mobile Application for Domestic Violence Victims.	325,000
City of Doral Police Department	Doral Police Department Real-Time Operations Center Safe-City Policing Technology Project.	1,000,000
City of Easton	LIDAR for City of Easton Public Safety and Emergency Response	349,000
City of Eupora	Eupora Police In-Car Video/Body Camera/License Plate Reader	125,000
City of Eupora	Eupora Police Technology Modernization	128,000
City of Fairview Park	Fairview Park Police Department Radio Replacement Project	604,000
City of La Verne	City of La Verne Public Safety Camera Network Upgrade Project	500,000
City of Long Beach	Long Beach Police Department Body Camera Project	95,000
City of Longview	De-Escalation Police Training Simulator Project	215,000
City of Middletown Middletown Police Security and Technology Initiative.	300,000.	
City of Peoria	Regional Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) and Records Management System (RMS).	2,000,000
City of Perry	City of Perry Security Upgrades	130,000
City of Petersburg	Petersburg Emergency Public Safety Communications System	3,203,000
City of Round Rock	Round Rock Public Safety Equipment	2,000,000
City of Salinas	Salinas Police Integrated Technology for Community Safety	1,165,000
City of Sarasota	Sarasota Police Department Equipment Upgrade	300,000
City of St. Louis	Improvement of 911 Dispatch System	685,000
City of St. Petersburg, Florida	Police Computer-Aided Dispatch (CAD)/Record Management System (RMS)/Mobile System.	750,000
City of Washougal Police Department.	Washougal Body-Worn Cameras Project	131,000
City of West Palm Beach	Secure Mobile Radio Site	969,500
Clay County	Enhancing Community Policing for Clay County, NC by Improving the Flow of Critical Technology.	300,000
County of Burlington	Burlington County Emergency Communications Project	1,200,000

COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING SERVICES, TECHNOLOGY AND EQUIPMENT COMMUNITY PROJECTS—Continued

Recipient	Project	Amount
County of Del Norte	Sheriff's Office Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) and Records Management (RMS) Systems Update.	550,000
County of Mono	Public Safety Radio System Upgrade	3,000,000
County of Ocean	9–1–1 Call Center and Emergency Management Office	500,000
Cowlitz 911 Public Authority	Cowlitz 911 Public Safety Radio Technology Modernization & Radio System Microwave Replacement.	2,179,000
Curry County	Virtual Reality Training Simulators	267,000
Dallas Police Department	Dallas Police Department Record Management System	935,000
East Baton Rouge Sheriff's Office	EBRSO Investigative Support Unit	736,000
Edina Police Department	Edina Police Department Procurement of Tactical Micro-robot Systems.	78,000
Escambia County Commission	P25 Radio Infrastructure for the Escambia County Commission	1,204,000
Hampton Police Department	Radio System Upgrades	1,376,000
Hancock County Commission	Video Monitoring in Cruisers, Body Cameras	325,000
Hancock County E–911	Commission Hancock County E–911 Radios	900,000
Harris County Sheriff's Office	Virtual Reality Training Equipment	100,000
Lancaster Police Department	Lancaster Police Department Body-Worn Cameras	200,500
Lane County Lane	County Public Safety Dispatch Center Equipment Upgrade	176,000
Lewis County	Lewis County Public Safety Radio Communications Project	2,800,000
Liberty Hill Police Department	Liberty Hill Equipment Modernization	128,000
Londonderry Police Department	Emergency Dispatch Center Workstations and Equipment Upgrades	75,000
Louisa County	East End Radio Improvements	1,000,000
Miami Dade Police Department	Miami Dade Police Department Mobile Computing Upgrade	3,750,000
Middle Rio Grande Development Council.	Regional Trunking Radio System Upgrade	5,484,000
Midland County	Midland County Sheriff's Office Radio and Communications Infrastructure Project.	685,000
Mississippi Department of Public Safety.	MS Capitol Police Technology Improvements	550,000
New York Police Department	Fixed Plate Reader System Installation	2,000,000
Nottoway County	Nottoway County Public Safety Radio Communications System	1,000,000
Olathe Police Department	Mobile Command Post Equipment Upgrades	300,000
Pasco Sheriff's Office	Technological Upgrades to the Center for the Recovery of Endangered and Missing Persons (CREMP).	2,000,000
Piatt County Sheriff's Office	911 Radio Communication System Upgrade	607,000
Pierce County Sheriff's Department	Pierce County Metro Dive Team Equipment	248,000
Porter County Sheriff Department	Porter County Sheriff Department Equipment Acquisition	400,000
Rappahannock Regional Criminal Justice Academy.	Virtual Reality Judgement Training Simulator	125,000
Rochester Police Department	City of Rochester: Upgrade Video Camera Surveillance System	300,000
Suffield Police Department	Computer Aided Dispatch/Records Management System Project	180,000
The City of Gautier	City of Gautier Police Equipment Upgrade and Improvements	507,000
The City of Vallejo	The Vallejo Ghost Gun and Gun Violence Prevention Initiative	830,000
Tillamook County	Tillamook County Public Safety Radio Communication System	2,000,000
Tiverton Police Department	Tiverton Public Safety Communications Project	500,000
Toledo Police Department	Enhanced Portable Radio Equipment	1,250,000
Town of Amherst	North Amherst Police Communications System Tower and Equipment Acquisition.	900,000
Town of New Fairfield	New Fairfield PD Emergency Communications System Upgrade	2,100,000
Town of Watertown Police Department.	Watertown PD Two Way Radio Communications Upgrade	3,375,000
Township of Chatham	Public Safety Information Sharing Technology Community Project	809,000
Township of South Hackensack	South Hackensack Public Safety Communications Project	210,000
Township of Weehawken	Public Safety Department's Radio System Update	1,000,000
Union City Police Department	Union City's Digital Trunked Radio System Replacement	1,200,000
Wahkiakum County Sheriff's Office	Wahkiakum County Radio Improvement Project	1,595,000
Warren Police Department	Law Enforcement Technology Enhancement	170,000
Wayne Police Department	Law Enforcement Equipment Upgrades	54,000
West Milford Township	West Milford Township—Communications Equipment	2,893,000
Whatcom County Sheriff	Whatcom County Integrated Public Safety Radio System	500,000
Whiting Police Department	Technology and Equipment: License Plate Readers	215,000
Windsor Heights Police and Fire Department.	Windsor Heights P25 Radio Replacement Project	301,000

GENERAL PROVISIONS—DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

The Committee has included the following general provisions for the Department of Justice:

Section 201 makes available additional reception and representation funding for the Attorney General from the amounts provided in this title.

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 establishes requirements and procedures for transfer proposals.

Section 205 prohibits the use of certain funds for transporting prisoners classified as maximum or high security, other than to a facility certified by the BOP as appropriately secure.

Section 206 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 207 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 208 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 209 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 210 prohibits U.S. Attorneys from holding additional responsibilities that exempt U.S. Attorneys from statutory residency requirements.

Section 211 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 212 provides cost-share waivers for certain DOJ grant programs.

Section 213 waives the requirement that the Attorney General reserve certain funds from amounts provided for offender incarceration.

Section 214 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 215 permits DOJ to participate in Performance Partnership Pilot collaboration programs.

Section 216 establishes reporting requirements for certain Department of Justice funds.

Section 217 provides for the use of offsetting collections credited to and made available in the Working Capital Fund.

Section 218 provides for humanitarian expenses incurred from illness, injury or death while on duty for certain Department of Justice personnel.

Section 219 prohibits funds to move a Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives facility.

TITLE III

SCIENCE

OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY

The Committee recommends $7,965,000 for the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP), which is $1,313,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level.

Climate Change Adaptation.—The Committee continues to support the direction provided by Executive Order 14008 regarding climate adaptation and resilience and the mandate for each Federal agency to produce annual Climate Action Plans. The Committee remains concerned about the quality of these action plans and the climate information on which they are based. The Committee, therefore, repeats the direction contained in House Report 117–97 and adopted by Public Law 117–103 that OSTP shall develop guidance for Federal agencies regarding their Climate Action Plans required by E.O. 14008, as well as to review and assess the appropriateness of such plans once developed. The Committee looks forward to the briefing required on this topic in House report 117–97 and adopted in Public Law 117–103.

National Circular Economy Roadmap.—The Committee encourages OSTP to develop a National Circular Economy Roadmap that includes a vision for how the science and technology enterprise should support the development of a circular economy in the United States, identification of key public and private stakeholders that could contribute to or benefit from a transition to a circular economy, and recommendations on specific federal policies needed to drive this transition.

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.

Open Access Publishing of Scientific Research.—The Committee is concerned that financing mechanisms for open access publishing of scientific research, in particular article processing charges and transformative agreements, may present growing barriers to knowledge generation and sharing. Article processing charges paid by authors and their institutions may create particularly significant burdens for early-career researchers and those from traditionally underrepresented communities. To inform further development of open access policies among Federal research agencies, OSTP is directed to deliver a report to the Committee, no later than 270 days after the enactment of this Act, on article processing charges and transformative agreement costs borne by Federal research grantees during fiscal years 2016 through 2021 and how these financing models affect who can publish. This report shall analyze the effects of open access financing mechanisms, including article processing charges and transformative agreements on costs paid as part of Federal research grants, as possible given limited data on the subject. The report should also assess how these open access financing mechanisms may affect the volume of research publications authored by scientists who are early career or are from smaller, lesser-funded, and historically underrepresented institutions, including Historically Black Colleges and Universities; Hispanic-Serving Institutions, EPSCoR, and other Minority-Serving institutions; where researchers choose to publish; and potential variability in effects across different research disciplines including, but not limited to, the life sciences, physical sciences, social sciences, humanities, mathematics, and engineering. As part of this report, OSTP shall also include a discussion of how more data might be collected to inform understanding of the impacts of these charges and the feasibility of such data collection.

Alternative Protein Research.—The Committee notes that research focused on creating the characteristics of animal meat using plants, animal cell cultivation, and fermentation, known as alternative protein research, may advance the development of sustainable protein sources that help mitigate risks related to antibiotic resistance, food security, and greenhouse gas emissions. The Committee further notes that this research is multidisciplinary and involves multiple Federal agencies, including the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the National Science Foundation. The Committee recognizes that research and development efforts on new tech-

nologies such as alternative proteins should be coordinated across the Federal Government. Accordingly, the Committee directs OSTP to establish an interagency group under the National Science and Technology Council (NSTC) to provide recommendations on coordination and support of alternative protein research and development throughout the Federal Government. The Committee directs OSTP to provide an intermediate report to the Committee, no later than 180 days after enactment of this Act, on the progress of this group.

Critical and Emerging Technologies List.—The Committee encourages OSTP to update the Critical and Emerging Technologies List as necessary, but no less than every two years.

Arctic Observing System.—The Committee recognizes the significant impacts of the changing climate in the Arctic, which have dramatically outpaced the changes on the rest of the planet. Unfortunately, the Nation's ability to monitor, detect, and understand marine, terrestrial, and atmospheric changes and their implications for the rest of the planet is limited by the insufficient observing facilities in the Arctic. The Committee looks forward to the report from OSTP directed in House report 117–97 and adopted in Public Law 117–103 on the need to establish and maintain a sustained Arctic observing network.

NATIONAL SPACE COUNCIL

The Committee recommends $1,965,000 for the National Space Council, which is equal to the fiscal year 2022 appropriation and equal to the request. The Committee appreciates the Council's efforts to adhere to the quarterly briefing requirements set forth in division B of Public Law 116–260.

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

The Committee recommends $25,446,200,000 for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), which is an increase of $1,404,900,000 over the fiscal year 2022 appropriation and $527,600,000 below the request.

NASA's fiscal year 2023 budget request envisions bold new research in Earth Science and Aeronautics, which taken together can improve our understanding of climate change and take direct steps to address the greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to climate change. Importantly, the request also continues efforts to lead our Nation into a new era of human space exploration through the Artemis program and to develop a new generation of STEM students through strong support for STEM engagement initiatives.

In the coming months, NASA will launch Artemis I and begin a new era in human space exploration, and the Committee provides significant resources to ensure that this new chapter is a successful one.

The recommendation incorporates NASA's proposed new nomenclature for components of the Exploration Systems Mission Directorate. 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 2023, NASA shall incorporate

the funding levels established in both the table and the narrative direction.

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

(in thousands of dollars)

Program	Amount
Science:	
Earth Science	$2,334,800
Planetary Science	3,200,000
Astrophysics	1,525,000
Heliophysics	760,200
Biological and Physical Science	85,000
Total, Science	7,905,000
Aeronautics	950,000
Space Technology	1,250,000
Deep Space Exploration Systems	7,323,700
Orion Multi-purpose Crew Vehicle	(1,338,700)
Space Launch System (SLS) Vehicle Deployment	(2,600,000)
Exploration Ground Systems	(749,900)
Space Operations	4,256,000
Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM)	150,100
Safety, Security and Mission Services	3,138,700
Construction and Environmental Compliance and Restoration	424,300
Office of Inspector General	48,400
Total, NASA	$25,446,200

SCIENCE

The Committee provides $7,905,000,000 for Science, which is $290,600,000 above the fiscal year 2022 appropriation.

Earth Science.—The recommendation includes $2,334,800,000 for Earth Science programs, which is $270,100,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level and $76,700,000 below the request. NASA's budget submission reflects a renewed urgency and focus on Earth science. Climate change is a global crisis, and this research is critical to helping Americans understand the nature of climate change and how to effectively respond. Fiscal year 2023 funding will accelerate the recommendations of the most recent Earth Science Decadal Survey to scale-up the Earth System Observatory, establish the new Earth Information Center, and leverage public-private partnerships to increase access to climate data. As NASA engages in this critically important work, it is encouraged to continue collaboration with other relevant Federal agencies, including the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and National Science Foundation.

Earth Information Center.—The Committee strongly endorses the Administration's proposal to establish an Earth Information Center. NASA is encouraged to explore greenhouse gas monitoring and detection technologies at multiple locations as part of the Center's

focus on data accessibility for Federal, state, local, academic, and public stakeholders. NASA is also encouraged to make this website user friendly and accessible in multiple languages. Within 180 days of enactment of this Act, NASA is directed to brief the Committee on its plans to expand the Center's services beyond greenhouse gas monitoring.

Earth Systematic Missions.—The Committee provides the requested funding level for the four major systematic Earth Science missions in implementation: Surface Water and Ocean Topography, NASO–ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar, Sentinel–6, and Plankton, Aerosol, Cloud, ocean Ecosystem (PACE).

Venture Class Missions.—The Committee provides $194,500,000, as requested, for Venture Class missions. These are competitively-selected, low-cost missions that expand NASA's ability to solicit innovative research and application missions within Earth Science. NASA is reminded to ensure mission classification is appropriately distributed across all levels of risk to allow for a more competitive process and a diverse portfolio of science.

Geostationary Carbon Cycle Observatory (GeoCarb).—The Committee provides the requested funding level of $47,600,000 for GeoCarb.

Small Satellite Launch.—The Committee directs NASA to continue to work with commercial industry to examine ways for small satellite missions that bolster NASA's overall scientific objectives to procure launch services that are tailored to their mission-dependent orbits, locations, and schedules, while minimizing launch costs. Dedicated and tailored launch opportunities can enhance the breadth of research and science, such as climate science, which NASA achieves with small satellite platforms and can expand opportunities for NASA to leverage small satellites in support of its scientific objectives. The Committee applauds NASA's efforts to ensure a competitive and robust national space launch industry through the Venture-Class Acquisition Dedicated and Rideshare (VADR) contracting regime for venture-class launch services and welcomes the first two VADR Requests for Launch Service, which were issued in May. The Committee encourages NASA to increase the number of VADR Requests for Launch Service in fiscal year 2023 and beyond.

Commercial Small Satellite Data Acquisition.—The NASA Commercial Smallsat Data Acquisition (CSDA) Program is chartered to identify, evaluate and acquire data from commercial sources to support NASA's Earth science research and application goals. The Committee provides up to the requested funding level of $55,000,000 and directs NASA to utilize, to the greatest extent practicable, open contracting mechanisms that allow for the testing and evaluation of commercial data, for research purposes, on a continual rolling basis, regardless of constellation size. In doing so, NASA may consider on-demand tasking of various data types, quantities, and qualities to meet research requirements.

Wildfire Detection Technologies.—The Committee welcomes NASA's emphasis in the budget on wildfire detection and mitigation research. Within funds provided for Earth Science and in addition to funding for activities directly related to wildfire science and technology, the Committee provides $8,000,000 for NASA to initiate concept studies, in collaboration with commercial space-based

remote sensing providers, to develop and demonstrate low-cost and scalable infrared sensing and other technologies that passively monitor areas of the United States that are susceptible to wildland fires, support reduction of wildfire risk, and provide early warning to first responders.

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 across the Science Directorate.

Robotically Assembled Earth Science Platform.—The Committee directs NASA to report, not later than 180 days after enactment of this Act, on the feasibility of partnering with industry to develop and demonstrate a prototype on-orbit robotically assembled Earth Science Platform that utilizes robotic assembly and on-orbit structure manufacturing technologies derived from the OSAM–2 SBIR Phase III effort. The report should outline any funding needed to support this effort in fiscal year 2023 and future funding needs associated with this potential demonstration.

IDEA Compliance.—The Committee supports full compliance with the 21st Century Integrated Digital Experience Act (IDEA) and encourages NASA to consider cloud options to implement an interoperable digital asset management solution to minimize redundancy, improve digital asset sharing, and enhance the agency's digital service delivery to the public and its own employees.

Planetary Defense.—The Committee provides not less than $142,700,000 for Planetary Defense, which is $55,000,000 above the request, including not less than $94,900,000 for the Near-Earth Object (NEO) Surveyor mission, which is $55,000,000 above the request. Congress enacted legislation in 2005 requiring NASA to find 90 percent of near-Earth objects greater than 140 meters in diameter within 15 years, yet NASA proposes delaying a mission with potential to help NASA more quickly meet this legal requirement. While NASA has rightly expressed concern about a lack of funding in prior years for near-Earth object surveillance, the Committee is concerned by the agency's proposal to delay a high priority of the Planetary Science Decadal Survey until 2028. The Committee directs NASA, as part of its fiscal year 2024 budget request, to provide a timeline for a NEO Surveyor launch prior to 2028.

Lunar Discovery.—The Committee provides $496,300,000 for Lunar Discovery, which is $10,000,000 greater than the request. Within the funds provided, not less than $255,300,000 shall be for Commercial Lunar Payload Services, including $97,000,000 for the Volatiles Investigating Polar Exploration Rover (VIPER) mission to the South Pole of the Moon to search for and sample lunar water ice. A successful mission could provide key scientific insights, data needed to support and enable commercial activity for a sustainable American presence in cislunar space, and preparation for future missions beyond the Moon.

Mars Sample Return.—The Committee provides the requested funding for Mars Sample Return. However, the Committee is con-

cerned about the rise in cost of Mars Sample Return, as noted by the Planetary Science and Astrobiology Decadal Survey 2023–2032. The Committee is aware that the Mars Sample Return mission is expected to reach Key Decision Point-B later this year and directs NASA to brief the Committee on expected changes to cost, schedule and management challenges revealed during that decisional process, including NASA's efforts to address such challenges. As NASA conducts Mars Sample Return formulation studies to determine mission architecture and science requirements, the Committee directs NASA to provide a report not later than 180 days after enactment of this Act assessing the feasibility and cost of using more than one Ingenuity-class Mars Helicopter. The report should examine whether using more than one Ingenuity-class Mars Helicopter could increase redundancy and ensure NASA has a capability to return samples by augmenting the Ingenuity helicopter design to add a sample retrieval capability.

Europa Clipper.—Funding is provided at the requested level of $345,000,000 to continue development of the Europa Clipper.

Juno Mission Extension.—The Committee provides $30,500,000, equal to the request, for the extended mission of Juno, which allows for both additional observations of Jupiter and flybys of Ganymede, Europa, and Io that will lead to new discoveries and benefit the development and execution of the Europa Clipper and the European Space Agency's Jupiter Icy Moons Explorer (JUICE) missions. The Committee further expects NASA to support a budget profile in the fiscal year 2024 budget submission that will allow Juno to maintain staff levels necessary to do critical engineering and navigation calculations needed to continue the entire approved science scope of the mission extension.

Mars Exploration.—The Committee provides $233,900,000, equal to the request, to support the Mars Exploration initiative.

New Frontiers.—The Committee provides $478,400,000 for New Frontiers, which is equal to the request. The Committee supports NASA's plan to issue an Announcement of Opportunity for the fifth New Frontiers mission in fiscal year 2023 rather than fiscal year 2025, and encourages NASA to increase the New Frontiers V development cap, exclusive of launch and operations costs, as recommended by the most recent Planetary Decadal Survey. The Committee directs NASA to brief the Committee on its progress toward completion of these possible revisions to New Frontiers V no later than 60 days after the enactment of this Act.

Dragonfly.—Within funding for New Frontiers, not less than $390,400,000 is provided for the Dragonfly mission. This level is equal to the budget submission and $189,300,000 more than the fiscal year 2022 enacted level.

Small Innovative Missions for Planetary Exploration (SIMPLEx).—SIMPLEx are the only competitive planetary science missions that innovative commercial companies can lead, and the only planetary small spacecraft program within all of NASA. The Committee supports SIMPLEx solicitations and welcomes NASA's plan for a new solicitation in fiscal year 2023. However, the Committee is concerned that increased costs of larger Planetary missions could continue to crowd-out these unique mission opportunities. As a result, the Committee urges NASA to consider ways to maximize opportunities for SIMPLEx missions, including the potential for dedi-

cated smallsat launch, in addition to the current option of using rideshare on large launch vehicles, which will further accelerate and enhance overall planetary science mission objectives.

Astrophysics Research.—The Committee recognizes the role of the Astrophysics Research program in supporting the development of novel astrophysics observation technologies that lay the foundation of future mission architectures. Additionally, a strong research program maximizes the scientific value of space-based missions by ensuring that the data collected through such observations can continue to provide new insights into the mechanisms behind cosmological phenomena. The Committee also understands that supporting these activities through extramural grant funding contributes to the long-term viability of the U.S. astrophysics community.

Astrophysics Future Missions.—The Committee provides $23,900,000 for Astrophysics future missions, which is equal to the request. The Committee directs NASA to compete an Astrophysics Probe mission no later than 2023, as recommended by the Astro2020 Decadal Survey "Pathways to Discovery in Astronomy and Astrophysics for the 2020s."

Cosmic Origins.—Within funds provided for Astrophysics, $93,300,000 is provided for the Hubble Telescope and $172,500,000 is provided for the James Webb Space Telescope.

Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope.—The Committee provides $482,200,000 for Roman, which is equal to the request and $19,400,000 below the fiscal year 2022 enacted level. The Committee supports NASA's emphasis on developing the Roman Space Telescope before investing heavily in the recommendations of the next Decadal.

Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy (SOFIA).—The Committee is concerned by NASA's decision to terminate the SOFIA mission without engaging in a senior review. To ensure there is no detriment to American scientific endeavors the Committee directs NASA to report within 30 days of enactment of this Act on NASA's strategy to mitigate the science and data collection that will no longer be produced by SOFIA, including any scientific capability gaps and any other information that normally would be considered as part of a senior review, as well as NASA 's detailed plan to discontinue the program and any further resources that are needed to ensure a smooth transition. Further, the Committee provides no less than $30,000,000 for SOFIA to ensure an orderly close-out of the mission.

Space Weather Science and Applications.—Within funds provided for Heliophysics, $25,000,000 is provided for the Space Weather Science and Applications program. This funding is $2,700,000 above the request and equal to the fiscal year 2022 enacted level. Space Weather Science supports innovation in space weather observational capabilities and research-to-operations, operations-to-research, and computational aspects of space weather mitigation in accordance with the recommendations of the National Space Weather Strategy and Action Plan. The Committee also notes the relevance of these activities to safeguarding human health against radiation during long-duration deep space exploration activities.

Magnetospheric Multiscale (MMS).—The Committee supports the MMS mission and is concerned that NASA has proposed to reduce

the extended mission operations budget of the MMS mission too rapidly in fiscal year 2023. The Committee provides up to $20,800,000, which is $5,000,000 above the request, for MMS to ensure that the mission's primary phase two objective of observing additional night side reconnection events can be accomplished in the next three years.

Heliophysics Explorer.—The Committee is encouraged by NASA's commitment to accelerate the cadence of alternating Small Explorer (SMEX) and Medium-class Explorer (MIDEX) missions while also enabling a regular selection of Missions of Opportunity (MOs) to allow heliophysics researchers to rapidly respond to and participate in missions both inside and outside of NASA. This commitment follows the recommendations of the National Research Council Decadal Survey, and will improve scientific understanding while simultaneously developing the scientific workforce through increased research opportunities for students and faculty.

Heliophysics Technology Program.—The Committee appreciates NASA including Heliophysics Technology as a standalone program line in the budget request and provides the requested level of $29,900,000 for the Heliophysics Technology Program. The Committee recognizes the critical role that technology development programs play in enabling novel and transformative capabilities and mission concepts, and notes the contributions of these programs in other Divisions within the Science Mission Directorate.

Biological and Physical Sciences.—The Committee provides $85,000,000 for Biological and Physical Sciences, which is $2,500,000 above fiscal year 2022.

Transformational Microgravity Research.—Within Biological and Physical Sciences, funds may be used for the development and demonstration of in-situ analysis, sample preparation and handling, and specialized equipment for the next generation of microgravity science. In partnership with industry and, to the extent practicable, leveraging Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) investments, NASA should develop and operate space-based capabilities for transformational microgravity science that advances U.S. leadership in such areas as quantum physics, thriving in deep space, and soft matter.

Science Mission Directorate Computing.—High-end computing for modeling and simulation of mission flight tests, satellites, instruments and engineered vehicles and components can reduce failure rates and reduce the time and cost of experimentation and testing. As the demand for high-end computing increases across the agency, the Committee recommends no less than $75,000,000 within the Science Mission Directorate to support the Scientific Computing project and the High-end Computing Capability project.

AERONAUTICS

The Committee provides $950,000,000 for Aeronautics, which is $69,300,000 greater than the fiscal year 2022 appropriation.

Hypersonics Technology Project.—The Committee directs that, of the funds provided for Aeronautics, not less than $45,000,000 is for NASA's ongoing Hypersonics Technology Project (HTP), which is $6,400,000 above the request. The Committee continues to emphasize the importance of a national hypersonics research strategy and urges program managers to continue to coordinate closely with

partners in the Department of Defense to enable NASA to leverage investments in ground and flight activities to develop and validate advanced physics-based computational models as building blocks toward a long-term vision for high-speed hypersonic and high-Mach air transport. Focus areas for the project should include reusable vehicle technologies, hypersonic propulsion systems, and high temperature materials such as polymer derived ceramic composite materials and other advanced material development. Of these funds, the Committee directs that not less than $15,000,000 should be prioritized toward funding opportunities for public-private partnerships with the goal of advancing hypersonic and high-Mach technologies that meet both NASA's strategic goals and industry needs.

University-Led Initiatives.—Within funds provided for Aeronautics, the Committee recommends up to $10,000,000 for advancement of university-led aeronautics materials research. NASA is encouraged to partner with academic institutions that have strong capabilities in aviation, aerospace structures, and materials testing and evaluation, including research on wire-arc additive manufacturing aluminum alloys for lightweight aerospace parts fabrication.

Sustainable Flight Demonstrator (SFD).—The SFD is NASA's next X-Plane flight demonstrator to demonstrate advanced structures and technologies that could increase efficiency and reduce emissions by as much as 25 percent. The Committee supports this important initiative and expects NASA's investments and partnerships to advance and demonstrate high reward technologies to achieve performance improvements that move industry emissions reductions closer to this 25 percent target.

Vertical Lift Research.—The Committee supports NASA's Vertical Lift Research Centers of Excellence (VLRCOE) cooperative agreements to advance fundamental research at universities across the country that support high-speed rotorcraft, electric vertical take-off and landing (VTOL) capability, and unmanned aircraft systems. To continue advancing these efforts in coordination with NASA's broader Advanced Air Mobility goals, the Committee directs NASA to continue its work with other government agencies, academia, and industry to build and maintain a modeling and simulation environment to analyze various aviation demand scenarios and associated supply chain ecosystem needs. The Committee additionally directs NASA to report on these actions not later than 180 days after enactment of this Act. In developing this report, NASA should consult with stakeholders in government, academia and industry to identify security and technology policy recommendations, as well as any additional policy recommendations.

Advanced Capabilities for Emergency Response Operations (ACERO).—The Committee appreciates NASA's new emphasis on wildfire fighting and provides $10,000,000, which is $2,000,000 more than the request, to begin the ACERO initiative. ACERO is aimed at improving aerial responses to wildfires and other natural disasters and will leverage NASA-developed UAS traffic management capabilities, along with other NASA science and technology capabilities, to develop an interagency concept of operations with other Federal, state, and local agencies.

Additive Manufacturing.—Within funds provided for Aeronautics, the Committee encourages additive manufacturing (AM) research. Additive manufacturing creates advancements in space flight and

applications in all aviation sectors. The Committee encourages NASA to utilize AM funding to support activities that create performance-enhancing designs that are not achievable using conventional manufacturing methods; simplify supply chains by consolidating multiple parts into fewer multi-component assemblies; reduce operational costs by repairing and remanufacturing legacy components of aerospace systems; and increase manufacturing mobility.

Flight Research.—The Committee supports the important flight research and related work of various NASA centers. To ensure these centers have the necessary resources to continue this important research to help the Aeronautics Mission Directorate fulfill its unique mission, the Committee directs NASA to provide a report not later than 60 days after enactment of this Act which includes a short-term and long-term assessment of such centers' infrastructure, such as hangars, research facilities, and other structures, and equipment needed at or supporting these centers, as well as a review of the condition and lifespan of the aircraft and any additional long-term needs.

Aerosciences Evaluation and Test Capabilities (AETC).—The Committee is eagerly anticipating the submission of the required report under Public Law 117–103 regarding NASA's AETC portfolio, which includes NASA wind tunnels, propulsion test facilities, and specialty tunnels. These facilities are critical to helping maintain U.S. leadership in supersonic and hypersonic capabilities for NASA, the Department of Defense, and private industry. The Committee is troubled by reports of high maintenance needs on these aging facilities and directs NASA to report to the Committee within 30 days of enactment of this Act on AETC's process for portfolio maintenance and repair decisions, as well as near-term priority investments and maintenance that are needed to meet expected demand growth and reliable availability of these facilities. Such report should include a detailed explanation of how requested resources in each of the outyears, as shown in the fiscal year 2023 budget submission, will meet expected demand and reliable availability of these facilities.

High-Performance Chase Aircraft.—The Committee understands the value of high-performance chase aircraft such as the F/A–18 and F–15 that enhance NASA's unique research capabilities, and recognizes the ongoing concern about some current chase aircraft having end-of-life issues and growing maintenance costs. Thus, the Committee directs NASA to continue providing updates to the Committee, as necessary, and consultations with the Department of Defense on strategies to address high-performance chase aircraft issues, including through potential aircraft transfers, and the potential need for administrative and legislative steps to facilitate such actions.

SPACE TECHNOLOGY

The Committee recommends $1,250,000,000 for Space Technology, which is $140,000,000 above the fiscal year 2022 appropriation and $187,900,000 below the request. The Space Technology Mission Directorate supports a range of technologies at all readiness levels, and provides resources for small businesses to play a vital role in developing the tools that will be used to explore our

solar system. Within the Directorate's efforts, the Committee supports technological efforts with broad application across NASA missions, including advanced materials and structures, autonomous systems to fabricate crew habitats, advanced power systems, remote sensing and detection of water, in-space and additive manufacturing, thermal protection, and artificial intelligence relating to space logistics and mission sustainability.

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.

Small Orbital Debris Prize.—The Committee supports NASA's agency-wide efforts to address the problem of orbital debris through research, development of early-stage technology, and measurement technologies. NASA should continue to use its existing program acquisition approaches, including the Prizes Challenges and Crowdsourcing Program, to seek novel ideas on how to detect, trace, and remove space debris 10 centimeters and smaller. While NASA should continue to focus on detection and removal of large objects like dead satellites and rocket bodies, the Committee also expects NASA to focus on small space debris. Within 45 days of enactment of this Act, NASA is directed to establish a crowdsourcing prize competition soliciting ideas on how to detect, track, and remove space debris 10 centimeters and smaller.

Larger Orbital Debris Remediation.—The Committee is concerned that the Federal Government lacks a specific and comprehensive strategy to address the intensifying risks posed by orbital debris through remediation of the space environment using active debris removal. NASA has a vital role in supporting the development of innovative approaches to debris management. Appreciating NASA's role in fostering scientific solutions to this rapidly growing problem, the Committee directs that of the funds provided for Space Technology, up to $5,000,000 is to advance early-stage technology for active debris remediation addressing tall pole technology gaps, including the grapple and capture of uncontrolled tumbling objects where no viable/credible solutions currently exist.

Regional Economic Development.—The Committee provides $10,000,000, which is $2,000,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level. These funds are designed to enable various NASA centers to partner with the Manufacturing Extension Program and its local offices, and to ensure NASA's unique capabilities are used as part of a larger economic development strategy. These partnerships

should target technologies of interest to NASA's overarching mission of exploration but should also drive innovation and economic growth. The Committee directs NASA to report to the Committee on its fiscal year 2023 plan for executing these funds, with clear metrics for success, including an accounting of the partnerships with economic development entities for Federal, state, and regional economic development agencies with experience in this area.

On-Orbit Servicing, Assembly, and Manufacturing (OSAM–1).—The Committee provides $227,000,000 for continued development of the OSAM–1 or Restore-L/SPace Infrastructure DExterous Robot (SPIDER). The Committee encourages NASA to continue its collaborations with the commercial space sector and university partners to use this technology for space sustainability.

Flight Opportunities Program.—The Committee provides $30,000,000, which is $5,000,000 above the fiscal year 2022 appropriation and $10,000,000 above the request for the Flight Opportunities Program. Flight Opportunities provides researchers valuable, low-cost access to microgravity for technology development and research by integrating payloads aboard commercial suborbital spacecraft, sounding rockets, and parabolic aircraft.

Nuclear Thermal Propulsion.—The Committee provides $110,000,000, equal to the fiscal year 2022 level and $95,000,000 more than the request, for the development of a nuclear thermal propulsion system capable of specific impulse of 900 per second or greater, of which not less than $80,000,000 is for the design of test articles that will enable a flight demonstration. As NASA moves towards post-International Space Station operations at the end of the decade, it is important to ensure that all on-station space technology activities as they relate to science and future deep-exploration activities relating to habitation and propulsion have effective continuity plans in place. NASA is directed to provide to the Committee, within 180 days of enactment of this Act, a plan for post-ISS in-space science and propulsion activities, as well as recommendations for ensuring NASA activities in Low Earth Orbit.

Nuclear Electric Propulsion (NEP).—The committee is encouraged by the potential for space nuclear propulsion technologies relating to nuclear electric propulsion. As the National Academy of Sciences identified in a February 2021 report, a multi-year research program would need to include subsystem development, prototype systems, ground testing, and cargo missions as a means of flight qualification prior to first crewed use. Accordingly, the Committee directs that $15,000,000 shall be utilized to begin a systematic approach to Nuclear Electric Propulsion (NEP). Within 180 days of the enactment of this Act, NASA, in coordination with other relevant Federal departments and agencies such as the Department of Energy, shall submit a multi-year plan for in-space propulsion-system demonstration for NEP.

Lunar Surface Power.—The Committee recognizes the need for steady, reliable, and uninterrupted power for future extended science and exploration missions on the lunar surface, particularly at the poles, and is supportive of past and ongoing investments in a mix of technologies, including both Vertical Solar Array Technology (VSAT) and Fission Surface Power (FSP). The Committee notes the strategic benefits of a portfolio approach to lunar surface power, including affordability, mobility, and readiness. NASA is di-

rected to sponsor the development and deployment of a mix of lunar surface power solutions in support of the Artemis program and to enable the commercialization of lunar power as a service. NASA is directed to report to the Committee not later than 180 days after enactment of this Act on its plan to leverage investments made in surface power with its over-arching plan for a sustainable lunar presence into the 2030s. Further, the Committee directs the Space Technology Mission Directorate to utilize existing technology maturation efforts with commercial partners to execute one surface power demonstration by 2026 and provides $40,000,000 in fiscal year 2023 to begin this initiative. Funds provided for this demonstration shall be used for both payload development and for associated delivery services to the lunar surface via the Commercial Lunar Payload Services program.

Moon-to-Mars Demonstrations and Advancing Technologies for Mars.—To support NASA's effort to land astronauts on Mars following the Artemis lunar missions this decade, and the development of Moon-to-Mars specific technologies and cross-cutting applications for the commercial space economy, the Committee recommends $85,000,000 for new Tipping Point and Announcement of Collaborative Opportunities (ACO) solicitations, consistent with the request. The Committee directs NASA to consult with industry and prioritize new opportunities for competitively selected public-private partnerships and technology demonstrations for systems that advance this objective, and the Committee expects NASA to prioritize demonstration efforts that allow for competitive public-private partnership opportunities focused on high-level, NASA-defined objectives for the development of Moon-to-Mars specific technologies, including technologies relating to entry, descent, and landing; in-space propulsion; cryogenic fluid management; large scale additive manufacturing; and electric propulsion.

Leveraging Technologies for Moon to Mars (M2M).—The Committee is aware of NASA's M2M methodology to create a blueprint for sustained human exploration of the solar system, and the methodological principles of being goal-based and having constancy and unity of purpose. Further, the Committee recognizes the varied investments NASA has made, often in collaboration with the private sector, to develop, mature and deploy technologies and capabilities for the Artemis program and the larger M2M effort. Such investments are vital for growing the agency's ability to conduct crewed and uncrewed missions in cislunar and deep space as well as manage their associated risks and costs, both now and in the future. These investments must be leveraged fully for a sustainable program of exploration and science. As such, the Committee directs NASA to report to the Committee within 120 days of enactment of this Act on its plan to integrate the technology elements and capabilities it has fostered through years of investment into a coherent strategy for lunar, cislunar and deep space exploration within the context of the M2M campaign and beyond. The report should include NASA's goal-based architecture, including plans to leverage targeted prior investments in major subcomponents and other supporting technologies to meet future exploration goals, whether for additional lunar missions, precursor missions to Mars, or other missions to deep space.

Additive Manufacturing.—The Committee directs NASA, using funds provided within Space Technology, to continue additive manufacturing efforts, including freeform additive manufacturing of high-performance materials. NASA is further directed to evaluate freeform additive manufacturing of high-performance materials in space and to develop, in consultation with industry, processes by which additively manufactured products can be validated or certified utilizing data analysis or other non-destructive testing means.

DEEP SPACE EXPLORATION SYSTEMS

The Committee provides $7,323,700,000 for Deep Space Exploration Systems, which is $532,000,000 greater than the fiscal year 2022 appropriation.

Orion.—The Committee provides $1,338,700,000, which is equal to the request. The Committee does not include authority for NASA to transfer a portion of Orion funds to the Space Operations Mission Directorate because NASA has not demonstrated a rationale for this transfer at this time. However, the Committee notes that at some point after the launch of Artemis I, such a transition may be justified and therefore urges NASA to continue working with Congress and its commercial partners to mature the Orion program.

Space Launch System (SLS).—The Committee provides $2,600,000,000, equal to the fiscal year 2022 appropriation, and $20,200,000 above the Administration's request. Within the amount provided, not less than $600,000,000 is provided for SLS Block 1B Development.

Exploration Ground Systems (EGS).—The Committee provides up to $749,900,000, which is $159,900,000 more than the fiscal year 2022 appropriation and equal to the requested level for EGS.

Mobile Launcher 2 (ML 2).—Within the amounts provided for EGS, up to $232,100,000 may be used for the ML 2. According to NASA's Office of the Inspector General, the ML 2 has ballooned in cost from an estimated $380 million to nearly $1 billion. Already, Congress has appropriated nearly $500 million to ML 2, yet construction has not begun. Accordingly, the Committee includes a provision in the bill limiting the use of funds for ML 2 until 30 days after NASA submits a plan to Congress, GAO and the Office of Inspector General detailing a cost and schedule baseline for the ML 2. The Committee further urges NASA to consider new methods of ensuring that cost and schedule estimates are met on this project, including the possible use of outside management advisory services.

Human Landing System (HLS).—The Committee includes $1,485,600,000, as requested, and $290,600,000 above the fiscal year 2022 level, for the HLS. The Committee applauds NASA's efforts to ensure competition among potential providers for a future sustained HLS services capability, and expects that NASA, through the Sustaining Lunar Development program, will commit significant resources to develop multiple HLS systems for use in the Artemis program once additional contracts are awarded.

Human Exploration Programs.—The Committee directs GAO to continue its review of NASA's human exploration programs, specifically the SLS program, the Orion program, and Exploration

Ground Systems, to include the mobile launch platforms, and the Human Landing Systems program, and to include integration and software development issues that cut across these programs. In addition, the Committee directs GAO to review NASA's lunar-focused programs, including the Gateway program and other programs or projects that are expected to have an estimated life-cycle cost over $250,000,000, as part of GAO's semiannual assessment of NASA major projects.

SPACE OPERATIONS

The Committee provides $4,256,000,000 for Space Operations, which is $214,700,000 above the fiscal year 2022 appropriation.

Sub-Orbital Crew Program.—Within the funds provided for the Commercial Crew and Cargo program, NASA is provided up to $20,000,000 for Sub-Orbital Crew and encourages NASA, to the greatest extent practicable, to support flights for non-NASA personnel, especially those directly engaged in scientific activities.

21st Century Launch Complex Program.—Within the amounts provided for Space Operations, the recommendation includes up to $20,000,000 for the 21st Century Launch Complex Program. The Committee supports maintaining multiple launch facilities to serve the International Space Station (ISS) and ensure uninterrupted domestic cargo access to the ISS. However, the Committee remains concerned with efforts directed toward filling critical maintenance, capacity, and range safety gaps at NASA launch facilities, and directs NASA to take into consideration the full potential of all NASA-owned launch complexes in awarding the balance of funds made available by this appropriation and in planning for future funding requests for this critical space infrastructure program.

Rocket Propulsion Test program.—The recommendation includes $48,200,000 for the Rocket Propulsion Test program. Additionally, the Committee directs NASA to assess the commercial space and other benefits of test stand modifications at the Agency's rocket engine test facility to enable next-generation, lox-kerosene Oxygen-Rich Staged Combustion (ORSC) engine test capabilities.

Commercial Low-Earth Orbit Development.—The Committee recommends $224,300,000, which is $123,200,000 above the fiscal year 2022 appropriation and equal to the request.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, AND MATHEMATICS (STEM) ENGAGEMENT

The Committee provides $150,100,000 for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Engagement, which is $13,100,000 greater than the fiscal year 2022 appropriation and equal to the budget request. STEM engagement is a critically important part of NASA's mission to inspire America's students, create learning opportunities, and enlighten inquisitive minds.

National Space Grant College and Fellowship Program.—The recommendation includes $62,000,000 for the Space Grant program and directs that each State consortium receive not less than $1,000,000 in base funding, which 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, consistent with the budget request.

Minority University Research and Education Project (MUREP).—The recommendation includes $48,000,000 for MUREP, an increase of $5,000,000 over the fiscal year 2022 level.

Next Generation STEM.—The recommendation includes $14,100,000 for Next Generation STEM, which is $600,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level. The Committee appreciates NASA's relationships with TEAM II participants, museums, and planetariums through STEM Education and Accountability Projects (SEAP), as well as the productive use of cooperative agreements with NASA Visitor Centers, and encourages NASA to continue these successful partnerships.

SAFETY, SECURITY AND MISSION SERVICES

The Committee provides $3,138,700,000 for Safety, Security, and Mission Services, which is $118,100,000 greater than the fiscal year 2022 appropriation.

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.

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.

Community Projects.—Within the appropriation for Safety, Security and Mission Services, the Committee recommendation also provides funds for the following Community Projects:

NASA COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Recipient	Project	Amount
American Museum of Natural History	Planetarium Programming Development	$1,500,000
Houston Independent School District	Houston-Rice Planetary Project	1,983,320
Virginia Air and Space Center	STEMConnect: NASA STEM Literacy & Community Enrichment.	687,680

CONSTRUCTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE AND RESTORATION

The Committee provides $424,300,000 for Construction and Environmental Compliance and Restoration, which is an increase of $14,000,000 above the fiscal year 2022 appropriation and equal to the request.

Construction.—The recommendation includes $348,100,000 for Construction of Facilities, minor revitalization, planning and design, and demolition, including the highest repair priorities described in the Administration's request.

Environmental Compliance and Restoration.—The recommendation includes $76,200,000, as requested, 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.

OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

The Committee recommends $48,400,000 for the Office of the Inspector General, which is $3,100,000 above the fiscal year 2022 appropriation and equal to the request.

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 provisions that require 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 allows for the transfer of funds from Deep Space Exploration Systems to Construction.

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

The Committee recommends $9,631,243,000 for the National Science Foundation (NSF), which is $793,243,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level.

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.

National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics (NCSES).—The Committee encourages the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics (NCSES) to undertake a study to identify, compile, and analyze existing nationwide data, and conduct survey research as necessary, to better understand the national cyber workforce. The Committee directs NSF to provide the

funding necessary to conduct this study and report to the Committee within 60 days of enactment of this Act.

Noting the already low ratio of personnel to budget at NCSES relative to other Federal statistical agencies, the Committee supports the request to add personnel, which may include statisticians, economists, research scientists, and other statistical and support staff as needed, to ensure adequate staffing for this 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.

RESEARCH AND RELATED ACTIVITIES

The Committee recommends $7,705,530,000 for Research and Related Activities (R&RA), which is $546,130,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level. The recommendation accepts the proposal to remove the transfer for the Graduate Research Fellowship Program from R&RA, resulting in an effective increase of more than $700,000,000 for R&RA programs. The Committee believes that strategic investments in the physical sciences and technology are vitally important for the United States to remain the global leader in innovation, productivity, economic growth, and high-paying jobs for the future and strongly supports the Foundation's role in the American research enterprise.

Technology, Innovation, and Partnerships.—The Committee supports the recently created Directorate for Technology, Innovation, and Partnerships (TIP) within R&RA to accelerate the translation of fundamental scientific discoveries into technologies and products that improve the national standard of living.

Regional Innovation Engines.—The recommendation includes no less than $170,000,000 for the requested Regional Innovation Engines, a new program to create regional-scale innovation ecosystems throughout the United States and spur economic growth by bringing together the science and technology research enterprise and regional-level resources to promote long-term national competitiveness.

Climate Science and Sustainability Research.—The recommendation provides $1,050,000,000 for climate science and sustainability research through the U.S. Global Change Research Program and Clean Energy Technology, an increase of $150,000,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level. The Committee notes, in particular, the need to explore topics that will inform climate change resilience and adaptation strategies with regard to changes to both the natural environment as well as on the built environment.

Wildfire Research.—The Committee notes the need to improve understanding of the formation and impacts of wildfire, including from air quality, to protect communities, particularly in the wildland urban interface. As part of the effort in climate science and sustainability research, the Committee encourages NSF to support cross-disciplinary work necessary to protect life and property from the increasing threat of wildland fire. Further, NSF shall co-

ordinate and collaborate with other Federal agencies, as appropriate, as they work to better understand the dynamics of fire ignition, fire spread, and fire weather, as well as other components of this complex issue.

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 freshwater systems. HABs jeopardize the integrity of drinking water resources in these regions. The Committee further encourages research to help understand the impacts of dissolved nitrogen and phosphorous in the systems, and to understand their impacts on HAB's incidences. The recommendation supports no less than the fiscal year 2022 level for HAB research activities.

Carbon Dioxide Removal.—The Committee encourages NSF to prioritize research into carbon dioxide removal and utilization technologies, such as direct air capture, terrestrial and biological carbon removal, carbon mineralization, ocean-based carbon removal, and carbon utilization. The Committee further encourages NSF to fund research and development of these carbon dioxide removal technologies, and direct air capture materials research that includes early-stage application of sorbents, solvents, membranes, and related components.

Navigating the New Arctic.—The Committee recognizes the critical need for greater understanding of the impact that Arctic warming will have on the environmental and socio-economic conditions of communities along the eastern coast of North America. As NSF continues the Navigating the New Arctic program, the Committee urges NSF to address Arctic change in the North Atlantic, including coordination activities, expanded observation networks and other research infrastructure, and workforce training.

International Ocean Discovery Program.—The recommendation supports the request for the International Ocean Discovery Program.

Sustainable Chemistry Research.—The Committee continues to support the Sustainable Chemistry Basic Research program and encourages it to be expanded. NSF shall report to the Committee no later than 180 days after the enactment of this Act on this program. Additionally, the Committee encourages NSF to continue coordinating with OSTP on implementation of the Sustainable Chemistry Research and Development Act provisions in subtitle E of title II of Public Law 116–283.

COVID–19 Research.—The Committee commends the Foundation for its efforts to better understand the spread of COVID–19, to educate on the science of virus transmission and prevention, and to develop processes to address the pandemic using Rapid Response Research (RAPID) funding grants as part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. The Committee encourages NSF to continue to support RAPID and other grant funding for SARS–CoV–2 wastewater research, including for non-centralized wastewater treatment services surveillance.

Critical Minerals.—The Committee recognizes the important role of NSF in carrying out activities for critical minerals as authorized by the Energy Act of 2020, and encourages cooperation with other

agencies to the maximum extent possible in order to promote a secure and robust critical minerals supply chain and build a strong critical minerals workforce.

Artificial Intelligence (AI).—The Committee believes it is important to maintain leadership in artificial intelligence and commends NSF for continuing to prioritize 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 recommendation includes up to $686,000,000 to support AI-related grants and interdisciplinary research initiatives, which is $50,000,000 above fiscal year 2022 and equal to the request. The Committee supports the continued expansion of the National AI Research Institutes. Within this funding increase, the Committee encourages the Foundation to expand its efforts in workforce development for AI and other emerging technologies, including education programs for non-computer science students, with focused outreach to community colleges, Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic Serving Institutions, Tribal Colleges and Universities, and other Minority Serving Institutions.

In addition, the Committee encourages NSF to increase the pipeline of students graduating with AI and data literacy through partnerships, cooperative agreements, and other pilot mechanisms. 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.

Algorithmic Bias.—The Committee encourages NSF to partner with non-governmental organizations, academic institutions (with special consideration given to minority-serving institutions), and other Federal agencies, including NIST, to fund research on algorithmic bias in AI, machine learning and intelligent systems and its impacts on decisions related to employment, housing, and creditworthiness 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.

Trustworthy Algorithmic Research.—The Committee urges NSF to increase support for research into the safety and ethical effects of content moderation and recommendation algorithms that will advance new technical methods to reduce the likelihood of unexpected negative effects from these algorithms. The Foundation shall further consider using the special authority provided under Section 5401 (f) of the National Artificial Intelligence Initiative Act, Public Law 116–283, to carry out this research. No later than 180 days after the enactment of this Act, NSF shall provide the Committee with a report on its efforts to prioritize such research.

Quantum Information Science.—The Committee supports NSF's research program in quantum information science and technology in support of the Foundation's authorized activities included in sections 301 and 302 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. Accordingly, the Committee recommends up to $240,000,000 toward activities as authorized under Section 301 of the National Quantum Initiative and up to $50,000,000 toward the National Quantum Information Science Research Centers as authorized under section 302 of the National Quantum Initiative Act.

High-Performance Computing.—The Committee commends NSF on its continuing commitment to its high-performance computing and data analysis capabilities and urges NSF to make timely and significant investments in high-performance computing. NSF should remain committed to developing and supporting systems that facilitate tremendous leaps in computational capabilities including artificial intelligence, storage, quantum computing, simulations, and data analyses that enable a broad range of scientific research. NSF should further commit to supporting access to at-scale data resources for advancing science in these fields, and likewise commit to expanding scientist access to these resources. 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, notably China and Japan. The Committee encourages NSF to continue supporting its programs focused on providing world-class leadership computing for the national open science community.

Astronomy.—U.S.-based astronomy researchers and facilities funded through NSF continue to make groundbreaking discoveries utilizing world-class scientific research instruments and facilities. NSF funding enables research in the U.S., at facilities across the globe, and at observatories operated by universities, including the National Optical-Infrared Astronomy Research Laboratory, the National Radio Astronomy Observatories, and the National Solar Observatory. As NSF determines the appropriate levels of support for astronomy research grants by scientists and students engaged in ground-breaking research and investments, the Committee expects NSF to continue its support of world-class scientific research facilities and instrumentation to maximize its investments in research while preparing for facility upgrades and activities associated with supporting the recommendations from Astro2020. In addition to this support, partnerships should be explored when feasible to maximize research capabilities at such facilities. Further, the Foundation shall support planning activities and encourage partnerships that aim to broaden the U.S. astronomy community's access to the next generation of optical and infrared telescopes.

Daniel K. Inouye Solar Telescope (DKIST).—The recommendation fully funds the request for the operations of DKIST.

Arecibo Observatory (AO).—The Committee recognizes the significant loss to U.S. scientific research and capabilities resulting from the uncontrolled collapse of the iconic 305-meter radio telescope platform at AO. The Committee further notes the recommendation by the Decadal Strategy for Planetary Science and Astrobiology 2023–2032 that NSF should review the current radar infrastructure to determine how best to meet the community's needs, including expanded capabilities to replace those lost with Arecibo. NSF

shall keep the Committee apprised of the status of this review and ongoing operations at Arecibo.

Combating Anti-Asian Hate Crimes and Incidents.—The Committee supports NSF's comprehensive approach to understanding and combating anti-Asian sentiment. The Committee understands that NSF has funded 100 grantees to study this issue across the country. Within 90 days of the enactment of this Act, NSF is directed to update the Committee on the status of this research.

Social, Behavioral, and Economic (SBE) Sciences.—The Committee supports SBE and recognizes the fundamental importance of its research for 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 the smallest of 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 encourages NSF to continue its support of these programs.

Dyslexia.—The Committee believes it is important to continue research on the science of dyslexia and encourages NSF to support multi-directorate, merit reviewed, and competitively awarded research on the science of specific learning disabilities, including dyslexia, such as research on the early identification of children and students with dyslexia, professional development for teachers and administrators of students with dyslexia, curricula and educational tools needed for children with dyslexia, and implementation and scaling of successful models of dyslexia intervention.

Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR).—The recommendation includes no less than $225,000,000 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.

Growing Research Access for Nationally Transformative Equity and Diversity (GRANTED).—The Committee provides up to $35,000,000 for the newly proposed GRANTED program, which is designed to increase opportunities for researchers at emerging and underserved research institutions who have historically lacked institutional support to obtain Federal research funding.

Innovation Corps.—The Committee recognizes the value of translating basic research for public benefit, and the recommendation includes up to $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.

Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Excellence in Research.—The Committee is supportive of the Historically Black Colleges and Universities Excellence in Research program and as such, includes $26,000,000, an increase of $4,000,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level. The Committee directs NSF to use research infrastructure improvement grants, co-funding pro-

grams, and other innovative mechanisms to boost HBCU participation and capacity throughout NSF research programs.

Industrial Innovation and Partnerships.—The Committee recognizes that NSF's Industrial Innovation and Partnerships programs have long supported activities in advanced manufacturing of U.S. steel, and supports the continuation of these activities in fiscal year 2023.

Fairness in Merit Review.—The Committee notes the potential for bias in NSF's merit review process and supports the Foundation's ongoing efforts to understand how successful underrepresented groups are in the merit review process. NSF shall brief the Committee, no later than 180 days after the enactment of this Act, on its actions and findings in understanding and addressing bias in the merit review process. As part of this briefing, NSF shall include a discussion of the option of adopting institution-blind, investigator-blind, and dual-anonymous processes for merit review of proposals, with a focus on the fairness of the process faced by all applicants.

Research Security.—The Committee supports NSF's initiative to create clear guidelines that inform researchers and universities on disclosure requirements pertaining to research security. Additionally, the Committee encourages NSF to continue to engage university and affinity groups to listen to any community concerns and share information about NSF's policies and processes. Not later than 90 days after the enactment of this Act, NSF shall brief the Committee on its ongoing plans for community outreach and engagement on research security issues.

Further, the Committee notes that large universities, especially those with major endowments, enjoy considerable resources to help their staff and faculty with administrative concerns on filing paperwork pertaining to research security. Smaller universities and colleges lack such resources and may find it difficult to attract and retain foreign talent. The Committee encourages NSF to explore ways to work with less-resourced institutions on disclosure requirements and international talent retention.

Power Dynamics in the Research Community.—The Committee notes that imbalanced relationships between lead researchers and graduate students, especially those from foreign countries, can lead to harmful outcomes. The Committee is concerned that students may not be aware of mechanisms or are hesitant to voice their concerns out of fear of retaliation, or that the existing mechanisms may possibly be inadequate. Additionally, any potential or perceived bias in research security can have a deleterious effect on attracting top talent from foreign countries. To ensure that the U.S. remains a destination for scientific research and to address concerns about power relationships, NSF is encouraged to continue to develop approaches to analyze and study means to address potential bias and develop safe spaces to voice concerns without the fear of repercussion. NSF shall provide a report to the Committee on these activities no later than 180 days after the enactment of this Act.

Open Source Research Risks.—The Committee is concerned that certain open source research capabilities at NSF could be used by adversaries against U.S. allies or U.S. interests. The Committee therefore directs the NSF to collaborate with the Secretary of De-

fense and the Director of National Intelligence to compile and maintain a list of all NSF-funded open source research capabilities that are known or suspected to have an impact on foreign military operations. Such list shall be reviewed and updated at least annually by the NSF in collaboration with the Secretary of Defense and the Director of National Intelligence, and subsequently shall be reported to the Committee.

MAJOR RESEARCH EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES CONSTRUCTION

The Committee recommends $187,230,000 for Major Research Equipment and Facilities Construction (MREFC), which is equal to the request. The recommendation includes the following requested amounts: $1,000,000 for enhanced oversight; $60,000,000 for Antarctic Infrastructure Recapitalization; $33,000,000 for the Large Hadron Collider Upgrade; $76,250,000 for Mid-scale Research Infrastructure; $1,980,000 for Regional Class Research Vessels; and $15,000,000 for the Vera C. Rubin Observatory. NSF shall continue to provide quarterly briefings to the Committee on the activities funded in this account.

Great Lakes Research Fleet.—The Committee notes that the Great Lakes resources represent a unique, linked, and economically-critical freshwater ecosystem that faces significant environmental challenges, including invasive species, runoff, and harmful algal blooms; and notes that the Lakes' long-term health depends on the quality of scientific knowledge and technical and policy solutions gained by research operations. The Committee is concerned that the vessels of the Great Lakes ecosystem Federal research fleet are nearing the end of their useful service lives and are inadequate for the demands of their interdisciplinary research mission. The Committee directs NSF to coordinate with relevant Federal agencies to study and report back to the Committee no later than 180 days after the enactment of this Act on the costs of modernizing the vessels within the Great Lakes Research Fleet.

Astro2020.—The agreement recognizes the recent release by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NAS) of the 2020 Decadal Survey in Astronomy and Astrophysics, "Pathways to Discovery in Astronomy and Astrophysics for the 2020s" (Astro2020), and the agreement notes that NSF is currently assessing how to best implement the included recommendations. NSF is expected to include the appropriate levels of support for recommended current and future world-class scientific research facilities and instrumentation in subsequent budget requests. NSF is also expected to support a balanced portfolio of astronomy research grants by scientists and students engaged in ground-breaking research. The Committee also reiterates its support for preliminary investments in emerging priority facilities in R&RA, such as the next generation Very Large Array and the Extremely Large Telescopes. As NSF develops plans for realizing Astro2020, the Foundation shall provide regular briefings to the Committee on its progress and shall inform the Committee if additional funds are needed to avoid delays in project design and development.

Biological Infrastructure.—The Committee commends NSF for its investments in critical biological infrastructure such as computational tools that have transformed how researchers approach biological questions. The Committee directs NSF to review and report

on its biological infrastructure investments and develop a plan for how to review their impact. The report should evaluate the 10-year center mechanism use for platform operations and what other mechanistic approaches could provide more flexibility to assess and maintain critical infrastructure during its useful life.

Academic Research Infrastructure.—The Committee notes that there is considerable support for academic research infrastructure construction and modernization across all NSF directorates. The construction, modernization and replacement of obsolete facilities and platforms, including those widely used by scientific communities to facilitate research and access to research environments, are essential to ensuring investments in principal investigator (PI)-driven basic and applied investigations maximize U.S. scientific and economic competitiveness. The Committee encourages NSF to evaluate future MREFC and Mid-Scale Research Infrastructure (MSRI) requirements in light of increasing investment in the national R&D ecosystem, including access to critical aging research facilities and platforms that benefit large segments of the science and technology community. Additionally, NSF should consider opportunities to collaborate with extramural science partners to finance projects where appropriate.

STEM EDUCATION

The Committee accepts NSF's proposal to rename the Directorate for Education and Human Resources (EHR) as the Directorate for STEM Education (EDU), as well as the identical change request with respect to that account. The recommendation includes $1,250,000,000, which is $244,000,000 above fiscal year 2022 for EDU.

CyberCorps®, Scholarships for Service.—The Committee provides no less than $74,000,000 for the CyberCorps: Scholarship for Service program, an increase of $11,000,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level. NSF is encouraged to use the additional funding to increase the number of scholarships awarded at participating institutions and to increase the number of institutions that receive grants to participate in the program.

Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP).—The Committee accepts NSF's proposal to consolidate GRFP within EDU and provides up to $320,000,000, an increase of $30,000,000, to increase the amount provided to each fellow, as requested, as well as to increase the number of fellows.

Broadening participation programs.—Broadening participation in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics will fuel innovation and provide additional expertise to solve complex problems. Embracing the contributions of all will produce better science and create a better society. The Committee accepts the proposed name change from the Division of Human Resource Development (HRD), which will become the Division of Equity for Excellence in STEM (EES).

In support of NSF's mission to broaden participation in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, the Committee recommends the following: $78,000,000 for Advanced Technological Education; $10,000,000 for Alliances for Graduate Education and the Professoriate; $28,510,000 for Centers for Research Excellence in Science and Technology; $45,500,000 for HBCU—Undergraduate

Program; $57,000,000 for Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation; $68,000,000 for the Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program; and $19,000,000 for the Tribal Colleges and Universities Program. Lastly, $30,500,000 is provided for NSF INCLUDES and $19,250,000 for ADVANCE.

Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs).—The Improving Undergraduate STEM Education: Hispanic-Serving Institutions (IUSE: HSI) program, managed and funded equally by EES and the Division of Undergraduate Education, is provided $30,000,000 through each division, for a total of $60,000,000, an increase of $11,500,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level. HSIs and the IUSE: HSI 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 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 report that investigates and makes recommendations about how to increase the rate of Hispanic Ph.D. graduates in STEM fields. NSF shall report back to the Committee on the status of this report not later than 90 days after the enactment of this Act.

Transformational Education Innovation and Translation.—NSF is encouraged to collaborate with the Department of Education on transformational education innovation and translation, including interventions grounded in scientific understanding to improve student outcomes and achievement. This may include instrumenting large-scale digital learning platforms to create a research infrastructure that drives continuous improvement in the use of the learning sciences. NSF should consider how to help address the learning loss associated with the COVID–19 pandemic, foster the benefits of distance learning, and consider the learning needs of under-resourced and underrepresented students, such as those in urban or rural communities.

AGENCY OPERATIONS AND AWARD MANAGEMENT

The Committee recommends $460,000,000 for Agency Operations and Award Management, which is $60,000,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level.

OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL SCIENCE BOARD

The Committee recommends $5,090,000 for the National Science Board, which is $490,000 over fiscal year 2022 and equal to the request. The Committee supports recommendations from the Office of Inspector General to promote effectiveness, efficiency, and integrity in NSF programs and grants.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

The Committee recommends $23,393,000 for the Office of Inspector General, which is $4,393,000 above fiscal year 2022 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.

NSF NONRECURRING EXPENSES FUND

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

The bill includes the requested provision establishing the NSF Nonrecurring Expenses Fund to reinvest funds that would otherwise expire to support the national science and research enterprise.

TITLE IV

RELATED AGENCIES

COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

The Committee recommends $14,350,000 for the Commission on Civil Rights, which is $1,350.000 above fiscal year 2022. Within the amounts provided, $2,000,000 is for the Commission on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys (CSSBMB). The Commission on Civil Rights is directed to provide a detailed spend plan for the funds provided for the CSSBMB not later than 45 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

Field Hearings.—The Commission is encouraged to conduct field hearings on priority topic areas such as the treatment and diversion of mentally ill persons in our Nation's criminal justice system. The Commission should also consider investigating the related civil rights implications and disparate impacts of remote learning on the educational system during COVID–19.

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 report and other related Commission reports.

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 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 spending plan submitted to the Committee pursuant to section 528 of this Act.

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

The Committee recommends $464,650,000 for the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), which is $44,650,000 above

fiscal year 2022 and equal to the request. Funds will allow the EEOC to continue its prioritization of the enforcement of Federal anti-discrimination laws and to pursue litigation and strategic initiatives quickly and aggressively. In addition, funding is provided to increase front-line and investigative staff, as the agency continues to recover from its lowest staffing levels ever in fiscal year 2020, and to continue needed modernization of information technology, and support analysis of newly collected data, reporting, and access. As in prior years, the Committee directs the EEOC to provide a detailed hiring plan, organized by fiscal quarter, within 30 days of enactment of this Act.

EEOC Training Resources on Workplace Harassment and Discrimination.—The Committee directs the EEOC to disseminate resource materials on fostering respectful workplaces free of harassment and discrimination, including best practices and training resources that address the needs of a diverse set of workplaces. The EEOC should use funds to increase public awareness regarding access to workplace trainings, educate the public about the EEOC's work, and explain how to report instances of harassment or discrimination. Resources and public education campaigns should be made available in multiple languages. The Committee directs the EEOC to include an update on these activities in the Commission's fiscal year 2024 budget submission.

Summary of Equal Pay Data and Report.—The Committee is disappointed that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine has not yet completed the report required by the Joint Explanatory Statement accompanying P.L. 116–260, which was to be provided to the Commission by December 2021. It is expected that when the Commission receives this report, the Commission shall respond to the report on pay information collected through the revised EEO–1 form for 2017 and 2018, and shall 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 to the Committee a report setting forth a timeline and process for analyzing the summary pay information collected through the revised EEO–1 form, and for publishing a publicly available report describing the methodology and the results of the analysis.

Skills-Based Hiring.—The Committee is aware that employers may at times seek to adopt skills-based hiring practices as an alternative to postsecondary degree requirements in the hiring process. The Committee directs the Commission to provide education and technical assistance to employers explaining how they may use skills-based employment tests in a manner that complies with the laws and regulations enforced by the EEOC.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

The Committee recommends $122,400,000 for the International Trade Commission (ITC), which is $12,400,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted amount.

LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

PAYMENT TO THE LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

The Committee recommends $675,000,000 for the Legal Services Corporation (LSC), which is $186,000,000 above fiscal year 2022.

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 $631,1,000 for basic field grants, an increase of $182,350,000 above fiscal year 2022. 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.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS—LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

The bill continues certain restrictions on the uses of LSC funding. In addition, the bill adopts the proposal to amend the requirement in Section 1007(c) of the LSC Act regarding certain requirements of the Governing Bodies of LSC Recipients.

MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

The Committee provides $4,500,000 for the Marine Mammal Commission to continue the critical work of the Commission to protect these important species.

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

The Committee recommends $75,000,000 for the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR), which is $4,000,000 above fiscal year 2022. The Committee notes that Title IX of the United States-Mexico-Canada Implementation (USMCA) Act (Public Law 116–113) included $90,000,000 in supplemental appropriations available to USTR for obligation until fiscal year 2023. The Committee reminds USTR of the quarterly expenditure reports directed in House Report 116–101. The Committee directs the continuation of these reports for fiscal year 2023 and expects the inclusion of all funds provided to USTR, including supplemental appropriations, in its reports to the Committee, including information on staffing that supports the implementation of the USMCA.

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 Amer-

ican-produced boric acid and America-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.

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

The Committee recommends $60,000,000 for the salaries and expenses of USTR.

TRADE ENFORCEMENT TRUST FUND

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

The Committee recommends $15,000,000, as requested, 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 (Public Law 114–125).

STATE JUSTICE INSTITUTE

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

The Committee recommends $7,640,000 for the State Justice Institute, which is $440,000 above fiscal year 2022.

The additional funding is provided to enhance the Institute's efforts to improve the quality of justice in State courts and address the unique challenges of the opioid epidemic, mental health issues, juvenile justice, child abuse, and court technology.

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 $2,050,000,000 during fiscal year 2023. 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 Services 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 2023 until the enactment of the Intelligence Authorization Act for fiscal year 2023.

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 Department of 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, under certain circumstances, 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.

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 (NSpC) to engage in bilateral activities with China or a Chinese-owned company unless the activities are authorized by subsequent legislation or NASA, OSTP or NSpC 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 provides that the Department of Commerce and Federal Bureau of Investigation may utilize funding to provide payments pursuant to section 901(i)(2) of title IX of division J of the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020.

Section 535 prohibits the use of funds made available in this Act for NASA, OSTP, or the National Space Council (NSpC) to engage in certain bilateral activities with Russia or a Russian-owned company.

Section 536 prohibits funds in this Act from being used to conduct, contract for or otherwise support live tissue training.

Section 537 withholds funding from NASA's Mobile Launcher 2 project until detailed cost and schedule information are provided to the House and Senate Appropriations Committees, the Government Accountability Office (GAO), and the NASA Office of Inspector General.

Section 538 prohibits the use of funds made available by this Act to the Department of Justice to prevent Indian Tribes from enacting or implementing laws that authorize marijuana use, distribution, possession, or cultivation.

Section 539 prohibits the use of funds made available by this Act to the Department of Justice to prevent States, the District of Columbia, or Territories from implementing laws that authorize marijuana use, distribution, possession, or cultivation.

Section 540 prohibits the use of funds made available by this Act to the Department of Justice to investigate or prosecute an individual who crosses state lines to access abortion services, or who assists another individual to obtain abortion services.

Section 541 prohibits the use of funds made available by this Act to implement a limit on reimbursement to local law enforcement for overtime pay in cannabis eradication efforts under certain circumstances and in certain States.

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

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:

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: June 28, 2022
Measure: Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Bill, FY 2023
Motion by: Mr. Aderholt
Description of Motion: Prohibits Justice Department funds in the bill from being used to pay for an abortion, except in the case of rape or incest, or if the life of the mother were to be endangered if the fetus were carried to term.
Results: Not Adopted 25 yeas to 31 nays

Members Voting Yea	*Members Voting Nay*
Mr. Aderholt	Mr. Aguilar
Mr. Amodei	Mr. Bishop
Mr. Calvert	Mrs. Bustos
Mr. Cline	Mr. Cartwright
Mr. Cole	Mr. Case
Mr. Cuellar	Ms. Clark
Mr. Diaz-Balart	Mr. Crist
Mr. Fleischmann	Ms. DeLauro
Mr. Garcia	Mr. Espaillat
Mr. Gonzales	Ms. Frankel
Ms. Granger	Mr. Harder
Dr. Harris	Ms. Kaptur
Ms. Herrera Beutler	Mr. Kilmer
Mrs. Hinson	Mrs. Kirkpatrick
Mr. Joyce	Mrs. Lawrence
Ms. Letlow	Ms. Lee of California
Mr. Moolenaar	Mrs. Lee of Nevada
Mr. Newhouse	Ms. McCollum
Mr. Reschenthaler	Ms. Meng
Mr. Rogers	Ms. Pingree
Mr. Rutherford	Mr. Pocan
Mr. Simpson	Mr. Quigley
Mr. Stewart	Ms. Roybal-Allard
Mr. Valadao	Mr. Ruppersberger
Mr. Womack	Mr. Ryan
	Mrs. Torres
	Mr. Trone
	Ms. Underwood
	Ms. Wasserman Schultz
	Mrs. Watson Coleman
	Ms. Wexton

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: June 28, 2022
Measure: Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Bill, FY 2023
Motion by: Mr. Garcia
Description of Motion: Requires that no less than $5,000,000 within the Justice Department's National Security Division is for a section or office dedicated to countering espionage and influence efforts of the People's Republic of China targeting American businesses, research institutions, and academia.
Results: Not Adopted 26 yeas to 30 nays

Members Voting Yea	*Members Voting Nay*
Mr. Aderholt	Mr. Aguilar
Mr. Amodei	Mr. Bishop
Mr. Calvert	Mrs. Bustos
Mr. Cline	Mr. Cartwright
Mr. Cole	Mr. Case
Mr. Diaz-Balart	Ms. Clark
Mr. Fleischmann	Mr. Crist
Mr. Garcia	Mr. Cuellar
Mr. Gonzales	Ms. DeLauro
Ms. Granger	Mr. Espaillat
Mr. Harder	Ms. Frankel
Dr. Harris	Ms. Kaptur
Ms. Herrera Beutler	Mr. Kilmer
Mrs. Hinson	Mrs. Kirkpatrick
Mr. Joyce	Mrs. Lawrence
Ms. Letlow	Ms. Lee of California
Mr. Moolenaar	Mrs. Lee of Nevada
Mr. Newhouse	Ms. McCollum
Mr. Reschenthaler	Ms. Meng
Mr. Rogers	Ms. Pingree
Mr. Rutherford	Mr. Pocan
Mr. Ryan	Mr. Quigley
Mr. Simpson	Ms. Roybal-Allard
Mr. Stewart	Mr. Ruppersberger
Mr. Valadao	Mrs. Torres
Mr. Womack	Mr. Trone
	Ms. Underwood
	Ms. Wasserman Schultz
	Mrs. Watson Coleman
	Ms. Wexton

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: June 28, 2022
Measure: Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Bill, FY 2023
Motion by: Mr. Reschenthaler
Description of Motion: Increases funding by $1,500,000 for forensic genetic genealogy analysis and by $1,000,000 for Victims of Child Abuse Act grants, and eliminates funding for a hate crime prevention and intervention initiative for youth.
Results: Not Adopted 24 yeas to 32 nays

Members Voting Yea	*Members Voting Nay*
Mr. Aderholt	Mr. Aguilar
Mr. Amodei	Mr. Bishop
Mr. Calvert	Mrs. Bustos
Mr. Cline	Mr. Cartwright
Mr. Cole	Mr. Case
Mr. Diaz-Balart	Ms. Clark
Mr. Fleischmann	Mr. Crist
Mr. Garcia	Mr. Cuellar
Mr. Gonzales	Ms. DeLauro
Ms. Granger	Mr. Espaillat
Dr. Harris	Ms. Frankel
Ms. Herrera Beutler	Mr. Harder
Mrs. Hinson	Ms. Kaptur
Mr. Joyce	Mr. Kilmer
Ms. Letlow	Mrs. Kirkpatrick
Mr. Moolenaar	Mrs. Lawrence
Mr. Newhouse	Ms. Lee of California
Mr. Reschenthaler	Mrs. Lee of Nevada
Mr. Rogers	Ms. McCollum
Mr. Rutherford	Ms. Meng
Mr. Simpson	Ms. Pingree
Mr. Stewart	Mr. Pocan
Mr. Valadao	Mr. Quigley
Mr. Womack	Ms. Roybal-Allard
	Mr. Ruppersberger
	Mr. Ryan
	Mrs. Torres
	Mr. Trone
	Ms. Underwood
	Ms. Wasserman Schultz
	Mrs. Watson Coleman
	Ms. Wexton

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: June 28, 2022
Measure: Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Bill, FY 2023
Motion by: Mr. Moolenaar
Description of Motion: Prohibits funds in the bill from being used to implement, administer, or undertake any activities pursuant to the memorandum of the Attorney General entitled "Partnership among Federal, State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial Law Enforcement to Address Threats Against School Administrators, Board Members, Teachers, and Staff", dated October 4, 2021.
Results: Not Adopted 24 yeas to 32 nays

Members Voting Yea	*Members Voting Nay*
Mr. Aderholt	Mr. Aguilar
Mr. Amodei	Mr. Bishop
Mr. Calvert	Mrs. Bustos
Mr. Cline	Mr. Cartwright
Mr. Cole	Mr. Case
Mr. Diaz-Balart	Ms. Clark
Mr. Fleischmann	Mr. Crist
Mr. Garcia	Mr. Cuellar
Mr. Gonzales	Ms. DeLauro
Ms. Granger	Mr. Espaillat
Dr. Harris	Ms. Frankel
Ms. Herrera Beutler	Mr. Harder
Mrs. Hinson	Ms. Kaptur
Mr. Joyce	Mr. Kilmer
Ms. Letlow	Mrs. Kirkpatrick
Mr. Moolenaar	Mrs. Lawrence
Mr. Newhouse	Ms. Lee of California
Mr. Reschenthaler	Mrs. Lee of Nevada
Mr. Rogers	Ms. McCollum
Mr. Rutherford	Ms. Meng
Mr. Simpson	Ms. Pingree
Mr. Stewart	Mr. Pocan
Mr. Valadao	Mr. Quigley
Mr. Womack	Ms. Roybal-Allard
	Mr. Ruppersberger
	Mr. Ryan
	Mrs. Torres
	Mr. Trone
	Ms. Underwood
	Ms. Wasserman Schultz
	Mrs. Watson Coleman
	Ms. Wexton

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 5

Date: June 28, 2022
Measure: Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Bill, FY 2023
Motion by: Mrs. Hinson
Description of Motion: Increases funding for the Drug Enforcement Administration Salaries and Expenses account by $10,000,000, and reduces funding for the Department of Justice General Administration Salaries and Expenses account by $10,000,000.
Results: Not Adopted 24 yeas to 31 nays

Members Voting Yea	*Members Voting Nay*
Mr. Aderholt	Mr. Aguilar
Mr. Amodei	Mr. Bishop
Mr. Calvert	Mrs. Bustos
Mr. Cline	Mr. Cartwright
Mr. Cole	Mr. Case
Mr. Diaz-Balart	Ms. Clark
Mr. Fleischmann	Mr. Cuellar
Mr. Garcia	Ms. DeLauro
Mr. Gonzales	Mr. Espaillat
Ms. Granger	Ms. Frankel
Dr. Harris	Mr. Harder
Ms. Herrera Beutler	Ms. Kaptur
Mrs. Hinson	Mr. Kilmer
Mr. Joyce	Mrs. Kirkpatrick
Ms. Letlow	Mrs. Lawrence
Mr. Moolenaar	Ms. Lee of California
Mr. Newhouse	Mrs. Lee of Nevada
Mr. Reschenthaler	Ms. McCollum
Mr. Rogers	Ms. Meng
Mr. Rutherford	Ms. Pingree
Mr. Simpson	Mr. Pocan
Mr. Stewart	Mr. Quigley
Mr. Valadao	Ms. Roybal-Allard
Mr. Womack	Mr. Ruppersberger
	Mr. Ryan
	Mrs. Torres
	Mr. Trone
	Ms. Underwood
	Ms. Wasserman Schultz
	Mrs. Watson Coleman
	Ms. Wexton

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 6

Date: June 28, 2022
Measure: Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Bill, FY 2023
Motion by: Mr. Cline
Description of Motion: Strikes language in the committee report directing the Government Accountability Office to produce a report regarding how best to implement a requirement that background checks be conducted for all ammunition sales, including sales by Federal firearms licensees and private sellers.
Results: Not Adopted 25 yeas to 30 nays

Members Voting Yea	*Members Voting Nay*
Mr. Aderholt	Mr. Aguilar
Mr. Amodei	Mr. Bishop
Mr. Calvert	Mrs. Bustos
Mr. Cline	Mr. Cartwright
Mr. Cole	Mr. Case
Mr. Cuellar	Ms. Clark
Mr. Diaz-Balart	Ms. DeLauro
Mr. Fleischmann	Mr. Espaillat
Mr. Garcia	Ms. Frankel
Mr. Gonzales	Mr. Harder
Ms. Granger	Ms. Kaptur
Dr. Harris	Mr. Kilmer
Ms. Herrera Beutler	Mrs. Kirkpatrick
Mrs. Hinson	Mrs. Lawrence
Mr. Joyce	Ms. Lee of California
Ms. Letlow	Mrs. Lee of Nevada
Mr. Moolenaar	Ms. McCollum
Mr. Newhouse	Ms. Meng
Mr. Reschenthaler	Ms. Pingree
Mr. Rogers	Mr. Pocan
Mr. Rutherford	Mr. Quigley
Mr. Simpson	Ms. Roybal-Allard
Mr. Stewart	Mr. Ruppersberger
Mr. Valadao	Mr. Ryan
Mr. Womack	Mrs. Torres
	Mr. Trone
	Ms. Underwood
	Ms. Wasserman Schultz
	Mrs. Watson Coleman
	Ms. Wexton

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 7

Date: June 28, 2022
Measure: Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Bill, FY 2023
Motion by: Ms. Herrera Beutler
Description of Motion: Amends the Wasserman Schultz amendment by striking "or (ii) provides assistance to another individual to obtain abortion services."
Results: Not Adopted 24 yeas to 31 nays

Members Voting Yea	*Members Voting Nay*
Mr. Aderholt	Mr. Aguilar
Mr. Amodei	Mr. Bishop
Mr. Calvert	Mrs. Bustos
Mr. Cline	Mr. Cartwright
Mr. Cole	Mr. Case
Mr. Diaz-Balart	Ms. Clark
Mr. Fleischmann	Mr. Cuellar
Mr. Garcia	Ms. DeLauro
Mr. Gonzales	Mr. Espaillat
Ms. Granger	Ms. Frankel
Dr. Harris	Mr. Harder
Ms. Herrera Beutler	Ms. Kaptur
Mrs. Hinson	Mr. Kilmer
Mr. Joyce	Mrs. Kirkpatrick
Ms. Letlow	Mrs. Lawrence
Mr. Moolenaar	Ms. Lee of California
Mr. Newhouse	Mrs. Lee of Nevada
Mr. Reschenthaler	Ms. McCollum
Mr. Rogers	Ms. Meng
Mr. Rutherford	Ms. Pingree
Mr. Simpson	Mr. Pocan
Mr. Stewart	Mr. Quigley
Mr. Valadao	Ms. Roybal-Allard
Mr. Womack	Mr. Ruppersberger
	Mr. Ryan
	Mrs. Torres
	Mr. Trone
	Ms. Underwood
	Ms. Wasserman Schultz
	Mrs. Watson Coleman
	Ms. Wexton

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 8

Date: June 28, 2022
Measure: Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Bill, FY 2023
Motion by: Ms. Wasserman Schultz
Description of Motion: Prohibits the Department of Justice from using funds in the bill to investigate or prosecute any individual that (i) crosses state lines to access abortion services or (ii) provides assistance to another individual to obtain abortion services.
Results: Adopted 32 yeas to 23 nays

Members Voting Yea	*Members Voting Nay*
Mr. Aguilar	Mr. Aderholt
Mr. Bishop	Mr. Amodei
Mrs. Bustos	Mr. Calvert
Mr. Cartwright	Mr. Cline
Mr. Case	Mr. Cole
Ms. Clark	Mr. Diaz-Balart
Mr. Cuellar	Mr. Fleischmann
Ms. DeLauro	Mr. Garcia
Mr. Espaillat	Mr. Gonzales
Ms. Frankel	Ms. Granger
Mr. Harder	Dr. Harris
Mrs. Hinson	Ms. Herrera Beutler
Ms. Kaptur	Mr. Joyce
Mr. Kilmer	Ms. Letlow
Mrs. Kirkpatrick	Mr. Moolenaar
Mrs. Lawrence	Mr. Newhouse
Ms. Lee of California	Mr. Reschenthaler
Mrs. Lee of Nevada	Mr. Rogers
Ms. McCollum	Mr. Rutherford
Ms. Meng	Mr. Simpson
Ms. Pingree	Mr. Stewart
Mr. Pocan	Mr. Valadao
Mr. Quigley	Mr. Womack
Ms. Roybal-Allard	
Mr. Ruppersberger	
Mr. Ryan	
Mrs. Torres	
Mr. Trone	
Ms. Underwood	
Ms. Wasserman Schultz	
Mrs. Watson Coleman	
Ms. Wexton	

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 9

Date: June 28, 2022
Measure: Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Bill, FY 2023
Motion by: Mr. Rutherford
Description of Motion: Prohibits funds in the bill from being used to implement section 19 (establishing accreditation standards) or section 20 (supporting safe and effective policing through grantmaking) of the Executive Order on Advancing Effective, Accountable Policing and Criminal Justice Practices to Enhance Public Trust and Public Safety, dated May 25, 2022.
Results: Not Adopted 24 yeas to 31 nays

Members Voting Yea	*Members Voting Nay*
Mr. Aderholt	Mr. Aguilar
Mr. Amodei	Mr. Bishop
Mr. Calvert	Mrs. Bustos
Mr. Cline	Mr. Cartwright
Mr. Cole	Mr. Case
Mr. Diaz-Balart	Ms. Clark
Mr. Fleischmann	Mr. Cuellar
Mr. Garcia	Ms. DeLauro
Mr. Gonzales	Mr. Espaillat
Ms. Granger	Ms. Frankel
Dr. Harris	Mr. Harder
Ms. Herrera Beutler	Ms. Kaptur
Mrs. Hinson	Mr. Kilmer
Mr. Joyce	Mrs. Kirkpatrick
Ms. Letlow	Mrs. Lawrence
Mr. Moolenaar	Ms. Lee of California
Mr. Newhouse	Mrs. Lee of Nevada
Mr. Reschenthaler	Ms. McCollum
Mr. Rogers	Ms. Meng
Mr. Rutherford	Ms. Pingree
Mr. Simpson	Mr. Pocan
Mr. Stewart	Mr. Quigley
Mr. Valadao	Ms. Roybal-Allard
Mr. Womack	Mr. Ruppersberger
	Mr. Ryan
	Mrs. Torres
	Mr. Trone
	Ms. Underwood
	Ms. Wasserman Schultz
	Mrs. Watson Coleman
	Ms. Wexton

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 10

Date: June 28, 2022
Measure: Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Bill, FY 2023
Motion by: Ms. Kaptur
Description of Motion: To report the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill to the House, as amended.
Results: Adopted 31 yeas to 24 nays

Members Voting Yea	*Members Voting Nay*
Mr. Aguilar	Mr. Aderholt
Mr. Bishop	Mr. Amodei
Mrs. Bustos	Mr. Calvert
Mr. Cartwright	Mr. Cline
Mr. Case	Mr. Cole
Ms. Clark	Mr. Diaz-Balart
Mr. Cuellar	Mr. Fleischmann
Ms. DeLauro	Mr. Garcia
Mr. Espaillat	Mr. Gonzales
Ms. Frankel	Ms. Granger
Mr. Harder	Dr. Harris
Ms. Kaptur	Ms. Herrera Beutler
Mr. Kilmer	Mrs. Hinson
Mrs. Kirkpatrick	Mr. Joyce
Mrs. Lawrence	Ms. Letlow
Ms. Lee of California	Mr. Moolenaar
Mrs. Lee of Nevada	Mr. Newhouse
Ms. McCollum	Mr. Reschenthaler
Ms. Meng	Mr. Rogers
Ms. Pingree	Mr. Rutherford
Mr. Pocan	Mr. Simpson
Mr. Quigley	Mr. Stewart
Ms. Roybal-Allard	Mr. Valadao
Mr. Ruppersberger	Mr. Womack
Mr. Ryan	
Mrs. Torres	
Mr. Trone	
Ms. Underwood	
Ms. Wasserman Schultz	
Mrs. Watson Coleman	
Ms. Wexton	

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.

Rescissions

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 Justice:	
Working Capital Fund	$100,000,000
Assets Forfeiture Fund	100,000,000
Office of Justice Programs	75,000,000
Community Oriented Policing Services	15,000,000
Office on Violence Against Women	15,000,000

Disclosure of Earmarks and Congressionally Directed Spending Items

The following table is submitted in compliance with clause 9 of rule XXI, and lists the congressional earmarks (as defined in paragraph (e) of clause 9) contained in the bill or in this report. Neither the bill nor the report contain any limited tax benefits or limited tariff benefits as defined in paragraphs (f) or (g) of clause 9 of rule XXI.

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES

[Community Project Funding]

Agency	Account	Recipient	Location	Project	House Amount	House Requestor(s)
DOC	NIST—Construction	The Ohio State University	Columbus, OH	Battery Innovation Laboratory and Education Center	$4,500,000	Beatty, Carey
DOC	NIST—Construction	The University of Scranton	Scranton, PA	Workforce Development, Applied Research and Outreach Center in Health, Science and Cybersecurity	16,623,000	Cartwright
DOC	NIST—Construction	St. Mary's University	San Antonio, TX	Construction and Equipment for the Innovation Center at St. Mary's University	5,561,000	Castro (TX)
DOC	NIST—Construction	Claflin University	Orangeburg, SC	Claflin University Bioscience Research and Technology Center	17,417,000	Clyburn
DOC	NIST—Construction	Tennessee State University	Nashville, TN	Tennessee State University Harned Hall Biological Sciences Research Building Renovation	3,000,000	Cooper
DOC	NIST—Construction	Institute for Sustainable Biotechnology at the Inter-American University of Puerto Rico	Barranquitas, PR	Center for Food Security and Sustainable Agriculture	942,000	Gonzalez-Colon
DOC	NIST—Construction	University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez Campus	Mayaguez, PR	Aerospace Research Institute	7,500,000	Gonzalez-Colon
DOC	NIST—Construction	Harris County	Harris County, TX	Institute of Forensic Sciences Design and Renovation	12,164,000	Green (TX)
DOC	NIST—Construction	The University of Toledo	Toledo, OH	Health Sciences Bioresearch Lab	6,900,000	Kaptur
DOC	NIST—Construction	Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology (CCAT)	East Hartford, CT	Connecticut Manufacturing Technology & Innovation Center	16,173,000	Larson (CT)
DOC	NIST—Construction	University of Missouri—Columbia	Columbia, MO	Next Generation University of Missouri Research Reactor	20,000,000	Luetkemeyer
DOC	NIST—Construction	University of Colorado Boulder	Boulder, CO	University of Colorado Boulder JILA	2,000,000	Neguse
DOC	NIST—Construction	Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences	East Boothbay, ME	Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences Innovation and Education Wing Project	10,622,000	Pingree
DOC	NIST—Construction	Utica University	Utica, NY	Utica University Crime Lab	717,000	Tenney

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES—Continued

[Community Project Funding]

Agency	Account	Recipient	Location	Project	House Amount	House Requestor(s)
DOC	NIST—Construction	Mount St. Mary's University	Emmitsburg, MD	Mount St. Mary's Expanding STEM Access, Innovation and Workforce Development in Rural Maryland	4,000,000	Trone
DOC	NIST—Construction	Ohio University	Athens, OH	Russ Research Center Digital Design Studio Development	1,500,000	Turner
DOC	NIST—Construction	Wright State University	Dayton, OH	The Wright State University Power House Research Center	2,000,000	Turner
DOC	NIST—Construction	Florida International University	Miami-Dade County, FL	Robotics and Autonomous Systems Laboratory for Coastal Conservation and Restoration	9,562,000	Wilson (FL)
DOC	NIST—STRS	University of Connecticut	Storrs, CT	Long-term Risk Management and Mitigation Strategies of Crumbling Foundations	4,000,000	Courtney
DOC	NIST—STRS	Mentoring Youth Through Technology	Harvey, IL	Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) After School Program	100,000	Kelly (IL)
DOC	NIST—STRS	Desert Research Institute	Reno, NV	Quantifying Carbon Fluxes	2,500,000	Lee (NV)
DOC	NIST—STRS	Rochester Institute of Technology	Rochester, NY	Rochester Institute of Technology	2,000,000	Morelle
DOC	NIST—STRS	NH Manufacturing Extension Partnership	Concord, NH	Building the Next Generation of Skilled Workforce in Manufacturing	450,000	Pappas
DOC	NIST—STRS	Morgan State University	Baltimore, MD	Center for Equitable Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning	2,000,000	Ruppersberger
DOC	NIST—STRS	Oakland University	Rochester, MI	Oakland University Vehicular Wireless Communications System Testing and Standards Facility	3,000,000	Stevens
DOC	NIST—STRS	Schoolcraft Community College District	Livonia, MI	Industry 4.0 Training at Schoolcraft College's Manufacturing & Engineering Center	1,025,000	Stevens

DOC	NIST—STRS	Griffiss Institute	Rome, NY	Smart-X Internet of Things (IOT) Living Lab	3,000,000	Tenney
DOC	NOAA—ORF	Desert Research Institute	Reno, NV	Lake Tahoe Basin Instrumentation and Data Sharing	2,000,000	Amodei
DOC	NOAA—ORF	Gulf Shellfish Institute	Palmetto, FL	Estuary Habitat Restoration and Resilience	2,500,000	Buchanan
DOC	NOAA—ORF	University of South Florida	St. Petersburg, FL	Surveillance of Pollution from Emerging Chemical Threats in Tampa Bay	3,400,000	Crist
DOC	NOAA—ORF	Texas State University	San Marcos, TX	Texas State University Meadows Center Climate Change Impact on Water Initiative	2,000,000	Doggett
DOC	NOAA—ORF	Florida Gulf Coast University	Fort Myers, FL	Examining the Influence of Discharges on Coastal Ecosystems Health and HAB Dynamics	440,000	Donalds
DOC	NOAA—ORF	Louisiana State University, Office of Research & Economic Development	Baton Rouge, LA	Coastal High Frequency RADAR System for Coastal Protection and Prediction	5,000,000	Graves (LA)
DOC	NOAA—ORF	The Water Institute of the Gulf	Baton Rouge, LA	The Resilience Center	2,500,000	Graves (LA)
DOC	NOAA—ORF	Port of Morgan City	Morgan City, LA	Meteorological Stations Operations and Maintenance	200,000	Higgins (LA)
DOC	NOAA—ORF	Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper	Buffalo, NY	Shoreline Monitoring and Assessment in the Eastern Basin of Lake Erie	480,000	Higgins (NY)
DOC	NOAA—ORF	University of Iowa	Iowa City, IA	Advanced Hydrologic Monitoring, Assessment, and Flood Forecasting for Eastern Iowa	1,000,000	Hinson, Miller-Meeks
DOC	NOAA—ORF	Noyo Center for Marine Science	Mendocino County, CA	Fighting Climate-Driven Collapse in Coastal Habitats	294,000	Huffman
DOC	NOAA—ORF	Regents of the University of Washington	Seattle, WA	Equity and Ecosystem Health Through Water Column Observation	1,500,000	Jayapal
DOC	NOAA—ORF	Nature Conservancy	Honolulu and Hawaii Counties, HI	Building Coastal Resilience through Community-Based Conservation	500,000	Kahele
DOC	NOAA—ORF	University of Louisiana Monroe	Monroe, LA	State Mesonet Network Project	2,000,000	Letlow

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES—Continued

[Community Project Funding]

Agency	Account	Recipient	Location	Project	House Amount	House Requestor(s)
DOC	NOAA—ORF	Oklahoma State University	Stillwater, OK	Oklahoma Center for Hydrological Integrated Monitoring, Modeling, and Mitigation	1,800,000	Lucas
DOC	NOAA—ORF	New England Aquarium Corporation	Boston, MA	New England Aquarium Modernization and Educational Programming	2,400,000	Lynch
DOC	NOAA—ORF	Mote Marine Laboratory, Inc.	Sarasota, FL	Mote Marine Laboratory's Florida Seagrass Project	750,000	Murphy (FL)
DOC	NOAA—ORF	The Nature Conservancy in Florida	Winter Park, FL	Modernization of Recreational Fishing Catch Data and Support Humane Catch and Release Education in the South Atlantic	750,000	Murphy (FL)
DOC	NOAA—ORF	Hudson River Park Trust	New York, NY	Hudson River Habitat Enhancement Project	750,000	Nadler
DOC	NOAA—ORF	Mississippi State University Global Center for Aquatic Health and Food Security	Gulfport, MS	Gulf Coast Aquatic Health Laboratory	1,800,000	Palazzo
DOC	NOAA—ORF	The Regents of the University of California; University of California, San Diego	San Diego County, CA	Aerosolized Coastal Water Pollution Impacts Study	1,500,000	Peters
DOC	NOAA—ORF	Coral World Ocean and Reef Initiative, Inc.	St. Thomas, VI	Coral and Aquatic Research and Restoration	900,000	Plaskett
DOC	NOAA—ORF	Upper Columbia United Tribes	Spokane , WA	Upper Columbia United Tribes Salmon Reintroduction Project	5,000,000	Rodgers (WA)
DOC	NOAA—ORF	Center for Marine Science at UNC Wilmington	Wilmington, NC	UNC Wilmington Marine Science Center Research	750,000	Rouzer
DOC	NOAA—ORF	University of Miami	Coral Gables, FL	University of Miami Marine Aquaculture Pilot-Scale Grow-Out Module	750,000	Salazar
DOC	NOAA—ORF	University of Washington Tacoma	Tacoma, WA	Center for Urban Waters—Protecting Salmon from Toxic Chemicals	1,000,000	Strickland

DOC	NOAA—ORF	University of Nevada, Las Vegas	Las Vegas, NV	Water Analyzing Equipment for Climate Research and Education	200,000	Titus
DOC	NOAA—ORF	Florida International University	Miami, FL	Coastal Subsurface Water Table and Saltwater Intrusion Monitoring Systems	9,776,000	Wasserman Schultz
DOC	NOAA—ORF	Nova Southeastern University	Ft. Lauderdale, FL	Coastal Ecosystems Disease Etiology, Remediation, and Restoration for Community Ecological and Economic Health	3,841,000	Wasserman Schultz
DOJ	COPS Tech	Windsor Heights Police and Fire Department	Windsor Heights, IA	Windsor Heights P25 Radio Replacement Project	301,000	Axne
DOJ	COPS Tech	Citrus Heights Police Department	Citrus Heights, CA	Citrus Heights Police Department Emergency Communication Enhancements	540,000	Bera
DOJ	COPS Tech	Pasco Sheriff's Office	Land O'Lakes, FL	Technological Upgrades to the Center for the Recovery of Endangered and Missing Persons (CREMP)	2,000,000	Bilirakis
DOJ	COPS Tech	City of Sarasota	Sarasota, FL	Sarasota Police Department Equipment Upgrade	300,000	Buchanan
DOJ	COPS Tech	City of St. Louis	St. Louis, MO	Improvement of 911 Dispatch System	685,000	Bush
DOJ	COPS Tech	Escambia County Commission	Brewton , AL	P25 Radio Infrastructure for the Escambia County Commission	1,204,000	Carl
DOJ	COPS Tech	City of Round Rock	Round Rock, TX	Round Rock Public Safety Equipment	2,000,000	Carter (TX)
DOJ	COPS Tech	Liberty Hill Police Department	Liberty Hill, TX	Liberty Hill Equipment Modernization	128,000	Carter (TX)
DOJ	COPS Tech	Wayne Police Department	Wayne, IL	Law Enforcement Equipment Upgrades	54,000	Casten
DOJ	COPS Tech	Clay County	Hayesville , NC	Enhancing Community Policing for Clay County, NC by Improving the Flow of Critical Technology	300,000	Cawthorn
DOJ	COPS Tech	Tiverton Police Department	Tiverton, RI	Tiverton Public Safety Communications Project	500,000	Cicilline
DOJ	COPS Tech	Suffield Police Department	Suffield, CT	Computer Aided Dispatch/Records Management System Project	180,000	Courtney

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES—Continued

[Community Project Funding]

Agency	Account	Recipient	Location	Project	House Amount	House Requestor(s)
DOJ	COPS Tech	City of St. Petersburg, Florida	St. Petersburg, FL	Police Computer-Aided Dispatch (CAD)/Record Management System (RMS)/Mobile System	750,000	Crist
DOJ	COPS Tech	Olathe Police Department	Olathe, KS	Mobile Command Post Equipment Upgrades	300,000	Davids (KS)
DOJ	COPS Tech	Calhoun County Sheriff's Department	Hardin, IL	Policing Equipment and Technology Upgrades	436,000	Davis, Rodney
DOJ	COPS Tech	Piatt County Sheriff's Office	Monticello, IL	911 Radio Communication System Upgrade	607,000	Davis, Rodney
DOJ	COPS Tech	Lane County	Lane County, OR	Lane County Public Safety Dispatch Center Equipment Upgrade	176,000	DeFazio
DOJ	COPS Tech	Whatcom County Sheriff	Whatcom County, WA	Whatcom County Integrated Public Safety Radio System	500,000	DelBene
DOJ	COPS Tech	City of Doral Police Department	Doral, FL	Doral Police Department Real-Time Operations Center Safe-City Policing Technology Project	1,000,000	Diaz-Balart
DOJ	COPS Tech	Harris County Sheriff's Office	Harris County, TX	Virtual Reality Training Equipment	100,000	Fletcher
DOJ	COPS Tech	City of Aurora, IL	Aurora, IL	Public Safety Modernization and Technology Infrastructure Upgrade	2,280,000	Foster
DOJ	COPS Tech	City of Boynton Beach	Boynton Beach, FL	Emergency Operations Radio Tower Replacement Project	1,025,000	Frankel, Lois
DOJ	COPS Tech	City of West Palm Beach	West Palm Beach, FL	Secure Mobile Radio Site	969,500	Frankel, Lois
DOJ	COPS Tech	Middle Rio Grande Development Council	Carrizo Springs, TX	Regional Trunking Radio System Upgrade	5,484,000	Gonzales, Tony
DOJ	COPS Tech	City of Fairview Park	Fairview Park, OH	Fairview Park Police Department Radio Replacement Project	604,000	Gonzalez (OH)
DOJ	COPS Tech	City of Donna	Donna, TX	Acquisition of Safety Mobile Application for Domestic Violence Victims	325,000	Gonzalez, Vicente

DOJ	COPS Tech	Bergen County Sheriff's Office	Bergen County, NJ	County Park/Road Cameras and Message Boards	954,000	Gottheimer
DOJ	COPS Tech	Borough of Bogota Police Department	Bogota, NJ	Communications Equipment Upgrades	255,000	Gottheimer
DOJ	COPS Tech	West Milford Township	West Milford, NJ	West Milford Township—Communications Equipment	2,893,000	Gottheimer
DOJ	COPS Tech	East Baton Rouge Sheriff's Office	Baton Rouge, LA	EBRSO Investigative Support Unit	736,000	Graves (LA)
DOJ	COPS Tech	Mississippi Department of Public Safety	Jackson, MS	MS Capitol Police Technology Improvements	550,000	Guest
DOJ	COPS Tech	Town of New Fairfield	New Fairfield, CT	New Fairfield PD Emergency Communications System Upgrade	2,100,000	Hayes
DOJ	COPS Tech	Town of Watertown Police Department	Watertown, CT	Watertown PD Two Way Radio Communications Upgrade	3,375,000	Hayes
DOJ	COPS Tech	City of Battle Ground	Battle Ground, WA	Battle Ground Public Safety Technology Improvements	413,000	Herrera Beutler
DOJ	COPS Tech	City of Long Beach	Long Beach , WA	Long Beach Police Department Body Camera Project	95,000	Herrera Beutler
DOJ	COPS Tech	City of Longview	Longview, WA	De-Escalation Police Training Simulator Project	215,000	Herrera Beutler
DOJ	COPS Tech	City of Washougal Police Department	Washougal, WA	Washougal Body-Worn Cameras Project	131,000	Herrera Beutler
DOJ	COPS Tech	Cowlitz 911 Public Authority	Kelso, WA	Cowlitz 911 Public Safety Radio Technology Modernization & Radio System Microwave Replacement	2,179,000	Herrera Beutler
DOJ	COPS Tech	Lewis County	Chehalis, WA	Lewis County Public Safety Radio Communications Project	2,800,000	Herrera Beutler
DOJ	COPS Tech	Wahkiakum County Sheriff's Office	Cathlamet, WA	Wahkiakum County Radio Improvement Project	1,595,000	Herrera Beutler
DOJ	COPS Tech	Town of Amherst	Williamsville, NY	North Amherst Police Communications System Tower and Equipment Acquisition	900,000	Higgins (NY)
DOJ	COPS Tech	County of Del Norte	Del Norte County, CA	Sheriff's Office Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) and Records Management (RMS) Systems Update	550,000	Huffman
DOJ	COPS Tech	Lancaster Police Department	Lancaster, NY	Lancaster Police Department Body-Worn Cameras	200,500	Jacobs (NY)

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES—Continued

[Community Project Funding]

Agency	Account	Recipient	Location	Project	House Amount	House Requestor(s)
DOJ	COPS Tech	Dallas Police Department	Dallas, TX	Dallas Police Department Record Management System	935,000	Johnson (TX), Van Duyne
DOJ	COPS Tech	Toledo Police Department	Toledo, OH	Enhanced Portable Radio Equipment	1,250,000	Kaptur
DOJ	COPS Tech	Cayuga County	Auburn, NY	Cayuga County Emergency 911 Radios Replacement Project	1,000,000	Katko
DOJ	COPS Tech	City of Eupora	Eupora, MS	Eupora Police In-Car Video/Body Camera/License Plate Reader	125,000	Kelly (MS)
DOJ	COPS Tech	City of Eupora	Eupora, MS	Eupora Police Technology Modernization	128,000	Kelly (MS)
DOJ	COPS Tech	County of Burlington	Burlington County, NJ	Burlington County Emergency Communications Project	1,200,000	Kim (NJ)
DOJ	COPS Tech	City of Peoria	Peoria, IL	Regional Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) and Records Management System (RMS)	2,000,000	LaHood
DOJ	COPS Tech	Curry County	Curry County, NM	Virtual Reality Training Simulators	267,000	Leger Fernandez
DOJ	COPS Tech	Christian County Emergency Services	Ozark, MO	Christian County Emergency Services SWINS Radio Project	8,547,000	Long
DOJ	COPS Tech	New York Police Department	New York, NY	Fixed Plate Reader System Installation	2,000,000	Malliotakis
DOJ	COPS Tech	City of Middletown	Middletown, NY	Middletown Police Security and Technology Initiative	300,000	Maloney, Sean Patrick
DOJ	COPS Tech	City of Petersburg	Petersburg, VA	Petersburg Emergency Public Safety Communications System	3,203,000	McEachin
DOJ	COPS Tech	Hancock County Commission	New Cumberland, WV	Video Monitoring in Cruisers, Body Cameras	325,000	McKinley
DOJ	COPS Tech	City of Perry	Perry, MI	City of Perry Security Upgrades	130,000	Moolenaar

DOJ	COPS Tech	Rochester Police Department	Rochester, NY	City of Rochester: Upgrade Video Camera Surveillance System	300,000	Morelle
DOJ	COPS Tech	Porter County Sheriff Department	Porter County, IN	Porter County Sheriff Department Equipment Acquisition	400,000	Mrvan
DOJ	COPS Tech	Whiting Police Department	Whiting, IN	Technology and Equipment: License Plate Readers	215,000	Mrvan
DOJ	COPS Tech	City of La Verne	La Verne, CA	City of La Verne Public Safety Camera Network Upgrade Project	500,000	Napolitano
DOJ	COPS Tech	Boulder County Sheriff's Office, Office of Disaster Management	Boulder , CO	Boulder County Sheriff Long Range Acoustical Device Siren System	1,080,000	Neguse
DOJ	COPS Tech	Benton County	Prosser, WA	SECOMM Microwave System Replacement	2,000,000	Newhouse
DOJ	COPS Tech	County of Mono	Mammoth Lakes, CA	Public Safety Radio System Upgrade	3,000,000	Obernolte
DOJ	COPS Tech	Hancock County E–911 Commission	Kiln, MS	Hancock County E–911 Radios	900,000	Palazzo
DOJ	COPS Tech	The City of Gautier	Gautier, MS	City of Gautier Police Equipment Upgrade and Improvements	507,000	Palazzo
DOJ	COPS Tech	City of Salinas	Salinas, CA	Salinas Police Integrated Technology for Community Safety	1,165,000	Panetta
DOJ	COPS Tech	Hampton Police Department	Hampton, NH	Radio System Upgrades	1,376,000	Pappas
DOJ	COPS Tech	Londonderry Police Department	Londonberry, NH	Emergency Dispatch Center Workstations and Equipment Upgrades	75,000	Pappas
DOJ	COPS Tech	Township of South Hackensack	South Hackensack, NJ	South Hackensack Public Safety Communications Project	210,000	Pascrell
DOJ	COPS Tech	Midland County	Midland, TX	Midland County Sheriff's Office Radio and Communications Infrastructure Project	685,000	Pfluger
DOJ	COPS Tech	Edina Police Department	Edina, MN	Edina Police Department Procurement of Tactical Microrobot Systems	78,000	Phillips

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES—Continued

[Community Project Funding]

Agency	Account	Recipient	Location	Project	House Amount	House Requestor(s)
DOJ	COPS Tech	City of Baltimore	Baltimore, MD	License Plate Readers	1,300,000	Ruppersberger
DOJ	COPS Tech	Warren Police Department	Warren, OH	Law Enforcement Technology Enhancement	170,000	Ryan
DOJ	COPS Tech	Miami Dade Police Department	Doral, FL	Miami Dade Police Department Mobile Computing Upgrade	3,750,000	Salazar
DOJ	COPS Tech	Tillamook County	Tillamook County, OR	Tillamook County Public Safety Radio Communication System	2,000,000	Schrader
DOJ	COPS Tech	Township of Chatham	Morris County, NJ	Public Safety Information Sharing Technology Community Project	809,000	Sherrill
DOJ	COPS Tech	Township of Weehawken	Weehawken, NJ	Public Safety Department's Radio System Update	1,000,000	Sires
DOJ	COPS Tech	Union City Police Department	Union City, NJ	Union City's Digital Trunked Radio System Replacement	1,200,000	Sires
DOJ	COPS Tech	County of Ocean	Toms River, NJ	9–1–1 Call Center and Emergency Management Office	500,000	Smith (NJ)
DOJ	COPS Tech	Amelia County	Amelia County, VA	Amelia County Public Safety Interoperable Radio System	1,000,000	Spanberger
DOJ	COPS Tech	Chesterfield County Sheriff's Office	Chesterfield County, VA	Virtual Realty Training System	175,000	Spanberger
DOJ	COPS Tech	Louisa County	Louisa County, VA	East End Radio Improvements	1,000,000	Spanberger
DOJ	COPS Tech	Nottoway County	Nottoway County, VA	Nottoway County Public Safety Radio Communications System	1,000,000	Spanberger
DOJ	COPS Tech	Rappahannock Regional Criminal Justice Academy	Fredericksburg, VA	Virtual Reality Judgement Training Simulator	125,000	Spanberger
DOJ	COPS Tech	City of Chandler	Chandler, AZ	Joint Mobile Command Center Equipment	680,000	Stanton

DOJ	COPS Tech	Pierce County Sheriff's Department	Pierce County, WA	Pierce County Metro Dive Team Equipment	248,000	Strickland
DOJ	COPS Tech	The City of Vallejo	Vallejo, CA	The Vallejo Ghost Gun and Gun Violence Prevention Initiative	830,000	Thompson (CA)
DOJ	COPS Tech	Atlantic City Police Department	Atlantic City, NJ	Atlantic City Police Department—City Wide Cameras	800,000	Van Drew
DOJ	COPS Tech	City of Easton	Easton, PA	LIDAR for City of Easton Public Safety and Emergency Response	349,000	Wild
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	City of Charlotte	Charlotte, NC	Alternatives To Violence: Cure Violence Implementation	1,000,000	Adams
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	Mecklenburg County Criminal Justice Services Department	Mecklenburg County, NC	Data and Dashboards: Research and Enhancements to Ensure Mecklenburg County's Criminal Justice System is a Leader in Data-Informed Decision Making	1,000,000	Adams
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	Elko County Sheriff's Office	Elko, NV	Rapid DNA Technology	486,000	Amodei
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	Douglas County	Omaha, NE	Douglas County Youth Legal Services and Violence Reduction Initiative	1,000,000	Bacon
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	Urban Peace Institute	Los Angeles, CA	LA Peacemakers Coalition	7,400,000	Bass, Cardenas
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	OhioHealth Corporation	Columbus, OH	Sexual Assault Response Network of Central Ohio Outreach and Education	400,000	Beatty
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	City of Alexandria	Alexandria, VA	Full Deployment of Body-Worn Cameras in Alexandria Police Department	1,000,000	Beyer
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	City of Portland	Portland, OR	Community Safety Plan Design and Programming	2,000,000	Blumenauer
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	Justice Innovation Inc.	New Rochelle, NY	New Rochelle Community Youth Violence Intervention Initiative	1,125,000	Bowman
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	Prince George's County	Prince George's County, MD	Police Athletic League Partnerships and Program Expansion	1,117,000	Brown (MD)
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	Cleveland Peacemakers Inc.	Cleveland, OH	Cleveland Peacemakers Alliance's Violence Prevention Program	500,000	Brown (OH)

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES—Continued

[Community Project Funding]

Agency	Account	Recipient	Location	Project	House Amount	House Requestor(s)
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	County of Ventura	Ventura County, CA	Ventura County Family Justice Center Oxnard Satellite	640,000	Brownley
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	The Foundation United	Sarasota, FL	Foundation United Funding to Help Law Enforcement Reduce and Eliminate Human Trafficking	800,000	Buchanan
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	Riverside County Sheriff's Department	Riverside, CA	Forensic Rapid DNA Technology	515,000	Calvert
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	Village of Blanchester Police Department	Blanchester, OH	Police Cruisers	100,000	Carey
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	Orleans Parish Sheriff's Office	New Orleans, LA	Technology, Equipment, and Programming Improvements to Support People in Custody and Streamline Reentry	3,907,000	Carter (LA)
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	City of Scranton	Scranton, PA	The Scranton Police Department Community Policing Technology and Equipment Initiative	3,500,000	Cartwright
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	Luzerne County District Attorney's Office	Luzerne County, PA	Luzerne County Emergency Services Unit	2,500,000	Cartwright
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	City of Montgomery	Cincinnati, OH	Safe Neighborhood Camera Initiative	200,000	Chabot
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	City of Miramar	Miramar, FL	Public Safety Mental Health Program	100,000	Cherfilus-McCormick
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	Lifeline to Success, Inc.	Memphis, TN	Reentry Services to Reduce Recidivism	500,000	Cohen
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	Madera County Sheriff's Office	Madera County, CA	Madera County Sherriff's Office Rapid DNA System Project	703,000	Costa
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	Merced County Sheriff	Merced County, CA	Merced County Rapid DNA System	457,000	Costa
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	Dakota County Sheriff's Office	Dakota County, MN	Electronic Crimes Unit Outreach and Program Expansion	325,000	Craig
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	Scott County Sheriff's Office	Scott County, MN	Scott County Sheriff's Office Purchase of Rescue Technology and Equipment	84,000	Craig

DOJ	OJP—Byrne	Montgomery County District Attorney's Office	Montgomery County, PA	The Racial Justice Improvement Project (RJIP)	443,000	Dean
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	City of Orlando	Orlando, FL	City of Orlando Police Department In-Car Camera Systems Project	985,000	Demings
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	Orange County Sheriff's Office	Orange County, FL	Identification of Unidentified Murder Victims Using Genetic Genealogy	49,000	Demings
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	Orange County Sheriff's Office	Orange County, FL	OCSO Crisis Intervention Training (CIT)	185,000	Demings
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	Town of Eatonville	Eatonville, FL	Eatonville Weed and Seed Community Policing Initiative	1,000,000	Demings
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	City of Richmond, Office of Neighborhood Safety	Richmond, CA	Office of Neighborhood Safety Community Violence Intervention Programs Project	300,000	DeSaulnier
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	Contra Costa County, Probation Department, Office of Reentry & Justice	Contra Costa County, CA	Strategies for Supporting Youth in the Community	1,180,000	DeSaulnier, McNerney
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	Stand with Parkland	Broward County, FL	Implementation of Threat Reporting Mobile Application for Local Education and Public Safety Agencies	500,000	Deutch
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	Downriver Community Conference	Wayne County, MI	Technology Improvements for Downriver Mutual Aid Consortium	750,000	Dingell
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	City of Austin	Austin, TX	City of Austin Neighborhood Peace Project Expansion	1,002,000	Doggett
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	Credible Messenger Mentoring Movement	New York, NY	Credible Messenger Mentoring Initiative	530,000	Espaillat
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	Bucks County Department of Corrections	Doylestown, PA	Bucks County Dept. of Corrections Outmate Program	900,000	Fitzpatrick
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	Bucks County District Attorney's Office	Doylestown, PA	Bucks County DA L.O.V.E. Is the Answer	545,000	Fitzpatrick
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	Office of the Sheriff of Bucks County	Doylestown, PA	Bucks County Sheriff Rapid DNA	750,000	Fitzpatrick
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	L.E.A.D. Inc, Tennessee	Brentwood, TN	Drug and Violence Prevention Program	203,000	Fleischmann
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	Houston Police Department	Houston, TX	Houston Police Department Mobile Community Storefront Program and Equipment	1,000,000	Fletcher

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES—Continued

[Community Project Funding]

Agency	Account	Recipient	Location	Project	House Amount	House Requestor(s)
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	Village of Amityville	Amityville, NY	Village of Amityville Police Vehicles Request	210,000	Garbarino
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	City of Lancaster	Lancaster, CA	Lancaster City Public Safety and Crime Prevention Project	1,100,000	Garcia (CA)
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	Municipality of Ciales	Ciales, PR	Law Enforcement Equipment, Technology, and Training for the Ciales Municipal Police	92,000	Gonzalez-Colon
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	Municipality of Loiza	Loiza, PR	Acquisition of Two Police Patrol Boats for the Loiza Municipal Police	279,000	Gonzalez-Colon
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	Municipality of Vieques	Vieques, PR	Municipality of Vieques Security Camera System	420,000	Gonzalez-Colon
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	Town of Newton	Sussex County, NJ	First Response Communications Equipment	1,333,000	Gottheimer
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	Louisiana Department of Public Safety & Corrections, Public Safety Offices, Office of State Police	Baton Rouge, LA	Less Than Lethal and De-escalation Training Center	2,220,000	Graves (LA)
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	TRUCE of Baton Rouge, Inc.	Baton Rouge, LA	High-Risk Youth Crime and Violence Diversion Program	375,000	Graves (LA)
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	Mississippi Forensics Laboratory	Pearl, MS	Unidentified and Missing Persons Digital and Skeletal Remains Repository	500,000	Guest
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	Police Activity League of Waterbury, Inc.	Waterbury, CT	Police Activity League Program Expansion	172,000	Hayes
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	City of North Las Vegas	North Las Vegas, NV	North Las Vegas Police Officer Wellness Program	145,000	Horsford
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	Clark County	Clark County, NV	Counseling Services for Domestic Violence and DUI to Reduce Recidivism for Indigent Clients	175,000	Horsford
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	Gentlemen By Choice Community Development Corporation	North Las Vegas, NV	Ty's Place—A Safe Place for Teens: Youth Personal Development and Leadership Program	250,000	Horsford

DOJ	OJP—Byrne	Chester County District Attorney's Office	Chester County, PA	Chester County District Attorney's Office Rapid DNA Program	325,000	Houlahan
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	Anne Arundel County	Annapolis, MD	Anne Arundel County Fresh START Program	400,000	Hoyer
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	Shaphat Outreach	El Cajon, CA	No Shots Fired	1,200,000	Jacobs (CA)
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	Cambria County District Attorney's Office	Ebensburg, PA	Multi-County Rapid DNA Law Enforcement Database Initiative	577,000	Joyce (PA)
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	City of New Bedford	New Bedford, MA	Equitable Approaches to Public Safety in the City of New Bedford	563,000	Keating
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	City of Harvey	Harvey, IL	Streetlight Improvement for Enhanced Public Safety	1,500,000	Kelly (IL)
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	Full Gospel Christian Assemblies International	Hazel Crest, IL	Orchid Healing Circles for Victims of Gun Violence	120,000	Kelly (IL)
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	City of Erie	Erie, PA	Erie Youth Violence Prevention Program	500,000	Kelly (PA)
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	City of Erie	Erie, PA	Patrol Vehicle and Tactical Equipment	319,000	Kelly (PA)
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	Michigan State Police	Genesee County, Bay County, and Saginaw County, MI	Support for Mid-Michigan Law Enforcement	4,347,000	Kildee
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	North Orange County Public Safety Collaborative	Stanton, CA	North Orange County Public Safety Collaborative	5,000,000	Kim (CA)
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	County of Orange	Orange County, CA	Orange County Intelligence Assessment Center Project	3,470,000	Kim (CA), Levin (CA)
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	Office of the Ocean County Prosecutor	Ocean County, NJ	Comprehensive Officer Assistance Program	300,000	Kim (NJ)
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	Elk Grove Village Police Department	Elk Grove Village, IL	Elk Grove Village Cares Program	500,000	Krishnamoorthi
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	City of Washington	Washington, IL	Washington, IL, Police Evidence Storage	583,000	LaHood
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	County of Lassen	Susanville, CA	Lassen and Plumas County Emergency Communications Integration Project	1,405,000	LaMalfa

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES—Continued

[Community Project Funding]

Agency	Account	Recipient	Location	Project	House Amount	House Requestor(s)
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	Siskiyou County Sheriff's Office	Yreka, CA	Modernization of the Siskiyou County Sheriff's Department	899,000	LaMalfa
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	Beaver County District Attorney's Office	Beaver County, PA	Ten-County SW–PA Rapid DNA Law Enforcement Initiative	577,000	Lamb
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	Northern Regional Police Department	Wexford, PA	Police K9 Program	170,000	Lamb
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	Detroit Police Department	Detroit, MI	Body-Worn Camera Program	1,000,000	Lawrence
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	Metro Solutions Inc.	Detroit, MI	DLIVE Violence Intervention	409,000	Lawrence
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	City of Oakland	Oakland, CA	Procedural Justice/Community Police Trust	646,000	Lee (CA)
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	City of San Leandro	San Leandro, CA	City of San Leandro Police Department Community Police Review Board	300,000	Lee (CA)
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	City of Boulder City, Nevada	Boulder City, NV	Boulder City Police Department Patrol Fleet	400,000	Lee (NV)
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	City of Henderson	Henderson, NV	Mental Health Co-Responder Crisis Response Unit	2,955,000	Lee (NV)
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	Grant Parish Sheriff's Office	Colfax, LA	Grant Parish Forensic Rapid DNA Technology for Investigations	462,000	Letlow
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	Ouachita Parish Sheriff's Office	Monroe, LA	Ouachita Parish Forensic Rapid DNA Technology for Investigations	706,000	Letlow
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	Camden County Prosecutor's Office	Camdenton, MO	Lake Area Counties Against Human Trafficking and Organized Crime Program	505,000	Luetkemeyer
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	North East Community Action Corporation	Troy, MO	Aspire Partnership Vocational Skills Training/Certificate Program	40,000	Luetkemeyer

DOJ	OJP—Byrne	City of Virginia Beach, VA	Virginia Beach, VA	City of Virginia Beach Law Enforcement Training Equipment Upgrades	1,500,000	Luria
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	New York Police Department	New York, NY	Patrol Response	1,000,000	Malliotakis
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	Town of Fishkill	Fishkill, NY	Fishkill Police Department Body Camera Acquisition Project	600,000	Maloney, Sean Patrick
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	One Step Further, Inc.	Greensboro, NC	Gate City Coalition/Cure Violence Model Program	621,000	Manning
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	Indian River State College	Ft. Pierce, FL	Indian River State College Public Safety Complex Expansion for Emergency Response Training	3,000,000	Mast
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	Ramsey County	Ramsey County, MN	Familiar Faces: Engaging Frequent Users of Emergency and Shelter Services	2,000,000	McCollum
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	Washington County	Washington County, MN	Washington County Sheriff Office Hybrid Patrol Vehicles and River Patrol Boats	1,600,000	McCollum
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	Contra Costa County, Office of the District Attorney	Contra Costa County, CA	Transition Aged Youth Diversion Program (TAY)	1,000,000	McNerney, Thompson (CA)
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	Town of Chapmanville	Chapmanville, WV	Law Enforcement K–9 Drug Interdiction Project	14,000	Miller (WV)
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	Town of Danville	Danville, WV	Danville Police Vehicle Upgrade	65,000	Miller (WV)
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	Gary Police Department	Gary, IN	Gary Police Department — Body-Worn and In-Car Cameras Project	1,000,000	Mrvan
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	Sanford Police Department	Sanford, FL	Sanford Police Department Barricades and Related Equipment for Community Events	99,000	Murphy (FL)
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	Volunteer UP Legal Clinic	Camden, NJ	South Jersey Pro Bono Legal Clinic	500,000	Norcross
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	Salt Lake County	Salt Lake City, UT	Salt Lake County Jail--Barriers for Suicide Prevention	4,000,000	Owens
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	Utah Department of Public Safety, State Bureau of Investigation	Taylorsville, UT	Utah Forensic Genetic Genealogy DNA Testing Initiative	300,000	Owens

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES—Continued

[Community Project Funding]

Agency	Account	Recipient	Location	Project	House Amount	House Requestor(s)
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	Stratham Police Department	Stratham, NH	In-Car Camera System	43,000	Pappas
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	Hennepin Technical College	Brooklyn Park, MN	Hennepin Technical College Procurement of Scenario-Based Training Equipment	2,090,000	Phillips
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	Maria Pew Family Foundation DBA Maria's Voice	Chaska, MN	Expanding Community-wide Domestic Violence Primary Prevention Education	250,000	Phillips
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	Virgin Islands Police Department	St. Croix, St. John, and St. Thomas, VI	Marine Enforcement Vessels	3,984,000	Plaskett
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	Boston Medical Center Corporation	Boston, MA	Boston Medical Center (BMC) Violence Intervention Advocacy Program (VIAP)	370,000	Pressley
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	Durham County	Durham County, NC	Justice Movement Community Coordinated Violence Intervention Project	700,000	Price (NC)
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	Chicago Police Memorial Foundation	Chicago, IL	Get Behind the Vest	540,000	Quigley
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	The Womans Opportunity Rehabilitation Center Inc.	Hempstead, NY	WORC Justice Services	638,000	Rice (NY)
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	City of Spokane	Spokane, WA	City of Spokane Municipal Court Domestic Violence Intervention Program	500,000	Rodgers (WA)
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	Spokane County Sheriff's Office	Spokane, WA	Spokane County Sheriff Helicopter Replacement	500,000	Rodgers (WA)
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	Spokane Police Department	Spokane, WA	Spokane Police Department Technology Improvement Plan	1,317,000	Rodgers (WA)
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	Jacksonville State University	Jacksonville, AL	Northeast Alabama Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Program	500,000	Rogers (AL)
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	Town of Fuquay-Varina	Fuquay-Varina, NC	Continuous Operation Body Camera System	180,000	Ross

DOJ	OJP—Byrne	Portage County Adult Probation Department	Portage County, OH	POWER PROGRAM—(Probationers, Offered, Work, Empowerment, Re-direction)	250,000	Ryan
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	Stark County Sheriff's Office	Stark County, OH	Stark County Sheriff's Office Driving Simulator and Body-Worn Cameras	350,000	Ryan
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	Anne Arundel County	Anne Arundel County, MD	Fresh START Program	400,000	Sarbanes
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	City of Glendale	Glendale, CA	Glendale Police Department Homeless Outreach Program	731,000	Schiff
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	Lake County State's Attorney	Lake County, IL	Lake County Gun Violence Prevention Initiative	750,000	Schneider
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	King County	King County, WA	King County Crisis Response Team	1,000,000	Schrier
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	King County Sheriff's Office	King County, WA	King County Sheriff's Office Body-Worn Cameras	1,000,000	Schrier
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	City of Hampton	Hampton , VA	Hampton Gun Violence Intervention Program	4,600,000	Scott (VA)
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	City of Newport News	Newport News, VA	Gun Violence and Violent Crime Reduction Initiative	760,000	Scott (VA)
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	City of Lovejoy Police Department	Lovejoy, GA	City of Lovejoy Police Tasers	34,000	Scott, David
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	Ingham County	Ingham County, MI	Advance Peace	500,000	Slotkin
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	Oakland County Sheriff's Office	Oakland County, MI	Oakland County Sheriff's Office Training Equipment	410,000	Slotkin
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	New Mexico Department of Public Safety	Santa Fe, NM	The Forensic Laboratory Gas Chromatograph—Infrared Detector (GC–IRD) Instrument Project	411,000	Stansbury
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	Maricopa County Sheriff's Office	Maricopa County, AZ	Rapid DNA Enhancement Project	600,000	Stanton
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	Thurston County Sheriff's Office	Thurston County, WA	Rapid DNA Forensic Technology for Investigations	448,000	Strickland
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	City of Hayward	Hayward, CA	The Hayward Evaluation and Response Teams (HEART) Program	709,000	Swalwell
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	City of Binghamton	Binghamton, NY	Binghamton Community Policing and Crime Prevention	864,000	Tenney

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES—Continued

[Community Project Funding]

Agency	Account	Recipient	Location	Project	House Amount	House Requestor(s)
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	Clark County	Clark County, NV	Clark County District Attorney's Office Case Management System—Criminal and Juvenile Divisions	1,576,000	Titus
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	Henderson Police Department	Boulder City, NV	Equipment for Eldorado Valley Regional Public Safety Training Facility	1,087,000	Titus
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	City of Montclair	Montclair, CA	Montclair Police Body-Worn Camera Program	800,000	Torres (CA)
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	Sandwich Police Department	Sandwich, IL	Transparency Equipment Improvement	121,000	Underwood
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	Kings County Sheriff's Office	Hanford, CA	Kings County Sheriff's Office Patrol Vehicle Replacement	234,000	Valadao
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	Inspira Health Network	Mullica Hill, NJ	Youth Violence Reduction Initiative	1,000,000	Van Drew
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	St. Nicks Alliance Corp	Brooklyn, NY	North Brooklyn Anti-Violence Initiative	1,000,000	Velazquez
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	Town of Davie	Davie, FL	Body-Worn Camera Program	800,000	Wasserman Schultz
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	Hamilton County Board of County Commissioners	Cincinnati, OH	Hamilton County Justice Center Security Improvements	1,000,000	Wenstrup
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	Twelfth Judicial District Drug Task Force	Fort Smith, AR	Technology Saving Arkansans	137,000	Womack
DOJ	OJP—Byrne	Family & Children's Place	Louisville, KY	Louisville Collaboration to Prevent Child Abuse, Youth and Family Violence	2,000,000	Yarmuth
NASA	SSMS	Houston Independent School District	Houston, TX	Houston-Rice Planetary Project	1,983,320	Garcia (TX), Jackson Lee
NASA	SSMS	American Museum of Natural History	New York, NY	Planetarium Programming Development	1,500,000	Maloney, Carolyn B., Nadler

NASA	SSMS	Virginia Air and Space Center	Hampton, VA	STEMConnect: NASA STEM Literacy & Community Enrichment	687,680	Scott (VA)

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 omitted is enclosed in black brackets, new matter is printed in italics, existing law in which no change is proposed is shown in roman):

SECTION 3201 OF THE CRIME CONTROL ACT OF 1990

SEC. 3201. Appropriations in this or any other Act hereafter for the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Drug Enforcement Administration, [or the Immigration and Naturalization Service] *the Federal Prison System, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, or the United States Marshals Service* are available, in an amount of not to exceed [$25,000] *$50,000* each per fiscal year, to pay humanitarian expenses incurred by or for any employee thereof (or any member of the employee's immediate family) that results from or is incident to serious illness, serious injury, or death occurring to the employee while on official duty or business.

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:

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, and the Federal Employees Group Life Insurance Fund.

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.

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 Executive Office for Immigration Review, language is included to transfer funds to the Executive Office 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 204 provides language for the transfer of funds between Department of Justice appropriations in certain circumstances.

Section 211 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 National Science Foundation, NSF Nonrecurring Expenses Fund, language is included allowing for the transfer of funds of expired discretionary funds into the Fund.

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.

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 pro-

motion 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. Language is included to establish a U.S. Foreign Commercial Service Minority Fellowship program.

Under Bureau of Industry and Security, Operations and Administration, the language provides an annual carveout for salaries and expenses and provides no-year availability of funds for nonpersonnel requirements. 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 two-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.

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.

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 representation 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 organiza-

tions 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 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.

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 180 days. Finally, language is included that limits the Department of Commerce's ability to transfer funds into Salaries and Expenses except in certain circumstances.

In addition, under Renovation and Modernization, language is included making available funds for expenses towards Department of Commerce facilities renovation and modernization.

Additionally, under the Nonrecurring Expenses Fund, language is included making available funds available for a three-year period for expenses toward cybersecurity risk mitigation and the modernization of its business application system. Further, language is included providing new authorities for the Department of Com-

merce to transfer funds for technology modernization projects, subject to congressional notification.

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.

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.

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 five-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 and information technology 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. 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, regardless 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 the amount of funds for official reception and representation expenses. 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 regarding 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 United States Marshals Service, 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. Language is included providing for a limitation on official reception and representation expenses.

Under Federal Bureau of Investigation, 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 acqui-

sition 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.

Under Federal Prison System, Salaries and Expenses, language is included making certain funds available for the First Step Act of 2018, and for transfer of some of that funding to the National Institute of Justice for evaluations of programs and activities related to that Act. 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 Federal Prison System, 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 to provide for certain specified uses of funding within Byrne Justice Assistance Grants including Byrne Discretionary Community Projects. In addition, language is included regarding Federal immigration and other detainees housed in State and local detention facilities. Language is also included regarding DNA training and education for law enforcement, correctional personnel, and court officers. Language is included regarding certain time limitations under the Second Chance Act. There is further language included regarding the following grant programs; Hate Crime Prevention Grants, Community-Based Approaches to Advancing Justice, Emergency Law Enforcement Assistance, Extreme Risk Protection Order Initiative, Public Defender Improvement Program, Regional Sexual Assault Investigative Training Academies, and Accelerating Justice System Reform. Furthermore, language is included regarding local government use of funds to increase the number of law enforcement officers.

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, including juvenile indigent defense, alternatives to youth incarceration initiative, juvenile justice and child welfare collaboration initiative, eliminating records-related barrier to youth success program, and a youth-focused hate crime prevention and intervention initiative. The language also provides for certain funds to be transferred to "Research, Evaluation and Statistics".

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, the Regional Information Sharing System, Civilian Review Boards, Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Act, Collaborative Reform Model and Community Policing Development. In addition, the language includes POLICE Act grants, Anti-Methamphetamine

and Anti-Heroin Task Forces, STOP School Violence Act and COPS Technology and Equipment Community Projects.

Under Department of Justice, General Provisions, the following general provisions that fall within the rule are recommended:

Section 201 makes available additional reception and representation funding for the Attorney General from the amounts provided in this title.

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 establishes the Committee's requirements and procedures for transfer proposals.

Section 205 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 206 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 207 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 208 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 209 prohibits funding from being used for certain public-private competitions.

Section 210 prohibits U.S. Attorneys from holding dual or additional responsibilities that exempt U.S. Attorneys from statutory residency requirements.

Section 211 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 212 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 213 waives the requirement that the Attorney General reserve certain funds from amounts provided for offender incarceration.

Section 214 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 215 provides authority to use certain grant funding for Performance Partnership Pilots.

Section 216 establishes reporting requirements for certain Department of Justice funds.

Section 217 clarifies that amounts credited to and made available in the Department of Justice Working Capital Fund as an offsetting collection pursuant to section 11013 of Public Law 107–273 shall be so credited and available.

Section 218 provides for humanitarian expenses incurred while on duty for certain Department of Justice personnel.

Section 219 prohibits the use of funds to relocate ATF's Canine Training Center or National Canine Division.

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.

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 Deep Space Exploration Systems, 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 of 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. In addition, language is included for a Commission on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys. 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 ex-

penses. 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 $2,050,000,000 during fiscal year 2023, 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 Na-

tional 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 2023 until the enactment of the Intelligence Authorization Act for fiscal year 2023.

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 Department of 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 provides that the Department of Commerce and Federal Bureau of Investigation may utilize funding to provide payments pursuant to section 901(i)(2) of title IX of division J of the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020.

Section 535 prohibits the use of funds made available in this Act for NASA, OSTP, or the National Space Council to engage in certain bilateral activities with Russia or a Russian-owned company.

Section 536 prohibits funds in this Act from being used to conduct, contract for or otherwise support live tissue training.

Section 537 withholds certain funding made available in this Act for NASA until detailed cost and scheduling information is provided to the House and Senate Appropriations Committees, the GAO and the NASA Office of Inspector General.

Section 538 prohibits the use of funds made available by this Act to the Department of Justice to prevent Indian Tribes from enacting or implementing laws that authorize marijuana use, distribution, possession, or cultivation.

Section 539 prohibits the use of funds made available by this Act to the Department of Justice to prevent States, the District of Columbia, or Territories from implementing laws that authorize marijuana use, distribution, possession, or cultivation.

Section 540 prohibits the use of funds made available by this Act to the Department of Justice to investigate or prosecute an individual who crosses state lines to access abortion services, or who assists another individual to obtain abortion services.

Section 541 prohibits the use of funds made available by this Act to implement a limit on reimbursement to local law enforcement for overtime pay in cannabis eradication efforts under certain circumstances and in certain States.

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	191,389
Economic Development Administration:				
Salaries and Expenses	2008	Such sums	30,832	65,000
Economic Development Assistance Programs		Various		445,000
Public Works and Economic Development Act Programs	2008	500,000	349,100	(120,500)
Economics and Statistics Administration:				
Salaries and Expenses	n/a	n/a	n/a	132,320
National Telecommunications and Information Administration:				
Salaries and Expenses	1993	17,900	17,900	62,000
National Institute of Standards and Technology:				
Scientific and Technical Research and Services	2013	676,700	579,771	953,000
Industrial technology services	2013	241,709	133,574	230,000
Manufacturing extension partnerships	2013	(165,100)	(123,000)	(212,000)
Construction of research facilities	2013	121,300	55,970	291,181
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration:				
Operations, Research and Facilities:				4,608,232
National Ocean Service	1993	121,183	150,864	689,193
Coastal Science, Assessment, Response and Restoration		Various		(128,291)
Competitive Research		Various		(25,500)
Coastal Zone Management and Services	n/a	n/a	n/a	(52,000)
Coastal Zone Management Grants	1999	(50,500)	(52,700)	(89,000)
National Oceans and Security Fund	2019	such sums	(30,000)	(34,000)
Coral Reef Program	2004	(16,000)	(26,100)	(34,000)
Sanctuaries and Marine Protected Areas	2005	(40,000)	(58,750)	(68,500)
National Estuarine Research Reserve System	1999	(4,600)	(4,300)	(31,200)
National Marine Fisheries Services:				1,099,964
Marine Mammals, Sea Turtles and Other Species				(164,136)
Species Recoveries Grants	1992	†	†	(8,000)

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
Atlantic Salmon	1992	†	†	(7,000)
Pacific Salmon	1992	†	†	(73,000)
Fisheries and Ecosystem Science Programs and Services		Various		(169,000)
Fisheries Data Collections, Surveys and Assessments		Various		(213,768)
Observers and Training		Various		(55,135)
Fisheries Management Programs and Services		Various		(141,369)
Salmon Management Activities		Various		(65,000)
Regional Councils and Fisheries Commissions		Various		(44,500)
Interjurisdictional Fisheries Grants	2012	3,400	1,157	(3,377)
Enforcement		Various		(80,000)
Habitat Conservation and Restoration		Various		(57,500)
Oceanic and Atmospheric Research	1993	1,589,081	202,172	‡
Climate Laboratories and Cooperative Institutes	1993	(109,877)	(79,948)	(104,000)
Regional Climate Data and Information		Various		(48,000)
Climate Competitive Research	n/a	n/a	n/a	(102,216)
Ocean and Coastal Laboratories and Cooperative Institutes		Various		(42,000)
Ocean Exploration and Research	2015	(59,436)	(28,000)	(47,500)
Integrated Ocean Acidification	2012	(20,000)	(6,359)	(19,000)
High Performance Computing Initiatives	1996	(4,500)	6,500	(20,000)
National Weather Service:	1993	395,822	†	†
Observations		Various		(250,962)
Central Processing	1993	∫	∫	(110,892)
Analyze, Forecast and Support		Various		(588,560)
Dissemination	1993	∫	∫	(121,808)
Science and Technology Integration		Various		(186,638)
National Environmental Satellite, Data and Information Service				409,572
Office of Satellite and Production Operations	1993	†	†	(248,500)
Product Development, Readiness and Application	1993	†	†	(66,000)
Group on Earth Observations	1993	n/a	n/a	(1,000)
National Centers for Environmental Information	1993	39,596	32,646	(94,072)
Mission Support:				
Mission Support Services	1993	75,750	71,433	407,376
Office of Space Commerce	n/a	n/a	n/a	(87,700)

NOAA Office of Education	n/a	n/a	n/a	40,350
Office of Marine and Aviation Operations:				
Marine Operations and Maintenance	1993	68,518	61,222	203,646
Aviation Operations and Aircraft Services	1993	10,336	9,872	40,729
Autonomous Uncrewed Technology Operations	n/a	n/a	n/a	14,500
Procurement, Acquisition and Construction:				2,144,000
National Ocean Service:				
National Estuarine Research Reserve Construction	n/a	n/a	n/a	7,500
Marine Sanctuaries Construction	2005	6,000	10,000	10,000
Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research:				
Research Supercomputing/CCRI	n/a	n/a	n/a	93,500
National Weather Service:				
Observations	1993	†	84,516	16,200
Central Processing	n/a	n/a	n/a	70,000
Dissemination	n/a	n/a	n/a	10,000
Facilities Construction and Major Repairs	n/a	n/a	n/a	10,000
National Environmental Satellite, Data and Information Service:				
Common Ground Services	n/a	n/a	n/a	105,433
Geostationary Earth Orbit	n/a	n/a	n/a	320,000
Low Earth Orbit	n/a	n/a	n/a	96,430
Space Weather	n/a	n/a	n/a	145,000
Systems/Services Architecture and Engineering	n/a	n/a	n/a	71,000
Satellite CDA Facility	n/a	n/a	n/a	2,450
Mission Support:				
NOAA Construction	1993	94,500	64,500	145,700
Office of Marine and Aviation Operations:				
Fleet Capital Improvements and Technology Infusion	1997	such sums	n/a	28,000
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	−19,000
Departmental Management:				
Salaries and Expenses	n/a	n/a	n/a	98,000
Renovation and Modernization	n/a	n/a	n/a	1,142
Office of Inspector General	n/a	n/a	n/a	52,271
Department of Justice:				
General Administration:				
Salaries and Expenses	2009	181,561	105,805	148,000
Justice Information Sharing Technology	2009	204,152	80,000	143,902
Executive Office for Immigration Review	2009¶	n/a	n/a	964,423

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 Inspector General	2009	81,922	78,681	135,856
United States Parole Commission:				
Salaries and Expenses	2009	12,711	12,570	14,591
Legal Activities:				
Salaries and Expenses, General Legal Activities	2009	764,526	805,655	1,164,000
Salaries and Expenses, Antitrust Division	2009	162,488	157,788	230,000
Salaries and Expenses, United States Attorneys	2009	1,829,194	1,851,336	2,700,000
Salaries and Expenses, Foreign Claims Settlement Commission	2009	1,429	1,823	2,504
Fee and Expenses of Witnesses	2009	203,755	168,300	270,000
Salaries and Expenses, Community Relations Service	2009	10,977	9,873	25,024
Assets Forfeiture Fund (discretionary)	2009	22,000	20,990	20,514
United States Marshals Service	2009	900,178	964,000	3,874,000
Salaries and Expenses		§	(960,000)	(1,725,000)
Construction		§	(4,000)	(19,260)
Federal Prison Detention	2009	1,858,509	1,355,319	(2,129,000)
National Security Division:				
Salaries and Expenses	n/a	n/a	n/a	133,512
Interagency Law Enforcement:				
Interagency Crime and Drug Enforcement	2009	744,593	515,000	550,458
Federal Bureau of Investigation	2009	6,480,608	7,253,591	10,737,895
Salaries and Expenses		§	(7,100,000)	(10,676,000)
Construction		§	(153,491)	(61,895)
Drug Enforcement Administration:				
Salaries and Expenses	2009	1,930,462	1,959,084	3,104,603
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives:		1,038,939	1,068,215	1,732,528
Salaries and Expenses	2009	§		1,732,528
Construction	2009	§.		
Federal Prison System	2009	5,698,292	6,176,599	8,718,250
Salaries and Expenses		§	(5,600,792)	(8,415,550)
Building and Facilities		§	(575,807)	(300,000)
Office on Violence Against Women:				
Violence Against Women Prevention and Prosecution Programs:				
Research and Evaluation on Violence Against Women	n/a	n/a	n/a	2,500

Homicide Reduction Initiative	n/a	n/a	n/a	(4,000)
Domestic Violence Firearms Lethality Reduction Initiative	n/a	n/a	n/a	(4,000)
Research on Violence Against Indian Women	2015	1,000	940	1,090
Indian Country—Sexual Assault Clearinghouse	n/a	n/a	n/a	500
National Deaf Services Line	n/a	n/a	n/a	1,000
Emerging Issues Related to Violence Against Women	n/a	n/a	n/a	1,500
Tribal Special Assistant US Attorneys	n/a	n/a	n/a	3,150
Office of Justice Programs:				
Research Evaluation and Statistics:				
Bureau of Justice Statistics	1995	33,000	32,335	45,000
National Institute of Justice	1995	33,000	58,879	35,000
Domestic Radicalization Research	n/a	n/a	n/a	(8,000)
State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance:				
Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grants	2012	1,095,000	470,000	716,939
Officer Robert Wilson III VALOR Initiative	n/a	n/a	n/a	(15,000)
Smart Prosecution	n/a	n/a	n/a	(8,000)
NamUS	n/a	n/a	n/a	(5,000)
Training Program to Improve Responses to People with Mental Illness	n/a	n/a	n/a	(10,000)
John R. Justice Grant Program	2014	n/a	2,000	(5,000)
Prison Rape Prevention and Prosecution	2010	40,000	15,000	(18,000)
Forensics Ballistics Programs in Higher Education	n/a	n/a	n/a	(3,000)
Project Safe Neighborhoods	2021	50,000	20,000	(40,000)
Capital Litigation Improvement and Wrongful Conviction Review	2021	22,500	7,000	(15,000)
National Center for Restorative Justice	n/a	n/a	n/a	(4,000)
Family Alternative Sentencing Pilot Program	n/a	n/a	n/a	(4,500)
Child Advocacy Training	n/a	n/a	n/a	(2,000)
Rural Violent Crime Initiative	n/a	n/a	n/a	(8,000)
Law Enforcement Training	n/a	n/a	n/a	(10,000)
Byrne Discretionary Community Project Grants	n/a	n/a	n/a	(131,613)
State Criminal Alien Assistance Program	2011	950,000	n/a	234,000
Victim Services Programs for Victims of Trafficking	2021	88,000	85,000	95,000
Adam Walsh Act Implementation	2009	Such sums	18,000	20,000
National Sex Offender Public Website	n/a	n/a	n/a	1,250
Paul Coverdell Forensic Science	2021	23,000	33,000	40,000
DNA Initiative				168,000
Kirk Bloodsworth Post-Conviction DNA Testing Grants	2021	n/a	8,000	(128,000)
State and Local Forensic Activities	n/a	n/a	n/a	(20,000)
Community Teams to Reduce the Sexual Assault Kit (SAK) Backlog	n/a	n/a	n/a	90,000
CASA–Special Advocates	2018	12,000	12,000	15,000
Indian Tribe Assistance	n/a	n/a	n/a	55,000

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
Second Chance Act/Reoffender Reentry				125,000
Children of Incarcerated Parents Demo Grants	n/a	n/a	n/a	(5,000)
Project Hope Opportunity Probation with Enforcement	n/a	n/a	n/a	(5,000)
Opioid Initiative				460,000
Residential Substance Abuse Treatment	2000	72,000	63,000	(42,000)
Mentally Ill Offender Act	2021	50,000	35,000	(45,000)
Hate Crimes Prevention Act Grants	2012	n/a	5,000	70,000
Community-Based Approaches to Advancing Justice	n/a	n/a	n/a	30,000
Community Trust Initiative	n/a	n/a	n/a	225,000
Body-won Camera Partnership	n/a	n/a	n/a	(35,000)
Justice Reinvestment Initiative	n/a	n/a	n/a	(35,000)
Emergency Federal Law Enforcement Assistance	2016	20,000	n/a	10,000
Community Violence Intervention Initiative	n/a	n/a	n/a	150,000
Red Flag and Gun Licensing Laws	n/a	n/a	n/a	40,000
Public Defender Improvement Program	n/a	n/a	n/a	25,000
Regional Sexual Assault Investigative Training Academies	n/a	n/a	n/a	20,000
Community Violence Intervention Initiative	n/a	n/a	n/a	150,000
Juvenile Justice Programs:				
Youth Mentoring Grants	2007	Such sums	4,000	110,000
Title V—Delinquency Prevention Incentive Grants	2023	96,053	n/a	62,500
Prevention of Trafficking of Girls	n/a	n/a	n/a	(5,000)
Tribal Youth	n/a	n/a	n/a	(14,000)
Children of Incarcerated Parents Web Portal	n/a	n/a	n/a	(500)
Girls in the Justice System	n/a	n/a	n/a	(5,500)
Opioid Affected Youth Initiative	n/a	n/a	n/a	(8,000)
Children Exposed to Violence	n/a	n/a	n/a	(10,000)
Training for Judicial Personnel	2018	2,300	2,000	4,500
Alternatives to Youth Incarceration Initiative	n/a	n/a	n/a	3,500
Community Oriented Policing Services:				
COPS Hiring Grants	2009	1,047,119	1,000,000	277,400
Regional information sharing activities	2003	100,000	28,812	(44,000)
Tribal Access Program	n/a	n/a	n/a	(4,000)
Community Policing Development/Training and Technical Assistance	n/a	n/a	n/a	50,000

POLICE Act	.....	.....	.....	.....	12,000
Anti-Methamphetamine Task Forces	n/a	n/a	.....	n/a	16,500
Anti-Heroin Task Forces	n/a	n/a	.....	n/a	36,500
COPS Technology and Equipment Community Projects	n/a	n/a	.....	n/a	93.527
Science:					
National Space Council	1990	1,200	.....	2,000	1,965
National Aeronautics and Space Administration:					
Science	2017	5,500,000	.....	5,764,900	7,905,000
Aeronautics	2017	640,000	.....	660,000	950,000
Space Technology	2017	686,000	.....	686,500	1,250,000
Exploration	2017	4,330,000	.....	4,324,000	7,323,700
Space Operations	2017	5,023,000	.....	4,950,700	4,256,000
STEM Engagement	2017	115,000	.....	100,000	150,100
Safety, Security and Mission Services	2017	2,788,600	.....	2,768,600	3,138,700
Construction and Environmental Compliance and Restoration	2017	388,000	.....	360,700	424,300
Office of Inspector General	2017	37,400	.....	37,900	48,400
National Science Foundation:					
Research and Related Activities	2013	6,637,849	.....	5,983,280	7,705,530
Major Research Equipment and Facilities Construction	2013	236,764	.....	196,170	187,230
Education and Human Resources	2013	1,041,762	.....	895,610	1,250,000
Agency Operations and Award Management	2013	363,670	.....	299,400	460,000
Office of the National Science Board	2013	4,906	.....	4,440	5,090
Office of Inspector General	2013	15,049	.....	14,200	23,290
Related Agencies:					
Commission on Civil Rights:					
Salaries and Expenses	1995	9,500	.....	8,904	14,350
International Trade Commission:					
Salaries and Expenses	2004	57,240	.....	58,295	122,400
Legal Services Corporation:					
Payment to the Legal Services Corporation	1980	Such sums	.....	300,000	675,000
Marine Mammal Commission:					
Salaries and Expenses	1999	1,750	.....	1,240	4,500
Office of the U.S. Trade Representative:					
Salaries and Expenses	2004	33,108	.....	41,944	60,000
State Justice Institute:					
Salaries and Expenses	2008	7,000	.....	3,760	7,640

* The recommendation does not provide a specific amount for this program.
† Authorization 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.

∫ 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.

BUDGETARY IMPACT OF THE FY 2023 COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL PREPARED IN CONSULTATION WITH THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE PURSUANT TO SECTION 308(a) OF THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET ACT OF 1974

[In millions of dollars]

Comparison With Budget Resolution

Pursuant to clause 3(c)(2) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives and section 308(a)(1)(A) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the following table compares the levels of new budget authority provided in the bill with the appropriate allocation under section 302(b) of the Budget Act.

[In millions of dollars]

	302(b) Allocation		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	85,546	83,500	85,546	[1] 83,169
Mandatory	339	384	339	[1] 384

[1] Includes outlays from prior-year budget authority.

[1] NOTE.—The amounts in this report do not include $1,400 million in discretionary budget authority and $144 million in associated outlays from amounts becoming available in fiscal year 2023 that were previously designated as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to a concurrent resolution on the budget. 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

Pursuant to clause 3(c)(2) of rule XIII and section 308(a)(1)(B) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the following table contains five-year projections associated with the budget authority provided in the accompanying bill as provided to the Committee by the Congressional Budget Office.

[In millions of dollars]

	Outlays
Projection of outlays associated with the recommendation:	
2023	[1] 48,191
2024	21,412
2025	7,697
2026	3,877
2027 and future years	4,047

[1] Excludes outlays from prior-year budget authority.

Financial Assistance to State and Local Governments

Pursuant to clause 3(c)(2) of rule XIII and section 308(a)(1)(C) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, 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 2023	4,510	[1] —63

[1] Excludes outlays from prior-year budget authority.

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.

COMMITTEE HEARINGS

Pursuant to clause 3(c)(6) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following hearings were used to develop or consider the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2023:

The Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies held a budget hearing on April 28, 2022, entitled "Fiscal Year 2023 Budget Request for The Department of Justice." The Subcommittee received testimony from:

The Honorable Merrick B. Garland, Attorney General of the United States

The Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies held a budget hearing on May 11, 2022, entitled "Fiscal Year 2023 Budget Request for The National Science Foundation." The Subcommittee received testimony from:

The Honorable Sethuraman Panchanathan, Director, National Science Foundation

The Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies held a budget hearing on May 12, 2022, entitled "Fiscal Year 2023 Budget Request for the Department of Commerce." The Subcommittee received testimony from:

The Honorable Gina M. Raimondo, Secretary of Commerce

The Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies held a budget hearing on May 17, 2022, entitled "Fiscal Year 2023 Budget Request for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration." The Subcommittee received testimony from:

The Honorable Bill Nelson, Administrator, National Aeronautics and Space Administration

The Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies held a budget hearing on May 18, 2022, entitled "Fiscal Year 2023 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Member Day." The Subcommittee received testimony from:

The Honorable Earl Blumenauer, Member of Congress

The Honorable Robin Kelly, Member of Congress

The Honorable Sylvia Garcia, Member of Congress

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 2022 enacted amounts and budget estimates presented for fiscal year 2023:

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR 2022
AND BUDGET REQUESTS AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL FOR 2023
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2022 Enacted	FY 2023 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
TITLE I - DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE					
International Trade Administration					
Operations and administration	570,000	642,831	629,876	+59,876	-12,955
Offsetting fee collections	-11,000	-12,000	-12,000	-1,000	---
Direct appropriation	559,000	630,831	617,876	+58,876	-12,955
Bureau of Industry and Security					
Operations and administration	61,000	103,458	95,300	+34,300	-8,158
CWC Enforcement (Defense)	80,000	96,089	96,089	+16,089	---
Total, Bureau of Industry and Security	141,000	199,547	191,389	+50,389	-8,158
Economic Development Administration					
Economic Development Assistance Programs	330,000	432,500	445,000	+115,000	+12,500
Salaries and expenses	43,500	70,018	65,000	+21,500	-5,018
Total, Economic Development Administration	373,500	502,518	510,000	+136,500	+7,482

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR 2022
AND BUDGET REQUESTS AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL FOR 2023
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2022 Enacted	FY 2023 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
Minority Business Development Agency					
Minority Business Development	55,000	110,000	73,000	+18,000	-37,000
Economic and Statistical Analysis					
Salaries and expenses	116,000	140,878	132,320	+16,320	-8,558
Bureau of the Census					
Current Surveys and Programs	300,000	---	336,176	+36,176	+336,176
Periodic censuses and programs	1,054,000	---	1,169,294	+115,294	+1,169,294
Censuses and Survey Programs	---	1,505,470	---	---	-1,505,470
Total, Bureau of the Census	1,354,000	1,505,470	1,505,470	+151,470	---
National Telecommunications and Information Administration					
Salaries and expenses	50,000	67,605	62,000	+12,000	-5,605
United States Patent and Trademark Office					
Salaries and expenses, current year fee funding	4,058,410	4,253,404	4,253,404	+194,994	---
Offsetting fee collections	-4,058,410	-4,253,404	-4,253,404	-194,994	---
Total, United States Patent and Trademark Office	---	---	---	---	---

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR 2022
AND BUDGET REQUESTS AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL FOR 2023
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2022 Enacted	FY 2023 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
National Institute of Standards and Technology					
Scientific and Technical Research and Services	850,000	974,946	953,000	+103,000	-21,946
(transfer out)	(-9,000)	(-9,000)	(-9,000)	---	---
Industrial Technology Services	174,500	372,318	230,000	+55,500	-142,318
Manufacturing extension partnerships	(158,000)	(275,266)	(212,000)	(+54,000)	(-63,266)
Manufacturing USA	(16,500)	(97,052)	(18,000)	(+1,500)	(-79,052)
Construction of research facilities	205,563	120,285	291,181	+85,618	+170,896
Working Capital Fund (by transfer)	(9,000)	(9,000)	(9,000)	---	---
Total, National Institute of Standards and Technology	1,230,063	1,467,549	1,474,181	+244,118	+6,632
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration					
Operations, Research, and Facilities	4,157,311	4,484,209	4,608,232	+450,921	+124,023
(by transfer)	(243,532)	(348,871)	(348,871)	(+105,339)	---
Promote and Develop Fund (transfer out)	(-243,532)	(-348,871)	(-348,871)	(-105,339)	---
Subtotal	4,157,311	4,484,209	4,608,232	+450,921	+124,023
Procurement, Acquisition and Construction	1,672,689	2,332,662	2,131,000	+458,311	-201,662
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	-18,000	-19,000	-19,000	-1,000	---
Total, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration	5,877,349	6,863,520	6,785,881	+908,532	-77,639

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR 2022
AND BUDGET REQUESTS AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL FOR 2023
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2022 Enacted	FY 2023 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
Departmental Management					
Salaries and expenses	80,000	104,004	98,000	+18,000	-6,004
Renovation and Modernization	1,100	1,142	1,142	+42	---
DOC Nonrecurring Expenses Fund	30,000	50,000	44,000	+14,000	-6,000
Office of Inspector General	35,783	49,771	52,271	+16,488	+2,500
Collection from the Public Safety Trust Fund	(-2,000)	---	---	(+2,000)	---
Public Safety Trust Fund transfer	(2,000)	---	---	(-2,000)	---
Total, Departmental Management	146,883	204,917	195,413	+48,530	-9,504
Total, title I, Department of Commerce	9,902,795	11,692,835	11,547,530	+1,644,735	-145,305
(by transfer)	254,532	357,871	357,871	+103,339	---
(transfer out)	-254,532	-357,871	-357,871	-103,339	---

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR 2022
AND BUDGET REQUESTS AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL FOR 2023
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2022 Enacted	FY 2023 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
TITLE II - DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE					
General Administration					
Salaries and expenses	127,794	196,531	148,000	+20,206	-48,531
Justice Information Sharing Technology	38,000	153,057	143,902	+105,902	-9,155
Total, General Administration	165,794	349,588	291,902	+126,108	-57,686
Executive Office for Immigration Review	760,000	1,354,889	964,423	+204,423	-390,466
Transfer from immigration examinations fee account	-4,000	-4,000	-4,000	---	---
Direct appropriation	756,000	1,350,889	960,423	+204,423	-390,466
Office of Inspector General	118,000	135,856	135,856	+17,856	---
United States Parole Commission					
Salaries and expenses	14,238	14,591	14,591	+353	---
Legal Activities					
Salaries and expenses, general legal activities	1,000,000	1,164,266	1,164,000	+164,000	-266
Vaccine Injury Compensation Trust Fund	19,000	31,738	31,738	+12,738	---
Salaries and expenses, Antitrust Division	192,776	273,006	230,000	+37,224	-43,006
Offsetting fee collections - current year	-138,000	-190,000	-190,000	-52,000	---
Direct appropriation	54,776	83,006	40,000	-14,776	-43,006
Salaries and expenses, United States Attorneys	2,419,868	2,772,350	2,700,000	+280,132	-72,350

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR 2022
AND BUDGET REQUESTS AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL FOR 2023
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2022 Enacted	FY 2023 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
United States Trustee System Fund	239,000	260,277	255,000	+16,000	-5,277
Offsetting fee collections	-413,000	-285,000	-269,000	+144,000	+16,000
Direct appropriation	-174,000	-24,723	-14,000	+160,000	+10,723
Salaries and expenses, Foreign Claims Settlement Commission	2,434	2,504	2,504	+70	---
Fees and expenses of witnesses	270,000	270,000	270,000	---	---
Salaries and expenses, Community Relations Service	21,000	25,024	25,024	+4,024	---
Assets Forfeiture Fund	20,514	20,514	20,514	---	---
Total, Legal Activities	3,633,592	4,344,679	4,239,780	+606,188	-104,899
United States Marshals Service					
Salaries and expenses	1,580,000	1,807,138	1,725,000	+145,000	-82,138
Construction	15,000	19,260	19,260	+4,260	---
Federal Prisoner Detention	2,123,015	2,129,789	2,129,789	+6,774	---
Total, United States Marshals Service	3,718,015	3,956,187	3,874,049	+156,034	-82,138

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR 2022
AND BUDGET REQUESTS AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL FOR 2023
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2022 Enacted	FY 2023 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
National Security Division					
Salaries and expenses	120,681	133,512	133,512	+12,831	---
Interagency Law Enforcement					
Interagency Crime and Drug Enforcement	550,458	550,458	550,458	---	---
Federal Bureau of Investigation					
Salaries and expenses	4,112,295	4,357,899	4,331,253	+218,958	-26,646
Counterintelligence and national security	6,024,000	6,383,779	6,344,747	+320,747	-39,032
Subtotal, Salaries and expenses	10,136,295	10,741,678	10,676,000	+539,705	-65,678
Construction	632,000	61,895	61,895	-570,105	---
Total, Federal Bureau of Investigation	10,768,295	10,803,573	10,737,895	-30,400	-65,678
Drug Enforcement Administration					
Salaries and expenses	2,933,181	3,104,603	3,104,603	+171,422	---
Diversion control fund	-511,659	-581,487	-581,487	-69,828	---
Total, Drug Enforcement Administration	2,421,522	2,523,116	2,523,116	+101,594	---

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR 2022
AND BUDGET REQUESTS AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL FOR 2023
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2022 Enacted	FY 2023 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives					
Salaries and expenses	1,531,071	1,732,528	1,732,528	+201,457	---
Total, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives	1,531,071	1,732,528	1,732,528	+201,457	---
Federal Prison System					
Salaries and expenses	7,865,000	8,005,951	8,415,550	+550,550	+409,599
Buildings and facilities	235,000	179,300	300,000	+65,000	+120,700
Limitation on administrative expenses, Federal Prison Industries, Incorporated	2,700	2,700	2,700	---	---
Total, Federal Prison System	8,102,700	8,187,951	8,718,250	+615,550	+530,299
State and Local Law Enforcement Activities					
Office on Violence Against Women:					
Prevention and prosecution programs (by transfer)	(575,000)	---	---	(-575,000)	---
Crime Victims Fund (transfer out)	(-575,000)	---	---	(+575,000)	---
Violence Against Women Prevention & Prosecution Programs	---	1,000,000	642,000	+642,000	-358,000

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR 2022
AND BUDGET REQUESTS AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL FOR 2023
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2022 Enacted	FY 2023 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
Office of Justice Programs:					
Research, evaluation and statistics	70,000	88,000	80,000	+10,000	-8,000
State and local law enforcement assistance	2,213,000	2,518,000	2,749,689	+536,689	+231,689
Juvenile justice programs	360,000	760,000	410,000	+50,000	-350,000
Public safety officer benefits:					
Death benefits	122,000	133,000	133,000	+11,000	---
Disability and education benefits	30,000	34,800	34,800	+4,800	---
Subtotal	152,000	167,800	167,800	+15,800	---
Total, Office of Justice Programs	2,795,000	3,533,800	3,407,489	+612,489	-126,311
Community Oriented Policing Services:					
COPS programs	511,744	651,000	543,927	+32,183	-107,073
Total, State and Local Law Enforcement Activities	3,306,744	5,184,800	4,593,416	+1,286,672	-591,384
Total, title II, Department of Justice	35,207,110	39,267,728	38,505,776	+3,298,666	-761,952
(by transfer)	575,000	---	---	-575,000	---
(transfer out)	-575,000	---	---	+575,000	---

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR 2022
AND BUDGET REQUESTS AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL FOR 2023
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2022 Enacted	FY 2023 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
TITLE III - SCIENCE					
Office of Science and Technology Policy	6,652	7,965	7,965	+1,313	---
National Space Council	1,965	1,965	1,965	---	---
National Aeronautics and Space Administration					
Science	7,614,400	7,988,300	7,905,000	+290,600	-83,300
Aeronautics	880,700	971,500	950,000	+69,300	-21,500
Space Technology	1,100,000	1,437,900	1,250,000	+150,000	-187,900
Deep Space Exploration Systems	6,791,700	7,478,283	7,323,700	+532,000	-154,583
Space Operations	4,041,300	4,266,317	4,256,000	+214,700	-10,317
Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Engagement	137,000	150,100	150,100	+13,100	---
Safety, Security and Mission Services	3,020,600	3,208,700	3,138,700	+118,100	-70,000
Construction and environmental compliance and restoration	410,300	424,300	424,300	+14,000	---
Office of Inspector General	45,300	48,400	48,400	+3,100	---
Total, National Aeronautics and Space Administration	24,041,300	25,973,800	25,446,200	+1,404,900	-527,600

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR 2022
AND BUDGET REQUESTS AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL FOR 2023
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2022 Enacted	FY 2023 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
National Science Foundation					
Research and related activities	7,082,400	8,335,987	7,615,530	+533,130	-720,457
Defense function	77,000	90,000	90,000	+13,000	---
Subtotal	7,159,400	8,425,987	7,705,530	+546,130	-720,457
Major Research Equipment and Facilities Construction	249,000	187,230	187,230	-61,770	---
Education and Human Resources	1,006,000	1,377,180	1,250,000	+244,000	-127,180
Agency Operations and Award Management	400,000	473,200	460,000	+60,000	-13,200
Office of the National Science Board	4,600	5,090	5,090	+490	---
Office of Inspector General	19,000	23,393	23,393	+4,393	---
Total, National Science Foundation	8,838,000	10,492,080	9,631,243	+793,243	-860,837
Total, Title III, Science	32,887,917	36,475,810	35,087,373	+2,199,456	-1,388,437

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR 2022
AND BUDGET REQUESTS AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL FOR 2023
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2022 Enacted	FY 2023 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
TITLE IV - RELATED AGENCIES					
Commission on Civil Rights					
Salaries and expenses	13,000	13,850	14,350	+1,350	+500
Equal Employment Opportunity Commission					
Salaries and expenses	420,000	464,650	464,650	+44,650	---
International Trade Commission					
Salaries and expenses	110,000	106,818	122,400	+12,400	+15,582
Legal Services Corporation					
Payment to the Legal Services Corporation	489,000	700,000	675,000	+186,000	-25,000
Marine Mammal Commission					
Salaries and expenses	4,200	4,500	4,500	+300	---
Office of the U.S. Trade Representative					
Salaries and expenses	56,000	61,540	60,000	+4,000	-1,540
Trade Enforcement Trust Fund	15,000	15,000	15,000	---	---
State Justice Institute					
Salaries and expenses	7,200	7,640	7,640	+440	---
Commission on the State of the U.S. Olympics and Paralympics					
Salaries and expenses	2,000	---	---	-2,000	---
Total, title IV, Related Agencies	1,116,400	1,373,998	1,363,540	+247,140	-10,458

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR 2022
AND BUDGET REQUESTS AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL FOR 2023
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2022 Enacted	FY 2023 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, NOAA Operations, Research, and Facilities (rescission)	-10,000	---	---	+10,000	---
Economic Development Assistance Programs (rescission)	-15,000	-10,000	---	+15,000	+10,000
DOJ, Working Capital Fund (rescission)	-234,839	-100,000	-100,000	+134,839	---
FBI, Salaries and Expenses:					
nondefense (rescission)	---	---	---	---	---
defense (rescission)	---	---	---	---	---
DOJ, Federal Prison System, Buildings and Facilities (rescission)	---	-886,456	---	---	+886,456
DOJ BOP (rescission)	---	---	---	---	---
DOJ Modernization and Repairs	---	---	---	---	---
Office of Justice programs (rescission)	-100,000	-75,000	-75,000	+25,000	---
COPS (rescission)	-15,000	-15,000	-15,000	---	---
DOJ, Violence against women prevention and prosecution programs	-15,000	-15,000	-15,000	---	---
DOJ, Assets Forfeiture Fund (rescission)	-127,000	-100,000	-100,000	+27,000	---
Admin Provision (NDD)	---	---	---	---	---
Admin Provision (Def)	---	---	---	---	---
Total, title V, General Provisions	-516,839	-1,201,456	-305,000	+211,839	+896,456

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR 2022
AND BUDGET REQUESTS AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL FOR 2023
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2022 Enacted	FY 2023 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
OTHER APPROPRIATIONS					
EXTENDING GOVERNMENT FUNDING AND DELIVERING EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE ACT, 2022 (PL 117-43)					
DIVISION B - DISASTER RELIEF SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2022					
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE					
National Institute of Standards and Technology					
Scientific and Technical Research and Services (emergency)	22,000	---	---	-22,000	---
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration					
Operations, Research, and Facilities (emergency)	92,834	---	---	-92,834	---
Procurement, Acquisition and Construction (emergency)	52,205	---	---	-52,205	---
Fisheries Disaster Assistance (emergency)	200,000	---	---	-200,000	---
Total, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration	345,039	---	---	-345,039	---

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR 2022
AND BUDGET REQUESTS AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL FOR 2023
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2022 Enacted	FY 2023 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
SCIENCE					
National Aeronautics and Space Administration					
Construction and Environmental Compliance and Restoration (emergency)	321,400	---	---	-321,400	---
National Science Foundation					
Major Research Equipment and Facilities Construction (emergency)	25,000	---	---	-25,000	---
Total, Science	346,400	---	---	-346,400	---
RELATED AGENCIES					
Legal Services Corporation					
Payment to the Legal Services Corporation (emergency)	40,000	---	---	-40,000	---
Total, Extending Funding and Emergency Assistance Act, 2022	753,439	---	---	-753,439	---

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR 2022
AND BUDGET REQUESTS AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL FOR 2023
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2022 Enacted	FY 2023 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
DIVISION C - AFGHANISTAN SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2022					
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE					
Federal Bureau of Investigation					
Salaries and Expenses (emergency)	20,285	---	---	-20,285	---
Counterintelligence and National Security (emergency)	29,715	---	---	-29,715	---
Total, Afghanistan Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2022	50,000	---	---	-50,000	---

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR 2022
AND BUDGET REQUESTS AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL FOR 2023
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2022 Enacted	FY 2023 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
THE INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT AND JOBS ACT, 2022 (P. L. 117-58)					
DIVISION J - APPROPRIATIONS					
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE					
National Telecommunications and Information Administration					
Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program (emergency)	42,450,000	---	---	-42,450,000	---
Broadband Connectivity Fund (emergency)	2,000,000	---	---	-2,000,000	---
Digital Equity (emergency)	550,000	---	---	-550,000	---
Appropriations available from prior year advances (emergency)	---	550,000	550,000	+550,000	---
Advance appropriations FY 2023 (emergency)	550,000	---	---	-550,000	---
Advance appropriations FY24-26 (emergency)	1,650,000	---	---	-1,650,000	---
Total, Digital Equity	2,750,000	550,000	550,000	-2,200,000	---
Middle Mile Deployment (emergency)	1,000,000	---	---	-1,000,000	---
Total, National Telecommunications and Information Admin	48,200,000	550,000	550,000	-47,650,000	---
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration					
Operations, Research, and Facilities (emergency)	557,250	---	---	-557,250	---
Appropriations available from prior year advances					

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR 2022
AND BUDGET REQUESTS AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL FOR 2023
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2022 Enacted	FY 2023 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
(emergency)	---	515,584	515,584	+515,584	---
Advance appropriations FY 2023 (emergency)	515,584	---	---	-515,584	---
Advance appropriations FY24-26 (emergency)	1,538,166	---	---	-1,538,166	---
Total, Operations, Resarch and Facilities	2,611,000	515,584	515,584	-2,095,416	---
Procurement, Acquisition and Construction (emergency)	180,000	---	---	-180,000	---
Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery (emergency)	34,400	---	---	-34,400	---
Appropriations available from prior year advances (emergency)	---	34,400	34,400	+34,400	---
Advance appropriations FY 2023 (emergency)	34,400	---	---	-34,400	---
Advance appropriations FY24-26 (emergency)	103,200	---	---	-103,200	---
Total, Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery	172,000	34,400	34,400	-137,600	---
Total, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration	2,963,000	549,984	549,984	-2,413,016	---
Total, Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, 2022	51,163,000	1,099,984	1,099,984	-50,063,016	---

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR 2022
AND BUDGET REQUESTS AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL FOR 2023
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2022 Enacted	FY 2023 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
UKRAINE SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2022 (P.L. 117-103)					
DIVISION N					
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE					
Bureau of Industry and Security					
Operations and Administration (emergency)	22,100	---	---	-22,100	---
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE					
Legal Activities					
Salaries and Expenses, general legal activities (emergency)	9,700	---	---	-9,700	---
Salaries and Expenses, United States Attorneys (emergency)	5,000	---	---	-5,000	---
Total, Legal Activities	14,700	---	---	-14,700	---
National Security Division					
Salaries and Expenses (emergency)	1,100	---	---	-1,100	---
Federal Bureau of Investigation					
Salaries and Expenses (emergency)	18,000	---	---	-18,000	---
Salaries and Expenses (counter intelligence and national security) (emergency)	25,600	---	---	-25,600	---
Total, Federal Bureau of Investigation	43,600	---	---	-43,600	---
Total, Department of Justice	59,400	---	---	-59,400	---
Total, Divison N - Ukraine Supplemental					

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR 2022
AND BUDGET REQUESTS AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL FOR 2023
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2022 Enacted	FY 2023 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
Appropriations Act, 2022	81,500	---	---	-81,500	---
ADDITIONAL UKRAINE SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2022 (P.L. 117-128)					
DIVISION N					
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE					
General Administration					
Salaries and expenses (emergency)	67,000	---	---	-67,000	---
Total, Division N - Additional Ukraine Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2022	67,000	---	---	-67,000	---
Less prior year appropriations (emergency)	---	-1,099,984	-1,099,984	-1,099,984	---
Total, Other Appropriations	52,114,939	---	---	-52,114,939	---

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR 2022
AND BUDGET REQUESTS AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL FOR 2023
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2022 Enacted	FY 2023 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
Grand total	130,712,322	87,608,915	86,199,219	-44,513,103	-1,409,696
Appropriations	(79,114,222)	(88,810,371)	(86,504,219)	(+7,389,997)	(-2,306,152)
Rescissions	(-516,839)	(-1,201,456)	(-305,000)	(+211,839)	(+896,456)
Emergency appropriations	(47,723,589)	---	---	(-47,723,589)	---
Emergency advance appropriations	(4,391,350)	---	---	(-4,391,350)	---
(by transfer)	839,532	367,871	367,871	-471,661	---
(transfer out)	-839,532	-367,871	-367,871	+471,661	---
Grand total excluding Other Appropriations	78,597,383	87,608,915	86,199,219	+7,601,836	-1,409,696

MINORITY VIEWS

We appreciate the Majority's efforts 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 appreciate the Majority's willingness to incorporate some of our proposed modifications into the Manager's Amendment.

First and foremost, we applaud this bill for taking seriously the threats posed by China and Russia. As a nation, we must act to aggressively counter nefarious Chinese and Russian ambitions. Regarding space in particular, we must not assume they are pursuing peaceful goals. This bill funds many NASA programs at a level that will bolster our national security. With the Artemis I mission's inaugural launch of the Space Launch System (SLS) taking place this year, we are pleased this bill includes $2.6 billion for the SLS, which ensures NASA can allocate 100 percent of what it needs for Block 1B development in fiscal year 2023.

We are also pleased the bill includes $110 million for nuclear thermal propulsion. We need to aggressively fund the development of this technology to out-pace China and land Americans on Mars. The bill also makes other important investments to advance U.S. innovation, global competitiveness, and national security, including with respect to quantum computing, artificial intelligence, 5G research, and advanced manufacturing. In addition, we are pleased that the agencies and bureaus that ensure compliance with our trade laws and agreements are well funded.

The bill addresses key issues impacting all of our communities. It increases funding for drug court programs and other vital initiatives addressing the opioid epidemic; cutting-edge forensic programs that help analyze the backlog of sexual assault evidence and solve cold cases; and grants that improve the investigation and prosecution of child abuse.

Still, we have substantial concerns with this bill that have not been addressed.

The bill eliminates several longstanding riders that historically had bipartisan support. For example, four Second Amendment protections are not retained, and language protecting taxpayer dollars from being used by the Department of Justice for abortions is removed. These modifications are particularly objectionable and should be reversed before the bill is finalized.

The bill demonstrates a further lack of commitment to Constitutional principles by targeting beliefs rather than illegal actions, including through the new Youth-Focused Hate Crimes Prevention Initiative; an incentivization program for red flag laws that lacks statutory due process guardrails; and language laying the groundwork for universal background checks on all ammunition sales—an extraordinary new attempt to undermine the right to keep and bear arms.

We are disappointed that the Majority rejected numerous commonsense Republican amendments intended to improve the bill while adopting additional controversial amendments by Democrats that will prevent this bill from receiving bipartisan support.

Finally, this bill simply spends too much. We remain deeply concerned about the runaway spending of this Majority and Administration. With a topline increase of nearly $9.8 billion and double-digit percentage increases for many of the agencies in this bill, the spending level is irresponsible. In addition, the amount of duplication, overlap, and waste in State and Local Law Enforcement Activities programs—exacerbated by the addition of more than a dozen new grant programs—is unprecedented. This bill also jeopardizes the future viability of the Crime Victims Fund.

We must never lose sight of the consequences of runaway federal spending and the hardships felt across American communities and industries as the resulting, record-high inflation takes its toll on our great nation. For the sake of struggling families, we must reject this trend of undisciplined spending, regain a focus on our national responsibilities, and make tough choices to slow the growth of the federal government.

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 ADERHOLT.

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EXPLANATORY STATEMENT FOR COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2023

PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The bill provides funding for (1) the Department of Commerce [DOC]; (2) the Department of Justice [DOJ]; (3) several independent science agencies: the Office of Science and Technology Policy [OSTP], the National Space Council; the National Aeronautics and Space Administration [NASA], and the National Science Foundation [NSF]; and (4) several related commissions and agencies: the Commission on Civil Rights, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission [EEOC], the United States International Trade Commission [ITC], the Legal Services Corporation [LSC], the Marine Mammal Commission, the Office of the United States Trade Representative [USTR], and the State Justice Institute [SJI].

SUMMARY OF THE BILL

The total amount of regular discretionary budget authority recommended by the Committee for fiscal year 2023 is $85,833,000,000, which is $10,052,000,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level for regular discretionary amounts. Additionally, the Committee makes available $1,750,000,000 through the Crime Victims Fund [CVF] for victim compensation and victim services. This is the same as the President's Request but it outstrips the 3-year average of collections by $1,098,000,000. While the Committee was pleased with the passage of the VOCA Fix to Sustain the Crime Victims Fund Act of 2021 (Public Law 117–27) last year, deposits into the CVF have only experienced a slight increase. The Committee remains concerned about the health of the CVF and its ability to continue to support compensation to and services for survivors of crime in future years. Therefore, the Committee directs the DOJ to continue to advise litigating components of the availability of the CVF as a repository for fines, fees, and other penalties.

The Committee has strived to achieve a careful balance among the competing priorities of law enforcement, national security, economic development, scientific research, and space exploration, while having limited resources. The Committee notes that every agency funded in this bill has been impacted by inflation. For example, fuel costs for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration [NOAA] nearly doubled during fiscal year 2022 and inflationary costs also impacted DOJ's law enforcement agencies for both vehicle and aircraft usage. During fiscal year 2022, the Bureau of Prisons is expecting a significant cost increase for goods and utilities above the original budget estimate, including a nearly 12 percent increase in food costs. NASA is reporting an average

cost increase of 15 percent for its construction projects, along with increased costs and long delays for titanium, microchips, passive electronics, and other materials needed for science and exploration missions. More generally, price increases for rent, groceries, gas, and utilities are also impacting Federal employees and grantees funded in this bill, including non-profit organizations and State, local and Tribal law enforcement and government agencies. The increases in this bill are intended to help address these impacts.

The DOC is charged with addressing and executing several critical functions, which include ensuring the effective operation of our Nation's world class weather satellites and forecasting severe storms; enforcing trade laws to ensure American businesses can compete on a level playing field; collecting economic and population data; working with distressed communities to spur economic development; and properly managing our Nation's fisheries.

The Committee has made a concerted effort to spur U.S. economic growth both domestically and abroad through investments in the Economic Development Administration and our Nation's trade agencies such as the USTR and the ITC, as well as the International Trade Administration and Bureau of Industry and Security within DOC. Together, these agencies help businesses get started, compete internationally, and grow.

Additionally, the changing landscape of criminal activity at home and abroad continues to test the DOJ's ability to deal with and adapt to emerging threats. The Committee believes that our Federal law enforcement agencies must work collaboratively to focus and streamline limited resources in a manner that safeguards taxpayer dollars while preserving public safety. The Committee supports the important mission of the Department of Justice and expects that these additional resources will support the DOJ's proposed budget enhancements, infrastructure expansion, and new agent hiring. The Committee provides robust funding increases for the DOJ. Federal law enforcement and U.S. Attorneys received at least a 6 percent increase in Salaries and Expenses funding, enabling the Department to hire new agents, deputy marshals, correctional officers, and attorneys, as well as increase and expand upon existing investigative technical capabilities. The fiscal year 2023 bill increases funding for grants to help State, local, and Tribal law enforcement protect our Nation's communities. Additionally, in spite of the Inspector General's report of extraordinarily poor financial management, the Committee provides a significant increase for the Executive Office of Immigration Review of 25 percent to provide resources needed to enhance productivity and address the large immigration court backlog of more than 1,800,000 cases. The Committee also provides the necessary funding for the Bureau of Prisons to continue implementation of criminal justice reforms and programming created by the First Step Act (Public Law 115–391).

For the science agencies, the Committee builds upon the advances and calculated gains made in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022 (Public Law 117–103). The resources provided in this bill enable progress toward the goal of returning Americans to the Moon and enhancing America's leadership in space and science. Within NSF, NOAA, and the National Institute of Standards and Technology [NIST], the Committee recommendation supports ad-

ministration initiatives to enhance American competitiveness through research in climate science and resiliency, quantum computing, artificial intelligence, and other strategic fields. The bill also contains a historic $1,500,000,000 increase for NSF to continue its core research, develop the scientific workforce, and fund programs in the Directorate of Technology, Innovation, and Partnerships. Given the threats posed by our international competition in all fields of science, the Committee has prioritized investments in science and technology research in the fiscal year 2023 bill. At current investment levels, NSF is not meeting the needs of our researchers and innovators. In 2010, the NSF funded more than 12,500 research proposals. By 2020, that number had fallen to fewer than 12,200. The agency has a low proposal acceptance rate of 28 percent, meaning that a lot of good ideas–and therefore potentially new technologies or industries–lack necessary funding to be developed. On average, NSF grants provide less than $200,000 over about 3 years, not long enough for a graduate student to complete a doctorate degree. In order to fully unleash domestic innovation potential, experts recommend doubling the amount of awards, increasing the duration of awards by at least a year, and increasing the number of proposals funded. This bill helps achieve those goals.

FIGHTING WASTE, FRAUD, AND ABUSE

The departments, agencies, boards, offices, and commissions funded in this bill can and should continue to reduce operating expenses by placing greater scrutiny on overhead costs. Savings can and should be achieved by reducing non-essential travel, office supply, rent, and utility costs. The Committee also calls on departments, agencies, boards, offices, and commissions funded in this bill to continue to achieve savings by lowering travel contractor costs related to air fares. The Committee continues longstanding restrictions on first class travel.

The Committee is extremely concerned about the persistent pattern of cost overruns and schedule slippages on major projects and missions carried out by the agencies within this bill. In addition, reports have exposed a culture within many agencies that exhibits a lack of accountability and oversight of grant funding. Therefore, the Committee continues bill-wide provisions to ensure greater oversight and fiscal responsibility of taxpayer dollars.

First, the bill requires each agency to notify the Committee immediately upon identification of program cost overruns greater than 10 percent.

Second, the bill requires the Inspectors General of the DOC, DOJ, NASA, NSF, and LSC to conduct reviews of grant and contract funds to ensure funds are being spent appropriately. For projects with persistent accountability issues, such as the Bureau of Prisons and weather satellites, special funding is provided for additional Inspector General scrutiny. In addition, the Government Accountability Office [GAO] will review a random sample of Congressionally-Directed Spending projects.

Third, the bill requires all departments and agencies to link all contracts that provide award fees to successful acquisition outcomes, and prohibits funds to pay for award or incentive fees for contractors with below satisfactory performance.

The Committee also supports long-standing provisions that were once solely included in this bill but have since become government-wide provisions. These include requiring each department, agency, board, and commission funded in this bill to report spending on large conferences to the Inspectors General for audit; requiring all departments and agencies funded in this bill to provide full access to documents and data for their respective Inspectors General to conduct investigations and audits; and prohibiting funds from being used for contracts, memoranda of understanding, cooperative agreements, grants, or loan activities if the proposed recipient has unpaid Federal tax liabilities or was convicted of a felony criminal violation.

Finally, the Committee intends to continue to work with the GAO to expand the review of selected large-scale acquisition and construction projects. Specifically, the Committee directs ongoing GAO reviews of large NASA projects, major research equipment and facilities construction at the NSF, with reports to the Committee on a semiannual basis. The Committee has taken strong steps to increase funding to agencies' Inspectors General to ensure strong accountability and oversight of Federal programs in this bill.

Agencies shall provide access to all necessary data, as determined by GAO, in order for these reviews to be completed and provided to the Committee in a timely manner. The Committee believes that these project status reports are valuable in identifying cost overrun and schedule slippage problems early so they can be addressed immediately and has used information in the reviews to develop this recommendation.

Federal Vehicle Fleet Management.—The General Services Administration [GSA] issues guidance on Federal fleet management, but the Federal vehicle fleet is decentralized, with each agency maintaining flexibility to manage vehicle utilization as appropriate. In order to provide better transparency and accountability of funding for Federal vehicles, the Committee directs agencies funded in this bill to conduct an annual review of fleet utilization during the third quarter of each fiscal year and provide their corresponding Offices of Inspectors General [OIGs] with supporting documentation on the method used for determining optimal fleet inventories and justification for any deviation from GSA's Federal Property Management Regulations. OIGs shall be responsible for conducting annual audits of fleet management practices and make the subsequent results for non-law enforcement sensitive agencies publicly available.

Reducing Duplication and Improving Efficiencies.—The Committee directs each agency funded in this bill to report to the Committee, within 1 year of enactment of this act, on all efforts made to address the duplication of Federal programs identified by annual GAO reports along with identifying substantive challenges and legal barriers to implementing GAO's recommendations and suggested legislative recommendations that could help the agency to further reduce duplication.

REPROGRAMMINGS, REORGANIZATIONS, AND RELOCATIONS

Section 505, contained in the General Provisions of Title V of the bill, provides procedures for the reprogramming of funds. To repro-

gram is to change the use of funds from the specific purposes provided for in the bill and the accompanying explanatory statement or, in the absence of direction from the Committee, from the specific purposes provided for in the administration's budget request. Each title of the bill has also traditionally included separate provisions that define permissible transfers of resources between appropriation accounts. These transfer authority provisions are also pursuant to section 505 and were initiated in the early 1990s to provide additional flexibility to the agencies under the subcommittee's jurisdiction.

The Committee expects each department and agency to closely follow the reprogramming procedures listed in section 505. These procedures apply to funds provided under this bill, provided under previous appropriations acts that remain available for obligation or expenditure in fiscal year 2023, or provided from any accounts in the Treasury available to the agencies funded by this bill. Section 505 requires that the Committee be notified by letter, at least 15 days prior to reprogramming of funds, whether permanent or temporary, in excess of $500,000 or 10 percent, whichever is less, between programs, projects, or activities. Section 505 of this act is also applicable in cases where funding for an activity is reduced by 10 percent. In addition, the Committee is to be notified of reprogramming actions which are less than these amounts if such actions would have the effect of committing the agency to significant funding requirements in future years; increasing funds or personnel by any means for any program, project, or activity for which funds have been previously denied or restricted by Congress; creating new programs, offices, agencies, or commissions or substantially augmenting existing programs, offices, agencies, or commissions; relocating offices or employees; or reorganizing offices, programs, or activities.

The Committee also expects that any items that are subject to interpretation will be reported. The Committee expects that each department and agency funded in the bill will follow these notification policies precisely and will not reallocate resources or reorganize activities prior to submitting the required notifications to the Committee. Reprogramming or transfer requests shall be submitted only in the case of an unforeseen emergency or situation that could not have been anticipated when formulating the budget request for the current fiscal year.

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET JUSTIFICATIONS

The Committee directs that all departments and agencies funded within this bill shall submit all of their fiscal year 2024 budget justifications concurrently with the official submission of the administration's budget to Congress. Further, all departments and agencies with classified programs funded within this act are directed to submit their classified budget justification documents to the Committee, through appropriate means, at the same time the unclassified budget justifications are transmitted.

These justifications shall include a sufficient level of detailed data, exhibits, and explanatory statements to support the appropriations requests, including tables that outline each agency's programs, projects, and activities for fiscal years 2023 and 2024. For

example, when requesting an enhancement of resources, the justification should detail the existing program and what the new resources would buy. The Committee directs the chief financial officer of each department or agency funded in this act's jurisdiction to ensure that adequate justification is given to each increase, decrease, and staffing and function change proposed in the fiscal year 2024 budget, particularly within the departmental operations and management accounts.

The Committee expects that the fiscal year 2024 submissions will include sufficient detail to justify all programs, projects, and activities contained in each department, agency, office, or commission budget request. Budget justifications are prepared not for the use of the agencies but are the primary tool the Committee uses to evaluate the resource requirements and proposals requested by the administration.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

The Committee directs the departments and agencies funded in this bill to submit reports by the deadlines detailed herein or to provide advance notification if there is sufficient reason why deadlines cannot be met, along with the expected date of submission.

The Committee also recognizes that some enduring reporting requirements from previous appropriations laws may no longer be necessary for congressional oversight purposes. In the interest of reducing government waste and expediting responses to current report mandates, each department or agency is invited to submit a list of reporting requirements that it considers outdated or no longer relevant for the review of the Committees on Appropriations. Any list submitted for review shall cite the original authority, as well as a justification for eliminating each reporting requirement.

REDUCTIONS-IN-FORCE

The Committee directs departments or agencies funded in the accompanying bill that are planning to conduct a reduction-in-force to notify the Committee in writing 30 days in advance of the date of the proposed personnel action.

APPROPRIATIONS LIAISONS

The Committee prefers to channel the majority of its inquiries and requests for information and assistance through the budget offices or comptroller offices of the departments and agencies which it oversees but reserves the right to call upon any individual or organization in any agency under its jurisdiction.

TITLE I

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

The Committee recommends a total of $11,413,739,000 for the Department of Commerce [DOC]. The recommendation is $1,510,944,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level and $279,096,000 below the budget request.

The DOC is responsible for a variety of activities critical to our Nation's well-being, including economic development, intellectual property protection, standards and measurements, trade enforcement, weather forecasting, and fisheries management. Our Nation relies on the Department to maintain America's competitiveness within today's foreign markets while promoting and expanding international trade opportunities. The Department brings together a diverse set of bureaus, specialized experts, research laboratories, and applied technology programs to support and expand opportunities for growth in the private sector. Few departments have such potential to directly impact the strength and sustainability of our communities and local businesses.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE ADMINISTRATION

OPERATIONS AND ADMINISTRATION

Appropriations, 2022	$570,000,000
Budget estimate, 2023	642,831,000
Committee recommendation	625,000,000

The Committee's recommendation provides $625,000,000 for the International Trade Administration [ITA]. The recommendation is $55,000,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level and $17,831,000 below the budget request. The discretionary appropriation is offset by $12,000,000 in fee collections.

Offsetting Fee Collections.—ITA shall continue to identify and include an accurate assessment of expected fee collections and corresponding expenditures in both its fiscal year 2023 spending plan and in its fiscal year 2024 budget request.

Adjustments to Base [ATB].—The increased funding provided for ITA shall be used to cover the requested ATB costs, among other programmatic increases highlighted herein.

United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement [USMCA] Secretariat.—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2022 enacted level for ITA to continue to support the U.S. Section of the Secretariat, authorized by the USMCA Implementation Act (Public Law 116–113).

Section 232 Tariff Exclusions.—The Committee provides the requested amount of $8,000,000, within Enforcement and Compliance [E&C], to increase support for review of requests for exclusion from steel and aluminum tariffs applied under section 232 of the Trade

Expansion Act of 1962 (19 U.S.C. 1862). With the funding provided, the Committee expects ITA to adequately resource its section 232 tariff exclusion work without continuing to rely on additional resources or personnel from E&C.

Trade Enforcement.—The Committee recognizes the importance of ITA's trade enforcement and compliance mission and is aware that the number of Antidumping [AD] and Countervailing Duty [CVD] proceedings, including investigations and administrative reviews, is currently at a historically high level. As such, within E&C, the Committee continues to support the ninth enforcement office, which ITA established in fiscal year 2022 pursuant to Public Law 117–103, and to hire additional staff to enforce the U.S. AD/CVD laws in support of domestic manufacturers, farmers, and workers.

Further, ITA is directed to submit an annual report to the Committee providing the total number of open AD/CVD orders during the fiscal year, including investigations and administrative reviews, compared to the past three fiscal years, and the total number of final determinations and final results in AD/CVD proceedings remanded to the agency or subject to remand proceedings during the relevant fiscal year by the U.S. Court of International Trade.

Aluminum Import Monitoring [AIM] System.—Within Enforcement and Compliance, the Committee provides up to $1,300,000 for continued implementation of a web-based aluminum licensing and import monitoring system, known as the AIM system. The Committee also encourages ITA to regularly consult with the aluminum industry on market dynamics to ensure the system is meeting its stated goal of supporting U.S. aluminum producers.

Budget and Staffing Oversight.—The Committee directs ITA to continue to brief the Committee no later than 30 days after the end of each fiscal quarter on the previous quarter's obligations, by object class; the planned obligations, by object class, for the current and ensuing fiscal quarters; and staffing levels within Global Markets [GM] including a breakout of Foreign Service Officers, Locally Engaged Staff, and U.S. field staff.

Increased International Commercial Engagement and Export Promotion.—The Committee is concerned by the continuing erosion of the U.S. share of the global export market and believes that the Department must prioritize ITA's commercial engagement efforts to level the international playing field for U.S. exporters. In particular, the Committee remains concerned that the Federal government does not have adequate resourcing in place to significantly increase exports to Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean, and the Pacific region. The Committee is pleased that the request articulates these same concerns and that the request proposes increased investment areas with a focus on increasing U.S. export competitiveness and the Nation's ability to counter unfair trade practices and economic coercion by China. Therefore, within funding for GM, the Committee provides the requested level for ITA to increase these international commercial engagement efforts, to include hiring additional staff and establishing new international offices in areas that are of strategic and economic importance, including Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean, and the Pacific region.

Prior to obligating these funds, but no later than 180 days after enactment of this act, ITA shall provide the Committee with a detailed spending plan for this funding, which shall include a staffing plan and a justification for the establishment of any new office.

The Committee awaits ITA's report, as directed in the joint explanatory statement accompanying Public Law 117–103 under the heading "Global Markets," on ITA's proposed investments in the areas and regions listed above.

General Data Protection Regulation [GDPR].—The Committee urges ITA to continue its efforts to educate small businesses about the GDPR. The Committee is concerned that small businesses may be unaware of their compliance obligations as a result of GDPR and could be vulnerable to fines and significant financial risk. The Committee encourages ITA to work with Federal, State, and local partners to raise awareness about GDPR obligations on American small businesses.

Rural Export Assistance.—The Committee encourages the Secretary to continue to prioritize the Department's efforts to support and expand international trade opportunities for rural businesses and provides no less than $1,500,000, an increase of $1,000,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level, within GM to support rural export centers.

Post-conflict Support for Ukraine.—Where practicable, the Committee encourages ITA to engage in post-conflict reconstruction planning for Ukraine, including the expansion of U.S. activities to strengthen economic engagement with Ukraine.

Quad Strategic Partnership.—The Committee recognizes that the Quad strategic partnership among the United States, India, Japan, and Australia is an important partnership that furthers U.S. global leadership. Therefore, the Committee encourages ITA to promote and strengthen the economic ties within this critical partnership.

Duty Evasion.—The Committee directs ITA to submit a report to the Committee, within 180 days of enactment of this act, outlining efforts taken by ITA to counteract the use of third countries by state-backed industries and producers to evade U.S. AD/CVD laws. Within that report, the Committee encourages ITA to identify congressional actions that would be beneficial to counteracting these actions.

BUREAU OF INDUSTRY AND SECURITY

OPERATIONS AND ADMINISTRATION

Appropriations, 2022	$141,000,000
Budget estimate, 2023	199,547,000
Committee recommendation	199,636,000

The Committee's recommendation provides $199,636,000 for the Bureau of Industry and Security [BIS]. The recommendation is $58,636,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level and $89,000 above the budget request.

BIS is the principal agency involved in the development, implementation, and enforcement of export controls for commercial technologies and for many military technologies as a result of export control reform. The Export Enforcement Division detects, prevents,

investigates, and assists in the sanctioning of illegal exports of such items.

Adjustments to Base.—The increased funding provided shall be used to cover the requested ATB costs, among other programmatic increases highlighted herein.

Information and Communications Technology and Services.—The Committee provides the requested amount to support BIS's responsibilities related to the implementation of Executive Order 13873, Securing the Information and Communications Technology and Services Supply Chain.

Export Control Regulatory Compliance Assistance.—The Committee directs BIS to continue its exporter outreach program to educate companies of all sizes on their obligations related to export controls. In this effort, BIS should continue targeting small- and medium-sized businesses and working with State and local trade and export associations, in addition to working with national industry groups, to ensure that small- and medium-sized businesses have clear, easy-to-understand information about complying with export control regulations.

Section 232 Exclusion Requests.—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2022 enacted level for contractor support for the product exclusion process for steel and aluminum tariffs applied under section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962 (19 U.S.C. 1862). The Department shall continue to provide quarterly reports to the Committee, due not later than 15 days after the end of each quarter, on the implementation of the exclusion process. The reports shall include: (1) the number of exclusion requests received; (2) the number of exclusion requests approved and denied; (3) the status of efforts to assist small- and medium-sized businesses in navigating the exclusion process; (4) Department-wide staffing levels by bureau for the exclusion process, including information on any staff detailed to complete this task; and (5) Department-wide funding by source appropriation and object class for costs undertaken to process the exclusions.

Enforcement of Russia Export Controls.—The Committee continues to support BIS's aggressive enforcement of Russian and Belarussian export controls and other BIS efforts to counter Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The Committee recommendation fully supports the efforts articulated in the request to forcefully respond to Russia's aggression.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION

Appropriations, 2022	$373,500,000
Budget estimate, 2023	502,518,000
Committee recommendation	450,018,000

The Committee's recommendation provides $450,018,000 for the Economic Development Administration [EDA]. The recommendation is $76,518,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level and $52,500,000 below the budget request.

EDA provides grants to local governments and nonprofit agencies for public works, planning, and other projects designed to facilitate economic development. The Committee directs EDA to coordinate with regional development organizations to support projects that will address some of the pressing issues that challenge rural eco-

nomic development, including the opioid epidemic, inequities in broadband access, and the need for innovation in legacy industries, including in the use and value-added manufacturing of forest products. Funding amounts for the two appropriations accounts under this heading are displayed below.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Appropriations, 2022	$330,000,000
Budget estimate, 2023	432,500,000
Committee recommendation	380,000,000

The Committee's recommendation provides $380,000,000 for Economic Development Assistance Programs. The recommendation is $50,000,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level and $52,500,000 below the budget request. EDA is directed to focus on its core programs and mission to aid the most distressed communities across the country. The Committee expects EDA to use all available carryover and prior year recoveries to the maximum extent possible. EDA shall consider geographic equity in making all award decisions and shall ensure that rural projects are adequately represented among those selected for funding. Of the amounts provided, funds are to be distributed as follows, and any deviation shall be subject to the procedures set forth in section 505 of this act:

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

[In thousands of dollars]

	Committee recommendation
Public Works	125,000
Economic Adjustment Assistance	43,000
Trade Adjustment Assistance for Firms	16,500
Regional Innovation Program	50,000
Partnership Planning	38,000
Technical Assistance	19,000
Research and Evaluation	3,500
Assistance to Energy Transition Communities	55,000
Recompete Pilot Program	20,000
STEM Apprenticeships	10,000
Total Economic Development Assistance Program	380,000

Outdoor Recreation Projects.—The Committee notes that projects supporting outdoor recreation are a catalyst for economic development and should be eligible for EDA funding. EDA is encouraged to consider such projects when consistent with a region's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy.

Economic Adjustment Assistance [EAA].—EAA is EDA's most flexible economic development program, which provides access to appropriate funding for projects ranging from disaster recovery to business accelerators and incubators. Within funding for EAA, the Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2022 enacted level to support EDA's collaborations with the Delta Regional Authority, the Appalachian Regional Commission, and the Northern Border Regional Commission to assist distressed communities. Eligible activities for the Northern Border Regional Commission collaboration shall contribute to the recovery of forest-based economies and may

include support for forest-based businesses, outdoor recreation infrastructure, and activities that assist in the recruitment and retention of employees in rural communities within the territory.

Assistance to Manufacturing Communities and Distressed Communities.—The Committee encourages EDA to invest in public-private partnerships that target distressed areas seeking to diversify their local workforce through advanced manufacturing operations. When working with distressed communities, EDA shall work in good faith to identify the best funding sources to meet a community's needs and assist with the technical requirements that must be included in each grant proposal. EDA is reminded that distressed communities most in need of funding are often poorly positioned to produce a technical and sophisticated proposal required for agency funding.

Regional Innovation Program [RIP].—The Committee provides $50,000,000 to EDA for grants under RIP, also referred to as Build to Scale [B2S]. Of the amount provided for RIP grants, no less than $40,000,000 shall be for the i6 Challenge, also referred to as the B2S Venture Challenge, and no less than $8,000,000 shall be for Seed Fund Support, also referred to as the B2S Capital Challenge. As part of its spend plan, EDA is directed to provide a detailed justification for any funding provided herein that is intended to be used to support a B2S Industry Challenge in fiscal year 2023. EDA shall continue to ensure that RIP awards go to multiple grantees in multiple and diverse geographic areas, including an increased focus on organizations and States that have not previously received funding from the program. Furthermore, within funds provided for RIP, EDA shall award not less than 40 percent of grants to support rural communities.

New Forest Products.—The Committee notes that many forest-based economies have experienced disruption and decline in recent years. EDA is encouraged to work, including through RIP, with communities and regions that have been adversely impacted by rapid changes in the timber and pulp marketplaces and to support projects that help these communities develop related industries, including commercialization of new forest products using low-grade wood. This work may include the coordination of economic development efforts across multiple States or Economic Development Districts. Additionally, the Committee reiterates that communities facing job losses are eligible for all EDA programs.

Aeronautics.—The Committee encourages EDA to consider economic development opportunities in communities looking to expand or bolster the presence of aeronautics-related industries, which are a key driver of economic development in communities across the Nation.

Native American Tourism and Improving Visitor Experience [NATIVE] Act.—Within the increase provided to Technical Assistance, EDA is encouraged to identify and provide technical assistance to eligible entities, consistent with the NATIVE Act (Public Law 114–221).

Assistance to Power Plant Closure Communities.—The Committee notes that closures of energy plants throughout the United States have had a significant effect on the economies of the communities surrounding the plants due to job losses and dramatic reductions

to local tax bases. The Committee appreciates the work EDA has undertaken in prior years to assist communities impacted by recent or scheduled plant closures and provides $55,000,000 for early-stage strategic planning and economic development projects to assist these communities. Of that amount, no less than $16,500,000 shall be for assistance to nuclear power plant closure communities, no less than $5,000,000 shall be for assistance to biomass power plant closure communities, and no less than $33,500,000 shall be for assistance to coal communities.

Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math [STEM] Apprenticeships and Workforce Development.—The Committee notes the recent growth of STEM-related industries across the country. Given this trend, the Committee provides $10,000,000 to create and expand STEM apprenticeship and other workforce training models to help workers develop the skills necessary to join this growing industry. Within the funds provided, the Committee directs EDA to prioritize implementation grants, to the extent practicable.

Diversifying Local, Distressed Economies.—Many economically distressed communities suffer from dependency on a single industry or sector that makes them vulnerable to sector-specific economic downturns, trade wars, and natural disasters. The Committee recognizes that economic development projects that seek to diversify local workforce by attracting private investment can lead to a more resilient economy. Therefore, the Committee encourages EDA to invest in public-private partnerships that target distressed communities seeking to diversify their local workforce, particularly opportunities where private companies have already invested in such communities and are looking to expand.

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. Therefore, the Committee directs EDA to expand outreach and technical guidance to prospective grantees with the goal of ensuring increased quality and quantity of applications for assistance aimed at benefitting residents of persistent poverty counties or high-poverty areas, as defined in House Report 116–101 and codified in Public Law 116–93.

Rural Economic Development.—The Committee recognizes the economic development challenges rural communities face and encourages EDA, in coordination with regional development organizations, to continue to support projects that address these challenges, including access to affordable, high-speed broadband.

Program Duplication.—EDA is directed to ensure, to the greatest extent practicable, that its grant programs avoid duplication and overlap with any other Federal grant programs.

Coordinating Federal Resources.—The Committee notes that in GAO–21–579—a recent report authored by the Government Accountability Office [GAO] on furthering collaboration among EDA, the Department of Housing and Urban Development [HUD], and the U.S. Department of Agriculture [USDA]—GAO issued recommendations to EDA, HUD, and USDA on how to better leverage complementary Federal economic development funds for State and local economic planning. The Committee encourages EDA to im-

prove collaboration with HUD and USDA to help local communities maximize Federal economic development resources.

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Appropriations, 2022	$43,500,000
Budget estimate, 2023	70,018,000
Committee recommendation	70,018,000

The Committee's recommendation provides $70,018,000 for salaries and expenses. The recommendation is $26,518,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level and equal to the budget request.

MINORITY BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

MINORITY BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Appropriations, 2022	$55,000,000
Budget estimate, 2023	110,000,000
Committee recommendation	70,000,000

The Committee's recommendation provides $70,000,000 for the Minority Business Development Agency [MBDA]. The recommendation is $15,000,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level and $40,000,000 below the budget request. MBDA is the only Federal agency dedicated to promoting the growth of minority-owned firms and assists small, medium, and large minority business enterprises in increasing revenues and creating jobs. The Committee notes that fiscal year 2023 is the first full fiscal year following the historic enactment of the MBDA Act, which was included as part of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law 117–58). Among other changes, this law authorizes the creation of rural business centers and creates the Parren J. Mitchel Entrepreneurship Education Grants Program to cultivate the next generation of minority entrepreneurs on the campuses of Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Minority Serving Institutions.

The bill includes language regarding overhead costs.

Adjustments to Base.—The increased funding provided shall be used to cover the requested ATB costs, among other programmatic increases.

Hiring.—The Committee is concerned by MBDA's high vacancy rate and directs the agency to expedite its efforts to fill all outstanding vacancies.

ECONOMIC AND STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Appropriations, 2022	$116,000,000
Budget estimate, 2023	140,878,000
Committee recommendation	128,000,000

The Committee's recommendation provides $128,000,000 for Economic and Statistical Analysis [ESA]. The recommendation is $12,000,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level and $12,878,000 below the budget request. ESA conducts research to provide a better understanding of the U.S. economy, helping government make more informed policy decisions.

Supply Chain.—The recommendation supports ESA's effort to track U.S. participation in global supply and distribution chains,

map and understand current supply chains, and address supply chain vulnerabilities.

Outdoor Recreation Satellite Account.—The Committee recognizes the national economic importance of the outdoor recreation industry. Not less than $1,500,000 is provided to continue implementing the Outdoor Recreation Jobs and Economic Impact Act of 2016 (Public Law 114–249) in fiscal year 2023. The Committee directs the Department to continue working with the outdoor recreation industry, nongovernmental organizations, and other interested stakeholders to refine the national-level statistics and to continue developing regional statistics.

Commodity Checkoff Programs.—The Committee recognizes that the Commerce Department's Concrete Masonry Checkoff Program is an industry-led program funding the research and promotion of concrete masonry products. The Committee encourages the Department to maximize the effectiveness of its checkoff programs by developing administrative remedies, where practicable, to ensure program resources are fully utilized for their intended purpose.

Economic and Statistical Analysis Data Collection Sources.—The Committee recognizes the value and importance of real-time economic data for the purpose of identifying economic trends and consumer sentiment. The Committee encourages the Department of Commerce Economics and Statistics Administration to use a competitive process to procure consumer sentiment and economic indicator data in the future.

BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

Appropriations, 2022	$1,354,000,000
Budget estimate, 2023	1,505,470,000
Committee recommendation	1,485,000,000

The Committee's recommendation provides $1,485,000,000 for the Census Bureau. The recommendation is $131,000,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level and $20,470,000 below the budget request.

At this time, the recommendation does not accept the proposal to merge Census's Current Surveys and Programs account with the Periodic Censuses and Programs account to create a new Censuses and Survey account.

CURRENT SURVEYS AND PROGRAMS

Appropriations, 2022	$300,000,000
Budget estimate, 2023	[1] 336,176,000
Committee recommendation	330,000,000

[1] Totals included in this table for the fiscal year 2023 budget request represent the portion of the merged request for this account using the fiscal year 2022 budget structure.

The Committee's recommendation provides $330,000,000 for current surveys and programs. The recommendation is $30,000,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level and $6,176,000 below the budget request. This account provides for the salaries and expenses associated with the statistical programs of the Bureau of the Census, including measurement of the Nation's economy and the demographic characteristics of the population.

High Frequency Data Program.—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2022 enacted level for the High Frequency Data Program.

Population Estimate Challenge Program.—The Committee recognizes that pandemic-related disruptions to 2020 Census operations may have resulted in significant undercounts in some localities. Because census counts are the basis for annual population estimates that are used to distribute Federal funding resources through funding formulas, those estimates should be as accurate as possible. In conducting the Population Estimates Challenge Program, the Census Bureau should consider more flexible methodologies and broader use of administrative data to ensure that general-purpose governmental units have meaningful opportunities to present data to dispute the accuracy of the estimates.

PERIODIC CENSUSES AND PROGRAMS

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

Appropriations, 2022	$1,054,000,000
Budget estimate, 2023	[1] 1,169,294,000
Committee recommendation	1,155,000,000

[1] Totals included in this table for fiscal year 2023 budget request represent the portion of the merged request for this account using the fiscal year 2022 budget structure.

The Committee's recommendation provides $1,155,000,000 for periodic censuses and programs. The recommendation is $101,000,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level and $14,294,000 below the budget request.

This account provides for the constitutionally mandated Decennial Census as well as other cyclical programs. Additionally, the Census Bureau conducts individual surveys for other Federal agencies on a reimbursable basis.

Census Data Products and Disclosure Avoidance.—The Committee encourages the Census Bureau to work closely with its advisory committees, stakeholders representing public interests, and the data user community to ensure the availability of useful data products, especially for population groups in rural and remote areas, while protecting the confidentiality of personal Census data. The Bureau should continue to consult regularly with data users on disclosure avoidance methods under consideration for all 2020 Census data products, as well as for other Bureau data programs, including the American Community Survey [ACS].

Oversight of Periodic Census Programs.—The Committee's recommendation provides $3,556,000 for the Office of the Inspector General [OIG] to continue oversight and audits of periodic censuses and to provide the Bureau and Congress with independent recommendations for improving operations. The Committee directs the Bureau to follow the OIG's recommendations.

Ensuring the Integrity and Security of Surveys and Data.—The Committee directs the Census Bureau to coordinate with the Department of Homeland Security, and other relevant agencies, to prepare for, prevent, and disrupt cyber intrusions and disinformation campaigns that have the potential to impact survey participation or compromise data collected by the Census Bureau.

The Bureau should also coordinate with State and local stakeholders and private industry, as appropriate.

Utilizing Libraries and Community Partners for Census Surveys.—The Committee encourages the Census Bureau to continue its partnership with public libraries and other community technology centers to maximize the response to the ACS and other surveys and assessments as appropriate. The Bureau is encouraged to work with libraries and library organizations, in coordination with the Institute of Museum and Library Services, regarding training for library staff and webinars or conference presentations to library audiences about Census surveys and assessments.

American Community Survey.—The Committee supports the ACS and directs the Bureau to continue using the ACS as a testbed for innovative survey and data processing techniques that can be used across the Bureau. The Committee notes that the ACS is often the primary or only source of data available to State, local, and Federal agencies that need adequate information on a wide range of topics. These data are especially important to small towns and rural areas across the country, and the Bureau should ensure that rural areas are covered with the same accuracy as urban areas to the maximum extent practicable. The Committee further expects the Bureau to evaluate the current questions to ensure that this survey captures not only the required statutory data needed to be collected, but also captures data that reflects the complex nature of the Nation's population. To the greatest extent practicable, the ACS should reduce the number of questions included in the survey and ensure steps are being taken to conduct the ACS as efficiently and unobtrusively as possible.

Race and Ethnicity Data Accuracy.—The Committee continues to be interested in ensuring the publication of accurate data on race and ethnicity across surveys. The Bureau should work with the Office of Management and Budget to facilitate appropriate, scientifically-guided revisions to those standards that will allow the Bureau to modernize its collection of race and ethnicity data based on research and testing results, as soon as practicable. The Bureau is directed to provide a report to the Committee, no later than 180 days after enactment of this act, on its plan for implementing updated race and ethnicity questions for the its surveys, including the ACS and the 2030 Census, and on whether the Bureau believes that additional testing is necessary.

Ask U.S. Panel Survey.—The Committee is concerned about the lack of transparency related to the Census Bureau's plans for implementation of the Ask U.S. Panel Survey, particularly given the lack of congressional authorization and the expanding scope of the project since it was initially announced. The Bureau is directed to provide a report to the Committee, no later than 60 days following enactment of this act, on the Ask U.S. Panel Survey's methodology, data collection processes, implementation, incurred and projected costs, and procurement strategy.

NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Appropriations, 2022	$50,000,000
Budget estimate, 2023	67,605,000
Committee recommendation	65,000,000

The Committee's recommendation provides $65,000,000 for National Telecommunications and Information Administration [NTIA] salaries and expenses. The recommendation is $15,000,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level and $2,605,000 below the budget request.

The Committee retains language from previous years allowing the Secretary to collect reimbursements from other Federal agencies for a portion of the cost resulting from the coordination of spectrum management, analysis, and operations. NTIA shall submit a report to the Committee no later than June 1, 2023, detailing the collection of reimbursements from other agencies.

Broadband Investments under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act [IIJA].—In Public Law 117–58, Congress made a historic $65,000,000,000 investment in broadband infrastructure, equity, and affordability. Under that law, the NTIA will distribute $42,500,000,000 to build broadband infrastructure in unserved and underserved areas. However, NTIA must rely on the Federal Communications Commission [FCC] for the updated maps to determine how to apply the formula that will distribute the majority of the IIJA broadband funds to States to address accessibility. The Committee encourages NTIA to prepare each State so that it can rapidly deploy funding once the maps are completed and State deployment plans are approved. No more than 60 days after the enactment of this act, NTIA shall submit a report to the Committee detailing the steps it has taken to coordinate with States to prepare for IIJA fund distribution and how NTIA interacts with the FCC to carry out its responsibilities to implement the Deployment Locations Map pursuant to section 60105 of Public Law 117–58.

Next Generation Broadband in Rural Areas.—The Committee recognizes that access to broadband in all communities across the Nation is essential for improving economic growth, education, job creation, civic engagement, public safety and health, global competitiveness, and quality of life. The Committee remains concerned that advanced broadband technologies have not been sufficiently deployed in rural areas. NTIA is encouraged to coordinate with other relevant Federal agencies to identify and pursue policies that enable effective and efficient broadband deployment nationwide while advancing next-generation technologies, such as 5G networks, and to avoid efforts that could duplicate existing networks. NTIA is further encouraged to ensure that deployment of last-mile broadband infrastructure is targeted to areas that are currently unserved or underserved.

Federal Spectrum Management.—The Committee directs NTIA to continue to evaluate options for repurposing spectrum for broadband in support of making 500 megahertz [MHz] of spectrum available for wireless broadband use. NTIA shall also provide the Committee with annual updates on the progress in making 500

MHz of spectrum available for commercial mobile use, including the strategy for freeing up additional spectrum from Federal agencies.

Spectrum Management for Science.—Preserving access to key portions of radio spectrum important for radio astronomy observations and other scientific uses is essential for scientific discovery. The Committee encourages NTIA, in coordination with the FCC and other appropriate stakeholders, to continue ensuring spectrum access for scientific activities. The Committee requests a report from NTIA within 180 days after enactment of this act on the coordination efforts underway.

Policy and Technical Training.—The Committee encourages NTIA to work with the FCC and the Department of State to provide support for activities provided under section 7 of Public Law 98–549 and provides no less than the fiscal year 2022 enacted level for these activities. 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.

Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program.—The Committee notes the historic investments Congress has made through the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (Public Law 116–260) and the IIJA. The Committee directs NTIA to continue engaging with eligible entities to ensure the full potential of these investments is realized.

Office of Internet Connectivity and Growth [OICG].—As part of the Access Broadband Act, enacted into law as part of Public Law 116–260, NTIA created the OICG to further the deployment and use of broadband technology. As programs associated with the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment [BEAD] program are implemented, the annual Access Broadband report shall capture the amount of funds previously invested by agencies over the past decade for broadband program implementation, as well as the efforts of States to deploy broadband technologies and the outcomes associated with the significant investment through BEAD in providing unserved and underserved areas access to broadband. NTIA shall also coordinate with other Federal agencies with broadband programs to improve overall data collection, efficiently manage broadband investments, identify funds used to upgrade systems versus new systems, and unify metrics and measurements to accurately represent the outcomes of BEAD and other Federal broadband programs.

FirstNet.—The bill includes continued funding for the OIG for the purposes of oversight and accountability of FirstNet through the end of fiscal year 2023.

PUBLIC TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES, PLANNING, AND CONSTRUCTION

The Committee provides bill language allowing NTIA to continue oversight and administration of previously awarded grants. NTIA shall not use unobligated balances to award new grants. The Committee requests a briefing on the need to maintain this account.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

Appropriations, 2022	$4,058,410,000
Budget estimate, 2023	4,253,404,000
Committee recommendation	4,253,404,000

The Committee's recommendation provides $4,253,404,000 for the United States Patent and Trademark Office [USPTO], which is $194,994,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level and equal to the budget request, to be derived from offsetting fee collections.

USPTO examines patent applications, grants patent protection for qualified inventions, and disseminates technological information disclosed in patents. USPTO also examines trademark applications and provides Federal registration to owners of qualified trademarks.

Transfer to the OIG.—The Committee provides $2,450,000 for the OIG to continue oversight and audits of USPTO operations and budget transparency, and USPTO is directed to work with the Department to implement all OIG recommendations.

Reprogramming and Spend Plan.—USPTO shall follow the reprogramming procedures outlined in section 505 of this act before using excess fee collections to forward fund expenses beyond fiscal year 2023.

Intellectual Property [IP] Attachés.—The Committee remains concerned that USPTO's IP attachés may not have adequate access to their foreign government counterparts and are not consistently involved in Embassy or consulate conversations regarding intellectual property matters. The Secretary is directed to work with USPTO, ITA, and the Department of State to ensure that the attachés are appropriately utilized, including in discussions and negotiations at the counselor rank and above.

IP Theft.—The Committee remains concerned with the growing theft of IP by and on behalf of foreign government actors, especially by China, as made clear in the United States Trade Representative's Section 301 report, "Findings of the Investigation into China's Acts, Policies, and Practices Related to Technology Transfer, Intellectual Property, and Innovation under Section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974." The Committee urges USPTO to work with all relevant agencies to protect U.S. IP through education, outreach, foreign IP attachés, and ongoing trade negotiations.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY

Appropriations, 2022	$1,230,063,000
Budget estimate, 2023	1,467,549,000
Committee recommendation	1,696,339,000

The Committee's recommendation provides $1,696,339,000 for the National Institute of Standards and Technology [NIST]. The recommendation is $466,276,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level and $228,790,000 above the budget request. Up to $9,000,000 may be transferred from the Scientific and Technical Research and Services [STRS] account to the Working Capital Fund.

NIST's mission is to promote U.S. innovation and industrial competitiveness by advancing measurement science, standards, and technology in ways that enhance economic security and improve our quality of life.

SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL RESEARCH AND SERVICES

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

Appropriations, 2022	$850,000,000
Budget estimate, 2023	974,946,000
Committee recommendation	974,946,000

The Committee's recommendation provides $974,946,000 for NIST STRS. The recommendation is $124,946,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level and equal to the budget request. The Committee directs NIST to provide a detailed spending plan for NIST's highest priority laboratory programs that describes resources used for each program, project, or activity [PPA].

Adjustments to Base.—The Committee provides the requested increases to cover ATB costs, among other programmatic increases highlighted herein.

NIST Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.—The Committee provides $5,780,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level for NIST to support development of a diverse workforce and new pipelines for the next generation of scientists and engineers, helping to improve diversity, inclusion, and equity in STEM as outlined in Executive Order 13985. Part of this increase shall be used to initiate a new program to provide opportunities for postdoctoral researchers from backgrounds that are underrepresented in STEM careers to work in the NIST laboratories.

Quantum Information Science [QIS].—The Committee supports NIST's research program in QIS, as authorized in section 201 of the National Quantum Initiative Act (Public Law 115–368) and provides up to $61,000,000 for these activities, which is $12,000,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level. QIS promises to yield revolutionary new approaches to computing, sensing, and communication, among others.

Cybersecurity.—The Committee remains concerned about the number of cyberattacks affecting the Nation. Therefore, the Committee provides $10,000,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level for cybersecurity research, outreach, industry partnerships, and other activities at NIST, including the National Cybersecurity Center of Excellence [NCCoE]. Within the funds provided, the Committee directs NIST to support National Initiative for Cybersecurity Education [NICE] cooperative agreements with Regional Alliances and Multistakeholder Partnerships to Stimulate for cybersecurity education and workforce development as authorized in section 9401 of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (Public Law 116–283).

In addition, the Committee encourages NIST to bolster the technology foundations and put in place the practical steps needed to ensure the security and integrity of the technology supply chain, in partnership with the private sector, in accordance with Executive Order 14028. NIST is also encouraged to reduce the backlog at the Cryptographic Module Validation Program.

Cybersecurity of Genomic Data.—The Committee provides up to $5,000,000 for NIST and NCCoE to continue the cybersecurity of genomic data use case that was initiated in fiscal year 2021. NIST and NCCoE shall continue to partner with non-governmental entities that have existing capability to research and develop state-of-the-art cybersecurity technologies for the unique needs of genomic and biomedical-based systems.

Artificial Intelligence [AI].—The Committee provides up to $12,000,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level to expand NIST's ongoing AI research and measurement science efforts. NIST is directed to develop standards, metrics, and tools for government, corporate, and academic uses of AI to train and test systems, model AI behavior, and compare systems. NIST is also directed to continue the multi-stakeholder process of developing a framework for managing risks related to the reliability, robustness, and trustworthiness of AI systems.

Within the funding provided, the Committee encourages NIST to continue to meet growing demand for the Facial Recognition Vendor Test and to improve the test. The Committee is aware that this test is an important resource for government, commercial, and academic developers to assess the quality of their facial recognition technologies. As more companies and government users invest in this technology, the test will continue to be a critical step for responsible use. The Committee encourages NIST to: expand testing to include a more diverse combination of demographics and environmental settings in the test data, develop educational material and work on image quality standards for data collection, expand testing to improve enhanced privacy technologies for better template protection, and expand existing testing infrastructure in support of these improvements.

Forensic Sciences.—The Committee provides $2,000,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level for forensic science research, including $3,300,000 to support the Organization of Scientific Area Committees and $2,000,000 to support technical merit evaluations. In addition, NIST is directed to report to the Committee whether Federal support is necessary for Standards Development Organizations in order to further advance the use of forensic standards.

Climate and Energy Measurement, Tools, and Testbeds.—The Committee recognizes the important role that NIST laboratories play to address climate change through climate measurements and modeling of greenhouse gas emissions as well as research and tools to build more resilient communities. The Committee provides up to the amount requested in the President's budget for Climate and Energy Measurement, Tools, and Testbeds.

Within the funding provided, the Committee provides $5,000,000 for the establishment of a NIST Center of Excellence in climate change measurement. The center will establish national standards and measurements for tracking climate change and its impact. The center shall be established in a State with existing requirements to reduce greenhouse gases and track climate impacts. The institution shall have established partnerships with national climate offices, as well as with an established State Climate Office, and shall have experience conducting comprehensive state climate assessments. Further, NIST is encouraged to consider an institution with

an existing interdisciplinary research institute that establishes and coordinates research teams that integrate data from physical, biological, and social sciences for the purposes of synthesizing climate data. NIST is encouraged to partner with an institution that does not currently have a Center of Excellence.

Forward-Looking Building Standards.—The Committee remains 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, within the additional funding for Climate and Energy Measurement, Tools, and Testbeds, the Committee directs NIST to continue to coordinate work with NOAA and other appropriate Federal agencies and interested non-Federal parties, as needed, 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. These data shall include projections of both chronic climate impacts, such as sea level rise, and extreme weather events, like hurricanes, floods, and droughts. Further, the Committee directs NIST to provide technical assistance to standards developing organizations regarding use of the identified forward-looking information. Not later than 90 days after the enactment of this act, NIST shall report to the Committee regarding progress the agency has made in aiding both Federal and non-Federal bodies in developing standards, building codes, and voluntary standards that take into account increasingly extreme weather events and other climate change challenges.

Urban Dome.—The Committee recognizes the value of NIST's Greenhouse Gas Measurements Program and Urban Dome Initiative and the importance of accurate measurement science for environmental monitoring and human health. These cost-effective capabilities 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 provides not less than $16,000,000 for the Greenhouse Gas Measurements Program and Urban Dome Initiative to continue support for the established testbed activities and to expand sensor network deployments locations.

Public Health Risk to First Responders.—The Committee recognizes the pressing public health risk associated with occupational exposure to per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances [PFAS], particularly among civilian and military firefighters. Therefore, the Committee provides $3,000,000 for NIST to complete the study of new and unused personal protective equipment worn by firefighters to determine the prevalence and concentration of PFAS in the equipment, as well as the extent to which PFAS may be released from the gear during normal wear and under what conditions, as authorized by the Guaranteeing Equipment Safety for Firefighters Act of 2020 (Public Law 116–283). By the end of fiscal year 2023, NIST shall provide the Committee with the final report required under Public Law 116–283 including the major study findings and recommendations on what additional research or technical improvements should be pursued to avoid unnecessary occupational expo-

sure among firefighters to PFAS through personal protective equipment or related components.

Regenerative Medicine Standards.—The Committee is encouraged by the work of NIST and the Standards Coordinating Body to develop comprehensive standards for the development and evaluation of regenerative medicine products to fulfill the regenerative medicine standards provisions enacted under the 21st Century Cures Act (Public Law 114–255). The Committee recognizes the need to continue ongoing efforts to develop and maintain standards and provides no less than the fiscal year 2022 enacted level to continue to support those activities. The Committee also understands that additional efforts are needed to ensure proper use of these standards by educating product developers and disseminating these standards nationally. The Committee provides up to $2,000,000 for NIST to support the development of curricula in partnership with academic institutions and other stakeholders such as through establishment of consortia for workforce training around the use of regenerative medicine standards.

Circular Economy.—The Committee is encouraged by NIST's budget proposal to increase funding for circular economy related research, which complements the Committee's longstanding support for NIST research in the area of recycling plastic and polymeric materials. The Committee provides up to the requested amount for circular economy related research. In addition, the Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2022 enacted level for competitive external grants for academic institutions to investigate plastic and polymeric materials, as well as novel methods to characterize both known and newly developed materials. Such investigations should address ways to increase the strength of recycled plastics and better understand mechanical properties including tensile stress, compressive stress, thermal properties, and nanostructure of polymeric materials that could serve as industry standards for recycled plastic products.

Composites.—The Committee encourages NIST to work with academic institutions, in collaboration with State and industry partners, to develop new composite technologies to solve problems in the manufacturing space and related materials industries. Further, the Committee urges NIST to work with relevant Federal agencies, including the Federal Highway Administration, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the Environmental Protection Agency, to aggregate existing standards and test methods for the use of composites and other innovative materials in infrastructure, as well as to identify barriers to broader market adoption.

Pyrrhotite Testing and Mitigation.—The Committee provides $750,000 for NIST to continue studying and developing a reliable and cost-effective standard for testing for the presence of excessive amounts of the mineral pyrrhotite in concrete used in residential foundations and municipal structures, which can cause premature cracking and structural failure. In addition to funding widespread sample collection and studies needed to develop standardized tests, the Committee directs NIST to investigate mitigation strategies for concrete structures that may not yet have developed cracking but contain pyrrhotite.

Graphene Research and Commercialization.—The Committee provides up to the fiscal year 2022 enacted level for NIST to fund and pursue graphene research activities with industry and academic institutions that have expertise, existing capabilities, and infrastructure related to the commercial application of graphene.

Robotics Training Center.—The Committee provides up to $2,500,000 for NIST to establish a robotic training center in partnership with an academic institution that has expertise in robotics and automation in the manufacturing sector.

Unmanned Aerial Vehicle [UAV] Challenges and Credentialing.—The Committee provides $3,250,000 for NIST's UAV research challenges and credentialing program. Within the funding provided, NIST shall continue to partner with academic institutions to execute UAV prize based challenges and to establish the measurements and standards infrastructure necessary for credentialing remote pilots.

NIST Center for Neutron Research [NCNR].—The Committee provides an increase of $5,000,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level for the repair and upgrade of NCNR physical infrastructure as well as to right-size operations and safety staffing and training.

The Committee notes that the NCNR reactor is more than 50 years old and its current U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission license will expire in 2029. Therefore, not more than 270 days after enactment of this act, NIST is directed to provide the Committee with an assessment of future needs for a Federal facility to maintain U.S. leadership in research using neutron sources.

Critical and Emerging Technologies.—The Committee recognizes NIST's important role in U.S. engagement on standards development across areas of critical and emerging technologies. As our global competitors increase focus on international standards development, it is important for NIST, in partnership with the private sector, to maintain global leadership. Therefore, the Committee provides up to $8,000,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level for these purposes.

Measurement Service Modernization.—The Committee supports NIST's efforts to modernize its measurement services and provides up to $5,000,000 for these purposes. The increased funding shall support the transition to digital services delivery and infrastructure updates, including laboratory instrumentation and modern preparation and packaging equipment, to meet the evolving needs of the market.

iEdison System.—The Committee provides the requested $2,000,000 for NIST to assume full management of the Interagency Edison [iEdison] system from the National Institutes of Health.

Malcolm Baldrige Performance Excellence Program.—The Committee recognizes the value of the Baldrige Program and its impact on the performance of organizations that adopt its best practices. Therefore, the Committee provides $2,600,000 for the Malcolm Baldrige Performance Excellence Program. The Committee commends the Baldrige program's efforts to improve the adoption of the NIST Cybersecurity Framework and encourages the program to build more partnerships and self-assessment tools to help organizations with their cybersecurity risk management.

NIST EXTERNAL PROJECTS

The Committee's recommendation provides $47,457,000 for NIST External Projects as detailed in the table below. The Committee directs NIST to provide the amounts listed in the table, and NIST shall perform the same level of oversight and due diligence as with any other external partners.

NIST EXTERNAL PROJECTS

Recipient	Project	Recommendation ($)
Bowie State University	STEM Diversity in Research Opportunities Collaboration	1,500,000
Clarkson University	Clarkson Green Energy on Demand	875,000
Colorado School of Mines	Solidified Natural Gas: Methane Emission Capture and Conversion.	1,150,000
Columbia Gorge Community College	Advanced Manufacturing Skills Equipment	441,000
Delaware Innovation Space	Biotechnology, Chemistry, and Materials Science Research Lab Equipment.	2,475,000
Maine Mineral and Gem Museum	Equipment for Lithium and Geological Research	725,000
Mississippi State University	Inclement Weather Research Laboratory	1,000,000
Morgan State University	Center for Equitable Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning	2,000,000
Mountwest Community & Technical College.	Mountwest Cybersecurity Center	850,000
New York Medical College	Women's Institute for Science Entrepreneurship (WISE)	825,000
Northern Illinois University	Advanced Electronics Initiative	1,000,000
Springfield Museums	Biomes Around the World	465,000
Stony Brook University	Long Island Quantum Internet Center	1,000,000
Tulane University	Advanced Semiconductor Research Equipment	2,000,000
University at Albany, State University of New York.	Advancement of the Ion Beam Laboratory	520,000
University of Delaware	Equipment for Gene Therapy Production Suite	5,000,000
University of Illinois-Chicago—Public Health.	Community-driven Air Quality and Environmental Justice Assessment.	2,000,000
University of Maine System	PFAS Analytical Laboratory Equipment	5,000,000
University of Minnesota, The Hormel Institute.	CryoEM Support Technology	1,500,000
University of Mississippi	Infrasound Calibration Standards Facility	1,500,000
University of New Hampshire	Enhancement of the University of New Hampshire Stormwater Center.	1,137,000
University of New Hampshire	Marine Waterfront Facility Equipment	494,000
University of Rhode Island	Quantum Information Science Research Initiative	1,000,000
University of Southern Mississippi	Advanced Clean Energy Materials Validation and Product Demonstration.	3,000,000
University of Washington	Quantum Technologies Teaching and Testbed (QT3)	2,500,000
West Virginia University	WVU Advanced Imaging and Chemical Analysis Equipment	2,500,000
Wichita State University	Research of Metallic Additive Manufacturing Materials and Processes.	5,000,000

INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

Appropriations, 2022	$174,500,000
Budget estimate, 2023	372,318,000
Committee recommendation	270,000,000

The Committee provides $270,000,000 for Industrial Technology Services. The recommendation is $95,500,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level and $102,318,000 below the budget request.

Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership Program [MEP].—The Committee provides $200,000,000 for the MEP program, $42,000,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level, to respond to the critical national needs of small- and medium-sized enterprises, including by increasing the number of enterprises that the program assists.

Manufacturing USA.—The Manufacturing USA program promotes American competitiveness by fostering the development of new manufacturing techniques and fields, accelerating commercialization, and providing technical assistance to U.S. companies.

The Committee provides $70,000,000 for NIST's activities within Manufacturing USA, of which at least $40,000,000 is to support new NIST-funded institutes, which are to be broadly competed, and solicit applications from all focus areas codified in section 1741 of Public Law 116–92; at least $10,000,000 is to support the existing NIST-funded institute; and up to $1,500,000 may be used to support the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's participation in biomanufacturing innovation institutes.

Biomanufacturing Capacity.—The Committee is concerned with the lack of biomanufacturing capacity in this country and recognizes that supply chain resilience for domestic manufacturing relies on adequate manufacturing infrastructure. Within 120 days of enactment of this act, the Committee directs NIST to provide a report including: (1) the current biomanufacturing capacity in the United States; (2) the gaps in biomanufacturing infrastructure; (3) an assessment of appropriate sites for placement of future domestic biomanufacturing facilities, including in rural areas; and (4) related assets and opportunities as appropriate, such as intellectual property, talent, and technology maturation lost to other countries over the last 5 years.

CONSTRUCTION OF RESEARCH FACILITIES

Appropriations, 2022	$205,563,000
Budget estimate, 2023	120,285,000
Committee recommendation	451,393,000

The Committee provides $451,393,000 for construction of research facilities, including not less than $125,000,000 for Safety, Capacity, Maintenance, and Major Repairs. The recommendation is $245,830,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level and $331,108,000 above the budget request.

Competitive Construction Grants.—The Committee provides $120,000,000 for NIST to reestablish a competitive construction grant program for research science buildings. Projects are to be selected on the basis of the scientific and technical merit, the need for Federal funding, design quality and suitability for the intended purpose, and the strength of the project-management plan. NIST is encouraged to prioritize proposals from institutions within Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research [EPSCoR] jurisdictions or classified as Minority Serving Institutions.

NIST EXTRAMURAL CONSTRUCTION

The Committee provides $201,726,000 for NIST Extramural Construction projects as detailed in the table below. The Committee directs NIST to provide the amounts listed the in table, and NIST shall perform the same level of due diligence as with any other external partners.

NIST EXTRAMURAL CONSTRUCTION

Recipient	Project Purpose	Recommended ($)
Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences.	Construction of an Innovation and Education Wing at Bigelow Laboratory.	12,326,000
Champlain College	Cybersecurity and Information Technology Nexus Research	10,000,000
Fort Hays State University	Renovation of Forsyth Library	2,000,000
Marion Military Institute	Construction of a New Math and Science Facility	35,000,000
Missouri State University	Construction at Cheek Hall Science and Mathematics Facilities	5,000,000
Norwich University	Multi-disciplinary Cyber Fusion Research and Development Center.	16,400,000
Seacoast Science Center	Seacoast Science Center Renovation and Program Expansion	5,000,000
The Curators of the University of Missouri.	Construction at Manufacturing Technology and Innovation Campus.	20,000,000
The University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa.	Construction of a High-performance Computing and Data Center for Water and Hydrological Scientific Research, Education, and Forecasting.	45,000,000
University of Kansas Cancer Center	Planning and Construction of a Cancer Research Facility at the KU Cancer Center.	28,000,000
University of Maine System	Construction of an Advanced-Manufacturing Materials Research Facility.	8,000,000
University of New England	Construction of a Coastal Research Deployment Facility	3,500,000
University of Oklahoma	Expansion of National Weather Center Facilities	9,500,000
West Virginia Geological and Economic Survey.	Modernization of Repository Facilities	2,000,000

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Appropriations, 2022	$5,877,349,000
Budget estimate, 2023	6,863,520,000
Committee recommendation	6,510,833,000

The Committee's recommendation provides $6,510,833,000 for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration [NOAA]. The recommendation is $633,484,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level and $352,687,000 below the budget request.

OPERATIONS, RESEARCH, AND FACILITIES

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

Appropriations, 2022	$4,157,311,000
Budget estimate, 2023	4,484,209,000
Committee recommendation	4,589,855,000

The Committee's recommendation provides $4,589,855,000 for NOAA's Operations, Research, and Facilities [ORF]. The recommendation is $432,544,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level and $105,646,000 above the budget request.

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

Bipartisan Infrastructure Act Funding.—The Committee is disappointed that NOAA took more than 7 months to release most notice of funding opportunities for investments included in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act [IIJA] of 2022 (Public Law 117–58). The Congress made a conscious decision to appropriate funding to existing, successful NOAA programs in order to expedite the release of support to communities around the country. The Committee expects that in future fiscal years, the notice of funding opportunities will be released much earlier in the fiscal year.

Healthy Ocean Collaborations.—The Committee encourages NOAA to pursue collaborations with academic institutions located in close proximity to the agency's disaster response center and seafood safety labs to advance education, training, recruitment, and research efforts.

National Science Foundation [NSF] Geodetic Network.—NOAA relies on the NSF-supported Network of the Americas [NOTA] geodetic network for the agency's operational mission, including for national geodetic control, tsunami warning, and real-time weather forecasting. As such, the Committee directs NOAA to negotiate a memorandum of understanding or another funding agreement with the NSF to support the long-term operation and recapitalization of the NOTA network.

NOAA NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE

The Committee's recommendation provides $700,986,000 for the National Ocean Service [NOS]. NOS programs provide scientific, technical, and management expertise to promote safe navigation; assess the health of coastal and marine resources; respond to natural and human-induced threats; and preserve coastal and ocean environments.

The Committee's recommendations are displayed in the following table:

NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE OPERATIONS, RESEARCH, AND FACILITIES

[In thousands of dollars]

	Committee recommendation
Navigation, Observations and Positioning:	
Navigation, Observations and Positioning	190,194
Hydrographic Survey Priorities/Contracts	33,500
Integrated Ocean Observing System Regional Observations	46,000
Total, Navigation, Observations and Positioning	269,694
Coastal Science and Assessment:	
Coastal Science, Assessment, Response and Restoration	92,572
Competitive Research	30,000
Total, Coastal Science and Assessment	122,572
Ocean and Coastal Management and Services:	
Coastal Zone Management and Services	51,220
Coastal Zone Management Grants	84,000
National Oceans and Coastal Security Fund	34,000
Coral Reef Program	35,000
National Estuarine Research Reserve System	34,500
Sanctuaries and Marine Protected Areas	70,000
Total, Ocean and Coastal Management and Services	308,720
GRAND TOTAL, NOS	700,986

Navigation, Observations and Positioning.—The Committee strongly supports activities under Navigation, Observations and Positioning, including full operational funding for NOAA's Navigation Response Teams.

Physical Oceanographic Real-Time System [PORTS] Program.—The Committee provides an increase of $500,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level for the PORTS program.

Geospatial Modeling Grants.—The Committee provides $8,000,000 within Navigation, Observations and Positioning for the Geospatial Modeling Grants program for which all funding shall be distributed externally.

NOAA Center of Excellence for Operational Ocean and Great Lakes Mapping.—The Committee notes that technological improvements have allowed NOAA to expand ocean mapping capabilities beyond traditional bathymetric charting to include ocean exploration and mapping of seafloor resources. To further advance the Blue Economy and in fulfillment of the Presidential Memorandum on Ocean Mapping of the United States Exclusive Economic Zone and the Shoreline and Nearshore of Alaska, the agency requires additional support to centralize technological advancements, transition them to operations, and ensure that the workforce is ready to deploy them. Therefore, the Committee provides $15,000,000 for a new NOAA Center of Excellence for Operational Ocean and Great Lakes Mapping. Working in unison with and leveraging existing capabilities, including the Joint Hydrographic Center, the Center shall work across NOAA line offices, including NOS, the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research [OAR], and the Office of Marine and Aviation Operations [OMAO], to support and grow the Nation's deep water, shallow water, and coastal mapping capabilities and data holdings, in partnership with industry. In particular, the Center shall serve as: (1) a focal point for activities transitioning developments in mapping platforms, sensors, and concepts of operations into operations; (2) a focal point for applied training for mapping and surveying operations, to grow and diversify the pool of well-qualified talent in this expanding field; (3) an agency-wide capability to provide technical support for ocean mapping technologies to operators in the field on an increasingly diverse set of platforms; and (4) a mechanism to leverage public-private partnerships in advancing the Nation's ocean and Great Lakes mapping goals.

Hydrographic Research and Technology Development.—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2022 enacted level for the Joint Hydrographic Center. In addition, the Committee provides $2,000,000 for NOAA to continue supporting joint ocean and coastal mapping centers in other areas of the country and $1,000,000 to designate an additional center co-located with an institution of higher education as authorized by the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (Public Law 111–11).

Ocean Mapping and Coastal Charting.—Within Navigation, Observations and Positioning, the Committee provides not less than the fiscal year 2022 enacted level to coordinate and implement an interagency mapping, exploration, and characterization strategy for the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone, as well as for the implementation of the Strategy for Mapping the Arctic and Sub-Arctic Shoreline and Nearshore of Alaska. The Committee directs NOAA to work closely with the Alaska Mapping Executive Committee and the State of Alaska to ensure that mapping efforts are coordinated and adhere to the priorities identified in the Strategy that support safe navigation. The Committee encourages NOAA to consider

coastal and riverine inundation mapping in the State of Alaska with funding provided by the IIJA.

Hydrographic Charting.—The Committee continues to note the massive backlog for charting of navigationally significant areas and provides an additional $1,500,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level for Hydrographic Survey Priorities/Contracts.

The Committee believes Arctic surveys could be completed more efficiently through increased and accelerated contracting. Therefore, NOAA is directed to award contracts for hydrographic surveys in the Arctic as early in the calendar year as possible to maximize the operational season, utilizing effective and efficient contract services. Within the amount provided for Hydrographic Survey Priorities/Contracts, NOAA is directed to accelerate the acquisition of survey data through the use of contractors. In addition, NOAA is directed to utilize all contractors that are available, qualified, and experienced in the Arctic for hydrographic surveys.

Gulf of Mexico Coast Survey.—The Committee encourages NOS to engage in high-priority cooperative habitat mapping in the Gulf of Mexico, particularly in areas currently unmapped but prone to disaster. In doing so, NOS may prioritize areas where understanding the long-term implications of new energy exploration would be critical.

Integrated Ocean Observing System [IOOS].—The Committee notes the importance of the IOOS network that provides marine information used in disaster response, weather forecasting and hurricane prediction, forecasting of freshwater and marine water quality, detection of harmful algal blooms [HABs], and safe maritime operations. The Committee provides $46,000,000 for IOOS, an increase of $5,000,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level, to recapitalize and expand observing system infrastructure based upon the highest priority needs of each region. This may include buoys, high frequency radar, and underwater profiling gliders. The Committee encourages the IOOS regional associations to consider leveraging existing capabilities of the commercial sector, including uncrewed systems, to meet observational needs through commercial data buys.

The Committee provides an increase of $1,000,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level to continue the five IOOS HAB pilot programs initiated in fiscal year 2020 and to support the HAB monitoring and detection test bed in the Gulf of Mexico initiated in fiscal year 2021.

Coastal Science, Assessment, Response and Restoration.—Within the funds provided for Coastal Science, Assessment, Response and Restoration, the Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2022 enacted level for operations and staffing of the Gulf of Mexico Disaster Response Center, which shall continue to serve as the Gulf Coast's headquarters for NOAA's emergency preparedness, response, and recovery operations. In addition, the Committee provides no less than $1,500,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level for the Disaster Preparedness Program to bolster NOS's emergency response efforts to coastal storms and other disasters.

Marine Debris.—Within the funding provided, NOAA shall support competitive extramural funding programs and the programs authorized in the Save Our Seas 2.0 Act (Public Law 116–224).

The Committee notes that the IIJA provides $150,000,000 over 5 years for marine debris assessment, prevention, mitigation, and removal, including $30,000,000 in fiscal year 2023.

National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science [NCCOS].—The Committee provides $51,500,000 for NCCOS and encourages NCCOS to expand efforts related to offshore wind and coastal sustainability and resilience.

The Committee provides $1,000,000 for NCCOS's continued collaboration on research priorities with NOAA's Cooperative Institute for Research to Operations in Hydrology [CIROH].

Harmful Algal Blooms.—The Committee understands that HABs in their various forms are a national problem that require collaboration with local partners to monitor, predict, track, and respond to HAB events. Within funding for Competitive Research, the Committee provides not less than $17,500,000 to accelerate deployment of effective methods of intervention and mitigation to reduce the frequency, severity, and impact of HAB events in marine and freshwater systems, including the Great Lakes ecosystem. Of this amount, $2,000,000 shall be used to explore innovative methods to increase monitoring and detection of HABs in freshwater systems by partnering with academic institutions with expertise in unmanned aircraft systems.

Given the high economic cost related to HAB events relative to the current research investment in the Gulf of Mexico, the Committee encourages NOAA to fund long-term HAB research in the Gulf of Mexico that further develops ongoing partnerships involving academic institutions, the private sector, and State governments.

HAB Regional Watershed Integrated Assessments and Action Strategies.—The Committee recognizes the importance of the Great Lakes Integrated Assessment and Action Strategy to HAB prevention, control, and mitigation efforts in the Great Lakes region, and encourages the Federal Interagency Task Force on Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia, established under section 4001 of title 33, United States Code, and the Interagency Working Group tasked with implementing the Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Act to identify and prioritize additional watersheds that would benefit from the development of regionally-specific Integrated Assessments and Action Plans, including those regions that have been impacted by freshwater and saltwater HABs.

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

Integrated Water Prediction [IWP].—Within funding provided for Coastal Zone Management and Services, the agreement provides no less than the fiscal year 2022 level for NOS to continue to collaborate on the development and operation of the IWP program with the National Weather Service, in addition to work funded in the IIJA.

Digital Coast.—The Committee provides $4,000,000 for the implementation of the Digital Coast Act (Public Law 116–223).

Regional Data Portals [ROPs].—Within funding provided for Coastal Zone Management and Services, the Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2022 enacted level for the ROPs, or their equivalent, to enhance their capacity for sharing and integration of Federal and non-Federal data to support regional coastal, ocean, and Great Lakes management priorities.

In addition, the IIJA provides $56,000,000 over 5 years to enhance ROPs, or their equivalent, including $11,200,000 in fiscal year 2023.

National Oceans and Coastal Security Fund [NOCSF].—The Committee roundly rejects the administration's surprising proposal to eliminate the NOCSF, also known as the National Coastal Resilience Fund, and provides $34,000,000. Of the amount provided, not less than $4,000,000 shall be for project planning and design. In selecting the areas of focus for the NOCSF, NOAA and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation should consider proposals that enhance ocean and coastal management; bolster coastal infrastructure and resilience; support regional collaborative efforts and partnerships; and help coastal communities adapt to changing ocean conditions.

In addition, the IIJA provides $492,000,000 over 5 years for the NOCSF, including $98,400,000 in fiscal year 2023.

Coral Reef Program.—The Committee recognizes the unique ecological and economic value of coral reefs, including the benefit of buffering coastal communities from hazards such as coastal storms and hurricanes. Urgent efforts are needed to reverse the decline of coral populations in the United States. Therefore, the Committee provides a $2,000,000 increase above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level for NOAA's Coral Reef Program, including up to $10,000,000 for NOS to work with academic institutions and non-governmental research organizations to carry out innovative restoration projects to restore degraded coral reefs. Restoration projects should utilize genetic strains that demonstrate enhanced resiliency to increased water temperatures, decreased pH, and coral disease, and include designs for multiyear monitoring to assess survival and ecosystem health.

The Committee notes that additional funding is available for these activities through the IIJA.

National Estuarine Research Reserve System [NERRS].—The Committee recognizes that the NERRS sites provide mixed-use areas that are protected for long-term research, monitoring, education, and coastal stewardship and provides $34,500,000 for the program, an increase of $4,800,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level.

Sanctuaries and Marine Protected Areas.—The Committee recognizes the importance of Sanctuaries and Marine Protected Areas to preserve regions for conservation, recreational, ecological, historical, scientific, cultural, archeological, and educational purposes and supports the expansion of the network. The Committee provides $70,000,000 for Sanctuaries and Marine Protected Areas, which is $9,000,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level. Within the increased funding provided, NOS shall continue to support ongoing sanctuary designation processes and is encouraged to com-

mence designations of new sites, in particular within the Great Lakes ecosystem.

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

NOAA NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

The Committee's recommendation provides $1,110,076,000 for the National Marine Fisheries Service [NMFS]. NMFS programs provide for the management and conservation of the Nation's living marine resources and their environment, including fish stocks, marine mammals, and endangered species.

Committee recommendations are displayed in the following table:

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE OPERATIONS, RESEARCH, AND FACILITIES

[In thousands of dollars]

	Committee recommendation
Protected Resources Science and Management:	
Marine Mammals, Sea Turtles, and Other Species	161,755
Species Recovery Grants	8,000
Atlantic Salmon	7,000
Pacific Salmon	72,000
Total, Protected Resources Science and Management	248,755
Fisheries Science and Management:	
Fisheries and Ecosystem Science Programs and Services	165,506
Fisheries Data Collections, Surveys, and Assessments	213,238
Observers and Training	59,883
Fisheries Management Programs and Services	139,464
Aquaculture	22,000
Salmon Management Activities	67,150
Regional Councils and Fisheries Commissions	46,297
Interjurisdictional Fisheries Grants	3,500
Total, Fisheries Science and Management	717,038
Enforcement	85,599
Habitat Conservation and Restoration	58,684
GRAND TOTAL, NMFS	1,110,076

Promote and Develop Fisheries Products and Research Funding Transfer.—The bill maintains the provision restricting the use of the Promote and Develop Fisheries Products and Research funds transferred from the Department of Agriculture to NOAA in a way that better meets the intended purpose of the transfer mandated by the Saltonstall-Kennedy Act (15 U.S.C. 713c–3). None of the funds may be used for internal NOAA or DOC management but may only be used for activities that directly benefit U.S. fisheries and fishery communities.

As part of the fiscal year 2023 spending plan, NOAA shall include a detailed accounting, by object class, of how the Promote and Develop transfer funds will be allocated based on the funding criteria described in this bill.

Saltonstall-Kennedy [S–K] Grant Program.—Prior to obligating any funds for the S–K Grant Program, NOAA shall provide the Committee with a detailed spending plan describing which fisheries activities will be funded in each region and how the plan incorporates regional priorities. In so doing, NOAA shall consult with the regional committees authorized under the American Fisheries Advisory Committee Act (Public Law 117–121) to identify funding priorities. The spending plan should also include an accounting of the administration of the regional committees. Within funds provided, the Committee encourages NOAA to prioritize support for applications that improve marketing and development of the seafood industry, as was the original intent of the S–K Grant Program.

National Seafood Council.—The Committee recognizes the sustainability and important nutritional benefits of seafood consumption, and that promoting seafood on a national scale may lead to increased seafood consumption and a stronger seafood industry. Within 180 days from enactment of this act, the Committee directs NOAA to provide a report to the Committee detailing how the agency would facilitate a National Seafood Council through the Fisheries Promotion Fund (16 U.S.C. 4008) to support a comprehensive, nationwide seafood marketing and public education campaign. The report should include an estimated cost of such a program and explanation of how it would be different from the S–K Grant Program and other existing NMFS programs.

NMFS Staffing.—The Committee acknowledges that NMFS regional and scientific staff are most effective in meeting their mission when located in the communities they serve. To the greatest extent practicable, the Committee directs NMFS to proactively station regional science center staff and leadership within the regions they serve. NMFS shall consider community impacts and the comprehensive value of NMFS staff presence on regional and local scales when making stationing decisions or considering actions to consolidate staff.

Fisheries Surveys and Offshore Wind.—The Committee supports the responsible development of renewable energy projects off the Atlantic Coast, as proposed by the administration. The Committee provides a total of $16,500,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level across NMFS to address consultation and permitting, stock assessment, management, and protected resources needs related to the expansion of offshore wind energy projects. Of this amount, $1,500,000 is within Marine Mammals, Sea Turtles, and Other Species; $4,000,000 is within Fisheries and Ecosystem Science Programs and Services; $7,000,000 is within Fisheries Data Collections, Surveys, and Assessments; and $4,000,000 is within Fisheries Management Programs and Services.

NMFS Project Consultations.—Within Protected Resources Science and Management, the Committee provides an additional $3,000,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level for NMFS to address the backlog of consultation requests under the Endangered Species Act [ESA] (Public Law 93–205) and authorization requests under the Marine Mammal Protection Act [MMPA] (Public Law 92–522).

The Committee commends NOAA for the joint resolution memorandum with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers [Army Corps] addressing infrastructure projects signed in January 2022, but notes that there continue to be significant delays in the permitting of in-water construction, particularly in the Pacific Northwest. Thus, NMFS is encouraged to continue collaborating with the Army Corps and other Federal agencies to improve coordination and efficiency of consultations within the permitting process.

North Atlantic Right Whales [NARW].—The Committee provides $2,000,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level within Marine Mammals, Sea Turtles, and Other Species for NARW-related research, monitoring, and conservation efforts. NOAA shall continue to support disentanglement, stranding response, and necropsy activities, and is encouraged to develop habitat and distribution models and long-term tagging methods. NOAA is directed to support monitoring efforts, including aerial surveys, vessel surveys, and passive acoustic monitoring in the waters of the Atlantic Ocean that is equivalent to or greater than the efforts supported by the fiscal year 2022 enacted level, particularly in the Gulf of Maine, southeastern United States, and other areas where there are data gaps on NARW habitat or increased risk from human activities, including vessel traffic. Within the increased support provided, no less than $1,500,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level shall be to support pilot programs to develop, refine, and field test innovative lobster and other fishing gear technologies established in fiscal year 2020.

Within funding provided, $10,000,000 shall be provided to States through the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission to cover costs incurred by the fishing industry to comply with the final 2021 rule to modify the Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan [ALWTRP] (FR–210827–0171), as well as additional uses outlined below. This assistance may be used by the relevant States to help defray the cost of compliance with regulations, including for gear modification, configuration, and marking within the Northeast lobster and Jonah crab fisheries, both in Federal and State waters. Additional eligible uses of the funds may include implementing electronic tracking requirements within the Northeast lobster fishery and research to inform future management actions, including in preparation for potential subsequent modifications to the ALWTRP related to gillnet and Atlantic mixed species trap/pot fisheries. Funding to the States shall be proportional to the number of active federally-permitted lobster trap harvesters in each State, and the allocation details shall be developed by the States through the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission.

NOAA shall continue to work with Canadian officials to develop risk reduction measures that are comparable in effectiveness for both vessels and fisheries, and to incorporate Canadian fishery measures, Canadian vessel restrictions, and U.S. vessel restrictions into the evaluations under the Conservation Framework, as soon as possible. NOAA is also encouraged to improve regional management efforts by including pertinent States and interstate bodies in bilateral engagements with Canadian officials regarding coordinated efforts to enhance NARW recovery.

Protected Species in the Western Pacific.—Within funding for Marine Mammals, Sea Turtles, and Other Species, the Committee provides not less than $1,000,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level for Hawaiian monk seals, Hawaiian sea turtles, and false killer whales. Of the additional funding, not less than $500,000 shall be made available to support State activities related to these protected species, and not less $500,000 shall be used for additional research to mitigate interactions between fisheries and false killer whales.

Prescott Grants.—Within Marine Mammals, Sea Turtles, and Other Species, the Committee provides $5,000,000 for the John H. Prescott Marine Mammal Rescue Assistance grant program, a $1,000,000 increase above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level.

Sea Turtle Stranding Response and Rehabilitation.—Within funding for Marine Mammals, Sea Turtles, and Other Species, the Committee provides $1,500,000 for NOAA to provide direct support to institutions and organizations permitted to provide sea turtle stranding response and/or rehabilitation. In so doing, NOAA shall also seek to leverage and strengthen partnerships with capable university veterinary schools.

Sea Turtle Conservation.—The Committee is encouraged that NOAA's Southeast Fisheries Science Center and the Houston Zoo are working collaboratively with partner organizations to rescue, rehabilitate, and recover sea turtles. Until a permanent rehabilitation facility can be established in the Galveston area, NOAA shall provide access for designated Houston Zoo employees to the Galveston Sea Turtle Hospital and associated facilities.

Turtle Nesting Grounds in the Western Pacific.—Within 90 days of enactment of this act, NOAA shall submit a report identifying sea turtle nesting grounds of concern in the central and western Pacific region and recommending actions to restore and conserve critical habitat.

Unusual Mortality Events [UME].—The Committee is concerned by the high number of active UMEs for marine mammals, including for the Atlantic Florida manatee, Florida East Coast manatee, Alaska ice seal, Northeast harbor and gray seals, Guadalupe fur seal, Southwest Florida bottlenose dolphin, West Coast gray whale, Atlantic minke whale, NARW, and Atlantic humpback whale. NMFS is encouraged to request funding for the Unusual Mortality Event Contingency Fund in the fiscal year 2024 budget request.

Species Recovery Grants.—The Committee directs NMFS to utilize both the ESA Recovery Plan and the MMPA Take Reduction Plan priorities when evaluating marine mammal projects.

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

The Committee notes that the IIJA provides a minimum of $400,000,000 over 5 years for restoring fish passage, including $80,000,000 in fiscal year 2023.

Pacific Salmon.—The Committee provides $72,000,000 for Pacific Salmon, which is $5,000,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level. Within the funding provided for Pacific Salmon, the Committee encourages NOAA to work with partners to address the backlog and expedite approval of Hatchery and Genetic Management Plans and to support implementation of new Habitat Conservation Plans. In addition, NMFS is encouraged to work with State and Tribal partners on pinniped removal, as appropriate.

Climate-Ready Fishery Management.—The Committee recognizes that sustainable fishery management is made more challenging by climate change driven impacts, including changes in the distribution, productivity, and abundance of fish stocks. Thus, the Committee provides $1,000,000 within Fisheries and Ecosystem Science Programs and Services to pilot an operational system that provides climate-informed advice on changing ocean conditions, impacts on marine resources, and best management strategies to reduce impacts and increase economic resilience. In addition, NMFS is encouraged to establish Fisheries and Climate Decision Support Systems to deliver the climate-informed advice needed for effective marine resource management in rapidly changing oceans.

Northeast Groundfish Research.—The Committee is concerned about the decline of the Northeast multispecies fishery and the health of fishing stocks in the Gulf of Maine. Within funding provided for Fisheries and Ecosystem Science Programs and Services, the Committee provides $2,500,000 for groundfish research, with a focus on the effects of changing climatic conditions and warming waters on the fishery, including stock health and natural mortality. NOAA is further encouraged to prioritize research regarding relative gear efficiency, stock boundaries, and other topics that can improve groundfish stock assessments in the next 5 years. Within the funding provided, $500,000 shall be obligated to continue ongoing work on implementing the recommendations set forth in the New England Fishery Management Council's Fishery Data for Stock Assessment Working Group Report, and to continue ongoing work on implementing the recommendations set forth in the 2020 report of the Groundfish Trawl Task Force, consistent with prior year direction. This funding is intended to support new and innovative research, including by the Northeast Fisheries Science Center, separately by, or in collaboration with, outside partners such as higher education institutions or State agencies, and in cooperation with the fishing industry.

Electronic Monitoring and Reporting [EM/ER].—Within funding for Fisheries and Ecosystem Science Programs and Services, NOAA shall continue to support the development, testing, and installation of EM/ER technologies, including development of electronic reporting systems for commercial fishermen, image classification efforts in New England, and improving the national EM image library. Within the funds provided for these activities, not less than $5,500,000, an increase of $2,000,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level, shall be available, in accordance with 16 U.S.C. 3701, for collaborative partnerships that include non-Federal matching

funds to implement cost-shared EM/ER programs that support fisheries conservation and management. During the development and implementation of EM/ER programs, NOAA shall consult directly with industry and work through the Fishery Management Councils to develop appropriate cost-sharing arrangements that are commensurate with the ex-vessel value of the fishery.

Furthermore, NMFS shall continue to work in fiscal year 2023 with the charter for-hire recreational fishery fleet in the Gulf of Mexico; the Northeast multispecies groundfish fishery fleet, including small vessels within that fleet; the Maine lobster fleet; and any regional fishery fleet interested in implementing EM/ER technologies to better track information that is currently collected through the use of human observers.

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

Fisheries Surveys.—The Committee is concerned about continuing reports of reduced fisheries surveys and assessments, separate from the effects of the COVID–19 pandemic. The Committee believes it is imperative that NMFS take the necessary steps to ensure that historical levels of survey coverage are achieved in fiscal year 2023 and has provided an additional $6,000,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level within Fisheries Data Collections, Surveys, and Assessments for this purpose. At this funding level the Committee expects NMFS to contract no fewer than six surveys for Alaskan bottom trawl surveys and cooperative research, including a survey to capture movement of fish populations out of historic survey areas, and no fewer than four vessels for West Coast groundfish surveys. This amount also fully funds both Northeast Area Monitoring and Assessment Program [NEAMAP] trawl surveys, including the Maine-New Hampshire Inshore Trawl Survey, as well as the Southeast Area Monitoring and Assessment Program's [SEAMAP] existing surveys and addresses critical data gaps in the bottom longline and fall trawl surveys in the Gulf Coast States.

The Committee recognizes there are increasing demands on ship time for fisheries and non-fisheries objectives of NOAA and to monitor changing distributions of fish due to ecosystem drivers. The Committee is concerned that Federal vessel-based fisheries surveys necessary for determining sustainable and optimal harvest rates for commercial fisheries have been cancelled with increasing frequency in recent years, without effective contingency plans for covering the resulting data gaps. Cancelled Federal vessel-based surveys result in lost commercial fishing opportunity, as greater uncertainty around stock size and movement necessitates more conservative harvest strategies. Vessel-based surveys are necessary to ensure long-term continuity of critical fisheries-specific vessel-based data sets, including data on fish species, age, length, and distribution. The need for this information increases as commercial fish stock productivity, habitat, and distribution respond to changing ocean conditions. Such needs are highly evident in Federal waters off Alaska. NOAA is directed to prioritize redundancy for survey vessels through contracted vessels or data from autonomous

assets through the Autonomous Uncrewed Technology Operations [AUTO] program. Further, to the extent vessel-based science work is needed for other programs, including bathymetry and coastal mapping, if practicable, NOAA is encouraged to fulfill those needs through private vessel contracts, public-private partnerships, and platforms other than NOAA research vessels to allow ample time for surveys and assessments performed by the NOAA Fleet.

Fishery Data Modernization.—The Committee provides $1,000,000 for the implementation of recommendations identified at the Fisheries Information Management Modernization Workshop in 2019. The workshop identified a suite of 10 recommendations, and the Committee is particularly interested in NOAA implementing a NMFS-wide cloud-based data science, management, and publishing platform known as the Cloud Data Science Platform.

State Management for Recreational Red Snapper.—The Committee remains invested in ensuring the sustainable management of Gulf of Mexico red snapper and reiterates past direction that successful implementation of Reef Fish Amendment 50: State Management for Recreational Red Snapper shall be a top priority for NOAA and that such efforts should occur in coordination with the Gulf States. Within the amount provided for Fisheries Data Collections, Surveys, and Assessments, the Committee provides not less than $5,000,000 for NMFS to continue to work with the Gulf States to ensure successful implementation of State management for red snapper, including the actions described in the following paragraph.

The Committee supports the actions of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council to delay implementation of State-specific calibration until 2023. The Committee supports full integration of the Great Red Snapper Count data and Gulf States catch data into the upcoming red snapper research track stock assessment, which is to be completed in 2023, and in the operational assessment that will follow in 2024 so that the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council can appropriately use this new abundance and more targeted catch data when making management decisions regarding red snapper.

South Atlantic Reef Fish.—NMFS shall employ the independent and alternative stock assessment strategies directed by the Committee for the Gulf of Mexico to NMFS assessments of reef fish in the South Atlantic. The Committee provides up to $2,000,000 for these activities and notes that the deficiencies that have plagued reef fish management in the Gulf of Mexico also affect NMFS management of reef fish in the South Atlantic. The Committee directs NOAA to follow the guidance of the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council in identifying the best research and data collection necessary to better understand discard rates and mortality in the fishery.

Fishing Gear Selectivity Study.—Within funding provided for Fisheries Data Collections, Surveys, and Assessments, NOAA shall consider conducting a multiyear, agency-independent study to evaluate the selectivity and potential bias of different gears used to assess reef fish populations in the South Atlantic region, which should build on recent work being conducted by State agencies on red snapper.

Fisheries Effort Survey [FES].—The Committee is concerned by reports that the Marine Recreational Information Program FES may be vastly overstating fishing effort. While the FES methodology represents a clear improvement from previous methodologies, the Committee supports the cautious approach to utilizing these estimates advocated by the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council and South Atlantic Fishery Management Council Scientific and Statistical Committees. The Committee encourages NMFS to conduct a thorough analysis of the effect of such estimates on stock status and allocation before they are used for stock management.

Data Collection for Recreational Fisheries.—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2022 enacted level for collaborative programs focused on improving recreational fishery data collection, as articulated in sections 102, 201, and 202 of the Modernizing Recreational Fisheries Management Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–405). This funding should focus on assisting States to establish, test, and implement more reliable recreational fishery data collection tools, such as smartphone applications or text messaging supplements. The Committee directs NMFS to work with the Gulf States to develop a pilot study on a Gulf-wide recreational fishing effort to determine the best mechanism to collect data of the quality sufficient for management decisions through existing technologies.

Fisheries Information Networks.—Within the funding provided for Fisheries Data Collections, Surveys, and Assessments, the Committee provides an additional $1,000,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level for Fisheries Information Networks. Within the additional funding, NMFS shall dedicate funds to support the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission to collect samples for additional species that may be the target of future stock assessments.

Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Research.—The Committee is concerned about the stock condition and lack of basic fishery-independent data (i.e., biological, life history, movement, and health information) for many important fish species in the Gulf of Mexico. Therefore, within funds for Fisheries Data Collections, Surveys, and Assessments, the Committee provides $5,000,000 for NMFS, via a partnership with the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission, to provide no fewer than five grants to academic partners, including consortiums of universities, and other partners to conduct fishery-independent research on trans-boundary, multi-jurisdictional fish species in the Gulf of Mexico for which current data is deficient (e.g., cobia, tripletail, tarpon, and gray triggerfish), including species that are solely managed by the Gulf States.

Gulf of Mexico Shrimp Fishing Effort.—The Committee remains concerned that shrimp fishing effort data collection and analysis in the Gulf of Mexico shrimp fishery will be interrupted by the termination of 3G cellular transmission service used by NMFS in its Electronic Logbook [ELB] program. The Committee recognizes that this scientific data is essential to the annual evaluation of the fishery's effects on sea turtle and red snapper conservation mandates. Within the funding provided in Fisheries Data Collections, Surveys, and Assessments, the Committee provides $850,000 for NMFS, in consultation with the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council and shrimp industry stakeholders, to continue the

development and implementation of a new approved ELB that archives vessel position and automatically transmits scientific shrimp fishing effort data via cellular service to NMFS. The Committee awaits receipt of the report outlining progress made to develop and implement the new ELB program requested in the joint explanatory statement accompanying Public Law 117–103.

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

Chesapeake Bay Atlantic Menhaden Abundance.—The Committee provides $650,000 within Fisheries Data Collections, Surveys, and Assessments for the collection of Atlantic menhaden abundance data in the Chesapeake Bay in partnership with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission and relevant States.

Cooperative Research.—Depleted fish stocks result in significant economic losses to our Nation. At a time when fishing opportunities are constrained by uncertainty in stock assessments and increased access to healthy stocks depends on better data, the Committee believes that maintenance of ongoing monitoring programs and surveys is critical. The Committee encourages NMFS to continue to prioritize long-time series surveys that are conducted cooperatively with industry and States.

American Lobster and Jonah Crab Research.—The Committee provides up to $300,000 within Fisheries Data Collections, Surveys, and Assessments to support a cooperative research program to collect biological, fishery, and environmental data for American lobster and Jonah crab using modern technology on commercial fishing vessels.

Horseshoe Crab Survey.—The Committee remains concerned about the ability to estimate the abundance of the mid-Atlantic horseshoe crab population. Adequate data are required to ensure State and interstate managers can effectively manage the stock, 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 this important survey to generate the data necessary to ensure the mid-Atlantic horseshoe crab stock remains on a sustainable path.

Plankton Recorder Survey.—The Committee notes the continued importance of understanding the distribution of *Calanus finmarchicus* plankton to inform the conservation of the NARW. Within the amount provided for Fisheries Data Collections, Surveys, and Assessments, the Committee provides not less than $300,000 to conduct a continuous plankton recorder survey.

Northeast Multispecies Fishery.—The Committee recognizes that the New England groundfish fisheries management programs continue to present substantial financial challenges to the participants as well as to the economic sustainability of those fisheries and fishing communities. Therefore, the Committee rejects the proposed cut to Observers and Training and provides not less than $5,500,000 within Observers and Training for grants to the fishing industry to fully cover At-Sea Monitoring industry costs, including sector costs, in the New England groundfish fishery. Any additional At-Sea

Monitoring costs, including shore side infrastructure, observer training, observer equipment and gear, electronic monitoring, and NOAA support costs shall be included in the fiscal year 2024 budget request. NOAA shall ensure the costs and benefits of At-Sea Monitoring are commensurate with the gross revenues of vessels in the fishery. Before obligating any of these funds, NOAA shall provide the Committee with a detailed spending plan.

North Pacific Observer Coverage.—Within Observers and Training, the Committee provides no less than $8,500,000 for the North Pacific Observers Program, a $1,000,000 increase above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level. This additional funding will offset observer costs normally paid for by harvesters in fisheries that are undertaking a transition to EM/ER. Additionally, NOAA is encouraged to identify and implement any efficiencies that would mitigate the cost burden shouldered by small vessel operators in the fixed-gear fleet.

For-Hire Electronic Monitoring and Reporting Implementation.—The Committee provides no less than $1,500,000 within Fisheries Management Programs and Services and $1,500,000 within Enforcement to support the continued, timely implementation of ELBs for the federally-permitted charter-for-hire sector in the Gulf of Mexico.

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

International Fisheries Management Coordination.—The Committee is aware that conflicting American and Canadian fisheries management measures in the Gulf of Maine have generated concerns from the domestic fishing and lobster industries, due to differing conservation regulations. The Committee encourages NOAA to work with Canadian and State fisheries officials to explore the possibility of developing an agreement that provides for cooperative fisheries management of this unique area.

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

Electronic Vessel Trip Reporting [eVTR].—In 2021, all federally-permitted vessels on the East Coast were required to submit trip reports electronically through a new eVTR system. The Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office's new One Stop Reporting program shows promise, but requires additional infrastructure improvements to expand its utility in the Mid-Atlantic and to all East Coast commercial fishermen. Within Fisheries Management Programs and Services, the Committee provides $500,000 to support improvement and expansion of the eVTR program.

Atlantic Sea Scallops.—The Committee is encouraged that NOAA and the New England Fishery Management Council are exploring a leasing program for the Limited Access Sea Scallop fleet because of its beneficial climate impacts and reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. The Committee believes this effort will decrease excess fishing capacity and consequently reduce port congestion in the

Northeast. The Committee urges NOAA to continue collaborating with the Council on this effort.

Fish Stock Movement.—Within 180 days of enactment of this act, NMFS shall report to the Committee about potential options for States to exchange or trade quota through fishery management councils as fish stocks expand and shift due to climate change. The report should detail NMFS's ability to intervene, under existing authority, in allocation disputes, as well as recommendations for improved coordination and transparent decision-making among councils, including in cases where stocks have shifted into waters off States that currently are not party to the relevant regional fishery management council.

Harmful West Coast Large Mesh Drift Gillnets.—The Committee remains concerned with the use of indiscriminate large mesh driftnets. More selective gears can be used to target swordfish and other highly migratory species. The Committee directs NMFS to consult with the Pacific Fishery Management Council on a strategy to phase out the use of large mesh driftnets and permit the use of alternative fishing methods to increase the economic viability of the West Coast-based swordfish fishery while minimizing bycatch to the maximum extent possible.

Bycatch Reduction.—The development and implementation of practical bycatch solutions is a priority for U.S. and international fisheries management and protected species conservation. NMFS is directed to make no less than the fiscal year 2022 enacted level available for competitive grants to non-Federal researchers working with U.S. fishermen on the development of improved fishing practices and innovative gear technologies.

Marine Aquaculture.—The Committee provides $22,000,000 for NMFS Aquaculture, which is $4,000,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level. Within the additional funding provided, NOAA is encouraged to upgrade equipment and to increase the amount of staff focused on aquaculture at all NMFS fisheries science centers, including to return staffing levels to those in fiscal year 2010 at the Northeast and Northwest Fisheries Science Centers.

In addition, the Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2022 enacted level for the NMFS Aquaculture Office, in partnership with the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission, to continue the multi-year Integrated Multi-Trophic Aquaculture demonstration pilot system in State waters of the Gulf of Mexico that was initiated in calendar year 2021.

Oyster Aquaculture, Research, and Restoration.—Within NMFS Aquaculture, the Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2022 enacted level to support ongoing research in off-bottom Eastern oyster production in coastal areas, particularly in areas where this method is being exploited for commercial production, including the Gulf of Mexico, and encourages NMFS to dedicate resources to support regional partnerships for genetics, disease, and economic modeling.

Salmon Management Activities.—Within the amount provided for Salmon Management Activities, the Committee provides $43,500,000, an increase of $4,000,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level, to enable NOAA, the Pacific States, and Tribal communities to continue activities in support of the obligations set

forth in the renegotiated annex of the Pacific Salmon Treaty. Before any of these funds may be obligated, NOAA is directed to provide the Committee with a detailed spending plan that is reflective of the funding recommendations produced by the U.S. section of the Pacific Salmon Commission. In doing so, NOAA is directed to consult with the Pacific States, Tribal communities, and other stakeholders. Further, NOAA is encouraged to minimize, to the extent practicable, the amount of funds withheld for administrative expenses.

The Committee also provides not less than $23,000,000 for the operation and maintenance of Mitchell Act hatcheries and directs NOAA to continue genetic stock identification for salmon recovery and management.

Little Port Walter Research Station and Salmon Hatchery.—The Committee directs NMFS to continue Keta stock Chinook salmon production at rearing rates consistent with those produced between 2016 and 2020 at the Little Port Walter Research Station.

Fishery Councils and Commissions.—The Committee provides a total of $46,297,000 to support the Regional Fishery Management Councils, Interstate Marine Fisheries Commissions, and International Fisheries Commissions. The Committee recognizes the important role that regional management plays in sustaining a balanced ecosystem and healthy fish populations and the advantage that aggregate data can provide in understanding emerging trends across our Nation's fisheries. The Committee directs the Regional Councils and Fisheries Commissions to prioritize research and monitoring of high priority species in the face of changing environmental conditions.

Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated [IUU] Fishing.—The Committee notes NOAA's important role outlined in the recent National Security Memorandum to Combat Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing and Associated Labor Abuses and directs the agency to continue to dedicate the necessary resources to combat IUU fishing. To this end, the Committee provides an increase of $4,000,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level for the Seafood Import Monitoring Program [SIMP] established under section 539 of Public Law 115–141. Effective implementation of SIMP is necessary to enforce the ban on imports of Russian seafood, which may be relabeled after foreign processing, hiding its Russian origin.

The Committee is aware of commercial space-based radio frequency [RF] detection technologies that can be used to track maritime vessels even when vessels turn off their Automatic Identification System, which is a common practice among foreign fleets engaged in IUU fishing. Identifying when and where IUU fishing may be occurring is critical to NMFS Enforcement's mission. Therefore, the Committee provides not less than $1,000,000 for NMFS to further test and evaluate the effectiveness of U.S. commercial space-based RF data collection capabilities to track foreign vessels engaged in IUU fishing activities in the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone and other remote maritime regions of economic, environmental, and national security significance.

Cooperative Agreements with States.—The Committee is concerned by the critical staffing shortages among some partner State and territorial law enforcement agencies and provides no less than

the fiscal year 2022 enacted level for Joint Enforcement Agreements [JEAs], which are critical for proper surveillance and enforcement of our Nation's fisheries laws. Additionally, the Committee directs NMFS Office of Law Enforcement to use a stable funding model and ensure that Federal enforcement requirements are better aligned with the priorities of State and territorial enforcement partners. The Committee awaits receipt of the report about the needs of NOAA's partner law enforcement agencies requested in the joint explanatory statement accompanying Public Law 117–103.

Northeast Lobster Enforcement.—Within Enforcement, the Committee provides not less than $1,400,000 for NMFS, in partnership with the relevant States, JEA partner agencies, and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, to continue the pilot cooperative offshore lobster enforcement program that was initiated in fiscal year 2021.

Habitat Conservation and Restoration.—The Committee provides an additional $1,500,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted amount to address the Essential Fish Habitat consultation backlog.

The Committee notes that the IIJA provides a total of $891,000,000 for restoring marine, estuarine, coastal, or Great Lakes ecosystem habitats and restoring fish passage, including $178,200,000 in fiscal year 2023.

Oyster Restoration.—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2022 enacted level within Habitat Conservation and Restoration to support oyster restoration in the Chesapeake Bay.

Seafood Inspection Program.—The Committee rejects the request for appropriated funds for the Seafood Inspection Program. The Subcommittee Chair and Vice Chairman sent a letter to the Secretary in April 2021 requesting information regarding the ongoing internal review of the financial management of the program and a long-term solvency plan. More than a year later, the Committee has yet to receive a response. The Committee does not consider requesting annual appropriations for a program that is intended to operate under a fee-for-service model to be a serious plan.

The Committee withholds 25 percent of funds provided for Executive Leadership within the Mission Support line office until NOAA and the Department provide a thoughtful response to the April 2021 letter and present a long-term plan to ensure that program fees match expenses.

NOAA OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC RESEARCH

The Committee's recommendation provides $687,767,000 for OAR. OAR programs provide environmental research and technology needed to improve NOAA weather forecasts, climate predictions, and marine services. To accomplish these goals, OAR supports a network of scientists in its Federal research laboratories, universities, and joint institutes and partnership programs.

Committee recommendations are displayed in the following table:

OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC RESEARCH OPERATIONS, RESEARCH, AND FACILITIES

[In thousands of dollars]

	Committee recommendation
Climate Research:	
Climate Laboratories and Cooperative Institutes	107,000
Regional Climate Data and Information	56,000
Climate Competitive Research	70,000
Total, Climate Research	233,000
Weather and Air Chemistry Research:	
Weather Laboratories and Cooperative Institutes	89,605
U.S. Weather Research Program	38,500
Tornado Severe Storm Research/Phased Array Radar	20,916
Joint Technology Transfer Initiative	13,246
Total, Weather and Air Chemistry Research	162,267
Ocean, Coastal, and Great Lakes Research:	
Ocean Laboratories and Cooperative Institutes	40,000
Ocean Exploration and Research	46,500
National Sea Grant College Program	90,000
Sea Grant Aquaculture Research	15,000
Integrated Ocean Acidification	18,000
Sustained Ocean Observations and Monitoring	56,000
National Oceanographic Partnership Program	7,000
Total, Ocean, Coastal, and Great Lakes Research	272,500
High Performance Computing Initiatives	20,000
GRAND TOTAL, OAR	687,767

Climate Laboratories and Cooperative Institutes.—For more than 60 years, the United States has led the world in atmospheric observations and climate modeling to better understand and predict how the climate is changing. However, the atmospheric baseline observing infrastructure is aging and in need of reinvestment. Therefore, within Climate Laboratories and Cooperative Institutes, the Committee provides $14,500,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level to rebuild and enhance regional greenhouse gas observing systems by increasing the number of sites, the number of samples per site, and the temporal resolution. As part of these investments, OAR is encouraged to ensure the continuity of observations at sites particularly vulnerable to natural hazards.

The Committee also provides $2,000,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level to continue development of a global, high-resolution atmospheric model with at least a three kilometer resolution to improve understanding and prediction of climate-driven, extreme weather events.

Arctic Research.—The Committee provides not less than $1,000,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level for Arctic research funded under Climate Laboratories and Cooperative Institutes and Regional Climate Data and Information.

Earth's Radiation Budget.—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2022 enacted level for continued modeling, assessments, and, as possible, initial observations and monitoring of stratospheric conditions and the Earth's radiation budget, including

the impact of the introduction of material into the stratosphere from changes in natural systems, increased air and space traffic, and the assessment of solar climate interventions. The Committee also directs OAR, in coordination with NASA and the Department of Energy, as appropriate, to improve the understanding of the impact of atmospheric aerosols on radiative forcing, as well as on the formation of clouds, precipitation, and extreme weather and to develop plans for sustained observations of the stratosphere. NOAA is encouraged to continue coordination with the Office of Science and Technology Policy and other relevant agencies, to manage near-term climate hazard risk and coordinate research in climate intervention and to coordinate with NASA for long-range manned and autonomous in-situ atmospheric observational capabilities.

Resilience and Adaptation Cooperative Institute [CI].—The Committee encourages NOAA to consider the establishment of a CI for Coastal Resilience and Adaptation and encourages the agency to include such a proposal as part of its fiscal year 2024 budget request. The CI could benefit NOAA's other coastal resilience programs by providing additional research, data collection, experience, and strengthened relationships with institutions conducting coastal resilience and adaptation research and applied science activities.

Regional Climate Data and Information.—As the Nation continues to experience the increasingly disruptive impacts of climate change, NOAA's role as a provider of climate data, models, projections, and services is becoming more prominent and critical to our society. Therefore, the Committee provides $8,000,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level within Regional Climate Data and Information to greatly expand OAR's Climate Adaptation Partnerships [CAP], formerly known as the Regional Integrated Sciences and Assessments program, to help communities plan for and build lasting and equitable climate resilience, especially in rural, Indigenous, and underserved urban communities. The Committee notes that it is important for the CAP teams to have a connection to the region they serve and, to the extent practicable, encourages NOAA to ensure that CAP teams are managed, staffed, and based at an institution located in the region served.

The Committee also provides $2,500,000 to broaden drought prediction outreach to underserved communities through the National Integrated Drought Information System [NIDIS] as authorized in the NIDIS Act of 2006 (Public Law 109–430).

National Integrated Heat Health Information System [NIHHIS].—The Committee encourages OAR, through NIHHIS, to study and raise awareness about the many impacts of extreme heat and the factors that may affect the uneven distribution of heat throughout a community. This may include enhancing education and outreach activities with partners working on aspects of reducing health risks of heat or supporting regional pilots.

Forward-Looking Building Standards.—The Committee remains 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 NOAA, in collaboration with NIST, to continue to support research that enables consistent, authoritative set of for-

ward-looking long-term meteorological information that models future extreme weather events, other environmental trends, projections, and up-to-date observations, including mesoscale meteorological information.

Methane Emissions Detection Technologies.—NOAA is encouraged to collaborate with current and new partners to make use of commercial assets to monitor methane emissions from aircraft and satellites to pinpoint the source of emissions at the individual facility level anywhere in the world. By using such advanced observational technologies, NOAA helps the United States understand how countries are meeting their nationally determined contributions and help governments deploy targeted reduction measures. NOAA is further directed to report to the Committee, not later than 90 days after enactment of this act, on progress made to engage with stakeholders such as members of the Global Methane Initiative and the Special Presidential Envoy for Climate on public-private partnerships to identify and mitigate methane emissions.

Marine Ecosystem Responses to Climate Change.—The Committee recognizes the impacts of climate change on fisheries, including changes in the distribution, productivity, and abundance of fish stocks that make sustainable management more challenging. Within the funds provided for Climate Competitive Research, the Committee encourages OAR to fund improvements to ocean modeling systems and to build a high-resolution regional ocean modeling and prediction system that can inform climate-ready resource management.

Supporting Early Career Climate Researchers.—To encourage the long-term growth of the climate research workforce, the Committee encourages NOAA to administer competitive research opportunities aimed toward early career researchers to enable promising scientists to pursue leadership on their own research projects.

Tornado Research.—Within the funding provided for Weather Laboratories and Cooperative Institutes, the Committee provides $12,000,000, for the VORTEX-SE program, which is $5,000,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level, for a focused research initiative to better monitor and improve understanding of hazardous weather phenomena.

The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2022 enacted level for research on near real-time infrasonic monitoring of hurricanes and tornadoes.

Weather Modeling Improvement and Innovation.—Within funding for the U.S. Weather Research Program, the Committee provides an increase of $500,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level for the Earth Prediction Innovation Center [EPIC], as authorized by the NIDIS Reauthorization Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–423). The Committee expects that this investment will lead to improvements in NOAA's operational weather forecasting capabilities to protect life and property.

Subseasonal to Seasonal Weather Prediction.—Within funding for the U.S. Weather Research Program, the Committee provides $1,000,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level for a subseasonal to seasonal research program to seed innovative research testbeds. Such efforts shall include a pilot project for subseasonal to seasonal precipitation forecasts for water management in the

western United States recommended in NOAA's report to Congress pursuant to section 201 of the Weather Research and Forecasting Innovation Act of 2017 (Public Law 115–25). The pilot project should be carried out in coordination with the National Weather Service and should be focused on achieving measurable objectives for operational forecast improvement, including forecasts of seasonal mountain snowpack accumulation and total seasonal precipitation.

Fire Weather.—As the Nation combats yet another dangerous and extreme wildfire season, the Committee notes with urgency the importance of improving fire weather modeling, prediction, detection, and decision support tools. The Committee provides not less than $4,000,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level within the U.S. Weather Research Program to develop a collaborative and integrated fire weather research program, including the establishment of a new NOAA Fire Weather Testbed.

Advanced Quantitative Precipitation Information System.—The Committee provides $1,000,000 within the U.S. Weather Research Program for a regional radar array demonstration project to enable better forecasting of extreme West Coast precipitation events, like atmospheric rivers.

Next Generation Phased Array Weather Radars.—The Committee supports NOAA's investment in the development of advanced radar systems and technology to satisfy its future weather and related requirements. The Committee provides the requested increase for research on Phased Array Radar [PAR] technology to support the engineering, digital architecture, operational studies, and scientific studies that quantify the benefits of various PAR technologies for weather radar.

Light Detection and Ranging [LiDAR] Technology.—NOAA is encouraged to develop, demonstrate, and commercialize advanced, compact LiDAR systems uniquely tailored to near-surface marine and atmospheric profiling from UAS and mobile ground-based platforms. This new technology could increase NOAA's ability to flexibly collect real-time data that fills temporal and spatial gaps left by existing platforms.

Ocean, Coastal, and Great Lakes Laboratories and Cooperative Institutes.—The Committee provides $40,000,000, an increase of $2,890,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level, for Ocean Laboratories and Cooperative Institutes. 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 ecosystems; remote sensing; long-term monitoring of oil spill impacts on marine ecosystem health; coastal resilience; ocean exploration within the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone; and HABs.

Aquatic Invasive Species.—The Committee directs NOAA to establish the Coastal Aquatic Invasive Species Mitigation Grant Program and Mitigation Fund, as authorized by the Vessel Incident Discharge Act of 2018 (title XI of Public Law 115–282).

Ocean Exploration.—The Committee provides $46,500,000 for Ocean Exploration and Research, an increase of $3,090,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level. Within the funding provided, OAR is directed to accelerate efforts to map and characterize Amer-

ica's Exclusive Economic Zone and extended Outer Continental Shelf, including by maximizing the amount of funding provided for the Ocean Exploration CI and supporting competitive awards for deep ocean research combing seismic and acoustic methods. NOAA is also encouraged to work with the Department of Education and other relevant agencies to continue fundamental ocean exploration in which open source data are collected for the oceanographic community and private industries in real-time through telepresence technology.

National Sea Grant College Program.—The Committee provides an increase of $14,000,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level for the Sea Grant program and its research, education, extension, and outreach activities, which are critical for coastal communities and benefit the entire Nation.

Coastal Resilience.—Within the additional funding provided for the Sea Grant program, NOAA is encouraged to increase coastal resilience activities across all State programs. This may include recruitment of resilience-focused staff and enhancing research, engagement, decision support, and project implementation. NOAA is encouraged to prioritize work to enhance the coastal resilience of remote communities most at-risk for natural disasters and chronic events, with a priority given to challenges faced by Tribal, indigenous, and economically disadvantaged communities.

Young Fishermen's Development Act.—Within funding for the Sea Grant program, the Committee provides $2,000,000 for training, education, outreach, and technical assistance for young fishermen as authorized under for the Young Fishermen's Development Act (Public Law 116–289).

American Lobster Research.—Within funding for the Sea Grant program, the Committee provides $2,000,000 for partnerships among State agencies, academia, and industry to address American lobster research priorities in the Gulf of Maine, Georges Bank, and southern New England. Research should focus on stock resilience in the face of environmental changes, including life history parameters, distribution, and abundance, with the purpose of informing future management actions, or topics necessary to respond to newly implemented or future modifications of the ALWTRP (FR–210827–0171).

Highly Migratory Species.—Within funding for the Sea Grant program, the committee provides up to $3,000,000 for a grant program to research highly migratory fish species in the Atlantic, Pacific, and Gulf of Mexico, in partnership with State agencies, academia, and the fishing industry. This may include species such as bluefin or yellowfin tuna, swordfish, marlin, and pelagic sharks. Highly migratory species, and the coastal communities that rely on the health of these stocks, could greatly benefit from improved, science-based management and conservation.

Contaminants of Emerging Concern.—The Committee is alarmed by reports of contaminants of emerging concern that may cause ecological or human health impacts, including PFAS, in coastal and estuarine waters. The Committee notes that more research is needed to better understand the prevalence, transportation, accumulation, effects, and fate of contaminants of emerging concern within coastal waters. Therefore, the Committee provides $2,000,000 with-

in the Sea Grant program to partner with State agencies and academic institutions to research and monitor these emerging contaminants.

Sea Grant Aquaculture Research.—The Committee provides $15,000,000 for Sea Grant Aquaculture Research, which is $1,500,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level. Within the funding provided, NOAA is encouraged to explore new research topics, including engineering of ocean-based infrastructure, and accumulation and metabolization rates of brevetoxins in commonly farmed shellfish.

Integrated Ocean Acidification.—The Committee provides $18,000,000 for Integrated Ocean Acidification to address the growing problem of ocean acidification and its effects in coastal areas on shellfish and other fisheries. Within funding provided, NOAA shall continue working with State, local, territorial, and Tribal governments on ocean and coastal acidification research that is used to complete the vulnerability assessments mandated by the Federal Ocean Acidification Research and Monitoring Act (Public Law 111–11).

National Oceanographic Partnership Program [NOPP].—The Committee provides $7,000,000 for NOPP to continue to facilitate interagency and public-private partnerships to advance ocean science research, development, and education. Within the funds provided, NOAA shall allocate no less than $3,000,000 to work with other appropriate Federal agency and industry partners to develop, test, and evaluate ocean-based carbon dioxide removal technologies.

Ocean Noise.—The Committee recognizes the importance of understanding the underwater soundscape to protect and manage marine life, including sounds produced by marine animals, changes in physical processes, and other anthropogenic activities. NOAA is encouraged to work through NOPP to expand the deployment of Federal and non-Federal observing and data management systems capable of collecting measurements of underwater sound in high-priority ocean and coastal locations, and to develop and apply standardized forms of measurements to assess sounds.

NOAA NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

The Committee's recommendation provides $1,251,874,000 for the National Weather Service [NWS]. NWS programs provide timely and accurate meteorologic, hydrologic, and oceanographic warnings and forecasts to protect life and property and improve the economic productivity of the Nation. NWS is also responsible for issuing operational climate forecasts for the United States. The Committee has made saving lives and livelihoods through accurate weather forecasting a priority.

The Committee's recommendations are displayed in the following table:

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE OPERATIONS, RESEARCH, AND FACILITIES

[In thousands of dollars]

	Committee recommendation
Observations	253,462
Central Processing	108,992

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE OPERATIONS, RESEARCH, AND FACILITIES—Continued

[In thousands of dollars]

	Committee recommendation
Analyze, Forecast and Support	589,060
Dissemination	123,158
Science and Technology Integration	177,202
GRAND TOTAL, NWS	1,251,874

NWS Staffing.—The Committee recognizes and appreciates NWS's commitment and efforts-to-date to fill vacancies, especially for weather forecast personnel. However, as the NWS recovers from pandemic-related attrition, less than 50 percent of Weather Forecast Offices are ideally staffed, and the Committee continues to be concerned with the number of NWS employee vacancies given the importance of the NWS mission to protect the lives and property of our Nation's citizens. Therefore, the Committee provides $10,000,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level within Analyze, Forecast and Support [AFS] to increase NWS staffing, including at the National Centers for Environmental Prediction. Within the funds provided, NWS is encouraged to increase the number of trained and qualified Incident Meteorologists [IMETs] for wildfires and other extreme events.

NWS Staffing in Alaska.—The Committee remains concerned about potential NWS staffing reductions in Alaska and reminds NWS that any staffing changes must comply with the reprogramming procedures set forth in section 505 of this act. Prior to proposing any staffing reductions, NWS shall conduct community outreach meetings in all affected communities.

Observations.—The Committee provides an increase of $500,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level for the Aircraft Based Observation Program and directs NWS to coordinate with and leverage existing capabilities of the National Mesonet Program to increase the use and deployment of commercial aviation-based atmospheric data, with an emphasis on water vapor data for numerical weather prediction improvement.

National Mesonet Program.—The Committee provides no less than $26,700,000 for the continuation and expansion of the National Mesonet Program, which is an increase of $4,000,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level. Investments going forward should sustain coverage of data types and areas now included within the National Mesonet Program, as well as reduce weather radar gaps, expand in-situ and remote sensing capabilities to provide weather measurements in high-risk areas. Further, the Committee encourages NWS to enhance coverage by the National Mesonet Program in non-contiguous States and territories.

Of the funds provided, up to $750,000 may be used for Meteorological Assimilation Data Ingest System activities and up to $500,000 may be used for costs associated with the National Mesonet Program Office.

Automated Surface Observing System [ASOS].—The Committee supports NWS's ongoing efforts to prolong the service life of ASOS. NWS is directed to ensure that rural and remote communities who

disproportionately rely on ASOS operability for continued reliable air service are provided with additional resources, such as trained human observers, to continue observing capabilities in the event of an ASOS outage.

Space Weather Research to Operations.—The Committee provides $2,000,000 to support a Space Weather Prediction Testbed that will help drive research to operations to ensure national and global communities are prepared for space-weather events in furtherance of NOAA's responsibilities under the Promoting Research and Observations of Space Weather to Improve the Forecasting of Tomorrow [PROSWIFT] Act (Public Law 116–181). Of this amount, $500,000 is within Central Processing and $1,500,000 is within Science and Technology Integration [STI].

National Data Buoy Center [NDBC].—The Committee provides sufficient funding to maintain, at a minimum, NDBC operations at 80 percent data availability. The Committee also provides funding to maintain and service the Deep-ocean Assessment and Reporting of Tsunamis [DART] Array, which provides tsunami prediction capacity. NWS is directed to ensure that as a result of the investment in the IIJA, all DART buoys in Alaska, especially those in Prince William Sound and southeast Alaska, are deployed and fully operational. The Committee further directs NOAA to include a schedule to restore existing data buoy operability and a strategy to minimize outages in the future as part of the agency's spending plan.

Tsunami Warning Program.—The Committee provides a $1,000,000 increase above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level for the Tsunami Warning Program to ensure that high-quality tsunami watches, warnings, and advisories are issued to safeguard lives and property. With additional funding, the Committee expects NWS to expeditiously fill the current vacancies and modernize technology.

Further, within 180 days of enactment of this act, the Committee directs NOAA to provide a plan and cost estimates to improve operational capacity at its tsunami warning centers, including, at a minimum: upgrades to ensure the compatibility of all computer systems used by both centers; upgrades to ensure the reliability and compatibility of both centers' dissemination infrastructure; and plans for continuity of operations in the event that one of the centers goes offline.

Environmental Processes in the Arctic.—Within the funding provided for AFS, the Committee encourages NWS to develop capacity for seasonal to multiannual timescale predictions of environmental processes in the Arctic.

Dissemination.—Within Dissemination, the Committee provides no less than $11,000,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level to optimize and upgrade the integrated dissemination program.

Office of Water Prediction [OWP].—The Committee provides no less than $40,000,000 for OWP, which receives funding across multiple NWS budget lines, including a $3,500,000 increase above the enacted level within Dissemination. The Committee maintains the direction carried in previous fiscal years for NWS to continue to expedite hiring within the National Water Center [NWC] Water Prediction Operations Division. NWS is encouraged to initiate Flood Inundation Mapping operations through the NWC.

Hydrology and Water Resource Programs.—The Committee provides $30,000,000 for NOAA to support CIROH, which is $10,000,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level. This amount includes $29,000,000 within STI and $1,000,000 within NOS. NOAA is encouraged to leverage the CI expertise to help NOAA assess the most operationally relevant research.

Hurricane Forecast Improvement Project.—The Committee directs NOAA to continue the Hurricane Forecast Improvement Program authorized by section 104 of the Weather Research and Forecasting Innovation Act of 2017 (Public Law 115–25). Within 60 days of enactment of this act, NWS shall brief the Committee on the status of the program, including a plan and timeline for completion of any outstanding items.

Consumer Option for an Alternative System To Allocate Losses [COASTAL] Act Implementation.—The Committee provides the no less than the fiscal year 2022 enacted level for the development and implementation of the COASTAL Act (division F, title II of Public Law 112–141). The Committee supports NOAA's work to assist homeowners impacted by destructive winds and storm surges associated with hurricanes and super-storms. The Committee directs NOAA to continue to leverage existing Federal assets, expertise, and partnerships in carrying out COASTAL Act activities.

Priorities for Weather Research.—The Committee appreciates the NOAA Science Advisory Board's [SAB] efforts in publishing "Priorities for Weather Research." The Committee believes that this report will help instruct the Congress and NOAA in determining future weather research, observation, and operations investments. The Committee directs NOAA, no later than 180 days after the enactment of this act, to provide to the Committee a briefing regarding the agency's response to this report. This briefing shall include: (1) any disagreements with the SAB's findings; (2) a description of how NOAA is currently addressing each of the identified recommendations; and (3) proposals for further addressing each of the identified recommendations.

Oversight.—The act includes a $750,000 transfer from NWS to the OIG for budgetary and programmatic oversight activities. The Committee directs NWS to work collaboratively with the OIG.

NOAA NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL SATELLITE, DATA AND INFORMATION SERVICE

The Committee's recommendation provides $383,652,000 for National Environmental Satellite, Data and Information Service [NESDIS] operations. NESDIS programs operate environmental polar-orbiting, geostationary, and space weather satellites and collect and archive global environmental data and information for distribution to users in commerce, industry, agriculture, science, and engineering, the general public, and Federal, State, and local agencies.

The Committee's recommendations are displayed in the following table:

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL SATELLITE, DATA AND INFORMATION SERVICE OPERATIONS, RESEARCH, AND FACILITIES

[In thousands of dollars]

	Committee recommendation
Environmental Satellite Observing Systems:	.....
Office of Satellite and Product Operations	246,902
Product Development, Readiness and Application	60,000
U.S. Group on Earth Observations	750
Total, Environmental Satellite Observing Systems	307,652
National Centers for Environmental Information	76,000
GRAND TOTAL, NESDIS	383,652

Satellite Operations Technical Transfers.—The Committee accepts the $56,090,000 in technical transfers to the Office of Satellite and Product Operation; Product Development, Readiness and Application; and the National Centers for Environmental Information proposed in the administration's request to move operations funded within Polar Weather Satellites and Low Earth Orbit from Procurement, Acquisition and Construction to ORF.

Office of Satellite and Product Operations.—The Committee provides an increase of $2,500,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level for Satellite and Product Operations Deferred and Extended Maintenance, including for upgrades to ground systems and antenna systems at facilities such as those in Virginia, West Virginia, and Alaska.

Product Development, Readiness and Application.—The Committee provides $3,500,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level to support Advancing Fire Weather Priorities, Coastal Resilience and Water Quality, Ocean Remote Sensing, and Expanding Polar Region Integrated Satellite Marine and Ice Information Capabilities.

National Centers for Environmental Information [NCEI].—The Committee provides $76,000,000 for NCEI, including not less than $10,500,000 for Regional Climate Services, $6,600,000 for Regional Climate Centers, and $5,500,000 for Coastal Data Development.

NOAA shall consider the Coastal Data Development program as the central repository to manage data collections from NOAA uncrewed systems to achieve the Commercial Engagement Through Ocean Technology [CENOTE] Act (Public Law 115–394) goals by amplifying the use of data for environmental and economic innovation. The Committee provides $4,000,000 for NOAA to begin the development of a Data Assembly Hub for uncrewed systems. The Hub shall serve as a public-facing, commercial, cloud-based repository that aggregates data and observations that can be accessed by scientists, resource managers, and industries interested in model development, forecast improvements and resource conservation. This effort will serve as a critical pilot for purchasing and managing commercial cloud services for other NOAA observational requirements.

NOAA MISSION SUPPORT

The Committee's recommendation provides $426,567,000 for NOAA's mission support activities. These programs provide for overall NOAA management, including staffing of the Under Secretary's office and services to NOAA field offices, as well as NOAA's Education Office.

Committee recommendations are displayed in the following table:

MISSION SUPPORT OPERATIONS, RESEARCH, AND FACILITIES

[In thousands of dollars].

	Committee recommendation
Mission Support Services:	
Executive Leadership	29,500
Mission Services and Management	182,375
IT Security	16,393
Payment to DOC Working Capital Fund	71,299
Facilities Maintenance	9,000
Office of Space Commerce	80,000
Total, Mission Support Services	388,567
Office of Education:	
NOAA Education Program Base	7,500
José E. Serrano Educational Partnership Program with Minority Serving Insitutions	22,000
BWET Regional Progams	8,500
Total, Office of Education	38,000
GRAND TOTAL, MISSION SUPPORT	426,567

Tribal Liaison.—The Committee provides $500,000 within Executive Leadership for NOAA to increase staffing to strengthen communications and outreach to Tribal governments, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians.

NOAA Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.—The Committee applauds NOAA for taking steps to build a more diverse and inclusive workplace. The Committee supports NOAA's requested increases within Mission Services and Management and provides not less than $3,000,000 to accelerate NOAA's Diversity and Inclusion Plan, to expand NOAA's recruiting program, and for equity assessment and implementation support in compliance with Executive Order 13985.

Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment.—The Committee commends the agency for its efforts to provide employees a workplace free from sexual assault and sexual harassment, including issuance of NOAA Administrative Order [NAO] 202–1106 and creation of the Workplace Violence Prevention and Response Program. The Committee directs NOAA to continue implementing NAO 202–1106 and expanding services and within Mission Services and Management provides not less than $1,000,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level for these purposes. NOAA shall continue to provide the Committee with a copy of the report required under section 12.02 of NAO 202–1106.

Mission Services and Management Programmatic Increases.—In addition to the previously articulated programs, the Committee supports the following programmatic increases within Mission

Services and Management as detailed in the budget request: Acquisition and Grants Office, Facility Program Capacity, Budget Position Management System, Finance Transaction Processing, and Spectrum and expects these initiatives to be supported within the funding provided to Mission Support. The Committee directs Mission Support to identify amounts for each of these initiatives as part of the agency's fiscal year 2023 spending plan.

Office of Space Commerce [OSC].—The Committee accepts the proposed transfer of OSC from NESDIS to Mission Support in order to increase the visibility and profile of the Office within NOAA. The Committee provides $80,000,000 for OSC, an increase of $64,000,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level, to advance space traffic management and space situational awareness capabilities, in collaboration with industry and Federal partners, towards initial operating capability in fiscal year 2024. No later than 45 days after enactment of this act, NOAA shall provide the Committee with a detailed spending plan for the funds provided to OSC. The Committee also awaits receipt of the five-year strategic plan for OSC requested in the joint explanatory statement accompanying Public Law 117–103. NOAA is directed to immediately submit the plan to the Committee.

Facilities Maintenance.—The Committee provides $9,000,000 for Facilities Maintenance to address the growing backlog of deferred maintenance and capital improvement needs at NOAA facilities. Before any of these funds may be obligated, NOAA is directed to provide the Committee with a detailed spending plan that explains what projects will be supported with the provided funding, as well as a prioritized list of the backlog of needed facilities repair, improvement, and maintenance projects.

The Committee awaits receipt of the business case analysis for a new center of excellence as required in the joint explanatory statement accompanying Public Law 117–103. NOAA is directed to immediately provide the analysis to the Committee.

Cooperative Science Center for Ocean Education.—The Committee encourages the administration to request funding for a cooperative science center for ocean exploration in its fiscal year 2024 budget request.

Providing Opportunities within the Ocean Sciences.—As part of the administration's emphasis on increasing diversity in STEM, the Committee directs NOAA to partner with an established consortium of higher education, industry, and non-profit organizations to offer access to a research vessel and to associated programming dedicated to increasing opportunities for underrepresented groups within the ocean sciences.

National Ocean Sciences Bowl [NOSB].—NOAA is directed to continue its support of the NOSB by fully funding NOAA's contributions to NOSB in fiscal year 2023, in partnership with other agencies and non-Federal entities.

NOAA OFFICE OF MARINE AND AVIATION OPERATIONS

The Committee's recommendation provides $333,650,000 for NOAA's marine and aviation operations. The OMAO provides aircraft and marine data acquisition, repair, and maintenance of the existing fleet; planning of future modernization; and technical and

management support for NOAA-wide activities through the NOAA Commissioned Officer Corps.

OFFICE OF MARINE AND AVIATION OPERATIONS, RESEARCH, AND FACILITIES

[In thousands of dollars]

	Committee recommendation
Marine Operations and Maintenance	204,000
Aviation Operations and Aircraft Services	39,000
Autonomous Uncrewed Technology Operations	34,000
NOAA Commissioned Officer Corps	56,650
GRAND TOTAL, OMAO	333,650

Office of Health Services.—The Committee provides the requested increase for the Office of Health Services and commends the Office for its work to keep NOAA operational during the COVID–19 pandemic.

Marine Operations and Maintenance.—The Committee notes that the significant increase in fuel prices has cut into OMAO's operations budget and hindered the ability of the agency to execute its mission. Therefore, the Committee provides an increase of $22,000,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level to enhance NOAA's Fleet operations and support additional days at sea. The Committee also commends OMAO for its efforts to attract and retain professional mariners and encourages the agency to continue these efforts.

Charter Vessels.—The Committee has consistently supported NOAA's plan to recapitalize its vessel fleet. However, the Committee is increasingly concerned about the growing backlog of unfulfilled responsibilities in NOAA's charting and survey mission, particularly with respect to Arctic waters. For this reason, the Committee encourages NOAA to enter into charter agreements for the services of not less than two private sector vessels to supplement its charting and survey efforts.

Monitoring of Atmospheric Rivers.—Improving understanding of atmospheric rivers is critical to prepare for concentrated rain storms and flooding along the U.S. west coast. Therefore, the Committee provides up to $2,000,000 within Aviation Operations and Aircraft Services to better observe and predict these extreme weather events.

Airborne Phased Array Radar [APAR].—The Committee remains concerned that the development of APAR technology may impact NOAA's future plans to provide in situ observations of tropical cyclones. The Committee does not understand how the research and development of a NOAA mission-critical technology hinges upon a competitive grant process within another agency and expects that this process will never be replicated. NOAA is directed to provide the research-to-operations transition plan for APAR requested in the joint explanatory statement accompanying Public Law 117–103 within 30 days of enactment of this act.

Autonomous and Uncrewed Technology Operations [AUTO].—The Committee provides $34,000,000 for AUTO, which is an increase of $20,000,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level. The Committee notes that OMAO has successfully leveraged commercially

available uncrewed maritime systems [UMS] to collect data in support of NOAA's core mission areas including fisheries management, weather forecasting, and bathymetry, demonstrating the utility and cost-effectiveness of purchasing ocean data. Within the funds provided, no less than the fiscal year 2022 enacted level shall be used to support extramural partnerships with universities and oceanographic institutions for UMS research, development, testing, and training, including research to improve precise marine navigation and coastal resilience through improvements to uncrewed platforms. NOAA shall use the increased funding for agency-wide data acquisition from UMS in support of relevant research and operational missions including hurricane intensity forecasting, fishery surveys, ocean exploration, and hydrographic surveys.

NOAA Commission Officer Corps.—The Committee approves the request to increase the size of the NOAA Corps to help meet the increased demands on aviation operations and prepare for the addition of new vessels to the NOAA Fleet.

The Committee provides no less than $2,000,000 within NOAA Commissioned Officer Corps to support OMAO's aviation accession training program, as authorized in section 105 of the NOAA Commissioned Officer Corps Amendments Act of 2020 (Public Law 116–259).

NOAA SPECIAL PROJECTS

The Committee's recommendation provides $61,934,000 for NOAA Special Projects as detailed in the table below. The Committee directs NOAA to provide the amounts listed in the table and NOAA shall perform the same level of oversight and due diligence as with any other external partners.

NOAA SPECIAL PROJECTS

Recipient	Project	Recommendation ($)
Aleut Community of St. Paul Island.	Surveillance Monitoring of Fisheries and Ecosystems	250,000
Bering Sea Fisheries Research Foundation.	Bering Sea Fisheries Monitoring	2,750,000
Commercial Fisheries Research Foundation.	Cooperative Fisheries Research, Gear Development, and Gear Removal.	500,000
Coquille Indian Tribe	Coquille River Salmon Conservation	750,000
Downeast Institute	Support for Shellfish Research and Hatchery Activities	670,000
Ferris State University	Ferris State Center for Virtual Learning	1,000,000
Gloucester Fishermen's Wives Development Program.	Reducing Energy Costs and Reducing Emissions in the Massachusetts Commercial Fishing and Seafood Industries.	1,991,000
Great Bay Stewards, Inc.	Eelgrass Education Project at the Great Bay Discovery Center	100,000
Great Lakes Commission	Great Lakes Regional Coordination	3,000,000
Greenwave	Connecticut Kelp Innovation Center	2,390,000
Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources.	Pouhala Marsh Wetland Restoration	600,000
Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources.	West Hawai'i Resilient Coral Transplant	900,000
Healthy Schools Campaign	Space to Grow: Greening Chicago Schoolyards	750,000
Kaua'i County	Waimea Wetlands Restoration	1,200,000
Leahy Center for Lake Champlain, Inc.	Inspiring Lake Champlain Stewardship	750,000
Maritime Exchange for the Delaware River and Bay.	Delaware River and Estuary Ecosystem Data Gathering Initiative	356,000
Maunalua Fishpond Heritage Center.	Maunalua Coastal Watershed Restoration	400,000

NOAA SPECIAL PROJECTS—Continued

Recipient	Project	Recommendation ($)
Memphremagog Community Maritime.	Memphremagog Maritime Education Center—Newport	150,000
Morgan State University	Morgan State University's PEARL Lab Student Research Enhancements.	1,000,000
NERACOOS	Building a Coastal Resilience Monitoring System for New Hampshire.	1,850,000
North Slope Borough Dept. of Wildlife Management.	Marine Mammal Co-Management Research	2,700,000
Northern Virginia Regional Commission.	Northern Virginia Rainfall and Flood Preparedness	115,000
Northwest Straits Commission	Northwest Straits Marine Conservation Initiative	3,000,000
Portland State University	Oregon Microplastics Research Center	785,000
Riverkeeper, Inc.	Publicly Accessible Water Quality Portal	250,000
Save the Bay	Habitat Restoration Strategies for Rhode Island Waters	1,660,000
Scripps Institution of Oceanography.	Southern California Bight Demonstration Project—Ocean and Pollution Mapping, Living Marine Resources Assessment, and Modeling.	6,000,000
Sea Research Foundation, Inc., d/b/a Mystic Aquarium.	Blue Economy Career Development Center	650,000
St. Mary's River Watershed Association.	Oyster Restoration in the St. Mary's River Shellfish Sanctuary	185,000
Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary.	Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary Mapping Initiative	1,000,000
The Nature Conservancy Hawaii	Reef Restoration Project	1,000,000
Tillamook Estuaries Partnership	Instrumentation for Climate Change Monitoring in Rural Tillamook County Estuaries.	625,000
Town of Manchester-by-the-Sea, MA.	Building Local Capacity for Managing Extreme Weather Events	500,000
University at Albany, State University of New York.	Vertical Sensing Evaluation Initiative	1,350,000
University of Alaska	Arctic Seasonal Weather Forecasting	1,000,000
University of Alaska	Baseline Fishery Surveys	1,750,000
University of Hawaii Manoa	Shoreline Equity and Adaptation Hub	2,250,000
University of Hawai'i Sea Grant College Program.	Waikiki Watershed Resilience	500,000
University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science.	UMCES Oyster Research to Enhance Resiliency	960,000
University of New Hampshire	Detecting Harmful Algal Blooms and Microplastics in the Great Bay and Beyond.	722,000
University of North Carolina Wilmington.	Acquisition of Marine Research Equipment	750,000
University of Rhode Island	Aquaculture Resilience	1,300,000
University of Rhode Island	Blue Tech Initiative	2,250,000
University of Southern Mississippi	Data Assembly HUB for Uncrewed Systems	2,500,000
Upper Columbia United Tribes	Salmon Reintroduction Assessments and Development of Adult Collection Facilities in the Upper Columbia.	5,000,000
Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution.	Mission-critical Secure Underwater Research Facility	950,000
Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association.	Yukon River Research, Surveys, and Community Engagement	825,000

NOAA PROCUREMENT, ACQUISITION AND CONSTRUCTION

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

Appropriations, 2022	$1,672,689,000
Budget estimate, 2023	2,332,662,000
Committee recommendation	1,874,329,000

The Committee's recommendation provides $1,874,329,000 for NOAA's Procurement, Acquisition and Construction [PAC]. The

recommendation is $201,640,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level and $458,333,000 below the budget request.

Committee recommendations are displayed in the following table:

PROCUREMENT, ACQUISITION AND CONSTRUCTION

[In thousands of dollars]

	Committee recommendation
National Ocean Service:	
National Estuarine Research Reserve Construction	8,500
Marine Sanctuaries Construction	7,000
Total, NOS–PAC	15,500
Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research:	
Research Supercomputing/CCRI	68,500
Research Acquisitions and Management	20,000
Total, OAR–PAC	88,500
National Weather Service:	
Observations	16,200
Central Processing	68,000
Dissemination	10,000
Facilities Construction and Major Repairs	18,000
Total, NWS–PAC	112,200
National Environmental Satellite, Data and Information Service:	
Geostationary Systems—R	301,000
Polar Weather Satellites	217,410
Space Weather Follow On	136,200
Geostationary Earth Orbit	285,000
Low Earth Orbit	96,430
Space Weather Next	151,606
Common Ground Services	105,433
Systems/Services, Architecture and Engineering	74,500
Satellite CDA Facility	2,450
Total, NESDIS–PAC	1,370,029
Mission Support:	
NOAA Construction	148,000
Total, Mission Support–PAC	148,000
Office of Marine and Aviation Operations:	
Fleet Capital Improvements and Technology Infusion	28,000
Vessel Recapitalization and Construction	116,100
Aircraft Recapitalization and Construction	9,000
Total, OMAO–PAC	153,100
Unobligated balances from prior years	−13,000
GRAND TOTAL, PAC	1,874,329

Judgment Fund Repayment.—The Committee does not provide funding for NOAA to make payments to the Department of the Treasury's Judgment Fund.

High Performance Computing.—The Committee recognizes NOAA's high performance computing needs and its current limitations on providing high-fidelity results in near real-time and pro-

vides $20,000,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level. Within funding provided for Research Supercomputing/CCRI, $15,000,000 shall be used to continue the development of a dedicated high performance computing facility in collaboration with partners that have existing high performance computing expertise and scientific synergies.

Research Acquisitions and Management.—The Committee accepts the request to create a new PPA, Research Acquisitions and Management, to allow OAR to demonstrate technologies before they transition to operations. The Committee provides $20,000,000 for a demonstration system for a dual polarization PAR to assess advanced techniques to meet NOAA's future weather radar requirements and replace the current NEXRAD system starting in the 2030s.

The Committee also directs NOAA to engage with the weather industry to develop a charge for the SAB to study options for procuring or leasing assets as well as acquiring commercial data to satisfy NOAA's next generation radar needs.

Observations.—The Committee provides the requested amount for the ASOS Service Life Extension Program [SLEP].

Integrated Water Prediction [IWP].—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2022 enacted level for Central Processing under NWS PAC, which includes not less than $5,739,000 to procure operational high performance computing resources to enable modeling improvements associated with the IWP initiative.

Cloud Computing.—The Committee is concerned that NWS is purchasing servers to establish a "NOAA cloud" rather than utilizing commercial cloud services. Within 30 days of enactment of this act, NWS shall brief the Committee on the status of NOAA's cloud efforts, including any plans to purchase cloud storage as a service.

NWS Facilities.—The Committee provides $18,000,000 for NWS Facilities Construction and Major Repairs, an increase of $5,000,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level. Within 270 days of enactment of this act, NOAA is directed to provide the Committee with an updated NWS Facilities Strategic Plan, including an ordered list of the highest priority facilities and associated upgrade or lease improvement costs.

NOAA Satellite Reporting.—The Committee directs NOAA to provide quarterly programmatic and procurement status reports of all satellites actively orbiting, in standby mode, and under development, unless any reprogramming, system failure, construction delay, or other extraordinary circumstance warrants an immediate update.

NESDIS Budget Reorganization.—The Committee partially accepts the proposed NESDIS PAC budget restructuring and approves the technical transfer from Projects, Planning, and Analysis to Space Weather Next and Common Ground Services. As satellites are launched and move from the construction phase into operations, the Committee encourages NOAA to continue to propose technical transfers of funding from PAC to ORF as part of subsequent budget requests.

Geostationary Extended Observations [GeoXO].—The Committee provides $285,000,000 for GeoXO, which is the amount required to

maintain the current program schedule in fiscal year 2023, including to complete Phase A formulation studies, to complete DOC Acquisition Milestone 2, and to award the imager development contract. Before initiating procurement activities for other instruments and the spacecraft, NOAA shall provide the Committee with the report about the user needs and requirements and estimated lifecycle costs of the next generation of NOAA flagship weather satellites requested in the joint explanatory statement accompanying Public Law 117–103. The requested report shall include how the proposed suite of GeoXO instruments will improve NOAA's weather mission.

Systems/Services Architecture and Engineering.—The Committee provides $16,000,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level for the commercial data purchase and commercial weather data pilot programs, which is to be divided between the two programs as deemed appropriate.

Within funding provided, NOAA is directed to continue the pilot program to procure space weather observations consistent with the PROSWIFT Act (Public Law 116–181) and provides up to $5,000,000 for these purposes.

The Committee commends NOAA for its progress on partnering with the commercial sector to provide critical environmental data and observations. However, NOAA's current schedule of conducting commercial weather data solicitations every 2 years may have the unintended consequence of limiting new partnerships with the quickly evolving commercial sector. Since NOAA's commercial data pilot and purchase programs have matured, NOAA shall ensure that funds provided for commercial data purchases are used in a manner that maximizes competition by conducting solicitations for new qualified commercial data market entrants on an annual or more frequent basis.

NOAA Construction.—The Committee provides $148,000,000 for NOAA's highest priority facilities repair and deferred maintenance requirements, which is $89,000,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level. Thirty days before obligating any funds, NOAA shall submit a report detailing how the funds will be expended and an explanation of why these projects were prioritized. NOAA is also directed to immediately inform the Committee if there are any significant schedule delays or project cost increases.

Within the funds provided for NOAA Construction, NOAA shall consolidate and realign the Northwest Fisheries Science Center facilities, as requested. The Committee also encourages NOAA to accelerate the competitive solicitation process for proposals from academic, university, and nonprofit partners to co-locate other NMFS laboratories and directs NOAA to prioritize funding for infrastructure projects related to marine operations, including facilities to accommodate NOAA research vessels.

Vessel Recapitalization and Construction.—The Committee provides $116,100,000 in Vessel Recapitalization and Construction, which includes $9,600,000 to complete the mid-life repair period for the NOAA research vessel Ronald H. Brown. The Committee is concerned about reports regarding significant cost increases for the Class B vessels, beyond inflationary increases, that threaten the vessel recapitalization schedule. Within 90 days of enactment of this act, OMAO shall brief the Committee regarding the reasons for

these cost increases and options to de-scope in order to maintain the recapitalization schedule.

Aircraft Recapitalization.—The Committee provides $9,000,000 for Aircraft Recapitalization and Construction, which includes $4,000,000 to complete NOAA's effort to replace its current high altitude jet and $5,000,000 to complete the Service Depot Level Maintenance for NOAA's two P–3 Hurricane Hunter aircraft.

The Committee awaits receipt of the updated NOAA Aircraft Plan before considering additional investments. The Committee notes that the current Hurricane Hunter aircraft are approaching 50 years old and, despite the service depot investments, coming to the end of their expected service life. NOAA's failure to send Congress an updated aircraft plan with cost estimates for each identified aircraft and to include funding for Hurricane Hunter replacements as part of the budget request is unacceptable and threatens several critical NOAA missions. Given the significant expected required investment of future procurements, within 270 days of enactment of this act, NOAA shall provide the Committee with a study assessing lease options for its future aircraft needs. NOAA is encouraged to work with the SAB on such a study.

Mission Requirement Costs.—NOAA is directed to document within all of its future budget requests any unfunded mission requirement costs, and particularly those that are necessary to maintain the optimal operational tempo of NOAA assets and posture of NOAA facilities.

Oversight.—The Committee provides a $3,000,000 transfer to the OIG for oversight and audits of major procurements, including weather satellites and research vessels.

PACIFIC COASTAL SALMON RECOVERY FUND

Appropriations, 2022	$65,000,000
Budget estimate, 2023	65,000,000
Committee recommendation	65,000,000

The Committee's recommendation provides $65,000,000 for the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund [PCSRF]. The recommendation is equal to both the fiscal year 2022 enacted level and the budget request. Funds are to be used for conservation and restoration of Pacific salmon populations. State and local recipients of this funding will provide matching contributions of at least 33 percent of Federal funds. In addition, funds will be available to Tribes without a matching requirement.

The Committee notes that the IIJA provides $172,000,000 over 5 years for the PCSRF, including $34,400,000 in fiscal year 2023.

NOAA is directed to report on how its current priorities meet the intent of the PCSRF to support the recovery and protection of all declining salmon stocks.

FISHERIES DISASTER ASSISTANCE

Appropriations, 2022	
Budget estimate, 2023	$300,000
Committee recommendation	300,000

The Committee accepts the proposal to provide a new annual appropriation for Fisheries Disaster Assistance and provides $300,000, which is equal to the budget request. The Committee rec-

ognizes the distress caused by fishery disasters and understands that poor communication and funding disbursement delays due lack of permanent program staff only exacerbate an already difficult problem.

FISHERMEN'S CONTINGENCY FUND

Appropriations, 2022	$349,000
Budget estimate, 2023	349,000
Committee recommendation	349,000

The Committee's recommendation provides $349,000 for the Fishermen's Contingency Fund. The recommendation is equal to both the fiscal year 2022 enacted level and the budget request.

FISHERIES FINANCE PROGRAM ACCOUNT

Appropriations, 2022	−$18,000,000
Budget estimate, 2023	−19,000,000
Committee recommendation	−19,000,000

The Committee recommends that direct loans administered through this account for individual fishing quotas may not exceed $24,000,000. Traditional direct loans may not exceed $100,000,000, which is the same as the fiscal year 2022 enacted level and the budget request, despite scoring differences.

The Committee encourages NOAA to facilitate new vessel construction, vessel replacement, and upgrades within the Fisheries Finance Program using fuel-efficient technology to the greatest extent practicable.

OTHER

DEPARTMENTAL MANAGEMENT

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Appropriations, 2022	$80,000,000
Budget estimate, 2023	104,004,000
Committee recommendation	95,000,000

The Committee's recommendation provides $95,000,000 for Departmental Management [DM], Salaries and Expenses. The recommendation is $15,000,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level and $9,004,000 below the budget request. The increased funding provided for DM shall be used to cover the requested ATB costs among other programmatic increases highlighted herein.

Within Departmental Management, the Salaries and Expenses account provides funding for the Secretary, Deputy Secretary, and support staff. Responsibilities involve policy development and implementation affecting U.S. and international activities, as well as establishing internal goals for operations of the Department.

Staffing Levels.—The Committee commends the Department for making real progress toward addressing deficient staffing levels and slow hiring rates, which for years have encumbered agency performance. The Committee believes that these issues still require the continued attention of the leadership of the Department and a shared commitment with the bureaus. Therefore, the Chief Financial Officer and the Chief Human Capital Officer of the Depart-

ment shall continue to provide quarterly briefings to the Committee on all DOC human capital issues.

Spending Plans.—Under section 528 of this act, the Department is required to submit a spending plan within 45 days of the enactment of this act. That plan should describe the PPAs of the Department so that the Committee receives detailed descriptions of how the Department intends to operationalize the funding provided in annual appropriations bills. The Committee expects to receive a detailed accounting of each bureau's spending, including mandatory, reimbursable, fee-funded, or working capital fund spending, particularly with regard to specific PPAs described in the bill and accompanying explanatory statement. The Department shall continue to work with the Committee to ensure that its spending plans provide adequate information for continued oversight of the Department.

Salary Lapse.—The Committee directs DOC to provide a detailed accounting, as part of the fiscal year 2023 spending plans, identifying the amount of expected salary lapse in fiscal year 2023 and an explanation of how all accrued salary lapse will be spent for all DOC bureaus and NOAA line offices that have a greater than 10 percent vacancy rate, as of September 30, 2022. Any of the identified amounts that cannot be justified as either augmenting staffing vacancies or supporting mission critical functions will be considered for rescission in fiscal year 2023.

Section 232 Exclusion Process.—The Committee continues to provide funding for the ongoing exclusion process for steel and aluminum tariffs applied under section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962 (Public Law 87–794).

Working Capital Funds.—For each of the three working capital funds within DOC, the following is to be provided to the Committee and the OIG by November 30 of each year: (1) a comparison of the final budget or spending plan at the project or activity level to the actual year-end data as of September 30 of the prior fiscal year, including detailed narratives for variances greater than 5 percent at the project or activity level; (2) the initial budget or spending plan by project or activity for the current fiscal year; and (3) a detailed schedule of fiscal year-end unobligated and carryover balances by source funding category and by expiring budget fiscal year, to include: direct authority, Federal and intragovernmental reimbursable authority by trading partner, non-Federal reimbursable authority, amounts held for future asset replacement, and other categories.

Department of Commerce Working Capital Fund.—As part of the fiscal year 2024 budget request, the Department is directed to provide justification that clearly articulates why each Advancements and Reimbursements account and Working Capital Fund project administered by the Office of Acquisition Management, Office of Budget, Office of the Chief Financial Officer and Assistant Secretary for Administration, and Chief of Staff should continue to be funded through the Working Capital Fund.

Small Business Innovation Research.—The Committee recognizes the importance of the Small Business Innovation Research [SBIR] program and its previous accomplishments in facilitating commercial successes from federally-funded research and development

projects. The SBIR program encourages small domestic businesses to engage in Federal research and development and creates jobs in the smallest firms. The Committee therefore directs the DOC to place an increased focus on awarding SBIR grants to firms with fewer than 50 people.

Improving Trade Data Reporting.—The Committee directs the Department, in coordination with U.S. Customs and Border Protection, U.S. International Trade Commission, and other relevant agencies, to review and compare methodologies for collecting and publishing gross trade flows data and detailed supply chain data to better document the country of origin for components of each imported good before it reaches U.S. consumers.

Enhancing Microelectronics Fabrication with Advanced Materials and Techniques.—The Committee supports investments in fabrication and supply chain enhancement of advanced semiconductors and microelectronics. As the Department assesses and makes investments using funds provided in regular and emergency appropriations bills, the Committee directs such assessments to include the value of investing in researching advanced techniques and upgrading existing fabrication facilities to use advanced materials which can increase those facilities' capability to produce more effective microelectronics for existing and evolving demand.

Wildfire Mitigation.—The Committee notes that the Marshall and Middle Fork Fires came dangerously close to NIST, NOAA, and NTIA facilities in Boulder, Colorado, and affected staff and facility operations. The Committee directs the Department to assess what measures and improvements can be taken to reduce the likelihood of wildfire impacts to Department facilities in Boulder and to the Department's other potentially at-risk facilities around the country. The Department is directed to report to the Committee on findings within 120 days of enactment of this act.

Coordinated Environmental Reviews for Tribal Infrastructure.—Since fiscal year 2015, the Department has collaborated with its Federal agency partners to develop a coordinated environmental review process to simplify and streamline development of Tribal infrastructure. The Committee believes that eliminating unnecessary Federal barriers to Tribal infrastructure is an essential component to facilitate the effective use of Federal funding, while also balancing the need to ensure appropriate and necessary environmental protections. The Committee supports the Department's efforts to advance the Tribal Housing and Related Infrastructure Interagency Task Force to identify opportunities for greater efficiencies. The Committee expects routine reports to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations on task force meetings, action items, goals, and recommendations.

Business Applications Solution [BAS] Program.—The Committee notes that the OIG recently released a report entitled, "The BAS Program Needs to Increase Attention to Business Process Reengineering and Improve Program Management Practices," which recommends a number of improvements for the BAS program. The Committee expects the Department to expeditiously address these recommendations to ensure that BAS defines target processes to include details of information flows, interconnections, and potential program areas and assesses expected performance. Furthermore,

the Department shall ensure that BAS utilizes updated requirements management plans and processes and that BAS updates its risk management plan consistent with the OIG report recommendations. The Committee will review the OIG's semi-annual reports to confirm that these recommendations have been appropriately implemented.

Anomalous Health Incidents [AHI].—Congress gave the Department the authority to use $2,000,000 for payments to assist Department staff and family members who have experienced injuries due to AHI. The Department is directed to continue working with other Federal agencies to create AHI policies and procedures, including a system for handling requests for reimbursement. The Committee directs that this system be in place by October 15, 2022. The Department is directed to submit quarterly reports on the number of requests for assistance, the unobligated balances of the original funding provided, and any additional resource needs to properly respond to the Department's AHI victims.

RENOVATION AND MODERNIZATION

Appropriations, 2022	$1,100,000
Budget estimate, 2023	1,142,000
Committee recommendation	1,142,000

The Committee recommendation provides $1,142,000, which is $42,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level and equal to the budget request, for continuing renovation activities at the Herbert C. Hoover Building.

Herbert C. Hoover Building [HCHB] Renovation.—In fiscal year 2018, the Committee provided DOC with the full amount required for the fifth phase of the HCHB renovation. However, those funds still remain unobligated while work on phase five has yet to begin. In order to avoid any further delays, the Committee directs the Department to immediately commence work on phase five of the HCHB renovation.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE NONRECURRING EXPENSES FUND

Appropriations, 2022	$30,000,000
Budget estimate, 2023	50,000,000
Committee recommendation	50,000,000

The Committee recommendation provides $50,000,000, which is $20,000,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level and equal to the budget request. The Committee directs the Department to provide an updated out-year budget profile for its cybersecurity initiatives as part of the fiscal year 2024 budget request.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

Appropriations, 2022	$35,783,000
Budget estimate, 2023	49,771,000
Committee recommendation	49,771,000

The Committee's recommendation provides $49,771,000 for the OIG. The recommendation is $13,988,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level and equal to the budget request.

In addition to funds provided under this heading, the Committee recommends transfers to the OIG as follows: $2,450,000 from the

USPTO; $3,750,000 from NOAA; $3,556,000 from the Census Bureau for oversight and audits of those activities; and $2,000,000 to be derived from the Public Safety Trust Fund for Oversight of FirstNet. The Committee directs the OIG to continue to perform strict oversight activities for NOAA vessel and satellite procurements, cybersecurity, census data collection, and the BAS modernization.

Working Capital Fund Audits.—The Committee continues to direct the OIG to audit all of the working capital funds within the Department to evaluate the Department's budgetary controls over all funds. The OIG shall assess: the controls in place to develop reimbursement formulas; the relationship of reimbursements to client services; the appropriateness of the level of fund balances; and compliance with appropriations law and direction. As part of this assessment, the OIG shall pay particular attention to the increasing amounts of funding needed to support the Department's Office of General Counsel [OGC], including the justification and metrics for how such funding is being levied against each agency and, reciprocally, how the agencies account for the services they receive from the OGC. If at any point during these audits the OIG encounters problems with accessing any necessary information or data from the Department, the OIG is directed to notify the Committee immediately.

Audits and Investigations.—The Committee believes that robust investigations and audits are essential to rooting out waste, fraud, and abuse, but that limiting inquiries only to individuals in the Department does not necessarily lead to comprehensive findings and recommendations. The Committee directs the OIG to modify its policies and procedures to ensure that investigations or reports include interviews with all parties to the project or program in question, including, but not limited to, contractors responsible for projects under review. The Committee cautions the OIG against issuing preliminary findings prior to interviewing a majority of the entities involved with the program or project under investigation, unless the OIG believes the findings are time sensitive or additional interviews are immaterial.

GENERAL PROVISIONS—DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

Section 101 makes Department 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 salaries and expenses available for the hire of passenger motor vehicles, and for services, uniforms, and allowances as authorized by law.

Section 103 provides the authority to transfer funds between Department accounts. The provision makes transfers subject to the Committee's standard reprogramming procedures and requires notification to the Committee prior to capital asset disposal.

Section 104 extends congressional notification requirements and codifies the life cycle costs for NOAA satellite programs.

Section 105 provides authority for the Secretary to furnish certain services within the Herbert C. Hoover Building.

Section 106 clarifies that grant recipients under the Department may continue to deter child pornography, copyright infringement, or any other unlawful activity over their networks.

Section 107 provides NOAA the authority to share resources with entities outside the agency.

Section 108 requires that, before charging for congressional reports, the National Technical Information Service [NTIS] advise the public of free ways to receive or access these reports. For those reports that cannot be found free of charge or when a customer requires a mailed, hard copy, NTIS may only charge a de minimis copying and mailing fee.

Section 109 allows NOAA to be reimbursed by Federal and non-Federal entities for performing certain activities. The Committee remains concerned that agreements for offsetting collections provided for under this section could result in a conflict of interest, or the appearance of a conflict of interest, for the Department. The Department is directed to exercise caution and consider any unintended consequences that could result from such agreements including, but not limited to, augmentation of appropriations, initiation of new programs not authorized by this act or any other act of Congress, and liabilities extending beyond the period of any such agreement. The Department shall provide to the Committee monthly updates on all offsetting fee collections, including each entity participating in the agreement, as well as the terms of and specific activities funded by the agreement. Additionally, estimates of anticipated fee collections shall be included in the Department's annual spend plans. To further ensure the Committee maintains sufficient oversight for activities carried out under this section, language is included specifying that any offsetting collection would require the consent of each party subject to the agreement and all offsetting collections shall be subject to procedures set forth by section 505 of this act.

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.

Section 111 removes the requirement for matching funds for amounts provided in this act through the Manufacturing Extension Partnership.

Section 112 allows the Secretary of Commerce to waive the cost sharing requirements for funds provided in this act under sections 306, 306A, and 315 of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (Public Law 92–583).

TITLE II

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

The Committee recommends a total of $38,552,249,000 for the DOJ. The recommendation is $3,345,139,000 above the fiscal year 2022 funding level and $714,979,000 below the budget request. The Committee's recommendation emphasizes key funding priorities in support of the Department's critical missions and activities to protect the safety, security, and rights of our citizens.

Strengthening Police-Community Relations.—The Committee continues to recognize and support the important need for lasting collaborative relationships between local police and the public. Strong partnerships between the police and the communities they protect ensure that citizens' civil rights are protected, foster ongoing open communication, improve officer safety, and reduce crime. The Committee provides $240,500,000 for State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance and Community Oriented Policing Services [COPS] Office grant programs related to police-community relations, an increase of $39,500,000, or 19.7 percent, above the fiscal year 2022 level. Details on these grants programs, including the Body-Worn Camera Partnership Program and Community Policing Development, are further described in the grants section of this explanatory statement.

Responding to Opioids, Methamphetamine, Synthetic Drugs, and Substance Abuse in Our Communities.—The Committee continues its commitment to helping States and local communities in the fight against opioids, methamphetamine, synthetic drugs, and the illegal diversion of prescription drugs through comprehensive programs covering law enforcement, prevention, and treatment. A total of $631,000,000 in DOJ grant funding is provided to help State and local partners tackle these epidemics, an increase of $58,500,000 above the fiscal year 2022 level, including increased funding for programs under the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (Public Law 114–198) and the COPS Anti-Methamphetamine Task Forces. The Drug Enforcement Administration [DEA] is funded at $3,146,603,000, an increase of $213,422,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level, which will allow for the continuation of heroin enforcement teams, methamphetamine lab cleanup and container programs, and other interdiction and intervention efforts, including expansion of DEA's Operation Engage.

Trafficking in Persons.—The Department shall dedicate no less than the fiscal year 2022 enacted levels for the Human Trafficking Prosecution Unit [HTPU], the Federal Bureau of Investigation [FBI], and the U.S. Attorneys' Offices [USAO] to investigate and prosecute crimes of human trafficking. The Committee encourages the HTPU and Anti-Trafficking Coordination Teams to continue working with victim service providers and non-governmental orga-

nizations to ensure victim needs are prioritized as part of the overall strategy to combat human trafficking and forced labor in the United States. Furthermore, the Committee directs the HTPU to report, no later than 120 days following enactment of this act, on: (1) the total number of human trafficking cases it prosecuted or assisted in prosecuting within the last 3 years disaggregated by type of trafficking, (2) the number of Assistant U.S. Attorneys who received training on human trafficking within the past 3 years, and, (3) the number of Assistant U.S. Attorneys who received training on restitution for human trafficking victims within the past 3 years.

The Committee continues to expect the designation of a lead agent in each FBI field office as a point of contact for slavery and human trafficking investigations, and encourages the FBI to assign at least one full-time agent dedicated to investigating human trafficking and related crimes in each State. The Committee directs the Executive Office for United States Attorneys [EOUSA], in consultation with the United States Attorneys, to provide sufficient support and training and technical assistance to each Assistant U.S. Attorney designated as the lead human trafficking prosecutor, consistent with the Trafficking Victims Protection Act. As communication and coordination across the Federal Government are critical to supporting survivors of trafficking, the Committee encourages EOUSA, in consultation with the Department of Homeland Security, to develop a process to enable survivors with T-visas to obtain an expedited letter of support from the DOJ when their criminal case is closed, and to submit a report on a plan for ensuring that requests for letters can be processed in less than 3 months. This plan shall be submitted within 90 days of enactment of this act.

Human Trafficking and Child Exploitation Interagency Coordination.—The Committee recognizes the benefit of interagency coordination to combat human trafficking, child sexual exploitation, and child sexual abuse material. The Committee directs the Department to establish an interagency working group, in coordination with relevant Federal agencies, to improve coordination and case de-confliction as well as support to survivors. The Department is directed to submit a plan for this working group within 45 days of enactment of this act, an interim report on this effort within 180 days of enactment of this act, and a final report within 1 year of enactment of this act.

Domestic Trafficking Victims Fund Special Assessments.—Section 101 of the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015 (Public Law 114–22) mandated the collection of a $5,000 special assessment from persons convicted of certain Federal offenses related to human trafficking and sexual exploitation. Funds from this special assessment are to be deposited into the Domestic Trafficking Victims' Fund operated by the Department. The Committee encourages the Attorney General to use funds provided under this bill to ensure that Assistant U.S. Attorneys are specifically trained on the mandatory nature and enforcement of this special assessment, including the imposition of liens under 18 U.S.C. 3613, to provide additional funding, resources, and services for the victims of human trafficking and law enforcement officials involved in the elimination of this crime.

Human Trafficking Justice Coordinators.—Section 15 of the Abolish Human Trafficking Act of 2017 (Public Law 115–392) requires the Attorney General to designate an official as the DOJ Coordinator who shall coordinate human trafficking efforts within the Department within 60 days of enactment of that act. The act also required the Attorney General to designate not less than one Assistant U.S. Attorney in each Federal judicial district to serve as the Human Trafficking Justice Coordinator for the district, who shall work with a human trafficking victim witness specialist and be responsible for implementing the national strategy to combat human trafficking, prosecuting human trafficking cases, conducting public outreach and awareness activities, coordinating with victim service providers, and ensuring the collection of restitution for victims of human trafficking. The Committee directs the Attorney General to use necessary funds provided for the salaries and expenses of USAO to carry out this provision. The Department shall submit a report to the Committee within 30 days of enactment of this act regarding its progress in designating Human Trafficking Justice Coordinators, the work being completed in each district, and the work accomplished thus far by the Department of Justice Coordinator.

Departmental Efforts to Combat Crimes Against Children.—The Committee notes for that the fourth year in a row the Department has not submitted a National Strategy for Child Exploitation Prevention and Interdiction since April 2016, despite the requirement under 34 U.S.C. 21111(b) that this important strategy be submitted to Congress every 2 years. The Department is directed to immediately submit an updated strategy and make it publicly available on its website. The Department did not follow direction provided in the joint explanatory statements accompanying Public Laws 116–260 and 117–103 to submit a report on staffing and funding for the office of the National Coordinator for Child Exploitation Prevention and Interdiction, including staffing, travel, and temporary duty travel expenses, within 30 days of enactment of this act. The information regarding the budget of the National Coordinator is to be submitted immediately.

Policies on the Investigation of Crimes Against Children.—The Committee is gravely concerned by the findings in OIG Report 21–093: "Investigation and Review of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Handling of Allegations of Sexual Abuse by Former USA Gymnastics Physician Lawrence Gerard Nassar". Victims of sexual assault deserve to be taken seriously and credible allegations should be promptly addressed and investigated. The Committee finds it unacceptable that the Indianapolis Field Office learned of the allegations against Nassar in July 2015 but failed to share the information with the Lansing Resident Agency or with State and local law enforcement. Many young athletes could have been protected from Nassar's abuse if the FBI had acted efficiently and competently in July 2015. Within 60 days of the enactment of this act, the Department is directed to provide the current FBI policy for sharing allegations of crimes against children with relevant FBI field offices as well as State and local law enforcement. The Department is further directed to include a description of how this

policy has been updated since the Nassar investigation, and how it is being disseminated and implemented within the FBI.

Constitutional Policing.—The Committee directs the Department to enforce constitutional policing statutes, including 34 U.S.C. 12601, which may require the use of consent decrees as necessary, where constitutional policing standards are not being upheld.

Enforcement of Federal Hate Crimes Laws.—The Committee remains concerned by a rise in reported incidents of bias-motivated and hate crimes in the United States in the last several years. The Committee appreciates the work of the Community Relations Service [CRS], the Civil Rights Division [CRT], U.S. Attorneys' Offices, and the FBI to enforce the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act (Public Law 111–84). In light of ongoing trends regarding hate crimes, the Committee directs the Department to continue to prioritize this work and to aggressively investigate and prosecute these crimes, which affect entire communities.

Combating Domestic Terrorism.—The Committee remains concerned by the significant threat posed by violent domestic terrorists and extremists and directs the FBI and the Department to vigorously investigate and prosecute incidents of domestic terrorism. The Committee directs the Domestic Terrorism Executive Committee to continue to meet on a regular basis and coordinate with United States Attorneys and other key public safety officials across the country to promote information sharing and ensure an effective, responsive, and organized joint effort to combat domestic terrorism.

The Committee further directs the Department to review the anti-terrorism training and resource programs that the Department provides to Federal, State, local, and Tribal law enforcement agencies, and ensure that such programs include training and resources to assist these law enforcement agencies in understanding, detecting, deterring, and investigating acts of domestic terrorism and extremist infiltration of law enforcement agencies. The Committee directs the Department to report to the Committees on Appropriations and the Judiciary, within 90 days of enactment of this act, on the Department's assessment of the domestic terrorism threat, including extremist infiltration of Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies and the uniformed services; and an analysis of incidents or attempted incidents of domestic terrorism that occurred in the United States during the preceding fiscal year.

Human Rights Crimes.—The Committee remains concerned by the large number of suspected serious human rights violators from foreign countries who have found safe haven in the United States. The Committee directs the Criminal Division [CRM] and USAO to increase efforts to investigate and prosecute these crimes, including genocide, torture, use or recruitment of child soldiers, war crimes, and other crimes committed by human rights violators. For this purpose, the Committee's recommendation supports continued funding for CRM and USAO to investigate and prosecute these cases.

The Committee is concerned by the low number of investigations and prosecutions of human rights violators and directs the Department to report to the Committees on Appropriations and the Judi-

ciary, within 90 days of enactment of this act, on all investigations and prosecutions of human rights offenses and other offenses committed by serious human rights violators within each of the last five fiscal years, including the efforts of CRM and USAO to increase the number of prosecutions. The report should also include any organizational or legal impediments to investigating and prosecuting more human rights violators.

Violence Against Indigenous Women.—In consultation with Tribal governments, the Department shall assess and update the best practices for the investigation and prosecution of violence against Native American and Alaska Native women. Additionally, DOJ shall provide an update on the review of the sufficiency and prioritization of its grant programs aimed at survivors of such violence, including temporary and transitional housing, education, and workforce development assistance, and shall include the results of this updated review, along with the plan to communicate such grant opportunities to Tribal governments and organizations, with the fiscal year 2023 spending plan. DOJ shall provide Congress with a report on the usage and implementation of the $55,800,000 in Tribal set-aside funding from Public Law 117-103 that supports programs and initiatives in Indian Country and Alaska Native Villages. The Committee further directs the Department to report, not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this act, on the status of implementing the recommendations published in GAO report 22–104045, entitled "Missing or Murdered Indigenous Women: New Efforts Are Underway but Opportunities Exist to Improve the Federal Response."

Combatting Violent Crime in Indian Country.—The Committee encourages U.S. Attorneys to prioritize efforts to investigate and prosecute violent crimes against Native Americans and Alaska Natives that occur in Indian Country, to maintain communication with victims and family members about the status of ongoing investigations and cases, and to provide as much information as possible on any declinations. The Committee also encourages the FBI, in consultation with the Bureau of Indian Affairs and State, local, and Tribal law enforcement agencies, to increase resources, including additional FBI agents, to investigate, respond to, and prevent crimes against Native Americans and Alaska Natives in Indian Country. The Committee further encourages the FBI to increase recruitment, retention, and placement efforts in order to fill existing positions in areas with large land-based Tribes or with high numbers of Missing and Murdered Indigenous People cases.

Fix NICS Act Requirements.—The Fix NICS Act of 2017 (Public Law 115–141) requires DOJ to develop Federal agency and State implementation plans for the upload of relevant records to National Instant Criminal Background Check System [NICS]. The Committee directs the Attorney General to publish the required semiannual reports on Federal, State, and Tribal government compliance with the act in a timely manner and make such reports available on its website. The Committee reminds the Attorney General that the Act requires these reports to be submitted semiannually.

National Incident-Based Reporting System [NIBRS].—The Committee supports the FBI's transition to the sole use of NIBRS to collect detailed and useful data on crime in the United States.

However, the Committee is concerned that published data is not comprehensive because thousands of law enforcement agencies are not yet submitting data through NIBRS. The Committee directs the Department to submit, within 60 days of the enactment of this act, a report on the roadblocks law enforcement agencies face that delay participation in NIBRS, and on efforts on behalf of the Department to increase participation by State, local, and Tribal law enforcement.

Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crimes Act.—The Committee fully supports the goals 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. These efforts are conducted through a partnership among the FBI, CRT, CRS, State and local law enforcement officials, and other eligible entities. The Committee directs that the Department provide $14,500,000 for Emmett Till Act activities, including $10,000,000 for the FBI and CRT's Cold Case Initiative; $1,500,000 for CRS to partner with law enforcement agencies and communities to help resolve conflicts resulting from the investigation of unsolved civil rights era cases; and $3,000,000 for grants to State and local law enforcement agencies for use of modern DNA and forensic tools to aid civil rights era cold case investigations.

Business Email Compromise [BEC] Schemes.—The Committee has long-expressed serious concerns with the threat posed by BEC schemes—a crime assessed by the FBI to be "one of the fastest growing, most financially damaging Internet-enabled crimes," and "a major threat to the global economy." The joint explanatory statement accompanying Public Law 117–103 directed the Department to explore ways to increase collaboration and coordination with industry and other private sector partners, and further directed the FBI to release, within 30 days of the date of enactment of that law, a public report on the threats from BEC and related scams.

While appreciative of recent, timely attention to this matter, including a Public Service Announcement issued on May 4, 2022, the Committee continues to expect immediate compliance with the requirements of the joint explanatory statement. The Department is directed to provide a briefing, within 30 days of the date of the enactment of this act, on its efforts increase collaboration and coordination with industry and other private sector partners.

DOJ Recusal Policies.—The joint explanatory statement accompanying Public Law 117–103 directed the Department to submit, within 30 days of the enactment of that law and on an annual basis thereafter, a report regarding the number of, and reasons for, the recusal of any officer or employee of any component of the Department of Justice since January 1, 2020. The report was to include a description and summary of any instances where such officer or employee did not recuse in matters involving a former client or where recusal was recommended but the officer or employee was not recused. Such submissions were to be subject to Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a) requirements and may be subject to redactions necessary to protect the fair and impartial administration of justice.

In the course of responding to this directive, the Department stated that the while the Departmental Ethics Office tracks mat-

ters that fall under "Ethics Commitments by Executive Branch Personnel" (Executive Order 13989) and the government-wide ethics regulation (5 C.F.R. 2635.502), the Department does not register or record attorney recusals as a matter of course. The Committee is stunned at the Department's laxity with the respect to this matter. The Department is directed, within 180 days of enactment of this act, to implement policies and procedures necessary to ensure that the recusal of any officer or employee of any component of the DOJ from a matter is registered and recorded with the Designated Agency Ethics Official and the Departmental Ethics Office. The Committee further reiterates the directive in the joint explanatory statement accompanying Public Law 117–103, and directs the Department to begin submitting the contemplated report within 270 days of enactment of this act.

Whistleblower Protections.—The joint explanatory statement accompanying Public Law 117–103 directed the Department to submit within 180 days of the enactment of that law, a report explaining how it will implement the unresolved recommendation in Management Advisory Memorandum 21–038 regarding the whistleblower rights of its contractors, subcontractors, grantees, and subgrantees. The Committee looks forward to reviewing this report. The Committee has included a new general provision related to whistleblower protections.

Illegal Streaming Services.—Streaming has fast become a dominant distribution medium for copyrighted works—both through legally licensed means and illegal piracy services. In addition to the significant consumer threats posed by streaming piracy services identified by the Federal Trade Commission and the Department of Homeland Security, a 2019 study estimated that streaming piracy drains at least $29,200,000,000 annually from the U.S. economy and that 80 percent of copyright piracy occurs via streaming. Congress responded to the Department's repeated calls to close the legal loophole that treated streaming piracy differently than other forms of digital piracy with the bipartisan Protecting Lawful Streaming Act, enacted as part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (Public Law 116–260). The act provides the Department with the authority to bring felony cases against services designed for the express purpose of illegally streaming copyrighted works. Because of the harm to American consumers, the economy, and the creative community, the Committee directs the Department to prioritize streaming piracy cases and to detail within existing reports on copyright enforcement activities the actions it brings under 18 U.S.C. 2319(c).

Financial Fraud.—The Committee recognizes that older Americans are increasingly targeted by criminals seeking to swindle them out of their hard-earned life savings through an ever-growing array of financial schemes and scams. The Committee commends the Department's work to combat these crimes in recent years, including the largest-ever coordinated sweep of senior fraud cases last year. The Committee directs the Attorney General to continue to prioritize Departmental resources to ensure that reports of financial fraud, including scams against senior citizens, are thoroughly investigated, with the goal of bringing the perpetrators of these crimes to justice.

McGirt v. Oklahoma.—The Committee recommendation provides funding to accommodate the workload increases at USAO, United States Marshals Service [USMS], DEA, and FBI resulting from the McGirt v. Oklahoma decision for fiscal year 2023. These resources will allow Federal, Tribal, State, and local stakeholders to further enable cooperation, collaboration, and sharing of pertinent information to protect all victims and bring all those who commit a crime to justice. The Committee notes DOJ's request for permanent resources for U.S. Attorneys to address caseloads from the decision. Given the funding commitment, DOJ is directed to report, within 90 days of the enactment of this act, on the breakdown of cases per attorney in Oklahoma; estimated caseloads for the next fiscal year; and how these numbers compare with districts around the country. DOJ is further directed to report on the number and type of cases indicted compared to all referrals received; from which jurisdictions the cases were referred; and on the general reasons why cases were not accepted.

The FBI is encouraged to continue the relationship between the Oklahoma City FBI Field Office and State and local crime laboratories, to ensure continuity in workload processing and the integrity and efficiency of investigations. Within 60 days of the enactment of this act, the FBI is directed to report to the Committee on the coordination between the Oklahoma City Field Office and State and local partners, including any needed resources for fiscal year 2024.

Reentry Guidance for Prison Education Programs.—The Committee encourages DOJ, in collaboration with the Department of Education, to develop and provide technical assistance and guidance to the Bureau of Prisons, State departments of corrections, and other entities that are responsible for overseeing correctional facilities on how to support individuals who are preparing to leave prison, reentering their communities, and either continuing their education or seeking employment. The Committee directs the Department to provide guidance on best practices in integrating reentry planning for participants in prison education programs. This guidance should address evidence-based strategies to ensure successful reentry, including by securing employment or continuing their education.

Death in Custody Act [DCRA] Reporting.—Within 90 days of enactment of this act, the Attorney General shall submit a report outlining the Department's plans to implement the DCRA. The report shall address the quality of the data the Department has collected to date and consider ways to improve the quality and transparency of future data collected, including implementing DOJ's 2016 proposed collection plan. It shall also include a timeline for the public release of the report required by the DCRA.

Money Laundering Investigations.—The Committee directs the Attorney General to establish and convene, not later than 60 days after the enactment of this act, an interagency working group to identify the number and status of investigations with a money laundering nexus involving either foreign official corruption or drug trafficking, including the amount of money and other assets of value in various forms that the United States Government seized from individuals involved in these investigations over the fiscal

year. The Committee directs the Attorney General to provide a report with this information to the Committees on Appropriations and the Judiciary, not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this act. Such report shall disaggregate the investigations by date and by lead Federal agency.

Election Threats Task Force.—The Committee is concerned by the rise in threats against election workers, administrators, officials, and others associated with the electoral process. The Committee commends DOJ for establishing an Election Threats Task Force to address threats of violence against election workers, and to ensure that all election workers are permitted to do their jobs free from threats and intimidation. In order to improve outreach to election workers and organizations representing them, the Committee directs the Department to make all policies and procedures related to submitting threat reports, and understanding what to expect after filing a report, as well as the rights and protections offered to election workers, administrators, officials, and volunteers under current law, publicly available on its website.

Better Cybercrime Metrics Act.—The Committee supports the directives described for DOJ in the Better Cybercrime Metrics Act (Public Law 117–116), including the development of a taxonomy for categorizing different types of cybercrime faced by individuals and businesses; the establishment of a category in NIBRS for collecting cybercrime reports from Federal, State, and local officials; and the addition of questions concerning cybercrime in the annual National Crime Victimization Survey.

Analysis of Digital Evidence.—The Department's law enforcement components increasingly rely on the analysis of digital evidence in the course of their investigations. The Department is directed to provide a briefing, within 90 days of the date of the enactment of this act, on the use and management of evidence from digital devices. The briefing should address opportunities and challenges the components are facing with respect to processing backlogs; training requirements for digital forensic examiners and agents that use digital evidence in criminal investigations; technical and legal impediments to secure transmission and sharing with law enforcement and governmental partners; methods for secure and centralized storage; reliance on the use of removable media; and any resource challenges or gaps with respect to digital evidence.

Spending Plan.—In compliance with section 528 of this act, the Committee directs the Department to submit a spending plan, signed by the Attorney General, within 45 days of enactment of this act.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Appropriations, 2022	$127,794,000
Budget estimate, 2023	196,531,000
Committee recommendation	145,000,000

The Committee's recommendation provides $145,000,000 for General Administration salaries and expenses. The recommendation is

$17,206,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level and $51,531,000 below the budget request.

The General Administration account provides funding for senior policy officials responsible for Departmental management and policy development. The specific offices funded by this account include the immediate Office of the Attorney General [OAG]; the immediate Office of the Deputy Attorney General [ODAG]; the immediate Office of the Associate Attorney General; Office of Legal Policy; Office of Public Affairs; Office of Legislative Affairs [OLA]; Office of Professional Responsibility; Office of Intergovernmental and Public Liaison; and the Justice Management Division [JMD].

Timely Responses to Committee Inquiries and Meeting Report Deadlines.—The Committee has both budgetary and oversight capabilities, and requests for additional information from the Chairs, Vice Chairman, Ranking Members, or their Committee staff to OAG, ODAG, OLA, and any other Department component should be treated as a priority for the Department and responded to both courteously and expeditiously.

The Committee again reminds the Department that deadlines directed in report or explanatory statement language are not merely suggestions. The Department is to immediately submit reports that remain outstanding from fiscal year 2022. Efforts should be immediately undertaken not only to submit these delayed reports, but also to ensure that full and complete information is provided.

Wildlife Trafficking.—The Committee continues to note the dramatic and disconcerting increase of criminal activity involving wildlife that includes the illegal trade in rhinoceros horns and elephant ivory, poaching of wild animals for their parts, illegal capture and transport of endangered animals, and illegal harvest of timber, as well as money laundering that comes with these products' sale on the black market. There are indisputable linkages between these activities and the financing of armed insurgencies and transnational organized crime that threaten the stability and development of African countries and pose a serious threat to U.S. security interests. Wildlife trafficking is a known vector of the emergence and spread of novel viruses that may have devastating global health impacts.

The Committee directs the Attorney General to continue to submit an annual report on the specific steps the Department is taking to further address wildlife trafficking and the illegal natural resources trade. The Committee further directs the Department to provide dedicated resources for investigating and prosecuting wildlife trafficking crimes and to include this information in the report described in Senate Report 116–127, which was adopted by Public Law 116–93.

Voting Rights.—The Attorney General is directed to prioritize resources to enforce the civil provisions of Federal laws that protect the right to vote, including the Voting Rights Act, the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act, the National Voter Registration Act, the Help America Vote Act, and the Civil Rights Acts.

JUSTICE INFORMATION SHARING TECHNOLOGY

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

Appropriations, 2022	$38,000,000
Budget estimate, 2023	153,057,000
Committee recommendation	275,000,000

The Committee's recommendation provides $275,000,000 for Justice Information Sharing Technology. The recommendation is $237,000,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level and $121,943,000 above the budget request.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE FOR IMMIGRATION REVIEW

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

Appropriations, 2022	$760,000,000
Budget estimate, 2023	1,354,889,000
Committee recommendation	950,000,000

The Committee's recommendation provides $950,000,000 for the Executive Office for Immigration Review [EOIR], of which $4,000,000 is a transfer from the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Immigration Examinations Fee account. The recommendation is $190,000,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level and $404,889,000 below the budget request. The Committee notes this is an increase of 25 percent—well above the increases provided to many of the Department's other major components. This account funds EOIR, including the Board of Immigration Appeals, immigration judges, and administrative law judges who decide through administrative hearings whether to admit or exclude aliens seeking to enter the country and whether to deport or adjust the status of aliens whose status has been challenged.

Case Backlog and Reporting Requirements.—The Committee remains deeply concerned by the growing backlog of cases in our immigration courts. The current caseload stands at more than 1.8 million cases. To address the backlog, the Committee provided additional resources to EOIR in fiscal year 2022 to hire more immigration judges [IJs] and their legal and support staff [IJ teams]. For fiscal year 2023, the Committee yet again recommends a substantial increase above the enacted level to sustain IJ and IJ team hiring.

The Committee continues to direct the Department to submit an updated IJ team cost break out, which should include salary, position, interpretation contract costs, and rent and facility costs, in its monthly hiring reports to the Committee. There should be a standardized baseline for what constitutes an IJ team cost, and when there are deviations from this baseline, EOIR shall include this in its monthly report by court location.

As directed in the joint explanatory statement accompanying Public Law 117–103, EOIR shall continue to submit monthly performance and operating reports detailing the backlog of cases and the hiring of new IJ teams. These reports shall continue to include the cost break outs for IJ teams. As part of the monthly reporting requirement, EOIR shall continue to report on any IJs sent on a temporary basis to any court outside of their assigned location including the number of days designated for the temporary assign-

ment, the location of the temporary assignment, and the IJs home location. The Committee believes that consistent policies regarding docket management and case adjudication will also allow IJs to reduce the overwhelming backlog. The Committee directs EOIR to continue to make its hiring processes for new IJs publicly available and to update its website within 30 days if any of the IJ hiring processes or rules change.

Additionally, the Committee directs EOIR to report on the implementation of its case processing time standards and quotas, including how many judges met those metrics; how those metrics have affected the case backlog; and any employment actions taken against IJs as a result of these metrics. EOIR shall update the Committee if any of the IJ hiring, training, or performance management processes or rules change.

Further, the Committee directs EOIR to provide quarterly briefings regarding hiring, staffing allocations, docket prioritization and management, technology deployment, and other management and operational concerns.

Immigration Judge Hiring.—The Committee understands that a large number of supervisory IJ positions at EOIR were created in prior years, reducing the number of IJs available to adjudicate cases. The Attorney General shall ensure that IJs hired in fiscal year 2023 will adjudicate cases as their primary function. The Committee directs the Department to continue filling vacant IJ and Board of Immigration Appeals [BIA] positions with highly qualified individuals who are trained to conduct fair and impartial adjudications. The Committee further directs EOIR to select individuals from a diverse pool of candidates to include candidates with nongovernmental, academic, and private bar experience, to conduct fair, impartial hearings consistent with due process.

Immigration Judge Training.—The Committee directs EOIR to review its training, to retrain all judges currently on a probationary period, and to increase the frequency and availability of training for IJs outside the probationary period. The Committee directs the Department to ensure IJ training emphasizes due process, humanitarian protections, and cultural sensitivity and includes diverse training faculty, including from the private bar, the NGO community, and academia.

Interpretation Transparency.—EOIR is directed to continue to ensure appropriate language access is available for all respondents, including indigenous language speakers, and should inform the Committee of special resource needs as well as identify any possible opportunities for sharing of interpreter resources with other Federal agencies. The Committee further directs that EOIR continue to submit, on a quarterly basis, the number of continuances or adjournments issued for reasons related to interpretation issues for both in-person appearance and videoteleconferencing [VTC], as well as whether the respondent was detained at the time of the continuance.

EOIR Technology Improvements.—The Committee recommendation includes no less than $50,000,000 for EOIR to improve its technology systems, including for ongoing development of its electronic case management system [ECAS] and the digitization of older paper records. This substantial recommendation reflects the

Committee's view that such improvements will help yield much-needed efficiency gains more quickly than hiring IJs and IJ teams alone can. The Committee has provided generous funding for hiring additional IJs and IJ teams for more than a decade, yet the backlog continues to grow—not shrink. The Committee emphasizes that while hiring additional IJs and IJ teams is an important strategy to address the backlog of cases in our immigration courts, hiring alone is no panacea; rather, investments in hiring must be complemented by investments in technological improvements to allow IJs and IJ teams to do their jobs effectively. EOIR is further directed to continue to provide quarterly updates to the Committee on its ongoing development of the ECAS.

VTC Data and Reporting.—The Committee continues to direct EOIR to collect real-time data indicating each time a master calendar or individual merits hearing is conducted via VTC to allow for better statistical data collection to help determine whether VTC has an outcome determinative impact. This information is to be provided in the quarterly reports submitted to the Committee and should include the number and type of hearings conducted by VTC, including data on appeals cases related to the use of VTC, and the number of in-person hearing motions filed. The Committee further directs EOIR to make all policies and procedures related to EOIR's use of VTC, including EOIR's immigration adjudication centers and temporary facilities, as well as a list of locations where IJs are stationed and detailed, the corresponding docket location, type of docket, and policies for public and media access for locations using VTC, publicly available on its website.

BIA Pro Bono Project.—Developed by EOIR and several non-governmental organizations [NGOs], the BIA Pro Bono Project connects pro se respondents with pro bono counsel in BIA proceedings. Representation can reduce procedural errors and enables BIA to provide more effective and timely case review. The Committee encourages continuation of the program and directs EOIR to report, within 30 days of the enactment of this act, on the number cases referred to NGOs and pro bono legal representatives.

Legal Orientation Program [LOP].—The Committee supports LOP, which was created in 2003 and currently informs more than 50,000 detained non-citizens per year about their legal rights and responsibilities in immigration court. The Committee emphasizes that LOP benefits taxpayers by increasing the efficiency of immigration proceedings and reducing costs related to immigration detention. According to a 2012 DOJ report to this Committee, LOP services resulted in net savings to the Government of more than $17,800,000.

The Committee's recommendation includes no less than $30,000,000 for services provided by LOP, including $5,000,000 for the operation of the Immigration Help Desk [ICH]. LOP funding is also provided for LOP for Custodians [LOPC] and the LOPC Call Center, including efforts, pursuant to the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 (Public Law 110–457), for custodians of unaccompanied, undocumented children to address the custodian's responsibility for the child's appearance at all immigration proceedings and to protect the child from mistreatment, exploitation, and trafficking. The Committee directs the Department

to continue all LOP services and activities, including that of the ICH, without interruption, including during any review of the program and ensure continuity of staffing and service regardless of fluctuations in the immigration court docket or in the population in the detention centers served. The Committee further directs that all component parts of the LOP program, including the ICH, be operated by non-profit NGOs with demonstrated immigration law expertise.

Currently, the LOP activities for detained adults only serve approximately one-quarter of immigration detention centers. The Committee recommends that EOIR work toward a goal of ensuring access to LOP for all detainees, and requests an evaluation of the resources necessary to provide LOP services at additional sites. The Committee directs that attention be paid to geographic equity as LOP expands, and the Committee notes the particular need for legal services at more remote immigration detention sites that are far from legal service providers in urban centers. The Committee directs the Department to utilize all appropriated funds solely for legitimate program purposes.

Disposition of EOIR Adjudications.—The joint explanatory statement accompanying Public Law 117–103 directed EOIR to coordinate with the Department of Homeland Security [DHS] to brief the Committees jointly, not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of that law, about the steps that each agency takes to effectuate and enforce rulings made by EOIR immigration judges, once the case is considered final, and any challenges EOIR and DHS face in this process. EOIR was further directed to provide to the Committees, within 90 days of the date of enactment of that law and monthly thereafter, and in collaboration with DHS, a report that provides metrics on the number of final orders of removal issued by EOIR that have resulted in actual removals by DHS during the previous month. Such report was to separately identify any such order for which the law does not permit DHS to effectuate the removal within the period reported. The report was to describe instances where removals have not been effectuated due to external circumstances, such as recalcitrant countries or visa sanctions.

This directive was predicated on technical advice from EOIR that information on the execution of removal orders "is maintained and managed exclusively by the DHS." It was precisely for this reason that the directive contemplates coordination and collaboration with DHS. EOIR is directed to immediately comply with the requirements of the joint explanatory statement.

Furthermore, the Committee directs EOIR to maintain and make available on its public website, not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this act, a database tracking appeals from findings of no credible fear or no reasonable fear.

Online Address Change System.—The Committee recommends that EOIR take steps to develop and pilot a centralized online mechanism that enables individuals going through all immigration court proceedings to change their address online directly with EOIR and automatically provide service to Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

EOIR–NGO Working Group.—The Committee remains concerned about the hearing notice process and looks forward to the receiving

the report directed in the joint explanatory statement accompanying Public Law 117–103 under the heading "EOIR Working Group."

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

Appropriations, 2022	$118,000,000
Budget estimate, 2023	135,856,000
Committee recommendation	139,856,000

The Committee's recommendation provides $139,856,000 for the Office of Inspector General. The recommendation is $21,856,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level and $4,000,000 above the budget request.

This account finances the activities of the OIG, including audits, inspections, investigations, and other reviews of programs and operations of the Department to promote efficiency and effectiveness, and to prevent and detect fraud, waste, and abuse, as well as violations of ethical standards arising from the conduct of Department employees in their numerous and diverse activities.

Bureau of Prisons [BOP] Oversight.—Over the last three fiscal years, the OIG has received more than 27,000 complaints, many involving multiple subjects, regarding waste, fraud, or abuse at the BOP. The Committee understands that approximately 50 percent of all OIG investigations involve allegations of BOP misconduct. Accordingly, the Committee provides $4,000,000 for the OIG to establish an interdisciplinary team dedicated to BOP oversight.

UNITED STATES PAROLE COMMISSION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Appropriations, 2022	$14,238,000
Budget estimate, 2023	14,591,000
Committee recommendation	14,591,000

The Committee's recommendation provides $14,591,000 for the United States Parole Commission. The recommendation is $353,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level and equal to the budget request.

LEGAL ACTIVITIES

SALARIES AND EXPENSES, GENERAL LEGAL ACTIVITIES

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

Appropriations, 2022	$1,000,000,000
Budget estimate, 2023	1,164,266,000
Committee recommendation	1,100,000,000

The Committee's recommendation provides $1,100,000,000 for General Legal Activities salaries and expenses. The recommendation is $100,000,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level and $64,266,000 below the budget request.

This amount funds the establishment of litigation policy, conduct of litigation, and various other legal responsibilities through the Office of the Solicitor General, the Tax Division, CRM, the Civil Division, the Environment and Natural Resources Division [ENRD],

CRT, the Office of Legal Counsel, INTERPOL Washington, the Office of Pardon Attorney, and the Office for Access to Justice.

INTERPOL Washington.—From within the funds provided for General Legal Activities, the Committee directs the Department to provide no less than the fiscal year 2022 level for INTERPOL Washington. The Committee has provided no-year authority in the amount of $685,000 to ensure sufficient resources are available for INTERPOL Washington's dues payments and help the Department better manage fluctuations in currency exchange rates.

The Committee supports INTERPOL Washington's request for additional investigative analysts and law enforcement personnel in order to support the growing case workload and requests from international partners. In addition, the Committee supports INTERPOL Washington's long overdue IT modernization efforts. Should additional funding be needed, the Department is encouraged to submit a reprogramming request in order to complete this project. The Department is further directed to support additional secondments of DOJ law enforcement, legal, and other analytical personnel to INTERPOL General Secretariat.

Civil Rights.—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2022 enacted level to continue its efforts to enforce civil rights laws; expand its capacity to prosecute and provide litigation support for human trafficking, hate crimes, and unsolved civil rights era crimes; carry out its responsibilities associated with the civil rights of institutionalized persons and the access rights of the disabled; investigate and prosecute police misconduct; and enhance the enforcement of fair housing and fair lending laws.

Civil Rights Violations in State and Local Prisons and Jails.—The Committee continues to be concerned by reports of civil rights violations in State and local prisons and jails and directs CRT to increase efforts to investigate and address violations of the Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons Act (Public Law 96–247) in State and local prisons and jails. The Committee directs CRT to use such sums as necessary from amounts appropriated in fiscal year 2023 to address such issues in State and local prisons and jails.

Prosecutions Relating to Title 8 United States Code.—The Committee directs the Department to report to the Committees on Appropriations and the Judiciary, within 120 days of enactment of this act, on the number of investigations and prosecutions under sections 1325 and 1326 of title 8, United States Code, and the estimated resources dedicated to these investigations and prosecutions.

THE NATIONAL CHILDHOOD VACCINE INJURY ACT

Appropriations, 2022	$19,000,000
Budget estimate, 2023	31,738,000
Committee recommendation	31,738,000

The Committee's recommendation provides $31,738,000 for legal costs, to be derived from the Vaccine Injury Compensation Trust Fund. The recommendation is $12,738,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level and equal to the budget request.

This account covers the Department's expenses associated with litigating cases under the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986 (Public Law 99–660).

SALARIES AND EXPENSES, ANTITRUST DIVISION

Appropriations, 2021	$192,776,000
Budget estimate, 2022	273,006,000
Committee recommendation	225,000,000

The Committee's recommendation provides $225,000,000 for the Antitrust Division. The recommendation is $32,224,0000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level and $48,006,000 below the budget request. This appropriation is offset by $190,000,000 in pre-merger filing fee collections, resulting in a direct appropriation of $35,000,000.

UNITED STATES ATTORNEYS

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Appropriations, 2022	$2,419,868,000
Budget estimate, 2023	2,772,350,000
Committee recommendation	2,565,000,000

The Committee's recommendation provides $2,565,000,000 for the Executive Office for United States Attorneys and the 94 USAOs. The recommendation is $145,132,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level and $207,350,000 below the budget request.

As in past years, the Committee directs the United States Attorneys to focus their efforts on those crimes where the unique resources, expertise, or jurisdiction of the Federal Government can be most effective.

Civil Rights Prosecutions.—The Committee's recommendation provides no less than the fiscal year 2022 level for continued civil rights enforcement that will advance both criminal and civil litigation, including the prosecution of sex and labor trafficking.

UNITED STATES TRUSTEE SYSTEM FUND

Appropriations, 2022	$239,000,000
Budget estimate, 2023	260,277,000
Committee recommendation	260,277,000

The Committee's recommendation provides $260,277,000 for the United States Trustee System Fund. The recommendation is $21,277,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level and equal to the budget request. The appropriation is offset by $269,000,000 in fee collections.

The United States Trustee Program [USTP], authorized by 28 U.S.C. 581 et seq., is the component of the Department with responsibility for protecting the integrity of the bankruptcy system by overseeing case administration and litigation to enforce the bankruptcy laws.

SALARIES AND EXPENSES, FOREIGN CLAIMS SETTLEMENT COMMISSION

Appropriations, 2022	$2,434,000
Budget estimate, 2023	2,504,000
Committee recommendation	2,504,000

The Committee's recommendation provides $2,504,000 for the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission. The recommendation is $70,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level and equal to the budget request.

The Foreign Claims Settlement Commission settles claims of American citizens arising from nationalization, expropriation, or other takings of their properties and interests by foreign governments.

FEES AND EXPENSES OF WITNESSES

Appropriations, 2022	$270,000,000
Budget estimate, 2023	270,000,000
Committee recommendation	270,000,000

The Committee's recommendation provides $270,000,000 for fees and expenses of witnesses. The recommendation is equal to both the fiscal year 2022 enacted level and budget request.

This appropriation, which is considered mandatory for scorekeeping purposes, provides for fees and expenses of witnesses who appear on behalf of the Government in cases in which the United States is a party, including fact and expert witnesses. These funds are also used for mental competency examinations and witness and informant protection. The Committee includes bill language prohibiting the Department from transferring funds out of this account.

The Committee expects that no funds will be expended for expert witness services, including the payment of fees and expenses of expert witnesses, from any other DOJ accounts but Fees and Expenses of Witnesses.

SALARIES AND EXPENSES, COMMUNITY RELATIONS SERVICE

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

Appropriations, 2022	$21,000,000
Budget estimate, 2023	25,024,000
Committee recommendation	25,024,000

The Committee's recommendation provides $25,024,000 for CRS. The recommendation is $4,024,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level and equal to the budget request.

Established by Title X of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Public Law 88–352), CRS provides assistance to communities and persons in the prevention and resolution of disagreements arising from discriminatory practices. The CRS is encouraged to partner with and support community-based organizations when possible in order to better support community-based peacebuilding and violence prevention efforts.

Hate Crimes Prevention.—Within the recommendation, the Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2022 level to handle the workload and responsibilities stemming from passage of the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act [HCPA] (Public Law 111–84). The HCPA expanded CRS's mandate, requiring that CRS help communities prevent and respond to violent hate crimes committed on the basis of gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, and disability, in addition to race, color, and national origin. This funding will maximize the CRS crisis response nationwide and enable CRS to fulfill both its original mandate and expanded mandate under the HCPA.

ASSETS FORFEITURE FUND

Appropriations, 2022	$20,514,000
Budget estimate, 2023	20,514,000
Committee recommendation	20,514,000

The Committee's recommendation provides $20,514,000 for the Assets Forfeiture Fund [AFF]. The recommendation is equal to both the fiscal year 2022 enacted level and budget request.

UNITED STATES MARSHALS SERVICE

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Appropriations, 2022	$1,580,000,000
Budget estimate, 2023	1,807,138,000
Committee recommendation	1,730,000,000

The Committee's recommendation provides $1,730,000,000 for United States Marshals Service [USMS] salaries and expenses. The recommendation is $150,000,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level and $77,138,000 below the budget request. The core missions of USMS include the apprehension of fugitives; protection of the Federal judiciary and witnesses; execution of warrants and court orders; and the custody and transportation of unsentenced prisoners. The Committee's recommended funding level provides for workforce transformation efforts that will ensure the USMS builds the most flexible, efficient workforce.

In addition to receiving direct appropriations, the Committee is aware that USMS also receives funding from the Department's AFF to augment salaries and expenses that are intended to directly administer AFF-related activities like the management and sale of forfeited assets. The Committee directs the Department to continue to provide quarterly reports on USMS's use of AFF funding, as directed in Senate Report 116–127 and adopted by Public Law 116–93.

Regional Fugitive Task Forces.—USMS is directed to begin establishing regional fugitive task forces in the New England and Midwest regions. Should USMS need additional resources to fully fund this effort, funding from unobligated balances should be used.

International Operations.—The Committee directs the continued submission of the annual report requested in Senate Report 116–127 and adopted by Public Law 116–93 on the USMS's extradition program and international operations workload. The report should include the number of extraditions and deportations, district cooperation, and extradition requests made by foreign counterparts, as well as any plans for expansion to locations where USMS does not yet have a permanent presence, but where there is an increase in workload due to extraditions. The Committee supports efforts to expand USMS's presence in Europe.

Judicial Security.—In fiscal years 2021 and 2022, Congress made critical investments in judicial security, including the replacement of outdated home intrusion detections systems, establishment of an open-source intelligence office within the USMS Judicial Security Division, and additional staffing. The Committee supports the fiscal year 2023 request to upgrade physical access systems. Given the ever-changing threat landscape, the Committee directs USMS

to provide monthly reports on the cost of protective details, threat assessments and intelligence, and other needs required to protect the Federal judiciary. The costs and needs associated with the protection of Supreme Court justices should be specifically broken out in this report.

CONSTRUCTION

Appropriations, 2022	$15,000,000
Budget estimate, 2023	19,260,000
Committee recommendation	19,260,000

The Committee's recommendation provides $19,260,000 for construction in space controlled, occupied, or utilized by USMS in Federal courthouses and buildings, including but not limited to the creation, renovation, and expansion of prisoner movement areas, elevators, and other law enforcement and court security support space. The recommendation is $4,260,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level and equal to the budget request.

FEDERAL PRISONER DETENTION

Appropriations, 2022	$2,123,015,000
Budget estimate, 2023	2,129,789,000
Committee recommendation	2,150,000,000

The Committee's recommendation provides $2,150,000,000 for Federal Prisoner Detention. The recommendation is $26,985,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level and $20,211,000 above the budget request.

The Committee expects USMS and the Department to anticipate the true funding needs for this account to avoid funding shortfalls and the need for emergency reprogrammings to avert deficiencies. The Committee directs USMS to report to the Committee on a monthly basis the current number of individuals in the detention system including offense category, the population change from the prior month to the current month, the population change from the current month to the prior year, the projected number of individuals, and the associated annualized costs. The Committee reminds the Department that these reports need to be submitted in a timely manner.

NATIONAL SECURITY DIVISION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

Appropriations, 2022	$120,681,000
Budget estimate, 2023	133,512,000
Committee recommendation	128,000,000

The Committee's recommendation provides $128,000,000 for the National Security Division [NSD]. The recommendation is $7,319,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level and $5,512,000 below the budget request.

The NSD coordinates the Department's national security and counterterrorism missions through law enforcement investigations and prosecutions, and handles counterespionage cases. The NSD works in coordination with the FBI, the Intelligence Community,

and USAO. Its primary function is to prevent acts of terrorism and espionage from being perpetrated in the United States by foreign powers.

INTERAGENCY LAW ENFORCEMENT

INTERAGENCY CRIME AND DRUG ENFORCEMENT

Appropriations, 2022	$550,458,000
Budget estimate, 2023	550,458,000
Committee recommendation	550,458,000

The Committee's recommendation provides $550,458,000 for Interagency Crime and Drug Enforcement. The recommendation is equal to both the fiscal year 2022 enacted level and budget request.

The Interagency Crime and Drug Enforcement account funds the Organized Crime and Drug Enforcement Task Forces [OCDETF]. The mission of the OCDETF is to ensure a coordinated, multi-agency, intelligence-based, and prosecutor-led approach to identifying, disrupting, and dismantling those drug trafficking and money laundering organizations primarily responsible for the Nation's illicit drug supply and drug-related violence.

Strike Forces.—The Committee directs the Department to ensure that appropriate personnel, including experienced Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives [ATF], DEA and FBI agents, deputy U.S. marshals, and assistant U.S. attorneys are participating in OCDETF Strike Forces in communities with rising levels of violent crime.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Appropriations, 2022	$10,136,295,000
Budget estimate, 2023	10,741,678,000
Committee recommendation	10,741,900,000

The Committee's recommendation provides $10,741,900,000 for the FBI salaries and expenses. The recommendation is $605,605,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level and $222,000 above the budget request.

Criminal Justice Information Services [CJIS].—The Committee supports the budget request for CJIS. The Committee notes that $225,444,000 is provided for CJIS, including fee collections, in fiscal year 2023 for the NICS Section. Of this amount, $100,000,000 was provided by the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act (Public Law 117–116).

OIG Audits on NICS Protocols and Procedures.—The Committee directs the FBI to submit a report on NICS protocols and procedures not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this act. This report shall provide detailed explanations of how the FBI is addressing each of the recommendations described in both the OIG's September 2016 Audit of the Handling of Firearms Purchase Denials Through the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (Report 16–32) and the July 2021 Audit of Selected Aspects of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's National Instant Criminal Background Check System (Report 21–095). If the FBI is not implementing a specific recommendation from these audits, the FBI

shall explain whether it intends to implement the specific recommendations and if not, the FBI's justification for not pursuing the recommended course of action. Furthermore, the report shall include what, if any, changes to the Standard Operating Procedures the FBI has made since 2015 to better process NICS inquiries in the 3-day period. All unclassified data shall be publicly reported by the FBI.

Computational Technology and Capacity.—The Committee's recommendation supports efforts by the Operational Technology Division and the Science and Technology Branch to develop and procure infrastructure, technology, and associated manpower, in addition to partnerships with industry and academia, to strengthen the FBI's scientific computing initiatives.

Agent Retention.—As the cost of living in many locations across the country outpaces the pay scale, the FBI is directed to take steps to find solutions to retain agents. While the FBI does not have the authority to make changes to Cost of Living Adjustments or additional locality pay beyond that authorized by law, the Committee directs the FBI to continue to work with both the Office of Personnel Management [OPM] and committees of authorizing jurisdiction to try to find a solution.

Information Sharing.—The recommendation provides resources for the FBI to establish two information pilot programs, one for the energy and electricity sector and one for the academic research institution sector, to enhance two-way information sharing between cleared sector partners and the U.S. Government to better identify, develop, and disseminate real-time or near real-time intelligence and mitigation strategies with the FBI.

Terrorist Explosive Device Analytical Center [TEDAC].—The Committee's recommendation provides no less than the fiscal year 2022 enacted level for full operational funding to TEDAC and the additional operational support associated with the TEDAC campus in fiscal year 2023, which will continue to strengthen the role of TEDAC as the U.S. Government's strategic-level improvised explosive device exploitation center and provide the resources necessary to fully staff the facility.

Hazardous Devices School [HDS] and International Advanced Canine Technology Center.—The Committee recognizes HDS's status as both the sole certification authority of civilian State, local, and Federal bomb technicians and the sole accrediting authority of civilian State, local, and Federal bomb squads intending to utilize any manner of render safe or device defeat within the United States and its territories. The Committee supports the FBI Weapons of Mass Destruction Directorate's efforts at no less than the fiscal year 2022 enacted level, to more efficiently and effectively disseminate critical threat information to the explosives detection canine community and, in conjunction with government and academic partners, support this national security program.

Counter-Improvised Explosive Device [IED] Research.—HDS conducts critical research on the development of alternative defeat mechanisms for both ground and aviation borne devices, generating a broad range of explosive, high velocity impact events within an enclosed flight range as well as testing on FBI test ranges. The recommendation provides funding to support the development of state-

of-the-art capabilities for researchers to study a range of test articles under various loading conditions. This counter-IED research will bridge critical science and technology gaps in support of domestic and international explosive investigations, even as the threat from ground-based and airborne explosive devices will continue to be a complex security issue for the foreseeable future.

Human Rights Violations.—The Committee directs the FBI to continue its efforts to investigate and support the Department's criminal prosecution of serious human rights crimes, including genocide, torture, use or recruitment of child soldiers, war crimes, and other crimes committed by serious human rights violators, at no less than the fiscal year 2022 enacted level. The Committee directs the FBI to continue this effort through the International Human Rights Unit [IHRU], which the FBI shall not dissolve or merge with any other office, and which shall continue to fully cooperate with and participate in the Human Rights Violator and War Crimes Center [HRVWCC]. The Committee is concerned that the FBI's previously proposed realignment of personnel from the HRVWCC to its Civil Rights Unit would diminish the FBI's ability to adequately pursue human rights violators and upset the delicate relationship the FBI has created between investigators and NGOs focused on identifying and assisting victims of these atrocities.

The Committee supports the FBI's stated goals of increasing the number of cases investigated and prosecuted, growing the number of investigators and prosecutors educated and trained to address the threat, and engaging more with affected communities throughout the Nation but is skeptical that merging international human rights into the civil rights program will accomplish these objectives. The Committee understands that the FBI has begun to incorporate international human rights issues in its annual civil rights conference efforts and encourages the FBI to continue to expand upon these endeavors.

The Committee also encourages the FBI to utilize its civil rights program coordinators in the field to engage with partners in USAO, NGOs, and local communities to create a better understanding of the threat, drive prosecutions, and encourage reporting of international human rights violators. The Committee further directs the IHRU to provide training to all FBI field offices on how to detect and investigate crimes committed by serious human rights violators, and to report to the Committees on Appropriations and the Judiciary, within 90 days of enactment of this act, on the IHRU's efforts to increase the number of human rights investigations and provide training to all field offices and opportunities for community engagements, including the numbers for each.

Hate Crimes Reporting.—The FBI is directed to provide the Committee with a report, within 180 days of the date of the enactment of this act, on its continued efforts to ensure that all Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies fully report hate crimes statistics as provided by the Hate Crime Statistics Act of 1990 (Public Law 101–275, as amended), and the HCPA. The report shall include an assessment of whether jurisdictions reporting zero hate crimes are accurate in their reporting and factors leading to inaccurate reporting. The report shall detail efforts to ensure all law enforcement agencies know of the reporting obligations and shall

describe any gaps in reporting, strategies to overcome those gaps, and challenges to the full nationwide implementation of NIBRS. In addition, the report shall detail the FBI's continued outreach and education on hate crimes reporting, including the number of trainings conducted on best practices to address hate crimes and efforts the FBI is undertaking to help ensure that all victims feel secure reporting hate crimes to law enforcement authorities.

Submission of Hate Crimes Data.—The Committee is concerned that incomplete reporting of hate crime data to the FBI hinders critically needed efforts to understand, prevent, and mitigate the harms of hate crimes. The Committee urges the FBI to conduct outreach and provide technical assistance to law enforcement agencies that have not consistently reported hate crimes data, with particular attention to small and rural agencies with the fewest resources for administrative management and data analysis. In addition, the Committee continues to urge State, local, and Tribal law enforcement agencies to include the cost of participation in the FBI's Hate Crime Statistics Act program for the purposes of calculating extraordinary expenses associated with the investigation and prosecution of hate crimes under the HCPA.

National Bioforensic Analysis Center.—The Committee recognizes the need to maintain operations at the National Bioforensic Analysis Center [NBFAC]. The Committee supports the bioforensic analysis and investigations performed at NBFAC and appreciates that the NBFAC currently operates under a cost-sharing memorandum with the DHS, for the FBI to maintain ongoing operations at this facility. The Committee provides $21,840,000 for the FBI's role at the NBFAC.

Combatting Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking.—The joint explanatory statement accompanying Public Law 117–103 directed the FBI, in consultation with each field office's Human Trafficking Program Coordinator, to allocate resources to those field offices in areas of greatest need, including rural areas and States with the highest rates of modern slavery and human trafficking. The FBI was further directed to report, within 90 days of the date of enactment of that law, on the status of these consultations and the allocation of resources. The FBI is directed to immediately comply with the requirements of the joint explanatory statement.

FBI Police.—The Committee encourages the FBI to coordinate with OPM and any other relevant agencies to assist with designating the members of the FBI Police as law enforcement officers to make the rates of basic pay, salary schedule, pay provisions, and benefits for its members equivalent to the rates of basic pay, salary schedule, pay provisions, and benefits applicable to other similar law enforcement divisions.

Background Checks for New Federal Government Senior Appointees.—The FBI plays an essential role in conducting background investigations of individuals appointed for senior positions in the Federal government, including positions subject to Senate confirmation, which places unique demands on the Bureau after changes in administrations. In order to better determine FBI needs regarding background investigations in future transition years, the FBI is directed to submit a report within 120 days of enactment of this act regarding estimates of additional investigative staff,

staff support and other resources and authorities necessary to enable the Bureau to complete the average required background investigations for senior appointees, including those subject to Senate confirmation, (1) during the period between the presidential election and the presidential inauguration and (2) in the first 100 days of a first-term presidential administration.

Anomalous Health Incidents [AHI].—Congress gave the FBI the authority to use $5,000,000 for payments to assist FBI staff and family members who have experienced injuries due to AHI. The FBI is directed to continue working with other Federal agencies and DOJ leadership in order to create policies and procedures, including a system for handling requests for reimbursement. The Committee directs that this system be in place by October 15, 2022. The FBI is directed to submit quarterly reports on the number of requests for assistance, the unobligated balances of the original funding provided, and any additional resource needs in order to properly respond to the FBI's AHI victims.

Advanced Threat Analysis and Data Analytics.—The recommendation provides additional resources to support the FBI's efforts to develop enterprise technical tools, modernize its network infrastructure, and improve its data analytics capabilities. Within the funds provided, the Committee encourages the FBI to collaborate with universities on advanced threat analysis and advanced data analytic solutions that are tailored to the needs of FBI investigators.

Operational Medicine Partnership Program.—The health and safety of its agents should be a top priority for the FBI, given the routine risk of physical harm they face daily carrying out critical national security missions. The Committee continues to strongly support the FBI's use of external partnerships as part of its Operational Medicine Program to support medical contingency planning and improve the delivery of medical care for high-risk law enforcement missions.

Small, Medium, and Veteran-owned Businesses.—As the Committee continues to prioritize funding to address the FBI's highest priorities outside of the national capital area, particularly as it pertains to the long-term vision of collocating complementary mission operations, the Committee strongly encourages the FBI to place an increased focus on leveraging the capabilities of established small, medium, and veteran-owned businesses.

CONSTRUCTION

Appropriations, 2022	$632,000,000
Budget estimate, 2023	61,895,000
Committee recommendation	662,000,000

The Committee's recommendation provides $662,000,000 for FBI construction. The recommendation is $30,000,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level and $600,105,000 above the budget request.

FBI Headquarters.—The Committee reminds the FBI that it expects to receive the report on the construction of a new headquarters for the FBI in the National Capital Region, as specified in section 534 of division B of the Consolidated Appropriations Act (Public Law 117–103). The Committee also notes the direction pro-

vided to the Administrator of the General Services Administration [GSA] as specified in section 530 of division E of the same act, that a site will be selected in as expeditious of a manner as possible. The FBI and GSA have a legal obligation to select a site from one of the three listed in the GSA's fiscal year 2017 PNCR–FBI–NCR17 prospectus for a new fully consolidated FBI headquarters, and to transmit to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate, a report on the construction of a new headquarters for the FBI in the National Capital Region. The employees of the FBI deserve a new, secure, modern, consolidated campus.

21st Century Facilities.—The Committee continues to support the FBI's long-term vision for co-locating complementary mission operations while balancing the eventual transition into a new headquarters building with changing footprints at the Quantico, Clarksburg, Huntsville, and Pocatello facilities. The delay in the new FBI headquarters project only exacerbates the need to secure viable space for supporting a variety of mission, workforce, and land requirements. The Committee recommendation provides $600,000,000 to further support the FBI's 21st Century Facility plans, and encourages the FBI to transition from interim facilities to full operating capabilities, including plans for technological requirements. As part of this 21st Century Facility planning, the FBI should continue to research the feasibility of using public-private partnership opportunities, provided that the annual lease and operating costs are reasonable and the facilities can be securely constructed and maintained at a level that meets the FBI's requirements.

DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Appropriations, 2022	$2,933,181,000
Budget estimate, 2023	3,104,603,000
Committee recommendation	3,146,603,000

The Committee's recommendation provides total resources of $3,146,603,000 for the DEA salaries and expenses, of which $581,487,000 is derived from the DEA's Diversion Control Fee Account. The recommendation is $213,422,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level and $42,000,000 above the budget request. Within the funds provided, $10,000,000 is to reimburse the expenses of State, local, and Tribal governments to identify, segregate, package, transport, and dispose of hazardous materials at methamphetamine labs, to include training, technical assistance, purchase of equipment and a container program.

The DEA's mission is to enforce the controlled substances laws and regulations of the United States and bring to the criminal and civil justice system of the United States—or any other competent jurisdiction—those organizations and principal members of organizations involved in the growing, manufacturing, or distribution of controlled substances appearing in or destined for illicit traffic in the United States; and to support non-enforcement programs aimed

at reducing the availability of illicit controlled substances on the domestic and international markets.

The Committee's recommendation supports DEA's efforts to reverse the significant decline in special agent employment levels to ensure the DEA has the personnel necessary to combat the ongoing methamphetamine and opioid crises. The Committee encourages the DEA to assign agents to the geographic areas that are most broadly impacted by methamphetamines and opioids.

Fentanyl and Fentanyl Precursors Trafficked from China.—In a January 2020 intelligence report, DEA observed that China remains the primary source of fentanyl and fentanyl-related substances trafficked through international mail and express consignment operations environment, as well as the main source for all fentanyl-related substances trafficked into the United States. The Committee remains deeply concerned by the opioid epidemic that has taken the lives of thousands of Americans, and the Committee encourages DEA to continue to work towards stemming the flow of China's export of fentanyl and fentanyl precursors.

Hemp Testing Technology.—The Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–334) removed hemp and its derivatives from the Controlled Substances Act (Public Law 91–513, as amended), and authorized the production, consumption, and sale of hemp and hemp-derived products in the United States. The Act requires random testing to ensure hemp meets the definition under the law of having a delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol [THC] concentration of less than 0.3 percent. The Committee is aware that DEA has developed field testing kits that can distinguish between hemp and marijuana on-the-spot. The Committee directs the DEA to continue to work to ensure State and local law enforcement have access to this field test technology so they can more efficiently conduct their drug interdiction efforts at the local level. The Committee further directs the DEA to report back to the Committee not later than 180 days after enactment of this act, and not less than every 6 months thereafter, until such time as testing kits are deployed to State and local law enforcement in the field.

Special Registration for Telemedicine.—Congress took necessary steps in passing the Substance Use-Disorder Prevention that Promotes Opioid Recovery and Treatment for Patients and Communities [SUPPORT] Act (Public Law 115–271) to combat the worsening opioid overdose epidemic. Section 3232 of the Act amends the Controlled Substances Act to require that no later than 1 year after enactment, the Attorney General, in consultation with the Secretary of Health & Human Services [HHS], propagate final regulations specifying a Special Registration for the use of telemedicine to prescribe controlled substances under the Ryan Haight Online Pharmacy Consumer Protection Act (Public Law 110-245). The rulemaking process has not moved forward in the 3 years since the SUPPORT Act was signed into law. The Committee directs the DEA to promulgate final regulations specifying the circumstances in which a Special Registration for telemedicine may be issued and the procedure for obtaining the registration.

Destruction of Controlled Substances.—The Committee encourages DEA to engage in substantive conversations with industry stakeholders on alternatives to incineration that meet the non-re-

trievable standard. DEA is directed to report, within 90 days of the enactment of this act, on steps the agency has already taken and plans to take to implement 40 C.F.R. 266.506 (b)(3), and is further directed to review technologies other than incineration that meet the non-retrievable standard.

DEA Aircraft Recapitalization and Enhancement.—The Committee continues to support DEA's Fleet Modernization Plan, which contemplates both recapitalization of aging aircraft and the deployment of critical investigative enhancements, such intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance capabilities. DEA is directed to keep the Committee apprised of the on-going implementation of this plan.

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives

salaries and expenses

Appropriations, 2022	$1,531,071,000
Budget estimate, 2023	1,732,528,000
Committee recommendation	1,650,000,000

The Committee's recommendation provides $1,650,000,000 for ATF salaries and expenses. The recommendation is $118,929,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level and $82,528,000 below the budget request. ATF has diverse law enforcement responsibilities, and the funding increase is provided to allow ATF to carry out these duties and to fill existing positions that are currently vacant.

ATF reduces the criminal use of firearms and illegal firearms trafficking, and assists other Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies in reducing crime and violence. ATF investigates bombing and arson incidents and assists with improving public safety by reducing the criminal misuse of and trafficking in explosives, combating acts of arson and arson-for-profit schemes, and removing safety hazards caused by improper and unsafe storage of explosive materials.

Combating Gun Violence and Enforcing Existing Gun Laws.—The Committee's recommendation maintains ATF's ability to enforce existing firearms laws and perform regulatory oversight and training, including through the National Integrated Ballistics Information Network [NIBIN]. This funding will enable ATF to continue to collect, report, and share ballistic intelligence with Federal, State, local, and Tribal law enforcement partners to identify, target, and disrupt violent criminals, including serial shooters. Funds will support work with State and local law enforcement agencies and laboratories to collect ballistic hit information to provide leads to Crime Gun Intelligence Groups for investigations and document successful prosecutions as a result of NIBIN.

Crime Gun Intelligence Centers [CGICs].—The Committee appreciates ATF's efforts with the CGIC program, an interagency collaboration focused on the immediate collection, management, and analysis of crime gun evidence in real time, in an effort to identify shooters, disrupt criminal activity, and prevent future violence. There are currently 33 CGIC sites across the country, and the Committee encourages the ATF to work with additional high-risk areas to identify solutions and metrics to demonstrate meaningful reductions in illegal gun trafficking and related violent crime.

NIBIN Expansion.—The Committee supports the request of $82,948,000 for NIBIN and continues to support efforts to expand the use of NIBIN and to ensure all law enforcement agencies have access to NIBIN's correlation services, including through the NIBIN National Correlation and Training Center [NNCTC]. The Committee 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 and consider additional service models to offer departments, including Tribal law enforcement agencies, access to NIBIN. The Committee further directs that ATF examine ways to expand access to NIBIN to State and local agencies in the New England region.

Tobacco Enforcement.—The joint explanatory statement accompanying Public Law 117–103 directed ATF to submit a report, within 60 days of the enactment of that law, assessing investments in tobacco initiatives in each fiscal year since 2017 and identifying the amounts proposed to be invested in such programs in fiscal year 2022. ATF is directed to immediately comply with this directive.

Training Law Enforcement Partners.—The Committee expects ATF to continue to provide training to local and State law enforcement agencies on submitting trace requests of firearms recovered in criminal investigations to ATF. Firearm tracing provides critical information to assist law enforcement agencies investigate and solve firearms crimes. The Committee supports the ongoing efforts of Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies to solve violent crimes and urges ATF to provide all possible training opportunities in support of these efforts.

Out-of-Business Records [OBRs].—ATF is directed to submit a report, within 60 days of the enactment of this act, that details (1) how many of the total OBRs reflect transactions that occurred before 2002; (2) what year the oldest OBRs are from that are currently maintained in the ATF repository, and (3) for the traces completed in the past 5 years using OBR records, how old the records were that were subject to a trace.

Freedom of Information Act [FOIA] Compliance.—The Committee expects ATF to comply with its obligations under FOIA. ATF is directed to submit a report, within 90 days of enactment of this act, on how ATF assesses agency records for release under FOIA.

Bomb Arson Tracking System [BATS].—The ATF operates BATS, an online case management system which provides State and local arson and explosives investigators access to up-to-date arson and explosives investigative data from across the Nation. The Committee directs ATF to proceed with a fully integrated solution for BATS as the platform is nearing its end cycle. The Committee understands that $4,200,000 is needed for this project and should the fiscal year 2023 funding not be sufficient to cover the upgrade, the ATF is directed to submit a reprogramming request to use prior year unobligated balances, as part of the spend plan submission.

Preventing Firearm Straw Purchases.—The Committee notes that preventing firearms purchases by prohibited persons is critical to ATF's efforts to prevent violent crime and protect public safety. ATF has initiated a public awareness campaign to reduce firearm

straw purchases at the retail level, and to educate would-be straw purchasers of the penalties of knowingly participating in an illegal firearm purchase. The Committee expects continued funding of this initiative, as now authorized under the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act (Public Law 117–159).

CONSTRUCTION

Appropriations, 2022	.....
Budget estimate, 2023	.....
Committee recommendation	$75,000,000

The Committee provides $75,000,000 for the construction of an ATF forensics laboratory, at the location cited in ATF report to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate entitled "ATF Laboratory Facilities Assessment and Alignment with Partnerships", which provides a mutually beneficial academic setting in which knowledge and skills related to forensic science and ATF's crime gun intelligence programs are passed on to students and faculty.

FEDERAL PRISON SYSTEM

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

Appropriations, 2022	$7,865,000,000
Budget estimate, 2023	8,005,951,000
Committee recommendation	8,100,000,000

The Committee's recommendation provides $8,100,000,000 for BOP salaries and expenses. The recommendation is $235,000,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level and $94,049,000 above the budget request. The Committee reminds the Department and BOP that all reports, including those required on a quarterly basis, are to be submitted in a timely manner.

Staffing Shortages.—The Committee continues to be displeased with BOP's staffing shortages, which were only exacerbated during the COVID–19 pandemic. The Committee remains concerned about the lack of locality pay and wage increases for Bureau employees, which has negatively impacted the retention rate of correctional officers and other staff working at BOP institutions. Within 120 days of enactment of this act, the BOP must provide the Committee with a report detailing its employee retention methods and benefits provided to Bureau employees as well as the rate at which these benefits have maintained parity with other Federal agencies and inflation.

Hiring and Staffing Reports.—The Committee directs BOP to submit quarterly hiring and staffing reports, including correctional officer to inmate ratios from Pay Period 26–2016 to the present for the OPM position classification standard Correctional Officer Series GS–0007, broken out by region; institution, to include an additional subset for each facility within an institutional complex; and security level, no later than 90 days after enactment of this act. For further transparency, this data is also directed to be published on BOP's website.

As BOP previously notified the Committee that it does not currently record staffing by shift (morning watch, day watch, evening watch), it is directed to start recording this data and include these metrics in this report by the end of the fiscal year. For any institution with a staffing ratio greater than 15:1 and in which there has been an incident involving deadly force, BOP shall provide a separate, detailed explanation of the role staffing may or may not have played in the incident along with a corrective plan to ensure it will not happen again.

The Committee continues to be concerned about the significant number of vacancies in BOP institutions, creating an extremely dangerous environment for both staff and incarcerated persons. The Committee directs DOJ to immediately improve hiring policies and ensure BOP is able to promptly fill existing and future vacancies and staff its 122 Federal facilities across the United States at January 2016 levels. BOP is again directed to provide a report, within 90 days of enactment of this act, regarding the number of vacancies at each facility further detailed by job title, job series, and General Schedule level as well as the number of applicants going through the hiring process for each vacant position. If there are expedited hiring efforts the Department can make to ensure BOP is properly staffed, the Committee directs the Department to do so, and to include these measures and their results in the aforementioned report. The Committee supports the use of recruitment and retention bonuses and rejects any further position eliminations.

First Step Act [FSA] Staffing.—In addition, the staffing for many inmate programs have either had key positions removed from current staffing complements or have been slow to fill vacancies. The programs impacted are also needed to successfully implement the First Step Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–391) including, but not limited to, drug treatment, psychology, religious services, vocational services, and education services. The Committee continues to direct BOP to hire additional programming staff to successfully provide these key programs and ensure that each facility has a Special Education Teacher on staff. The Committee also directs the BOP to hire a Special Populations Manager at each of the BOP institutions to ensure that additional FSA programming can be provided. Positions that are vital to the FSA should be added to institution staffing requirements and not taken from existing staffing complements.

Staffing at High Security Institutions.—The Committee previously directed BOP to ensure at least two correctional officers are on duty for each housing unit for all three shifts at all high-security institutions, to include United States Penitentiaries and Administrative and Federal Detention Centers as well as Witness Security Program units and units housing high security pretrial inmates. BOP is directed to continue to submit quarterly reports to the Committee showing compliance with this directive and to provide a cost estimate and strategic plan for implementation for medium-security institutions that currently do not have a second officer for all three shifts.

Augmentation.—BOP reports that there is a higher incidence of serious assaults by inmates on staff at high- and medium-security

institutions than at the lower security facilities, yet to meet staffing needs, BOP routinely uses a process called "augmentation," whereby a non-custodial employee is assigned custodial responsibilities. The continued use of augmentation stretches correctional facility staff too thin, leading to unsafe conditions for both staff and inmates.

The Committee has expressed its concerns about the practice of augmentation since fiscal year 2017 and once again directs BOP to curtail its overreliance on augmentation, particularly in housing units, a directive issued again as part of Senate Report 116–127 and adopted by Public Law 116–93. BOP should focus on hiring additional full-time correctional staff before continuing to augment existing staff. BOP is further directed to submit quarterly reports to the Committee on the use of augmentation broken out by region, institution, and security level each time this practice is employed. As part of the quarterly report, BOP is required to also submit the number of hours, and subsequent cost, of overtime recorded at each institution. In addition, for each Federal correctional facility at which two or more Federal inmates have died in one calendar year, BOP shall submit to the Committee a detailed report describing each incident and the role augmentation may have played in exacerbating the inherent dangers.

In addition to officer and inmate safety concerns, the Committee also notes that augmenting staff means that critical programs and services required for inmates under the FSA are imperiled when those who provide counseling, education, and other programs to inmates are being pulled from their original duties to work in the cellblock. BOP is directed to ensure that non-custody correctional employees must spend 90 percent of their work week in their primary positions.

Direct Hire Authority.—The Committee is aware that BOP has requested the OPM to delegate direct hiring authority to BOP facilities. To ensure the safety of staff and inmates, the Committee once again encourages BOP to continue to work with OPM to provide this authority for BOP facilities.

The Committee also directs the BOP to review the current pay scale of BOP's Correctional Officers as compared with other DOJ law enforcement components and comparable State and local correctional agencies. This review should analyze opportunities to convert the pay band to a higher scale and the resource requirements to do so. The review should be conducted in consultation with the Department's JMD. The Committee directs this review to be submitted within 180 days of enactment of this act.

Overtime Pay Rate.—BOP shall ensure that every bargaining unit Primary Law Enforcement position is being properly paid overtime at the full overtime rate under the Fair Labor Standards Act (29 U.S.C. 203). This includes, but is not limited to, the positions of all nursing staff, teachers, Special Education Teachers, Religious Services, and Psychology Services. All of these positions are considered Primary Law Enforcement positions and work with thousands of offenders in extremely hazardous environments. Each of the positions listed work in a correctional environment, and any overtime accrued would be performed in the duties providing a safe and secure correctional environment.

FSA Implementation.—The Committee directs the Department of Justice and BOP to fully and expeditiously implement the FSA. The Committee is concerned that the Department has not met several reporting deadlines and not fully implemented several provisions of the act. The Committee directs the Department to expeditiously expand programming and file all required reports no later than the deadlines established by the Act. The Department shall report to the Committees on Appropriations and the Judiciary of the House and the Senate, within 90 days of enactment of this act, and every 90 days thereafter, on all actions and expenditures to implement the FSA including activities and expenditures to implement, review, validate, and maintain the risk and needs assessment system and to evaluate and provide evidence-based recidivism reduction programs and productive activities.

The Committee directs BOP to immediately take steps to ensure compliance with FSA requirements, and to ensure that all those incarcerated in BOP facilities have access to robust programming opportunities, including third-party faith-based programs. The Committee further directs BOP to submit a report, within 30 days of the enactment of this act, on such efforts.

The Committee reminds BOP that Congress intended for the FSA to expand BOP partnerships with external organizations. This specifically involves the opportunity for third-party partners to provide Evidence-Based Recidivism Reduction Programming [EBRR] and productive activities [PA]—including faith-based programs, taught from a specific faith tradition—within Federal prisons. Further, the Committee reminds BOP that the FSA reflects a singular definition for EBRRs and PAs, regardless of whether the program is internal or external and does not require a third-party review of external program's evidence. BOP is directed to submit a report to the Committee, within 90 days of the enactment of this act, on the following: (1) an account of whether each approved EBRR and PA is an internal BOP program, a contracted BOP program, or an external third-party program; (2) any difference in the criteria and evaluation process for suitability of an internal BOP program, a contracted BOP program, or an external third-party program as an EBRR or PAs; (3) the number of external faith-based programs that applied to qualify as an EBRR and PAs since the FSA was enacted, including the number that have been denied, the number that are still pending, and the names of any accepted applicants and whether any are taught from a specific faith tradition; (4) actions BOP has taken to promote the opportunity for submissions of external programs for consideration as EBRRs and PAs; and (5) list and describe what program providers make up the "faith-based recidivism-reduction partnerships" noted in the Bureau of Justice Statistics reporting on FSA implementation. The report shall also include efforts to fill all vacant programming and other dedicated FSA positions, efforts to improve transparency regarding EBRR credit calculation, the EBRR programming currently available at each BOP facility, the associated hours of EBRR credit participants earn for participation in each program, and the need for and availability of medication-assisted treatment at each BOP facility.

Compassionate Release.—The Committee requests an updated report on BOP's compassionate release and home confinement efforts,

containing the information required by Senate Report 116–127 and codified in Public Law 116–93, as well as including information on the expansion of these programs per the authority provided under Public Law 116–136.

Restrictive Housing.—The Committee remains concerned about the growth in the restricted housing population in BOP institutions. In 2012, approximately 7.8 percent of Federal inmates in BOP facilities were held in some form of restricted housing. In 2014, that number had dropped to approximately 6.5 percent. Unfortunately, the restricted housing rate has returned to 2012 levels, with approximately 7.3 percent of the Federal prison population currently placed in restricted housing, including special housing units, special management units, and the ADX Supermax facility. The Committee directs BOP to significantly reduce the number of Federal inmates in restricted housing, including by opening transition units and other specialized units for populations often sent to restricted housing and working with regional directors and wardens to address the widespread reliance on restricted housing.

Contraband Cell Phones in BOP Facilities.—The joint explanatory statement accompanying Public Law 117–103 directed BOP to report to the Committees, not later than 90 days after the date of enactment, on the deployment of micro-jamming and managed access technology systems at BOP facilities. This report was to describe the number of contraband devices confiscated through each type of technology at each facility; the comparative efficacy and cost effectiveness of such technologies in detecting and capturing devices and mitigating illicit communications; and, for those technologies found to be effective, the resources that would be required to expand or further deploy such technologies.

BOP is directed to immediately comply with the requirements of the joint explanatory statement. BOP is further directed to submit, not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this act, an updated report on these matters. This updated report should also address the long-term deployment of these technologies in BOP facilities, and the 10-year funding projections necessary to sustain use of the technologies.

Camera System Upgrades.—The Committee supports the budget request to begin the process of upgrading security cameras for BOP institutions. These upgrades will help to better protect the safety, wellbeing and civil rights of those incarcerated and BOP employees, including correctional officers, medical personnel and other professional staff.

Residential Reentry Centers [RRCs].—The Committee maintains its concerns and expectations regarding RRCs as outlined in Senate Report 116–127 and adopted by Public Law 116–93, including the direction requiring BOP to alert the Committee before adopting any significant change in policy or practice involving RRCs or other recidivism-reduction measures. The Committee directs BOP to refrain from canceling or modifying any existing contracts for RRCs if another BOP-contracted RRC facility does not exist within 100 miles of the existing RRC. In instances where RRC contracts are expiring, the Committee directs BOP to take interim and emergency measures to prevent facility closures and the interruption of

services, including by expediting solicitations and re-solicitations for existing services.

Roadmap to Reentry.—The Committee recognizes the benefits of making our criminal justice system more fair, more efficient, and more effective at reducing recidivism by helping formerly incarcerated individuals successfully return to their communities. To that end, the Committee directs the BOP to reestablish the principles identified in the Justice Department's "Roadmap to Reentry," and to begin the process of implementing these principles to improve the correctional practices and programs, including providing (1) individualized reentry plans for individuals; (2) access to education, employment training, life skills, substance abuse, mental health, and other programs; (3) resources and opportunities to build and maintain family relationships; (4) individualized continuity of care; and (5) comprehensive reentry-related information and access to resources.

Extreme Weather Plans.—Recent examples of BOP's responses to extreme weather events—including extreme heat or cold—raise concerns about unsafe conditions for inmates, correctional officers, and institution staff. The Committee directs BOP to issue clear and consistent policies and guidance across all BOP facilities regarding preparations for and responses to extreme weather events, including by establishing temperature thresholds for health and safety at BOP facilities.

Swift-Certain-Fair [SCF] Model in the Federal Prison System.—The SCF model has been an effective deterrent for incarcerated populations in State and local corrections settings. The Committee directs BOP (1) to establish SCF pilot programs in BOP housing units based upon best practices developed by other applicable corrections agencies, (2) to collect data on the effectiveness of the program, and (3) to provide a report evaluating the pilot and making recommendations on its replication.

BOP Responsiveness During Disasters.—Within 180 days of enactment of this act, BOP shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations, Judiciary, and Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs a report covering fiscal years 2015 through 2022 of disaster damage describing the scope of physical damage at BOP-owned or managed facilities impacted or struck by a major disaster that explains the effects of the damage on inmates and staff, including (1) injury and loss of life of inmates and staff; (2) access to health and medical care, food, special dietary needs, drinkable water, personal protective equipment, and personal hygiene products; (3) guidance used to adjudicate early release or home confinement requests, data on early release or home confinement approvals, denials, and justification for denials and explanation, as to whether using home confinement or early release was considered; (4) access to cost-free and uninterrupted visitation with legal counsel and visitors with justifications for facility decisions that resulted in suspended or altered visitations; (5) access to appropriate accommodations for inmates with disabilities; (6) access to educational and work programs; (7) assessment of the cost of the damage to the facility and estimates for repairs; (8) the impact on staffing, equipment, and financial resources; and (9) other factors relating to the ability of the

BOP to uphold the health, safety, and civil rights of the correctional population.

This report shall also include agency corrective actions that BOP has undertaken or plans to undertake to improve and modernize emergency preparedness plans, as they relate to natural disasters, extreme weather, and public health emergencies and a timeline to implement any corrective action plans.

BOP Facilities and RRCs in Alaska and Hawaii.—Sustained family connections can reduce recidivism, and the FSA requires BOP to house inmates in facilities as close to their primary residence as possible, and to the extent practicable, within 500 driving miles. This can be impossible for inmates from the States of Alaska and Hawaii, and their families may face insurmountable obstacles to visitation. BOP is directed to conduct a study on the need for and feasibility of a BOP facility in Alaska. The study shall evaluate the cost, size, and location of a potential facility. In addition, BOP is directed to include an examination of the feasibility of expanding the capacity of RRCs in Alaska and Hawaii so as to help those released from incarceration transition back into their community per FSA requirements. BOP is further directed to submit this study to the Committee within 180 days of the date of the enactment of this act.

Improving Reentry by Addressing Dyslexia.—The Committee provides up to $1,200,000 for a new initiative to address dyslexia. BOP is directed to pilot an evidence-based dyslexia screener with proven psychometrics for validity that meets the requirement of the FSA and is developed by experts outside of BOP who have proven experience in creating clinical screening tools. BOP is further directed to submit a report, within 90 days of the enactment of this act, describing the implementation of this initiative.

BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES

Appropriations, 2022	$235,000,000
Budget estimate, 2023	179,300,000
Committee recommendation	179,300,000

This Committee's recommendation includes $179,300,000 for the construction, acquisition, modernization, maintenance, and repair of prison and detention facilities housing Federal inmates. The recommendation is $55,700,000 below the fiscal year 2022 enacted level and equal to the budget request. Of this amount, $177,300,000 is designated for the modernization and repair of existing facilities. BOP shall proceed with ongoing planned and associated new construction efforts for BOP operated facilities to meet projected capacity requirements, as identified in its monthly status of construction reports to the Committee. BOP is directed to continue to provide such reports on a monthly basis, along with notifications and explanations of any deviation from construction and activation schedules, and any planned adjustments or corrective actions.

FEDERAL PRISON INDUSTRIES, INCORPORATED

(LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES)

Appropriations, 2022	$2,700,000
Budget estimate, 2023	2,700,000
Committee recommendation	2,700,000

The Committee's recommendation provides a limitation on the administrative expenses of $2,700,000 for the Federal Prison Industries, Inc. The recommendation is equal to both the fiscal year 2022 enacted level and equal to the budget request.

STATE AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES

In total, the Committee recommends $4,437,011,000 for State and local law enforcement and crime prevention grant programs, including: $4,304,011,000 in discretionary appropriations and $133,000,000 in mandatory appropriations. The total is $1,130,267,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level and $747,289,000 below the budget estimate.

Management and Administration [M&A] Expenses.—The Department shall, in preparing its fiscal year 2023 spending plan, assess M&A expenses compared to program funding. The Committee directs the Department to ensure that its assessment methodology is equitable and that the assessment reflects a fair representation of the share of each program devoted to common M&A costs. The Committee also directs grant offices to minimize administrative spending to maximize the amount of funding that can be used for grants or training and technical assistance. The Committee reiterates the direction provided in Senate Report 113–78 that the Department shall detail, as part of its budget submission for fiscal year 2023 and future years, the actual costs for each grant office with respect to training, technical assistance, research and statistics, and peer review for the prior fiscal year, along with estimates of planned expenditures by each grant office in each of these categories for the current year and the budget year.

Grant Funding Set-Asides.—The Committee notes the significant number of reductions in grant funding for various permissible purposes, including training and technical assistance; research, evaluation, and statistics activities; and peer review; with set-asides ranging anywhere from 2 percent to 10 percent of total grant funding provided. The Committee directs the Department to continue providing a comprehensive report, concurrently with the spending plan, that details the total amount provided for each grant program in this act, the specific reductions taken, the purpose for those reductions, and the final use of those resources, including any transfers that may occur among Office of Justice Programs [OJP], Office on Violence Against Women [OVW], and COPS. The Committee expects that the report will provide a complete analysis of the final amounts externally awarded and the amounts retained internally for other purposes.

Grant Funds for Rural Areas.—The Committee is concerned about the needs of rural areas, especially those communities with high crime rates. The Committee wants to ensure that the challenges encountered by the residents of these areas are being ad-

dressed through the equitable use of grant funding. The Committee reminds the Department to consider the unique needs of rural communities when making grant awards through the numerous programs funded by this bill.

Tribal Grants and Victim Assistance.—The Committee provides a total of $149,000,000 in discretionary grant funding for Tribes as follows: $65,000,000 within OJP for Tribal assistance; $20,000,000 for a Tribal youth program within the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention [OJJDP]; $40,000,000 for Tribal resources and $6,000,000 for a Tribal Access Program within the COPS Office; and $15,000,000 for a special Tribal criminal jurisdiction program and $3,000,000 for a Special Assistant U.S. Attorney on Tribal land program within the OVW. In addition, a total of $67,382,100 is provided to Tribal governments and coalitions through OVW programmatic statutory set-asides and another $87,500,000 is provided to Tribal governments and Tribal coalitions in CVF funding.

For Tribal assistance grants within OJP, funding is to be used to support efforts to help Tribes improve the capacity of their criminal and civil justice systems. OJP is expected to consult closely with Tribal stakeholders in determining how Tribal assistance funds will be awarded for detention facilities, including outdated detention facilities that are unfit for detention purposes and beyond rehabilitation; courts; alcohol and substance abuse programs; civil and criminal legal assistance; and other priorities. The Committee directs OJP to submit, as part of the Department's spending plan for fiscal year 2023, a plan for the use of these funds that is informed by such consultation.

In addition, the bill includes a 5 percent set-aside for Tribes within the CVF. OVC is directed to consult closely with Tribal stakeholders to improve services for Tribal victims of crime, to include expanded purpose areas described in the OVC final rule effective August 8, 2016. OVC shall continue to follow direction provided by the Committee in Senate Report 115–275 and adopted by Public Law 116–6 regarding grant application requirements, accountability, and assistance.

The Committee directs the Department to give Tribes maximum flexibility in use of funds in order to best meet the unique needs of victims in Tribal communities. The Committee also directs the Department to streamline administrative requirements as much as possible to increase accessibility for those most in need in Indian Country.

Science Advisory Board.—The Committee recognizes the contributions of OJP's Science Advisory Board [Board] and encourages the re-establishment of the Board. The Board worked to provide extra-agency review of, and recommendations for, OJP's research, statistics, and grants program. The re-established Board should be comprised of scholars and practitioners in criminology, statistics, and sociology, as well as practitioners in the criminal and juvenile justice fields, and should be tasked with ensuring the programs and activities of OJP are scientifically sound and pertinent to policymakers and practitioners.

Post-Conviction Relief for Trafficking Victims.—The Committee recognizes that serious, sustained efforts and investments in vic-

tim-centered programs are necessary to help address the rise in human trafficking, and is committed to helping victims seek justice and ensure that offenders are held accountable. The Committee is concerned about reports that trafficking victims are prosecuted, both at the Federal and State levels, for crimes directly related to their trafficking. Criminal convictions often disqualify victims from numerous Federal programs and impede their recovery. The Committee is concerned that removing expungement services from eligible activities for OVC grants contradicts the 2017 Trafficking in Persons Report released by the State Department, which encouraged the expansion of vacatur services.

The Committee directs OVC to allow the use of funds for direct representation on vacatur and expungement for a conviction for a non-violent crime that is a direct result of being a trafficking victim. Furthermore, the Committee directs the Department to submit the report required in Senate Report 115–275 and adopted by Public Law 116–6 regarding the Federal Government's ability to supplement State vacatur programs.

STOP School Violence Act.—A total of $195,000,000 is provided for the STOP School Violence Act (Division S, title V of Public Law 115–141) grant program for fiscal year 2023. Of this amount, $60,000,000 is derived from the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act and $135,000,000, which is $35,000,000 more than the full authorized program funding level, is provided for in this act. Of the amount provided for in this act, $82,000,000 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 COPS Office for a competitive grant program as outlined in the Act. The Committee directs BJA and the COPS Office to work with other Federal agencies to notify States, localities, Tribes, and school districts of funding availability upon release, to increase training and technical assistance for school district applicants, and to provide microgrants for school districts, including rural, Tribal, and low-resourced schools. The Committee recognizes the significant emotional impact of the COVID–19 pandemic on youth and teachers and directs BJA to prioritize evidence-based programming to train students and school personnel on the warning signs of interpersonal violence and suicide for both students and school personnel, and mental health crisis intervention, as permitted under the Act. The Committee directs BJA to prioritize applicants incorporating crisis centers and evidence-based trainings for students and staff within their anonymous reporting systems.

Law Enforcement Training Grants.—The Committee directs the Department to, within existing discretionary grants that provide training for law enforcement agencies, prioritize grants for nonprofits and other non-governmental entities that have undergone rigorous evaluation and have a successful track record of administering research-based trainings to law enforcement agencies on the importance of respecting civil and constitutional rights.

Victim Services for Incarcerated Survivors of Sexual Abuse.—The Committee directs DOJ to explore opportunities for releasing existing grant funding, including through OVC's discretionary grant program, for efforts that would create a hotline to provide sexual abuse and rape crisis counseling services to incarcerated individ-

uals across the country. A hotline would not only help incarcerated survivors, but it would also further meaningful Prison Rape Elimination Act compliance.

OVC Center for Victims of Crime Act [VOCA] Administrators.—The Committee directed OVC to establish a peer-to-peer training and resource center for VOCA Administrators and allowed the use of up to $5,000,000 for this project in fiscal year 2020. OVC is directed to continue to support the Center's work.

DOJ Grant Oversight.—The Committee encourages DOJ to review its multi-year grant award processes and protocols to ensure grantees have fully complied with the rules of year-one funding before year-two funding is disbursed in multi-year grant awards. In addition, the Committee supports the Department's efforts to create a high-risk designation for grantees, so as to increase fiscal responsibility throughout the grant making process. The Committee recommends that the Department promptly complete and publish an internal review of the program, to inform efforts to implement a high-risk grantee designation in other Federal agencies.

Grant Funding for Payment of Bail.—The Committee is aware that GAO is reviewing the scope and impact of taxpayer funds used to pay bail, and has engaged with DOJ as part of this review. The Committee directs the Department to submit, within 60 days of the date of the enactment of this act, a report identifying: (1) all DOJ grants for which the payment of charity bail is an allowable expense, and (2) all awards in fiscal years 2020 and 2021 that supported the payment of charity bail, including the total amount of funding for such purposes.

OFFICE ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN PREVENTION AND PROSECUTION PROGRAMS

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

Appropriations, 2022	$575,000,000
Budget estimate, 2023	1,000,000,000
Committee recommendation	732,000,000

The Committee's recommendation provides $732,000,000 for OVW grants. The recommendation is $157,000,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level and $268,000,000 below the budget request. Resources are provided to the OVW to respond to the needs of all victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking, including, but not limited to, Native women, immigrants, LGBTQIA victims, college students, youths, and public housing residents. To minimize fraud, waste, and abuse in these programs, OVW is encouraged to implement any open recommendations of the Department's OIG with respect to the recipients of grants under these programs.

The table below displays the Committee's recommendations for the programs under this office.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN PREVENTION AND PROSECUTION PROGRAMS

[In thousands of dollars]

Program	Committee Recommendation
STOP Grants	230,000
Transitional Housing Assistance	53,000
Research and Evaluation on Violence Against Women	2,500
Consolidated Youth-Oriented Program	20,000
Engaging Men and Youth in Prevention	*4,000*
Improving Criminal Justice Responses Program	65,500
Homicide Reduction Initiative	*4,000*
Lethality Assessment Initiative	*4,000*
Policing and Prosecution Programs	*5,000*
Prosecution and Investigation of Online Abuse Initiative	*3,000*
Sexual Assault Victims Services	100,000
Rural Domestic Violence and Child Abuse Enforcement	58,000
Violence on College Campuses	25,000
HBCU, HSI, and Tribal Colleges and Universities	*12,500*
Legal Assistance for Victims	55,000
Abuse Later in Life Program	10,000
Justice for Families Program	25,000
Disabilities Program	16,000
National Center on Workplace Responses	1,000
Research on Violence Against Indian Women	1,000
Indian Country-Sexual Assault Clearinghouse	500
Tribal Special Criminal Jurisdiction	15,000
Rape Survivor Child Custody Act	1,500
Restorative Justice Responses and Evaluations	15,000
National Deaf Services Line	4,000
Culturally Specific Programs	10,000
Underserved Populations Program	5,000
Tribal Special Assistant U.S. Attorneys	3,000
Financial Assistance Program	4,000
Abby Honold Act	5,000
Sexual Assault Survivor's Bill of Rights	5,000
Holisitc Assault Services on College Campuses Demonstration Program	2,000
TOTAL, Violence Against Women Prevention and Prosecution Programs	732,000

National Deaf Services Line.—Most Deaf victims must rely on mainstream service providers for assistance. These providers may not be well-versed in Deaf culture, may not provide appropriate accommodations, and may have little experience accessing and working with American Sign Language interpreters. The Committee provides $4,000,000 for OVW to launch and maintain a national Deaf services line, which will provide virtual services to Deaf victims of all Violence Against Women Act crimes, provide technical assistance to victim service providers working with Deaf victims, and pilot strategies to expand "for Deaf, by Deaf" in-person services. OVW is directed to provide plans for implementation of this program as part of the fiscal year 2023 spend plan.

Financial Assistance Program.—The Committee provides $4,000,000 for a pilot program to provide grants to victim service providers, to include Tribal governments and organizations, to provide financial assistance to victims of sexual assault and intimate partner domestic violence. Funding is designed to provide survivors with financial assistance for necessities that are not easily met by traditional service providers and with flexibility to meet self-identified needs quickly. OVW is directed to provide further details on how it plans to administer the program as part of the fiscal year 2023 spend plan.

Survivors' Bill of Rights in the States.—The Committee provides $5,000,000 for a grant program to incentivize States to develop and enact laws that guarantee certain rights to survivors of sexual assault, as defined in 18 U.S.C. 3772, including the right to receive medical forensic examinations, the preservation of evidence collection kit, and access to information resulting from such kits, prior notification of any destruction or disposal of evidence collection kits, and the right to request further preservation of any such kit. The Committee directs the Department to consult with STOP grant stakeholders to solicit their feedback on increasing formula grants authorized under 34 U.S.C. 10441 et. seq. as part of this incentivization program for States that have a law in place regarding rights to survivors of sexual assault. The Department is directed to submit its plan for administering this program, including the grant solicitation process, as part of the fiscal year 2023 spend plan. Within 1 year of the date of enactment of this act, DOJ shall provide a report to the Committee on any logistical challenges to administering this program, the number of States that have applied for grants, the number of awards made and the respective award amounts, and the level of unmet demand for this program.

Statutory Set-Asides.—The underlying statutes for several grant programs, including STOP and Sexual Assault Services Program [SASP], outline set-asides for Tribal governments and coalitions, culturally specific community-based organizations, and organizations providing services to underserved populations. These set-asides would provide a total of $93,467,110 for fiscal year 2023, with $67,382,110 for Tribal governments and coalitions, $20,175,000 for culturally specific organizations, and $5,910,000 to meet the needs of underserved populations. The Committee expects OVW to ensure that the full amounts provided for in the authorizing statutes are released to these groups expeditiously.

Victim Services on Campus.—The Committee recommends $2,000,000 for a demonstration program to expand access to holistic assault services on college campuses with the intent to establish a best practices guide for other institutions to implement. The Department should partner with an accredited post-secondary institution in the greater Gulf Coast region that has expertise in this area, including both an established campus-based sexual assault nurse examiner program and an established campus-based multidisciplinary sexual assault response team, affiliation agreements with both an acute care hospital-based sexual assault program as well as a community-based sexual assault victim service provider, and an existing infrastructure to provide evidence and simulation-based training and education to multidisciplinary team members.

OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS

The OJP is responsible for providing leadership, coordination, and assistance to its Federal, State, local, and Tribal partners to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of the U.S. justice system in preventing, controlling, and responding to crime. As most of the responsibility for crime control and prevention falls to law enforcement officers in States, cities, and other localities, the Federal Government is effective in these areas only to the extent that it can enter into successful partnerships with these jurisdictions. There-

fore, OJP is tasked with administering grants; collecting statistical data and conducting analyses; identifying emerging criminal justice issues; developing and testing promising and innovative approaches to address these issues; evaluating program results; and disseminating these findings and other information to State, local, and Tribal governments. The Committee directs OJP to submit an annual report on grant programs that have not received a sufficient number of qualified applicants.

RESEARCH, EVALUATION AND STATISTICS

Appropriations, 2022	$70,000,000
Budget estimate, 2023	88,000,000
Committee recommendation	88,000,000

The Committee's recommendation provides $88,000,000 for the Research, Evaluation and Statistics account. The recommendation is $18,000,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level and equal to the budget request.

Funding in this account provides assistance in the areas of research, evaluation, statistics, hate crimes, DNA and forensics, criminal background checks, and gun safety technology, among others.

The Committee's recommendations are displayed in the following table:

RESEARCH, EVALUATION AND STATISTICS

[In thousands of dollars]

Program	Committee Recommendation
Bureau of Justice Statistics	45,000
National Institute of Justice	43,000
Study on School-Based Hate Crimes	*1,200*
Study on Law Enforcement Responses to Opioid Overdoses	*1,000*
TOTAL, Research Evaluation and Statistics	88,000

Spending Plans.—The Department shall submit to the Committee, as part of its spending plan for State and Local Law Enforcement Activities, a plan for the use of all funding administered by the National Institute of Justice [NIJ] and the Bureau of Justice Statistics [BJS], respectively, for approval by the Committee prior to the obligation of any such funds.

Assessment of NIJ and BJS.—Directives under the Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–435) (Evidence Act) and other Congressionally-requested initiatives have given NIJ and BJS additional responsibilities and obligations. The Committee directs OJP to conduct a full assessment of the impact of these dynamics on NIJ and BJS's ability to keep pace with cutting-edge scientific practices and emerging policy needs. OJP is further directed to develop a forward-looking vision for strengthening these agencies' ability to respond nimbly to and anticipate future needs and scientific developments over the next decade and identify the resources needed to achieve this vision. These activities should, where possible, be integrated into OJP's implementation of the Evidence Act. OJP shall provide an update to the Committee on its progress within 180 days from the enactment of this act.

BJS.—The Committee's recommendation provides $45,000,000 for the BJS. The recommendation is $5,000,000 above the fiscal year 2022 level and equal to the budget request.

Data on Police Suicide.—The Committee directed BJS to start the process of maintaining a data set on police suicide for Federal, State, and local law enforcement in fiscal year 2020 and provided $3,000,000 for this data collection effort in fiscal year 2021. The Committee has not received the status update on this data collection, which was required within 120 days of enactment of Public Law 117–103. BJS is directed to immediately submit that status update and to provide details on the pending final data set within 90 days of enactment of this act.

National Crime Victimization Survey [NCVS].—BJS is directed, as part of the NCVS, to collect data on offenders under the influence at the time of the offense.

NIJ.—The Committee's recommendation provides $43,000,000 for the NIJ, in addition to $2,500,000 transferred from the OVW for research and evaluation on violence against women and Indian women. The Committee supports the budget request for NIJ to research domestic violence radicalization, school violence research and research on violence against Native Americans, Alaska Natives and other Indigenous communities. The Committee encourages NIJ to undertake additional research regarding domestic violence homicide prevention.

Correctional Education Evaluation.—The Committee directs NIJ to establish a public-private partnership with research and correctional institutions to collect and evaluate data, and continue to advance the research on the impact of correctional education on recidivism. The NIJ was directed to submit a report on the status of this project within 60 days of enactment of Public Law 117–103 and has failed to so. The Committee directs the immediate submission of this report.

First Step Act Research and Studies.—Rather than transferring critical funding from BOP to NIJ as requested by the Department, the Committee allows up to $16,000,000 to be available to evaluate, research, and study First Step Act programs and activities.

Study on School-Based Hate Crimes.—The Committee provides $1,200,000 for NIJ to administer a competitive grant to an accredited research university for a study covering the purposes of the solicitation for opportunity number O–NIJ–2022–171191 in the K–12 education system to understand the scope, characteristics, and outcomes of these incidents.

Study on Law Enforcement Responses to Opioid Overdoses.—The Committee provides $1,000,000 for NIJ to administer a competitive grant to an accredited research university for a study regarding law enforcement's responses to opioid overdoses. The study shall take into account law enforcement's responses with linked community agencies and also include specific practices utilized to ensure the well-being, assessment, and protection of children in these situations.

STATE AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

Appropriations, 2022	$2,213,000,000
Budget estimate, 2023	2,517,500,000
Committee recommendation	2,394,500,000

The Committee's recommendation provids $2,394,500,000 for State and local law enforcement assistance. The recommendation is $181,500,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level and $123,000,000 below the budget request.

The Committee's recommendations are displayed in the following table:

STATE AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE

[In thousands of dollars]

Program	Committee Recommendation
Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grants	815,000
Officer Robert Wilson III VALOR Initiative	*13,000*
NamUs	*5,000*
Officer Training for Responding to People with Mental Illness and Disabilities	*10,000*
John R. Justice Grant Program	*5,000*
Prison Rape Prevention and Prosecution	*15,500*
Kevin and Avonte's Law	*3,000*
Project Safe Neighborhoods	*20,000*
Capital Litigation and Wrongful Conviction Review	*15,000*
National Center on Restorative Justice	*3,000*
Ashanti Alert Network	*1,000*
Family-Based Alternative Sentencing Pilot Programs	*3,500*
Child Advocacy Training	*2,000*
Rural Violent Crime Initiative	*8,000*
Missing Persons and Unidentified Remains Act	*7,500*
Drug Data Research Center to Combat Opioid Abuse	*4,000*
Forensic Ballistics Programs in Higher Education	*3,000*
Multidisciplinary Partnership Improvements for Protective Orders	*5,000*
Virtual Training for Law Enforcement	*5,000*
Byrne Discretionary Projects	*102,430*
State Criminal Alien Assistance Program	100,000
Victims of Trafficking Grants	100,000
Economic, High-Tech, White Collar, and Cybercrime Prevention	13,000
Intellectual Property Enforcement Program	*2,500*
Internet of Things Training Modules	*2,000*
Adam Walsh Act Implementation	20,000
Patrick Leahy Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program	30,000
Transfer to NIST/OLES	*1,500*
National Sex Offender Public Website	1,000
National Instant Criminal Background Check System [NICS] Initiative	125,000
NICS Act Record Improvement Program	*25,000*
Paul Coverdell Forensic Science	35,000
DNA Initiative	173,000
Debbie Smith DNA Backlog Grants	*132,000*
State and Local Forensic Activities	*20,000*
Kirk Bloodsworth Post-Conviction DNA Testing Grants	*15,000*
Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Training Program Grants	*6,000*
Sexual Assault Kit Initiative [SAKI]	75,000
CASA–Special Advocates	15,000
Tribal Assistance	65,000
Second Chance Act/Offender Reentry	125,000
Smart Probation	*8,000*
Children of Incarcerated Parents Demo Grants	*5,000*
Project HOPE Opportunity Probation with Enforcement	*5,000*
Pay for Success	*7,500*
Crisis Stabilization and Community Reentry Act	*10,000*

STATE AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE—Continued

[In thousands of dollars]

Program	Committee Recommendation
Substance Use Disorder Initiative	455,000
Drug Courts	*95,000*
Mentally Ill Offender Act	*45,000*
Residential Substance Abuse Treatment	*45,000*
Veterans Treatment Courts	*35,000*
Prescription Drug Monitoring	*35,000*
Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Use Disorder Program	*200,000*
Keep Young Athletes Safe Act	2,500
STOP School Violence Act	82,000
Emmett Till Grants	3,000
Hate Crime Prevention Act	15,000
Jabara-Heyer NO HATE Act	10,000
Community-Based Approaches to Advancing Justice	10,000
Body Worn Camera Partnership Program	35,000
Justice Reinvestment Initiative	40,000
Community Violence Intervention and Prevention	50,000
TOTAL, State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance	2,394,500

Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program.—The Committee recommends $815,000,000 for Byrne-JAG. Funding is not available for luxury items, real estate, or construction projects. The Department should expect State, local, and Tribal governments to target funding to programs and activities that conform to evidence-based strategic plans developed through broad stakeholder involvement. The Committee directs the Department to make technical assistance available to State, local, and Tribal governments for the development or update of such plans. Funding is authorized for law enforcement programs including those that promote data interoperability among 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.

Byrne-JAG and the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act.—In addition to the funding provided in this act, the Committee notes that an additional $150,000,000 will be released to State, local, and Tribal governments this fiscal year under the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act [BCSA]. Government agencies and law enforcement can use BCSA funding for the following purposes, including, but not limited to: extreme risk protection order programs, drug courts, mental health courts, and veterans courts.

Preventing Violence Against Law Enforcement Officer Resilience and Survivability [VALOR] Initiative.—The Committee's recommendation provides $13,000,000 within Byrne-JAG for the VALOR Initiative. The Committee expects Federal law enforcement agencies to continue to expand on efforts to provide local police with information as to whether a suspect has a violent history, to the extent that transfer of such information is allowable and available via Federal law enforcement databases, in an effort to prevent officer deaths. The Committee notes that an additional $11,000,000 is provided under the COPS heading for Protecting Our Lives by Initiating COPS Expansion Act (Public Law 114–199) programs,

which help to provide active shooter training programs for State and local law enforcement officers.

Officer Training on Responding to People with Mental Illness or Disabilities.—The Committee understands that law enforcement officers are often the first responders to calls regarding individuals with mental illnesses and often encounter mentally ill individuals and those with disabilities while completing their routine patrol duties. The Committee recognizes the need for support and training so that law enforcement officers and other first responders are better equipped to handle such encounters and help provide appropriate assistance as well as reduce the number of individuals entering the legal system.

The Committee recommends $10,000,000 for a competitive grant program to provide awards to State and local law enforcement and correctional facilities to educate, train, and prepare officers so that they are equipped to appropriately interact with mentally ill or disabled individuals in the course of completing their job responsibilities. This training should be developed in conjunction with healthcare professionals to provide crisis intervention training, which shall focus on understanding mental and behavioral health, developing empathy, navigating community resources, de-escalation skills, and practical application training for all first responders. The Committee expects OJP to track the results of this grant program to better establish best practices for law enforcement agencies.

Funding totaling $5,000,944 has previously been provided for an academic-based model on this training for officers. The Committee understands that the Department has completed pilot trainings for the curriculum and that OJP expects the curriculum to be publicly available in the fall of 2022. The Committee directs that this curriculum, best practices, and any other key information be released by December 31, 2022.

Prison Rape Elimination Act [PREA] Audit Quality Initiative.—Facility audits are a key component in helping agencies move their sexual abuse prevention and response policies from written documents to everyday practices. Congress enhanced the audit process in 2018 to ensure greater oversight of the audit process and improved audits, but many of these changes have not been fully implemented by the PREA Management Office. The Committee supports the Department providing the necessary resources to carry out this work.

Kevin and Avonte's Law.—The Committee provides funding of $3,000,000 for competitive grants awarded to non-profit and State and local entities to prevent wandering and locate missing individuals with forms of dementia, such as Alzheimer's Disease, or developmental disabilities, such as autism, as described in the underlying authorization enacted as division Q of Public Law 115–141.

Project Safe Neighborhoods [PSN].—The Committee's recommendation includes $20,000,000 for PSN. The Committee encourages OJP to use PSN funds to support evidence-based and data-driven focused intervention, deterrence, and prevention initiatives that aim to reduce violence. These initiatives should be trauma-informed, recognizing that people who are at risk of committing

violence often themselves have been victims of violent trauma or have witnessed traumatic experiences in the past.

Group Violence Intervention [GVI].—The Committee recognizes that GVI is a strategy the Department should consider in its efforts to reduce violent crime. The Committee encourages the Department, in conjunction with the PSN program, to fund GVI initiatives in cities where GVI programs have proven to reduce gun violence.

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. Individuals exonerated in 2020 spent an average of about 13 years incarcerated for their wrongful convictions, and 45 percent of 2020 exonerations—58 of the total 129 exonerations—were a result of the work of innocence organizations.

Given the urgent need to identify and remediate wrongful convictions, the Committee directs that at least 50 percent of the $15,000,000 appropriated 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 post-conviction 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 in-house post-conviction representation programs that show demonstrable 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.

National Center on Restorative Justice.—Of the $3,000,000 provided for this program, no less than $2,500,000 shall be used to continue a partnership with an accredited university of higher education and/or law school for the purposes of supporting a National Center on Restorative Justice to educate and train the next generation of justice leaders. The Center shall also continue to support research focusing on how best to provide direct services to address social inequities, such as simultaneous access to substance abuse treatment and higher education. Further, the Center will expand educational opportunities for those under sentence and in a court-supervised substance abuse program, and, through research and evaluation, the Center will disseminate reports on the impact of attitudes, recidivism, and costs of the educational initiatives. Up to $500,000 may be used to support microgrants to innovative restorative justice projects in communities across the country.

Child Advocacy Training.—The Report of the Attorney General's National Task Force on Children Exposed to Violence acknowledged the need to include curricula in post-secondary educational programs to ensure that every child- and family-serving professional receives training in multiple evidence-based methods for identifying and screening children for exposure to violence. The Committee provides $2,000,000 for a competitive grant program to support child advocacy training in undergraduate, graduate, and continuing education. The grants should support the training of fu-

ture mandated reporters and child protection professionals and support efforts across the country to train child protection professionals in the field, including law enforcement officers, social workers, mental and medical health professionals, and prosecutors.

Drug Data Research Center to Combat Opioid Abuse.—The Committee provides $4,000,000 for the establishment of a national drug data research center to combat opioid abuse that is at an accredited institution of higher education that conducts research on opioids, has existing expertise in databases, statistics, and geographic information systems, and has an established network of subject and behavioral matter experts.

Forensic Ballistics and Higher Education.—Subject to approval from ATF, educational institutions can join NIBIN in collaboration with local law enforcement agencies. Through the use of ballistics identification equipment, these NIBIN initiatives can provide students with hands-on training in the processing of firearms evidence used to generate actionable crime gun intelligence. The Committee provides $3,000,000 for a competitive grant program for universities and technical colleges, to acquire ballistics identification equipment and support forensic ballistics programs.

Rural Violent Crime Initiative.—State, local, and Tribal law enforcement agencies in rural areas face unique challenges, including limited financial and technological resources, and the need to cover large, remote areas with smaller staff. Violent crime, including drug- and human-trafficking, continues to grow in these locations. The Committee provides $8,000,000 for a Rural Violent Crime Reduction Initiative for Law Enforcement Agencies, with grants to be awarded on a competitive basis to small law enforcement agencies in rural locations. Grants are to support improved training and technology, expanded community-based crime prevention programs, and partnerships with victim service providers. This initiative is intended to improve communication and collaboration among State, local, and Tribal law enforcement agencies with the communities they serve, to address the unique criminal justice challenges in rural areas.

Uses of Byrne-JAG Funds.—The Committee continues to recognize that novel equipment and technologies can improve public safety and public trust in criminal justice institutions. OJP is urged to promote awareness, through statements on the OJP website, in "FAQs" and seminars, and in solicitation documents, that Byrne-JAG funds may be used for managed access systems and other cell phone mitigation technologies; fentanyl and methamphetamine detection equipment, including handheld instruments; opioid overdose reversal agents; virtual reality de-escalation training; humane remote restraint devices that enable law enforcement to restrain an uncooperative subject without requiring the infliction of pain; drug detection canines; and hiring and training of cybercrime analysts and investigators.

Virtual Training.—The Committee provides $5,000,000 to OJP to partner with no fewer than two universities in a joint effort to develop a training regime with artificial intelligence and virtual reality.

Grants to Combat Human Trafficking.—The Committee's recommendation provides $100,000,000 for services and task force ac-

tivities for U.S. citizens, permanent residents, and foreign nationals who are victims of trafficking, as authorized by Public Law 106–386 and amended by Public Law 113–4, of which no less than $22,000,000 is for the Enhanced Collaborative Model to Combat Human Trafficking Task Force Program. The Committee urges that human trafficking task forces funded under this grant program take affirmative measures to emphasize the investigation and prosecution of persons who patronize or solicit children for sex as a human trafficking demand reduction strategy. OJP shall consult with stakeholder groups in determining the overall allocation of Victims of Trafficking funding and shall provide a plan to the Committee for the use of these funds as part of the Department's fiscal year 2023 spending plan.

The Committee notes that funding provided in this program may be used for victims of sex and labor trafficking who are minors, as authorized under VAWA 2013. Child trafficking victims require specialized care, and these resources can be used for items like residential care, emergency social services, mental health counseling, and legal services. This funding level also includes $10,000,000 for the Minor Victims of Trafficking Grant program, of which $5,000,000 is for victim services grants for sex-trafficked minors, as authorized by Public Law 113–4, with the remaining $5,000,000 for victim services grants for labor-trafficked minors. The Committee encourages OJP to give an affirmative preference to applicants for grants that treat minors engaged in commercial sex acts as victims of a severe form of trafficking in persons, and discourages the charging of such individuals for prostitution or a sex trafficking offense. The Committee encourages DOJ to work in close coordination with the Department of Health and Human Services to encourage collaboration and reduce duplication of effort.

Economic, High-Tech, White Collar, and Cybercrime Prevention.—The Committee provides $13,000,000 to address economic, high-technology, white collar, and Internet crime prevention grants, of which not less than $2,500,000 is for competitive grants that help State and local law enforcement tackle intellectual property thefts.

Internet of Things Capabilities Database.—The growing use of Internet of Things devices requires understanding of existing capabilities of such devices for training on options and best practices for handling of evidence to meet judicial standards and privacy concerns. To meet this need, $2,000,000 shall be dedicated for a separate competitive grant program in order to provide four awards of not less than $500,000 each for institutions of higher learning that provide training in computer forensics and digital investigation to develop a database on Internet of Things device capabilities and to build and execute training modules for law enforcement.

Patrick Leahy Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program.—Within the $30,000,000 provided for bulletproof vests, $1,500,000 is to be transferred directly to the NIST Office of Law Enforcement Standards to continue supporting ballistic- and stab-resistant material compliance testing programs. The Committee expects OJP to continue strengthening internal controls to manage the Patrick Leahy Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program. Improving grantee accountability in the timely use of Federal funds to pur-

chase body armor will help every police officer who needs a vest to get one, thus saving officers' lives.

National Instant Criminal Background Check System Initiative Grants.—A total of $165,000,000 is provided for this program, of which $40,000,000 is derived from the BSCA and $125,000,000 is derived from funding in this act. Funding provided in this act will be used to continue to improve the submission of State criminal and mental health records to NICS. This investment will strengthen the national background check system by assisting States in finding ways to make more records available in the NICS system, especially mental health records, thereby addressing gaps in Federal and State records currently available in NICS. Those gaps significantly hinder the ability of NICS to quickly confirm whether a prospective purchaser is prohibited from acquiring a firearm. The Committee expects OJP to track whether grant recipients are submitting data in a timely manner into the NICS system.

The Fix NICS Act allows the Attorney General to waive the National Criminal History Improvement Program match for states that are in compliance with the implementation plan required under Section 107 of the NICS Improvement Amendments Act of 2007 (Public Law 110–180). The Department is directed to remind States of the possibility of this waiver in guidance or technical assistance regarding this grant program.

The Committee is aware that many State laws and policies provide for the expungement or sealing of certain criminal records, making it possible for people with past convictions to access employment and housing, or exercise their social and civic rights. However, many States do not have the resources for appropriate technology to effectively implement such policies. The Committee urges the Department to ensure that grants made under the National Criminal History Improvement Program [NCHIP] can be made available for supporting States in the planning and the implementation of records systems that allow for the efficient expungement or sealing of qualifying criminal history records without requiring those eligible to apply.

Paul Coverdell Forensic Science.—The recommendation provides a total of $35,000,000, of which $17,000,000 is to specifically target the challenges the opioid and synthetic drug epidemic has brought to the forensics community as described in Senate Report 116–127 and adopted by Public Law 116–93.

DNA Backlog and Crime Lab Improvements.—The Committee continues its strong support for DNA backlog and crime lab improvements by recommending $173,000,000 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 the funds provided, $132,000,000 is for Debbie Smith DNA Backlog Reduction grants, $15,000,000 is for Kirk Bloodsworth Post-Conviction DNA Testing grants, $6,000,000 is for Sexual Assault Forensic Exam Program grants, and $20,000,000 is for other State and local forensic activities.

The Committee expects that the 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 its 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.

DNA-related and Forensics Programs.—The Committee continues to direct the Department to allocate funds for DNA-related and forensics programs in compliance with all relevant requirements, including the Justice for All Reauthorization Act of 2016 (Public Law 114–235), the Justice Served Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–257), and appropriations directives.

Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner [SANE] Training Program Grants.—The Committee encourages the Department to prioritize rural, Tribal, underserved communities, and urban areas without full-time coverage for this program. Within the amount provided for SANE Training Program Grants, $2,000,000 shall be to establish regional SANE training programs. Regional SANE training programs are identified as establishing a level of excellence in forensic nursing and are qualified to prepare current and future sexual assault nurse examiners/forensic nurse examiners to be profession-ready and meet the applicable State certification and licensure requirements. These programs shall provide training and supervision to nurses with the purpose of increasing sexual assault forensic nurse capacity in rural areas, and in support of population-specific programs and hospitals including, but not limited to, underserved or historically underfunded communities. Entities receiving these funds shall promote best practices in forensic nursing throughout a region, while continuing to research and develop the highest standards of care.

Sexual Assault Kit Initiative.—The Committee's recommendation includes $60,000,000 to continue a competitive grant program started in fiscal year 2015 as part of the initiative to reduce the backlog of rape kits at law enforcement agencies. OJP shall provide competitively awarded grants with a comprehensive community-based approach to addressing the resolution of cases in the backlog.

The Committee believes it is important for the Department to maximize the results of investments in sexual assault kit [SAK] 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; and further directs BJA to issue a report within 1 year of the enactment of this act on the number of partially tested kits.

Second Chance Act [SCA] Grants.—The recommendation provides $125,000,000 for SCA grants. The Committee expects that

SCA funding will support grants that foster the implementation of strategies that have been proven to reduce recidivism and ensure adults released from prisons and jails safely and successfully reenter their communities. The SCA supports activities such as employment assistance, substance abuse treatment including MAT options, housing, local transportation, mentoring, family programming, and victim support. SCA grants will also support demonstration projects designed to test the impact of new strategies and frameworks. Of the amounts provided in this section, up to $10,000,000 is provided for the purposes of the Crisis Stabilization and Community Reentry Act of 2020 (Public Law 116–281), which also addresses the mental health and substance use disorder needs of individuals who are recently released from correctional facilities.

When awarding SCA grants, the Committee directs OJP to consider the impact of reentry of prisoners on communities in which a disproportionate number of individuals reside upon release from incarceration. OJP shall assess the reentry burdens borne by local communities and local law enforcement agencies; review the resources available in such communities to support successful reentry and the extent to which those resources are used effectively; and make recommendations to strengthen the resources in such communities which are available to support successful reentry and to lessen the burden placed on such communities by the need to support reentry.

Project HOPE Institute.—The Committee recognizes the success of Project HOPE. The Committee provides $5,000,000 for Project HOPE, of which not less than $500,000 shall be directed to continue the Project HOPE Institute to provide training, technical assistance, and best practices for jurisdictions replicating the HOPE model. The Committee directs BJA to award grants to support both existing Project HOPE models and new jurisdictions.

Crisis Stabilization and Community Reentry Act.—The Committee directs BJA to ensure that the program includes grants for peer support specialists and peer-led mental health education classes or support groups for justice-involved individuals and families commensurate with community needs.

Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act [CARA] Programs.—The Committee provides a total of $455,000,000 for CARA programs, including $95,000,000 for drug courts; $35,000,000 for veterans treatment courts; $45,000,000 for Residential Substance Abuse Treatment, including access to any of the three MAT options; $35,000,000 for prescription drug monitoring; $45,000,000 for the Mentally Ill Offender Act; and $200,000,000 for the Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Use Disorder Program [COSSUP].

The Committee directs that funding for COSSUP programs be focused on prevention and education efforts, effective responses to those affected by substance abuse, and services for treatment and recovery from addiction. Of the $200,000,000 for COSSUP, no less than $11,000,000 shall be made available for additional replication sites employing the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion [LEAD] model, with applicants demonstrating a plan for sustainability of LEAD-model diversion programs; no less than $5,500,000 shall be made available for education and prevention programs to connect

law enforcement agencies with K–12 students; and no less than $11,000,000 shall be made available for embedding social services with law enforcement in order to rapidly respond to drug overdoses where children are impacted.

The Committee supports specialized residential substance abuse treatment programs for inmates with co-occurring mental health and substance abuse disorders or challenges. Given the strong nexus between substance abuse and mental illness in our prisons and jails, the Committee encourages the Attorney General to ensure that funds provided for residential substance abuse treatment for State prisoners are being used to treat underlying mental health disorders, in addition to substance abuse disorders.

The Committee recognizes the importance of drug courts and the vital role that they serve in reducing crime among people with a substance use or mental health disorder. In recent years, drug courts have been on the front lines of the opioid epidemic and have become important resources for law enforcement and other community stakeholders affected by opioid addiction. The Committee applauds efforts already undertaken in communities across the country to utilize drug courts. The Committee encourages Federal agencies to continue to work with State and local governments and communities to support drug courts.

The Committee supports the ability of drug courts to address offenders with co-occurring substance abuse and mental health problems, and supports court ordered assisted outpatient treatment programs for individuals struggling with mental illness. Within the funding provided for drug courts, the Committee encourages OJP to give attention to States and localities that have the highest concentrations of opioid-related cases, and to prioritize assistance to underserved areas whose criminal defendants currently have relatively little opportunity to access drug courts. The Committee encourages OJP to coordinate, as appropriate, with other Federal agencies such as the Department of Health and Human Services, as it implements these activities in order to avoid duplication.

The Committee supports the work of mental health courts across the country. The Committee is concerned, however, by the high rates of re-incarceration among individuals with serious mental illness due to the inadequate access to care for or management of their illness and directs that the Department include appropriate long-acting medications, including injectable anti-psychotic medication, as an allowable expense to improve treatment adherence and reduce risk for relapse and re-incarceration.

Veterans Treatment Courts.—The Committee continues to strongly support veterans treatment courts [VTCs], and looks forward to the evaluation to be completed under the NIJ solicitation "NIJ Multisite Impact and Cost-Efficiency Evaluation of Veterans Treatment Courts, Fiscal Year 2022." OJP is directed to keep the Committee apprised of the status of the evaluation.

The Committee commends BJA for administering the VTC program through a dedicated solicitation in fiscal year 2022, and urges BJA to undertake efforts to promote awareness of this funding opportunity within State court systems. OJP is directed to report, within 180 days of the enactment of this act, on these efforts.

Keep Young Athletes Safe Act.—The Committee again provides funding of $2,500,000 for a competitive grant program to safeguard young athletes against abuse in sports, including emotional, physical, and sexual abuse. The Committee directs that funding be prioritized for curriculum development and training for abuse prevention education in youth athletic programs and for investigation and resolution of sexual abuse claims. The Committee further directs that the Department ensure that survivors' lived experiences are incorporated as part of new curriculum, training materials, and technical assistance, including a better understanding of how and when to report. Any recommendations regarding youth athletes stemming from the work and reporting by the Commission on the State of U.S. Olympics and Paralympics shall be incorporated into this program. The Committee reiterates the directive in Senate Report 116–127 and adopted by Public Law 116–93 for OJP to submit a report describing how grant funding was used by the grantees by purpose area for the prior fiscal year, the number of trainings provided, the number of claims investigated, and the number of investigations referred to law enforcement for prosecution.

Body-Worn Camera Partnership Program.—Since fiscal year 2015, the Committee has provided a total of $202,500,000 for the Body-Worn Camera Partnership Program, as well as direction regarding program requirements and operation. The Committee's recommendation includes $35,000,000 for this competitive matching grant program that equips State, local, and Tribal law enforcement officers with body-worn cameras. The Committee recommends that jurisdictions continue to follow prior direction to (1) develop camera policies and procedures with community input; (2) commit to a set of narrow and well-defined purposes for which cameras and their footage may be used; (3) specify clear operational policies for recording, retention, and access; (4) require training for both the proper use of body-worn cameras and for the handling and use of the obtained video and audio recordings; (5) ensure that prior to use of body-worn cameras, privacy and data retention policies are already in place; and (6) as appropriate, make footage available to promote accountability, with necessary privacy safeguards.

Funding provided by the Committee also allowed for the creation of the Body-Worn Camera Toolkit, which serves as a comprehensive clearinghouse for jurisdictions interested in planning and implementing a body-worn camera program. The Committee requests that OJP update this Toolkit on an annual basis with any new information, data, and best practices and keep it publicly available on its website.

Justice Reinvestment Initiative [JRI].—The Committee provides $40,000,000 for the JRI, which provides assistance to States to identify local issues arising in criminal justice systems and to develop data-driven and research-backed responses. Jurisdictions may use the JRI to reduce recidivism; control the size of corrections populations, either incarcerated or on community supervision; reduce crime; and create budgetary solutions to better balance correctional costs within a State's budget. Justice reinvestment is used 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. Funding may be

used to provide technical assistance to States with existing justice reinvestment programs to further such programs; provide technical assistance to additional States to expand the justice reinvestment initiative to those jurisdictions; or provide funding to States with existing justice reinvestment initiatives to expand or enhance the State's self-identified justice reinvestment initiative goals. Justice reinvestment funds shall not be restricted by Federal agencies for use on specific programs or policy initiatives, and States shall be permitted to establish their own priorities within the justice reinvestment framework.

Addressing Hate Crimes.—The Committee provides a total of $35,000,000 to address hate crimes in our communities, an increase of $12,000,000 above the enacted level. Of this amount, $15,000,000 is for Hate Crime Prevention Act grants authorized under the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act (section 4704 of Public Law 111–84). The Committee continues to urge the Department and grant recipients to prioritize efforts to identify, investigate, report on, and prevent hate crimes that occur online or are related to bias-motivated harassment and criminal activity occurring online. The Committee also provides $10,000,000 for grants authorized under the Jabara-Heyer NO HATE Crime Act, and $10,000,000 for grants provided under the Community-Based Approaches to Advancing Justice program.

Community Based Violence Intervention and Prevention Initiative [CVIPI].—A total of $100,000,000 is provided for CVIPI in fiscal year 2023. This includes $50,000,000 from the BSCA and $50,000,000 in this act. This grant program supports communities in developing comprehensive, evidence-based violence intervention and prevention programs, including efforts to address gang and gun violence, based on partnerships between community residents, law enforcement, local government agencies, and other community stakeholders. Awards should be prioritized for communities with the highest number of homicides and the highest number of homicides per capita. The Committee directs OJP to prioritize that these grants be made to community-based violence intervention programs to the fullest extent possible and also track and publish information on this funding, including the number of awards made and a description of the use of funding for each project and the number of grant applications received.

Byrne Discretionary Grants.—The Committee provides $102,430,000 for Byrne discretionary grants to prevent crime, improve the criminal justice system, provide victim services, and other related activities. The following table details funding for congressionally-designated projects, which the bill incorporates by reference:

Recipient	Project Purpose	Recommended ($)
67th Precinct Clergy Council, Inc.	Violence Intervention Program	1,000,000
Alaska Network on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault.	Support for Victim Services Organizations	3,000,000
Alaska Police and Fire Chaplains	Counseling and Emotional Support Programs for Law Enforcement Officers and Victims of Crime.	1,000,000
All Faiths Children's Advocacy Center.	Children's Safehouse Forensic Interview Program	250,000
Anne Arundel County	Fresh START	400,000
Baton Rouge Police Department	Aerial Camera Technology Replacement	500,000

Recipient	Project Purpose	Recommended ($)
Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court.	Bernalillo County Metropolitan Courts' Probation Assistance Program.	240,000
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Metropolitan Chicago.	Youth Mentoring Program	500,000
Boston Medical Center [BMC] Corporation.	Violence Intervention Advocacy Program [VIAP]	370,000
Camden Center for Youth Development, Inc.	Community Coaches	324,000
Charles County Sheriff's Office	Mental Health, Wellness, and Resiliency Program	90,000
Charter Township of Clinton	Police Social Worker	675,000
City and County of Denver	Community-Based Violence Intervention Program	799,000
City and County of Denver	Denver District Attorney's Office Human Trafficking Unit Project	178,000
City and County of Denver	Denver Sheriff Department Housing Navigation Program	750,000
City and County of Denver	Medication-Assisted Treatment Expansion	1,650,000
City and County of Denver	Night Moves Youth Violence Prevention	350,000
City and County of Denver	Substance Use Navigator Program	187,000
City of Albuquerque	Albuquerque Violence Intervention Program and Community Safety Department.	2,050,000
City of Baltimore	Coordinated Systemic Responses to Violence in Baltimore	500,000
City of Charleston	Charleston West Side Mentorship Program	200,000
City of Chicago	Assistance to Chicagoans Who Become Disabled As a Result of Gun and Community Violence.	350,000
City of Detroit	Body Worn Camera Update	1,000,000
City of Elkins	Law Enforcement Technology Upgrades	950,000
City of Erie	Erie Regional Bomb Squad Vehicle	325,000
City of Jersey City	HealthierJC Peaceful Families	500,000
City of Las Cruces	Project LIGHT	485,000
City of Mannington	Law Enforcement Technology Upgrades	66,000
City of Minneapolis	Problem Nature Code Study and Development of Alternatives to Police Response Pilots.	2,500,000
City of New Bedford	Equitable Approaches to Public Safety in the City of New Bedford	562,000
City of North Las Vegas	North Las Vegas—Municipal Court Case Management System Upgrade.	300,000
City of Portsmouth	Public Safety Communications Upgrades	3,000,000
City of Pueblo	Pueblo Crime and Accident Scene Scanner	86,000
City of Scottsdale	Public Safety Communications Equipment	89,000
City of Stockbridge	Stockbridge Police—Mental Health and Wellness Training Program	165,000
City of Syracuse	Syracuse Police Cadet Program	500,000
City of Thornton	Crime and Accident Scene Scanner	102,000
City of Thornton	Rapid DNA Instrument	171,000
City of Trenton	Trenton RISE Center Project	1,000,000
City of Tucson	Tucson Police Department [TPD] and Tucson Public Safety Communications Department [PSCD] Portable Radios Update.	1,845,000
City of Westland	City of Westland Strengthening Families Program	30,000
Clark County	Clark County—Public Defender Counseling Program	175,000
Cleveland Rape Crisis Center	Enhanced Services for Survivors of Rape and Human Trafficking	750,000
Cochise County Sheriff's Office	Cochise County Jail	2,200,000
Colorado Access to Justice Commission.	Access to Justice Initiatives for Rural Colorado	627,000
Community Capacity Development	Project Human Justice & Healing	2,000,000
Congregations Organized for a New Connecticut.	Fostering Greater Gun Safety in New Haven Area	67,000
Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault.	Support for Child Advocacy Organizations and Services for Victims of Crime.	4,000,000
County of Bernalillo	Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion	416,000
Cranston Police Department	Crisis Intervention Team Mental Health Response	500,000
Criminal Justice Coordinating Council.	Support for Georgia Domestic Violence Services	3,093,000
Crisis Line & Safe House of Central Georgia.	One Safe Place Macon Family Justice Center	1,200,000
Delaware Division of Forensic Science.	Division of Forensic Science Equipment	670,000
Enough is Enough	Online Exploitation Prevention	960,000
Faith in New York	Restorative Justice Project (Harlem Pilot)	300,000
Forsyth County Sheriff's Office	Mental Health Response Teams in Forsyth County	157,000

Recipient	Project Purpose	Recommended ($)
Franklin Regional Council of Governments.	Reduce Reliance on Part-Time Police Officers	165,000
Getting Out and Staying Out, Inc. [GOSO].	Family Therapy for Survivors of Violence and Families of At-Risk Youth in East Harlem.	200,000
Graham County	Graham County Sheriff's Office Public Safety Vehicles	140,000
Granite State Children's Alliance	Interview Recording Equipment and Mental/Behavioral Health Supplies for Child Advocacy Centers in NH.	223,000
Greater St. Louis, Inc., Foundation	Strengthening Downtown St. Louis Public Safety System	1,250,000
Hancock County Commission	Courthouse Security Project	250,000
Hancock County Commission	Law Enforcement Equipment and Technology Upgrades	565,000
Hawai'i Department of Public Safety.	Continuing and Higher Education Support Services for Hawai'i Department of Public Safety.	900,000
Hawai'i Department of the Attorney General.	Sexual Assault Nurses and Forensic Examiners	200,000
Haymarket Center	Recidivism Reduction Initiative	775,000
Heartland Alliance for Human Need & Human Rights.	READI Chicago	500,000
Hennepin County	Hennepin County Health Equity Legal Project	500,000
Homesafe, Inc.	Homesafe Services	90,000
Housing Authority of The City of Providence, RI (a.k.a. Providence Housing Authority).	Domestic Violence Prevention and Survivor Support	200,000
Hugoton Police Department	Acquisition of Patrol Vehicles	128,000
Huntington Police Department	Community Engagement and Officer Training Initiative	692,000
Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center.	Law Enforcement Action in Democracy [LEAD] Training	299,000
Inspira Health Network	Cumberland County NJ Youth Violence Cessation Initiative	1,000,000
Journey Center for Safety and Healing.	Increased Capacity and Advocacy for Domestic Violence Victims and Survivors in Cuyahoga County.	439,000
LA Economic and Workforce Development Department.	Returning Citizens Housing Stability Pilot Project	1,000,000
La Paz County Sheriff's Office	La Paz Jail Vehicle Replacement	116,000
Lake County Committee on Family Violence.	Forbes House Shelter Expansion	335,000
Lake County State's Attorney's Office.	Gun Violence Prevention Initiative	750,000
Leavenworth County Attorney's Office.	Establishment of a Veterans Treatment Court	1,000,000
Legal Assistance for Low-Income Victims of Crime.	Legal Assistance for Low-Income Victims of Crime	255,000
Madison Lake Police Department	City of Madison Lake Law Enforcement Enhancement	164,000
Manchester Police Department	New Hampshire Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness	110,000
Marshall Univeristy	Forensic Science Training and Services	1,500,000
Maui County	West Maui Communications Channel Expansion	180,000
McDowell County Commission	Acquisition of Patrol Vehicles	123,000
Mercer County Commission	Mercer County Sheriff's Department Police Vehicles and Equipment	300,000
Metropolitan Family Services	Violence Reduction Initiative	800,000
Michigan Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence.	Emergency Operation Funding	500,000
Minneapolis Police Department	Minneapolis Police Department Police Recruitment Through PEACE (Pathways Encouraging Active Community Engagement).	1,894,000
Missing and Murdered Diné Relatives.	Missing and Murdered Diné Relatives Relief Fund	25,000
Mississippi Department of Corrections.	Contraband Cell Phone Interdiction Systems	4,000,000
Mountain State Educational Services Cooperative.	Project EQ	892,000
Municipality of Anchorage	Vehicle and Heavy Equipment Fleet Replacement	2,000,000
Nashua Police Department	Hazardous Device Unit Equipment	110,000
New Hampshire Department of Justice.	New Hampshire Drug Task Force	409,000
New Jersey Coalition Against Sexual Assault.	NJCASA Accessibility Capacity Building Project	445,000
New Jersey Coalition to End Domestic Violence.	NJCEDV Legal Representation Project	500,000

Recipient	Project Purpose	Recommended ($)
New Mexico Department of Public Safety.	Emergency Power Distribution for Vulnerable New Mexico State Police District Facilities Project.	600,000
Nonviolence Institute	Strengthening Nonviolence Interventions	150,000
Northern Michigan Law Enforcement Training Group.	Public Safety Training Equipment	1,000,000
Ohio QRT Association	Substance Abuse and Mental Health Outreach Resources	160,000
Ohio University	Human Trafficking Prevention	323,000
Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences.	Forensic DNA Laboratory	500,000
Olathe Police Department	Acquisition of Training Center Equipment and Technology	1,685,000
Philadelphia Mural Arts Advocates	Philadelphia Restorative Justice Programming	250,000
Philadelphia Office of Domestic Violence Strategies.	Supervised Child Visitation and Exchange Program	300,000
Providence Police Department	Crime and Gun Violence Reduction Initiative	1,000,000
Region 4 Planning and Development Council.	Community District Ranger Department Police Cruiser	54,000
Regional Youth Adult Social Action Partnership.	Bridgeport Gun Violence Prevention	237,000
Rio Blanco County	Equipment for Rio Blanco County Law Enforcement Training Center	350,000
Rise Up Rochester, Inc.	Rise Up Rochester Anti-Violence Safe Housing Project	400,000
San Carlos Apache Tribe	San Carlos Apache Police Department Equipment Modernization	674,000
Seton Hall University	Seton Hall Law School—Community-Based Reentry and Support Services.	632,000
Southwest Women's Law Center	American Indian/Alaska Native Women Survivors of Domestic Violence Support Program.	60,000
St. Louis Police Department	St. Louis Regional Violent Crime Initiative	3,750,000
St. Nicks Alliance	North Brooklyn Anti-Violence Initiative	1,000,000
Taos Community Foundation	Taos LEAD (Let Everyone Advance with Dignity)	113,000
The Homeless Advocacy Project [HAP].	HAP Embedded Legal Professional (H.E.L.P.) Program Pilot	83,000
The Legal Clinic	Immigration Legal Services for Hawai'i's Vulnerable Residents	120,000
Third Judicial District Attorney's Office.	Border Prosecution Division	300,000
Tides Family Services	Juvenile Justice Program	100,000
Town of Clendenin Police Department.	Clendenin Police Personnel and Equipment	200,000
Town of Gorham	Pine Mountain Repeater & 4-site Simulcast System	426,000
Town of Kittery	Equipment Purchases for Kittery, Eliot, and York Law Enforcement Community Outreach Program.	70,000
Town of Lexington	Police Technology Modernization	2,275,000
Town of Marion Police Department	Police Leadership in Southwest Virginia	83,000
Town of Wellton	Town of Wellton—Police Department Equipment	44,000
University of Alaska	Forensic Training Program for Healthcare Providers and Advocates	500,000
University of Maryland, Baltimore	Train the Trainer Interdisciplinary Certificate in Violence Prevention for Non-Profit Leaders.	1,100,000
Vermont Department of Public Safety.	Public Safety Training and Modernization	1,500,000
Vermont Law School	The Justice Reform Clinic Project	975,000
Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence.	Center for Leadership and Learning	5,000,000
Virginia Hospital & Healthcare Association Foundation.	Virginia Center for Hospital-Based Violence Intervention	885,000
West Virginia Department of Agriculture.	WVDA Law Enforcement Liaison	81,000
Women Helping Women	Women Helping Women Survivor Services Expansion	764,000
Yavapai County Sheriff's Office	Yavapai County Sheriff's Office Aerial Platform for Sedona & Prescott Communities.	2,108,000
Youth Outreach Services	Violence Prevention and Intervention Initiative	500,000

JUVENILE JUSTICE PROGRAMS

Appropriations, 2022	$360,000,000
Budget estimate, 2023	760,000,000
Committee recommendation	471,000,000

The Committee's recommendation provides $471,000,000 for juvenile justice programs. The recommendation is $111,000,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level and $289,000,000 below the budget request.

The Committee strongly supports a comprehensive approach of substantial funding for a robust portfolio of programs that work to improve the lives of the youth in our communities. Title II State Formula and Title V Juvenile Delinquency Prevention grants are the backbone of programs assisting State and local agencies in preventing juvenile delinquency and ensuring that youth who are in contact with the juvenile justice system are treated fairly. Combined with other critical programs like youth mentoring, the Committee believes that a balanced level of programming is the way to best help at-risk and vulnerable youth and their families.

The Committee encourages OJJDP to review its suite of grant programs in order to offer services and programs for children and youth who have experienced complex trauma.

The Committee's recommendations are displayed in the following table:

JUVENILE JUSTICE PROGRAMS

[In thousands of dollars]

Program	Committee Recommendation
Part B—State Formula Grants	90,000
Emergency Planning-Juvenile Detention Facilities	*500*
Youth Mentoring Grants	110,000
Title V—Delinquency Prevention Incentive Grants	78,500
Prevention of Trafficking of Girls	*5,000*
Tribal Youth	*20,000*
Children of Incarcerated Parents Web Portal	*500*
Girls in the Justice System	*6,500*
Opioid Affected Youth Initiative	*16,000*
Children Exposed to Violence	*15,000*
Protecting Vulnerable and At-Risk Youth	*5,000*
Victims of Child Abuse Programs	50,000
Missing & Exploited Children Programs	110,000
Training for Judicial Personnel	5,000
Juvenile Indigent Defense	2,500
Alternatives to Youth Detention	25,000
TOTAL, Juvenile Justice	471,000

Any deviation from the above table is subject to the reprogramming requirements of section 505 of this act.

Arts in Juvenile Justice.—The Department is to continue to develop the Arts in the Juvenile Justice Demonstration Program as described in fiscal year 2022. In addition, OJJDP is encouraged to prioritize applications with arts partners who have prior experience in serving youth who are engaged, or at risk of engaging, in the juvenile justice system as well as partnerships developed through authentic collaboration with young people who have lived expertise or experience. The Committee directs OJJDP to provide a report not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this act on the use of funds, grant recipients, and project purposes for fiscal year 2022 as well as plans for fiscal year 2023 funds including ex-

pansion of the program and creation of best practices to replicate these kinds of partnerships.

Youth Mentoring Grants.—To support the critical work of national, regional, and local organizations in nurturing and mentoring at-risk children and youth, the Committee recommends $110,000,000 for competitive, peer-reviewed youth mentoring grants, of which $16,500,000 is for helping youth impacted by substance abuse, including opioids and methamphetamine. The Committee expects that the OJJDP will take all steps necessary to ensure fairness and objectivity in the award of these and future competitive grants. The Committee expects OJP to maintain OJJDP's expanded eligibility for local mentoring programs, particularly in rural areas, unaffiliated with national mentoring organizations. The Committee further expects OJP and OJJDP to collaborate with mentoring stakeholders to expand youth mentoring services in rural areas inordinately affected by substance abuse, particularly heroin and opioids, and that are considered at-risk.

Girls in the Juvenile Justice System.—Girls in the United States with a history of sexual and physical abuse, school failure, substance dependency, and involvement in the welfare system, and who live in impoverished communities or are experiencing homelessness, face unique and complex risks. The Committee provides $6,500,000 for the "Girls in the Justice System" grant program, which will enable organizations, including nonprofit entities, with a successful track record of administering prevention and early intervention programs for girls who are most likely to end up in the juvenile justice system, at a local or State level, to replicate these programs at a national level. Funding for this program will further support 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 society.

Children Exposed to Violence.—According to DOJ, nearly two-thirds of children in the United States have been exposed to violence, which can impact development, health, and educational outcomes, and perpetuate the cycle of violence and substance misuse. The Committee provides $15,000,000 for grants to help children exposed to violence through direct supportive services for them and their families; training and capacity building for communities to build sustainable partnerships to prevent and help children cope with exposure; State and local policy reform to heal from trauma through supportive services for the children and their families; training and awareness-raising for communities on how to prevent and help children heal from violence; State and policy reform; and technical assistance for child and family-serving systems and organizations to help them better recognize and help families at risk for violence.

Protecting Vulnerable and At-risk Youth.—The Committee provides $5,000,000 to support the continuation of a pilot demonstration program, through which at least four community-based organizations, to include those in underserved rural communities, can apply for funding to develop, implement, and build replicable treatment models for residential-based innovative care, treatment, and services. The primary population served by such pilot programs

shall include adolescents and youth transitioning out of foster care who have experienced a history of foster care involvement, child poverty, child abuse or neglect, human trafficking, juvenile justice involvement, substance abuse disorder, or gang involvement. Community-based programs providing crisis stabilization, emergency shelter, and addiction treatment for adolescents and transitional age residential programs with reputable outcomes shall be accorded priority in funding under this program.

Victims of Child Abuse Act.—The Committee's recommendation provides $50,000,000 for the various programs authorized under the Victims of Child Abuse Act (Public Law 101–647) and directs OJJDP to ensure that not less than 90 percent of the grants awarded are for the purposes of developing and maintaining child advocacy centers [CAC], including training and accreditation. The Committee further directs OJJDP to ensure the funds intended to support local CACs are used efficiently with the highest percentage possible of Federal funding expended for local CAC organizational capacity, which is essential for the effective support of implementing the multidisciplinary response to child abuse investigation, prosecution, and intervention services.

The Committee continues to support efforts by CACs to use their unique model and expertise to help military installations address cases of child abuse, and again provides $1,000,000 from within the funds provided to continue to support a pilot project to identify, develop, and operationalize best practices. As this effort has been funded since fiscal year 2017, the Committee directs OJJDP to report on the status of this pilot, including the locations of CACs and military installations working together, the number of children served through these partnerships, and lessons learned from this pilot program.

The Committee further directs OJJDP to coordinate with the Department of Defense on the implementation of recommendations made in GAO's report on "Increased Guidance and Collaboration Needed to Improve DoD's Tracking and Response to Child Abuse" (GAO–20–110), including national agreements between CACs and each military service.

Missing and Exploited Children Programs.—The Committee recommends $110,000,000 for OJJDP's Missing and Exploited Children Programs in order to support law enforcement agencies and other national organizations that report and investigate missing children cases and also investigate those who exploit children both with and without an online nexus. The Committee directs OJP to provide a plan for the use of these funds as part of the Department's spending plan for fiscal year 2023, which shall include investments in authorized national programs that serve as a resource center and clearinghouse on missing and exploited children, task force grants, and administrative costs for the Internet Crimes Against Children [ICAC] program. The OJJDP is directed to continue to ensure that all grantees report regularly on these programs.

Within funds provided, the Committee directs that the full authorized amount of $40,000,000 be provided for the purposes of the Missing Children's Assistance Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–267),

up to $32,200,000 of which shall be used to carry out the requirements of 34 U.S.C. 11293(b).

Within the funds provided, $4,400,000 is provided for the AMBER Alert program. The Committee continues to recognize 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. Of the funds provided for AMBER Alert activities, $1,000,000 shall be directed to addressing State/Tribal integration consistent with the findings of the report directed by Public Law 115–166.

The Committee addressed the increased tips of online child sexual exploitation and abuse reported to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children's [NCMEC] CyberTipline in Senate Report 116–127, as adopted by Public Law 116–93, and continues the direction that OJJDP continue to provide for the development of IT solutions to address both duplicative tips and law enforcement deconfliction, so as to ensure that only high-quality information is being provided to law enforcement agencies, including ICAC task forces.

The Committee directs that within the funds provided, $3,000,000 be for a competitive grant award program to increase the technological investigative capacity, and associated training of law enforcement, to support the development, refinement, and advancement of widely used investigative tools, methods, and technologies that address child sexual abuse material [CSAM], exploitation, and sex trafficking, as previously directed in fiscal years 2018 through 2022. The Committee also directs that OJJDP expand efforts to provide advanced skills training for ICAC officers.

Advanced ICAC Skills Training.—The Committee directs that within the funds provided, no less than $1,000,000 be provided to maintain, strengthen, and enhance the ICAC Child Online Protection System [ICACCOPS] investigative tools that address CSAM, exploitation, and sex trafficking. The funding provided will significantly upgrade hardware, software, and other critical infrastructure components. These upgrades will increase investigative capacity and effectiveness to keep pace with the evolving threat of technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse. The Committee directs OJJDP to identify and provide a report on specific, long-term objectives associated with this funding within 90 days of enactment of this act.

The Committee also directs the Department to prioritize expanded training on and use of the ICACCOPS program across Federal, State, local, Tribal, and military law enforcement agencies. The Committee further directs the Department to coordinate with the Department of Defense on the implementation of section 550D of Public Law 116–92.

Statute of Limitations.—The Committee is aware that statutes of limitation laws have prevented survivors of child sexual abuse, child exploitation, and child sex trafficking from seeking justice when their trauma causes them to delay disclosure of their abuse until later in life. The Department is encouraged to explore ways of supporting and encouraging States to review, pursue and revise, or continue reviewing, pursuing and revising, civil and criminal

statutes of limitations laws and avenues for reviving time-barred civil claims for child sexual abuse, child exploitation, and child sex trafficking for adults who were a child at the time of the sexual abuse claim in question.

Alternatives to Youth Incarceration.—The Committee provides $25,000,000 for an initiative for States, localities, territories and Tribes in order to provide resources to close and repurpose youth prisons and detention facilities. Funding shall support grantees in a robust planning process to close youth prisons and redirect resources to support more effective alternatives to incarceration; for community-based programs for system-involved youth as well as services outside of the justice system; and for grantees to assess and respond to the economic impact of youth prison closures, such as the training and re-employment of workers from youth prisons.

PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS BENEFITS

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

Appropriations, 2022	$152,000,000
Budget estimate, 2023	167,800,000
Committee recommendation	167,800,000

The Committee's recommendation provides $167,800,000 for public safety officers benefits. The recommendation is $15,800,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level and is equal to the budget request. This program provides a one-time death benefit payment to eligible survivors of Federal, State, and local public safety officers whose death was the direct and proximate result of a traumatic injury sustained in the line of duty or certain eligible heart attacks or strokes. Within funds provided, $133,000,000 is for death benefits for survivors, an amount estimated by the Congressional Budget Office and considered mandatory for scorekeeping purposes.

The Committee also recommends $34,800,000, as requested, for disability benefits for injured officers and education benefits for the families of officers who have been permanently disabled or killed in the line of duty.

COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING SERVICES

COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING SERVICES PROGRAMS

INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS

Appropriations, 2022	$511,744,000
Budget estimate, 2023	651,000,000
Committee recommendation	583,711,000

The Committee's recommendation provides $583,711,000 for community oriented policing services. The recommendation is $71,967,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level and $67,289,000 below the budget request.

The Committee's recommendations are displayed in the following table:

COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING SERVICES

[In thousands of dollars]

Program	Committee Recommendation
COPS Hiring Grants	307,000
Tribal Resources Grant Program	*40,000*
Regional Information Sharing Activities	*48,000*
Tribal Access Program	*6,000*
Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Act	*10,000*
Collaborative Reform Model	*7,500*
POLICE Act	11,000
Anti-Methamphetamine Task Forces	20,000
Anti-Heroin Task Forces	40,000
STOP School Violence Act	53,000
Community Policing Development	60,000
COPS Law Enforcement Technology and Equipment Projects	92,711
TOTAL, Community Oriented Policing Services	583,711

Any deviations from the above table are subject to the reprogramming requirements of section 505 of this act.

COPS Hiring Program.—The Committee recommends $307,000,000 for COPS Hiring grants to help State, local, or Tribal law enforcement agencies create and preserve police officer positions and to increase community policing capacity and crime prevention efforts. Grants will have an award cap of $125,000 and require grantees to provide a 25 percent local match. The Committee encourages the COPS Office to focus on efforts to train and increase the capacity of law enforcement agencies, executives, and managers serving rural communities to enhance the use of community policing practices and innovations in policing to expand the effectiveness of limited resources.

Additional Technical Assistance.—The Committee urges the COPS Office to provide increased technical assistance to applicants who have not previously received COPS grants or otherwise indicate that they are newly establishing community-oriented policing programs.

Addressing Racial, Ethnic, and Demographic Gaps in Law Enforcement.—The Committee is concerned about racial, ethnic, and demographic gaps in law enforcement agencies. In fiscal years 2021 and 2022, the Committee directed the COPS Hiring Program to give additional consideration to applicants that commit to recruiting officers from the communities in which they will serve. The Committee continues to support this effort and directs the COPS Office to submit a report, within 30 days of the enactment of this act, on the application of this criterion in COPS Hiring Program awards.

Community Policing Development, Training and Technical Assistance.—The Community Policing Development [CPD] program assists State, local, and Tribal law enforcement agencies with the implementation of community policing strategies by providing guidance on promising practices through the development and testing of innovative strategies, building knowledge about effective practices and outcomes, and supporting new, creative approaches to preventing crime and promoting safe communities. The Committee provides $60,000,000 for CPD which is directed to be provided in

competitive grants directly to these law enforcement agencies in the following manner: $16,500,000 is to expand the use of crisis intervention teams in order to embed mental and behavioral health services with law enforcement including funding for specialized training; $25,000,000 is for officer training in de-escalation, implicit bias, and duty to intervene techniques, of which no less than $2,000,000 is for grants to regional de-escalation training centers that are administered by accredited universities of higher education and offer de-escalation training certified by a national certification program; $12,000,000 is for assisting agencies with gaining accreditation to ensure compliance with national and international standards covering all aspects of law enforcement policies, procedures, practices, and operations of which no less than $5,000,000 is to be provided for small and rural law enforcement agencies for this purpose; $5,000,000 is for the continuation of the CPD Microgrants program which provides funding for demonstration and pilot projects that offer creative ideas to advance crime fighting, community engagement, problem solving, or organizational changes to support community policing; and $1,500,000 is for grants to support tolerance, diversity, and anti-bias training programs offered by organizations with well-established experience training law enforcement personnel and criminal justice professionals.

Collaborative Reform Model.—The Committee provides $7,500,000 for the continuation of the Collaborative Reform Model, which assists local law enforcement agencies to identify problems and develop solutions to some of the most critical issues facing law enforcement today, such as use of force, fair and impartial policing, and improved accountability. Grant funding is to only be used to assist law enforcement agencies that choose to engage in the collaborative reform process with the Department.

Regional Information Sharing Systems [RISS] Program.—The Committee provides $48,000,000 for the RISS Program, to be administered through grants.

The Committee directs that the Department assess no more than 4 percent of the total appropriation for the RISS program for management and administration purposes, so as to ensure sufficient funding is available for law enforcement.

Anti-Methamphetamine Task Forces.—The Committee's recommendation provides $20,000,000, an increase of $5,000,000 above both the fiscal year 2022 enacted level and budget request, for the COPS Office to make competitive grants to law enforcement agencies in States with high seizures of precursor chemicals, finished methamphetamine, laboratories, and laboratory dump seizures. These funds shall be utilized for investigative purposes to locate or investigate illicit activities such as precursor diversion, laboratories, or methamphetamine traffickers.

Anti-Heroin Task Forces.—The Committee reiterates concerns over the dramatic rise of heroin use, deaths, and related crime in the United States. The need for additional resources and training to address these challenges is apparent, and the Committee created the anti-heroin task force program within the COPS Office in fiscal year 2015, continually providing funding in succeeding fiscal years. The Committee provides $40,000,000, an increase of $5,000,000

above both the fiscal year 2022 enacted level and the budget request, for the COPS Office to make competitive grants to law enforcement agencies in States with high per capita levels of primary treatment admissions for heroin, fentanyl, and other opioids. These funds shall be utilized for drug enforcement, including investigations and activities related to the distribution of heroin or unlawful diversion and distribution of prescription opioids, and for securing equipment commonly used in opioid investigations. The Committee directs that funding can be used for existing positions supported by prior Anti-Heroin Task Force awards. Priority shall be given to drug task forces managed and operated by the State that serve a majority of counties in the State.

Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Grants.—The Committee strongly supports efforts to protect the mental health and well-being of law enforcement officers. Unfortunately, the stress of officers' work and stigma associated with seeking assistance for emotional and mental health issues has led to an increase in suicides for officers across the country. To address this concern, $10,000,000 is provided for Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Act Program grants which shall be distributed as a competitive grant program for State and local law enforcement agencies to provide better training on officer emotional and mental health, implement suicide prevention programming, and help officers seek assistance in receiving support services.

School Resource Officers.—The placement of law enforcement officers in schools can promote school safety and reduce the risk of violence, but may also carry a risk that these officers could contribute to a "school-to-prison pipeline" process where students are arrested or cited for minor, non-violent behavioral violations and then sent to the juvenile court system. This ultimately can lead to academic failure and greater recidivism rates for these students, and wastes community resources. The Committee directs that the COPS Office continue to implement requirements and procedures regarding written memoranda of understanding and training requirements, including clear definitions of officers' roles and responsibilities on campus, for any COPS Hiring grant funds used to hire school-based law enforcement officers.

POLICE Act.—The COPS Office's Preparing for Active Shooter Situations [PASS] program has supported training for more than 130,000 law enforcement first responders in a response protocol adopted by the FBI as the National standard for special agent tactical instructors. Many State and local police departments have also adopted this response protocol as a standard for active shooter response, ensuring law enforcement officers arriving on the scene understand how others are trained to respond. The Committee encourages the Department to ensure that 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 Committee further encourages the continued development of e-learning resources to supplement in-person training.

COPS Law Enforcement Technology.—The Committee provides $92,711,000 for grants for State, local, Tribal, territorial, and other entities to develop and acquire effective equipment, technologies,

and interoperable communications that assist in the prevention of and response to crime. COPS is directed to ensure that all equipment funded under this program meets the requirements of NIST's Office of Law Enforcement Standards. The accompanying table details funding for congressionally-designated activities, which are incorporated by reference in the bill:

Recipient	Project Purpose	Recommended ($)
Albuquerque Police Department	Albuquerque Police Department—Cell Site Simulators [CSS]	860,000
Albuquerque Police Department	Albuquerque Police Department Investigation Technology Enhancement Tools.	480,000
Albuquerque Police Department	Smart Camera Technology Project	480,000
Allen County Sheriff	Acquisition of a Chemical Analyzer	156,000
Andover Police Department	911 Service Technology Updates	358,000
Augusta University	Augusta University—Public Safety Equipment	2,677,000
Belknap County Sheriff's Office	IT Enhancements for Belknap County Sheriff's Office	600,000
Bloomfield Police Department	Equipment for Police Department Training Room	40,000
Bloomfield Police Department	Town of Bloomfield Cruiser Camera Upgrades	112,000
Brandon Police Department	Public Safety Vehicle Upgrades for Brandon Police Department.	18,000
City of Bridgeport	City of Bridgeport Forensic Technology	500,000
City of Carbondale	Technology Upgrades	600,000
City of Cayce	Police Equipment Upgrade	858,000
City of Charles Town	Charles Town Police Department Technology Upgrade	400,000
City of Charleston	Training Simulator and Ongoing Training and Equipment Support.	750,000
City of College Park	College Park Police Department—Public Safety Technology and Equipment.	373,000
City of Dover Police Department	City of Dover—Wireless Camera Network System	600,000
City of Englewood	Englewood Public Safety Communication Enhancement Project.	1,790,000
City of Gautier	Police Department Equipment Upgrades	510,000
City of Henderson	Henderson—Dispatch Consoles	2,624,000
City of Henderson	Henderson—Eldorado Valley Training Facility Equipment	2,049,000
City of Highland Park	Highland Park Police Department Pilot Project for Mental Health Co-Response Model.	500,000
City of Las Cruces	Southern New Mexico Regional Public Safety Equipment	1,750,000
City of Medford	City of Medford Radio System Upgrade	1,444,000
City of Milton	Acquisition of Access Control and Live Scan Fingerprint Station.	63,000
City of New London	City of New London Emergency Communications Equipment Upgrades.	2,218,000
City of North Las Vegas	North Las Vegas—Police Department Technology Upgrade	100,000
City of Petersburg	Petersburg Emergency Public Safety Communications System	3,203,000
City of Powder Springs	Powder Springs—Law Enforcement Radio Networks	500,000
City of Reno	Reno Police Department—Forensics Software & Equipment	1,500,000
City of Rifle	In-Car and Body-Worn Cameras	317,000
City of Saco, Maine	Public Safety Communications Equipment Upgrade	667,000
City of Saint Peter	Saint Peter Police Department Technology Upgrade	33,000
City of St. Helens, Oregon	St. Helens Law Enforcement Technology	340,000
City of Stamford	Equipment for Regional Police Academy	250,000
City of Sumter	Ballistic Evidence System Upgrade	510,000
City of Washington	Public Safety Radio System Upgrades	900,000
Colwich Police Department	Acquisition of License Plate Recognition Technology and Cameras.	16,000
County of Cumberland	Public Safety Communications Equipment Upgrade	1,000,000
County of Waldo	911 Dispatch Center Equipment Upgrade	165,000
Cumberland County, NC	Law Enforcement Communications Systems Upgrades	2,474,000
Delta County	Delta Dispatch System Upgrade	500,000
Derby Police Department	Acquisition of License Plate Recognition Technology and Cameras.	47,000
Dodge City Police Department	Acquisition of an Emergency Response Vehicle	327,000
Douglas County	Douglas County Communications Radio System Upgrade	355,000
Douglas County Sheriff's Office	Douglas County Emergency Mobile Command Center	241,000
Edwards County Sheriff	Public Safety Communications Network Updates	1,210,000
Elko Sheriff's Department	Rapid DNA Instrument	486,000

Recipient	Project Purpose	Recommended ($)
Ellis County Sheriff	Acquisition of Body Scanners	198,000
Exeter Police Department	Exeter Police Mobile Radio Communications Upgrades	112,000
Great Bend Police Department	Acquisition of License Plate Recognition Technology and Cameras.	132,000
Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources.	Strengthening Hawai'i State Natural Resource Law Enforcement.	1,000,000
Hays Police Department	Acquisition of Body Worn Cameras	90,000
Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office	Hillsborough County Sheriff K–9 Niko Specialized Vehicle Project.	76,000
Hollis Department of Emergency Management.	Public Safety Radio Infrastructure and Interoperability Upgrade.	702,000
Hutchinson Police Department	Radio Upgrades	495,000
Independence Police Department	Acquisition of Mobile Camera Technology	330,000
Interagency Communications Interoperability System.	ICI System Regional Public Safety Radio Network Upgrade	2,500,000
Jacksonville Police Department	Implementation of a Rapid DNA Regional System	405,000
Jefferson County Sheriff	Acquisition of Black Water Vision Technology	129,000
Jemez Pueblo Police Department	Jemez Pueblo Police—In-Vehicle Cameras and Equipment	147,000
Junction City Police Department	Acquisition of Mobile Camera Technology	147,000
Kansas City, Kansas, Police Department	Establishment of a Real Time Crime Center	905,000
Laconia Police Department	Dispatch Technology Integration System	200,000
Las Cruces Police Department	Las Cruces Police Department Crime Deterrence Equipment	450,000
Le Sueur Police Department	Le Sueur Police Department Radio and Communications Upgrade.	180,000
Lenexa Police Department	Acquisition of Community Communications Technology	84,000
Lincoln County Sheriff's Office	Lincoln County Radio System Upgrade	2,000,000
Manchester School District	Manchester School Emergency Notification System	2,401,000
Milwaukee Police Department	Public Safety Radio System Upgrade	6,000,000
Mississippi Department of Public Safety	Office of Capitol Police Law Enforcement Technology and Equipment.	854,000
Morton County Sheriff	Acquisition of License Plate Recognition Technology and Cameras.	190,000
Municipality of Anchorage	Communications Technology and Equipment Replacement	1,740,000
Municipality of Anchorage	Security Equipment and Technology	250,000
Nashua Police Department	Nashua Police Department Small Platform Response Vehicle	90,000
National Tactical Officers Association	Mental Health Critical Incident Training	1,000,000
New London Police Department	New London CAD/RMS Program Project	413,000
Newfields, NH, Police	Newfields Police Technology Equipment	28,000
Office of the State's Attorney, Prince George's County.	Digital Discovery Capability	500,000
Portsmouth Police Department	Police Department Mobile Data Terminals	30,000
Prairie Village Police Department	Acquisition of License Plate Recognition Technology and Cameras.	638,000
Rooks County Sheriff	Acquisition of a Training Simulator	55,000
Russell Police Department	Public Safety Communications Network Updates	259,000
Salina Police Department	Acquisition of License Plate Recognition Technology and Cameras.	240,000
Saline County Sheriff	Acquisition of Body Scanners	314,000
Sanbornton Police Department	Sanbornton Police Department Radio System	22,000
Scott County	Scott County Sheriff's Office Specialized Rescue Vehicle	350,000
Seward County Sheriff	Acquisition of Body Scanners	153,000
Shawnee County Sheriff	Acquisition of Mobile Camera Technology	1,664,000
Shawnee Police Department	Acquisition of License Plate Recognition Technology and Cameras.	83,000
Snohomish County Sheriff's Office	Rapid DNA System	448,000
Tiverton Police Department	Public Safety Communications Upgrade	500,000
Topeka Police Department	Acquisition of Hazardous Device Response Vehicle and Equipment.	385,000
Torrance Police Department	Torrance Police Department Body-Worn and In-Car Cameras	1,615,000
Town of Bristol Police Department	Mobile Command Unit Upgrade	175,000
Town of Foster	Communication Dispatch Equipment	120,000
Town of Glocester	Town of Glocester—Police Equipment	490,000
Town of Harrison	Harrison Public Safety Communication Project	563,000
Town of Mooresville	Law Enforcement Communications Systems Upgrades	1,105,000
Town of Newington	Newington Emergency Communications Infrastructure	170,000
Town of North Smithfield	Police Vehicles and Equipment	375,000

Recipient	Project Purpose	Recommended ($)
Town of Winchester	Town of Winchester Radio Upgrades	850,000
Township of South Hackensack	South Hackensack Police Communications Upgrade Project	210,000
Union County Emergency Services	Union County Public Safety Radio System Upgrade	2,000,000
University of Mississippi Medical Center	UMMC Police and Public Safety Department Technology and Equipment.	755,000
University of New Haven	Community-Based Gun Violence Reduction Project at University of New Haven.	1,000,000
Vermont Department of Public Safety	Transition to Statewide Regional Emergency Communications	9,000,000
Wabaunsee County Sheriff	Acquisition of License Plate Recognition Technology and Cameras.	156,000
Wallace County Sheriff	Acquisition of Night Operations Technology	77,000
Washington County Emergency Management Agency.	Public Safety Communications Equipment Upgrade	3,178,000
Waterbury Police Department	City of Waterbury Real-Time Crime and Pandemic Center	930,000
West Virginia University	Campus Security Upgrades at WVU Potomac	358,000
Wheeler County Office of Emergency Management.	Wheeler County Radio System Upgrade	1,019,000
Whitfield County	Whitfield County - Forensic Equipment Purchase	75,000
Wichita Police Department	Establishment of a Real Time Crime Center	1,650,000

General Provisions—Department of Justice

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

The Committee recommends the following general provisions:

Section 201 limits the amount of funding the Attorney General can use for official reception and representation.

Section 202 prohibits the use of funds in this title to pay for an abortion except where the life of the mother would be in danger, or in the case of rape or incest.

Section 203 prohibits the use of funds in this title to require a person to perform or facilitate an abortion.

Section 204 requires female prisoners to be escorted when off prison grounds.

Section 205 allows the Department of Justice, subject to the Committee's reprogramming procedures, to transfer up to 5 percent between appropriations, but limits to 10 percent the amount that can be transferred into any one appropriation.

Section 206 limits the placement of maximum or high security prisoners to appropriately secure facilities.

Section 207 restricts Federal prisoner access to certain amenities.

Section 208 requires review by the Deputy Attorney General and the Department's investigative review board prior to the obligation or expenditure of funds for major technology projects.

Section 209 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 210 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, Incorporated.

Section 211 prohibits U.S. Attorneys from simultaneously holding multiple jobs outside of the scope of a U.S. Attorney's professional duties.

Section 212 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 permits up to 2

percent of grant and reimbursement program funds made available to that office to be transferred to the National Institute of Justice or the Bureau of Justice Statistics for criminal justice research and statistics.

Section 213 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. If a waiver is granted, the Attorney General shall document any factors and material presented by a grantee upon determining that a fiscal hardship exists prior to making an award.

Section 214 waives the requirement that the Attorney General reserve certain funds from amounts provided for offender incarceration.

Section 215 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 216 places limitations on the obligation of funds from certain Department of Justice accounts and funding sources.

Section 217 permits the Department of Justice to participate in Performance Partnership Pilot collaboration programs.

Section 218 requires reports on Departmental funds.

Section 219 provides for expenses incurred from serious illness, injury or death while on duty for certain Department of Justice law enforcement personnel.

Section 220 requires the Department of Justice to submit a report regarding whistleblower protections.

TITLE III

SCIENCE

OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY

Appropriations, 2022	$6,652,000
Budget Estimate, 2023	7,965,000
Committee recommendation	7,700,000

The Committee's recommendation provides $7,700,000 for the Office of Science and Technology Policy [OSTP]. The recommendation is $1,048,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level and $265,000 below the budget request.

OSTP was created by the National Science and Technology Policy, Organization, and Priorities Act of 1976 (Public Law 94–282) and coordinates science and technology policy for the White House. OSTP provides scientific and technological information, analyses, and advice for the President and the executive branch; participates in the formulation, coordination, and implementation of national and international policies and programs that involve science and technology; maintains and promotes the health and vitality of U.S. science and technology infrastructure; reviews and analyzes, with the Office of Management and Budget, the research and development budgets for all Federal agencies; and coordinates research and development efforts of the Federal Government to maximize the return on the public's investment in science and technology and to ensure Federal resources are used efficiently and appropriately. The Committee expects OSTP to be at the forefront of promoting American competitiveness through scientific research and technology development.

Open Access to Federal Research.—OSTP has worked since the enactment of the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010 (Public Law 111–358) to establish procedures and define policies across the government for public access to Federal research, a process that has taken a number of years to implement. The Committee expects OSTP to ensure federally-funded research is accessible to the public and to maintain the current structures in place that make federally-funded research accessible to the public as expeditiously as possible. Within 270 days of enactment of this act, OSTP is directed to deliver a report to the Committee on article processing charges and transformative agreement costs borne by Federal research grant awards made during the past three fiscal years and how these financing models are affecting which researchers can publish.

Emerging Contaminants.—OSTP submitted the "Update to the Plan for Addressing Critical Research Gaps Related to Emerging Contaminants in Drinking Water" in January 2022, which includes an updated cross-agency Federal research strategy for addressing

critical research gaps related to detecting and assessing exposure to emerging contaminants in drinking water through the National Emerging Contaminant Research Initiative. The joint explanatory statement accompanying Public Law 117–103 directed OSTP to update the Committee on program, policy, or budgetary resources included in the fiscal year 2023 budget request, by agency, to support the implementation of the Federal research strategy, as well as anticipated needs for fiscal year 2024. The Committee eagerly awaits this update.

Geoengineering.—The Committee directs OSTP to develop an interagency working group, in coordination with NOAA, NASA, and other relevant agencies, to manage near-term climate hazard risk and coordinate research in climate intervention. The interagency working group should also establish a research governance framework to provide guidance on transparency, engagement, and risk management for publicly funded work in solar geoengineering research.

OSTP Management.—The Committee was concerned with reports of employee harassment and retaliation at OSTP and notes that OSTP is now under new management. The Committee expects OSTP, as the office within the Executive Office of the President that provides scientific policy guidance and coordinates science policy across the Federal government, and its leaders, to set an example for other agencies in promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion, particularly among those underrepresented in STEM fields.

NATIONAL SPACE COUNCIL

Appropriations, 2022	$1,965,000
Budget Estimate, 2023	1,965,000
Committee recommendation	1,965,000

The Committee provides $1,965,000 for the National Space Council. The recommendation is equal to the fiscal year 2022 enacted level and the budget request.

The National Space Council provides advice and assistance to the President on national space policy and strategy. The Council reviews U.S. Government space policy, including long-range goals; develops strategies for national space activities; and develops recommendations for the President on space policy and space-related issues. The National Space Council's additional roles are to monitor and coordinate implementation of the Nation's objectives in space by executive departments and agencies; foster close coordination, cooperation, and technology and information exchange among the civil, national security, and commercial space sectors; and facilitate resolution of differences concerning major space and space-related policy issues.

The Committee directs the National Space Council to continue to provide the Committee with quarterly briefings on its activities, including its current assessment of current and emerging threats to maintaining U.S. leadership in space-based activities by the Federal Government, industry, and academia and any associated plans and policies to maintain that leadership.

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

Appropriations, 2022	$24,041,300,000
Budget Estimate, 2023	25,973,800,000
Committee recommendation	25,973,800,000

The Committee's recommendation provides $25,973,800,000 for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration [NASA]. The recommendation is $1,932,500,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level and equal to the budget request.

NASA was established by the National Aeronautics and Space Act of 1958 (Public Law 85–568) to conduct space and aeronautical research and development and to conduct flight activities for peaceful purposes. NASA's unique mission of exploration, discovery, and innovation is intended to preserve the United States' role as both a world leader in aviation and as the pre-eminent space-faring nation. It is NASA's mission to advance human and robotic exploration, use, and development of space; advance and communicate scientific knowledge and understanding of the Earth, the Moon, the solar system, and the universe; and research, develop, verify, and transfer advanced aeronautics and space technologies.

The bill continues investments in human spaceflight that will enable travel to the Moon, and eventually Mars, with NASA-developed crew and launch vehicles; build a Gateway, landers, space suits, and other infrastructure for Moon landings; enable the burgeoning domestic launch industry that is bringing cargo and crew to the International Space Station and encouraging the development of new destinations in low-Earth orbit [LEO]; and support NASA's science and technology programs. These elements should be viewed as complementary pieces of a balanced whole. NASA is the American people's space agency. In advancing the U.S. national interest, NASA should seek, to the extent practicable, to retain public ownership of technologies, scientific data, and discoveries made using public funds.

For Science, the Committee's recommendation strives to keep NASA's near-term launches on track to continue progress in exploring our solar system and the universe, understanding the Sun, and observing our changing planet. The Committee expects NASA to continue making progress on the recommendations of the National Academies' decadal surveys, now and in the future.

For Exploration and Space Operations, the Committee's recommendation maintains support for ongoing activities in LEO, for the production of the vehicles that will take U.S. astronauts to the Moon, and for the continued development of systems that will enable human exploration of space.

NASA is directed to continue providing the Committee with a quarterly launch schedule, by mission, which describes the risks associated with launch delays due to problems with the launch vehicle, impacts of launch delays to other missions in the launch queue, and a budget estimate of the anticipated carrying costs for missed launch windows. Due to disruption of NASA activities and missions, NASA shall also include any adjustments to launch windows for delayed missions.

Nearly 80 percent of NASA funding goes out as grants or contracts. NASA's acquisition management continues to be on GAO's

"High Risk List." The annual appropriations provided in this bill only represent a fraction of the life cycle cost of NASA's major projects costing more than $250,000,000. In its most recent assessment, GAO analyzed 37 major projects, 12 of which are related to the return of humans to the Moon. For the sixth year in a row, NASA's performance has deteriorated, with total cost overruns of $12,000,000,000 and schedule delays of 28.1 years. According to GAO, "While COVID–19 effects are not the primary driver of cost increases and delays across the portfolio, these effects exacerbated cost and schedule growth and the majority of projects in the portfolio are working to mitigate them." NASA must do better if the agency is to realize fully its current ambitious plans for science and exploration. Cost growth and schedule delays mean that NASA must annually choose among continuing ongoing projects, moving projects from formulation into development, and beginning new projects, including those that meet high priority National needs and decadal survey recommendations. When NASA prolongs projects or provides insufficient funding early in their development, the inevitable result is cost and schedule overruns caused by inadequate early funding for technology development and project management. NASA is directed to continue to cooperate fully with GAO to provide timely program analysis, evaluation data, and relevant information so that GAO can continue to report to Congress shortly after the annual budget submission, and semiannually thereafter, on the status of large-scale NASA programs, projects, and activities. NASA shall also work expeditiously to address any GAO recommendations intended to correct its practices that lead to performance delays and cost overruns.

In addition, NASA is directed to provide the Committee, with its budget justification, the reserves assumed by NASA to be necessary within the amount proposed for each directorate, theme, program, project, and activity; or, if the proposed funding level for a directorate, theme, program, project, or activity is based on confidence level budgeting, the confidence level and reserves assumed in the proposed funding level. NASA has not complied with this directive in the past. The agency shall immediately provide this information to the Committee and continue to do so, as directed, in the future.

The Committee understands that NASA projects undergo major reviews in addition to regular oversight throughout the year. When one of these reviews results in changing the cost profile of a project in the current or budget request year, the Committee expects to be informed in a timely fashion so that its actions can reflect the most recent NASA analysis and expectation. Keeping the Committee up to date should reduce NASA's propensity to submit spending plans that disregard congressional direction.

The Federal funding priorities for NASA set forth in this bill and explanatory statement should not be interpreted as suggestions. They are equivalent to any statutory requirement levied upon NASA in this act. The Committee articulates the funding levels of programs, where appropriate, in the form of tables and, if necessary, supplements with explanatory statement language.

SCIENCE

Appropriations, 2022	$7,614,400,000
Budget Estimate, 2023	7,988,300,000
Committee recommendation	8,045,700,000

The Committee provides $8,045,700,000 for Science, which is $431,300,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level and $57,400,000 above the budget request. The Science account encompasses: Earth Science, Planetary Science, Astrophysics, Heliophysics, and Biological and Physical Science. This funding supports NASA programs that seek to answer fundamental questions concerning the ways in which Earth is changing; the comparison of Earth with other planets in the solar system and around other stars; the connections between the Sun and Earth; and the origin and evolution of planetary systems, the galaxy, and the universe, including the origin and distribution of life in the universe. These objectives are assisted by input from the scientific community through decadal surveys and are achieved through orbital and suborbital experiments, robotic flight missions, ground-based scientific research and data analysis, and the development of new technologies for future missions. NASA shall continue its progress toward implementing the recommendations of decadal surveys in Earth Science, Heliophysics, Planetary Science, Astrophysics, and Biological and Physical Sciences.

The Committee notes that the number of commercial providers offering suborbital and orbital platforms for scientific experiments continues to grow, making these platforms affordable and essential for researchers, particularly when missions require tailored launch to mission-dependent orbits, locations, and schedules or frequent iteration and repetition. NASA shall ensure that its merit review systems encourage principal investigators [PIs] to use these platforms. In fiscal year 2023, NASA expects to launch approximately 24 small satellite missions. Due to continued and increasing demand for these services, NASA is directed to continue competitive processes to ensure they are readily available, including encouraging the utilization of Venture-Class Acquisition of Dedicated and Rideshare opportunities.

Life Cycle Costs.—The Committee agrees that NASA ought to strictly control development costs of NASA missions. However, the Committee notes that it generally regards the development costs as occurring through Phase D and not into Phase E. Operation of NASA missions far beyond their originally planned life is something to celebrate, and NASA's Senior Review process ensures that its operations funds are spent on scientifically productive missions.

SCIENCE

[In thousands of dollars]

	Committee recommendation
Earth Science	2,346,100
Planetary Science	3,209,800
Astrophysics	1,561,000
Heliophysics	828,400
Biological and Physical Science	100,400

SCIENCE—Continued

[In thousands of dollars]

	Committee recommendation
Total, Science	8,045,700

Earth Science.—Within the amount for Earth Science, the Committee recommendation includes $112,800,000 for the Plankton, Aerosol, Cloud, ocean Ecosystem [PACE] mission to maintain its target launch date; and no less than $194,500,000 for Earth Venture Class Missions to support missions under development while maintaining the cadence of future missions. As articulated by the National Academies' Earth Science and Applications from Space Decadal Survey report, the Committee acknowledges the vital role of the Venture Class Missions program in supporting the development of novel remote sensing technologies and sustaining the scientific workforce. The Committee remains supportive of NASA's collaborative research that works to advance our understanding of the behavior of the Earth by engaging academia, particularly students, in studies and investigations, as these partnerships ensure that NASA's data expertise remains up-to-date and increases the research capacities at universities. NASA should consider setting aside funding within an appropriate Earth Science program, including Venture Class Missions, for educational payloads.

The recommendation fully supports, at no less than the request level, Airborne Science, Earth System Explorers, Sustainable Land Imaging and the Geosynchronous Littoral Imaging and Monitoring Radiometer [GLIMR] instrument. The Committee notes that NASA supports airborne science platforms for observing stratospheric conditions and the Earth's radiation budget, including the impact of the introduction of material into the stratosphere from changes in natural systems, increased air and space traffic, and solar climate interventions, and for calibrating and enhancing the value of NASA's satellite and Earth Sciences programs.

Harmful Algal Blooms [HABs].—The Committee notes that NASA has unique capabilities and experience in using aerial vehicles to conduct surveillance activities for remote sensing of HABs in the Great Lakes and other regions with high spatial resolution, and to measure toxicity in algal blooms. The Committee supports NASA contributions, in coordination with NOAA and other Federal agencies under the Harmful Algal Bloom Research and Hypoxia Control Act, as amended, (section 9 of Public Law 115–423) to freshwater HAB monitoring and detection and urges NASA to continue using crewed and uncrewed aircraft to perform this work.

Earth System Observatory.—The Committee is pleased to see NASA's continued support for the Earth System Observatory to address high priority "designated observables" [DOs] identified by the decadal survey. In keeping with the report and previous direction from Congress to move forward on DO missions, NASA should plan to competitively select future missions. The Committee believes an increase in competed, PI-led missions will encourage responsible cost and schedule constraints, develop novel remote sensing technologies, and leverage the talents and expertise of scientists at universities and research institutions. The Committee notes that

NASA expects to complete its mission concept reviews for the four DO missions addressing Aerosols; Clouds, Convection, and Precipitation; Mass Change; and Surface Biology and Geology during fiscal year 2022 for missions launching as early as 2028. Within 45 days of enactment of this act, NASA shall submit to the Committee estimated costs, by fiscal year, and schedules for each of the first four DO missions. The Committee expects future budgets to articulate funding for each mission separately. The recommendation supports Decadal Survey and Future Missions at up to the request level.

Space-Based Wildfire Detection Technologies.—While wildfire science and technology research is not a new activity for NASA, the Committee is pleased that NASA is engaging local, state, and private sector stakeholders in establishing a program that enables early detection and mitigation of wildland fires. Up to $8,000,000 is provided for NASA to initiate concept studies, in collaboration with commercial providers, to develop and demonstrate low-cost and scalable technologies that passively monitor areas of the United States susceptible to wildland fires and provide early warning to first responders.

Use of On-Orbit Assembly Platforms.—The Committee notes interest from industry in partnering with NASA, to support the development and demonstration of a prototype on-orbit robotically assembled Earth Science Platform designed to address critical gaps in NASA's climate, weather, and ecosystem monitoring. Such a platform could demonstrate a space-based capability for autonomous and simultaneous operation of multiple modular Earth remote sensing instruments that utilizes robotic assembly and on-orbit structure manufacturing technologies derived from the OSAM–2 SBIR Phase III effort. Within 180 days of enactment of this act, NASA shall submit to the Committee and make public an analysis of whether such a mission is feasible and fits within NASA's plans for Earth Science or for commercially-developed LEO platforms funded in Space Operations.

Remote Sensing of Marginal Ice Zones.—NASA shall report to the Committee on whether and how long-range, multi-day endurance polar monitoring Unmanned Aircraft Systems could be utilized to address remote sensing of marginal ice zones, including recommended cost and development timetable, if appropriate. Some contend that current efforts do not capture parameters such as sea surface temperatures and snow/ice coverage on the recurring basis necessary to validate less granular satellite data and refine climate models.

Planetary Science.—The Committee recommendation includes no less than $127,600,000 for planetary defense. The Committee recommendation supports funding for Near Earth Object Observations, which makes critical observations of Near Earth Objects and potentially hazardous asteroids, and the development of the Near Earth Object Surveyor Mission [NEOSM]. The recommendation includes funding at twice the level requested for NEOSM and welcomes NASA's commitment to a 2026 launch. NASA is reminded of its mandate to detect 90 percent of objects greater than 140 meters in size that threaten Earth. The Committee expects NASA to continue the selection and launch cadence of Small Innovative Mis-

sions for Planetary Exploration [SIMPLEx], New Frontiers and Discovery class missions in spite of any cost pressures from planetary flagship missions or the Mars program and to include appropriate funding within the 2024 budget request. The Committee is concerned that NASA has delayed the release of the final announcement of opportunity for the next New Frontiers mission to late 2024 and imposed a cost cap that does not reflect the evolutionary increases needed to maintain world class sciences on the eventual mission to be selected. In addition, the Committee expects NASA to submit a report within 180 days of enactment of this act describing how NASA's planned investments over the next 5 years meet the recommendations of the Planetary Science Decadal Survey, including for New Frontiers and for the exploration of Uranus. Within the $488,100,000 for New Frontiers, $400,100,000 is provided for the Dragonfly mission to ensure a launch readiness date of no later than 2027.

The recommendation includes up to the full budget request level for Lunar Discovery and Exploration, including $22,100,000 to continue the Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter, and up to the request level for Commercial Lunar Payload Services. The Committee is aware of NASA's recent announcement delaying the Volitiles Investigating Polar Exploration Rover [VIPER] to a 2024 delivery date. The Committee supports NASA's commitment to utilizing public-private partnerships to advance its lunar science and exploration agenda and encourages the agency to leverage the resources and expertise of both private industry and universities in pursuit of these goals. The Committee directs that the Lunar Discovery and Exploration program adhere to the lunar science priorities established by decadal surveys and the National Research Council's consensus report titled "Scientific Context for the Exploration of the Moon." Activities funded within the program should meet both lunar science and human exploration needs.

Mars Sample Return [MSR].—The Committee recommendation includes $822,300,000, an increase of $169,100,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level. In spite of Congress providing the full request for this mission, NASA's fiscal year 2023 budget documents reveal that the mission is no longer aiming for the 2026 launch window, instead slipping into the 2028 launch window. Given that sample return was the highest priority of the previous planetary science decadal survey, NASA shall provide the Committee within 45 days of enactment of this act a year-by-year funding profile for a planned 2028 MSR launch along with any guardrails it has put in place to ensure that MSR does not continue to grow in cost while incurring launch delays. The Committee is supportive of utilizing a variant of the successful Ingenuity helicopter to retrieve samples on Mars if the inclusion of this technology can be done within the overall cost and schedule profile for MSR.

Astrophysics.—The Committee recommendation for Astrophysics includes no less than $98,300,000 for the Hubble Space Telescope, $245,600,000 for Astrophysics Explorers, and $482,200,000 for the Nancy Grace Roman Wide-Field InfraRed Survey Telescope [Roman]. The Committee is encouraged by NASA's commitment to accelerate the cadence of Astrophysics Explorer missions and to continue a new line of small Pioneer-class missions that leverage

advancements in low-cost platforms such as CubeSats and balloons to support groundbreaking science. Such activities can improve scientific understanding while simultaneously developing the scientific workforce through increased research opportunities for students and faculty.

Roman Telescope.—The Committee notes this telescope was the highest priority of the 2010 Astrophysics decadal survey to further investigate fundamental questions about the nature of dark energy. The Committee reiterates the expectation that NASA will use a firm $3,500,000,000 development cost cap in its future execution of the mission.

Science Mission Directorate [SMD] Education.—The Committee provides no less than $55,600,000 for education and outreach efforts. The Committee further supports the recommendation that the Astrophysics program continue to administer this SMD-wide education funding. The Committee encourages SMD-funded investigators to be directly involved in outreach and education efforts and support citizen science. NASA should continue to prioritize funding for ongoing education efforts linked directly to its science missions.

Astrophysics Research.—The Committee recognizes the role of the Astrophysics Research program in supporting the development of novel astrophysics observation technologies that lay the foundation for future mission architectures. Additionally, a strong research program maximizes the scientific value of space-based missions by ensuring that the data collected through such observations can continue to provide new insights into the mechanisms behind cosmological phenomena. The Committee also understands that supporting these activities through extramural grant funding contributes to the long-term viability of the U.S. astrophysics community. As such, the Committee recommends $329,800,000 for Astrophysics Research.

James Webb Space Telescope.—The Committee lauds NASA for the successful launch and stunning first scientific images of the James Webb Space Telescope [JWST] and provides $172,500,000 for JWST within Astrophysics. JWST recently unveiled its initial observations with capabilities that exceeded all expectations. JWST will fundamentally change our understanding of the universe and our place within it, and demonstrates continued U.S. leadership in science and technology.

Astrophysics Decadal Survey.—The Astrophysics decadal survey, "Pathways to Discovery in Astronomy and Astrophysics for the 2020s" [Astro2020], recommends the establishment of a technology development program to mature science and technologies needed for the recommended missions beginning with those needed for a large telescope to observe habitable exoplanets. In order to cement continued American leadership in astronomy, the Committee expects that NASA will provide appropriate levels of support for technology maturation to implement the Astro2020 recommendations.

Heliophysics.—The recommendation provides $828,400,000 for Heliophysics. The Committee notes that it has once again rejected NASA's proposal to reduce Heliophysics funding, instead providing an increase of $50,500,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level. The Committee recognizes that a greater understanding of our Sun

and the accompanying technologies developed for that purpose will help to mitigate the hazards that solar activity poses to ground- and space-based platforms that strengthen our National security, economic competitiveness, and scientific prowess. The Committee also notes that the priorities outlined below are guided by the recommendations of the National Research Council decadal survey titled "Solar and Space Physics: A Science for a Technological Society." The Committee is supportive of NASA's collaboration with external stakeholders on efforts to foster scientific consensus on future directions.

The Committee is disappointed in the execution of prior year Heliophysics funding. In particular, Congress provided funding to jump start formulation for the decadal survey-recommended Geospace Dynamics Constellation [GDC] and the Dynamical Neutral Atmosphere-Ionosphere Coupling [DYNAMIC] missions. Yet that funding was not obligated in a timely manner, and NASA appears to be impeding progress on these missions. The Committee expects all NASA programs to obligate the funding provided by Congress in a timely manner and directs the Heliophysics Division to brief the Committee quarterly on its execution, including the status of all projects in development and any solicitations expected in the next quarter. The briefing should include any solicitations that will be delayed due to perceived lack of funding.

Solar Terrestrial Probe.—The recommendation includes $213,000,000 for Solar Terrestrial Probes to: support continued development of Interstellar Mapping and Acceleration Probe [IMAP]; implement accompanying Missions of Opportunity [MOs]; maintain operations for ongoing missions, including the Magnetospheric Multiscale [MMS] mission at no less than $26,000,000; and continue formulation for the DYNAMIC mission as a cost-capped, PI-led mission at no less than $10,000,000 above the request. The Committee directs NASA to maintain operations and scientific analysis for MMS at a level that will achieve the phase two objective of night side reconnection events and issue the instrument solicitation for DYNAMIC.

Heliophysics Explorer.—The Committee is encouraged by NASA's commitment to accelerate the cadence of alternating Small Explorer [SMEX] and Mid-sized Explorer missions while also enabling a regular selection of MOs to allow heliophysics researchers to rapidly respond to and participate in missions both inside and outside of NASA. This commitment follows the recommendations of the National Research Council Decadal Survey and can accelerate scientific understanding while developing the scientific workforce through increased research opportunities for students and faculty. The Committee notes the issuance of the draft SMEX solicitation and MOs and looks forward to the final release of those solicitations in a timely manner. The recommendation provides $15,000,000 above the request for Heliophysics Explorers.

Diversify, Realize, Integrate, Venture, Educate [DRIVE] Initiative.—The Committee supports the ongoing execution of the DRIVE initiative, a top priority of the National Research Council Decadal Survey and encourages NASA to implement the goal of increasing the competitive research program to 25 percent of the Heliophysics budget request to enable the development of new technologies, in-

cluding advanced computational tools, establish competitively-awarded DRIVE Science Centers, support multidisciplinary research collaboration using integrated observatory data, and support early career investigators. In addition, the Committee recognizes that the continued success of DRIVE relies upon a robustly supported research budget, and provides $236,800,000, an increase of $11,500,000 above the request, for Heliophysics Research. Within Heliophysics Research, the Committee recommendation supports Research Range at the request level.

Heliophysics Technology Program.—The Committee recognizes the critical role that technology development programs play in enabling novel and transformative capabilities and mission concepts, and notes the contributions of these programs in other Divisions within the Science Mission Directorate. Activities supported by such programs in Heliophysics help sustain a robust community of technologists with unique connections to the discipline while also contributing to the workforce development pipeline through funded research and technology development at universities. The recommendation supports the request level for this transformative activity.

Geospace Dynamics Constellation [GDC].—The Committee provides $152,300,000 for Living with a Star [LWS], which supports a diverse portfolio of activities that contribute to our understanding of the societal impact of the Sun-Earth system. This includes $15,000,000 above the request level for the upcoming GDC mission, which will meet the recommendations of the Heliophysics decadal survey through improved understanding of the variability of the space weather environment surrounding Earth. The Committee notes LWS supports GDC and other missions alongside a portfolio of applied research activities designed to maximize the scientific value of LWS missions and create a pipeline of enabling technologies.

Space Weather.—The Committee notes that Space Weather is no longer within the LWS funding line but is its own program. In response to the Space Weather Action Plan and the recommendations of the decadal survey, the Committee recommendation provides no less than $25,000,000 for Space Weather. The Committee also notes the relevance of NASA Space Weather activities to safeguarding human health against radiation during long-duration deep space exploration activities. NASA should coordinate with NOAA, NSF, and the Department of Defense to ensure that NASA is focused on research and technology that enables other agencies to dramatically improve their operational space weather assets and the forecasts they generate using data from those assets, including current and future ground-based telescopes and instruments, such as the Daniel K. Inouye Solar Telescope.

Within funding for Space Weather, the Committee allocates $2,000,000 for a center-based mechanism to support multidisciplinary space weather research, advance new capabilities, and foster collaboration among university, government, and industry participants aimed at improving research-to-operations and operations-to-research. NASA should coordinate with NOAA to ensure that research pursued through this activity meets NOAA operational needs.

Biological and Physical Science.—The recommendation provides the full requested amount of $100,400,000 for Biological and Physical Science within Science.

AERONAUTICS

Appropriations, 2022	$880,700,000
Budget Estimate, 2023	971,500,000
Committee recommendation	971,500,000

The Committee provides $971,500,000 for Aeronautics, which is $90,800,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level and the same as the budget request. The Aeronautics account funds research in key areas related to the development of advanced aircraft technologies and systems, including those related to aircraft safety, ultra-efficient vehicles and fuel efficiency, hypersonics, and research that supports the Next Generation Air Transportation System in partnership with the Joint Planning and Development Office.

The Committee supports New Aviation Horizons and is encouraged by NASA's efforts toward developing a Low Boom Flight Demonstrator X-plane, referred to as the Low Boom Flight Demonstrator [LBFD]. Appropriate funds are also included to enable the next X-plane demonstration planned beyond LBFD.

Electric Air Flight.—The Committee encourages NASA to accelerate research and development for next generation commercial engine technologies for electrified aircraft propulsion and to work to further strengthen collaborations with the Department of Energy to overcome energy storage challenges for novel modes of mobility, including electric air flight. The Committee is further 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 aircraft.

Optimization of Stitched Composites.—NASA has invested in early technology development in stitched composites that will help lead to revolutionary aircraft structures. As these technologies have evolved, the need to optimize stitched composites is necessary for efficient, sustainable aircraft. The Committee provides $10,000,000 to facilitate this ongoing work and encourages NASA to partner with industry to further NASA's goals in developing large-scale components and high-rate manufacturing techniques for use in subsonic aircraft.

Aircraft Thrust Management Demonstration.—The Committee supports NASA's effort to support subsonic aircraft fuel efficiency improvements and efforts to reduce emissions as a bridge to the electrification of aircraft propulsion. The Committee encourages NASA to continue its research and work towards developing a test hybrid-electric drag reduction system that will reduce fuel consumption and reduce carbon emissions on a legacy aircraft platform. NASA is further encouraged to utilize cost share opportunities with industry in furthering these efforts.

Hypersonics Technology.—The Committee notes that opportunities for low-speed hypersonic flight enable development of the next generation of commercial aeronautics travel. The development of new hypersonic capabilities can sustain hypersonic competency for national needs while advancing fundamental hypersonics research.

Both require technology development that includes hypersonic propulsion systems, reusable vehicle technologies, high-temperature materials, including carbon fiber components, polymer ceramic composites, and systems analysis. The Committee provides $50,000,000 for hypersonics technology research, which is equal to the fiscal year 2022 funding level. Within this amount, the Committee provides $10,000,000 for collaborative work between industry and academia for carbon/carbon material testing and $5,000,000 to develop and mature automation of high-temperature ceramic matrix composites for material characterization, both of which will benefit the next generation of very high-temperature composites for hypersonic vehicles.

Advanced Materials Research.—The Committee recognizes the continuing role NASA and university research institutions play in developing and demonstrating capabilities of advanced materials platforms, such as composite thermoplastic fibers, for next-generation air and space vehicles. NASA is encouraged to partner with academic institutions that have strong capabilities in aviation, aerospace structures, and materials testing and evaluation, and the Committee provides $7,000,000 above the request to advance university-led aeronautics advanced materials research

Advanced Capabilities for Emergency Response Operations [ACERO].—The Committee recognizes the unique capabilities NASA has in developing aircraft management systems through its Airspace Operations and Safety Program and provides the request level for efforts related to traffic management for emergency response operations. ACERO is anticipated to provide additional support to wildfire management agencies regarding more precise identification of fire ignition sites, better standalone sensors for micro weather modeling, 24/7 airspace management of mixed-use vehicles, and integration of a new class of aircraft for nighttime fire suppression.

Cleaner, Quieter Airplanes.—The Aeronautics Research Mission Directorate continues to make significant strides in demonstrating new technologies, including systems architecture, components, integration of propulsion systems and airframe structures, and in electric or hybrid-electric aircraft concepts that are capable of reducing both carbon and noise emissions. The Committee supports NASA's Sustainable Flight National Partnership and other efforts to bring these technologies to market.

Aerosciences Evaluation and Test Capabilities [AETC].—The Committee recommendation provides the requested amount for AETC activities. This funding is intended to provide the necessary support for operations and maintenance so that AETC capabilities are available for use across NASA.

SPACE TECHNOLOGY

Appropriations, 2022	$1,100,000,000
Budget Estimate, 2023	1,437,900,000
Committee recommendation	1,263,850,000

The Committee provides $1,263,850,000 for Space Technology, which is $163,850,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level and $174,050,000 below the budget request. The Space Technology mission directorate funds basic research that can advance multi-pur-

pose technologies to enable new approaches to all of NASA's current missions. Space Technology also includes funding for NASA's Small Business Innovative Research [SBIR] and Small Business Technology Transfer programs.

The Committee is supportive of many of the technologies being developed within Space Technology, which will have wide-ranging benefits for NASA missions and throughout the agency. Of particular note are the enabling technologies of Solar Electric Propulsion, Fission Surface Power, Moon-to-Mars Planetary Autonomous Construction Technology, Archinaut-2, in-space robotic manufacturing, and active debris removal technology development. These key supporting technologies will provide enabling capabilities for multiple robotic and human exploration missions. The Committee is also supportive of the Regional Economic Development Program, including partnering with the NIST Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership and its local offices to target technologies of interest to NASA's overarching mission of exploration, while also driving innovation and economic growth. NASA is encouraged to expand the program to all 50 States and provide the Committee, within 30 days of enactment of this act, its plans for expanding this activity.

The recommendation includes $5,000,000 to advance large scale production and use of innovative nanomaterials, including carbon nanotubes and carbon/carbon composites.

In-Space Additive Manufacturing Capabilities.—Additive manufacturing systems will be capable of producing unlimited size high-strength parts in space using starting materials from Earth. Developing and demonstrating in-space manufacturing capabilities such as 3D printing, additive friction, and laser-assisted cold spray capabilities could dramatically change how future missions will be developed and provide mission cost savings. In order to advance these capabilities, the Committee provides not less than $15,000,000 for the research, development, and enhancement of in-space additive manufacturing capabilities.

On-Orbit Servicing, Assembly, and Manufacturing–1 [OSAM–1].—The Committee recommends $227,000,000 for the OSAM–1 to conduct and demonstrate the capabilities to refuel satellites in LEO utilizing Landsat-7. As the program progresses from research to implementation, the Committee encourages NASA to work with private sector and university partners to facilitate commercialization of the technologies developed within the program. The Committee encourages NASA to make OSAM–1's capabilities available to other government agencies that own and operate satellites. NASA is directed to keep the program on track for launch no later than 2025.

Nuclear Propulsion.—NASA is continuing its work to develop the foundational technologies and advance low-enriched uranium nuclear thermal propulsion systems that can provide significantly faster trip times for crewed missions than non-nuclear options and advancing nuclear thermal propulsion [NTP] to enable an in-space demonstration is the next step in developing this technology. The Committee provides $110,000,000 for the development of NTP, of which not less than $45,000,000 is for reactor development, not less than $45,000,000 is for fuel materials development, and not less

than $20,000,000 is for non-nuclear systems development and acquisition planning. The Committee encourages NASA to coordinate with other relevant Federal departments to maximize the total effort for this propulsion capability. Within 180 days of the enactment of this act, NASA, in conjunction with other relevant Federal departments and agencies, shall submit a multi-year plan that enables technology development leading to an in-space demonstration and describes future missions and propulsion and power systems enabled by this capability. NASA is encouraged to develop innovative nuclear technologies that enable a regular cadence of extended duration robotic missions to the lunar surface and Mars.

Space Nuclear Technologies Portfolio.—Space Technology-funded projects on space nuclear technologies, including the development of fission surface power, NTP, and nuclear electric propulsion, are critical to the success and sustainability of missions to the Moon and Mars, as well as satellites and space vehicles. Fission surface power systems, due to their ruggedness, resilience, and ability to survive the lunar night and operate in permanently shaded craters, are essential to sustained, long-duration missions on the lunar surface. The Committee is supportive of past and ongoing investments in a mix of technologies, such as vertical solar arrays and fission surface power, and urges NASA to devote the resources required to ensure that these systems are fully developed and prepared for deployment when the time for surface missions arrives in the mid-2020s. As it relates to nuclear propulsion systems, the need for these capabilities is understood and of paramount importance, as described by the National Academies. The Committee encourages NASA to continue making the appropriate investments in developing these technologies now, so that the agency has adequate time to mature, develop, test, and human-rate them in collaboration with private sector experts. NASA is encouraged to identify areas of alignment between nuclear propulsion and fission surface power research.

Flight Opportunities Program.—The recommendation provides $27,000,000 for the Flight Opporunities Program. The funding provided for this program may be used to support undergraduate and graduate work in developing flight opportunities payloads. Within the amount provided, $5,000,000 to support payload development and flight of K–12 and collegiate educational payloads.

Small Business Innovation Research.—The Committee recognizes the importance of the SBIR program and its previous success in commercialization of results from federally-funded research and development projects, and includes the requested level for SBIR.

EXPLORATION

Appropriations, 2022	$6,791,700,000
Budget Estimate, 2023	7,478,283,000
Committee recommendation	7,547,750,000

The Committee provides $7,547,750,000 for Exploration, which is $756,050,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level and $69,467,000 above the budget request.

The Exploration account funds the capabilities required to develop, demonstrate, and deploy the transportation, life support, and surface systems that will enable sustained human presence beyond

LEO and throughout the solar system. The Committee believes the Nation deserves a safe and robust human spaceflight program to explore beyond LEO, including establishing a sustainable lunar presence, and ensuring U.S. leadership in space.

EXPLORATION

[In thousands of dollars]

	Committee recommendation
Orion	1,338,700
Space Launch System	2,600,000
Exploration Ground Systems	799,150
Exploration Research and Development	2,600,300
Gateway	*779,200*
Human Landing System	*1,485,600*
Human Exploration Requirements and Architecture	48,300
Mars Campaign Development	161,300
Total, Exploration	7,547,750

The Committee supports NASA's goal of returning U.S. astronauts to the surface of the Moon through the Artemis program and provides funding to move its lunar program forward. While the Artemis program is steadily progressing, many challenges remain for the initial crewed landing on the Moon. The Committee eagerly awaits the upcoming Artemis 1 launch yet notes that other critical elements remain in early development and threaten to delay crewed flights to the Moon. NASA also must work on developing the needed systems that will make Artemis a program that will support a sustained lunar presence on and around the Moon. To accomplish this goal, NASA must coordinate and systematically advance the many programs under development through a plan that reflects the complexity of this undertaking. The Committee has provided funds for NASA to advance its human exploration program and expects NASA to provide further definition of the program and refined cost estimates that reflect NASA's plans as they become available.

The Space Launch System [SLS], Orion multi-purpose crew vehicle [Orion], and Exploration Ground Systems [EGS] are all critical infrastructure for the development and sustainment of the Nation's human exploration goals. These investments are critical to human exploration of space beyond LEO, and provide flexibility for a variety of missions and destinations including the Moon and Mars.

The Committee provides $2,600,000,000 for SLS; $1,338,700,000 for Orion; and $799,150,000 for EGS. These funding levels ensure the earliest possible crewed launch of SLS, as well as prepare for the development of future science and crewed missions.

As SLS, Orion, EGS, and eventually other elements of the Artemis architecture transition from development to production and operations, the long-term cost effectiveness of these capabilities will only be realized with a rebalancing of the workforce. NASA should strive to appropriately align its workforce during this transition to operations to drive affordability and prepare for achieving future exploration goals. Within 90 days of enactment of this act, NASA shall provide the Committee with a workforce plan that identifies, by center, the anticipated impacts to its workforce

as the Artemis program transitions from development to operations and the future program, mission, and technology development assignments necessary to maintain NASA's capabilities at its centers.

The Committee directs NASA to follow its "Priority of Use" clause for ensuring that its missions are prioritized and that mission-related activities and schedules of NASA missions are not impacted by outside activities at its centers. In particular, NASA shall ensure that any non-Federal activities do not interfere with the progress of, and schedule for, the Artemis missions, and will report to the Committee any conflicting activities and how the conflict was resolved 15 days prior to any activity taking place. Ensuring that NASA's missions and launch schedules are prioritized will become increasingly important as NASA utilizes its ground and launch facilities as it begins the launch campaign associated with returning astronauts to the Moon.

Lunar Cargo.—As NASA further refines its strategy for a sustainable presence and exploration of the lunar surface, the Committee encourages NASA to continue its exploration of a cargo variant of SLS for use in the Artemis program and for other purposes. Developing the planned cargo variant of SLS can assist in future missions to deliver surface habitats, transit habitats, and surface rovers that will be needed for a sustained presence on the Moon.

Orion Transition to Operations.—The Committee is supportive of transitioning management and funding for programs from Exploration to Space Operations as the programs mature and are in production rather than development. This type of activity is to be expected over time, and NASA should be able to provide a clear order of operations for transition, as well the budgetary requirements as part of any budget request. Instead, NASA has requested transfer language in its budget request and provided evolving budget information about which funds belong in which account. Any transition must not distract programs that are currently focused on upcoming missions, but should naturally evolve as development activities are completed. The Committee has provided NASA with the ability to address the transition of Orion as part of activities related to Artemis 4 and subsequent missions, and expects NASA to request development and operations funding separately in the appropriate amounts and accounts in future requests, rather than relying on transfer authority.

The Committee has high confidence in the leadership of Space Operations and Exploration to execute the transition of this program successfully.

Block 1B Development.—The Committee is supportive of NASA's plans to fully develop the capabilities of SLS and directs NASA to continue the simultaneous development of activities authorized under section 302(c)(1)(a) and (b) of Public Law 111–267. Enabling the evolution of SLS from the vehicle to be used in Artemis 1 to the Block 1B variant and eventually the 130 metric ton variant requires the continued development of the interim Block 1B variation of SLS, including the continued development of the Exploration Upper Stage [EUS]. It also requires modifications to SLS, the continued construction of a block 1B compatible mobile launch platform [MLP–2], and development of any additional processing and launch capabilities. To further enable NASA's goals for the Artemis

program, the Committee provides no less than $600,000,000 for Block 1B development for EUS engine development and associated stage adapter work from within the amounts provided for SLS, and no less than $281,350,000 for MLP–2 from within amounts provided for EGS.

Mobile Launch Platform 2 [MLP–2].—The Committee recognizes that in order for NASA's planned Artemis 4 mission, which will utilize the Block 1B variant of SLS, a second mobile launch platform known as MLP–2 will be necessary. Challenges experienced by both NASA and the awardee have led to significant cost increases and potential delays. In fact, the Inspector General found that "an ML–2 project analysis provided only a 3.9 percent confidence level that the $1,000,000,000 cost and October 2023 delivery estimates were accurate." This is a stunningly low confidence level. The Committee understands that a review of MLP–2's cost and schedule will soon be completed. While the Committee awaits the outcome of that review, the recommendation includes $281,350,000 for MLP–2, an increase of $49,250,000 above the request. This represents one-half of NASA's current estimate of the additional fiscal year 2023 need. The Committee expects NASA to find the other half of the estimated need from within other resources provided and cautions NASA against proposing reductions in Congressional priorities. Once the review has been completed, NASA is directed, within 15 days, to provide the Committee with the results, including any funding deviation from the interim funding level, and a recommendation of what resources from within NASA's budget should be used to offset any additional costs. The results of the review should also be provided to the OIG and GAO.

Artemis Campaign Development.—The Committee provides $2,600,300,000 for Exploration Research and Development, which is comprised of Gateway, Advanced Exploration Systems, Advanced Cislunar and Surface Capabilities, and the Human Landing System. As NASA continues to refine its Artemis program, greater attention must be paid to near-term objectives, while still maintaining early work for technologies that will enable a sustainable lunar presence.

Space Suits.—The Committee notes that in 2022 NASA finally began the process for developing the space suits that will be necessary for the crewed landing on the Moon scheduled for 2025. This is an extremely ambitious timeline and will require coordination across multiple programs including the Human Landing System and the initial testing on board the International Space Station.

Human Landing System.—NASA anticipates an uncrewed Human Landing System [HLS] test in 2024, with an Artemis 3 crewed landing in 2025. This is also an ambitious schedule due to the technical challenges involved with testing vehicles that will carry astronauts to the lunar surface ahead of the Artemis 3 mission. In addition, NASA has also begun the process of selecting sustainable crew landers necessary for the Artemis program to maintain regular access to the lunar surface. The Committee believes that having at least two teams providing services using the Gateway should be the end goal of the current development program. To that end, the Committee provides no less than $1,485,600,000, the same as the request, for HLS, of which no less than

$500,000,000 shall be for Sustaining Lunar Development activities. Using this funding, NASA is expected to ensure redundancy and competition, including robust support for research, development, testing, and evaluation for no fewer than two HLS teams. In order to support HLS program development, no less than the requested level for the Lunar Lander office is also provided.

Habitat Systems Research and Development.—To facilitate NASA's plan for a sustained lunar presence, the Committee includes the request level for habitation systems research and development. The Committee expects NASA to establish within fiscal year 2023 a habitation systems program office that aligns with the current habitat formulation center of expertise. NASA is further requested to continue acquisition planning to support launch readiness of a lunar surface habitat by 2028.

SPACE OPERATIONS

Appropriations, 2022	$4,041,300,000
Budget estimate, 2023	4,266,317,000
Committee recommendation	4,293,500,000

The Committee provides $4,293,500,000 for Space Operations, which is $252,200,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level and $27,183,000 above the budget request. The Space Operations account supports the International Space Station [ISS] and the supporting functions required to conduct operations in space at up to the full requested level. The ISS is a complex of research laboratories in LEO in which American, Russian, and international partner astronauts conduct unique scientific and technological investigations in a microgravity environment.

Commercial Crew and Cargo.—The Committee recommends $50,000,000 above the requested level of funding for Commercial Crew and Cargo, including the full requested amount to enable cargo flights for all three current providers within the Commercial Crew and Cargo program. The Committee notes that since 2011, it has been NASA's goal to have two providers for crew services to the ISS, yet only one is currently fully operational. Previous experience with Commercial Cargo where NASA was required to use an alternative launch vehicle when both providers were unable to provide services suggests that maintaining crew launch redundancy may require more than two service providers. The recommendation provides $50,000,000 for certification activities necessary to allow NASA to bring on another commercial crew provider. NASA is also encouraged to qualify U.S. suborbital vehicles in order to procure flights for NASA personnel and allow human-tended payloads through flight opportunities, if appropriate. NASA's qualification process should prioritize safety and avoid unnecessary duplication of existing licensing procedures.

Commercial LEO Development.—The Committee supports maintaining the ISS as long as it can be safely operated. However, it is anticipated that current commercial efforts to develop viable alternatives will allow NASA to meet anticipated mission requirements using free flyers in LEO before the end of the decade. The recommendation provides the full budget request of $224,200,000 for Commercial LEO activities to allow for continued opportunities for LEO commercialization that are not primarily dependent on

continual NASA funding. This funding should be primarily focused on solving supply rather than demand problems. NASA's goal should be to buy services to meet its needs and grow promising research across all industries rather than to fund one-time novelty events, which are not indicators of future sustainable expansion of commercial activity in LEO. NASA shall not use funds provided in this or any other act to subsidize the cost of any project that is primarily intended for marketing, advertising, or entertainment.

Rocket Propulsion Test Program and Testing Infrastructure.—The Committee recommends the fiscal year 2023 requested amount for the NASA Rocket Propulsion Test program to ensure that test infrastructure remains adequate to support the SLS and other propulsion development programs. In managing the program and its infrastructure, NASA should prioritize facility and fixed infrastructure improvements specific to infrastructure that is shared among users of the facility in a continued effort to attract and facilitate commercial partnerships at NASA's test centers. The Committee looks forward to the report on the historical use of Rocket Propulsion Test Program funds, including allocation of resources to specific field centers and directs NASA to provide, not later than 90 days from enactment of this act, a forward-looking plan describing how NASA intends to maintain and modernize its propulsion testing facilities to address current and future testing needs.

Space Communications.—The Committee recognizes and appreciates the complexities involved in sustaining NASA's Near Space and Deep Space communications networks and infrastructure, which support NASA's scientific and exploration activities. With the proliferation of commercial satellites capable of providing communications for NASA's needs, this program represents a significant opportunity to deliver more economical and efficient services. The Committee supports NASA's goal to commercialize its Direct-To-Earth communications services. However, much work remains to demonstrate that services tailored to non-space users are capable of meeting NASA mission needs when NASA's Tracking and Data Relay Satellites reach the end of their service lives in the 2030s. If commercialization plans cannot meet NASA's needs, the agency will need to plan and budget for replacement of essential services.

The Committee directs NASA to provide a timeline for sustainment of the existing network and infrastructure upgrades in the fiscal year 2024 budget request. NASA is also directed to identify adequate resources and provide a plan to address any upgrades identified in its Deep Space Network "Road to Green" study. NASA is directed to brief the Committee on these plans within 30 days after the enactment of this act. The recommendation supports the full request for the Communications Services Program.

Human Research Program.—The Committee recognizes the importance of the Human Research Program to the current ISS mission as well as to preparing for upcoming Artemis missions. Crew health and safety will be integral to future crewed Moon and Mars missions, and NASA is directed to continue its efforts into understanding the effects of living and working in space on astronauts.

21st Century Launch Complex.—The Committee notes that maintaining multiple launch sites contributes to assured access to the

ISS for NASA, researchers, and industry. The recommendation includes up to $15,000,000 for NASA-owned launch facilities, of which no less than $10,000,000 shall be used to fill critical maintenance, capacity, and range safety gaps at the Wallops Flight Facility launch complex, including co-funding of upgrades at Pad 0A. The Committee further directs NASA to submit a reprogramming to transfer this funding to Construction and Environmental Compliance and Restoration [CECR], if appropriate. The Committee acknowledges that NASA's original intent for this program was as a bridge between Constellation and new programs proposed in its fiscal year 2011 budget request. If NASA does not support continuation of this program, the agency should robustly fund needed investments in its launch facilities in this account and in CECR, specifically identifying them in the budget request.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, AND MATHEMATICS ENGAGEMENT

Appropriations, 2022	$137,000,000
Budget estimate, 2023	150,100,000
Committee recommendation	150,100,000

The Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Engagement account funds STEM education activities to educate and inspire our next generation of explorers and innovators. The Committee provides $150,100,000 for STEM Engagement, which is $13,100,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level and equal to the budget request. As part of this activity, NASA is directed to continue progress toward the shared goal of both the Committee and NASA of capping administrative costs at no more than 5 percent.

STEM ENGAGEMENT

[In thousands of dollars]

	Committee recommendation
NASA Space Grant	57,000
Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research	26,000
Minority University Research and Education Project	48,100
STEM Education and Accountability Projects	19,000
TOTAL, STEM Engagement	150,100

Space Grant.—The Committee provides $57,000,000 for Space Grant and directs that all 52 participating jurisdictions be supported at no less than $850,000. NASA shall limit administrative costs to the fiscal year 2022 level and shall continue to have a goal of reducing administrative costs to no higher than 5 percent. The Committee encourages NASA to continue using funds to evaluate program performance, augment base grants, and competitively respond to local, regional, and national needs.

Competitive Program.—The Committee provides no less than $5,000,000 for the Competitive Program for Science, Museums, Planetariums, and NASA Visitors Centers within the STEM Education and Accountability Projects, also known as "Teams Engaging Affiliate Museums and Informal Institutions [TEAM II] program." This competitive grant program supports interactive exhibits, pro-

fessional development activities, and community-based programs to engage students, teachers, and the public in STEM.

Minority University Research and Education Project [MUREP].—The Committee continues to encourage MUREP to support programs that connect science, indigenous culture, and community, including the integration of indigenous practices, at minority-serving higher education institutions, including Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian-Serving Institutions and American Indian Tribal Colleges and Universities. The academic institution or institutions should be located in a State or States where the need for such indigenous-academic collaboration is present.

SAFETY, SECURITY, AND MISSION SERVICES

Appropriations, 2022	$3,020,600,000
Budget estimate, 2023	3,208,700,000
Committee recommendation	3,228,700,000

The Committee provides $3,228,700,000 for Safety, Security, and Mission Services, which is $208,100,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level and $20,000,000 above the budget request. The Safety, Security, and Mission Services account funds agency management, including NASA headquarters and each of the nine NASA field centers, as well as the design and execution of non-programmatic Construction of Facilities and Environmental Compliance and Restoration activities.

Independent Verification and Validation [IV&V] Program.—Within the amounts provided for Safety, Security, and Mission Services, the Committee recommends $39,100,000 for NASA's IV&V Program. If necessary, NASA shall fund additional IV&V activities from within the mission directorates that make use of IV&V services. The Committee applauds NASA's changes to the IV&V Program's governance and funding model to better align program requirements and associated costs, including the establishment of the IV&V Advisory Board to provide strategic direction for the program and work through program requirements with IV&V and the mission directorates.

Cybersecurity.—The Committee's recommendation includes the full request for Agency Information Technology Services to support shifting NASA's IT model to one that enhances cybersecurity with strong governance and information security practices.

High Performance Computing.—NASA's High Performance Computing has historically been budgeted in the Earth Sciences Division, even though it is an agency-wide resource. All other NASA agency-wide Information Technology and Mission Enabling Services are budgeted annually in the Mission Services and Capabilities program within Safety, Security, and Mission Services. As NASA embarks on a significant major restructuring of its High Performance Computing program based on the recently published Needs Assessment, NASA should consider taking the complementary step of separately identifying, budgeting, and managing its High Performance Computing Program as a distinct budget element within Mission Services and Capabilities in future budget years.

NASA Special Projects.—Within the appropriation for Safety, Security and Mission Services, the Committee recommendation also provides $27,246,000 for the following Special Projects:

NASA SPECIAL PROJECTS

Recipient	Project Purpose	Recommended ($)
Central Allegheny Challenger Learning Center.	Central Allegheny Challenger Learning Center	1,495,000
Cosmosphere, Inc.	Support for STEM Education Programs and Galleries/exhibits Revitalization.	3,000,000
Cuyahoga Community College District	Cleanroom Classroom Laboratory Equipment	195,000
Frostburg State University	Frostburg State University Regional Science Education Center	750,000
LSU National Center for Advanced Manufacturing.	Digital Manufacturing Technology Upgrades	2,500,000
Mingo County Redevelopment Authority	Mingo County Redevelopment Authority Advanced Air Mobility Education Program.	2,900,000
Museum of Science	Building a Pathway to Belonging Pilot Project	500,000
NHADEC	Next Generation Innovation for a Resilient Supply Chain	2,307,000
University of Delaware, Delaware State University.	Space Education Excellence for Delaware (SEED)	900,000
University of Maryland, Baltimore County.	Earth and Space Institute Research and Equipment	1,000,000
University of New Mexico	Long Wavelength Array Technology Upgrades	983,000
West Chester University of Pennsylvania	West Chester University Moonshot for Equity: I Want to STEM	716,000
Wichita State University	Support for Advanced Materials Research and Research Equipment at the National Institute for Aviation Research.	10,000,000

CONSTRUCTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE AND RESTORATION

Appropriations, 2022	$410,300,000
Budget estimate, 2023	424,300,000
Committee recommendation	424,300,000

The Committee provides $424,300,000 for Construction and Environmental Compliance and Restoration, which is $14,000,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level and equal to the budget request. The Construction and Environmental Compliance and Restoration account provides for design and execution of programmatic, discrete and minor revitalization, construction of facilities projects, facility demolition projects, and environmental compliance and restoration activities. The Committee recommendation includes the full request for Exploration and Space Operations Construction of Facilities [CoF].

Unmet Construction Needs.—The Committee is disappointed at the gulf between the amount NASA requested for this account and the cost of the projects identified as shovel ready and needed. The Inspector General issued a report titled "NASA's Construction of Facilities" on September 8, 2021, that recommended NASA "develop and institute an Agency-wide process to prioritize and fund institutional and programmatic CoF projects that align with Agency-level missions and require business case analyses to be completed and considered as part of the process prior to the projects' approval." NASA is directed to include no fewer than the top 10 construction projects that are needed but unfunded in its fiscal year 2024 budget request, along with any unmet repairs that result from damage from wildfires, hurricanes, or other natural disasters.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

Appropriations, 2022	$45,300,000
Budget estimate, 2023	48,400,000
Committee recommendation	48,400,000

The Committee's recommendation provides $48,400,000 for the Office of Inspector General, which is $3,100,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level and the equal to the budget request. The Office is responsible for promoting efficiency and preventing and detecting crime, fraud, waste, and mismanagement.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

The Committee includes bill language regarding the availability of funds for certain prizes. NASA is reminded that under the authority provided in section 20144 of title 52, United States Code, no prize may be announced until the funds needed to pay it have been appropriated or committed to in writing by a private source. NASA is directed to provide any written notification under subsection (h)(4) of that section to the Committee.

The Committee also includes bill language regarding transfers of funds between accounts and the NASA spending plan for fiscal year 2023.

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Appropriations, 2022	$8,838,000,000
Budget estimate, 2023	10,492,080,000
Committee recommendation	10,338,000,000

The Committee's recommendation provides $10,338,000,000 for the National Science Foundation [NSF]. The recommendation is $1,500,000,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level and $154,080,000 below the budget request.

NSF was established as an independent agency by the National Science Foundation Act of 1950 (Public Law 81–507) and is authorized to support research and education programs that promote the progress of science and engineering in the United States. The Foundation supports research and education in all major scientific and engineering disciplines through grants, cooperative agreements, contracts, and other forms of assistance in all parts of the United States. NSF also supports unique, large-scale domestic and international research facilities.

RESEARCH AND RELATED ACTIVITIES

Appropriations, 2022	$7,159,400,000
Budget estimate, 2023	8,425,987,000
Committee recommendation	8,321,907,000

The Committee's recommendation provides $8,321,907,000 for Research and Related Activities [R&RA]. The recommendation is $1,162,507,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level and $104,080,000 below the budget request.

The R&RA appropriation funds scientific discovery, trains a dynamic workforce, and supports broadly accessible state-of-the-art tools and facilities. Research activities contribute to the achievement of these outcomes through expansion of the knowledge base; integration of research and education; stimulation of knowledge transfer among academia and the public and private sectors, and international activities; and bring the perspectives of many scientific disciplines to bear on complex problems important to the

Nation. NSF's discipline-oriented R&RA account includes Biological Sciences; Computer and Information Science and Engineering; Engineering; Geosciences; Mathematical and Physical Sciences; Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences; Technology, Innovation, and Partnerships; Office of Cyberinfrastructure; Office of International Science and Engineering; Office of Polar Programs; Integrative Activities; and the U.S. Arctic Research Commission. All of these disciplines are part of a balanced whole.

The Committee's fiscal year 2023 recommendation supports Federal long-term basic and translational research that has the potential to transform our economy and way of life. Private industry, foundations, and non-profits bring additional expertise, resources, and capacity to NSF-funded research. This can further accelerate discovery and translation of research into products and services, enhance the preparation of the future workforce to benefit society, and grow the American economy. The Committee strongly encourages NSF to leverage the Nation's research communities through partnerships and collaboration to make available infrastructure, expertise, and financial resources to the U.S. scientific and engineering research and education enterprise.

Technology, Innovation, and Partnerships [TIP].—The Committee recognizes NSF's critical role in driving U.S. scientific and technological innovation and supports the TIP directorate within R&RA. The directorate is a cross-cutting platform to advance science and engineering research leading to breakthrough technologies, to find solutions to national and societal challenges, to strengthen U.S. global competitiveness, and to provide training opportunities for the development of a diverse STEM workforce. As NSF works to incorporate the goals of TIP into its research portfolio, NSF is reminded that the success of TIP will be enhanced through investing in the necessary foundational basic research provided by scientific disciplines across the research spectrum.

Regional Innovation Engines [NSF Engines].—The Committee provides up to $200,000,000 for the Regional Innovation Engines program. The Committee believes that NSF Engines will be transformative for communities across the country, especially for those within Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research [EPSCoR] States. The Committee directs NSF to award at least 20 percent of NSF Engines to institutions in EPSCoR States.

Infrastructure Investments.—The Committee supports NSF's role in building and operating groundbreaking research facilities, especially in areas that maintain or enhance U.S. leadership in key disciplines. The Committee recognizes the importance of maintaining, improving, and modernizing Federal laboratories and the need to provide appropriate funding to support such activities to keep up with costs due to inflation. Furthermore, the need for continued investment in world-class, major research facilities is not expected to diminish over the coming decade. Unless otherwise noted, within amounts provided, NSF is directed to allocate no less than the fiscal year 2022 enacted levels to maintain its core research levels, including support for existing scientific research laboratories, observational networks, and other research infrastructure assets, such as its astronomy assets, the current academic research fleet, feder-

ally-funded research and development centers, and the national high performance computing centers.

Scientific Facilities and Instrumentation.—A critical component of the Nation's scientific enterprise is the infrastructure that supports researchers in discovery science. Investments to advance the frontiers of research and education in science and engineering are critical to the Nation's innovation enterprise. The Committee encourages NSF to fully fund its U.S. scientific research facilities and instruments to adequately support scientists and students engaged in sustained, cutting-edge research. The recommendation fully funds the operations of the Daniel K. Inouye Solar Telescope [DKI–ST], the Very Long Baseline Array [VLBA] receivers, and the Center for High Energy X–Ray Science [CHEXS].

Astronomy.—U.S.-based astronomy researchers and facilities funded through NSF continue to make groundbreaking discoveries utilizing world-class scientific research instruments and facilities. The Committee recognizes the recent release by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine [NAS] of the 2020 Decadal Survey in Astronomy and Astrophysics, Astro2020. The Committee notes that NSF is currently assessing how to best implement the recommendations included in Astro2020 while enabling ongoing research in the United States, at facilities across the globe, and at observatories operated by universities, including the National Optical-Infrared Astronomy Research Laboratory, the National Radio Astronomy Observatories, and the National Solar Observatory [NSO]. NSF is encouraged to provide appropriate levels of support for operating its current facilities, developing instrumentation, and preparing for enabling future world-class scientific research facilities. NSF is also expected to support a balanced portfolio of astronomy research grants by scientists and students engaged in ground-breaking research.

Kitt Peak National Observatory.—The Committee notes with great concern that the Kitt Peak National Observatory operations and infrastructure were severely impacted by the Contreras Fire. With this in mind and keeping safety as the number one priority, NSF is directed to report to the Committee within 60 days of enactment of this act on the extent of the damage, the plan to resume operations and rebuild or repair impacted infrastructure, along with any associated cost estimates. NSF shall keep the Committee informed of any other activities related to this facility.

Solar Astronomy.—The Committee commends NSF's ongoing efforts to partner with academic institutions and the NSO to operate the Richard B. Dunn Solar Telescope [DST]. The Committee directs NSF to continue working with the NSO and the academic community to ensure DST and its associated instrumentation remain available for continued research.

Green Bank Observatory [GBO].—The Committee recognizes the significant investment NSF has made to develop the world-class scientific facility at the GBO and the benefit other agencies have gained through their use of the GBO facility. The Committee has therefore encouraged the development and support of multi-agency management plans for GBO, and supports NSF's efforts to complete these plans at GBO. In order to provide stability for the facility as these plans are finalized, the Committee recommends no less

than the request level to support operations and maintenance at GBO through multi-agency plans or through the Foundation.

Climate and Clean Energy.—The Committee supports the administration's requests for the U.S. Global Change Research Program and Clean Energy Technology.

Navigating the New Arctic.—As NSF continues the Navigating the New Arctic program, the Committee encourages NSF to expand its support of research and infrastructure in the North Atlantic region of the Arctic, which is critical for understanding how Arctic warming will affect the environmental and socio-economic conditions of communities along the Atlantic Seaboard. In addition, to maximize investments, the Committee encourages NSF to develop new multinational partnerships to support research teams that address pan-Arctic and global concerns linked to Arctic change.

EPSCoR.—The Committee underscores the importance of the EPSCoR program in spurring innovation and strengthening the research capabilities of institutions that are historically underserved by Federal research and development funding. The EPSCoR program is funded at no less than $247,250,000. EPSCoR represents an effort to raise the capabilities and provide opportunities for students and institutions in States across the country. The Committee believes that good ideas and high-quality research are not bound to certain geographical areas but exist across the country. NSF shall make every effort to achieve efficiencies to ensure that no more than 5 percent of the amounts provided for the program are used for administration and other overhead costs.

Geography of Innovation.—The Committee commends NSF's commitment to a "Geography of Innovation" and the recognition that the success of our Nation's research enterprise relies on success in every State, not a select few. The Committee looks forward to receiving the report requested in the joint explanatory statement accompanying Public Law 117–103 directing NSF to review its large funding initiatives and center mechanisms to assess how the Foundation can ensure institutions in EPSCoR States and Minority Servicing Institutions are not only participants, but leading large NSF investments.

Growing Research Access for Nationally Transformative Equity and Diversity [GRANTED].—The Committee supports NSF's new GRANTED initiative that will provide support to mitigate the barriers to competitiveness at underserved institutions within the Nation's research enterprise. Many underserved and emerging research institutions will benefit from GRANTED's goal for the development of leadership in research administration, enhancement of institutional research administrative support, and support service infrastructure. NSF is encouraged to leverage its expertise to ensure institutions participating in GRANTED are able to implement best practices in order to increase the likelihood of award success through increased research capacity.

Biological Infrastructure.—The Committee commends NSF for its investments in critical biological infrastructure such as computational tools that have transformed how researchers approach biological questions. The Committee directs NSF to review its biological infrastructure investments and develop a plan for how to review their impact and to consider what other mechanistic ap-

proaches could give NSF more flexibility to evaluate and maintain critical infrastructure during its useful life.

Understanding Rules of Life.—One of the research gaps in biological knowledge is the inability to look at an organism's genetics and environment and predict its observable characteristics. Research in this area will open new doors to answer fundamental questions in life sciences. To that end, the Committee supports NSF's funding for research, including plant genomics, and directs NSF to continue to advance the ongoing plant genomics research program, to further its work in crop-based genomics research, and to maintain a focus on research related to crops of economic importance. These activities directly address the Understanding Rules of Life research question that is a focus of NSF.

VORTEX–SE.—NSF has been working in conjunction with NOAA to build a full research campaign to study the unique characteristics of tornadoes in the southeastern United States. The Committee expects that future budget requests for VORTEX–SE will include adequate budgetary resources for associated research and instrumentation that will maximize the scientific return of this ongoing research. As part of VORTEX–SE, the Committee encourages NSF to look beyond its traditional research disciplines and programs and to utilize collaborative opportunities for co-funding grants that enhance understanding of the fundamental natural processes and hazards of tornadoes in the southeast and to improve models of these seasonal extreme events.

Quantum Science.—The Committee supports investment in quantum science as fundamental, transformative research that can position the United States as a leader in emerging fields of economic and scientific importance. The recommendation provides up to the budget request level for quantum information science research, as authorized in the National Quantum Initiative Act (Public Law 115–368), to support basic interdisciplinary quantum information science and engineering research and human resources development in all aspects of quantum information science and engineering. Within the amount provided, the Committee recommendation includes $211,000,000 for activities authorized under section 301 of the National Quantum Initiative Act and $50,000,000 for National Quantum Information Science Research Centers, as authorized in section 302 of that Act.

Artificial Intelligence [AI].—The Committee believes it is important to maintain leadership in AI and commends NSF for its significant investments in this area. The Committee provides up to the request level of $734,410,000 for AI research. The Committee encourages NSF to continue its efforts in workforce development for AI and other emerging technologies, including education programs for non-computer science students, with focused outreach to community colleges, Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic Serving Institutions, Tribal Colleges and Universities, and Minority Serving Institutions. In addition, the Committee encourages NSF to increase the pipeline of students graduating with AI and data literacy through partnerships and cooperative agreements.

Social Media Content Moderation Algorithms.—The Committee encourages NSF to fund meritorious research into the safety and

ethical effects of content moderation and recommendation algorithms and to advance new technical methods to reduce the likelihood of unexpected negative effects from algorithms, as authorized under section 5401 of the National Artificial Intelligence Initiative Act of 2020 (Public Law 116–283).

Mid-Scale Research Infrastructure.—The recommendation fully funds the Mid-scale Research Instrumentation program and encourages the Foundation to make no fewer than two mid-scale awards to EPSCoR States.

Ocean Research.—The Committee supports the work of the Division of Ocean Sciences to advance research, infrastructure, and education of all aspects of the ocean and the integrated Earth system. The Committee encourages NSF to support the construction or acquisition of local-class research vessels through the Major Research Instrumentation Program or Mid-scale Research Infrastructure that will provide outstanding experiential, place-based education and to support innovative research and educational programs focused on understanding and sustaining the near-coastal marine and estuarine environments.

Academic Research Infrastructure.—The Committee recognizes there is considerable support for academic research infrastructure construction and modernization across all directorates. The modernization and replacement of obsolete facilities, including those widely used by scientific communities to facilitate research and access to research environments, are essential to ensuring investments in principal investigator-driven basic and applied investigations maximize U.S. scientific and economic competitiveness. The Committee encourages NSF to evaluate its requirements for facilities that support access to critical research facilities and platforms that benefit large segments of the science and technology community to ensure research facilities and platforms will have adequate institutional support capabilities.

Historically Black Colleges and Universities [HBCUs] Excellence in Research.—The Committee supports the HBCUs Excellence in Research program, and the recommendation includes $37,930,000 for the program. The program helps to address NSF's previously troubling track record of only providing substantial research funding to a small number of HBCUs.

Disaster Research.—The Committee encourages NSF to fund grants for meritorious landslide research, data collection, and warning systems in fulfilment of the National Landslide Preparedness Act (Public Law 116–323) and the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program Reauthorization Act (Public Law 115–307). NSF is encouraged to prioritize funding for the deployment of early warning systems in States with high levels of both landslides and seismic activities.

Seismology and Geodesy Facilities.—The Committee supports the recommendations of the NSF analysis titled "Portfolio Review of EAR Seismology and Geodesy Instrumentation," particularly those recommendations related to broadening the funding mechanisms for long-term support for seismic and geodetic facilities. Federal departments and agencies that utilize these facilities and the data they produce, including NOAA, the U.S. Air Force, the National Nuclear Security Administration, the National Energy Technology

Laboratory, and the U.S. Geological Survey, should contribute annually to the long-term support and recapitalization of facility instrumentation. The Committee directs NSF to continue efforts to negotiate memoranda of understanding or other funding agreements with these agencies and to include an update on the status of these negotiations as part of the fiscal year 2024 budget justification.

Sustainable Chemistry Research.—The Committee directs NSF to continue research and related activities associated with the Sustainable Chemistry Basic Research program authorized under section 509 of the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010 (Public Law 111–358). In addition, NSF is encouraged to coordinate with OSTP to implement the provisions in subtitle E of title II of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (Public Law 116–283).

Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences [SBE].—The Committee supports the SBE Directorate and recognizes the fundamental importance of the research it supports in advancing scientific understanding of public health, defense and security, education and learning, and the interface between humans and technology. The SBE directorate funds more than half of our Nation's university-based behavioral science research but remains the smallest of NSF directorates. The Committee believes that behavioral science provides evidence-based understanding of human behavior and recognizes the SBE Directorate's unique role in funding this research and encourages NSF to continue its support of these programs.

National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics [NCSES].—The Committee commends NSF for its stewardship of NCSES, including respecting its independence as one of thirteen principal Federal statistical agencies. NCSES provides statistics that inform U.S. research and development infrastructure, U.S. innovation and competitiveness, and STEM workforce. The Committee supports the request and staffing increases to fulfill the NCSES's leadership of government-wide evidence building activities and initiatives required of the Federal statistical agencies under the Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–435). The Committee encourages NSF to address NCSES staffing to allow the Center to build its in-house capacity and expertise to perform its work nimbly, efficiently, and in a cost-efficient manner.

MAJOR RESEARCH EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES CONSTRUCTION

Appropriations, 2022	$249,000,000
Budget estimate, 2023	187,230,000
Committee recommendation	187,230,000

The Committee's recommendation provides $187,230,000 for Major Research Equipment and Facilities Construction [MREFC]. The recommendation is $61,770,000 below the fiscal year 2022 enacted level and equal to the budget request.

The MREFC appropriation supports the acquisition, procurement, construction, and commissioning of unique national research platforms and facilities as well as major research equipment. Projects supported by this appropriation push the boundaries of

technology and offer expanded opportunities for the science and engineering community. Preliminary design and development activities, ongoing operations, and maintenance costs of the facilities are provided through the R&RA appropriation account.

The Committee's recommendation includes funding at the requested level for the continued construction of the Vera C. Rubin Observatory (previously known as the Large Synoptic Survey Telescope), the Antarctic Infrastructure Recapitalization (previously known as the Antarctic Infrastructure Modernization for Science), Regional Class Research Vessels, and the High Luminosity-Large Hadron Collider Upgrade. The Committee encourages NSF and the National Science Board to continue planning and budgeting for the next generation of major facilities needed to ensure the United States maintains its scientific leadership.

The recommendation provides $76,250,000 for Mid-scale Research Infrastructure, which is equal to the request level. The Committee continues to support investments in Mid-scale Research Infrastructure, including the procurement of larger mid-scale instrumentation under the MREFC account. Using MREFC for larger mid-scale projects will allow these projects to benefit from the oversight that all MREFC projects undergo. NSF is encouraged to award at least one mid-scale project led by an institution in an EPSCoR State.

The Committee encourages GAO to continue its annual review of programs funded within MREFC so that GAO can report to Congress shortly after each annual budget submission of the President and semiannually thereafter on the status of large-scale NSF projects and activities based on its review of this information.

STEM EDUCATION

Appropriations, 2022	$1,006,000,000
Budget estimate, 2023	1,377,180,000
Committee recommendation	1,327,180,000

The Committee's recommendation accepts the proposal to rename the Directorate for Education and Human Resources as the Directorate for STEM Education and provides $1,327,180,000. The recommendation is $321,180,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level and $50,000,000 below the budget request.

The STEM Education appropriation supports a comprehensive set of programs across all levels of education in STEM including activities that unite school districts with institutions of higher learning to improve pre-college education. Other pre-college activities include the development of the next generation of STEM education leaders, instructional materials, and the STEM instructional workforce. Undergraduate activities support curriculum, laboratory, and instructional improvement; expand the STEM talent pool; attract STEM participants to teaching; augment advanced technological education at 2-year colleges; and develop dissemination tools. Graduate support is directed to research and teaching fellowships, internships, and instructional workforce improvement by linking precollege education systems with higher education. Programs also seek to broaden the participation of groups underrepresented in the STEM enterprise and promote informal science education.

Advanced Technological Education.—The Committee provides $75,000,000 for Advanced Technological Education.

Graduate Research Fellowship Program [GRFP].—The Committee accepts the proposal to consolidate GRFP within STEM Education and provides up to $355,000,000 for the program. The Committee notes that GRFP has a long history of supporting outstanding graduate students studying sciences, engineering, and mathematics fields, including behavioral science, and selects recipients who go on to achieve high levels of success in their future academic and professional careers. The Committee is supportive of the proposed increase to the fellowship stipend and encourages NSF to consider a similar proposal as part of the fiscal year 2024 budget request.

Robert Noyce Scholarship Program.—The Committee provides $67,000,000 for the Robert Noyce Scholarship Program.

Informal Science Education.—The Committee maintains its strong support for NSF's informal science education program and provides no less than $70,000,000 for Advancing Informal STEM Learning. The Committee encourages NSF to coordinate and provide necessary support for investments in both in- and out-of-school time STEM education programs across Federal agencies, including support for extracurricular STEM programs. The Directorate for STEM Education is further encouraged to continue its NSF-wide efforts to support informal STEM education programs, including leveraging the research directorates to support activities that match their respective content areas.

Hands-on and Experiential Learning Opportunities.—Developing a robust, talented, and diverse homegrown workforce, particularly in the fields of STEM, is critical to the success of the United States innovation economy. The Committee believes that hands-on and experiential learning opportunities outside of the classroom are critical for student success in STEM subjects and careers, stimulating students' interest, increasing confidence, and creating motivation to pursue a related career. In particular, hands-on and experiential learning opportunities can be particularly successful in inspiring interest in students who traditionally have been underrepresented in STEM fields, including girls, students of color, and students from disadvantaged backgrounds. Therefore, the Committee encourages NSF to provide grants to support development of hands-on learning opportunities in STEM education, including through afterschool activities and innovative learning opportunities such as robotics competitions.

Broadening Participation.—The Committee supports the requested increases related to Broadening Participation in STEM programs. Global leadership requires diverse ideas, and NSF is encouraged to ensure the Foundation partners with communities with significant populations of underrepresented groups within STEM research and education as well as the STEM workforce. The Committee provides no less than $46,500,000 for the HBCUs Undergraduate Program, $12,000,000 for the Alliance for Graduate Education and the Professoriate, $69,500,000 for the Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation, $22,000,000 for the Tribal Colleges and Universities Program, and $33,000,000 for Centers for Research Excellence in Science and Technology. In addition,

$55,000,000 is provided for the Hispanic Serving Institutions program to build capacity at institutions of higher education that typically do not receive high levels of NSF funding.

Inclusion Across the Nation of Communities of Learners of Underrepresented Discoverers in Engineering and Science [INCLUDES].—The Committee supports the Big Idea to broaden participation in science and engineering by developing networks and partnerships that involve organizations and consortia from different sectors committed to the common agenda of STEM inclusion. The recommendation provides $46,500,000 for INCLUDES. The Committee encourages NSF to ensure the agency partners with communities with significant populations of underrepresented groups in the STEM workforce.

Transformational Education Innovation and Translation.—The Committee encourages NSF to collaborate with the Department of Education on transformational education innovation and translation, including interventions grounded in scientific understanding, advancing the scientific understanding of learning, and fostering inclusive education research and development ecosystems that involve students, teachers, and parents to improve student outcomes and achievement. This may include instrumenting large-scale digital learning platforms to create a research infrastructure that drives continuous improvement in the use of the learning sciences.

AGENCY OPERATIONS AND AWARD MANAGEMENT

Appropriations, 2022	$400,000,000
Budget estimate, 2023	473,200,000
Committee recommendation	473,200,000

The Committee's recommendation provides $473,200,000 for Agency Operations and Award Management. The recommendation is $73,200,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level and equal to the budget request.

The appropriation provides salaries and expenses, including staff salaries, benefits, travel, training, rent, advisory and assistance services, communications and utilities expenses, supplies, equipment, and other operating expenses necessary for management of NSF's research and education activities.

The Committee continues to believe that NSF should include criteria that evaluate how a grant proposal will advance our Nation's national security and economic interests, as well as promote the progress of science and innovation in the United States.

The Committee reiterates its long-standing requirement that NSF submit reprogrammings when initiating new programs or activities of more than $500,000 or when reorganizing components. The Committee expects to be notified of reprogramming actions which involve less than the above-mentioned amount if such actions would have the effect of changing the agency's funding requirements in future years, or if programs or projects specifically cited in the Committee's explanatory statement are affected.

OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL SCIENCE BOARD

Appropriations, 2022	$4,600,000
Budget estimate, 2023	5,090,000
Committee recommendation	5,090,000

The Committee's recommendation provides $5,090,000 for the Office of the National Science Board. The recommendation is $490,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level and equal to the budget request.

The National Science Board is the governing body of NSF and is charged with serving as an independent adviser to the President and Congress on policy matters related to science and engineering research and education.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

Appropriations, 2022	$19,000,000
Budget estimate, 2023	23,393,000
Committee recommendation	23,393,000

The Committee's recommendation provides $23,393,000 for the Office of Inspector General [OIG]. The recommendation is $4,393,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level and equal to the budget request.

The OIG appropriation provides audit and investigation functions to identify and correct deficiencies that could lead to instances of fraud, waste, or mismanagement.

NSF NONRECURRING EXPENSES FUND

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

The bill includes the requested provision establishing the NSF Nonrecurring Expenses Fund to reinvest funds that would otherwise expire to support the national science and research enterprise.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

The bill includes two administrative provisions. One allows limited transfers of funds among accounts. The other requires notification for disposal of certain assets.

TITLE IV

RELATED AGENCIES

COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Appropriations, 2022	$13,000,000
Budget estimate, 2023	13,850,000
Committee recommendation	13,850,000

The Committee's recommendation provides $13,850,000 for the salaries and expenses of the Commission on Civil Rights, $850,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level and equal to the budget request.

Donations.—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.

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Appropriations, 2022	$420,000,000
Budget estimate, 2023	464,650,000
Committee recommendation	460,000,000

The Committee's recommendation provides $460,000,000 for Equal Employment Opportunity Commission [EEOC] salaries and expenses. This recommendation is $40,000,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level and $4,650,000 below the budget request.

The EEOC is the leading Federal agency dedicated to eradicating employment discrimination in both the public and private sectors on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, pregnancy, age, disability, and family medical history or genetic information. The EEOC serves both U.S. public and private workplaces by helping provide a fair and inclusive workplace, which engenders employee satisfaction and commitment and enhances employee retention, productivity, and profitability.

Inventory Backlog Reduction.—The Committee notes that at the end of fiscal year 2021, the EEOC had a private sector inventory of 42,811 cases and a substantial Federal sector hearing inventory. While this represents a decrease in the inventory backlog, it still represents a substantial number of unresolved cases. Using appropriated funds for activities that do not directly resolve this backlog of existing and incoming claims denies cases with complainants the opportunity of a timely resolution. Therefore, the Committee directs the EEOC to prioritize its staffing and resources toward reducing the number of current and outstanding unresolved private

sector pending charges and public sector hearings. EEOC is directed to report to the Committee and post on its public website, within 30 days of enactment of this act, on the number of A, B, and C charges for each of the last 5 fiscal years.

Public Comment on EEOC Guidance.—The Committee is concerned that, as the EEOC conducts its business in protecting against employment discrimination, its guidance proposals can be adopted without the opportunity of public input prior to implementation and enforcement. Therefore, if requested by at least two Commissioners, the EEOC shall make any new guidance available for public comment in the Federal Register for not less than 30 days prior to taking any potential action on proposed guidance.

Equal Pay Data and Report.—The Committee anticipates EEOC's study analyzing summary pay information collected through the revised EEO–1 form for 2017 and 2018, and directs EEOC to simultaneously publish a publicly available report describing the methodology and results of the analysis, identifying whether any operational needs would be created by a future pay data collection effort, and describing steps the agency plans to take to ensure that any pay data is kept confidential and secure. Within 120 days of the enactment of this act, the EEOC shall submit a report to the Committee setting forth a timeline and process for analyzing the summary pay information collected through the revised EEO–1 form. Any proposed changes to the collection and analysis of EEO–1 data shall be published in the Federal Register for a public comment period of no less than 30 days.

National Equal Pay Enforcement Task Force.—The National Equal Payment Enforcement Task Force was established in 2010 to bring together representatives from the EEOC, the Department of Justice, the Department of Labor, and the Office of Personnel Management to improve compliance, public education, and enforcement of equal pay laws. The Committee supports interagency collaboration, where appropriate, and encourages EEOC to explore whether reinstating the task force would further the agency's mission.

Countering Sexual Harassment in the Workplace.—The Committee encourages EEOC to prioritize developing and disseminating resource materials on comprehensive trainings to foster respectful workplaces free of harassment and discrimination, including best practices and training resources that address the needs of a diverse set of workplaces. EEOC is also encouraged to use funds to increase public awareness regarding access to workplace trainings, educate the public about the EEOC's work, and explain how to report instances of harassment or discrimination. Resources and public education campaigns should be made available in multiple languages.

State and Local Enforcement Assistance.—The Committee recommends up to $31,500,000 to assist State and local enforcement agencies. This will help ensure that EEOC provides adequate resources to its State partners.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Appropriations, 2022	$110,000,000
Budget estimate, 2023	106,818,000
Committee recommendation	122,400,000

The Committee's recommendation provides $122,400,000 for International Trade Commission [ITC] salaries and expenses. The recommendation is $12,400,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level and $15,582,000 above the administration's budget request. The ITC's direct request to Congress was $122,400,000, which is equal to the amount provided.

ITC is an independent, quasi-judicial agency responsible for conducting trade-related investigations and providing Congress and the President with independent technical advice related to U.S. international trade policy. The Committee reminds the administration and the Office of Management and Budget that Congress granted ITC specific bypass authority for submitting its budget estimate to the Legislative Branch, pursuant to section 175 of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2232). Therefore, all future budget estimates for ITC shall be transmitted to Congress without revision by the President, pursuant to such Act.

Analysis of the Impacts of Trade Enforcement Actions.—The Committee continues to be concerned about the impact of active tariffs under section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962 (19 U.S.C. 1862) and section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2232). The Committee looks forward to receiving the report on the effects of these tariffs, as directed by the joint explanatory statement accompanying Public Law 117–103 under the heading "Trade Enforcement Analysis."

LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

PAYMENT TO THE LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

Appropriations, 2022	$489,000,000
Budget estimate, 2023	700,000,000
Committee recommendation	539,000,000

The Committee's recommendation provides $539,000,000 for payment to LSC. The recommendation is $50,000,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level and $161,000,000 below the President's budget request.

The Committee's recommendation provides $495,800,000 for basic field programs, to be used for competitively awarded grants and contracts; $25,500,000 for management and administration; $5,000,000 for client self-help and information technology; $5,700,000 for the Office of the Inspector General; $2,000,000 for loan repayment assistance; and $5,000,000 for LSC's Pro Bono Innovation Fund.

Governance and Management.—LSC must continue to improve its governance and management in order to further restore the transparency of the organization and direct additional funds into legal aid, where resources are desperately needed. The Committee expects the OIG to continue conducting annual audits of LSC

grantees to ensure that funds are not being used in contravention of the restrictions by which LSC grantees are required to abide.

Pro Bono Innovation Fund.—The Committee's recommendation provides no less than $5,000,000 to continue the Pro Bono Innovation Fund. This fund supports innovative projects that promote and enhance pro bono initiatives throughout the Nation, as well as leverages Federal dollars to increase free legal aid for low-income Americans by engaging private attorneys.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS—LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

The Committee's recommendation continues the administrative provisions contained in the fiscal year 1998 appropriations act (Public Law 105–119) regarding operation of this program to provide basic legal services to disadvantaged individuals and the restrictions on the use of LSC funds.

LSC funds cannot be used to engage in litigation and related activities with respect to a variety of matters including: (1) redistricting; (2) class action suits; (3) representation of illegal aliens; (4) political activities; (5) abortion; (6) prisoner litigation; (7) welfare reform; (8) representation of charged drug dealers during eviction proceedings; and (9) solicitation of clients. The exception to the restrictions occurs in a case where there is imminent threat of physical harm to the client or prospective client.

The Committee's recommendation adopts the administration's proposal to permit LSC recipients to operate with boards of directors that have as few as 33 percent attorneys without requiring appointment by bar associations. This provision improves the ability of LSC recipients to have fiscal experts, community representatives, and others with diverse skills and perspectives on their governing bodies.

MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Appropriations, 2022	$4,200,000
Budget estimate, 2023	4,500,000
Committee recommendation	4,500,000

The Committee provides $4,500,000 for the Marine Mammal Commission. The recommendation is $300,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level and equal to the budget request.

The Marine Mammal Commission and its Committee of Scientific Advisors on Marine Mammals provide oversight and recommend actions on domestic and international topics to advance policies and provisions of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 (Public Law 92–522, as amended). The Commission provides precise, up-to-date scientific information to Congress on issues related to the safety of marine mammals.

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Appropriations, 2022	$56,000,000
Budget estimate, 2023	61,540,000
Committee recommendation	61,540,000

The Committee's recommendation provides $61,540,000 for the Office of the United States Trade Representative [USTR]. The recommendation is $5,540,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level and equal to the budget request. USTR is responsible for developing and leading international negotiations for the United States on policies regarding international trade, direct investment, and commodities. Its areas of responsibility include all matters relating to the World Trade Organization; trade, commodity, and direct investment matters dealt with by certain international institutions; industrial, agricultural, and services trade policy; and trade-related protection of intellectual property and the environment.

Within funds provided, the Committee continues to support USTR's accepting full financial responsibilities of the Interagency Center on Trade Implementation, Monitoring, and Enforcement (formerly named the Interagency Trade Enforcement Center) in fiscal year 2023.

The United States Mexico-Canada Agreement [USMCA] Implementation Act.—The Committee notes that Public Law 116–113 provided funds for USTR activities to implement the USMCA from fiscal years 2020 through 2023, inclusive, but the law does not fund USTR activities beginning in fiscal year 2024. Section 540 of this act extends availability of those funds for an additional year. To the extent additional discretionary funds may be required to implement the agreement beyond fiscal year 2024, the Committee directs USTR to articulate those funding needs in its annual budget requests.

Trade and Agricultural Exports.—The Committee supports efforts to reduce foreign tariffs and non-tariff trade barriers for U.S. agricultural exports, including the strong enforcement of trade rules and regulations. However, the Committee is concerned that trade actions resulting in decreased foreign market access for U.S. agricultural products due to retaliation threaten to harm our Nation's farmers and ranchers. The Committee urges USTR and the Secretary of Commerce to fully evaluate and consider the impact foreign tariffs and other retaliatory actions have on U.S. farmers and ranchers when negotiating with trade partners and in making trade-related decisions.

Trade Enforcement.—The Committee recognizes that strong trade enforcement is critical to promoting free, fair, and reciprocal trade. As the administration continues to pursue new and modified trade agreements with global partners, the Committee encourages enhanced prioritization of compliance monitoring and enforcement actions.

Section 301 Exclusion Processes.—The Committee remains bewildered by USTR's refusal to follow Congressional direction. The direction in this report is neither advisory nor optional. Therefore, the recommendation includes language conditioning the release of certain funds upon the written certification by USTR to the Committees on Appropriations that USTR has established an exclusion process as required by the joint explanatory statement accompanying Public Law 117–103.

De Minimis Thresholds.—The Committee recognizes the importance of securing commercially-meaningful de minimis or "duty-free" thresholds in other countries, and strongly supports the $800

de minimis level established in the Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act (Public Law 114–125) and the higher de minimis levels in Canada and Mexico secured by USTR through the negotiation of the USMCA.

Economy Act Transfers.—USTR is directed to continue isolating Economy Act payments as individual transfers and to submit documentation of and justification for all Economy Act transfers, regardless of amount, to and from other Federal agencies, to the Committee not less than 15 days before such transfers of sums are made.

Travel.—USTR is directed to provide monthly travel reports detailing all trips outside of the United States, including the purposes and costs of such trips. Additionally, USTR shall continue to provide the Committee with quarterly reports outlining the status of ongoing trade negotiations, enforcement activities, and objectives achieved for existing trade agreements.

China Trade Deal Costs.—The Committee notes the creation of the Bilateral Evaluation and Dispute Resolution Office within USTR as part of the Economic and Trade Agreement Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the People's Republic of China, also known as the U.S.-China Phase One deal. The Committee requests, on a biannual basis, a report documenting USTR's obligations related to the Bilateral Evaluation and Dispute Resolution Office.

United States-Canada Softwood Lumber Dispute.—The Committee recognizes the importance of the softwood lumber industry in the U.S. economy and encourages USTR and the Department of Commerce to work toward a resolution to this dispute that supports U.S. industry, workers, and consumers.

Rare Earth Minerals.—The Committee is concerned by China's dominant share of the global rare earth mining market and believes that China's dominance in this area is a threat to the economic stability, well-being, and competitiveness of key industries in the United States. The Committee believes it should be a whole-of-government priority to reduce reliance on China for rare earth minerals, including through improving and strengthening trade relations and economic ties with strategic allies.

The Committee awaits the transmission of the report directed in the joint explanatory statement accompanying Public Law 117–103, under the heading "Rare Earth Minerals."

Quad Strategic Partnership.—The Committee recognizes that the Quad strategic partnership between the United States, India, Japan, and Australia is an important, strategic partnership that furthers U.S. global leadership. Therefore, the Committee encourages USTR to further promote and strengthen the economic ties within this partnership.

Parity for American Exports.—The Committee directs the USTR to seek parity for American exports, which have been targeted and unduly harmed by retaliatory tariffs resulting from ongoing international trade disputes, to allow them to fairly compete in overseas markets.

USMCA.—The Committee directs USTR to provide quarterly expenditure reports, by object class, no later than 30 days after the

end of each fiscal quarter, for funding provided to USTR by title IX of the USMCA Implementation Act (Public Law 116–113).

TRADE ENFORCEMENT TRUST FUND

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

Appropriations, 2023	$15,000,000
Budget estimate, 2023	15,000,000
Committee recommendation	15,000,000

The Committee's recommendation provides $15,000,000 for the Trade Enforcement Trust Fund as authorized under the Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act of 2015 (Public Law 114–125). The recommendation is equal to the fiscal year 2023 enacted level and the budget request.

Trade Enforcement Trust Fund.—The Committee supports efforts to enforce U.S. rights under trade agreements and to increase compliance of U.S. trade partners. The Committee directs USTR, as part of its fiscal year 2023 spending plan, to provide a breakdown of expenses for the Trade Enforcement Trust Fund's activities.

STATE JUSTICE INSTITUTE

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Appropriations, 2022	$7,200,000
Budget estimate, 2023	7,640,000
Committee recommendation	7,640,000

The Committee's recommendation provides $7,640,000 for the State Justice Institute [SJI]. The recommendation is $440,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level and equal to the budget request.

SJI was created in 1984 to further the development and adoption of improved judicial administration in State courts.

Fines, Fees, and Bail Practices.—The Committee encourages SJI to continue investments in the areas of fines, fees, and bail practices, including assisting State courts in taking a leadership role in reviewing these practices to ensure processes are fair and access to justice is assured; implementing alternative forms of sanctions; developing processes for indigency review; promoting transparency, governance, structural reforms that promote access to justice, accountability, and oversight; and supporting projects that implement the principles of Conference of Chief Justices/Conference of State Court Administrators National Task Force on Fines, Fees, and Bail Practices.

TITLE V

GENERAL PROVISIONS

(INCLUDING RESCISSIONS)

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

The Committee recommends the following general provisions for the departments, agencies, offices, and commissions funded in the accompanying act. Similar provisions were included in the fiscal year 2022 act.

Section 501 prohibits the use of appropriations for certain publicity and propaganda purposes.

Section 502 prohibits any appropriations contained in this bill from remaining available for obligation beyond the current fiscal year unless expressly provided.

Section 503 limits funds for certain consulting purposes.

Section 504 provides that, should any provision of the bill be held to be invalid, the remainder of the act would not be affected.

Section 505 stipulates the policy and procedures by which funding available to the agencies funded under this bill may be reprogrammed for other purposes.

Section 506 provides for a penalty for persons found to have falsely mislabeled products.

Section 507 requires agencies to provide quarterly reports to the House and Senate Appropriations Committees regarding unobligated balances.

Section 508 requires agencies and departments funded in this bill to absorb any necessary costs related to downsizing or consolidation within the amounts provided to the agency or department.

Section 509 limits funds for the sale or export of tobacco or tobacco products.

Section 510 stipulates obligation of receipts and the use of certain funds for victim services available under the Crime Victims Fund.

Of the funds set aside for Indian Tribes, the Committee expects that the Office for Victims of Crime [OVC] will award such funds to Indian Tribes that have not been designated high-risk grantees by the DOJ and that comply with grant application requirements. OVC is expected to provide instructional model grant applications and other guidance to aid Tribes in preparing grant applications. Grant-receiving Tribes will need to certify that grant funds will not be used to supplant funds otherwise available for Tribal victim assistance so that OVC can ensure grant accountability and that grants are being used effectively to improve services for Tribal victims of crime.

Section 511 prohibits the use of DOJ funds for programs that discriminate against, denigrate, or otherwise undermine the religious beliefs of students participating in such programs.

Section 512 limits transfers of funds between agencies.

Section 513 requires the Inspectors General of the Departments of Commerce and Justice, NASA, NSF, and LSC to conduct reviews of activities funded in this bill and requires certifications regarding conflicts of interest.

Section 514 prohibits funds for certain telecommunications and information technology acquisitions unless the acquiring department or agency has assessed the supply chain risk of the technology, including risks from technology originating in China, Russia, Iran, and North Korea.

Section 515 prohibits the use of funds to support or justify the use of torture.

Section 516 prohibits funds for activities that seek to include certain language in new trade agreements.

Section 517 prohibits funds to authorize a national security letter in contravention of the statutes authorizing the FBI to issue national security letters.

Section 518 requires notification to the Committees in the event of cost overruns.

Section 519 authorizes funds appropriated for intelligence activities for the DOJ during fiscal year 2023 until the enactment of the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023.

Section 520 prohibits contracts or grant awards in excess of $5,000,000 unless the prospective contractor or grantee has certified in writing that he or she has filed all Federal tax returns, has not been convicted of a criminal offense under the IRS Code of 1986, and has no unpaid Federal tax assessment.

Section 521 specifies rescissions of prior appropriations. The BOP Buildings and Facilities rescission relates to two projects proposed for rescission in the fiscal year 2023 budget request. One of these identified projects has an unobligated balance of $506,600,000, and the other identified project has an unobligated balance of $19,200,000.

Section 522 prohibits the use of funds to purchase first class or premium airline travel in contravention of current regulations.

Section 523 prohibits the use of funds to pay for the attendance of more than 50 employees at any single conference outside the United States and limits the cost of any such conference incurred by an agency, with certain exemptions.

Section 524 requires agencies funded in this bill to report on undisbursed balances.

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 by NASA, OSTP, or the National Space Council to engage in bilateral activities with China or a Chinese-owned company or effectuate the hosting of official Chinese visitors at certain facilities unless the activities are authorized by subsequent legislation or NASA, OSTP, or the National Space Council have made a certification pursuant to subsections (c) and (d) of this section.

Section 527 prohibits the use of funds to establish or maintain a computer network that does not block pornography, except for law enforcement purposes.

Section 528 requires departments and agencies funded in this bill to submit spending plans to the House and Senate Appropriations Committees within 45 days of enactment of this act.

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. The Committee directs any head of any executive branch department, agency, board, commission, or office funded by this bill to require that all contracts within their purview that provide award fees to link such fees to successful acquisition outcomes, specifying the terms of cost, schedule, and performance.

Section 530 prohibits the use of funds by the DOJ to prevent States from implementing laws related to a certain section of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (Public Law 92–522, as amended).

Section 531 prohibits the use of funds by the DOJ to prevent States from implementing State laws related to medical marijuana.

Section 532 requires quarterly reports from DOC, NASA, and NSF of travel to China.

Section 533 requires 10 percent of the funds for certain programs be allocated for assistance in persistent poverty counties.

Section 534 limits funds pertaining to certain activities related to the export of firearms.

Section 535 limits funds that would deny permits to import certain products.

Section 536 prohibits funds made available by this bill from being used to deny the importation of certain shotgun models.

Section 537 prohibits the use of funds to implement the Arms Trade Treaty until the Senate approves a resolution of ratification for the Treaty.

Section 538 allows the Departments of Commerce and Justice to use certain funds for payments pursuant to section 901(i)(2) of division J of the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020.

Section 539 prohibits the use of funds made available by this bill to the Department of Justice to investigate or prosecute an individual who crosses state lines to access abortion services, or who assists another individual to obtain abortion services.

Section 540 extends the availability of certain funds.

COMPLIANCE WITH PARAGRAPH 7, RULE XVI OF THE STANDING RULES OF THE SENATE

Rule XVI, paragraph 7 requires that every report on a general appropriation bill filed by the Committee must identify items of appropriation not made to carry out the provisions of an existing law, a treaty stipulation, or an act or resolution previously passed by the Senate during that session.

The Committee recommends funding for the following programs or activities that currently lack an authorization for fiscal year 2023, either in whole or in part, and therefore fall under this rule:

APPROPRIATIONS NOT AUTHORIZED BY LAW—FISCAL YEAR 2023

Agency/program	Last year of authorization
Department of Commerce:	
International Trade Administration:	
Export Promotion	1996
Bureau of Industry and Security:	
Export Administration	1994
Economic Development Administration:	
Salaries and Expenses	2008
Economic Development Assistance Programs:	
Public Works and Economic Development	2008
Economic and Statistics Administration:	
Salaries and Expenses	n/a
National Telecommunications and Information Administration:	
Salaries and Expenses	1993
National Institute of Standards and Technology:	
Scientific and Technical Research and Services	2013
Industrial Technology Services	2013
Construction of Research Facilities	2013
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration:	
Operations, Research, and Facilities:	
National Ocean Service:	1993
Coral Reef Conservation	2004
Coastal Zone Management	1999
National Oceans and Coastal Security Fund	2019
Marine Protection, Research, Preservation & Sanctuaries	2005
National Marine Fisheries Service:	
Marine Mammal Protection	1999
Species Recovery Grants	1992
NOAA Marine Fisheries Program	2000
Interjurisdictional Fisheries	2012
Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management	2013
Oceanic and Atmospheric Research:	
Climate Laboratories and Cooperative Institutes	1993
Ocean Exploration Research	2015
Ocean Acidification	2012
Procurement, Acquisition and Construction:	
National Ocean Service:	
Marine Protection, Research, Preservation & Sanctuaries	2005
Department of Justice:	
General Administration:	
Salaries and Expenses	2009
Justice Information Sharing Technology	2009
Executive Office for Immigration Review:	
Salaries and Expenses	2009
Office of Inspector General:	
Salaries and Expenses	2009
U.S. Parole Commission:	
Salaries and Expenses	2009

APPROPRIATIONS NOT AUTHORIZED BY LAW—FISCAL YEAR 2023—Continued

Agency/program	Last year of authorization
Legal Activities:	
General Legal Activities:	
Salaries and Expenses	2009
Antitrust Division:	
Salaries and Expenses	2009
U.S. Attorneys:	
Salaries and Expenses	2009
Foreign Claims Settlement Commission:	
Salaries and Expenses	2009
Fees and Expenses of Witnesses	2009
Community Relations Service:	
Salaries and Expenses	2009
Assets Forfeiture Fund Current Budget Authority	2009
U.S. Marshals Service:	2009
Salaries and Expenses	2009
Federal Prisoner Detention	2009
Construction	2009
National Security Division:	
Salaries and Expenses	n/a
Interagency Law Enforcement:	
Interagency Crime and Drug Enforcement	2009
Federal Bureau of Investigation:	2009
Salaries and Expenses	2009
Construction	2009
Drug Enforcement Administration:	
Salaries and Expenses	2009
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives:	
Salaries and Expenses	2009
Federal Prison System:	2009
Salaries and Expenses	2009
Buildings and Facilities	2009
Office of Justice Programs:	
Research, Evaluation, and Statistics:	
National Institute of Justice	1995
Bureau of Justice Statistics	1995
State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance:	
Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grants	2012
Body-Worn Camera Partnership	n/a
VALOR Initiative	n/a
Smart Policing	n/a
Smart Prosecution	n/a
John R. Justice Grant Program	2014
Adam Walsh Act	2009
State Criminal Alien Assistance Program	2011
Smart Probation	n/a
Children of Incarcerated Parents Demo Grants	n/a
Pay for Success (Discretionary)	n/a
Pay for Success (Permanent Supportive Housing Model)	n/a
National Sex Offender Website	n/a
Veterans Treatment Courts Program	n/a
Rape Kit Backlog	n/a
Justice Reinvestment Initiative	n/a
Project HOPE Opportunity Probation with Enforcement	n/a
Juvenile Justice Programs:	
Emergency Planning in Juvenile Justice Facilities	n/a
COPS Programs:	
COPS Hiring Program	2009
Regional Information Sharing Activities	2003
National Aeronautics and Space Administration:	
Science	2017
Aeronautics	2017
Exploration	2017
Space Operations	2017

APPROPRIATIONS NOT AUTHORIZED BY LAW—FISCAL YEAR 2023—Continued

Agency/program	Last year of authorization
Education	2017
Safety, Security and Mission Services	2017
Construction and Environmental Compliance and Restoration	2017
Office of the Inspector General	2017
National Science Foundation	2013
Related Agencies:	
U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission:	
Salaries and Expenses	2000
Commission on Civil Rights:	
Salaries and Expenses	1995
International Trade Commission:	
Salaries and Expenses	2004
Payment to the Legal Services Corporation:	
Salaries and Expenses	1980
Marine Mammal Commission:	
Salaries and Expenses	1999
Office of the U.S. Trade Representative:	
Salaries and Expenses	2004
State Justice Institute:	
Salaries and Expenses	2008

COMPLIANCE WITH PARAGRAPH 12, RULE XXVI OF THE STANDING RULES OF THE SENATE

Paragraph 12 of the rule XXVI requires that Committee reports on a bill or joint resolution repealing or amending any statute or part of any statute include "(a) the text of the statute or part thereof which is proposed to be repealed; and (b) a comparative print of that part of the bill or joint resolution making the amendment and of the statute or part thereof proposed to be amended, showing by stricken-through type and italics, parallel columns, or other appropriate typographical devices the omissions and insertions which would be made by the bill or joint resolution if enacted in the form recommended by the Committee."

In compliance with this rule, changes in existing law proposed to be made by the bill are shown as follows: existing law to be omitted is enclosed in black brackets; new matter is printed in italic; and existing law in which no change is proposed is shown in roman.

TITLE 28—JUDICIARY AND JUDICIAL PROCEDURE

Part II—Department of Justice

CHAPTER 31—THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

§ 509. Functions of the Attorney General

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EDITORIAL NOTES

AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR HUMANITARIAN EXPENSES INCURRED BY FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION AND DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION

Pub. L. 101–647, title XXXII, § 3201, Nov. 29, 1990, 104 Stat. 4916, as amended by Pub. L. 105–277, div. A, § 101(b) [title I, § 109(a)], Oct. 21, 1998, 112 Stat. 2681–50 , 2681–67, provided that: "Appropriations in this or any other Act hereafter for the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Drug Enforcement Administration, [or the Immigration and Naturalization Service] *the Federal Prison System, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, or the United States Marshals Service* are available, in an amount of not to exceed [$25,000] *$50,000* each per fiscal year, to pay humanitarian expenses incurred by or for any employee thereof (or any member of the employee's immediate family) that results from or is incident to serious illness, serious injury, or death occurring to the employee while on official duty or business."

TITLE 51—NATIONAL AND COMMERCIAL SPACE PROGRAMS

SUBTITLE III—ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

CHAPTER 301—APPROPRIATIONS, BUDGETS, AND ACCOUNTING

§ 30102. Working capital fund

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—* * *

(b) AVAILABILITY OF AMOUNTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—* * *

* * * * * * *

(2) CAPITAL REPAIRS.—The fund shall also be available for the purpose of funding capital repairs, renovations, rehabilitation, sustainment, demolition, or replacement of Administration real property, on a reimbursable basis within the Administration.

(3) INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (IT) MODERNIZATION.—The fund shall also be available for the purpose of funding IT Modernization activities, as described in section 1077(b)(3)(A)–(E) of Public Law 115–91, on a non-reimbursable basis.

[(3)**]** *(4)* NO FISCAL YEAR LIMITATION.—Amounts in the fund are available without regard to fiscal year limitation.

DISCLOSURE OF CONGRESSIONALLY DIRECTED SPENDING ITEMS

The Constitution vests in the Congress the power of the purse. The Committee believes strongly that Congress should make the decisions on how to allocate the people's money. As defined in Rule XLIV of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the term "congressionally directed spending item" means a provision or report language included primarily at the request of a Senator, providing, authorizing, or recommending a specific amount of discretionary budget authority, credit authority, or other spending authority for a contract, loan, loan guarantee, grant, loan authority, or other expenditure with or to an entity, or targeted to a specific State, locality or congressional district, other than through a statutory or administrative, formula-driven, or competitive award process. For each item, a Member is required to provide a certification that neither the Member nor the Member's immediate family has a pecuniary interest in such congressionally directed spending item. Such certifications are available to the public on the website of the Senate Committee on Appropriations (https://www.appropriations.senate.gov/congressionally-directed-spending requests). Following is a list of congressionally directed spending items included in the Senate recommendation discussed in this report, along with the name of each Senator who submitted a request to the Committee of jurisdiction for each item so identified. Neither the Committee recommendation nor this report contains any limited tax benefits or limited tariff benefits as defined in rule XLIV.

Account	Recipient	Location	Project	Recommendation ($)	Requestor(s)
DOC–NIST Construction	Missouri State University	Springfield, MO	Construction at Cheek Hall Science and Mathematics Facilities.	$5,000,000	Blunt
DOC–NIST Construction	The Curators of the University of Missouri.	Rolla, MO	Construction at Manufacturing Technology and Innovation Campus.	20,000,000	Blunt
DOC–NIST Construction	West Virginia Geological and Economic Survey.	Morgantown, WV	Modernization of Repository Facilities	2,000,000	Capito, Manchin
DOC–NIST Construction	Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences.	East Boothbay, ME	Construction of an Innovation and Education Wing at Bigelow Laboratory.	12,326,000	Collins, King
DOC–NIST Construction	University of Maine System	Penobscot County, ME	Construction of an Advanced-Manufacturing Materials Research Facility.	8,000,000	Collins, King
DOC–NIST Construction	University of New England	Biddeford, ME	Construction of a Coastal Research Deployment Facility	3,500,000	Collins, King
DOC–NIST Construction	University of Oklahoma	Norman, OK	Expansion of National Weather Center Facilities	9,500,000	Inhofe
DOC–NIST Construction	Champlain College	Burlington, VT	Cybersecurity and Information Technology Nexus Research	10,000,000	Leahy
DOC–NIST Construction	Norwich University	Northfield, VT	Multi-disciplinary Cyber Fusion Research and Development Center.	16,400,000	Leahy
DOC–NIST Construction	Fort Hays State University	Hays, KS	Renovation of Forsyth Library	2,000,000	Moran
DOC–NIST Construction	University of Kansas Cancer Center	Kansas City, KS	Planning and Construction of a Cancer Research Facility at the KU Cancer Center.	28,000,000	Moran
DOC–NIST Construction	Seacoast Science Center	Rye, NH	Seacoast Science Center Renovation and Program Expansion.	5,000,000	Shaheen
DOC–NIST Construction	Marion Military Institute	Marion, AL	Construction of a New Math and Science Facility	35,000,000	Shelby
DOC–NIST Construction	The University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa.	Tuscaloosa, AL	Construction of a High-performance Computing and Data Center for Water and Hydrological Scientific Research, Education, and Forecasting.	45,000,000	Shelby
DOC–NIST STRS	Colorado School of Mines	Golden, CO	Solidified Natural Gas: Methane Emission Capture and Conversion.	1,150,000	Bennet, Hickenlooper
DOC–NIST STRS	University of Washington	Seattle, WA	Quantum Technologies Teaching and Testbed (QT3)	2,500,000	Cantwell, Murray
DOC–NIST STRS	Mountwest Community & Technical College.	Cabell County, WV	Mountwest Cybersecurity Center	850,000	Capito, Manchin
DOC–NIST STRS	West Virginia University	Morgantown, WV	WVU Advanced Imaging and Chemical Analysis Equipment	2,500,000	Capito, Manchin
DOC–NIST STRS	Bowie State University	Bowie, MD	STEM Diversity in Research Opportunities Collaboration	1,500,000	Cardin, Van Hollen
DOC–NIST STRS	Morgan State University	Baltimore City, MD	Center for Equitable Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning.	2,000,000	Cardin, Van Hollen
DOC–NIST STRS	Delaware Innovation Space	Wilmington, DE	Biotechnology, Chemistry, and Materials Science Research Lab Equipment.	2,475,000	Carper, Coons
DOC–NIST STRS	University of Delaware	Newark, DE	Equipment for Gene Therapy Production Suite	5,000,000	Carper, Coons
DOC–NIST STRS	Tulane University	New Orleans, LA	Advanced Semiconductor Research Equipment	2,000,000	Cassidy

DOC–NIST STRS	Maine Mineral and Gem Museum	Bethel, ME	Equipment for Lithium and Geological Research	725,000	Collins, King
DOC–NIST STRS	University of Maine System	Orono, ME	PFAS Analytical Laboratory Equipment	5,000,000	Collins, King
DOC–NIST STRS	University of Illinois-Chicago—Public Health.	Chicago, IL	Community-driven Air Quality and Environmental Justice Assessment.	2,000,000	Duckworth
DOC–NIST STRS	Northern Illinois University	DeKalb, IL	Advanced Electronics Initiative	1,000,000	Durbin
DOC–NIST STRS	New York Medical College	Westchester County, NY	Women's Institute for Science Entrepreneurship (WISE)	825,000	Gillibrand
DOC–NIST STRS	Clarkson University	St. Lawrence County, NY	Clarkson Green Energy on Demand	875,000	Gillibrand, Schumer
DOC–NIST STRS	Stony Brook University	Suffolk County, NY	Long Island Quantum Internet Center	1,000,000	Gillibrand, Schumer
DOC–NIST STRS	University at Albany, State University of New York.	Albany County, NY	Advancement of the Ion Beam Laboratory	520,000	Gillibrand, Schumer
DOC–NIST STRS	Mississippi State University	Starkville, MS	Inclement Weather Research Laboratory	1,000,000	Hyde-Smith
DOC–NIST STRS	University of Mississippi	Oxford, MS	Infrasound Calibration Standards Facility	1,500,000	Hyde-Smith, Wicker
DOC–NIST STRS	University of Southern Mississippi	Hattiesburg, MS	Advanced Clean Energy Materials Validation and Product Demonstration.	3,000,000	Hyde-Smith, Wicker
DOC–NIST STRS	University of Minnesota, The Hormel Institute.	Austin, MN	CryoEM Support Technology	1,500,000	Klobuchar
DOC–NIST STRS	Springfield Museums	Springfield, MA	Biomes Around the World	465,000	Markey, Warren
DOC–NIST STRS	Columbia Gorge Community College	The Dalles, OR	Advanced Manufacturing Skills Equipment	441,000	Merkley, Wyden
DOC–NIST STRS	Wichita State University	Wichita, KS	Research of Metallic Additive Manufacturing Materials and Processes.	5,000,000	Moran
DOC–NIST STRS	University of Rhode Island	South Kingstown, RI	Quantum Information Science Research Initiative	1,000,000	Reed
DOC–NIST STRS	University of New Hampshire	Strafford County, NH	Enhancement of the University of New Hampshire Stormwater Center.	1,137,000	Shaheen
DOC–NIST STRS	University of New Hampshire	Newcastle, NH	Marine Waterfront Facility Equipment	494,000	Shaheen
DOC–NOAA ORF	Greenwave	New Haven, CT	Connecticut Kelp Innovation Center	2,390,000	Blumenthal, Murphy
DOC–NOAA ORF	Sea Research Foundation, Inc., d/b/a Mystic Aquarium.	Mystic, CT	Blue Economy Career Development Center	650,000	Blumenthal, Murphy
DOC–NOAA ORF	University of North Carolina Wilmington.	Wilmington, NC	Acquisition of Marine Research Equipment	750,000	Burr
DOC–NOAA ORF	Upper Columbia United Tribes	Spokane, WA	Salmon Reintroduction Assessments and Development of Adult Collection Facilities in the Upper Columbia.	5,000,000	Cantwell, Murray
DOC–NOAA ORF	Morgan State University	Calvert County, MD	Morgan State University's PEARL Lab Student Research Enhancements.	1,000,000	Cardin, Van Hollen
DOC–NOAA ORF	St. Mary's River Watershed Association.	Lexington Park, MD	Oyster Restoration in the St. Mary's River Shellfish Sanctuary.	185,000	Cardin, Van Hollen
DOC–NOAA ORF	University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science.	Dorchester County, MD	UMCES Oyster Research to Enhance Resiliency	960,000	Cardin, Van Hollen
DOC–NOAA ORF	Maritime Exchange for the Delaware River and Bay.	Wilmington, DE	Delaware River and Estuary Ecosystem Data Gathering Initiative.	356,000	Carper, Coons
DOC–NOAA ORF	Downeast Institute	Beals, ME	Support for Shellfish Research and Hatchery Activities	670,000	Collins, King

Account	Recipient	Location	Project	Recommendation ($)	Requestor(s)
DOC–NOAA ORF	Healthy Schools Campaign	Chicago, IL	Space to Grow: Greening Chicago Schoolyards	750,000	Duckworth
DOC–NOAA ORF	Scripps Institution of Oceanography	Orange County, LA County, Ventura County, San Diego County, CA.	Southern California Bight Demonstration Project—Ocean and Pollution Mapping, Living Marine Resources Assessment, and Modeling.	6,000,000	Feinstein, Padilla
DOC–NOAA ORF	University at Albany, State University of New York.	Albany County, NY	Vertical Sensing Evaluation Initiative	1,350,000	Gillibrand, Schumer
DOC–NOAA ORF	The Nature Conservancy Hawaii	Statewide, HI	Reef Restoration Project	1,000,000	Hirono, Schatz
DOC–NOAA ORF	University of Hawaii Manoa	Honolulu (UH Manoa) and Statewide, HI.	Shoreline Equity and Adaptation Hub	2,250,000	Hirono, Schatz
DOC–NOAA ORF	University of Southern Mississippi	City of Hattiesburg, Forrest County, MS.	Data Assembly HUB for Uncrewed Systems	2,500,000	Hyde-Smith
DOC–NOAA ORF	Northern Virginia Regional Commission.	13 member jurisdictions, including Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun, and Prince William Counties, the independent cities Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church, Manassas, Manassas Park, and incorporated towns of Dumfries, Herndon, Leesburg, and Vienna., VA.	Northern Virginia Rainfall and Flood Preparedness	115,000	Kaine, Warner
DOC–NOAA ORF	Leahy Center for Lake Champlain, Inc.	Burlington, VT	Inspiring Lake Champlain Stewardship	750,000	Leahy
DOC–NOAA ORF	Gloucester Fishermen's Wives Development Program.	Gloucester, MA	Reducing Energy Costs and Reducing Emissions in the Massachusetts Commercial Fishing and Seafood Industries.	1,991,000	Markey, Warren
DOC–NOAA ORF	Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary.	Scituate, MA	Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary Mapping Initiative.	1,000,000	Markey, Warren
DOC–NOAA ORF	Town of Manchester-by-the-Sea, MA	Manchester-by-the-Sea, MA	Building Local Capacity for Managing Extreme Weather Events.	500,000	Markey, Warren
DOC–NOAA ORF	Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution	Woods Hole, MA	Mission-critical Secure Underwater Research Facility	950,000	Markey, Warren
DOC–NOAA ORF	Coquille Indian Tribe	North Bend, OR	Coquille River Salmon Conservation	750,000	Merkley, Wyden
DOC–NOAA ORF	Portland State University	Portland, OR, OR	Oregon Microplastics Research Center	785,000	Merkley, Wyden
DOC–NOAA ORF	Tillamook Estuaries Partnership	Garibaldi, OR	Instrumentation for Climate Change Monitoring in Rural Tillamook County Estuaries.	625,000	Merkley, Wyden
DOC–NOAA ORF	Aleut Community of St. Paul Island	St. Paul/Statewide, AK	Surveillance Monitoring of Fisheries and Ecosystems	250,000	Murkowski
DOC–NOAA ORF	Bering Sea Fisheries Research Foundation.	Bering Sea, AK	Bering Sea Fisheries Monitoring	2,750,000	Murkowski

DOC–NOAA ORF	North Slope Borough Dept. of Wildlife Management.	Utqiagvik, AK	Marine Mammal Co-Management Research	2,700,000	Murkowski
DOC–NOAA ORF	University of Alaska	Fairbanks/Statewide, AK	Arctic Seasonal Weather Forecasting	1,000,000	Murkowski
DOC–NOAA ORF	University of Alaska	Fairbanks/Statewide, AK	Baseline Fishery Surveys	1,750,000	Murkowski
DOC–NOAA ORF	Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association.	Yukon River Drainage, AK	Yukon River Research, Surveys, and Community Engagement.	825,000	Murkowski
DOC–NOAA ORF	Northwest Straits Commission	Whatcom, San Juan, Skagit, Island, Jefferson, Clallam, and Snohomish Counties, WA.	Northwest Straits Marine Conservation Initiative	3,000,000	Murray
DOC–NOAA ORF	Ferris State University	Big Rapids, MI	Ferris State Center for Virtual Learning	1,000,000	Peters, Stabenow
DOC–NOAA ORF	Commercial Fisheries Research Foundation.	Narragansett/Newport, RI	Cooperative Fisheries Research, Gear Development, and Gear Removal.	500,000	Reed
DOC–NOAA ORF	University of Rhode Island	South Kingstown, RI	Aquaculture Resilience	1,300,000	Reed
DOC–NOAA ORF	Save the Bay	Providence, RI	Habitat Restoration Strategies for Rhode Island Waters	1,660,000	Reed, Whitehouse
DOC–NOAA ORF	Memphremagog Community Maritime	Newport, VT	Memphremagog Maritime Education Center—Newport	150,000	Sanders
DOC–NOAA ORF	Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources.	City and County of Honolulu, HI	Pouhala Marsh Wetland Restoration	600,000	Schatz
DOC–NOAA ORF	Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources.	Hawai'i County, HI	West Hawai'i Resilient Coral Transplant	900,000	Schatz
DOC–NOAA ORF	Kaua'i County	Kaua'i County, HI	Waimea Wetlands Restoration	1,200,000	Schatz
DOC–NOAA ORF	Maunalua Fishpond Heritage Center	City and County of Honolulu, HI	Maunalua Coastal Watershed Restoration	400,000	Schatz
DOC–NOAA ORF	University of Hawai'i Sea Grant College Program.	City and County of Honolulu, HI	Waikiki Watershed Resilience	500,000	Schatz
DOC–NOAA ORF	Riverkeeper, Inc.	Ossining, NY	Publicly Accessible Water Quality Portal	250,000	Schumer
DOC–NOAA ORF	Great Bay Stewards, Inc.	Rockingham and Strafford Counties, NH.	Eelgrass Education Project at the Great Bay Discovery Center.	100,000	Shaheen
DOC–NOAA ORF	NERACOOS	Rockingham County, NH	Building a Coastal Resilience Monitoring System for New Hampshire.	1,850,000	Shaheen
DOC–NOAA ORF	University of New Hampshire	Strafford County, NH	Detecting Harmful Algal Blooms and Microplastics in the Great Bay and Beyond.	722,000	Shaheen
DOC–NOAA ORF	Great Lakes Commission	Washtenaw County, MI	Great Lakes Regional Coordination	3,000,000	Stabenow
DOC–NOAA ORF	University of Rhode Island	Narragansett, RI	Blue Tech Initiative	2,250,000	Whitehouse
DOJ–COPS Tech	Milwaukee Police Department	Milwaukee, WI	Public Safety Radio System Upgrade	6,000,000	Baldwin
DOJ–COPS Tech	City of Rifle	Rifle, CO	In-Car and Body-Worn Cameras	317,000	Bennet, Hickenlooper
DOJ–COPS Tech	Bloomfield Police Department	Bloomfield, CT	Equipment for Police Department Training Room	40,000	Blumenthal, Murphy
DOJ–COPS Tech	Bloomfield Police Department	Bloomfield, CT	Town of Bloomfield Cruiser Camera Upgrades	112,000	Blumenthal, Murphy
DOJ–COPS Tech	City of Bridgeport	Bridgeport, CT	City of Bridgeport Forensic Technology	500,000	Blumenthal, Murphy
DOJ–COPS Tech	City of New London	New London, CT	City of New London Emergency Communications Equipment Upgrades.	2,218,000	Blumenthal, Murphy
DOJ–COPS Tech	City of Stamford	Stamford, CT	Equipment for Regional Police Academy	250,000	Blumenthal, Murphy

Account	Recipient	Location	Project	Recommendation ($)	Requestor(s)
DOJ–COPS Tech	Town of Winchester	Winchester, CT	Town of Winchester Radio Upgrades	850,000	Blumenthal, Murphy
DOJ–COPS Tech	University of New Haven	West Haven, CT	Community-Based Gun Violence Reduction Project at University of New Haven.	1,000,000	Blumenthal, Murphy
DOJ–COPS Tech	Waterbury Police Department	Waterbury, CT	City of Waterbury Real-Time Crime and Pandemic Center	930,000	Blumenthal, Murphy
DOJ–COPS Tech	City of Englewood	Bergen, NJ	Englewood Public Safety Communication Enhancement Project.	1,790,000	Booker, Menendez
DOJ–COPS Tech	Town of Harrison	Hudson, NJ	Harrison Public Safety Communication Project	563,000	Booker, Menendez
DOJ–COPS Tech	Township of South Hackensack	Bergen, NJ	South Hackensack Police Communications Upgrade Project	210,000	Booker, Menendez
DOJ–COPS Tech	National Tactical Officers Association	Statewide, OH	Mental Health Critical Incident Training	1,000,000	Brown
DOJ–COPS Tech	Cumberland County, NC	Cumberland County, NC	Law Enforcement Communications Systems Upgrades	2,474,000	Burr, Tillis
DOJ–COPS Tech	Jacksonville Police Department	Jacksonville, NC	Implementation of a Rapid DNA Regional System	405,000	Burr, Tillis
DOJ–COPS Tech	Town of Mooresville	Mooresville, NC	Law Enforcement Communications Systems Upgrades	1,105,000	Burr, Tillis
DOJ–COPS Tech	Snohomish County Sheriff's Office	Snohomish County, WA	Rapid DNA System	448,000	Cantwell
DOJ–COPS Tech	City of Milton	Milton, WV	Acquisition of Access Control and Live Scan Fingerprint Station.	63,000	Capito
DOJ–COPS Tech	City of Charles Town	Charles Town, WV	Charles Town Police Department Technology Upgrade	400,000	Capito, Manchin
DOJ–COPS Tech	City of Charleston	Charleston, WV	Training Simulator and Ongoing Training and Equipment Support.	750,000	Capito, Manchin
DOJ–COPS Tech	West Virginia University	Keyser, WV	Campus Security Upgrades at WVU Potomac	358,000	Capito, Manchin
DOJ–COPS Tech	Office of the State's Attorney, Prince George's County.	Upper Marlboro, MD	Digital Discovery Capability	500,000	Cardin, Van Hollen
DOJ–COPS Tech	City of Dover Police Department	Dover, DE	City of Dover—Wireless Camera Network System	600,000	Carper, Coons
DOJ–COPS Tech	City of Saco, Maine	Saco, ME	Public Safety Communications Equipment Upgrade	667,000	Collins
DOJ–COPS Tech	County of Cumberland	Cumberland County, ME	Public Safety Communications Equipment Upgrade	1,000,000	Collins, King
DOJ–COPS Tech	County of Waldo	Belfast, ME	911 Dispatch Center Equipment Upgrade	165,000	Collins, King
DOJ–COPS Tech	Washington County Emergency Management Agency.	Washington County, ME	Public Safety Communications Equipment Upgrade	3,178,000	Collins, King
DOJ–COPS Tech	City of Henderson	Henderson, NV	Henderson—Dispatch Consoles	2,624,000	Cortez Masto, Rosen
DOJ–COPS Tech	City of Henderson	Henderson, NV	Henderson—Eldorado Valley Training Facility Equipment	2,049,000	Cortez Masto, Rosen
DOJ–COPS Tech	City of North Las Vegas	North Las Vegas, NV	North Las Vegas—Police Department Technology Upgrade	100,000	Cortez Masto, Rosen
DOJ–COPS Tech	City of Reno	Reno, NV	Reno Police Department—Forensics Software & Equipment	1,500,000	Cortez Masto, Rosen
DOJ–COPS Tech	Elko Sheriff's Department	Elko, NV	Rapid DNA Instrument	486,000	Cortez Masto, Rosen
DOJ–COPS Tech	City of Carbondale	Carbondale, IL	Technology Upgrades	600,000	Durbin
DOJ–COPS Tech	Interagency Communications Interoperability System.	Glendale, CA	ICI System Regional Public Safety Radio Network Upgrade	2,500,000	Feinstein, Padilla
DOJ–COPS Tech	Torrance Police Department	Torrance, CA	Torrance Police Department Body-Worn and In-Car Cameras.	1,615,000	Feinstein, Padilla

DOJ–COPS Tech	City of Cayce	City of Cayce, SC	Police Equipment Upgrade	858,000	Graham
DOJ–COPS Tech	City of Sumter	City of Sumter, SC	Ballistic Evidence System Upgrade	510,000	Graham
DOJ–COPS Tech	Albuquerque Police Department	Albuquerque, NM	Albuquerque Police Department—Cell Site Simulators (CSS).	860,000	Heinrich
DOJ–COPS Tech	Albuquerque Police Department	Albuquerque, NM	Albuquerque Police Department Investigation Technology Enhancement Tools.	480,000	Heinrich
DOJ–COPS Tech	City of Las Cruces	Las Cruces, NM	Southern New Mexico Regional Public Safety Equipment	1,750,000	Heinrich
DOJ–COPS Tech	Jemez Pueblo Police Department	Jemez Pueblo, NM	Jemez Pueblo Police—In-Vehicle Cameras and Equipment	147,000	Heinrich
DOJ–COPS Tech	Las Cruces Police Department	Las Cruces, NM	Las Cruces Police Department Crime Deterrence Equipment.	450,000	Heinrich
DOJ–COPS Tech	Delta County	Delta, CO	Delta Dispatch System Upgrade	500,000	Hickenlooper
DOJ–COPS Tech	City of Gautier	City of Gautier, MS	Police Department Equipment Upgrades	510,000	Hyde-Smith
DOJ–COPS Tech	University of Mississippi Medical Center.	Jackson and Hinds Counties, MS	UMMC Police and Public Safety Department Technology and Equipment.	755,000	Hyde-Smith, Wicker
DOJ–COPS Tech	City of Petersburg	City of Petersburg, VA	Petersburg Emergency Public Safety Communications System.	3,203,000	Kaine, Warner
DOJ–COPS Tech	City of Saint Peter	Saint Peter, MN	Saint Peter Police Department Technology Upgrade	33,000	Klobuchar, Smith
DOJ–COPS Tech	Le Sueur Police Department	Le Sueur, MN	Le Sueur Police Department Radio and Communications Upgrade.	180,000	Klobuchar, Smith
DOJ–COPS Tech	Scott County	Scott County, MN	Scott County Sheriff's Office Specialized Rescue Vehicle	350,000	Klobuchar, Smith
DOJ–COPS Tech	Vermont Department of Public Safety	Statewide, VT	Transition to Statewide Regional Emergency Communications.	9,000,000	Leahy
DOJ–COPS Tech	Albuquerque Police Department	Albuquerque, NM	Smart Camera Technology Project	480,000	Luján
DOJ–COPS Tech	City of Medford	Medford, OR	City of Medford Radio System Upgrade	1,444,000	Merkley, Wyden
DOJ–COPS Tech	City of St. Helens, Oregon	St. Helens, OR	St. Helens Law Enforcement Technology	340,000	Merkley, Wyden
DOJ–COPS Tech	Douglas County	Roseburg, OR	Douglas County Communications Radio System Upgrade	355,000	Merkley, Wyden
DOJ–COPS Tech	Douglas County Sheriff's Office	Roseburg, OR	Douglas County Emergency Mobile Command Center	241,000	Merkley, Wyden
DOJ–COPS Tech	Lincoln County Sheriff's Office	Newport, OR	Lincoln County Radio System Upgrade	2,000,000	Merkley, Wyden
DOJ–COPS Tech	Union County Emergency Services	La Grande, OR	Union County Public Safety Radio System Upgrade	2,000,000	Merkley, Wyden
DOJ–COPS Tech	Wheeler County Office of Emergency Management.	Fossil, OR	Wheeler County Radio System Upgrade	1,019,000	Merkley, Wyden
DOJ–COPS Tech	Allen County Sheriff	Allen County, KS	Acquisition of a Chemical Analyzer	156,000	Moran
DOJ–COPS Tech	Andover Police Department	Andover, KS	911 Service Technology Updates	358,000	Moran
DOJ–COPS Tech	Colwich Police Department	Colwich, KS	Acquisition of License Plate Recognition Technology and Cameras.	16,000	Moran
DOJ–COPS Tech	Derby Police Department	Derby, KS	Acquisition of License Plate Recognition Technology and Cameras.	47,000	Moran
DOJ–COPS Tech	Dodge City Police Department	Dodge City, KS	Acquisition of an Emergency Response Vehicle	327,000	Moran
DOJ–COPS Tech	Edwards County Sheriff	Edwards County, KS	Public Safety Communications Network Updates	1,210,000	Moran
DOJ–COPS Tech	Ellis County Sheriff	Ellis County, KS	Acquisition of Body Scanners	198,000	Moran

Account	Recipient	Location	Project	Recommendation ($)	Requestor(s)
DOJ–COPS Tech	Great Bend Police Department	Great Bend, KS	Acquisition of License Plate Recognition Technology and Cameras.	132,000	Moran
DOJ–COPS Tech	Hays Police Department	Hays, KS	Acquisition of Body Worn Cameras	90,000	Moran
DOJ–COPS Tech	Hutchinson Police Department	Hutchinson, KS	Radio Upgrades	495,000	Moran
DOJ–COPS Tech	Independence Police Department	Independence, KS	Acquisition of Mobile Camera Technology	330,000	Moran
DOJ–COPS Tech	Jefferson County Sheriff	Jefferson County, KS	Acquisition of Black Water Vision Technology	129,000	Moran
DOJ–COPS Tech	Junction City Police Department	Junction City, KS	Acquisition of Mobile Camera Technology	147,000	Moran
DOJ–COPS Tech	Kansas City, Kansas, Police Department.	Kansas City, KS	Establishment of a Real Time Crime Center	905,000	Moran
DOJ–COPS Tech	Lenexa Police Department	Lenexa, KS	Acquisition of Community Communications Technology	84,000	Moran
DOJ–COPS Tech	Morton County Sheriff	Morton County, KS	Acquisition of License Plate Recognition Technology and Cameras.	190,000	Moran
DOJ–COPS Tech	Prairie Village Police Department	Prairie Village, KS	Acquisition of License Plate Recognition Technology and Cameras.	638,000	Moran
DOJ–COPS Tech	Rooks County Sheriff	Rooks County, KS	Acquisition of a Training Simulator	55,000	Moran
DOJ–COPS Tech	Russell Police Department	Russell, KS	Public Safety Communications Network Updates	259,000	Moran
DOJ–COPS Tech	Salina Police Department	Salina, KS	Acquisition of License Plate Recognition Technology and Cameras.	240,000	Moran
DOJ–COPS Tech	Saline County Sheriff	Saline County, KS	Acquisition of Body Scanners	314,000	Moran
DOJ–COPS Tech	Seward County Sheriff	Seward County, KS	Acquisition of Body Scanners	153,000	Moran
DOJ–COPS Tech	Shawnee County Sheriff	Shawnee County, KS	Acquisition of Mobile Camera Technology	1,664,000	Moran
DOJ–COPS Tech	Shawnee Police Department	Shawnee, KS	Acquisition of License Plate Recognition Technology and Cameras.	83,000	Moran
DOJ–COPS Tech	Topeka Police Department	Topeka, KS	Acquisition of Hazardous Device Response Vehicle and Equipment.	385,000	Moran
DOJ–COPS Tech	Wabaunsee County Sheriff	Wabaunsee County, KS	Acquisition of License Plate Recognition Technology and Cameras.	156,000	Moran
DOJ–COPS Tech	Wallace County Sheriff	Wallace County, KS	Acquisition of Night Operations Technology	77,000	Moran
DOJ–COPS Tech	Wichita Police Department	Wichita, KS	Establishment of a Real Time Crime Center	1,650,000	Moran
DOJ–COPS Tech	Municipality of Anchorage	Anchorage, AK	Communications Technology and Equipment Replacement	1,740,000	Murkowski
DOJ–COPS Tech	Municipality of Anchorage	Anchorage, AK	Security Equipment and Technology	250,000	Murkowski
DOJ–COPS Tech	City of College Park	College Park, GA	College Park Police Department—Public Safety Technology and Equipment.	373,000	Ossoff, Warnock
DOJ–COPS Tech	Town of Bristol Police Department	Bristol, RI	Mobile Command Unit Upgrade	175,000	Reed
DOJ–COPS Tech	Town of Foster	Foster, RI	Communication Dispatch Equipment	120,000	Reed
DOJ–COPS Tech	Town of Glocester	Glocester, RI	Town of Glocester—Police Equipment	490,000	Reed
DOJ–COPS Tech	Town of North Smithfield	North Smithfield, RI	Police Vehicles and Equipment	375,000	Reed

DOJ–COPS Tech	Portsmouth Police Department	Portsmouth, RI	Police Department Mobile Data Terminals	30,000	Reed, Whitehouse
DOJ–COPS Tech	Tiverton Police Department	Tiverton, RI	Public Safety Communications Upgrade	500,000	Reed, Whitehouse
DOJ–COPS Tech	Brandon Police Department	Brandon, VT	Public Safety Vehicle Upgrades for Brandon Police Department.	18,000	Sanders
DOJ–COPS Tech	Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources.	Statewide, HI	Strengthening Hawai'i State Natural Resource Law Enforcement.	1,000,000	Schatz
DOJ–COPS Tech	Belknap County Sheriff's Office	Belknap County, NH	IT Enhancements for Belknap County Sheriff Office	600,000	Shaheen
DOJ–COPS Tech	Exeter Police Department	Exeter, NH	Exeter Police Mobile Radio Communications Upgrades	112,000	Shaheen
DOJ–COPS Tech	Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office	Hillsborough County, NH	Hillsborough County Sheriff K–9 Niko Specialized Vehicle Project.	76,000	Shaheen
DOJ–COPS Tech	Hollis Department of Emergency Management.	Hollis, NH	Public Safety Radio Infrastructure and Interoperability Upgrade.	702,000	Shaheen
DOJ–COPS Tech	Laconia Police Department	Laconia, NH	Dispatch Technology Integration System	200,000	Shaheen
DOJ–COPS Tech	Manchester School District	Manchester, NH	Manchester School Emergency Notification System	2,401,000	Shaheen
DOJ–COPS Tech	Nashua Police Department	Nashua, NH	Nashua Police Department Small Platform Response Vehicle.	90,000	Shaheen
DOJ–COPS Tech	New London Police Department	New London, NH	New London CAD/RMS Program Project	413,000	Shaheen
DOJ–COPS Tech	Newfields, NH, Police	Newfields, NH	Newfields Police Technology Equipment	28,000	Shaheen
DOJ–COPS Tech	Sanbornton Police Department	Sanbornton, NH	Sanbornton Police Department Radio System	22,000	Shaheen
DOJ–COPS Tech	Town of Newington	Rockingham County, NH	Newington Emergency Communications Infrastructure	170,000	Shaheen
DOJ–COPS Tech	City of Highland Park	Wayne County, MI	Highland Park Police Department Pilot Project for Mental Health Co-Response Model.	500,000	Stabenow
DOJ–COPS Tech	City of Washington	Washington, NC	Public Safety Radio System Upgrades	900,000	Tillis
DOJ–COPS Tech	Augusta University	City of Augusta, GA	Augusta University—Public Safety Equipment	2,677,000	Warnock
DOJ–COPS Tech	City of Powder Springs	City of Powder Springs, GA	Powder Springs—Law Enforcement Radio Networks	500,000	Warnock
DOJ–COPS Tech	Whitfield County	Whitfield County, GA	Whitfield County—Forensic Equipment Purchase	75,000	Warnock
DOJ–COPS Tech	Mississippi Department of Public Safety.	Jackson, MS	Office of Capitol Police Law Enforcement Technology and Equipment.	854,000	Wicker
DOJ–OJP Byrne	City and County of Denver	Denver, CO	Community-Based Violence Intervention Program	799,000	Bennet, Hickenlooper
DOJ–OJP Byrne	City and County of Denver	Denver, CO	Denver District Attorney's Office Human Trafficking Unit Project.	178,000	Bennet, Hickenlooper
DOJ–OJP Byrne	City and County of Denver	Denver, CO	Denver Sheriff Department Housing Navigation Program	750,000	Bennet, Hickenlooper
DOJ–OJP Byrne	City and County of Denver	Denver, CO	Medication-Assisted Treatment Expansion	1,650,000	Bennet, Hickenlooper
DOJ–OJP Byrne	City and County of Denver	Denver, CO	Night Moves Youth Violence Prevention	350,000	Bennet, Hickenlooper
DOJ–OJP Byrne	City and County of Denver	Denver, CO	Substance Use Navigator Program	187,000	Bennet, Hickenlooper
DOJ–OJP Byrne	City of Pueblo	Pueblo, CO	Pueblo Crime and Accident Scene Scanner	86,000	Bennet, Hickenlooper
DOJ–OJP Byrne	City of Thornton	Thornton, CO	Crime and Accident Scene Scanner	102,000	Bennet, Hickenlooper
DOJ–OJP Byrne	City of Thornton	Thornton, CO	Rapid DNA Instrument	171,000	Bennet, Hickenlooper
DOJ–OJP Byrne	Colorado Access to Justice Commission.	Denver, CO	Access to Justice Initiatives for Rural Colorado	627,000	Bennet, Hickenlooper

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DOJ–OJP Byrne	Rio Blanco County	Meeker, CO	Equipment for Rio Blanco County Law Enforcement Training Center.	350,000	Bennet, Hickenlooper
DOJ–OJP Byrne	Congregations Organized for a New Connecticut.	Hamden, CT	Fostering Greater Gun Safety in New Haven Area	67,000	Blumenthal, Murphy
DOJ–OJP Byrne	Regional Youth Adult Social Action Partnership.	Bridgeport, CT	Bridgeport Gun Violence Prevention	237,000	Blumenthal, Murphy
DOJ–OJP Byrne	Greater St. Louis, Inc., Foundation	St. Louis, MO	Strengthening Downtown St. Louis Public Safety System	1,250,000	Blunt
DOJ–OJP Byrne	St. Louis Police Department	St. Louis, MO	St. Louis Regional Violent Crime Initiative	3,750,000	Blunt
DOJ–OJP Byrne	Camden Center for Youth Development, Inc.	Camden, NJ	Community Coaches	324,000	Booker
DOJ–OJP Byrne	Legal Assistance for Low-Income Victims of Crime.	Bergen, Hudson, Passaic, NJ	Legal Assistance for Low-Income Victims of Crime	255,000	Booker
DOJ–OJP Byrne	New Jersey Coalition Against Sexual Assault.	Atlantic, Bergen, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Essex, Gloucester, Hudson, Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Morris, Ocean, Passaic, Salem, Somerset, Sussex, Union, Warren, NJ.	NJCASA Accessibility Capacity Building Project	445,000	Booker
DOJ–OJP Byrne	New Jersey Coalition to End Domestic Violence.	Atlantic, NJ	NJCEDV Legal Representation Project	500,000	Booker
DOJ–OJP Byrne	Seton Hall University	Essex, NJ	Seton Hall Law School—Community-Based Reentry and Support Services.	632,000	Booker
DOJ–OJP Byrne	Inspira Health Network	Cumberland, NJ	Cumberland County NJ Youth Violence Cessation Initiative	1,000,000	Booker, Menendez
DOJ–OJP Byrne	Cleveland Rape Crisis Center	Cuyahoga, Ashtabula, Geauga, Lake, OH.	Enhanced Services for Survivors of Rape and Human Trafficking.	750,000	Brown
DOJ–OJP Byrne	Homesafe, Inc.	Ashtabula, OH	Homesafe Services	90,000	Brown
DOJ–OJP Byrne	Journey Center for Safety and Healing	Cuyahoga, OH	Increased Capacity and Advocacy for Domestic Violence Victims and Survivors in Cuyahoga County.	439,000	Brown
DOJ–OJP Byrne	Lake County Committee on Family Violence.	Lake, Geauga, Cuyahoga, Summit, Ashtabula, OH.	Forbes House Shelter Expansion	335,000	Brown

DOJ–OJP Byrne	Ohio QRT Association	Hamilton, Franklin, Cuyahoga, Summit, Stark, Montgomery, Adams, Allen, Ashland, Ashtabula, Athens, Auglaize, Belmont, Brown, Butler, Carroll, Champaign, Clark, Clermont, Clinton, Columbiana, Coshocton, Crawford, Darke, Defiance, Delaware, Erie, Fairfield, OH.	Substance Abuse and Mental Health Outreach Resources	160,000	Brown	
DOJ–OJP Byrne	Ohio University	Cuyahoga, Lorain, Medina, Summit, Geauga, Lake, OH.	Human Trafficking Prevention	323,000	Brown	
DOJ–OJP Byrne	Women Helping Women	Hamilton, Butler, Adams, Brown, OH	Women Helping Women Survivor Services Expansion	764,000	Brown	
DOJ–OJP Byrne	Hancock County Commission	Hancock County, WV	Courthouse Security Project	250,000	Capito	
DOJ–OJP Byrne	Hancock County Commission	Hancock County, WV	Law Enforcement Equipment and Technology Upgrades	565,000	Capito	
DOJ–OJP Byrne	Huntington Police Department	Huntington, WV	Community Engagement and Officer Training Initiative	692,000	Capito	
DOJ–OJP Byrne	McDowell County Commission	McDowell County, WV	Acquisition of Patrol Vehicles	123,000	Capito	
DOJ–OJP Byrne	City of Elkins	Elkins, WV	Law Enforcement Technology Upgrades	950,000	Capito, Manchin	
DOJ–OJP Byrne	City of Mannington	Mannington, WV	Law Enforcement Technology Upgrades	66,000	Capito, Manchin	
DOJ–OJP Byrne	Marshall University	Huntington, WV	Forensic Science Training and Services	1,500,000	Capito, Manchin	
DOJ–OJP Byrne	Region 4 Planning and Development Council.	Pocahontas County, WV	Community District Ranger Department Police Cruiser	54,000	Capito, Manchin	
DOJ–OJP Byrne	West Virginia Department of Agriculture.	Kanawha County, WV	WVDA Law Enforcement Liaison	81,000	Capito, Manchin	
DOJ–OJP Byrne	Anne Arundel County	Millersville, MD	Fresh START	400,000	Cardin, Van Hollen	
DOJ–OJP Byrne	Charles County Sheriff's Office	Charles County, MD	Mental Health, Wellness, and Resiliency Program	90,000	Cardin, Van Hollen	
DOJ–OJP Byrne	City of Baltimore	Baltimore City, MD	Coordinated Systemic Responses to Violence in Baltimore	500,000	Cardin, Van Hollen	
DOJ–OJP Byrne	University of Maryland, Baltimore	Baltimore City, MD	Train the Trainer Interdisciplinary Certificate in Violence Prevention for Non-Profit Leaders.	1,100,000	Cardin, Van Hollen	
DOJ–OJP Byrne	Delaware Division of Forensic Science	Wilmington, DE	Division of Forensic Science Equipment	670,000	Carper, Coons	
DOJ–OJP Byrne	City of Erie	Erie, PA	Erie Regional Bomb Squad Vehicle	325,000	Casey	
DOJ–OJP Byrne	Philadelphia Mural Arts Advocates	Philadelphia, PA	Philadelphia Restorative Justice Programming	250,000	Casey	
DOJ–OJP Byrne	Philadelphia Office of Domestic Violence Strategies.	Philadelphia, PA	Supervised Child Visitation and Exchange Program	300,000	Casey	
DOJ–OJP Byrne	The Homeless Advocacy Project (HAP)	Philadelphia, PA	HAP Embedded Legal Professional (H.E.L.P.) Program Pilot	83,000	Casey	
DOJ–OJP Byrne	Baton Rouge Police Department	Baton Rouge, LA	Aerial Camera Technology Replacement	500,000	Cassidy	
DOJ–OJP Byrne	Town of Kittery	Kittery, ME	Equipment Purchases for Kittery, Eliot, and York Law Enforcement Community Outreach Program.	70,000	Collins	
DOJ–OJP Byrne	City of North Las Vegas	North Las Vegas, NV	North Las Vegas—Municipal Court Case Management System Upgrade.	300,000	Cortez Masto, Rosen	
DOJ–OJP Byrne	Clark County	Clark County, NV	Clark County—Public Defender Counseling Program	175,000	Cortez Masto, Rosen	

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DOJ–OJP Byrne	City of Chicago	Chicago, IL	Assistance to Chicagoans Who Become Disabled As a Result of Gun and Community Violence.	350,000	Duckworth
DOJ–OJP Byrne	Heartland Alliance for Human Need & Human Rights.	Chicago, IL	READI Chicago	500,000	Duckworth
DOJ–OJP Byrne	Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center.	Skokie, IL	Law Enforcement Action in Democracy (LEAD) Training	299,000	Duckworth
DOJ–OJP Byrne	Big Brothers Big Sisters of Metropolitan Chicago.	Chicago, IL	Youth Mentoring Program	500,000	Durbin
DOJ–OJP Byrne	Haymarket Center	Chicago, IL	Recidivism Reduction Initiative	775,000	Durbin
DOJ–OJP Byrne	Lake County State's Attorney's Office	Lake County, IL	Gun Violence Prevention Initiative	750,000	Durbin
DOJ–OJP Byrne	Metropolitan Family Services	Chicago, IL	Violence Reduction Initiative	800,000	Durbin
DOJ–OJP Byrne	Youth Outreach Services	Chicago, IL	Violence Prevention and Intervention Initiative	500,000	Durbin
DOJ–OJP Byrne	City of Syracuse	Onondaga County, NY	Syracuse Police Cadet Program	500,000	Gillibrand, Schumer
DOJ–OJP Byrne	St. Nicks Alliance	Kings County, NY	North Brooklyn Anti-Violence Initiative	1,000,000	Gillibrand, Schumer
DOJ–OJP Byrne	Enough is Enough	Mount Pleasant, SC	Online Exploitation Prevention	960,000	Graham
DOJ–OJP Byrne	Town of Lexington	Town of Lexington, SC	Police Technology Modernization	2,275,000	Graham
DOJ–OJP Byrne	All Faiths Children's Advocacy Center	Albuquerque, NM	Children's Safehouse Forensic Interview Program	250,000	Heinrich
DOJ–OJP Byrne	Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court	Albuquerque, NM	Bernalillo County Metropolitan Courts—Probation Assistance Program.	240,000	Heinrich
DOJ–OJP Byrne	New Mexico Department of Public Safety.	Raton, NM	Emergency Power Distribution for Vulnerable New Mexico State Police District Facilities Project.	600,000	Heinrich
DOJ–OJP Byrne	Southwest Women's Law Center	Albuquerque, NM	American Indian/Alaskan Native Women Survivors of Domestic Violence Support Program.	60,000	Heinrich
DOJ–OJP Byrne	Taos Community Foundation	Taos, NM	Taos LEAD (Let Everyone Advance with Dignity)	113,000	Heinrich
DOJ–OJP Byrne	Third Judicial District Attorney's Office.	Las Cruces, NM	Border Prosecution Division	300,000	Heinrich
DOJ–OJP Byrne	City of Albuquerque	Albuquerque, NM	Albuquerque Violence Intervention Program and Community Safety Department.	2,050,000	Heinrich, Luján
DOJ–OJP Byrne	City of Las Cruces	Las Cruces, NM	Project LIGHT	485,000	Heinrich, Luján
DOJ–OJP Byrne	County of Bernalillo	Bernalillo County, NM	Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion	416,000	Heinrich, Luján
DOJ–OJP Byrne	The Legal Clinic	City and County of Honolulu, HI	Immigration Legal Services for Hawaii's Vulnerable Residents.	120,000	Hirono, Schatz
DOJ–OJP Byrne	Mississippi Department of Corrections	Jackson, MS	Contraband Cell Phone Interdiction Systems	4,000,000	Hyde-Smith, Wicker
DOJ–OJP Byrne	Oklahoma State University Center for Health Services.	Tulsa, OK	Forensic DNA Laboratory	497,000	Inhofe
DOJ–OJP Byrne	City of Portsmouth	City of Portsmouth, VA	Public Safety Communications Upgrades	3,000,000	Kaine, Warner
DOJ–OJP Byrne	Town of Marion Police Department	Town of Marion, VA	Police Leadership in Southwest Virginia	83,000	Kaine, Warner

DOJ–OJP Byrne	Virginia Hospital & Healthcare Association Foundation.	Roanoke, Fredericksburg, Petersburg, Bristol, Hampton, Portsmouth, and Danville, VA.	Virginia Center for Hospital-Based Violence Intervention	885,000	Kaine, Warner
DOJ–OJP Byrne	City of Tucson	Tucson, AZ	Tucson Police Department (TPD) and Tucson Public Safety Communications Department (PSCD) Portable Radios Update.	1,845,000	Kelly, Sinema
DOJ–OJP Byrne	Cochise County Sheriff's Office	Bisbee, AZ	Cochise County Jail	2,200,000	Kelly, Sinema
DOJ–OJP Byrne	Graham County	Safford, AZ	Graham County Sheriff's Office Public Safety Vehicles	140,000	Kelly, Sinema
DOJ–OJP Byrne	La Paz County Sheriff's Office	La Paz County, AZ	La Paz Jail Vehicle Replacement	116,000	Kelly, Sinema
DOJ–OJP Byrne	San Carlos Apache Tribe	San Carlos, AZ	San Carlos Apache Police Department Equipment Modernization.	674,000	Kelly, Sinema
DOJ–OJP Byrne	Yavapai County Sheriff's Office	Prescott, AZ	Yavapai County Sheriff's Office Aerial Platform for Sedona & Prescott Communities.	2,108,000	Kelly, Sinema
DOJ–OJP Byrne	City of Minneapolis	Minneapolis, MN	Problem Nature Code Study and Development of Alternatives to Police Response Pilots.	2,500,000	Klobuchar, Smith
DOJ–OJP Byrne	Hennepin County	Hennepin County, MN	Hennepin County Health Equity Legal Project	500,000	Klobuchar, Smith
DOJ–OJP Byrne	Madison Lake Police Department	Madison Lake, MN	City of Madison Lake Police Position Funding	164,000	Klobuchar, Smith
DOJ–OJP Byrne	Minneapolis Police Department	Minneapolis, MN	Minneapolis Police Department Police Recruitment Through PEACE (Pathways Encouraging Active Community Engagement).	1,894,000	Klobuchar, Smith
DOJ–OJP Byrne	Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence.	Montpelier, VT	Center for Leadership and Learning	5,000,000	Leahy
DOJ–OJP Byrne	Missing and Murdered Diné Relatives	San Juan County, McKinley County, Cibola County, NM.	Missing and Murdered Diné Relatives Relief Fund	25,000	Luján
DOJ–OJP Byrne	City of Charleston	Charleston, WV	Charleston West Side Mentorship Program	200,000	Manchin
DOJ–OJP Byrne	Mercer County Commission	Mercer County, WV	Mercer County Sheriff's Department Police Vehicles and Equipment.	300,000	Manchin
DOJ–OJP Byrne	Mountain State Educational Services Cooperative.	Dunbar, WV	Project EQ	892,000	Manchin
DOJ–OJP Byrne	Town of Clendenin Police Department	Clendenin, WV	Clendenin Police Personnel and Equipment	200,000	Manchin
DOJ–OJP Byrne	Boston Medical Center (BMC) Corporation.	Boston, MA	Violence Intervention Advocacy Program (VIAP)	370,000	Markey, Warren
DOJ–OJP Byrne	City of New Bedford	New Bedford, MA	Equitable Approaches to Public Safety in the City of New Bedford.	562,000	Markey, Warren
DOJ–OJP Byrne	Franklin Regional Council of Governments.	Greenfield, MA	Reduce Reliance on Part-Time Police Officers	165,000	Markey, Warren
DOJ–OJP Byrne	City of Jersey City	Jersey City, NJ	HealthierJC Peaceful Families	500,000	Menendez
DOJ–OJP Byrne	City of Trenton	Trenton, NJ	Trenton RISE Center Project	1,000,000	Menendez
DOJ–OJP Byrne	Hugoton Police Department	Hugoton, KS	Acquisition of Patrol Vehicles	128,000	Moran
DOJ–OJP Byrne	Leavenworth County Attorney's Office	Leavenworth County, KS	Establishment of a Veterans Treatment Court	1,000,000	Moran

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DOJ–OJP Byrne	Olathe Police Department	Olathe, KS	Acquisition of Training Center Equipment and Technology	1,685,000	Moran
DOJ–OJP Byrne	Alaska Network on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault.	Statewide, AK	Support for Victim Services Organizations	3,000,000	Murkowski
DOJ–OJP Byrne	Alaska Police and Fire Chaplains	Statewide, AK	Counseling and Emotional Support Programs for Law Enforcement Officers and Victims of Crime.	1,000,000	Murkowski
DOJ–OJP Byrne	Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault.	Statewide, AK	Support for Child Advocacy Organizations and Services for Victims of Crime.	4,000,000	Murkowski
DOJ–OJP Byrne	Municipality of Anchorage	Anchorage, AK	Vehicle and Heavy Equipment Fleet Replacement	2,000,000	Murkowski
DOJ–OJP Byrne	University of Alaska	Anchorage, AK	Forensic Training Program for Healthcare Providers and Advocates.	500,000	Murkowski
DOJ–OJP Byrne	Criminal Justice Coordinating Council	Statewide, GA	Support for Georgia Domestic Violence Services	3,093,000	Ossoff
DOJ–OJP Byrne	Forsyth County Sheriff's Office	Forsyth County, GA	Mental Health Response Teams in Forsyth County	157,000	Ossoff
DOJ–OJP Byrne	LA Economic and Workforce Development Department.	Los Angeles County, CA	Returning Citizens Housing Stability Pilot Project	1,000,000	Padilla
DOJ–OJP Byrne	Charter Township of Clinton	Clinton Township, MI	Police Social Worker	675,000	Peters
DOJ–OJP Byrne	City of Westland	Westland, MI	City of Westland Strengthening Families Program	30,000	Peters
DOJ–OJP Byrne	Northern Michigan Law Enforcement Training Group.	Grayling, MI	Public Safety Training Equipment	1,000,000	Peters
DOJ–OJP Byrne	City of Detroit	Wayne County, MI	Body Worn Camera Update	1,000,000	Peters, Stabenow
DOJ–OJP Byrne	Nonviolence Institute	Providence, RI	Strengthening Nonviolence Interventions	150,000	Reed
DOJ–OJP Byrne	Providence Police Department	Providence, RI	Crime and Gun Violence Reduction Initiative	1,000,000	Reed
DOJ–OJP Byrne	Housing Authority of The City of Providence, RI (a.k.a. Providence Housing Authority).	Providence, RI	Domestic Violence Prevention and Survivor Support	200,000	Reed, Whitehouse
DOJ–OJP Byrne	Vermont Department of Public Safety	Statewide, VT	Public Safety Training and Modernization	1,500,000	Sanders
DOJ–OJP Byrne	Vermont Law School	Chittenden County, VT	The Justice Reform Clinic Project	975,000	Sanders
DOJ–OJP Byrne	Hawai'i Department of Public Safety	Hawai'i County; City and County of Honolulu, HI.	Continuing and Higher Education Support Services for Hawai'i Department of Public Safety.	900,000	Schatz
DOJ–OJP Byrne	Hawai'i Department of the Attorney General.	Statewide, HI	Sexual Assault Nurses and Forensic Examiners	200,000	Schatz
DOJ–OJP Byrne	Maui County	Maui County, HI	West Maui Communications Channel Expansion	180,000	Schatz
DOJ–OJP Byrne	67th Precinct Clergy Council, Inc.	Brooklyn, NY	Violence Intervention Program	1,000,000	Schumer
DOJ–OJP Byrne	Community Capacity Development	Jamaica, NY	Project Human Justice & Healing	2,000,000	Schumer
DOJ–OJP Byrne	Faith in New York	Corona, NY	Restorative Justice Project (Harlem Pilot)	300,000	Schumer
DOJ–OJP Byrne	Getting Out and Staying Out, Inc. (GOSO).	New York, NY	Family Therapy for Survivors of Violence and Families of At-Risk Youth in East Harlem.	200,000	Schumer
DOJ–OJP Byrne	Rise Up Rochester, Inc.	Rochester, NY	Rise Up Rochester Anti-Violence Safe Housing Project	400,000	Schumer

DOJ–OJP Byrne	Granite State Children's Alliance	Bedford, NH	Interview Recording Equipment and Mental/Behavioral Health Supplies for Child Advocacy Centers in NH.	223,000	Shaheen
DOJ–OJP Byrne	Manchester Police Department	Manchester, NH	New Hampshire Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness.	110,000	Shaheen
DOJ–OJP Byrne	Nashua Police Department	City of Nashua, NH	Hazardous Device Unit Equipment	110,000	Shaheen
DOJ–OJP Byrne	New Hampshire Department of Justice	Concord, NH	New Hampshire Drug Task Force	409,000	Shaheen
DOJ–OJP Byrne	Town of Gorham	Town of Gorham, NH	Pine Mountain Repeater & 4-site Simulcast System	426,000	Shaheen
DOJ–OJP Byrne	City of Scottsdale	Scottsdale, AZ	Public Safety Communications Equipment	89,000	Sinema
DOJ–OJP Byrne	Town of Wellton	Wellton, AZ	Town of Wellton—Police Department Equipment	44,000	Sinema
DOJ–OJP Byrne	Michigan Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence.	Wayne, Oakland, and Macomb Counties, MI.	Emergency Operation Funding	500,000	Stabenow
DOJ–OJP Byrne	City of Stockbridge	City of Stockbridge, GA	Stockbridge Police—Mental Health and Wellness Training Program.	165,000	Warnock
DOJ–OJP Byrne	Crisis Line & Safe House of Central Georgia.	City of Macon, GA	One Safe Place Macon Family Justice Center	1,200,000	Warnock
DOJ–OJP Byrne	Cranston Police Department	Cranston, RI	Crisis Intervention Team Mental Health Response	500,000	Whitehouse
DOJ–OJP Byrne	Tides Family Services	Providence, RI	Juvenile Justice Program	100,000	Whitehouse
NASA–SSMS	Cuyahoga Community College District	Cuyahoga, OH	Cleanroom Classroom Laboratory Equipment	195,000	Brown
NASA–SSMS	Mingo County Redevelopment Authority.	Mingo County, WV	Mingo County Redevelopment Authority Advanced Air Mobility Education Program.	2,900,000	Capito, Manchin
NASA–SSMS	University of Maryland, Baltimore County.	Baltimore County, MD	Earth and Space Institute Research and Equipment	1,000,000	Cardin, Van Hollen
NASA–SSMS	University of Delaware, Delaware State University.	Newark and Dover, DE	Space Education Excellence for Delaware (SEED)	900,000	Carper, Coons
NASA–SSMS	Central Allegheny Challenger Learning Center.	Indiana County, PA	Central Allegheny Challenger Learning Center	1,495,000	Casey
NASA–SSMS	West Chester University of Pennsylvania.	Chester County, PA	West Chester University Moonshot for Equity: I Want to STEM.	716,000	Casey
NASA–SSMS	LSU National Center for Advanced Manufacturing.	New Orleans, LA	Digital Manufacturing Technology Upgrades	2,500,000	Cassidy
NASA–SSMS	University of New Mexico	Socorro, NM	Long Wavelength Array Technology Upgrades	983,000	Heinrich, Luján
NASA–SSMS	Museum of Science	Boston, MA	Building a Pathway to Belonging Pilot Project	500,000	Markey, Warren
NASA–SSMS	Cosmosphere, Inc.	Hutchinson, KS	Support for STEM Education Programs and Galleries/Exhibits Revitalization.	3,000,000	Moran
NASA–SSMS	Wichita State University	Wichita, KS	Support for Advanced Materials Research and Research Equipment at the National Institute for Aviation Research.	10,000,000	Moran
NASA–SSMS	NHADEC	Merrimack County, NH	Next Generation Innovation for a Resilient Supply Chain	2,307,000	Shaheen

Account	Recipient	Location	Project	Recommendation ($)	Requestor(s)
NASA–SSMS	Frostburg State University	Frostburg, MD	Frostburg State University Regional Science Education Center.	750,000	Van Hollen

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET [OBLIGATIONAL] AUTHORITY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022 AND BUDGET ESTIMATES AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023

[In thousands of dollars]

Item	2022 appropriation	Budget estimate	Committee recommendation	Senate Committee recommendation compared with (+ or −)	
				2022 appropriation	Budget estimate
TITLE I—DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE					
International Trade Administration					
Operations and administration	570,000	642,831	625,000	+55,000	−17,831
Offsetting fee collections	−11,000	−12,000	−12,000	−1,000	.....
Direct appropriation	559,000	630,831	613,000	+54,000	−17,831
Bureau of Industry and Security					
Operations and administration	61,000	103,458	103,547	+42,547	+89
CWC Enforcement (Defense)	80,000	96,089	96,089	+16,089	.....
Total, Bureau of Industry and Security	141,000	199,547	199,636	+58,636	+89
Economic Development Administration					
Economic Development Assistance Programs	330,000	432,500	380,000	+50,000	−52,500
Salaries and expenses	43,500	70,018	70,018	+26,518	.....
Total, Economic Development Administration	373,500	502,518	450,018	+76,518	−52,500
Minority Business Development Agency					
Minority Business Development	55,000	110,000	70,000	+15,000	−40,000
Economic and Statistical Analysis					
Salaries and expenses	116,000	140,878	128,000	+12,000	−12,878
Bureau of the Census					
Current Surveys and Programs	300,000	.....	330,000	+30,000	+330,000

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET [OBLIGATIONAL] AUTHORITY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022 AND BUDGET ESTIMATES AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023—Continued

[In thousands of dollars]

Item	2022 appropriation	Budget estimate	Committee recommendation	Senate Committee recommendation compared with (+ or −)	
				2022 appropriation	Budget estimate
Periodic censuses and programs	1,054,000	.....	1,155,000	+101,000	+1,155,000
Censuses and Survey Programs	.....	1,505,470	.....	.....	−1,505,470
Total, Bureau of the Census	1,354,000	1,505,470	1,485,000	+131,000	−20,470
National Telecommunications and Information Administration					
Salaries and expenses	50,000	67,605	65,000	+15,000	−2,605
United States Patent and Trademark Office					
Salaries and expenses, current year fee funding	4,058,410	4,253,404	4,253,404	+194,994	.....
Offsetting fee collections	−4,058,410	−4,253,404	−4,253,404	−194,994	.....
Total, United States Patent and Trademark Office	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
National Institute of Standards and Technology					
Scientific and Technical Research and Services	850,000	974,946	974,946	+124,946	.....
(transfer out)	(−9,000)	(−9,000)	(−9,000)	.....	.....
Industrial Technology Services	174,500	372,318	270,000	+95,500	−102,318
Manufacturing extension partnerships	(158,000)	(275,266)	(200,000)	(+42,000)	(−75,266)
Manufacturing USA	(16,500)	(97,052)	(70,000)	(+53,500)	(−27,052)
Construction of research facilities	205,563	120,285	451,393	+245,830	+331,108
Working Capital Fund (by transfer)	(9,000)	(9,000)	(9,000)	.....	.....
Total, National Institute of Standards and Technology	1,230,063	1,467,549	1,696,339	+466,276	+228,790

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration					
Operations, Research, and Facilities	4,157,311	4,484,209	4,589,855	+432,544	+105,646
(by transfer)	(243,532)	(348,871)	(343,901)	(+100,369)	(−4,970)
Promote and Develop Fund (transfer out)	(−243,532)	(−348,871)	(−343,901)	(−100,369)	(+4,970)
Subtotal	4,157,311	4,484,209	4,589,855	+432,544	+105,646
Procurement, Acquisition and Construction	1,672,689	2,332,662	1,874,329	+201,640	−458,333
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	−18,000	−19,000	−19,000	−1,000	.....
Total, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration	5,877,349	6,863,820	6,510,833	+633,484	−352,987
Departmental Management					
Salaries and expenses	80,000	104,004	95,000	+15,000	−9,004
Renovation and Modernization	1,100	1,142	1,142	+42	.....
DOC Nonrecurring Expenses Fund	30,000	50,000	50,000	+20,000	.....
Office of Inspector General	35,783	49,771	49,771	+13,988	.....
Collection from the Public Safety Trust Fund	(−2,000)	.....	(−2,000)	.....	(−2,000)
Public Safety Trust Fund transfer	(2,000)	.....	(2,000)	.....	(+2,000)
Expenditure transfer	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total, Departmental Management	146,883	204,917	195,913	+49,030	−9,004
Total, title I, Department of Commerce	9,902,795	11,693,135	11,413,739	+1,510,944	−279,396
(by transfer)	254,532	357,871	354,901	+100,369	−2,970
(transfer out)	−254,532	−357,871	−354,901	−100,369	+2,970
TITLE II—DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE					
General Administration					
Salaries and expenses	127,794	196,531	145,000	+17,206	−51,531
Justice Information Sharing Technology	38,000	153,057	275,000	+237,000	+121,943

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET [OBLIGATIONAL] AUTHORITY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022 AND BUDGET ESTIMATES AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023—Continued

[In thousands of dollars]

Item	2022 appropriation	Budget estimate	Committee recommendation	Senate Committee recommendation compared with (+ or −)	
				2022 appropriation	Budget estimate
Total, General Administration	165,794	349,588	420,000	+254,206	+70,412
Executive Office for Immigration Review	760,000	1,354,889	950,000	+190,000	−404,889
Transfer from immigration examinations fee account	−4,000	−4,000	−4,000	.....	.....
Direct appropriation	756,000	1,350,889	946,000	+190,000	−404,889
Office of Inspector General	118,000	135,856	139,856	+21,856	+4,000
United States Parole Commission					
Salaries and expenses	14,238	14,591	14,591	+353	.....
Legal Activities					
Salaries and expenses, general legal activities	1,000,000	1,164,266	1,100,000	+100,000	−64,266
Vaccine Injury Compensation Trust Fund	19,000	31,738	31,738	+12,738	.....
Salaries and expenses, Antitrust Division	192,776	273,006	225,000	+32,224	−48,006
Offsetting fee collections—current year	−138,000	−190,000	−190,000	−52,000	.....
Direct appropriation	54,776	83,006	35,000	−19,776	−48,006
Salaries and expenses, United States Attorneys	2,419,868	2,772,350	2,565,000	+145,132	−207,350
United States Trustee System Fund	239,000	260,277	260,277	+21,277	.....
Offsetting fee collections	−413,000	−285,000	−269,000	+144,000	+16,000
Direct appropriation	−174,000	−24,723	−8,723	+165,277	+16,000
Salaries and expenses, Foreign Claims Settlement Commission	2,434	2,504	2,504	+70	.....
Fees and expenses of witnesses	270,000	270,000	270,000	.....	.....
Salaries and expenses, Community Relations Service	21,000	25,024	25,024	+4,024	.....
Assets Forfeiture Fund	20,514	20,514	20,514	.....	.....

Total, Legal Activities	3,633,592	4,344,679	4,041,057	+407,465	−303,622
United States Marshals Service					
Salaries and expenses	1,580,000	1,807,138	1,730,000	+150,000	−77,138
Construction	15,000	19,260	19,260	+4,260	.....
Federal Prisoner Detention	2,123,015	2,129,789	2,150,000	+26,985	+20,211
Total, United States Marshals Service	3,718,015	3,956,187	3,899,260	+181,245	−56,927
National Security Division					
Salaries and expenses	120,681	133,512	128,000	+7,319	−5,512
Interagency Law Enforcement					
Interagency Crime and Drug Enforcement	550,458	550,458	550,458	.....	.....
Federal Bureau of Investigation					
Salaries and expenses	4,112,295	4,357,899	4,357,989	+245,694	+90
Counterintelligence and national security	6,024,000	6,383,779	6,383,911	+359,911	+132
Subtotal, Salaries and expenses	10,136,295	10,741,678	10,741,900	+605,605	+222
Construction	632,000	61,895	662,000	+30,000	+600,105
Total, Federal Bureau of Investigation	10,768,295	10,803,573	11,403,900	+635,605	+600,327
Drug Enforcement Administration					
Salaries and expenses	2,933,181	3,104,603	3,146,603	+213,422	+42,000
Diversion control fund	−511,659	−581,487	−581,487	−69,828	.....
Total, Drug Enforcement Administration	2,421,522	2,523,116	2,565,116	+143,594	+42,000
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives					
Salaries and expenses	1,531,071	1,732,528	1,650,000	+118,929	−82,528
Construction	.....	.....	75,000	+75,000	+75,000

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET [OBLIGATIONAL] AUTHORITY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022 AND BUDGET ESTIMATES AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023—Continued

[In thousands of dollars]

Item	2022 appropriation	Budget estimate	Committee recommendation	Senate Committee recommendation compared with (+ or −)	
				2022 appropriation	Budget estimate
Total, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives	1,531,071	1,732,528	1,725,000	+193,929	−7,528
Federal Prison System					
Salaries and expenses	7,865,000	8,005,951	8,100,000	+235,000	+94,049
Buildings and facilities	235,000	179,300	179,300	−55,700	.....
Limitation on administrative expenses, Federal Prison Industries, Incorporated	2,700	2,700	2,700	.....	.....
Total, Federal Prison System	8,102,700	8,187,951	8,282,000	+179,300	+94,049
State and Local Law Enforcement Activities					
Office on Violence Against Women:					
Prevention and prosecution programs	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
(by transfer)	(575,000)	.....	.....	(−575,000)	.....
Crime Victims Fund (transfer out)	(−575,000)	.....	.....	(+575,000)	.....
Violence Against Women Prevention & Prosecution Programs	.....	1,000,000	732,000	+732,000	−268,000
Office of Justice Programs:					
Research, evaluation and statistics	70,000	88,000	88,000	+18,000	.....
State and local law enforcement assistance	2,213,000	2,518,000	2,394,500	+181,500	−123,500
Juvenile justice programs	360,000	760,000	471,000	+111,000	−289,000
Public safety officer benefits:					
Death benefits	122,000	133,000	133,000	+11,000	.....
Disability and education benefits	30,000	34,800	34,800	+4,800	.....
Subtotal	152,000	167,800	167,800	+15,800	.....
Total, Office of Justice Programs	2,795,000	3,533,800	3,121,300	+326,300	−412,500

Community Oriented Policing Services:					
COPS programs	511,744	651,000	583,711	+71,967	−67,289
Total, State and Local Law Enforcement Activities	3,306,744	5,184,800	4,437,011	+1,130,267	−747,789
Total, title II, Department of Justice	35,207,110	39,267,728	38,552,249	+3,345,139	−715,479
(by transfer)	575,000			−575,000	
(transfer out)	−575,000			+575,000	
TITLE III—SCIENCE					
Office of Science and Technology Policy	6,652	7,965	7,700	+1,048	−265
National Space Council	1,965	1,965	1,965		
National Aeronautics and Space Administration					
Science	7,614,400	7,988,300	8,045,700	+431,300	+57,400
Aeronautics	880,700	971,500	971,500	+90,800	
Space Technology	1,100,000	1,437,900	1,263,850	+163,850	−174,050
Exploration	6,791,700	7,478,283	7,547,750	+756,050	+69,467
Space Operations	4,041,300	4,266,317	4,293,500	+252,200	+27,183
Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Engagement	137,000	150,100	150,100	+13,100	
Safety, Security and Mission Services	3,020,600	3,208,700	3,228,700	+208,100	+20,000
Construction and environmental compliance and restoration	410,300	424,300	424,300	+14,000	
Office of Inspector General	45,300	48,400	48,400	+3,100	
Total, National Aeronautics and Space Administration	24,041,300	25,973,800	25,973,800	+1,932,500	
National Science Foundation					
Research and related activities	7,082,400	8,335,987	8,231,907	+1,149,507	−104,080
Defense function	77,000	90,000	90,000	+13,000	
Subtotal	7,159,400	8,425,987	8,321,907	+1,162,507	−104,080
Major Research Equipment and Facilities Construction	249,000	187,230	187,230	−61,770	
STEM Education	1,006,000	1,377,180	1,327,180	+321,180	−50,000
Agency Operations and Award Management	400,000	473,200	473,200	+73,200	
Office of the National Science Board	4,600	5,090	5,090	+490	
Office of Inspector General	19,000	23,393	23,393	+4,393	
Total, National Science Foundation	8,838,000	10,492,080	10,338,000	+1,500,000	−154,080

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET [OBLIGATIONAL] AUTHORITY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022 AND BUDGET ESTIMATES AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023—Continued

[In thousands of dollars]

Item	2022 appropriation	Budget estimate	Committee recommendation	Senate Committee recommendation compared with (+ or −)	
				2022 appropriation	Budget estimate
Total, Title III, Science	32,887,917	36,475,810	36,321,465	+3,433,548	−154,345
TITLE IV—RELATED AGENCIES					
Commission on Civil Rights					
Salaries and expenses	13,000	13,850	13,850	+850	
Equal Employment Opportunity Commission					
Salaries and expenses	420,000	464,650	460,000	+40,000	−4,650
International Trade Commission					
Salaries and expenses	110,000	106,818	122,400	+12,400	+15,582
Legal Services Corporation					
Payment to the Legal Services Corporation	489,000	700,000	539,000	+50,000	−161,000
Marine Mammal Commission					
Salaries and expenses	4,200	4,500	4,500	+300	
Office of the US Trade Representative					
Salaries and expenses	56,000	61,540	61,540	+5,540	
Trade Enforcement Trust Fund	15,000	15,000	15,000		
State Justice Institute					
Salaries and expenses	7,200	7,640	7,640	+440	
Commission on the State of the US Olympics and Paralympics					
Salaries and expenses	2,000			−2,000	

Total, title IV, Related Agencies	1,116,400	1,373,998	1,223,930	+107,530	−150,068
TITLE V—GENERAL PROVISIONS					
Crime Victims Fund (transfer out) (Sec 510)	(−10,000)	(−10,000)		(+10,000)	(+10,000)
Department of Justice OIG (by transfer)	(10,000)	(10,000)		(−10,000)	(−10,000)
DOC, NOAA Operations, Research, and Facilities (rescission)	−10,000			+10,000	
Economic Development Assistance Programs (rescission)	−15,000	−10,000		+15,000	+10,000
DOJ, Working Capital Fund (rescission)	−234,839	−100,000	−100,000	+134,839	
FBI, Salaries and Expenses:					
nondefense (rescission)					
defense (rescission)					
DOJ, Federal Prison System, Buildings and Facilities (rescission)		−886,456	−520,000	−520,000	+366,456
DOJ BOP (rescission)					
DOJ Modernization and Repairs					
Office of Justice programs (rescission)	−100,000	−75,000	−75,000	+25,000	
COPS (rescission)	−15,000	−15,000	−15,000		
DOJ, Violence against women prevention and prosecution programs	−15,000	−15,000	−15,000		
DOJ, Assets Forfeiture Fund (rescission)	−127,000	−100,000		+127,000	+100,000
Admin Provision (NDD)					
Admin Provision (Def)					
Total, title V, General Provisions	−516,839	−1,201,456	−725,000	−208,161	+476,456
OTHER APPROPRIATIONS					
EXTENDING GOVERNMENT FUNDING AND DELIVERING EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE ACT, 2022 (PUBLIC LAW 117–43)					
DIVISION B—DISASTER RELIEF SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2022					
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE					
National Institute of Standards and Technology					
Scientific and Technical Research and Services (emergency)	22,000			−22,000	
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration					
Operations, Research, and Facilities (emergency)	92,834			−92,834	
Procurement, Acquisition and Construction (emergency)	52,205			−52,205	
Fisheries Disaster Assistance (emergency)	200,000			−200,000	

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET [OBLIGATIONAL] AUTHORITY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022 AND BUDGET ESTIMATES AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023—Continued

[In thousands of dollars]

Item	2022 appropriation	Budget estimate	Committee recommendation	Senate Committee recommendation compared with (+ or −)	
				2022 appropriation	Budget estimate
Total, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration	345,039			−345,039	
SCIENCE					
National Aeronautics and Space Administration					
Construction and Environmental Compliance and Restoration (emergency)	321,400			−321,400	
National Science Foundation					
Major Research Equipment and Facilities Construction (emergency)	25,000			−25,000	
Total, Science	346,400			−346,400	
RELATED AGENCIES					
Legal Services Corporation					
Payment to the Legal Services Corporation (emergency)	40,000			−40,000	
Total, Extending Funding and Emergency Assistance Act, 2022	753,439			−753,439	
DIVISION C—AFGHANISTAN SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2022					
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE					
Federal Bureau of Investigation					
Salaries and Expenses (emergency)	20,285			−20,285	
Counterintelligence and National Security (emergency)	29,715			−29,715	
Total, Afghanistan Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2022	50,000			−50,000	

THE INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT AND JOBS ACT, 2022 (PUBLIC LAW 117–58)					
DIVISION J—APPROPRIATIONS					
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE					
National Telecommunications and Information Administration					
Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program (emergency)	42,450,000			−42,450,000	
Broadband Connectivity Fund (emergency)	2,000,000			−2,000,000	
Digital Equity (emergency)	550,000			−550,000	
Appropriations available from prior year advances (emergency)		550,000	550,000	+550,000	
Advance appropriations FY 2023 (emergency)	550,000			−550,000	
Advance appropriations FY24–26 (emergency)	1,650,000			−1,650,000	
Total, Digital Equity	2,750,000	550,000	550,000	−2,200,000	
Middle Mile Deployment (emergency)	1,000,000			−1,000,000	
Total, National Telecommunications and Information Admin	48,200,000	550,000	550,000	−47,650,000	
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration					
Operations, Research, and Facilities (emergency)	557,250			−557,250	
Appropriations available from prior year advances (emergency)		515,584	515,584	+515,584	
Advance appropriations FY 2023 (emergency)	515,584			−515,584	
Advance appropriations FY24–26 (emergency)	1,538,166			−1,538,166	
Total, Operations, Resarch and Facilities	2,611,000	515,584	515,584	−2,095,416	
Procurement, Acquisition and Construction (emergency)	180,000			−180,000	
Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery (emergency)	34,400			−34,400	
Appropriations available from prior year advances (emergency)		34,400	34,400	+34,400	
Advance appropriations FY 2023 (emergency)	34,400			−34,400	
Advance appropriations FY24–26 (emergency)	103,200			−103,200	
Total, Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery	172,000	34,400	34,400	−137,600	
Total, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration	2,963,000	549,984	549,984	−2,413,016	

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET [OBLIGATIONAL] AUTHORITY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022 AND BUDGET ESTIMATES AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023—Continued

[In thousands of dollars]

Item	2022 appropriation	Budget estimate	Committee recommendation	Senate Committee recommendation compared with (+ or −)	
				2022 appropriation	Budget estimate
Total, Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act	51,163,000	1,099,984	1,099,984	−50,063,016	.....
Less prior year appropriations (emergency)	.....	−1,099,984	−1,099,984	−1,099,984	.....
UKRAINE SUPPLEMENTAL ACT, 2022 (PUBLIC LAW 117–103)					
DIVISION B—APPROPRIATIONS					
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE					
Bureau of INdustry and Security, Operations and Administration (emergency)	22,100	.....	.....	−22,100	.....
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE					
Salaries and expenses, General Legal Activities(emergency)	9,700	.....	.....	−9,700	.....
Salaries and expenses, United States Attorneys (emergency)	5,000	.....	.....	−5,000	.....
Assets Forfeiture Fund (emergency)	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Salaries and expenses, National Security Division (emergency)	1,100	.....	.....	−1,100	.....
Salaries and expenses, FBI (emergency)	43,600	.....	.....	−43,600	.....
Total, Ukraine Supplemental Act, 2022	81,500	.....	.....	−81,500	.....
UKRAINE ADDITIONAL SUPPLEMENTAL ACT, 2022 (PUBLIC LAW 117–128)					
DIVISION B—APPROPRIATIONS					
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE					
General Administration					
Salaries and expenses (emergency)	67,000	.....	.....	−67,000	.....

Total, Ukraine Additional Supplemental Act, 2022	67,000	.....	.....	−67,000	.....
BIPARTISAN SAFER COMMUNITIES ACT, 2022 (PUBLIC LAW 117–159)					
DIVISION B—APPROPRIATIONS					
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE					
Federal Bureau of Investigations					
Salaries and expenses (Nondefense) emergency	40,570	.....	.....	−40,570	.....
Salaries and expenses (Defense) (emergency)	59,430	.....	.....	−59,430	.....
Appropriations available from prior year advances (emergency).					
Advance appropriations FY 2023 (emergency).					
Advance appropriations FY24–26 (emergency).					
Total, Federal Bureau of Investigations	100,000	.....	.....	−100,000	.....
Office of Justice Programs					
State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance (emergency)	280,000	.....	.....	−280,000	.....
Appropriations available from prior year advances (emergency)	.....	280,000	280,000	+280,000	.....
Advance appropriations FY 2023 (emergency)	280,000	.....	.....	−280,000	.....
Advance appropriations FY24–26 (emergency)	840,000	.....	.....	−840,000	.....
Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program—Crisis Intervention Fund (emergency)	(150,000)	.....	.....	(−150,000)	.....
Appropriations available from prior year advances (emergency)	.....	(150,000)	(150,000)	(+150,000)	.....
Advance appropriations FY 2023 (emergency)	(150,000)	.....	.....	(−150,000)	.....
Advance appropriations FY24–26 (emergency)	(450,000)	.....	.....	(−450,000)	.....
STOP School Violence Act (emergency)	(40,000)	.....	.....	(−40,000)	.....
Appropriations available from prior year advances (emergency)	.....	(40,000)	(40,000)	(+40,000)	.....
Advance appropriations FY 2023 (emergency)	(40,000)	.....	.....	(−40,000)	.....
Advance appropriations FY24–26 (emergency)	(120,000)	.....	.....	(−120,000)	.....
National Instant Criminal Background Check System (emergency)	(40,000)	.....	.....	(−40,000)	.....
Appropriations available from prior year advances (emergency)	.....	(40,000)	(40,000)	(+40,000)	.....
Advance appropriations FY 2023 (emergency)	(40,000)	.....	.....	(−40,000)	.....
Advance appropriations FY24–26 (emergency)	(120,000)	.....	.....	(−120,000)	.....
Community-Based Violence Intervention and Prevention Initiative (emergency)	(50,000)	.....	.....	(−50,000)	.....
Appropriations available from prior year advances (emergency)	.....	(50,000)	(50,000)	(+50,000)	.....
Advance appropriations FY 2023 (emergency)	(50,000)	.....	.....	(−50,000)	.....
Advance appropriations FY24–26 (emergency)	(150,000)	.....	.....	(−150,000)	.....

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET [OBLIGATIONAL] AUTHORITY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022 AND BUDGET ESTIMATES AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023—Continued

[In thousands of dollars]

Item	2022 appropriation	Budget estimate	Committee recommendation	Senate Committee recommendation compared with (+ or −)	
				2022 appropriation	Budget estimate
Total, Office of Justice Programs	1,400,000	280,000	280,000	−1,120,000	
Community Oriented Policing Services Programs (STOP School Violence Act) (emergency)	20,000			−20,000	
Appropriations available from prior year advances (emergency)		20,000	20,000	+20,000	
Advance appropriations FY 2023 (emergency)	20,000			−20,000	
Advance appropriations FY24–26 (emergency)	60,000			−60,000	
Total	100,000	20,000	20,000	−80,000	
Total, Office of Justice Programs	1,500,000	300,000	300,000	−1,200,000	
Total, Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, 2022	1,600,000	300,000	300,000	−1,300,000	
Less prior year appropriations (emergency)		−300,000	−300,000	−300,000	
Total, Other Appropriations	53,714,939			−53,714,939	
Grand total	132,312,322	87,609,215	86,786,383	−45,525,939	−822,832
Appropriations	(79,114,222)	(88,810,671)	(87,511,383)	(+8,397,161)	(−1,299,288)
Rescissions	(−516,839)	(−1,201,456)	(−725,000)	(−208,161)	(+476,456)
Emergency appropriations	(48,123,589)			(−48,123,589)	
Emergency advance appropriations	(5,591,350)			(−5,591,350)	
(by transfer)	839,532	367,871	354,901	−484,631	−12,970
(transfer out)	−839,532	−367,871	−354,901	+484,631	+12,970
Grand total excluding Other Appropriations	78,597,383	87,609,215	86,786,383	+8,189,000	−822,832

NRDA SHRIMP EFFORT PILOT PROJECT SUMMARY

The goal of the AIS Pilot project, funded by the DWH Regionwide Trustee Implementation Group, is to enhance the understanding of GoM state permitted shrimp fishing effort. These data will assist restoration managers in understanding the overlap of fishing effort, sea turtle distribution, and sea turtle mortality, eventually leading to the potential for better informed sea turtle restoration efforts.

The AIS project is in the early stages of implementation. This project will span 3 years. It will have a ramp up period of one year and will collect 2 years of fishing effort data. The AIS project will rely on the voluntary participation of state-permitted shrimp fishers. Early stages of implementation for the AIS project involve reaching out to state TIG's to garnish partnership, establishing the best mechanism to inquire levels of participation, and determining incentives for willing participants.

The AIS project team has had initial conversations with the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission to introduce the project and gauge interest as a potential partner. The project team is aiming to establish partnerships, gauge the amount of voluntary participation across the states, and explore incentive options in FY 2023, and begin data collection in FY 2024.

Summary of Administrative Manual Changes – October 2022

Page 38 – Under Travel Guidelines/Means of Travel, the following statement was added: ***The Commission does not reimburse for airline travel insurance.***

Page 45 – Under Budgeting, the following statement was added: ***Revisions of and deviations from budgets or project scopes must receive prior approval from the Federal awarding agency (see 2 CFR 200.308).***

Page 53 – Under Procurement Procedures, CFR References for disposition of supplies and equipment were added. A CFR reference was also added for inventory as it relates to management of equipment.

Page 60 – Under Registration Fees, the following statement was added: ***Program income will be recognized using the addition method as described in 2 CFR 200.307.***

Page 83 – ***Attachment G*** entitled ***General Procedures for Subcontract Awards*** now includes hyperlinks to the 2 CFR 200 and the Department of Commerce Standard Terms and Conditions.

Page 85 & 86 ***– Attachment I.1 and I.2*** were added to include ***Formats for Progress and Final Reports.***

Page 90 - ***Attachment M*** entitled ***Internal Controls*** – ***Separation of Duties*** was added to the manual.

References for 2 CFR 200 were updated throughout the entire Administrative Manual due to numbering changes that occurred in November 2020.

Administrative Manual
October 2022

This manual is not intended to create a contract of employment and does not guarantee your employment or benefits for any particular length of time. Accordingly, your employment is considered "at-will", and you or GSMFC may terminate your employment at any time, with or without cause.

This handbook is intended as a summary of the GSMFC's current policies, rules, procedures and benefits. GSMFC reserves the right to amend, modify and/or eliminate any of these policies, rules, procedures and benefits at its discretion, with or without notice.

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Introduction

The Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission (hereafter GSMFC) was created by an interstate Compact entered into by the States of Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas. The United States Congress consented to the Compact on May 19, 1949 by the passage of Public Law 66 - 81st Congress, Chapter 128 - 1st Session, S. J. Res. 42 (Public Law 81-66).

It is the policy of the GSMFC and its employees to support the Constitution of the United States and the constitutions of the member states; to cooperate fully with other agencies concerned with promoting the better utilization of marine, shell, and anadromous fisheries, of mutual concern, and to develop a joint program of protection and prevention of physical waste of such fisheries in all Gulf of Mexico areas under the jurisdiction of the member states; and to promote the support and cooperation of appropriate governmental bodies for adequate protection facilities and sound management of the resource.

The GSMFC maintains its headquarters in Ocean Springs, Mississippi. The Executive Director supervises a small nucleus staff in serving the GSMFC and administering its operations.

The policies contained in the GSMFC Administrative Manual are intended to serve as guidelines for GSMFC employees regarding GSMFC rules and policies and are not intended to be, nor should they be construed as, a contract of employment or other obligation that guarantees employment with GSMFC for any minimum or specific period of time or guarantees any other term or condition of employment.

The GSMFC is an at-will employer, meaning that either the GSMFC or the employee may terminate the employment relationship at any time, for any reason, with or without cause and with or without advance notice. The Executive Director is the only representative of the GSMFC authorized to modify GSMFC employment rules or policies or the terms and conditions of an employee's employment with GSMFC. No employee, supervisor/manager/agency liaison or representative of the GSMFC, other than the Executive Director, has the authority to enter into any agreement with an employee that promises or guarantees employment for any specified period of time or which changes the at-will employment status of an employee. No agreement that makes a promise or commitment contrary to the policies contained in this handbook shall be enforceable unless it is in writing and signed by the Executive Director.

The GSMFC is an equal opportunity employer. It is the policy of the GSMFC to provide equal employment opportunities to all employees and applicants for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, family relationship, age, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability, veteran status, genetic information or on the basis of any other classification protected by federal law. This policy applies to all terms and conditions of employment including, but not limited to, recruitment, hiring, job assignment, promotion, termination, layoff, recall, transfer, leaves of absence, compensation, training, and any other aspect of employment. The Executive Director, as chief executive officer of the GSMFC, is responsible for this policy's implementation and will ensure that all GSMFC employees are informed of its content and adhere to its tenets.

The GSMFC provides a comprehensive package of benefit choices. The GSMFC pays the entire cost for some benefits, others require employee cost-sharing, and some are paid entirely by the employee.

Introduction

The GSMFC reserves the right to amend or terminate any benefit program and/or to require an increase of employee contributions toward any benefit at the GSMFC's discretion. This authority may be exercised in the event of a federal mandate, financial necessity, or if such determination is made by the GSMFC Executive Director.

The GSMFC, in its sole discretion, reserves the right, at any time, with or without prior notice, to amend, modify, delete, revise or rescind this Administrative Manual or any personnel rules, policies, procedures, or practices of the GSMFC.

A copy of this manual will be given to each employee at the time of his/her employment to guide them in the administrative functions of the GSMFC. The policies, benefits and rules contained in this Administrative Manual become effective as of the issue date of this Manual and supersede all previous Administrative Manuals. Employees should contact the GSMFC Executive Director if they have questions or need information not found in this Administrative Manual.

Americans with Disabilities Act

It is the policy of the GSMFC to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the ADA Amendments Act of 2008 which prohibit discrimination against qualified individuals with disabilities. A qualified individual is a person with a disability who, with or without reasonable accommodation, can perform the essential functions of the job the individual holds or desires, and is further defined by the ADA. Essential functions are those that are fundamental, not marginal, to the job. To this end, the GSMFC will ensure that qualified individuals with disabilities are treated in a nondiscriminatory manner in the pre-employment process and in all terms, conditions, and privileges of employment. The GSMFC also will give applicants and employees with disabilities reasonable accommodations, except where making an accommodation would create an undue hardship for the GSMFC.

All requests for reasonable accommodation from qualified applicants and employees with disabilities will be referred to the Executive Director. The Executive Director will meet with the applicant or employee requesting the accommodation to discuss and identify the purpose and essential functions of the job, the limitations resulting from the individual's disability and potential accommodations that could overcome those limitations.

The Executive Director will determine the feasibility of the requested accommodation in light of all the surrounding circumstances. The GSMFC reserves the right to require the employee to provide medical records relevant to the disability and the requested accommodation.

Once there is a decision about how and whether an accommodation will be made, the Executive Director will inform the applicant or employee of the GSMFC's decision regarding an accommodation.

Although the duty to consider possible accommodations is legally triggered by a request from an applicant or employee, situations may arise where an employee who is known to have a disability may be having difficulty performing the essential functions of his or her job. In these circumstances, the GSMFC reserves the right to approach the employee to discuss possible accommodations.

Harassment and Discrimination Free Workplace

The GSMFC is committed to the principle that each employee is entitled to a working environment that is respectful and free of harassment, unlawful discrimination, and offensive behavior. Harassment, unlawful discrimination, and offensive behavior are strictly prohibited and will not be tolerated.

Harassment and unlawful discrimination are forms of misconduct that undermine the integrity of the employment relationship, violate the law, and may create serious legal consequences for the employees involved and for the GSMFC. Accordingly, it is the responsibility of every employee to cooperate with and assist in the enforcement of this policy.

This policy is not meant to interfere with or discourage friendships among employees. However, employees must be sensitive to statements or conduct which could be considered offensive, harassing or discriminatory and must refrain from making such statements or engaging in such conduct. Employees who engage in conduct which violates this policy shall be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment.

Definitions

Harassment: For purposes of this policy, "harassment" is defined to mean statements or behavior that is unwelcome, personally offensive, or that fails to respect the dignity of co-workers and which is based on race, color, religion, sex, age, marital status, national origin, family relationship, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability, veteran status, or any other protected classification established by federal law.

Sexual harassment: For purposes of this policy, "sexual harassment" is defined to mean harassment based on sex or gender and includes, but is not limited to, unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct which is of a sexual nature or is based on gender where submission to such conduct is made, or implied to be, a term or condition of employment. The employee's submission to, or rejection of, such conduct may not be used as a basis for employment decisions. Any such conduct which has the effect of interfering with an employee's work performance or creates a work environment which is hostile, intimidating, uncomfortable or offensive is prohibited. Sexual harassment can include unwelcome jokes, remarks, gestures, epithets or slurs; sexually graphic, suggestive or nude pictures, cartoons or other images; sexting; physical contact or graphic communications of a sexual nature; unwelcome flirtation, propositions or sexual advances; gossip or comments about a person's physical appearance and gossip or comments about a person's sexual or interpersonal relationships.

Discrimination: For purposes of this policy, "discrimination" is defined to mean unequal and/or unfavorable treatment of an employee which is based on race, color, religion, sex, age, marital status, national origin, family relationship, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability, veteran status, or any other protected classification established by federal law.

Complaint Resolution Process/Corrective Action

Complaint Resolution Process

Any employee who believes he or she has been harassed or discriminated against should contact the GSMFC's Executive Director or the Executive Committee. This reporting requirement also applies to employees who have witnessed behavior they view as harassment or discrimination. Questions relating to this policy should be referred to the Executive Director.

Employees who feel that they have been subjected to wrongful harassment or discrimination are expected and required to bring the matter to the attention of the Executive Director as soon as the problem arises.

The GSMFC will do its best to handle all complaints in a timely manner and will limit disclosure of information regarding the investigation to those with a need to know.

Corrective Action

If it is determined that a violation of this policy has occurred, appropriate corrective action will be taken by the GSMFC. Corrective action may include, but is not limited to, counseling, warning, further training or instruction, reassignment, oral or written reprimand, suspension without pay, demotion, termination of employment or any other action appropriate to the nature and seriousness of the conduct or violation and all relevant circumstances.

The GSMFC reserves its right and authority, at all times, to take corrective or disciplinary action to address any conduct or behavior discovered during an investigation which does not constitute a violation of this policy but which is otherwise inappropriate or constitutes a violation of other policies or rules of the GSMFC.

Whistleblower Policy

If any employee reasonably believes that some policy, practice, or activity of the GSMFC is in violation of law, a written complaint must be filed by that employee with the Executive Director or the GSMFC Chairman.

It is the intent of the GSMFC to adhere to all laws and regulations that apply to the organization and the underlying purpose of this policy is to support the organization's goal of legal compliance. The support of all employees is necessary to achieving compliance with various laws and regulations. An employee is protected from retaliation only if the employee brings the alleged unlawful activity, policy, or practice to the attention of the GSMFC and provides the GSMFC with a reasonable opportunity to investigate and correct the alleged unlawful activity. The protection described below is only available to employees that comply with this requirement.

The GSMFC will not retaliate against an employee who in good faith, has made a protest or raised a complaint against some practice of the GSMFC, or of another individual or entity with whom the GSMFC has a business relationship, on the basis of a reasonable belief that the practice is in violation of law, or a clear mandate of public policy.

The GSMFC will not retaliate against employees who disclose or threaten to disclose to a supervisor or a public body, any activity, policy, or practice of the GSMFC that the employee reasonably believes is in violation of a law, or a rule, or regulation mandated pursuant to law or is in violation of a clear mandate of public policy concerning the health, safety, welfare, or protection of the environment.

Workplace Guidelines

The GSMFC expects employees to follow certain workplace guidelines that will protect the interests and safety of all employees, ensure orderly operations and provide the best possible work environment. In fulfilling that mission, the employees of the GSMFC are expected to comply with all state and federal statutes and to conduct themselves in such a manner that the work of the agency is effectively accomplished. All employees are expected to cultivate those personal qualities which characterize a good public servant, e.g. loyalty, a deep sense of responsibility for public trust, and a standard of personal conduct which will be a credit to the individual and this agency. Regulations of the GSMFC require that any criminal, infamous, dishonest, immoral or notoriously disgraceful conduct on the part of an employee is cause for removal and dismissal. While it is impossible to list every type of behavior that may be deemed a serious offense, below are examples of conduct that may result in corrective action, immediate suspension or termination of employment.

Inappropriate workplace conduct includes, but is not limited to:

- Unethical, illegal or discourteous behavior toward fellow employees or the general public
- Use of profane, obscene, abusive or rude language or action directed at a fellow employee
- Unauthorized possession of firearms, knives, explosives or other weapons on or near GSMFC property or while performing GSMFC duties
- Insubordination, willful disregard or disrespect towards a manager or representative of management
- Acts of negligence, recklessness or horseplay
- Loitering or sleeping on the job
- Discussing personal or unauthorized GSMFC matters in public areas without taking adequate precaution to maintain confidentiality
- Behavior by employees which is or could reasonably be interpreted by another person to be threatening or intimidating
- Making a verbal or written threat of violence toward a co-worker, other person or company location
- Physical aggression, including hitting, pushing, pinching, grabbing or throwing things at others

Worker Safety and Health

It is the policy of the GSMFC to avoid exposing employees and visitors to health and safety risks. Common sense and personal interest in safety are the greatest guarantees of safety at work. To accomplish this objective, all GSMFC employees should work diligently to maintain safe and healthful working conditions and to adhere to proper operating practices and procedures designed to prevent injuries and illnesses.

An employee must immediately report any injury at work, no matter how small, to the Executive Director and obtain prompt medical treatment if needed.

Substance Abuse

It is the policy of the GSMFC to protect the safety, health, and well being of all employees and individuals in the workplace. The GSMFC has established a drug-free workplace program that balances respect for individual privacy with the need to maintain a safe work environment.

The GSMFC will not interfere with the private lives of its employees unless the employee's involvement with alcohol or other drugs off the job affects job performance or employee safety on the job. Employees should not report to work under the influence of illegal drugs or when impaired by the use of a legal drug.

This policy applies to all GSMFC employees. It is a violation of this policy to manufacture, distribute, use, consume, possess, sell, buy, trade and/or offer for sale, or transport illegal drugs in the workplace. As a condition of employment, employees must abide by the terms of this policy. Violations of this policy will result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment. The GSMFC may also take other actions if it is determined that an employee has violated this policy, including placing the employee on mandatory leave with or without pay, or requiring rehabilitation, training/ counseling, or other appropriate action.

If there is a reasonable suspicion that an employee is under the influence of drugs or alcohol and may be a risk to himself/herself or to other employees, that employee may be subject to drug testing. Reasonable suspicion means a specific, articulable observation by a reporting individual concerning the work performance, appearance, behavior, or speech of the employee. An employee's refusal to consent to a reasonable-suspicion drug test may result in disciplinary action up to and including termination.

Any employee who tests positive for alcohol or illegal drugs will be referred to a substance abuse professional. Employees may be subject to the provisions of a "last chance agreement."

As defined by the Drug Free Workplace Act of 1988, any employee who is convicted of a controlled substance-related violation in the workplace, including pleas of no contest, must notify the GSMFC in writing within five (5) calendar days of the conviction. Failure to do so could result in immediate termination of employment. The GSMFC, as required by the Act, will report such convictions to the appropriate federal agency within 10 days of learning of the conviction.

Employees with alcohol or drug dependency problems who voluntarily enroll in an alcohol or drug rehabilitation program may use sick leave, annual leave or approved leave without pay to participate in the rehabilitation program. Any request for leave under this policy should be directed to the Executive Director. Any request for leave under this policy and the reasons and circumstances of any request will be kept confidential and will be disclosed only as required or permitted by law.

Smoking

In order to maintain a safe and comfortable working environment and to ensure compliance with applicable laws, smoking in the GSMFC offices, buildings or vehicles is prohibited. Because the GSMFC may be subject to criminal and civil penalties for violations of applicable smoking laws, the GSMFC insists on strict adherence to this policy. Employees smoking in any GSMFC building or vehicle will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including, termination of employment.

To maintain lower insurance premiums, the GSMFC participates in the Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi "Tobacco-Free Workplace" program. All employees are required to sign a Tobacco-Free Workplace statement to ensure knowledge and understanding of this policy.

Attendance

Employees who are absent from work must contact the GSMFC office prior to each scheduled work day and indicate the reason for the absence and probable date of return. Employees who are absent from work due to illness for three consecutive work days may be required to provide a doctor's note verifying their absence and releasing them to return to work.

Confidentiality of Information and Records

Employees of the GSMFC have access to information, data and materials which are highly sensitive and confidential, and members of the fishing industry rely on the GSMFC's strict neutrality when they provide data and information to the GSMFC. The improper or unauthorized release of data or information provided to the GSMFC could be damaging or detrimental to members of the fishing industry and could compromise the GSMFC's neutrality and ability to collect data and information essential for the effective operation of the GSMFC.

All employees of the GSMFC have an obligation to safeguard the confidentiality of information, records, and data to which they have access or become aware of during the performance of their job duties for the GSMFC. Except as is necessary to perform official work for the GSMFC, no employee is authorized to use, disclose, or release any information, records, or data to which the employee has access or becomes aware of during or after employment by the GSMFC without the express approval of the Executive Director.

Any employee who improperly uses, discloses or releases confidential information, records or data provided to or maintained by the GSMFC will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment.

Each employee of the GSMFC shall agree to abide by all laws and each GSMFC progam's rules and policies governing confidentiality (i.e., FIN, IJF, etc.). Any employee who has questions regarding confidentiality laws, GSMFC rules or policies concerning confidentiality or the employee's obligation to maintain the confidentiality of any information, records or data should contact the Executive Director.

Employment Verification and References

To protect the privacy of GSMFC employees, any request for references or verification of employment will be forwarded to the Administrative Officer and will be limited to the following information:

- Dates of hire and separation
- Most recent job title
- Full-time or part-time status

Other employees are not authorized to provide references for employees without advance express permission of the Executive Director.

Vehicle Use/Policy

GSMFC employees may be required to drive a vehicle in performance of their job duties, including GSMFC vehicles, rented vehicles, and/or personal vehicles. All employees should operate the vehicle in a safe manner and follow motor vehicle rules and regulations. The GSMFC assumes no responsibility for payment of any parking or traffic fines that may be issued while an employee is on GSMFC business.

Driver's License Requirement

All employees whose work requires driving for GSMFC business must possess a valid driver's license. Any employee who does not hold a valid driver's license will not be allowed to operate a vehicle for GSMFC business. Employees must immediately report any suspension, revocation, or restriction of driving privileges to the Executive Director. The GSMFC may check for a valid driver's license prior to employment, annually, and at any time if the GSMFC has reason to believe there has been a suspension of driving privileges. Inability to drive a vehicle for performance of required work duties may subject the employee to reassignment, modified duties, or discipline up to and including termination of employment.

Insurance

The Executive Director shall maintain adequate liability, collision, and personal injury insurance on all GSMFC vehicles.

Passengers and Hitchhikers

While conducting GSMFC business, vehicle operators shall not pick up hitchhikers. Vehicle operators may not transport non-employees without the advance approval of the Executive Director.

Seat Belts

When operating any vehicle on GSMFC business, an employee must use the seat belt/safety restraint device and require any passengers to do the same. Any employee who does not use seat belts/safety restraints while driving a vehicle on GSMFC business will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including termination of employment.

Cell Phone and Text Messaging

Employees are required, at all times, to follow and adhere to all applicable federal, state and local rules and regulations regarding the use of cell phones while driving. At a minimum, GSMFC employees should not use hand-held cell phones while driving on GSMFC business. This includes receiving or placing calls, text messaging, surfing the Internet, receiving or responding to emails, checking for phone messages or any other purpose.

Should an employee need to make a business call while driving, he/she should locate a lawfully designated area to park and make the call or use a hands-free speaking device (if allowed by law in that particular area).

Violation of this policy will subject the employee to disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment.

Accident Reporting Policy

If involved in an accident while on GSMFC business, drivers shall take the following steps:

- Stop immediately.
- If anyone is injured, arrange for emergency response.
- Call the proper police jurisdiction and ask that a report be filed.
- Obtain complete information from the other parties, including insurance information on other vehicles.
- Provide the GSMFC employee's name, address, vehicle number, registration and driver's license number, insurance information for the vehicle, and the names and addresses of any passengers.
- Notify the Executive Director as soon as possible.
- Cooperate with investigating authorities. Furnish information required, but do not attempt to elaborate on the circumstances concerning the accident or explain conduct relating to the accident.
- Upon returning to work, fill out all reports required by the GSMFC's insurer. If the operator was injured and cannot file the report, then the Administrative Officer shall file the report.
- The accident report forms shall be forwarded to the Administrative Officer upon completion.

Electronic Communication

It is the policy of the GSMFC that professional standards of conduct apply to all forms of communication used by GSMFC employees. Improper use or abuse of the provided services and equipment will result in discipline, up to and including termination of employment.

All GSMFC-owned computers, laptops, software, telephones, cell phones, personal electronic devices, cameras, email systems and messages, internet systems and activities, shared servers, printers, copiers, fax machines and all fax communications, and all other systems and equipment owned by the GSMFC are part of the GSMFC's business equipment and technology platform and are to be used primarily for business, although incidental personal use during break times is permitted.

Employees do not have personal rights regarding any material created, received or sent from any of the above equipment or systems. Employees should not enter personal information or material into the systems or equipment with the expectation of confidentiality. GSMFC computers, e-mail systems, telephones, voicemail systems and other equipment are the property of the GSMFC. The GSMFC reserves the right, at any time, with or without notice, to examine, monitor or copy electronic mail, computer and internet usage, file directories, other information stored on any GSMFC computer or computer system and any matter created on, received, sent or stored on any GSMFC-owned equipment or systems. Employees do not have any expectation of privacy in any work or communications created on, sent from, received or stored on GSMFC equipment, computers or e-mail systems.

No messages or files should be created or sent which may constitute or contain intimidating, hostile, or offensive material related to a person's sex, race, color, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, or disability. The GSMFC's policies against harassment and unlawful discrimination apply fully to all of the above-listed systems and equipment. Any violation of those policies is grounds for discipline, up to and including termination of employment.

In addition, this policy prohibits downloading of copyright or trademark materials or communications if such downloading could subject GSMFC to fines, penalties or lawsuits based on copyright or trademark violations. Should the GSMFC incur any such costs or losses because of misuse of its electronic communications equipment, any employee found to have violated this policy shall be liable for payment of any such fines, penalties and related expenses, including attorney fees and court costs. Any violation is grounds for discipline, up to and including termination of employment.

Any GSMFC employee who becomes aware of the misuse of the above-listed systems or equipment should promptly contact the Executive Director.

Outside Employment

Although the GSMFC does not encourage outside employment, outside employment is not prohibited so long as the employee's outside work does not create a conflict of interest with the GSMFC or conflict with the employee's work schedule at the GSMFC. A GSMFC employee may not engage in any outside employment, service, or activity for income purposes if he/she is directly involved in regulating, or influencing the regulation of, a specific resource and/or geographical area from which the employee would derive income.

When an employee engages in employment, volunteer work, or other activities outside of his/her work for the GSMFC, the employee does not represent the GSMFC and the employee is not authorized to make any statements or support or oppose any position on behalf of or as a representative of the GSMFC. It is the responsibility of the employee to make it clear that he/she is not engaged in such outside employment, volunteer work or other activity on behalf of or as a representative of the GSMFC. In addition, no employee is permitted to use any equipment, property or resources of the GSMFC for outside employment, volunteer work or other activities without the express permission of the Executive Director.

If any outside work or other activity poses a conflict of interest with the employee's duties for the GSMFC, the employee must discuss the situation immediately with the Executive Director. In the event the outside work or other activity compromises the employee's ability to fulfill his or her responsibilities as an employee of the GSMFC, the GSMFC reserves the right to request that the employee discontinue the outside work or other activity or be terminated from employment with the GSMFC.

The GSMFC Executive Director must approve outside or concurrent employment activities.

Employment of Relatives

It is the policy of the GSMFC to permit the contracting for services and employment of qualified relatives of employees as long as:

1. They satisfy contract selection or recruitment procedures and job qualifications; and
2. Such employment does not, in the opinion of the GSMFC Executive Director, create an actual or perceived conflict of interest. For the purpose of this policy, "relative" is defined as a spouse, child, grandparent, grandchild, aunt, uncle, niece, nephew, first cousin, or corresponding in-law or step-relation.

The GSMFC will exercise sound business judgment in the placement of related employees in accordance with the following guidelines.

Individuals who are related are permitted to work for or perform service contract work for the GSMFC, provided that no direct reporting relationship or supervisor/manager/agency liaison relationship exists between the related parties (unless approved by the Executive Director).

No employee or service contractor is permitted to work within the chain of command of a relative, whether the relative is a GSMFC employee or a state employee overseeing a state-funded GSMFC project, such that one relative's work responsibilities, salary, or career progress could be influenced by the other relative.

This policy applies to all categories, service contracts, and/or employment with the GSMFC, including regular, seasonal, and temporary classifications regardless of the hours worked.

Solicitation and Distribution of Literature

It is the policy of the GSMFC to prevent disruptions in the workplace and to avoid inconveniencing employees and interfering with the completion of their work.

GSMFC employees and others shall not be permitted to solicit GSMFC employees or to distribute literature to the employees on GSMFC premises or contracted work sites at any time without prior approval of the GSMFC Executive Director.

Hours of Work

The normal schedule of working hours for full-time permanent, temporary, and seasonal employees shall be forty hours, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. through 5:00 p.m., with an one hour lunch from 12:00 n through 1:00 p.m.

The Executive Director and such other senior employs as he may designate in accordance with the regulations promulgated by the Wage and Hour Division of the U.S. Department of Labor pursuant to the Fair Labor Standards Act, shall be considered professional administrative staff having responsibilities not limited by standard work-week schedules. Their working hours shall not aggregate fewer than 40 hours per week, but distribution of that time shall be as appropriate to needs and in accordance with high standards of professional performance. Such employees are not eligible for overtime compensation.

Other employees subject to the 40 hour work week provisions may, with written approval of the Executive Director, arrange other distribution of time worked, consistent with the best interests of the GSMFC.

Overtime Work

Overtime is time worked by an employee in excess of 40 hours per week within the basic work week covering the employee. Time worked beyond their regular schedules by employees on schedules of less than 40 hours per week is additional time worked rather than overtime until it exceeds 40 hours per week within the basic work week covering the employee. All overtime work shall be authorized by the Executive Director.

Compensation for Overtime

Compensation for overtime shall be at the rate of time and one-half and will be compensatory time off at the discretion of the Executive Director. To the extent practicable, compensatory time off shall be utilized before the end of the following pay period.

Exemptions from Overtime

Those positions which are exempted from the provisions of the overtime rules shall be determined in accordance with the regulations promulgated by the Wage and Hour Division of the U.S. Department of Labor pursuant to the Fair Labor Standards Act. Those positions which are so exempted from the provisions of the overtime rules shall not be compensated for overtime unless an exception is approved by the Executive Director. The Executive Director, Administrative Officer, Program Coordinators, Data Program Manager, RecFIN(SE) Survey Coordinator, Programmer/Analyst, Systems Administrator, and Accountant are exempt from the overtime provision, which states that overtime is time worked in excess of the scheduled hours per week, and those field, inspection, protection, and enforcement positions or any other positions assigned to an irregular work schedule wherein the adoption of regularly scheduled work hours appears to be impractical. Any such exemption shall be established in writing as a condition of employment.

Holidays

The following days are holidays with pay for salaried full-time employees at the GSMFC office.

New Year's Day	Martin Luther King's Birthday
President's Day	Mardi Gras
Memorial Day	Independence Day
Labor Day	Veterans' Day
Thanksgiving Day	Christmas Day

In addition, employees may be granted an additional day(s) off during the Christmas and New Year's season.

Holidays which fall on Saturday will be observed on the preceding Friday and holidays which fall on Sunday will be observed on the following Monday.

Holidays which occur during vacation or sick leave shall not be charged against such leave.

Equal compensatory time shall be allowed for work done on holidays; compensatory time should be given to the employee as soon thereafter as practicable.

Employee Leave

Annual (Vacation) Leave

Annual leave is a benefit to which the employee is entitled, and is earned for the purpose of taking leave from daily duties and responsibilities.

Full-time employees shall accrue annual leave at the rate of:

After six months through third year - 15 work days for each 12 full calendar months of service (10 hours per month).

After third year through sixth year - 18 work days for each 12 full calendar months of service (12 hours per month).

After sixth year through tenth year - 21 works days for each 12 full calendar months of service (14 hours per month).

After tenth year - 24 work days for each 12 full calendar months of service (16 hours per month). Permanent part-time employees who are on a pay rate other than monthly who serve the equivalent of six full months shall accrue leave at the rate of 7.5 work days for each 12 full calendar months of service (5 hours per month).

No annual leave shall accrue during leave of absence without pay.

No annual leave with pay will be granted until after six full months of service.

There will be no cash payment in lieu of annual leave at termination until after six full months of service. The amount of vacation pay at termination shall be based upon the schedule of working hours; namely, 40 hours per week or an average of 21.66 working days per month, and determined by multiplying the number of days of vacation credit by the average rate of the highest 36 months of employment and will not exceed 300 hours. *Upon the termination or retirement of an employee, payments for unused vacation leave should be classified as indirect costs in the year of payment. (See 2 CFR 200.431(b)(3)(i) Compensation – Fringe Benefits)*

An employee can accrue more than 300 hours in a given year; however, on January 1 of each year annual leave will be adjusted such that the beginning balance for that year does not exceed 300 hours.

Sick Leave

Permanent full-time employees, seasonal employees, and temporary (other than seasonal) employees will earn sick leave with pay at the rate of 15 work days for each 12 full calendar months of service (10 hours per month), which may be accumulated without limit.

Permanent part-time employees will earn sick leave with pay at the rate of 7.5 work days for each 12 full calendar months of service (5 hours per month), which may be accumulated without limit.

No sick leave shall accrue during leave of absence without pay.

A physician's oral or written statement may be required for three (3) or more days at the discretion of the Executive Director or the Chairman of the GSMFC to document entitlement to sick leave pay.

No compensation for accrued sick leave shall be allowed to an employee separated from service.

In the event that sick leave has been exhausted and illness or disability still exists, an employee may be permitted to use accrued annual leave as sick leave. Sick leave without pay may also be granted.

An employee is eligible for sick leave with pay immediately upon accrual.

An employee may be granted sick leave for a medical or dental appointment, exposure to a contagious disease, and illness or injury to himself/herself or his/her immediate family where the employee's presence is required.

Military Leave

An employee who has served for six months or more immediately preceding an application for military leave, and who is a member of the National Guard or any reserve components of the armed forces of the United States, is entitled to a leave of absence from his duties for a period not exceeding fifteen work days in any calendar year, without loss of pay or other leave or other benefits to which he/she is entitled.

Administrative Leave

Any full-time salaried employee shall be granted a leave of absence with pay for (a) service with a jury, (b) appearance before a court, legislative committee or judicial or quasi-judicial body as a witness in response to a subpoena or other direction by proper authority, (c) attendance in court in connection with an employee's officially assigned duties, including traveling time, and (d) taking part in a search or rescue operation at the request of any law-enforcement agency, civil defense organization, or governmental body.

Although no stated policy has been established, each request from employees for military leave without pay, leave of absence for other employment, education leave with or without compensation, or other special purpose, will be considered by the GSMFC on its individual merits.

Emergency leave may be granted at the discretion of the Executive Director for up to three days for responsibilities resulting from a death in the immediate family of the employee. Immediate family consists of the spouse, child, sibling, parent, grandparent, father-in-law, mother-in-law, son-in-law or daughter-in-law of the employee. Additional emergency leave, i.e., natural disasters (hurricanes) may be granted on an individual, case by case basis.

The GSMFC Executive Director may grant additional bereavement leave on a case-by-case basis. Such requests must be in writing. The GSMFC Executive Director will approve or deny the request by signing the leave request letter.

Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA)

It is the policy of the GSMFC to provide family and medical leave to eligible employees in accordance with the provisions of the federal Family and Medical Leave Act of 1992 (FMLA). To be eligible for such leave, the employee must have been employed for at least 12 months at the time the leave is expected to commence, and must have completed at least 1,250 hours of service with the GSMFC during the previous 12-month period.

The GSMFC adheres to the provisions of FMLA, which was enacted to grant employees unpaid temporary medical leave under certain circumstances. All questions regarding family and medical leaves of absence should be directed to the GSMFC's Executive Director.

Reasons for FMLA
The GSMFC will grant family and medical leave for the following reasons: the birth of a child; the adoption of a child or placement of a child with an employee for foster care (parental leave); the care of a family member (spouse, parent or child) with a serious health condition; treatment of the employee's own serious health condition; to care for an injured or ill covered military service member; or for qualifying exigencies arising out of a service member's active-duty status in the Armed Forces.

Length of Leave and Leave Year
Leave will be granted for a period of up to 12 weeks in any 12-month period. The 12-month period for the GSMFC is measured forward from the date the employee's leave begins. When leave is for military reasons, it may be extended for longer than 12 weeks.

Accrued Leave
The GSMFC requires employees to use all accrued paid leave prior to taking unpaid FMLA leave. The GSMFC will apply the employee's accrued paid leave in the following order: sick leave then annual leave. Once all accrued paid leave has been used, the employee will then move to leave without pay. Employees do not accrue annual or sick leave during periods of unpaid leave. Counting of FMLA time off begins as soon as the employee takes accrued paid leave for the FMLA-related absence (or unpaid leave, if no leave is accrued).

Notice
An employee must provide the GSMFC with at least thirty (30) days' notice prior to the anticipated leave date, by completing the GSMFC's official FMLA Leave of Absence request form. If the leave is unexpected, the employee should notify the Executive Director as soon as possible.

If the employee has already taken time off for the FMLA event before notifying the GSMFC of the need for FMLA leave, the leave may, at the option of the GSMFC, be counted retroactively to the date of the qualifying event or from the date the employee notifies the GSMFC Executive Director of the need for FMLA leave.

Medical Certification
Employees will be required to provide medical certification as to the nature of their own health condition, or the health condition of an eligible family member. If the leave is to be taken for an employee's own serious health condition, he/she may be required – at the request of the GSMFC or its insurance carriers -- to provide periodic updates from the physician attesting to the employee's or family member's continued inability to work.

Certification of Fitness to Return to Duty
Before the employee will be permitted to return from medical leave, he/she will be required to present the GSMFC with certification from a physician that he/she is capable of returning to work and can perform the essential functions of his/her position with or without reasonable accommodation. Where required, the GSMFC will make reasonable accommodation for any disability the employee may have, in accordance with applicable laws.

Intermittent FMLA Leave
Employees may take qualifying FMLA leave in full day increments, or intermittently in increments of one hour or more. The GSMFC may, at its option, temporarily transfer an employee who takes FMLA leave on an intermittent basis to an available alternative position. If an employee is temporarily transferred to an alternative position, the employee shall receive the employee's pay and benefits for the employee's regular position.

The GSMFC has the right to require recertification of the employee's serious health condition at the employee's expense every 30 days. The GSMFC may also require, after notifying the employee of the intention to do so, that the certifying physician verifies that all intermittent leave taken was due to the serious health condition.

Reinstatement
Eligible employees returning from leave are entitled to be reinstated to their former position or an equivalent position with equivalent employment benefits, pay, and other terms and conditions of employment. The GSMFC may deny reinstatement rights to key employees, as defined by and in accordance with the federal Family Medical Leave Act.

Uniformed Service Members' Right to Family and Medical Leave
An employee who is called to active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States, including the National Guard or Reserves, and who is absent from employment for an extended period of time due to military service, need not have actually worked the required 1,250 hours during the 12 months before the start of a qualifying FMLA leave. The employee's service time shall be combined with work time from the GSMFC to meet the 12-month employment and 1,250 hour eligibility requirements to qualify for FMLA leave.

Employee Leave

An eligible employee who is the spouse, son, daughter, parent, or next of kin of a service member, who is recovering from a serious illness or injury sustained in the line of active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States, is entitled to take up to 26 weeks of FMLA leave in a single 12-month period to care for the service member. If an eligible employee takes leave for any other FMLA-qualifying event during the same 12-month period, the employee is entitled to a combined total of 26 weeks of leave.

Donation of Leave

An employee may voluntarily donate part of his/her annual and/or sick leave to another employee for use as sick leave. Donations are exchanged hour for hour. In order to be eligible to receive donated leave for use as sick leave, an employee must have exhausted all his/her accrued balances of sick leave and annual leave, due to the employee's serious health condition or a serious health condition of a dependent or spouse. A request to donate leave should be directed to the Executive Director.

Compensation

Compensation for all employees will be set by the Executive Committee and approved by the full GSMFC.

Pay Periods

GSMFC employees are paid on a monthly basis. Pay day will be the last day of the month or work day preceding the last day if it falls on a weekend or holiday. Employees may request a salary advance to be paid on the 15th of the month by filing the proper paperwork to the Administrative Officer.

Timekeeping

All employees are required to keep a record of their actual hours worked, holiday leave, sick leave, and annual leave on the GSMFC time sheet spreadsheet provided to them. It is the employee's responsibility to submit their time sheets to the Administrative Assistant accurately and timely. This ensures accurate recordkeeping of the hours actually worked by an employee, including overtime hours where applicable and any accrued leave taken. It also ensures that payment for services is made in a timely manner. All leave time should be recorded on the GSMFC Office Calendar. Falsifying time may lead to disciplinary action up to and including termination of employment.

Medical, Dental, Vision, and Cancer Insurance

Medical insurance for the employee and family will be provided to full-time salaried employees (excluding seasonal and temporary). The cost of health insurance for employees who are not housed in the GSMFC's home office (located in Ocean Springs, Mississippi) shall not exceed the costs for employees in the home office. Seasonal and temporary employees are not covered under this provision.

Other voluntary insurance (dental, vision, cancer, etc.) which complement the GSMFC health benefits are available to employees. Premiums are paid 100% by the employee through payroll deduction. Information and enrollment forms are available from the Administrative Officer.

Flexible Spending Account

The flexible spending account (cafeteria plan) is a voluntary program that is a way to set aside money pre-tax to pay for unreimbursed health related expenses and qualified dependent care costs. The GSMFC offers flexible spending accounts to all full-year employees working 32 or more hours per week.

Retirement Benefits

All employees appearing on the GSMFC payrolls, including contract research and management personnel, are entitled to the benefits of the Federal Social Security Act.

All employees after six months of service shall be eligible for the GSMFC sponsored retirement plan once the required amount of hours is met. Employees must complete at least 500 hours of service within the first six consecutive months of employment. If 500 hours of service is not completed within the first six consecutive months of employment, the employee may still be eligible for the retirement plan if he/she is credited with a year of service.

The criteria for a year of service are met if at the end of the first twelve months (or any subsequent twelve months) of employment with the Employer, the employee has worked at least 1,000 hours of service.

The GSMFC will sponsor a plan for each employee at the rate of 7% of that employee's salary invested in an individual tax sheltered annuity account. The employee has the option within defined limits by the IRS to contribute additional portions of his/her salary.

Post Employment Health Benefits

Full-time salaried employees with at least ten years of service shall be eligible for the GSMFC-sponsored post employment health plan. The GSMFC will assign a monetary value to his or her sick leave balance at separation of employment at a rate of 50% of his or her hourly rate for 50% of his or her sick leave balance. The benefit payment will be invested in a medical savings account. The employee has the option within defined limits by the IRS to withdraw the funds for medical purposes. The GSMFC will sponsor a guarantee issue health plan or senior health plan to any employee with twenty-five years of service after separation of employment until death. The retiree may elect to be reimbursed via a Health Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA) up to the amount that would be equal to the GSMFC's established plan. This policy replaces any agreements to date and will be the policy from October 15, 2014 forward.

Employee Evaluation

Performance evaluations are based on specific job-related factors, including proficiency in job performance, and indicate progress in learning and performing job duties and suggestions for improvement, if warranted. The employee will be required to sign the evaluation form as evidence that the evaluation took place and the results were discussed with the employee. The employee's signature does not imply that the employee agrees with the results of the evaluation. In the event an employee disagrees with the results of the evaluation, the employee's comments may be attached to the evaluation form and placed in the employees personnel file. In addition, if an employee disagrees with the results of the evaluation, the employee may appeal the evaluation to the Executive Director. Personnel actions arising from performance evaluations include commendations for performance, formal reprimand, recommendations for improvement, and recommendations for merit raises and/or bonuses.

The evaluation process is as follows:

- The process begins during January of each calendar year with individual interviews between employees and the Executive Director. These interviews will assure that an employee clearly understand his/her responsibilities and expectations of performance. If there are specific goals or deadlines for products anticipated during the given calendar year, the employee will be prepared to provide those to the Executive Director at the time of the initial interview. Notes, if any, made by the Executive Director will be placed in the employee's evaluation file.
- During June/July/August of each year, staff evaluations will be conducted through scheduled, one-on-one interviews between each employee and the Executive Director. Each employee should provide the Executive Director with a listing of accomplishments during the calendar year, particularly regarding activities not directly listed as a job duty or performance expectation.
- The Executive Director will formulate recommendations to be presented to the Executive Committee regarding each employee's performance and personnel action, if warranted.
- The performance evaluation forms, along with the Executive Director's recommendations, will be provided to the Executive Committee prior to the Annual Meeting to allow the Executive Committee ample time to review the evaluations and recommendations in preparation for action during the Annual Meeting.

Employee Records and Files

The GSMFC maintains a personnel file for each employee. Personnel files are the property of the GSMFC and are regarded as confidential. An employee may view his or her personnel file in the Administrative Officer's office during regular office hours at a mutually convenient time. No employee will be allowed to remove materials from the personnel file, or to remove the file from the Administrative Officer's office.

An employee's medical information and any workers' compensation files shall be kept separately from the employee's personnel file.

It is important that personnel files be kept current. Employees shall inform the Administrative Officer within ten days of any changes in address, telephone number, or other contact information; of any change in the marital status of the employee; or of any change in the status of the employee's spouse or any dependent of the employee.

Employment Records Retention Policy

The GSMFC attempts to comply with all applicable state and federal laws pertaining to the retention of employment-related records. Documents may not be destroyed until the retention periods identified below have passed. In the event that the GSMFC is notified of a potential or pending litigation by a current or former employee, the GSMFC will suspend its document destruction schedule so as not to obstruct the legal process.

Personnel Records. Personnel records of all employees shall be retained for seven years after termination of employment, unless otherwise required per service contract, grant or award.

Payroll Records. Employee payroll records shall be retained for seven years after termination of employment.

Employee Eligibility Verification Forms (INS Form I-9 and related documents). Verification forms shall be retained during employment. After termination of employment, the form must be retained for either 3 years after the date of hire or 1 year after the date employment ended, whichever is later.

Workers' Compensation. Claim records and injury reports shall be retained for five years after termination of employment.

ERISA Records. All applicable ERISA records, including Summary Plan Descriptions, Annual Reports and Reports of Plan Termination shall be retained for six years.

Leave Records. Records of annual and sick leave of each employee will be maintained and are part of the employee's personnel record.

Disposal of Valueless Records. Such records that will be destroyed will be done on approval of the Executive Committee from a recommendation of the Executive Director.

Discipline

All employees are required to follow generally accepted standards for business behavior and to comply with all laws, rules and regulations applicable to their job/position activities. Any non- compliance with these standards will be addressed by the Executive Director through training, counseling, corrective action or, if necessary, disciplinary action up to and including termination.

The GSMFC is an "at-will" employer and reserves the right to terminate an employee at any time, with or without notice, and with or without cause, just as an employee has the right to terminate employment with the GSMFC at any time and for any reason.

The Executive Director will decide what action to take when there is a performance or conduct problem. This may involve counseling; a documented warning; a suspension with or without pay; demotion; transfer; or termination of employment.

Other corrective action may be taken, as deemed appropriate by the GSMFC, including, but not limited to, referral to mandatory counseling, training or re-training, or implementation of a corrective action plan. A goal of employee discipline or corrective action is to develop and maintain long-term, successful employees.

This disciplinary action policy is not intended to diminish the GSMFC's right to control its work force, or to create something other than an "at-will" relationship with its employees. Rather, this policy is an explanation of alternative methods of dealing with conduct or performance problems. The GSMFC expressly reserves the right to determine appropriate discipline in each individual case.

Termination of Employment

Resignation

Employees desiring to resign are requested to give written notice of their intent to resign at least two weeks prior to the employee's last day of work. The notice should state the reason for leaving and the anticipated last date of employment.

Employees shall be required to report to work on their official last day. The last day of employment cannot be a scheduled day off or holiday, and the employee will not be paid for a holiday if he/she does not work after the holiday as well.

Any eligible leave balances and outstanding wages shall be paid to the employee within the time allowed by law.

Employees shall not be allowed to terminate their employment at the end of a month and take leave for a period of time during the ensuing month in order to receive an additional month of paid benefits. The employee may not take vacation, sick, personal, or other leave as his/her last day.

Job Abandonment

An employee who fails to report to work and fails to notify the Executive Director of the reason for the absence from work for three consecutive workdays will be considered to have abandoned the job. The employee is deemed to have quit and will be terminated. An appeal may be made in writing, and extenuating circumstances for the absence and failure to notify will be considered.

Layoff

The GSMFC may lay off an employee due to organizational changes, lack of funds, or curtailment of work. Layoff decisions shall be based on the administrative needs of the GSMFC.

Return of GSMFC Property

Upon termination of employment, all GSMFC property in the possession of the employee shall be immediately returned to the GSMFC, including computers, equipment, phones, vehicles, passwords, pass codes, combinations, keys, key cards, and any other GSMFC property.

Employees who do not return GSMFC equipment or property may be required to pay for that equipment or property.

Rehire Eligibility and Bridging of Service

Rehire

To be eligible for rehire, employees must leave the GSMFC in good standing and provide at least two weeks advance written notice of their intent to resign.

Bridging of Service

The GSMFC will bridge a rehired full-year employee's length of service, eligibility for vacation, and other applicable benefit programs to a full-year employee who has at least 1 year of service prior to termination and is rehired within 30 days of the termination date.

Travel Guidelines

Travel Policy

Travel by employees is necessary for the conduct of the GSFMC's business. It is the policy of the GSMFC to reimburse employees for approved travel-related costs and activities. Employees are required to abide by the current GSMFC Travel Guidelines. The GSMFC employs this travel policy and guidelines regardless of the source of revenue used to pay for the travel. In doing so, it intends that the policy/guidelines will conserve funds as well as fully satisfy the general tests of allowability and the specific section on allowability of travel costs contained in Office of Management and Budget Circular A-87(2CFR 225).

General

Persons authorized to perform travel for the Commission are expected to exercise the same care in incurring expenses that a prudent person would exercise if traveling on personal business. Travel expenses for which reimbursement will be made will be confined to those expenses essential to the transaction of official business. If a meeting is scheduled to end at noon, the traveler should make every attempt to return home that afternoon. Conversely, if a meeting is scheduled to begin at 1:00 p.m., the traveler should make every attempt to travel to the meeting that morning. If the traveler deviates from this policy, he/she needs to provide justification when submitting their travel expense report.

Submission of claims for travel expenses must be made within **30 days** to the GSMFC office at **2404 Government Street, Ocean Springs, MS 39564**. The GSMFC assumes no liability for payment after 30 days.

Authorization

All travel must be authorized and approved in advance. A signed travel authorization must accompany a Travel Expense Report when claims for reimbursement are being made.

Points of travel are indicated in the travel authorization, and deviations from these points of travel must have preapproval. When a person interrupts the official route of travel for his own convenience, any extra expense shall be incurred by the traveler.

Foreign Travel

With the exception of travel across U.S. borders to Canada or Mexico, all foreign travel must have advance approval of the GSMFC.

Means of Travel

Travel on official business shall be by the method of transportation which should result in the greatest advantage to the GSMFC, cost and other factors considered. Travel may be performed by airline or common carrier (bus, train, etc.); privately owned vehicle; or other means. First-class fares are prohibited and may be authorized only in certain unusual instances. The Commission does not reimburse for airline travel insurance.

Travel Guidelines

When a traveler finds he will not use accommodations and/or transportation which have been reserved for him, he shall release and/or cancel reservations within the time limits specified by the vendor. Failure of travelers to take such action may subject them to liability for any resulting losses.

Penalty payments made by air carriers under certain provisions of their tariffs for failing to furnish accommodations for confirmed reserved space are due the GSMFC and not the traveler when they result from travel on official business.

Privately Owned Vehicles

Use of a privately owned vehicle must be justified through comparison with the use of common carrier. Considerations must include total distance of travel, number of points visited, and number of travelers. When a privately owned vehicle is used as a matter of personal preference and such use is not determined to be advantageous to the Commission, reimbursement will be limited to the lesser amounts as determined by cost comparison.

When a privately owned vehicle is used in lieu of a taxi or limousine to get to an airport or depot upon departure and/or return, the round-trip mileage between the residence and the terminal is payable at the current mileage rate.

When two or more authorized persons travel together in a privately owned vehicle, that fact, along with the names of the travelers, should be stated by each traveler on their Travel Expense Reports.

Parking fees at a common carrier terminal or other parking area while the traveler is away will be allowed to the extent that the fee plus the allowable mileage reimbursement to and from the parking area does not exceed the estimated cost of a taxi to and from the terminal.

Mileage

When a privately owned vehicle is used in lieu of common carrier, or instead of taxi or limousine, mileage shall be paid in accordance with federal travel guidelines. Distances between points of travel shall be as shown in standard highway mileage or as indicated in reasonable odometer readings submitted on the Travel Expense Report for reimbursement.

Limousine/Taxi

Cost of taxi fare will be limited to that of shuttle/limousine fare if such service is available in a timely manner and is at a lesser cost.

Reimbursement may be made for taxi fares from the traveler's home–to office–to carrier on the day of departure and return for authorized travel.

Receipts are required for taxi/shuttle fares exceeding $25.00.

Travel Guidelines

Rental Cars

The use of rental cars is often costly and, therefore, discouraged. Reimbursement, however, may be made for use of rental cars when circumstances justify the need. All use of rental cars should be preapproved by the GSMFC office.

Accident insurance coverage added to a rental car agreement will not be reimbursed by the GSMFC.

When two authorized travelers are traveling together in a rental car, that fact along with the traveler's names should be stated on their Travel Expense Reports.

Receipts are required for all rental car expenses.

Lodging and Meals

Lodging and meal costs will be reimbursable in amounts allowable in effect at the time of travel and as authorized by the GSMFC at the percentage breakdown per meal as listed below.

Reimbursement for lodging expenses will be made when within authorized amounts and upon presentation of the proper receipt. Temporary receipts (issued at check in) or credit card slips are not valid receipts. Lodging may not be authorized when commuting 50 miles or less.

While on travel status, authorized travelers may select lodging accommodations of their choice but will only be reimbursed for the actual amount of lodging costs up to the maximum amount authorized for the site. Unusual circumstances which prohibit the use of an authorized site which results in higher lodging costs may be preapproved for payment on a case-by-case basis. When the option is made to occupy lodging at a location other than the authorized site, commuting costs between the authorized site and optional site will not be allowed.

All travelers must claim the daily M&IE per diem allowance rather than actual expenses and adhere to the per diem limits in the General Services Administration (GSA) Travel Regulations (see 2019 per diem limits in the table below). Expenses listed on the Travel Expense Report must be for the traveler only. The reimbursement of alcoholic beverages is prohibited.

First and last calendar day of travel is calculated at **75 percent** if on travel/work status for less than 12 hours. Note: Travel status begins when the traveler leaves their home/office and ends upon their return. For travel that extends beyond 24 hours, a new travel day begins at 12:00 am each day.

Any meals provided by a common carrier or a complimentary meal provided by a hotel or other non-government organization does not affect the per diem. However, your M&IE allowance must be adjusted for meals furnished to you by the GSMFC by deducting the appropriate amount shown in the chart below.

Travel Guidelines

M&IE Breakdown					
M&IE Total (1)	**Continental Breakfast/ Breakfast (2)**	**Lunch (2)**	**Dinner (2)**	**Incidental Expenses**	**First & Last Day of Travel (3)**
$55	$13	$14	$23	$5	$41.25
$56	$13	$15	$23	$5	$42.00
$61	$14	$16	$26	$5	$45.75
$66	$16	$17	$28	$5	$49.50
$71	$17	$18	$31	$5	$53.25
$76	$18	$19	$34	$5	$57.00

1. This table lists the full daily amount federal employees receive for a single calendar day of travel when that day is neither the first nor last day of travel.

2. The separate amounts for breakfast, lunch and dinner listed in the chart are provided should you need to deduct any of those meals from your trip voucher. For example, if your trip includes meals that are already paid for by the government (such as through a registration fee for a conference), you will need to deduct those meals from your voucher. Refer to Section 301-11.18 of the Federal Travel Regulation for specific guidance on deducting these amounts from your per diem reimbursement claims for meals furnished to you by the government. Other organizations may have different rules that apply for their employees; please check with your organization for more assistance.

3. This column lists the amount federal employees receive for the first and last calendar day of travel. The first and last calendar day of travel is calculated at 75 percent.

Tips/Gratuities

Gratuities to necessary service providers (porters, bellmen, sky caps, shuttle/taxi drivers, etc.) shall be reasonable and limited to 20% of initial charges.

Miscellaneous Costs

Incidental travel costs (telephone, supplies, services, etc.) submitted for reimbursement should have an adequate explanation of the expenses and show that the cost is reasonable and related to the conduct of official business.

Expenses Covered

Expenses are allowed for meal charges; lodging and applicable taxes; gratuities; cleaning and pressing of clothes during extended travel (more than four days); registration fees; and transportation between the place of business/lodging and meals.

Travel Guidelines

Receipts

Receipts (original or copy) are necessary for the following:

- Airfare (original cardstock, E-ticket receipt, etc.)
- Common Carrier Fares (bus, train, etc.)
- Parking
- Lodging
- Car Rental
- Taxi/Shuttle (in excess of $25.00)
- Registration
- Shipping (UPS, FedEx, etc.)
- Baggage Fees
- Baggage or Equipment/Supply Storage
- Equipment Rental
- Tolls

In the event costs are being divided between agencies, copies of receipts may be submitted with an ***explanation*** that includes an original signature.

Disallowances

A disallowance to the claim may occur at the time the Travel Expense Report is processed for payment. A disallowance may be the result of improper receipt(s), cost comparison, computation error, and/or inadequate explanation. Disallowed amounts may be submitted for reconsideration with sufficient documentation.

Certification

All claims submitted by travelers for reimbursement of travel expenses must contain certification by the traveler that expenses claimed are valid official costs and do not include personal expenses. The certification must also assure that the period of travel shown is accurate and that costs claimed will not be presented for reimbursement elsewhere which would result in dual reimbursement.

It is essential that the actual hours of departure and return be reported. Travel time that is not for the conduct of official business must be identified and briefly explained so that proper payment can be made.

Other

The traveler should include any additional explanation on the Travel Expense Report when it is felt that any portion of the claim might appear improper or excessive.

When an authorized traveler will be delivering a scheduled presentation on behalf of the GSMFC, time in attendance will be limited to that portion of the program judged to be beneficial to the GSMFC.

Allowances at Location/Office/Residence

For travel that consists of commuting between the meeting location and the traveler's business or abode, actual subsistence expenses may be allowed. Actual subsistence expenses are allowable when, due to early or late hours of attendance, the traveler would suffer unwarranted inconvenience if not permitted to remain at the meeting location and participate in the business required by the travel. Transportation costs are allowable in addition to actual subsistence expenses.

Exception

The Executive Director is authorized to be reimbursed for actual expenses of direct benefit to the GSMFC in the performance of official business. For example, the Executive Director may pay expenses for a working breakfast, lunch, or dinner.

Purchasing Guidelines

Office Supplies

Catalogs are maintained for local office supply dealers as well as larger wholesale distributors. Prices and quality are compared. Use local small business when price is comparable (take shipping charges into consideration). Items purchased over $100.00 requires prior approval from the Executive Director. Office supplies are ordered by the Administrative Assistant. When supplies are received, the Administrative Assistant compares invoice or packing slip with items received. The Administrative Assistant then codes invoice or packing slip with grant that items are to be charged to. Invoice or packing slip is given to Administrative Officer to compare with bill before issuing payment.

Office Furniture/Equipment

Requires approval from Executive Director. Catalogs are maintained for local office supply dealers as well as larger wholesale distributors. Prices and quality are compared. Use local businesses when price is comparable (take shipping charges into consideration). Office furniture/equipment is order by administrative assistant. When furniture/equipment is received, Administrative Assistant compares invoice or packing slip with items received. The Administrative Assistant then codes invoice or packing slip with grant that items are to be charged to. Invoice or packing slip is given to Administrative Officer to compare with bill before issuing payment.

Computer Equipment

Requires approval from Executive Director. Catalogs are maintained for local dealers as well as larger mail-order distributors. Bids are requested and prices and quality are compared as described in Capitalization and Procurement (Bidding). Computer equipment is purchased by the GSMFC Systems Administrator. A copy of ordered items are given to Administrative Assistant. The Systems

Administrator receives equipment, compares with invoice or packing slip, and then gives invoices or packing slips to the Administrative Assistant for comparison with bill. The Administrative Officer will issue payment.

Publications

Publication requirements are contained in grant contracts. Program coordinators develop publication specifications to obtain bids as described in Capitalization and Procurement (Bidding). Bids are sent out on all publications. The Program Coordinator receives bids and makes decision based on lowest bid or best quality. The Administrative Officer will issue payment when the publication is received in the GSMFC office.

Budgeting

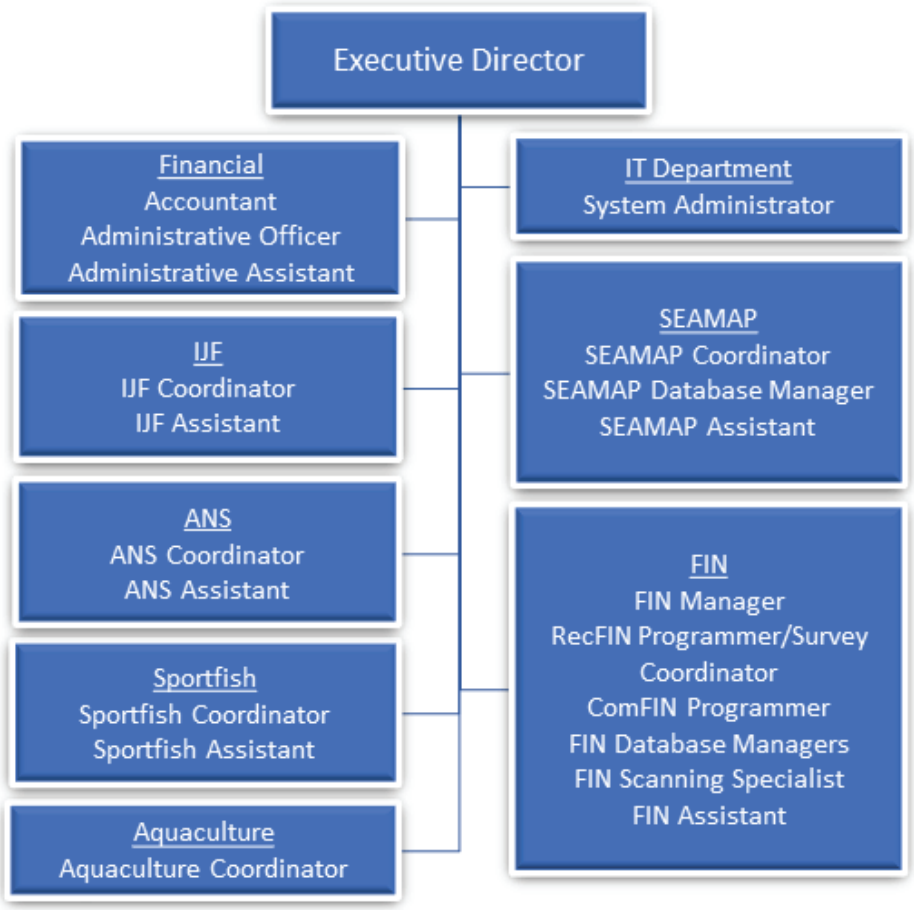
The Executive Director and Senior Accountant will prepare a budget each fiscal year and submit to the GSMFC for approval. Budgets must be ready and approved at the annual October meeting. It should be in the hands of each Commissioner at least one week prior to the fall meeting. Revisions of and deviations from budgets or project scopes must receive prior approval from the Federal awarding agency (see 2 CFR 200.308).

Bonding

The Executive Director shall execute a surety bond in favor of the GSMFC, in a form satisfactory to the GSMFC, with a reputable and recognized surety company authorized to do business in each of the member states. The bonds shall be of an amount agreed upon by Commissioners and the costs of such bonds shall be defrayed out of the GSMFC's funds.

Cash Management and Accounting Practices

The **Cash Management and Accounting Practices** section contains the basic financial management policies, practices, and procedures for the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission (GSMFC). This document identifies requirements and seeks to provide advice on sound, practical internal controls, accounting guidelines and best practices. It is a tool that will support those responsible for the financial accountability of GSMFC. The GSMFC personnel flowchart is provided below.



Senior Accountant

The Senior Accountant provides assistance to the Executive Director and program managers in developing, communicating, and carrying out the GSMFC's financial management policies and procedures. The Senior Accountant maintains accurate records in the accounting software and internal controls for all of the GSMFC special revenue funds and the GSMFC general operating fund. Primary responsibilities include recording asset, liability, revenue and expense entries; analyzing accounts; reconciling transactions; and resolving discrepancies. This position also formulates budgets in unison with the Executive Director and other administrative staff. The Senior Accountant serves as the GSMFC's Grants Officer.

Administrative Officer

The Administrative Officer acts as the point of contact for all employees, providing administrative support and managing queries. Main duties include processing weekly accounts payable, monthly payroll, tax reports and advising employees of benefit plans. The Administrative Officer is also responsible for meeting management duties which include site selection, meeting announcements, scheduling of committees, assembling meeting materials and registration.

Administrative Assistant

The Administrative Assistant performs administrative and financial office support activities. Primary responsibilities include coding weekly accounts payable, mailing checks, maintaining office supplies, producing monthly time and attendance reports, bank reconciliation, and maintaining contacts and meeting registration.

General Financial Management

Financial Integrity

GSMFC shall conduct its financial and other operations in a manner which reflects management of financial resources and are accomplished with integrity. Internal controls are the cornerstone to proper financial management and the GSMFC shall exercise the management and financial controls necessary to safeguard assets, check the reliability and procedural accuracy of financial records, ensure compliance with GSMFC policies and conformity with applicable federal laws and regulations to accomplish the purposes for which they are intended.

Release of Financial Information

The GSMFC is transparent in its operations and financial records are available upon written request to the Senior Accountant. 2 CFR200.337 identifies the individuals and entities that have the right to access any document pertaining to federal awards. 2 CFR 200.338 places limitations on public access to award-related documents. This section states that the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) does not apply to records that remain under a non-federal entity's control.

Records Retention

GSMFC's financial management system maintains records that pertain to Federal awards, authorizations, obligations, unobligated balances, assets, expenditures, income and interest and are supported by source documentation in accordance with 2 CFR 200.302.

Any records pertaining to a federal award must be retained for three years from the submission date of the final financial report. Certain circumstances allows the three-year record retention requirement to be waived. (See 2 CFR 200.334) Otherwise GSMFC follows the following Records Retention Schedule:

TYPE OF RECORDS	RETENTION TIME
Meeting minutes of actions	Permanent
Property Records (deeds, titles, mortgages, etc.)	Permanent
Insurance Policies & Related Correspondence	Retain for life of policy; destroy 3 years after cancellation or termination
Tax exemption documents	Permanent
Executed contracts and leases	7 years beyond termination
Legal Correspondence	Permanent
Audit or financial reviews	Permanent
Annual financial reports/statements	Permanent
General Ledger	10 years
Invoices & Supporting Documentation	10 years
Bank statements and reconciliations	10 years
Journal Entries	10 years
Budgets	5 years
Monthly financial reports	5 years
Employee earnings and benefit records	Retain for period of employment; 7 years after termination
Payroll tax records	7 years
Payroll records (w-2, w4, 1099, etc.)	Retain for period of employment; 7 years after termination
Time sheets	5 years

Financial Audit

A non-federal entity that expends more than $750,000 in federal awards during the entity's fiscal year are required to have a single audit conducted in accordance with 2 CFR 200. The audit must be performed annually by an independent CPA firm in accordance with GAGAS. In procuring audit services, the GSMFC must follow the procurement standards prescribed in 2 CFR 200.318. GSMFC will evaluate auditor proposals by considering responsiveness, relevant experience, availability of staff with professional qualifications and technical abilities, results of peer reviews and price. When possible, GSMFC shall make positive efforts to utilize small businesses, minority-owned firms, and women's business enterprises (2 CFR 200.321). GSMFC must prepare a corrective action plan for any current year audit findings. The corrective action plan must address each audit finding included in the auditor's report. It must provide the name of the contact person responsible for the corrective action, the corrective action planned, and the anticipated completion date. If GSMFC does not agree with audit findings or believes corrective action is not required, the corrective action plan must include an explanation and specific reasons. (2 CFR 200.511) Annual audits shall be submitted to the Federal Audit Clearinghouse no later than the earlier of 30 days after receipt of the auditor's report, or nine months from the end of the audited fiscal year. The Senior Accountant will make copies available for public inspection.

Internal Controls

The protection of GSMFC's assets is a basic financial management requirement. To that extent, internal financial control practices are established and maintained to provide reasonable assurance that assets are safeguarded, reliable and procedural accuracy of financial records are checked, and GSMFC is in compliance with federal statutes, regulations and the terms and conditions of federal awards in accordance with 2 CFR 200.303 (see Appendiz M).

Financial System Security/Access

Financial records are safeguarded. ***Abila MIP*** software is installed only on the PC's of users authorized to have access to the accounting software. The ***Abila MIP*** software communicates to the accounting database located on a separate server. Each account has its own unique Username and Password that is separate from the GSMFC network. Passwords are created and changed every three months or more often if any breach of access is suspected. The financial database is located on an internal server. The server may only be accessed from within the GSMFC network. The database server software is built upon Microsoft's SQL Server, and the data is encrypted. Access to the raw data can only be made from the software. Backups are performed daily, and stored on another secure server and in the System Administrator's media safe.

Fiscal Year

GSMFC's fiscal year runs from January 1st through December 31st.

Accounting Method

GSMFC uses the modified cash basis of accounting. The modified cash basis of accounting differs from generally accepted accounting principles because the GSMFC has not recognized balances, and the related effects on earnings, of grant receivables from third party agencies and of accounts payable to vendors.

Accounting by Funds

GSMFC uses fund accounting. Fund accounting is defined as a system for recording receipts and disbursements for different purposes or different funds. Restrictions may be placed on receipts or contributions that require disbursements to be made for a particular purpose. All Federal awards have their own fund number and are restricted for the activities of that grant or cooperative agreement. Accounting for all funds is required, but it is not necessary to have a separate bank account for each fund. GSMFC's fund structure is as follows:

General Operating Fund – the primary fund which accounts for all financial resources of the GSMFC, except those required to be accounted for in another fund.

Special Revenue Funds – funds used to account for the proceeds of specific revenue sources that are restricted for specific projects or programs. The funds' principal revenue sources are

grants and contracts from various federal and member state agencies. In accordance with 2 CFR 200.303, funds are assigned a three-digit code that correspond to the Federal program under which they were received to ensure the tracing of funds to a level of expenditures that are adequate to establish that such funds have been used according to the Federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of each Federal award. In addition, the individual codes enable the preparation of reports required by general and program-specific terms and conditions.

Southeast Area Monitoring and Assessment Program (600-SEAMAP) – a fund used to account for the collection, management and dissemination of fishery-independent data and information in the southeastern United States.

Interjurisdictional Fisheries Program (650-IJF) – a fund used to determine management priorities through planning and research efforts for inshore and nearshore species in the Gulf of Mexico.

Council (700-Council) – a fund used to support the performance of Council liaison activities as mandated by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSFCMA).

Fisheries Information Network (749-FIN) – a fund used to account for the collection, management, and dissemination of statistical data and information of the commercial fisheries of the Southeast Region.

Sportfish Program (750-SFP) – a fund used to account for the coordination of fishery habitat activities, artificial reefs and the aquatic invasive species programs.

GSMFC Management, Administration and Logistical Support to NOAA (210-NOAA) – a fund used to provide support for a variety of state-federal activities in the Gulf Region and Southeastern US.

Chart of Accounts

The General Ledger Chart of Accounts contains a listing of all the account titles and numbers being used in recording financial transactions of the GSMFC. All ledger accounts will be assigned an account number, descriptive account title, and a brief description of account meaning and use. The normal order and sequence of the major classification of accounts are as follows:

Assets – 100
Liabilities – 200
Net Assets – 300
Revenue – 400
Payroll and Fringe Benefit Expenses – 500
Support Service Expenses – 600

Financial Statements

The GSMFC financial statements are designed to simply and effectively communicate the financial position to commissioners and program managers. Financial statements are prepared on a monthly basis and cover all activities of the GSMFC. Reports are not required to be presented in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP).

Required Reports:

The GSMFC's financial reports will include:
A statement of cash
A budget to actual statement of revenues and expenditures for each fund
A combined statement of revenues and expenditures for the entire GSMFC

Tax Requirements

The GSMFC is determined to be exempt from federal income tax under IRC 501(c) (5).

Payroll Tax- As an employer, GSMFC is responsible for complying with government regulations relating to payroll. The GSMFC is responsible for withholding, depositing, and reporting federal income tax (FIT) and social security and Medicare taxes (FICA) on the wages of all employees. All payroll tax deposits are made according to the schedule set by each appropriate government agency.

Capital Assets

GSMFC adequately safeguards all assets and assures they are used solely for authorized purposes as outlined in 2 CFR 200.302 and 2 CFR 200.303. Program Coordinators initiate requests for the purchase of fixed assets and the Executive Director must approve of the purchase. Capital assets are used in operations having a useful life of more than one year and include land, buildings, equipment (2 CFR 200.313) and intellectual property. The GSMFC has established a capitalization policy whereby, equipment/assets in the amount of $5,000 or more will be capitalized and assigned a Fixed Asset number. Invoices for purchases are submitted to the Administrative Officer for coding and entry into the software. The following information will be recorded by the Accountant in the Abila MIP Fixed Asset module:

- Property Description
- Inventory Control Tag ID
- Vendor Information
- Manufacture Identification
- Location
- Federal Contribution
- Federal Description
- Purchase Price and Check Number
- Recording Date
- G/L Account
- Method of Depreciation, Service Life

Procurement Procedures

All purchases are recorded as expenses for fund accounting purposes. At the end of the year, asset purchases gets reclassified to the balance sheet for financial reporting. The normal cash disbursement process is used to pay the invoices. Upon receipt of the asset, an inventory control tag is attached to the asset. Disposals are performed when the asset becomes obsolete. If the asset was purchased with restricted funding, the Federal agency is contacted for disposition instructions (see 2 CFR 200.313(e) for disposition of equipment and 2 CFR 200.314 for disposition of supplies). Identifying tags are removed prior to disposal and the accountant removes it from the Fixed Asset module.

Depreciation is recorded at the end of the year in the Fixed Asset module and transferred to the Accounting module. An inventory is conducted at the end of the fiscal year by the IT Administrator and the Accountant (see 2 CFR 200.313(d) for management of equipment).

- All purchases must be in compliance with policies specific to federal grant funding. In addition no employee, officer, or agent of the GSMFC shall participate in the procurement of goods and equipment supported by grant funds (whether federal or private) if a real or apparent conflict of interest would be involved. Such a conflict would arise when the employee, officer, or agent, any member of his or her immediate family, his or her partner, or an organization that employs or is about to employ any of these parties, has a financial or other interest in the firm selected for an award or purchase. The officers, employees, and agents of the GSMFC shall neither solicit nor accept gratuities, favors, or anything of monetary value from vendors or contractors.

- The vendor or contractor that meets the required quality standards at the lowest cost should be selected. Regardless of the cost of acquisition, grant recipients are required to avoid purchasing unnecessary items. If the cost to purchase a larger quantity is cheaper than the quantity you need, federal guidelines require that only the quantity needed should be purchased.

- Where appropriate, the GSMFC should make an analysis between leasing and purchasing alternatives to decide which option is the most economical and practical.

- Capital Equipment is defined by the OMB as “tangible nonexpendable personal property having a useful life of more than one year and an acquisition cost of $5,000 or more per unit.” The acquisition cost includes installation charges and freight.

- A clear and accurate description of the technical requirements for the material, goods, or services and terms of functions to be performed or performance requirements expected to be obtained by GSMFC. No language and/or features in the solicitation shall restrict competition.

- Debarment and Suspension: No purchases shall be made from parties who have been involved in fraud, waste or abuse. The General Service Administration’s (GSA) lists the names of parties debarred, suspended, or otherwise excluded by agencies, and contractors declared ineligible under statutory or regulatory authority, on www.sam.gov, the System for Award Management. (The list was formerly known as the EPLS or Excluded Parties List System.) If a grant requires expenditures totaling $3,000 in a fiscal year from one vendor, it is necessary to complete and document a Debarment and Suspension check on www.sam.gov before a purchase is made.

- Small, Minority-Owned, and Women's Business Enterprise Utilization: Non-federal agencies expending federal funds are required to make positive efforts to use small businesses, minority-owned firms, and women's business enterprises whenever possible (2 CFR 200.321). The GSMFC should also provide a preference for the purchase of goods or materials produced in the United States (2 CFR 200.322).
- The Davis-Bacon Act requires contractors and subcontractors on federally funded or assisted contracts to pay their laborers and mechanics employed under the contract no less than the locally prevailing wages and fringe benefits for corresponding work on similar projects in the area.

Specific Requirements Based on Purchase Amount (See 2 CFR 200.320)

Documentation Requirements

Micro-purchase	Not to exceed micro-purchase threshold: $0 – 10,000	• No bid or quote required if price is considered to be reasonable. Reasonableness could be determined by comparing the price to past purchases or other published prices and/or requesting prices from more than one vendor. • Distributed equitably among a range of qualified vendors when practical
Small purchase procedure	Greater than micro-purchase, not to exceed the simplified acquisition threshold: $10,001 – $250,000	• Price or rate quotes must be obtained from adequate number of sources (at least two) • Can be informal, e.g., phone call or web search • All quotes, including phone calls, web searches, etc., must be documented and kept on file • Price does not need to be deciding factor, but all quotes need to be kept in procurement records

Sealed bid	Greater than the simplified acquisition threshold: $250,001 and greater	• Used when selection of successful bidder can be made principally on the basis of price • Bids must be solicited from an adequate number of known suppliers, providing sufficient response time • Local and tribal governments must publicly advertise bids • Invitation for bids must define the items or services in order for bidders to properly respond • All bids will be opened at time and place prescribed in invitation. Local and tribal governments must be opened publicly. • Firm fixed price contract made in writing to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder • Any or all bids may be rejected if there is a sound documented reason
Competitive proposal	Greater than the simplified acquisition threshold: $250,001 and greater	• Must be publicized and identify all evaluation factors and their relative importance • Must be solicited from an adequate number of qualified sources • Must have a written method for conducting technical evaluations of the proposals and selecting recipients • Contracts must be awarded to the responsible firm whose proposal is most advantageous to the program, with price and other factors considered

Noncompetitive proposal (sole source)	Greater than micro-purchase threshold: $10,000 and greater	• May be used only when the item is available only from a single source, the public exigency or emergency will not permit a delay resulting from competitive solicitation, federal awarding agency or pass-through entity expressly authorizes its use in response to a written request, or after solicitation of a number of sources competition is determined inadequate • Justification of the use of noncompetitive proposal must be documented • Any research on availability from multiple sources must be documented • Documentation of authorization must be retained • Any initial solicitations from multiple sources which are concluded to be inadequate, and such reasoning, must be documented

Documentation must be maintained for single or cumulative purchases from a single vendor within a fiscal year that exceed $10,000. The documentation must be sufficient to detail procurement history. A quote is a written statement from a vendor regarding the price for a specific good or service. Quotes and bids should include specifications and qualifying characteristics considered by vendor/contractor including delivery and time frame, scope of work, references, and other relevant specifications (see 2 CFR 200.318(i).

Procurement and service contract documentation must contain the following:

- Basis for the vendor/contractor selection. Information showing how the GSMFC arrived at the decision to award the contract to that particular vendor/contractor.

- The GSMFC must perform a cost or price analysis in connection with every procurement action in excess of the Simplified Acquisition Threshold including contract modifications (2 CFR 200.324). The GSMFC must make independent estimates before receiving bids or proposals. The GSMFC must negotiate profit as a separate element of the price for each contract in which there is no price competition and, in all cases, where cost analysis is performed. To establish a fair and reasonable profit, consideration must be given to the complexity of the work to be performed, the risk borne by the contractor, the contractor's investment, the amount of subcontracting, the quality of its record of past performance, and industry profit rates in the surrounding geographical area for similar work. Costs or prices based on estimated costs for

contracts under the Federal award are allowable only to the extent that costs incurred or cost estimates included in negotiated prices would be allowable for the GSMFC under Subpart E—Cost Principles. The cost plus a percentage of cost and percentage of construction cost methods of contracting must not be used. (2 CFR 200.324) See Cost and Price Analysis Template (see below).

Vendor Evaluation

Date: _____

Vender Name: _____

Project Title: _____

Program Coordinator: _____

Price Analysis	Comp 1	Comp 2	Comp 3
Proposed price _____			
Comparison of price with other proposals	_____	_____	_____
Comparison of price with multiple vendors	_____	_____	_____
Previous prices paid for similar work	_____	_____	_____
Comparison with GSA prices	_____	_____	_____
Comparison with GSMFC estimate	_____		

Cost Analysis (check the appropriate boxes)

Cost Elements:	Reasonable and Allocable	Necessary	Verifiable (by similar work, other vendors, or cost breakdown)
Personnel			
Hours	☐	☐	☐
Materials	☐	☐	☐
Equipment	☐	☐	☐
Travel			
Airfare	☐	☐	☐
Mileage	☐	☐	☐
Taxis	☐	☐	☐
Hotel	☐	☐	☐
Per Diem/Meals	☐	☐	☐
Overhead/Indirect Costs	☐	☐	☐
Contractual	☐	☐	☐
Other	☐	☐	☐

Cash Management

The purpose of the GSMFC's cash management procedures is to provide written guidelines and methods for planned and proper use of cash resources and ensure cash availability to cover expenses when due.

Responsibilities:

The Senior Accountant is responsible for overseeing cash management processes to ensure proper cash availability and best practices in cash management.

The Executive Director and the Administrative Officer are the only authorized signers on the GSMFC's bank account.

The Administrative Assistant is authorized to make deposits on behalf of the GSMFC.

Cash Receipts

The GSMFC receives revenue from the five member states for annual membership in the GSMFC ($22,500 per year). A small amount of revenue is drawn from registration fees for the semi-annual meetings. The majority of the revenue is drawn from federal award proceeds. The GSMFC receives and expends such sums of money as shall be appropriated for its use by the participating governing authorities, and makes application for and receives and expends funds available under appropriated federal programs. The GSMFC may also receive and expend funds from any other sources not "prohibited by law". The GSMFC must submit a grant application to receive any money for projects.

Federal grant awards are subject to regulatory compliance. The GSMFC is required to meet the terms of a federal grant agreement by complying with the applicable rules and regulations. The GSMFC can adhere to these compliance objectives by implementing and maintaining an effective internal control structure. The single Audit Act requires the auditor to determine and report on whether an entity has internal controls that provide reasonable assurance that federal award programs are being administered in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

Annual Membership

The Senior Accountant prepares an annual invoice statement when it comes due for each state, depending on when the member state fiscal year begins. The statement is signed by the Executive Director and notarized by the Administrative Officer. The Senior Accountant mails it to the head of the Marine Fisheries Department in each state. A copy is kept in the file. When the payment is received, the check is logged by a staff assistant and given to the Administrative Assistant. The Administrative Assistant makes a copy and prepares a deposit slip. The deposit is made the same day. The copies are given to the Accountant to be recorded in the accounting software and then filed in the master deposit file.

Federal Award Drawdowns

The Grants Officer prepares a draw worksheet summarizing reimbursable expenditures for the draw. Advance payments are not allowed due to the special award conditions imposed on the agency. Each of the draws are supported by approved invoices or payment applications. Once approved, the Grants Officer completes a SF-270 Request for Reimbursement. The form is submitted in Grants Online. After it is approved, the amount of reimbursement becomes available in the Automated Standard

Application for Payments (ASAP) website. The amount is drawn down and recorded the following day after the bank sends an email confirmation of the deposit. The Senior Accountant codes the revenue using the draw to the proper general ledger account. If the draw is for a sub-award recipient's reimbursable expense, the Senior Accountant writes a check to the proper recipient. This minimizes the time between the transfer of federally awarded funds and the disbursement to the subrecipients. In order not to overdraw the bank account, no payment over $5,000 will be approved by the Executive Director until the drawdown deposit has been made. Payments are made the day the draw funds are received. If the draw is for the GSMFC's administrative expenses, then only the deposit is recorded. As outlined in 2 CFR 200.305, payments must be deposited into an interest-bearing account. Interest earned on Federal payments deposited in interest-bearing accounts must be remitted annually to the Department of Health and Human Services, Payment Management System, Rockville, MD 20852. Interest amounts up to $500 per year may be retained for administrative expenses.

Registration Fees

The GSMFC collects registration fees for the Annual Meeting and the Spring Meeting. A meeting notice is distributed and participants can register online through the GSMFC registration system, by mailing the registration form and payment, or at the meeting registration desk. Credit card payments are made through PayPal. Registration fees can also be paid by check, cash or bank transfer. The Administrative Officer transfers all PayPal payments into the GSMFC bank account following the meeting. Cash and checks that are collected at the meeting are counted and verified by the Administrative Assistant and the Administrative Officer and deposited into the bank by the Administrative Assistant. Receipts are given to each participant and a copy is kept in the registration program file. The Senior Accountant records all registration fee deposits in the accounting software.

Program income means gross income earned by the non-Federal entity that is directly generated by a supported activity or earned as a result of the Federal award during the period of performance (2 CFR 200.1). The Commerce Grants and Cooperative Agreements Manual identifies registration fees as program income. Registration fees collected for GSMFC annual meetings must be recognized as program income and allocated to each fund that shares in the costs of the GSMFC annual meetings. Program income will be recognized using the addition method as described in 2 CFR 200.307.

Cash Disbursements

The GSMFC processes disbursements for payment of expenses and payments to subrecipients and contractors in accordance with 2 CFR 200.305. Payment methods must minimize the time elapsing between the transfer of funds from the US Treasury and the disbursement made by the recipient. Documentation of this cycle consists of the manual and automated procedures for initiating, authorizing, recording, processing, and reporting of the transactions. Payments must be made within 30 calendar days after the receipt of the invoice, unless it is reasonably believed that the payment request is improper.

Purchase orders are used for specific computer items where the vendor requires one. Equipment purchases equal to or greater than $5,000 to be charged to special revenue funds receive prior approval from the awarding agency and are accounted for and disposed of in the manner prescribed

by 2 CFR 200.313 and 2 CFR 200.439. Purchases over $50 and/or any unusual requests are approved by the Executive Director. The GSMFC has implemented a policy that requires purchases above $2,500 to go through a bid process (large printing jobs) or price comparison (computer equipment) in order to obtain the most competitive price. Three bids are required for large printing jobs, and on computer equipment five price comparisons are performed by the System Administrator. Purchases of equipment will be classified as an allocable direct cost if it directly used by a specific project/award and directly charged to the fund. If equipment has a shared or central operational function by the GSMFC, it will be classified and captured as an indirect cost (see 2 CFR 200.405).

A purchase begins with the identification of needed goods or services. A verbal or written communication request is sent to the Executive Director for proper pre-authorization. The Administrative Assistant will order the goods and receive an invoice. Once the goods are received, the packing slip is signed by the receiver and sent to the Administrative Assistant to match with the invoice. The invoice goes back to the original authorizer for signature before submitting to the Administrative Officer for payment. The Administrative Assistant codes each transaction to the proper general ledger account based on the proper fund and expense category. The Administrative Officer reviews the invoice for validity purchasing guidelines, fraud, GL coding, sales tax, and budget considerations.

After the Administrative Officer's review, it is entered into the accounting system for payment. The Administrative Officer uses the accounting system to enter invoices on a weekly basis and prepares checks for authorized signature. The prepared checks and corresponding invoices go to the Executive Director. He reviews the invoices for proper authorization, amount, vendor, etc. He signs the checks and gives to the Administrative Assistant. The Administrative Assistant mails the checks and files the invoices and check stubs in numerical order in the check disbursement files. The Senior Accountant reviews all expenses at the end of each month and verifies they were reasonable, necessary, allocable, and allowable to each appropriate fund before requesting reimbursement.

Travel expense reports are processed through the accounts payable module of the accounting software in the same manner as other cash disbursements. All travel expenses must follow the GSMFC Travel Guidelines received with the Travel Authorization form in order to be allowable and reimbursable.

Payments made to subrecipients are processed through both the Program Coordinator and the Senior Accountant. The Program Coordinator receives the invoice or quarterly checklist and reviews the expenses using an Invoice Monitoring Guide. After the determination is made that all costs are allowable to the project activities as outlined in the Uniform Guidance Cost Principles, he approves with his signature and gives the document to the Senior Accountant. The Senior Accountant also uses the Invoice Monitoring Guide to ensure the costs are allowable and on schedule with the approved budget. The invoice is then processed through the accounts payable module. Cash advances are not routinely done but are allowable under the Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants (2 CFR 200), and processed at the discretion of the Program Coordinator and approval by the Executive Director.

Recurring contractor payments are processed through ACH in lieu of a check for payment. The Program Coordinator receives the invoice from the contractor, examines it for correctness, approves it and forwards to the Senior Accountant. She enters it into the bank ACH system, prints an ACH confirmation,

and enters into the accounting system. She then submits the invoice, ACH confirmation and blank ACH/check produced by the accounting system to the Administrative Officer for the dual authorization and to the Executive Director for final approval. The general ledger system in the accounting software is used to produce trial balances and other supporting documentation for generation of the financial statements.

Travel and Meeting Costs

The GSMFC, operating as the host/sponsor of any meeting, retreat, seminar, symposium, workshop or event necessary and reasonable for successful performance under a Federal award will exercise discretion and judgment in ensuring that conference costs are appropriate, necessary and managed in a manner that minimizes costs to the Federal award. Travel reimbursements for meals and lodging will be made according to the current GSA rates. The GSMFC is authorized (The Federal Travel Regulation (FTR) §§301-11.300 through 306) to approve the maximum per diem rate of up to 300% of per diem for lodging if per diem is not available. Specific costs of entertainment (amusement, diversion, and social activities) that have a programmatic purpose will obtain authorization either in the approved budget for the Federal award or with prior written approval of the Federal awarding agency.

Participant support costs are stipends, subsistence allowances, travel allowances and registration fees paid to or on the behalf of participants or trainees (but not employees) in connection with conferences, or training projects (see 2 CFR 200.1). The GSMFC will obtain written prior approval from the awarding agency for any participant support costs (see 2 CFR 200.456).

Payroll Processing

Each employee records their time, annual leave, and sick leave in a standard excel timesheet. Every month, employees print a paper copy, signs it and submits it to the Administrative Assistant. She verifies accuracy against the office calendar and enters it into a master file that tracks time spent in each fund. The Administrative Assistant gives the timesheets to the Executive Director for a review and approval. The timesheets are then submitted to the Administrative Officer for entry into the Abila MIP software's payroll module. The payroll is then calculated and processed as an ACH payment on the bank's website. The Senior Accountant must approve the transaction on the bank's website since all ACH transactions require dual approval. The Executive Director reviews and verifies the totals and returns to the Administrative Officer for filing. All payroll documents are filed in a locked cabinet for security purposes.

Bank Reconciliation

The bank statement is reconciled by the Administrative Assistant on a monthly basis. The reconciliation is performed in the accounting software. The Executive Director performs a review of the bank reconciliation and signs/approves the reconciliation.

Pre-Award Costs

Pre-award costs are those incurred prior to the effective date of the Federal award directly pursuant to the negotiation and in anticipation of the Federal award where such costs are necessary for efficient and timely performance of the scope of work. Such costs are allowable only to the extent that they would have been allowable if incurred after the date of the Federal award and only with the written approval of the Federal awarding agency (see 2 CFR 200.458).

Indirect Costs

Indirect (F&A) costs will be defined as those costs incurred for a common or joint purpose benefitting more than one cost objective, and not readily assignable to the cost objectives specifically benefitted, without effort disproportionate to the results achieved (2 CFR 200.1). The GSMFC will prepare an annual indirect cost rate proposal, will be certified by the Executive Director of the GSMFC, and submitted to the Federal awarding agencies. *See the current Indirect Cost Allocation Plan*.

Matching Funds Requirements

Although matching funds are not routinely used for the GSMFC's programs, any expenses used as matching funds must meet the following criteria:

- Must be verifiable from the GSMFC's records
- Must not be included as contributions for any other Federal award
- Are necessary and reasonable for accomplishment of program objectives
- Are allowable under the Subpart E Cost Principles
- Are not paid by the Federal government under another Federal award
- Are provided for in the approved budget

(See 2 CFR 200.306)

All costs used as matching funds must follow record and retention policies. Financial records, supporting documents, statistical records, and all other non-Federal entity records pertinent to a Federal award must be retained for a period of three years from the date of submission of the final expenditure report or, for Federal awards that are renewed quarterly or annually, from the date of the submission of the quarterly or annual financial report, respectively, as reported to the Federal awarding agency or pass-through entity in the case of a subrecipient (see 2 CFR 200.332).

Federal Award Closeout

Closeout is the process in which the awarding agency determines that all applicable administrative actions and all required work with the award have been completed by the recipient. Effective administration over the life of the award will help eliminate problems at closeout.

Closeout documents must be submitted to the awarding agency within 90 days after the end of the period of performance; therefore, the GSMFC must ensure that revenue and expenses are complete and have posted to the accounting software within 90 days from the project end date. (*See Award Closeout under Subrecipient Monitoring*) The Senior Accountant will examine costs to ensure that costs are allowable, allocable, reasonable, and consistent with the approved budget. In the event that ASAP accounts are to be de-obligated before the 90-day closeout period has ended, any anticipated costs such as payroll and vacation payouts should be drawn down prior to de-obligation of funds. If actual costs are less than the amount drawn down, any excess funds should be immediately returned to the Federal agency (see 2 CFR 200.405).

The Senior Accountant must submit all required financial, performance, tangible personal property reports, and other reports as required by the award, and liquidate all obligations incurred under the award. Each award notice specifies the closeout report requirements (see 2 CFR 200.344).

Subrecipient Monitoring Procedures

This procedure outlines the monitoring activities to be executed in monitoring subrecipient activity associated with federally funded programs. All staff personnel, including administrative personnel, who are involved in the programs of federally funded projects should follow these procedures.

2 CFR 200.74 defines a "Pass-through entity" as a "non-Federal entity that provides a subaward to a subrecipient to carry out part of a Federal program."

2 CFR 200.329

> "Monitoring and reporting program performance.
> (a) Monitoring by the non-Federal entity. The non-Federal entity is responsible for oversight of the operations of the Federal award supported activities. The non-Federal entity must monitor its activities under Federal awards to assure compliance with applicable Federal requirements and performance expectations are being achieved. Monitoring by the non-Federal entity must cover each program, function, or activity (see also 200.332). Requirements for pass-through entities."

2 CFR 200.331 Subrecipient and Contractor Determinations

> "The non-Federal entity may concurrently receive Federal awards as a recipient, a subrecipient, and a contractor, depending on the substance of its agreements with Federal awarding agencies and pass-through entities. Therefore, a pass-through entity must make case-by-case determinations whether each agreement it makes for the disbursement of Federal program funds casts the party receiving the funds in the role of a subrecipient or a contractor. The federal awarding agency may supply and require recipients to comply with additional guidance to support these determinations provided such guidance does not conflict with this section."

Purpose

This procedure delineates specific activities that should be performed in managing subrecipients of Federal awards. The procedure documentation further articulates the general roles and responsibilities for subrecipient monitoring across the commission in order to establish effective stewardship of Federal funds related to project activity subawarded to other entities.

Initial Award Stage

The initial award stage includes receipt of a proposal through the award establishment. The goal of subrecipient monitoring efforts at this stage is to ensure that the subrecipient is capable of compliantly spending Federal funds and meeting the project goals.

Determining Which is the Most Appropriate Instrument to Use:

- Using the *Subrecipient vs Contractor Identification,* the program manager and grants officer will discuss the associated activities and make a determination (2 CFR 200.331).

Examining the Budget/Project Narrative:

- Subrecipients must submit detailed budget information that clearly explains the relationship

between the costs and the project plan narrative. See *Required Information to Establish a GSMFC Subaward*

- The program manager will evaluate the proposed activities and make a determination as to the level of funding requested.
- The grants officer will review the budget and ensure that calculations are appropriate, correct and allowable. (2 CFR 200.402 – 2 CFR 200.405)

Performing a Risk Assessment:

- A risk assessment should be performed to assess the potential risk level of a subrecipient.
- A questionnaire relating to the organization's financial and management strength should be completed internally or by the sub-recipient. See *Risk Assessment Matrix*
- The risk assessment will be jointly performed by the program manager and grants officer. The risk assessment may take into account several factors, including but not limited to subjectivity to an single audit; degree of external oversight; evidence of financial controls through review of audit reports; size of the subrecipient and award amount; prior experience with the subrecipient; type of organization; and confirmation that the subrecipient does not have any exclusions in System for Award Management (SAM).
- The frequency of monitoring will be determined based upon the risk assessment in order to manage and mitigate financial risks.

Developing a Monitoring Plan:

- The results of the risk assessment should be used to determine the frequency and scope of subrecipient monitoring. The monitoring plan should include strategies to mitigate potential risks of non-compliance. The grants officer and program manager will jointly develop a monitoring plan. See *Subrecipient Monitoring Plans*

Developing and Issuing a Formal Award Package:

- A subaward should contain all of the elements required for the subaward face document, corresponding statement of work and budget, and a General Procedures document that outlines compliance requirements, reporting requirements, invoicing procedures, closeout information and recordkeeping requirements. The grants officer will develop and issue a formal award package. See *Subaward Document* and *General Procedures* (2 CFR 200.332).

Reporting Subawards to the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act (FFATA) Subaward Reporting System (FSRS):

- Prime grant awardees will report against subgrants awarded. The subaward information submitted to FSRS will then be displayed on usaspending.gov. Prime awardees are required to file a FFATA subaward report by the end of the month following the month in which the prime

recipient awards any subaward greater than or equal to $25,000. The website used is www.fsrs.gov. The grants officer will maintain login information and report subawards by filling out the required report.

Ongoing Monitoring

Ongoing monitoring includes activities undertaken to monitor the subrecipient's administration, billing and program progress as well as on-going risk assessments.

Communication with Subrecipient:

- Frequent communication between the principal investigator and the program manager is essential to ensure a compliant and successful collaboration.
- A letter and a sample invoice that outlines expectations should be sent to the subrecipient with new awards.
- The program manager and grants officer will document any communication efforts and inquiries and/or associated discussions with the principal investigator or other subrecipient personnel to demonstrate the review of progress and completion of activities.

Invoices:

- To ensure proper use of Federal funds, invoices must be monitored for completeness and allowable costs.
- The program manager will receive the invoices, examine for reasonable, allocable, and allowable costs associated with performance of the defined project. Review and approval of the invoice will be documented by the program manager's signature on invoices. See *Sample Invoice*
- Advance payments will not be routine and will require special approval by the program manager and executive director. Advance payments will only be approved for the minimum and immediate amount needed by the subrecipient to carry out the purpose of the approved program or project. Advance payments must be deposited and maintained in insured accounts whenever possible and be maintained in interest-bearing accounts unless the following apply (2 CFR 200.305):
    - The subrecipient receives less than $120,000 in Federal awards per year;
    - The best reasonably available interest-bearing account would not be expected to earn interest in excess of $500 per year on Federal cash balances;
    - The depository would require an average or minimum balance so high that it would not be feasible within the expected cash resources;
    - A foreign government or banking system prohibits or precludes interest bearing accounts.
    - Any interest in excess of $500 per year earned on Federal advance payments deposited in interest-bearing accounts must be remitted annually to the Department of Health and Human Services, Payment Management system, Rockville, MD 20852.

- The timing of payments must be as close as administratively feasible to the actual disbursements by the subrecipients for direct program or project costs and allowable indirect costs.
- Payments must be made within 30 calendar days after receipt of the invoice, unless the request is reasonably believed to be improper.
- Payments must not be withheld at any time during the period of performance unless the following apply:
    - The subrecipient has failed to comply with the project objectives, Federal statutes, regulations or the terms and conditions of the Federal award.
    - The subrecipient is delinquent in a debt to the United States as defined in OMB Guidance A-129. If applicable, the subrecipient will be informed that payments will not be made for obligations incurred after a specified date until the conditions are corrected.
- GSMFC cannot require separate depository accounts for funds provided to a subrecipient or establish any eligibility requirements for depositories for funds provided. However, the subrecipient must be able to account for the receipt, obligation and expenditure of funds.
- The program manager will contact the subrecipient with any questionable items needing resolution.
- The program manager will submit approved invoices to the grants officer for payment.
- The grants officer will examine the invoice by referring to the *Invoice Monitoring Guide* and pay accordingly. A copy of the Invoice Monitoring Guide will be kept in the grants file.
- An electronic workbook for each sub-recipient will be kept by the grants officer to track and monitor invoices, performance periods and budgetary compliance. The cost items will be recorded in the workbook prior to payment of the invoice.
- The grants officer will notify the subrecipient of any issues needing resolution.
- Invoices should not be approved for payment until all issues or concerns have been resolved.

Project Performance Reports:

- Subrecipients will be required to submit performance reports to the program manager quarterly. Quarterly performance reports should be filed with the grant files. See *Sample Progress Report*
- Other informal progress reports may include phone conversations, e-mail communications, or face-to-face discussions. The program manager will document these contacts and retain in the same manner as other grant documents.
- The program manager will review the performance reports for a comparison of actual accomplishments with the goals and objectives established in the project timeline; reasons why any goals and objectives were not met; and other information such as actual costs vs. budgeted costs and any identified problems or issues.

Fixed Amount Subawards:

- Upon approval from the awarding Federal agency, some programs are eligible for a fixed amount award.
- Payments are based on meeting specific requirements and accountability is based on performance and results.
- Fixed amount subaward actual costs are not routinely reviewed by the awarding non-Federal entity. The award is paid with a quarterly payment based on the completion of a checklist that outlines performance of the activities.
- If the required level of activity or effort was not completed, the amount of the payment must be adjusted accordingly.
- The program manager will examine the quarterly checklists and resolve any questionable items. After approval, the program manager will submit the invoices to the grants officer for payment. See *Sub-award Quarterly Checklist* (2 CFR 200.333).

Annual Review of Subrecipient Audits:

- Subrecipients that expend $750,000 or more of Federal funds annually must have a single or program-specific audit conducted for that year. If less than $750,000 of Federal funds is spent, records still must be available for review or audit by the Federal agency, GSMFC, and Government Accountability Office (GAO). A state, local government or Indian tribe that is required by constitution or statue, to undergo audits less frequently than annually, is permitted to undergo its audits biennially. In cases of continued inability or unwillingness to have an audit conducted, GSMFC will take appropriate action as provided in Remedies for Noncompliance.
- Payments received for services provided as a contractor are not Federal awards.
- Contractor compliance is limited to ensuring that procurement, receipt and payment for goods and services comply with Federal statutes, regulations, and terms and conditions of Federal awards.
- Although For-profit subrecipients are rarely used, GSMFC will establish requirements, as necessary, to ensure compliance by subrecipients. The For-profit subrecipient award should describe any applicable compliance requirements and responsibilities. Pre-award audits, monitoring during the agreement, and post-award audits will be conducted in the same manner as other subrecipients.
- The subrecipient may elect a program specific audit if the auditee expends Federal awards under only one program and the federal program's statutes, regulations, or the terms and conditions of the Federal award do not require a financial statement audit. The subrecipient that elects a program specific audit must conduct the audit in accordance with 2 CFR 200.507.
- Audits must be conducted in accordance with 2 CFR 200.501 – 200.512.

- Procure or otherwise arrange for the audit required through the auditor selection process described in 200 CFR 200.509.
- Prepare appropriate financial statements in accordance with 2 CFR 200.510.
- Promptly follow up and take corrective action on audit findings in accordance with 2 CFR 200.511.
- Provide the auditor with access to personnel, accounts, books, records, supporting documentation, and other information as required.
- Submit the data collection form and reporting package to the Federal Audit Clearinghouse within the earlier of 30 calendar days after receipt of the auditor's report, or nine months after the end of the audit period. Subrecipients must also make copies available for public inspection.

- The grants officer will use and review the submitted data collection form in the Federal Audit Clearinghouse (FAC) to identify any audit findings or noncompliance issues.
- The grants officer is responsible for the following pertaining to subrecipient audits:
  - Ensure that audits are completed and reported in a timely manner;
  - Follow-up on audit findings to ensure the subrecipient takes appropriate and timely corrective action;
  - Monitor the subrecipient taking appropriate and timely corrective action.
- If financial or internal control deficiencies are discovered, the program manager and grants officer should request the subrecipient's corrective action plan. If the subrecipient's findings are related to the specific project awarded by GSMFC, another risk assessment should be performed and monitoring efforts should be elevated.

Annual Desk Reviews:

- Desk reviews should be conducted to determine whether the sub-recipient is adhering to Federal and grant-specific requirements.
- Desk reviews include the following: researching the subrecipient, program and/or project; collecting information and documentation, analyzing documentation; and documentation of findings and conclusions.
- The grants officer and program manager should collaborate on a desk review of the sub-recipient.

Site Visits:

- For subrecipients that are determined to be high risk, site visits should be conducted to identify any potential problems and provide technical assistance.

- Activities required for a site visit include determining site visit goals; determine staff that need to participate; schedule the site visit; and develop a site visit checklist.
- Areas to address during a site visit include programmatic activities, financial procedures, personnel policies, procurement policies, subaward practices, if applicable, and property documentation.
- After conducting a site visit, a subrecipient site visit report will be completed and filed with the grant files.

Record of Subrecipient Monitoring Efforts:

- Best practice dictates documenting all efforts related to subrecipient monitoring, especially if there are issues such as late billing or communication difficulty. The program manager and grants officer will document all efforts related to subrecipient monitoring and maintain individual files. See *Sub-recipient Monitoring Record* (2 CFR 200.332)

Award Closeout

Award closeout includes activities related to ensuring that the work was performed and properly billed. At the end of the award, the program manager is responsible for ensuring that all documentation related to project performance and financial obligations are received (see 2 CFR 200.344).

Final Payment Requests:

- Subrecipient monitoring activities that should be performed at award closeout include verifying that the final invoice is marked “final”.
- The grants officer will ensure that all financial obligations are paid and reconcile any differences.
- The electronic workbook balance will be compared with the invoice and cost categories will be reviewed to determine whether any category was underspent or overspent.
- Any disallowed costs should be settled prior to payment of the final invoice.
- In the event it is questionable whether subrecipient records may or may not be available for examination at a future date during the records retention timeframe, the GSMFC must acquire the supporting documents for expenses charged to a Federal award.

Final Performance Report:

- All final performance reports should be submitted by the subrecipient within 60 days following the end date of the project and will be reviewed by the program manager to ensure that the subrecipient provided all project deliverables and met project obligations.

Final Tangible Property Report:

- If equipment or supplies in excess of $5,000 was budgeted and purchased, information required on the SF428 will be collected and documented for reporting to the awarding Federal agency.

Recipient Noncompliance (2 CFR 200.339)

- Failure of the recipient to perform the work in accordance with the terms of the award and compliance with the Uniform Guidance will result in special award conditions or other enforcement action.
- The Uniform Guidance provides a list of options available to Federal awarding agencies and pass-through entities to remedy recipient noncompliance.
- The program manager and grants officer will collaborate on remedying noncompliance issues.
- The program manager and grants officer will first contact the subrecipient regarding the noncompliance issue to offer technical assistance.
- The subrecipient will be required to provide documentation and/or an explanation regarding the noncompliance issue.
- The subrecipient will be required to compile a corrective action plan that identifies the problem, explains how the problem will be corrected, assigns responsibility for the tasks involved and set deadlines for various stages in the correction process.
- The grants officer and program manager should request periodic updates on the status of the plan's implementation.
- In the event the corrective action plan is unsuccessful, GSMFC should apply special conditions to the subrecipient's award.
- The program manager and grants officer will collaborate on the special conditions to be applied. Special conditions may include:
    - Requiring reimbursement payments only;
    - Withholding authority to proceed to the next phase until receipt of evidence of acceptable performance within a given period of performance;
    - Requiring additional, more detailed financial reports;
    - Requiring additional project monitoring;
    - Requiring the entity to obtain technical or management assistance;
    - Establishing additional prior approval requirements;
- In the event the subrecipient is still noncompliant, sanctions should be imposed. Sanctions may include cost disallowance, suspension of the award, termination or denial of future awards.
- Upon correction of conditions that prompted them, any special conditions must be promptly removed.
- In the event an award must be terminated, agencies must still comply with closeout and post-closeout requirements when a Federal award is terminated in whole or in part (2 CFR 200.340).

- The terminating agency must provide the subrecipient with a notice of termination. This notice must explain the reasons for termination (2 CFR 200.341).
- If termination is a result of noncompliance, the notification must also inform the non-Federal entity that the termination may be considered in any future award decisions.

Subrecipient Monitoring Procedures - Attachments

Attachment A

Subrecipient vs. Contractor Identification

Subrecipient Characteristics	Contractor Characteristics
Is eligible to receive financial assistance available through the administered program	Provides the goods and services to many different purchasers
Has its performance measured against whether the objectives of the program are met	Provides goods and services within normal business operations
Has responsibility for programmatic decision making	Normally operates in a competitive environment
Has responsibility for adherence to applicable Federal program compliance requirements specified in the award	Provides goods or services that are ancillary to the operation of the program
Uses funds to carry out a program as compared to providing goods or services for the benefit of the grantor	Is not subject to compliance requirements of the program

Attachment B

Required Information to Establish a
GSMFC Sub Award

Please provide the following information to the GSMFC for the purpose of establishing your Sub Award:

1. Applicant Name and Contact Information: Identify the name and contact information of the applicant (including organization and mailing address).

2. Budget Period: Provide start and end date of the budget period.

3. Title: A short descriptive name of the project.

4. Objective: What will this project do? State concisely the purpose of the proposed project in quantified terms where possible.

5. Job Title: If a project is subdivided into two or more jobs, they must be identified separately.

6. Job Objectives: Provide an objective(s) for each job element, as appropriate.

7. Job Procedures: A detailed set of procedures to answer who, what, how, when, and where. Where appropriate, clearly identify:

   a) Applicants activities and deliverables;

   b) Activities and deliverables of other agencies involved in study.

8. Location: Describe the location of work.

9. List of Key Personnel: List all project personnel and their responsibilities. If personnel are working on the project but are not identified in the project-specific budget, they must be noted as working at no-cost to the project.

10. Agreement Signatory Name and Contact Information: Name and contact information for person that will sign the subaward agreement for the university/organization.

11. Project-Specific Budget: Include a cost estimate breakdown of costs for each cost category covered during the budget period identified. Detailed budget information is required for the following elements.

a) Personnel - For each employee, provide the time estimated to be charged to the project; the rate/year, month, day, or hour; and the resulting calculated cost assessed to the project.

b) Fringe Benefits - For each employee, identify all fringe-related costs and the rate applied. If the fringe rate is greater than 25%, a copy of the Fringe Rate Agreement must be included.

c) Travel - Information must be provided on the purpose of travel, destination, daily cost charges, number of days, and number and identity of travelers. All out of state and foreign travel must be justified in your proposal.

d) Equipment (items having a unit acquisition cost of $5,000 or more) - Describe how equipment will be used on the project and why it is needed. Identify make and model numbers and unit cost. In addition, a lease versus purchase analysis is necessary for each piece of equipment. Although computers and computer-related hardware are often less than $5,000, but due to long-term operational life-span, the need to purchase these items must be clearly explained.

e) Supplies and Materials - List general categories of supplies and materials, including unit costs and quantities. The terms “miscellaneous” and “etc.” are not allowed.

f) Contractual/Consulting Services - List each contractor/consultant, describe specific duties to be performed, and how the cost for the service was derived. In addition, a statement whether or not the contract or consulting service was competitively selected is necessary. If the service was not competitively selected, a sole source justification is required.

g) Other Costs - List and describe other costs that are not assignable to the other direct cost categories. Indicate how these costs were derived.

h) Indirect Costs - If indirect costs are charged, identify the rate used in the calculations, and a copy of the current negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement must be included with your proposal.

12. If Applicable, please provide a web address to access your organization’s A133 Audit Report.

Attachment C
Risk Assessment Matrix

Category	Lower Risk	Medium Risk	Higher Risk
1. Maturity of Organization	Mature (more than 10 years)	5 to 10 years	Start-up, no fiscal controls in place yet
2. Amount/Percentage of Award	Funding level <$100k	Funding level $100-500k	Funding level > $500k
3. Accounting/ Procurement Systems	Systems approved as evidenced by audit	Systems less qualified (Financial audit conducted but not required by Uniform Guidance Audit Requirements)	No systems are in place, or systems are new
4. Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement	Has detailed negotiated rate agreement	Has simple rate agreement	Does not have negotiated rate agreement
5. Audit Report	Has annual audit as required by Uniform Guidance Subpart F	Has annual third-party financial audit	Has not had an annual financial audit
6. Prior experience with GSMFC	Previous positive experience as GSMFC subrecipient	Previous experience but may have some concerns	New subrecipient or previous negative experience
7. Difficulty of Scope of Work & Deliverables	Report only – easily met objectives	Possibility of change in scope	Deliverables necessary in order to achieve project success
8. Transparency/ Frequency of Reporting	Frequent reporting or easily assessed progress based on milestones or observable outcomes		No reporting until the end of the project, no measurable or observable milestones or outcomes

Subrecipient Monitoring Procedures - Attachments

Category	Lower Risk	Medium Risk	Higher Risk
9. Rate of Subrecipient Spending on Award	Pace of spending is consistent with budgeted amounts per year	Pace of spending slightly accelerated compared to budgeted amount per year	Spending far outpaces that which was contemplated in the submitted budget

Attachment D
Subrecipient Profile Questionnaire

1. Complete address and contact information:
Name: Address: Phone: Email: Duns Number: EIN (Employee ID Number): Registered in the US Federal Government's System for Award Management (SAM): [ ] Yes [ ] No Date last updated: _____
2. Type of Organization (check one):
[ ] Federal Government [ ] Individual [ ] State [ ] University [ ] Foundation [ ] Non-Profit Org [ ] Other _____
3. Fiscal year dates (month and year):
4. Negotiated Federal Facilities and Administrative Rate (IDC):
[ ] Yes [ ] No If yes, please attach a copy of your current rate agreement. If no, please provide documentation to substantiate the proposed rate.
5. Required to comply with the Uniform Guidance Subpart F Audit Requirements:
[ ] Yes [ ] No Audit Contact Name and Title: Auditee Name Filed Under: (exact legal name under which your audit report is filed in the Federal Audit Clearinghouse)

Subrecipient Monitoring Procedures - Attachments

NOTE: Answer questions 6 – 10 only if answer to question 5 is "No"

6. Have annual financial statements been audited by an independent audit firm? If yes, provide a copy of the statements for the most current fiscal year.

[ ] Yes [ ] No

7. Does organization have a financial management system that provides records that can identify the source and application of funds for award-supported activities?

[ ] Yes [ ] No

8. Does the financial system provide for the control and accountability of project funds, property, and other assets?

[ ] Yes [ ] No

9. Do policies exist that address:

Pay Rates and Benefits? [ ] Yes [ ] No

Conflicts of Interest? [ ] Yes [ ] No

Travel? [ ] Yes [ ] No

Purchasing? [ ] Yes [ ] No

10. Is Government property inventory maintained that identifies purchase date, cost, vendor, description, serial number, location, and ultimate disposition data?

[ ] Yes [ ] No

Information contact:

Name: _____

Title: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Attachment E

Subrecipient Monitoring Plans

NOTE: Using the guidance provided in the Risk Assessment Matrix, determine which monitoring plan to use.

Lower Risk

Review audit reports through the Federal Clearinghouse Review

Review invoices to ensure:

- Timeliness, completeness and accuracy
- Costs are allowable and in line with spending
- Program manager approves "okay to pay"
- Work is performed within the period of performance

Document all conversations and retain pertinent email communication

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Medium Risk

Review all steps in the "Lower Risk" category in addition to the following:

- If findings exist in the subrecipient's audit report, determine materiality and the risk involved (operational, financial or compliance risks)
- Consider elevating to Higher Risk

Higher Risk

Review all steps in the "Lower Risk" and "Medium Risk" categories in addition to the following:

- Consider performing a site visit or desk review
- Request supporting detail for all financial invoices and expenses
- Request regular contact and communication with the PI
- Withhold payments if necessary

Subrecipient Monitoring Procedures - Attachments

Attachment F

Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission
2404 Government Street
Ocean Springs, Mississippi, 39564

Official Notification of
Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission
Subcontract Award

Federal Identifier		**GSMFC Subcontract No.**	
Award Date		**CFDA Number and Name**	
Federal Award Amount			
Project Title			
Subcontract Recipient: **Address:** **Email:**			
Subrecipient DUNS No.			
Subcontractor's Representative		**Principal Investigator**	
Start Date	**End Date**	**Project Duration**	**Subrecipient Amount**

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. **Subject to compliance with all Federal Government auditing principles and procedures.**
2. **The Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission's "General Procedures for Subcontracts" is incorporated as a portion of the guidelines of this agreement.**
3. **The submitted Statement of Work and Budget is attached and made a part of this agreement.**

Signature of GSMFC Grants Officer	**Type or Print Name and Title** **Angela R. Rabideau** **Senior Accountant**	**Date**
Signature of Subcontractor's Representative	**Type or Print Name and Title**	**Date**

Attachment G
GENERAL PROCEDURES
FOR SUBCONTRACT AWARDS

1. [*Name*] is the designated Grants Officer for the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission (GSMFC). [*Name*] is the designated Program Manager for this Subcontract Award.

2. All recipients of GSMFC Subcontract Awards are required to comply with the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) (**2 CFR Part 200**) Per the OMB, this guidance supersedes requirements from prior OMB circulars. In addition, all recipients are required to comply with ***Department of Commerce Standard Terms and Conditions***.

3. Payments shall be made only for costs determined by the GSMFC to be allowable, allocable and reasonable in conducting the work under an agreement in accordance with the terms and cost principles found in **2 CFR Part 200*.*** Reimbursement payments may be requested on a monthly or quarterly basis by submitting a completed Invoice. (**Sample A)**

4. A **Semiannual Progress Report** will be required for the period ending [Dates]. Progress reports are due within 30 days. A **Final Report** is due 90 days following the completion of the subaward. Please use the format in **Sample B** attached.

5. If additional time is needed to complete the approved project, a written request must be sent to the Program Manager at least 30 calendar days before the project period end date, and must include supporting justification and a revised end date. Extensions for time cannot be authorized for the purpose of spending an unused balance of funds that remain after the project activities have been completed.

6. All Final invoices must be submitted within 90 days following the completion of the subaward and should be identified as “final”.

7. Recipients must permit the GSMFC and auditors to access financial records and statements relating to program activities when necessary.

8. In the event the Recipient cannot meet performance requirements, or anticipates difficulty in complying with agreement schedules or dates, the Recipient shall immediately notify the Grants Officer or Program Manager in writing, providing pertinent details. This does not, however, automatically waive any delivery schedules or performance requirements provided under this agreement.

Subrecipient Monitoring Procedures - Attachments

Attachment H
Invoice Sample

Subaward No.:
Grant No:
Award Period:
Project Title:

Category Totals	[Period of]	Cumulative Cost to Date
Salaries	$	$
Fringe Benefits	$	$
Travel	$	$
Equipment	$	$
Supplies	$	$
Contractual	$	$
Other	$	$
Subtotal	$	$
Indirect (%)	$	$
Total	**$**	**$**

Amount Reimbursable	$
Amount Remaining	$

I certify that all payments requested are for appropriate purposes and in accordance with the agreements set forth in the budget and award documents.

PLEASE SEND REMITTANCE TO:
Subrecipient Agency:

Address:

For questions, please contact: _____

Attachment I.1
Format for Progress Reports

A. Subaward Number:

B. Amount of Subaward:

C. Project Title:

D. Recipient:

E. Award Period: From _____ To _____

F. Period Covered by this Report: From_____ To _____

G. Summary of Progress and Expenditures to Date:

1. Work Accomplishments:

   a. Describe tasks scheduled for this period (from proposal and amendments, if appropriate).

   b. Describe tasks accomplished this period.

   c. Explain special problems, differences between scheduled and accomplished work, etc.

2. Expenditures:

   a. Describe expenditures scheduled for this period.

   b. Describe actual expenditures this period.

   c. Explain special problems, differences between scheduled and actual expenditures, etc.

H. Describe any anticipated issues that could arise:

Prepared By: _____ _____
Signature of Principal Investigator Date

Attachment I.2
Format for Completion Reports

(Single spaced, 12pt font submitted in a Microsoft Word or Adobe PDF format)

A. Project Title, PIs, Organization, Subaward Number, Date

B. Executive Summary

A brief and succinct (one paragraph) summary of Completion Report.

C. Purpose

1. Detailed description of problem or impediment and priority that the project addressed.
2. Objectives of the project.

D. Approach/Methods

1. Detailed description of the work that was performed.
2. Project management: List individuals and/or organizations actually performing the work and how it was done.

E. Findings/Results

Actual accomplishments and findings. Include results and any analyses that were conducted including any descriptive tables and/or figures.

F. Evaluation/Discussion

1. Describe the extent to which the project goals and objectives were attained. This description should address the following:
   i. Were the goals and objectives attained? How? If not, why?
   ii. Were modifications made to the goals and objectives? If so, explain.
   iii. If significant problems developed which resulted in less than satisfactory or negative results, they should be discussed.
   iv. Description of need, if any, for additional work.
   v. Provide management recommendations if appropriate.

2. Dissemination of project results:
   i. Explain, in detail, how the projects results have been, and will be, disseminated.

G. Acknowledgments

If considering submission to a peer-reviewed journal, please include the following:
This project received funding under [subaward number] from the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission in cooperation with NOAA Fisheries Service. The statements, findings, conclusions, and recommendations are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission or NOAA Fisheries.

Attachment J
Quarterly Subaward Checklist
For Fixed Cost Subawards

Agency: _____

Subaward Number: _____

Responsible Person: _____

Signature: _____

Time Period Covered: _____

Do you have a subaward (with all approved amendments) and approved plan and budget for current year? _____

Do you have the appropriate staffing to accomplish the tasks identified in the subaward? _____

Do you have adequate facilities to accomplish the tasks identified in the subaward? _____

Are expenditures for the subaward on target with the approved budget? _____

Are the project activities and services addressing and meeting the identified goals and objectives of the subaward? _____

Do you have adequate evaluation procedures to ensure appropriate quality control/ quality assurances are applied to the work being conducted? _____

Do you have prior approval for any equipment purchases? _____

(*Attach invoice copies or receipts of any equipment purchases*)

Additional information:

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Attachment K

Invoice Monitoring Guide

For review of subaward invoices

1. Are the expenses allowable per the subaward and the prime award?
2. Are the invoiced expenses included in the subaward budget? The subrecipient should only invoice for approved expenses per the subaward or ask for approval of budget changes when necessary to modify the original terms/budget.
3. Are the expenses in the agreement consistent with the programmatic plan or work completed to date? The expenses invoiced should agree with the work incurred.
4. Program Manager's signature should be on the subrecipient invoice.
5. Were all the expenses incurred within the subaward start and end dates?
6. Are the cumulative expenses within the overall approved budget amount? Ensure that subrecipients are **not** invoicing for amounts **over** the approved budget.
7. Are the invoice expenses per budget category in agreement with the budgeted amount per line item category?
8. Do expenses appear to be based on actual expenses? Cost reimbursable subawards require invoicing based on actual expenses only?
9. Does the invoice total correctly?
10. Are the indirect costs calculated correctly with the correct and agreed upon rate for the sub recipient? Ensure the calculated indirect costs agrees with the methodology in the budget and only includes Modified Total Direct Cost base expenses that can accrue indirect costs.
11. Does the invoice have an **institutional official signature** **and** contain the following statement: "I certify that all expenditures reported (or payment requested) are for appropriate purposes and in accordance with the provisions of the application and award documents."

IF THERE ARE QUESTIONS ON THE INVOICES, DO NOT APPROVE FOR PAYMENT UNTIL ALL ITEMS ARE APPROPRIATELY RESOLVED.

Attachment L
Subrecipient Monitoring Record

To maintain a record of subrecipient monitoring actions

GSMFC

Program Manager _____

Fund # _____

Subaward #_____

Period of Performance_____

Subrecipient

Subrecipient Agency_____

Subrecipient PI_____

Subrecipient Contact _____

Project Invoice Frequency: ____ Monthly
____ Quarterly

Scheduled Reporting Dates (based on the terms of the award)

DATE	COMMENTS

Informal Progress Reports

DATE	METHOD	COMMENTS

Other Communication

DATE	METHOD	COMMENTS

Attachment M
Separation of Duties

Financial Administrative Assistant	Administrative Officer	Accountant	Executive Director
Payroll			
Reviews and tallies timesheets	Processes payroll in the GSMFC software	Reviews and approves GL accounts	Approves timesheets and authorizes payment
Cash Management			
Makes deposits to bank and performs bank reconciliation	Records expenses in the GSMFC software and approve bank transactions	Records deposits and expenses in the GSMFC software and approve bank transactions	Reviews and approves bank reconciliation
Cash Receipt			
Makes cash deposits to bank	Notarizes state member dues invoices	Generate state member dues invoices and record cash receipts	Signs state member dues invoices
Cash Disbursement			
Codes invoices	Records and prepares payment	Records and prepares payment	Reviews and authorizes payment
Purchasing			
Receives purchase requests and generates purchase order	Records and prepares payment	Review and approve GL accounts and perform annual inventory	Reviews and authorizes payment

GULF STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION
2404 GOVERNMENT ST
OCEAN SPRINGS, MS 39564
www.gsmfc.org

CHARLES H. LYLES/LYLES-SIMPSON AWARD RECIPIENTS

October 2022	Thomas McIlwain – Mississippi
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

Fall 2022 IJF Activities

Red Drum Management Profile

The Red Drum TTF met for their final meeting in May 2022 in Pensacola, Florida, to go through most of the final drafts of the various sections. The IJF staff began the final edits and formatting on most of the document over the summer. A few items remained outstanding but have since been completed. The draft was provided to the TCC for their review and the Profile was presented at their meeting. Their final approval is anticipated before the end of this year.

Mangrove Snapper Management Profile

The Mangrove TTF has been identified and staff has begun setting up the introductory meeting. Staff has already begun searching the literature and available data in advance of the group beginning the management profile. The meeting will be scheduled after the first of the year.

Other Activities

Tripletail Genetics

Dr. Saillant (USM) has sequenced over 650 Tripletail fin clips from seven U.S. states in the Gulf and South Atlantic as well as ten other countries (Australia, Suriname, Brazil, Peru, Malaysia, Senegal, Canary Islands, Mozambique, Turkey, and Benin). He presented the results to the TCC this week. A publication is anticipated as a result of this work sometime in the future. This completes the genetics work which was started in December of 2015.

Acoustic Tagging

The acoustic tagging of Tripletail in Mississippi Sound and the Florida Keys continues. A sampling trip was made to Isla Morada, Florida in February 2022 and 22 tags were deployed. Additional tags have been deployed in the northern Gulf over this summer. The IJF coordinator has set up several trips that included tagging in Mobile Bay, Mississippi Sound, and the Louisiana Marsh. In addition, both GCRL and the MS DMR have been actively searching for Tripletail for different projects but have helped tag the fish that they couldn't use for their work. These tags range in life from four to seven years and should aid in understanding the migration patterns of Tripletail in the Gulf. Discussions have begun to look at potentially deploying receivers in other states' waters to supplement arrays in 2023.

Regional Flounder Symposium

The Commission, in collaboration with Drs. Midway and Dance at LSU/LA Sea Grant, hosted a symposium on flounder issues in the Gulf and South Atlantic regions shortly after our March Commission meeting. It was well attended with close to 90 people from each state in the Gulf and South Atlantic attending over the two days to discuss what might be going on with flounder and develop a plan to address the population declines moving forward. Midway, Dance, and several presenters are currently developing a synthesis paper from the symposium in hopes of publishing it for an even larger audience. The attendees all think a symposium like this should happen again in a few years to follow up.

IJF SuRF (Supplemental Research Funds) Program

The Commission has received proposals for FY2023 from each state agency to continue or begin new projects in the SuRF program and they are currently with the SERO under review. Each state will have $232,000 to use for otherwise unfunded IJ related work. Staff should have the final reviews and approvals for the 2023 awards from the SERO shortly. The current 2022 funding of $198,000 for each state continues to support projects related to Blue Crab, Southern Flounder, and oysters as well as general commercial and recreational data collection on IJ species. These awards run through January 2023.

Aquaculture Fall 2022 Update

Pilot Projects

The latest round of Pilot Projects (2022) was released as an RFP this past summer and a total of 19 projects was received. The Commission combined two years of funding for Pilots resulting in $1.14M and funded nine projects.

FY2022 Gulf of Mexico Marine Aquaculture Pilot Projects Grants	
Applicant	**Project Title**
Florida Institute of Technology	Intensive practical training of women in Integrative Multi-Trophic Aquaculture: Towards a sustained mariculture workforce in Puerto Rico
Live Advantage Bait LLC	Advancement of Atlantic Croaker (*Micropogonias undulatus*) aquaculture
Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services	Develop education and outreach tools, strategies or initiatives aimed at improving stakeholder understanding and perceptions of marine aquaculture
IFAS, University of Florida	Reevaluating co-culture of Eastern Oysters with sea urchins using hatchery-produced juveniles
Gulf Offshore Research Institute	Advancing the viability of oil rig-associated aquaculture
University of Miami – RSMAS	Advancing commercial-scale sustainable marine aquaculture: Identification and assessment of native seaweed species for aquaculture in the Gulf of Mexico and U.S. Caribbean Regions
IFAS, University of Florida	Development of oyster larval cryopreservation technology for commercial seed production
University of Southern Mississippi	Aquaculture of the Tripletail *Lobotes surinamensis*, a prime candidate for marine aquaculture in the U.S.
University of Southern Mississippi	Automated marine mammal monitoring system for Manna fish farms Gulf of Mexico

Integrated Multi-Trophic Aquaculture (IMTA)

Additional funds were provided to the Commission through NOAA in 2021 for development of an Integrated Multi-Trophic Aquaculture (IMTA) demonstration project to culture native species of finfish, bivalve mollusks, and macroalgae in our region's state waters. The Dauphin Island Sea Lab, in collaboration with the USM, MS/AL Seagrant, and the University of New Hampshire, has identified a potential site in Alabama state waters south of Fort Morgan to place one AquaFort platform. There continues to be a number of planning and coordination meetings underway and the team has held a public workshop as well as presented to a number of local and regional stakeholder groups to provide information on the system and the value of the product potential using this technology. Again, this is a demonstration project but will have a harvested product for local market as well as education and outreach. The project will not begin putting gear in the water until all the necessary permits are in place and all environmental reviews are completed. The current timeline has their hydrographic survey data processing, final site selection, and completion of their environmental sampling plan ready by the end of October. At that time, they can begin the environmental sampling at the site and NOAA will begin the environmental assessment. It is expected that a second year of funding would be made available beginning in January in anticipation of construction and deployment in 2023.

Gulf Oyster Consortia

The Oyster Consortia is in the third year of their project on oyster breeding and genetic selection for

broodstock in the Gulf. The Consortia will continue to cross founder lines from various regions and growout the crosses they have already completed. In addition, the repository of frozen germplasm from the founder broodstocks will continue with inclusion of successive generations. Stored genetic material will be used to preserve original oyster populations as well as for selection in future crosses.

2023 Pilots

The Commission, along with the Pacific States Commission, released the RFP for the next round of available funds for pilots on October 1. A total of $530,828 will be available. The 2023 research priorities are the same as the previous awards and include native marine species such as shellfish, macroalgae, and finfish. Proposals are expected no later than Monday, October 31. Reviewers are currently being enlisted and projects should be announced before the end of the year.

Southeast Area Monitoring and Assessment Program (SEAMAP)
October 2022

The Oregon II was launched in 1967 and has been surveying the Gulf of Mexico ever since. The Oregon II was scheduled to go into the shipyard earlier this year for repairs. These repairs were more extensive than originally planned and the Oregon II was not available for the Spring Plankton Survey, which was cancelled. The Summer Shrimp/Groundfish Survey was impacted also, and NOAA Fisheries did not sample during their normal sampling period this summer. The Summer Shrimp/Groundfish Survey began June 4 and finished August 22. SEAMAP was able to collect 248 stations of the 350 originally scheduled stations.

The Bottom Longline Work Group, Plankton Work Group, and Shrimp/Groundfish Work Group met in April to review their respective operations manuals and review sampling protocols and procedures before beginning 2022 sampling.

The Bottom Longline Survey recently completed sampling with Mississippi, Alabama, Louisiana, and Texas participating. This survey targets shark and finfish species within the shallow waters of the north central Gulf of Mexico. The objectives of the survey are to collect information on coastal shark and adult finfish abundances and distribution with a 1-mile longline and also to collect environmental data. Approximately 171 stations were sampled in 3-10 m of water from April-September this year.

The SEAMAP Vertical Line Survey is currently being conducted off Alabama and Texas. One hundred twenty stations are scheduled to be sampled in 2022. The vertical line data were submitted to the Red Snapper SEDAR Workshop for evaluation prior to the upcoming Red Snapper Stock Assessment. Although the panelists felt the analyses were sound, there were several concerns with indices developed using data from the Vertical Line Survey (analyses included data from other states collected using ancillary funds). The most significant concern was strong temporal variability in sampling intensity, spatial coverage in sampling effort, and the types of habitats sampled that were not able to be adequately accounted for in the statistical models conducted. Concerns were also raised regarding whether observed indices were correlated with true site abundance due to gear saturation and the influence of other species. Due to these issues, and the fact that the reef fish video survey provided data on the same size of Red Snapper collected in the vertical line survey, the panel determined that indices of abundance from the Vertical Line Survey were not suitable for assessment. As this is primarily a Red Snapper survey (90%+ of the catch is Red Snapper), the Subcommittee has decided to discontinue this survey at the end of 2022. Tentatively, funds will be used for state partners to participate in the Reef Fish Survey.

The Commission continues to manage SEAMAP data and distribute the data to interested parties. The Commission has fulfilled seven SEAMAP data requests since March. The various SEAMAP databases were download 130 times since March.

In the last year, SEAMAP data from the Gulf have been submitted for use in SEDAR stock assessments for Hammerhead Sharks, Spanish Mackerel, Scamp, Red Snapper and Gray Snapper.

CARES Act 2.0
October 2022

The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 was signed into law on December 27, 2020. The Act provided an additional $300 million for fisheries disaster assistance. The funding was intended to respond to fishery related COVID-19 impacts previously authorized under section 12005 of the CARES Act. As previously specified in the CARES Act, fishery participants must have incurred an economic revenue loss greater than 35 percent as compared to the prior 5-year average revenue to be eligible for funding. The four Gulf states received a total of over $26 million to be distributed by September 30, 2021. The Commission refers to this new program as CARES Act 2.0.

Texas	$7,795,841
Louisiana	$12,477,165
Mississippi	$3,000,000
Alabama	$3,000,000
Total	$26,273,006

All states besides Texas expended their funds on direct payments and have not had any activity since the March Commission meeting.

In January 2022, Texas decided to give applicants who had their original CARES Act application denied a second chance to qualify for CARES Act 2.0 funds. During the initial CARES Act application period, some applicants did not provide all qualifying documentation or missed deadlines for submitting required documentation. Texas decided to give these applicants a second chance to receive funding if they provided the needed documentation.

Letters of this funding opportunity were sent out by certified mail on February 1, 2022, and applicants were given 14 business days to submit required documents. In all, 85 applicants qualified for this second chance and were sent letters. Texas gave applicants until February 21st to notify them of an appeal. Most appeals consisted of tax documents to prove income, especially for 2020, which in many cases was suspiciously low in applications vs trip ticket landings data. Overall, Texas received 23 appeals, of which 12 were approved for funding. On April 26, 2022, the Commission sent out 12 payments totaling $1,569,590.13 effectively paying off all Texas applicants that qualified for funding.

After direct payments, Texas had $5,019,028.26 remaining for projects. Texas proposed to use $1,591,975 for a seafood marketing campaign designed by the Texas Department of Agriculture. The seafood media campaign would promote, expand, and elevate the consumption of Texas Gulf seafood with the goal to unite, market and create consumer awareness for Lone Star shrimp, blue crab, fish, and oysters. This plan was approved in April 2022.

Contractors for Texas began working on the seafood media campaign in April. The contractors attended meetings with the Texas Department of Agriculture and Texas Sea Grant to discuss the campaign, brainstorm ideas, develop the creative briefing presentation, and develop the campaign framework and logo concept. So far, the ads have been placed on TexasMonthly.com, on

Facebook and Instagram, in Texas Highway magazine, in edible Rio Grande Valley magazine, and AgMag magazine.

Texas also proposed to use $1.9 million to restore 52.5 acres of oyster reefs and approximately $1.5 million for the Texas commercial oyster boat license buyback program. The oyster restoration plan was approved in April 2022 also and involves planting cultch material on preapproved restoration sites in Galveston Bay and Matagorda Bay.

Sport Fish Restoration Program Update

Fall 2022

- The program Coordinator will host a meeting of the TCC's Artificial Reef Subcommittee on November 8th – 9th in Alabama.

- Gulf Artificial Reef Monitoring and Assessment Program (GARMAP) Pilot Study: 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 is employing water quality monitoring multiparameter datasondes at several offshore sites. These datasondes are being deployed on the bottom and utilize an acoustic release system so there is 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 deployed the first three units in October of 2021 on three of Mississippi's Fish Havens (Cat Island, FH 9/11, and FH 10). In December 2021, the Coordinator was able to retrieve the units utilizing the acoustic releases, change out the datasondes, and redeploy the units in the same location. This process was repeated in March, June, and September of this year. Over this time, the units all functioned as planed and the anti-fouling modifications worked to keep all probes clean and the area around the datasonde clear of biofouling. A total of 36,884 data records where collected over these deployments (Cat Island = 13,525, FH 9/11 = 12,671, and FH 10 = 10,688). All the data has been added to the GARMAP database and website by the GSMFC's System Administrator where it is available to the public. Following the successful pilot test of this gear at these three sites, the Coordinator purchased the equipment and assembled three more units to expand this water quality monitoring effort. The long-term goal of GARMAP 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.

- 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

Fall 2022

- The Program Coordinator set up and hosted the spring Gulf and South Atlantic Regional Panel (GSARP) meeting on June 28th – 29th in Alabama.

- The Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force's (ANSTF) spring meeting was held virtually on May 24th – 26th.

- Region 4 USFWS AIS Small Grants Program: Over the last seven years of this program, it has been able to fund 43 projects totaling over $1,000,000. In 2021, 4 projects were selected for funding totaling $177,693.
  - USGS - Leveraging habitat suitability modeling to inform management of nonnative fishes in a changing climate.
  - UF - A horizon scan to collaboratively identify invasive species threats to the islands of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.
  - UT and NCSU - Invasive armored catfish (*Pterygoplicthys* spp.) and Midas Cichlid (*Amphilophus* spp.) in Puerto Rico rivers: Evaluations of invasion extent and efficacy of a physical control method.
  - MSU - Integrating chemical and biological controls for the aquatic weed *Alternanthera philoxeroides* (alligatorweed).

  The Program Coordinator worked with FWS regional staff on the RFP for the 2022 funding opportunity; however, after FWS assessed their available budget, it was determined that there was not sufficient funding available to distribute the RFP this year. The Program Coordinator will continue to work with FWS staff, and will distribute a new RFP as soon as sufficient funding is available.

- 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. The trunks have been utilized for 1,667 days since they were made available to the public in the summer of 2012. Georgia DNR utilized the trunks to educate 4,700 students and adults about the impacts of ANS in the first six months of this year.

- The Program Coordinator is chairing the ANSTF's Prevention Subcommittee which is tasked with addressing five key outputs of the new ANSTF Strategic Plan.

- The fall GSARP meeting will be held in New Orleans, LA on November 30th – December 1st.

- The fall ANSTF meeting will be held in Falls Church, VA on January 11th – 12th, 2023.

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.

PROPOSED FUNDING ACTIVITIES IN 2023 FIN COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT

Coordination and Administration of FIN Activities $212,887

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. This activity pertains to all modules of the program.

Collecting, Managing and Disseminating Marine Recreational Fisheries Data $4,621,115

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 and Texas Parks and Wildlife red snapper sampling. 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 utilizing electronic tablets for data collection in the field. 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. This activity pertains to the Recreational Catch/Effort Module for all modes of FIN.

Operations of FIN Data Management System $230,427

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, ComFIN Programmer and part-time Metadata Coordinator. Responsibilities include further development of data modules structures; routine loading of Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida commercial catch data, Gulf biological data, Gulf recreational data; enter and maintain the metadata records into the InPort system and maintenance of DMS. This is a continuation of an activity from the previous year. This activity pertains to the Data Management Module of FIN.

Trip Ticket Program Development and Operation $1,716,519

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 Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama to operate their trip ticket programs. Funding support is also being provided to support maintenance costs for barcode scanner software for Florida. Full implementation of trip tickets in all five Gulf States allows for a complete census of all commercial fisheries landings in the Gulf of Mexico. In addition, it provides funding for a contractor to implement and operate an electronic trip ticket reporting program that allows for a more efficient means for dealers to report the necessary data. This activity pertains to the Commercial Catch/Effort Module of FIN.

Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Surveys $161,930

This task will provide support for MRIP certified state specialized surveys that are implemented to improve precision and accuracy of reef fish landings and effort estimates in the Gulf of Mexico. Currently Alabama Snapper Check has requested support through this funding that was provided by the Modernizing Recreational Fisheries Management Act. The priority is to support state survey efforts and develop and improve electronic reporting tools used to collect data from anglers. Additional funding is being allocated to support research projects that will help determine sources of non-sampling error in state and federal recreational landings and effort surveys. This activity pertains to the Recreational Catch/Effort Module for all modes of FIN.

Southeast For-Hire Integrated Electronic Reporting Program ***TBD***

This task will provide support for a dockside validation survey of federally permitted for-hire captains that are reporting electronic logbook data to NOAA Fisheries SERO. Currently only $100k of new funding has been provided by NOAA Fisheries to support the validation survey component. GulfFIN expects to have some underspending from FY2022 but additional new money will be needed to fully fund this survey component. This activity pertains to the Recreational Catch/Effort Module for all modes of FIN.

GRAND TOTAL **$6,942,878**

SOUTHEAST FOR-HIRE INTEGRATED ELECTRONIC REPORTING PROGRAM (SEFHIER)

In 2021 NOAA Fisheries began implementation of a mandatory electronic logbook program for the federally permitted for-hire sector in the Gulf of Mexico. Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission is assisting with the implementation of a dockside validation survey that will provide data from all five Gulf states to NOAA Fisheries in support of the mandatory electronic logbook program (SEFHER) for federally permitted for-hire vessels in the Gulf of Mexico. Data collection on the dockside validation survey was initially delayed by necessary Paperwork Reduction Act approvals and development of an electronic application needed for data collection. Once completed the field work started in October 2021 and has been implemented in all 5 Gulf states.

The validation survey collects trip level details from the captain or mate on catch and effort and also collects some biostatistical information like fish lengths and weights. Samplers use electronic tablets to administer the survey designed by NOAA Fisheries and they upload data directly to GSMFC servers. Data is made available to GSMFC within 48 hours of data collection. Data are run through quality control processes and then provided to NOAA Fisheries monthly. NOAA Fisheries will eventually match validation survey data with electronic logbook data to assess reporting accuracy from the logbook reports.

Currently in 2022 state surveyors have completed 1,129 sample days collecting 1,658 vessel interviews. States have been actively working with NOAA Fisheries and GSMFC staff to refine the site selection process and improve the efficiency of the survey. There have been struggles at the dock as some constituents are not in favor of this reporting survey but overall the dockside survey is working well. If this is to continue work will need to begin on a transition plan that will explain the benchmarking period for SEFHIER data collection and provide clarity on how for-hire data collection will be accomplish if/when SEFHIER becomes the official method for generating estimates of catch and effort for the federally permitted for-hire sector.

Fisheries Restoration Program Update – October 2022

Reduction of Post-release Mortality from Barotrauma in Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Recreational Fisheries

The Program Coordinator continues to collaborate with NOAA Fisheries, FL Sea Grant, members of the project management team (PMT), and state resource management agency leads to work through the development and implementation stages of the project, which focuses on reducing post-release mortality from barotrauma in Gulf of Mexico recreational reef fish fisheries. This project is also known as the Return Em' Right program. Major achievements since the last update are as follows:

- Human Dimensions Survey: In coordination with Southwick Associates (SA) and assistance from state agencies within the Gulf (e.g. FWC, ADCNR, MDMR, LDWF, and TPWD), Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission (GSMFC) developed and administered the first of a series of Gulf-wide surveys of recreational reef fish anglers. The goal of the first survey was to establish a baseline of information to better understand anglers' knowledge, behaviors, attitudes toward, and perceptions regarding best handling and release practices for reef fish in the Gulf of Mexico. The results of the baseline survey were finalized and released to the public in August of 2022 with a supporting fact sheet. As the final part of the series of surveys, a follow-up survey will be administered in 2024 to measure changes from the baseline resulting from continued outreach and education efforts. For more information and to read the full baseline report, please visit GSMFC's website at https://www.gsmfc.org/pubs.php?s=FRP.

- Research: GSMFC has worked closely with the PMT to select four collaborative studies focusing on evaluating the effects of descending devices on reducing post-release mortality in caught-and-released reef fish. These studies have a broad geographic range, spanning the Gulf from the offshore waters of Texas to Florida, and focus on a variety of reef fish identified by scientists and managers as priority species for management (e.g. red snapper, greater amberjack, grey triggerfish, and gag). Currently, all four studies are underway in the field collecting fishery-independent and fishery-dependent data that will help fill important data gaps related to post-release mortality and depredation of reef fish in the Gulf.

- Monitoring: Agreements were finalized in April/May 2022 for GSMFC to help support the expansion of data collection through standardized at-sea observer programs in the Gulf. FWC, ADCNR, and MDMR are each administering at-sea observer programs, and providing staff and resources to observe and record fishery-dependent data from participating for-hire vessels in their respective states. These programs are important to understanding changes in trends in the fishery, and providing vital information on size, release condition, release method, and mortality for recreational discards, which can be used to estimate restoration benefits and potentially enhance stock assessments.

  The aforementioned state agencies partners have also added questions to their state reef fish validation surveys. These questions will collect information from private recreational anglers on rate of use of fish descending devices and venting tools, total number of fish released alive by species and release method, and average depth of fishing during their fishing trip.

Additionally, the Program Coordinator has been coordinating with NOAA to add questions to the Southeast Region Headboat Survey to capture fields related to total number of fishes released using venting and descending tools. GSMFC anticipates having agreements in place to begin collecting these data fields by January 1, 2023.

- Outreach and Education/Gear Distribution: GSMFC's Program Coordinator continues working closely with Florida Sea Grant, who is leading the outreach and education and gear distribution efforts for the Return Em' Right program. To-date, over 10,000 Gulf reef fish anglers have completed the online training course to learn about barotrauma and best release practices. Eligible anglers who complete the training receive a free pre-rigged standard Seaqualizer descending device with a 3-pound weight attached, as well as a SeaYaLater backup descending device. Over 10,000 packages of gear have been distributed.

- Next steps: The Program Coordinator will continue working with state and federal partners to expand and make improvements to data collection with respect to the use of descending devices in the recreational reef fish fishery, provide oversight for collaborative studies, and explore opportunities and provide support for outreach and education.

All of this work would not be possible without the support and resources of GSMFC's state and federal partners. We are grateful for these partnerships, and look forward to continuing to collaborate to reach our shared goals to improve fisheries in the Gulf. For more up-to-date project details and 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, please go to the following URL: https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/feature-story/noaa-and-gulf-states-marine-fisheries-commission-partner-restore-recreational-fish.

To visit the Return 'Em Right website to learn more about our outreach and education efforts, or for reef fish anglers interested in completing training on barotrauma and best release practices to receive free gear, you may go to: https://returnemright.org/.

Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the Year Ended December 31, 2021

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Board of Commissioners
Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission
Ocean Springs, Mississippi

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying modified cash basis financial statements of Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission as of and for the year ended December 31, 2021, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express opinions on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of

significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

Opinions

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective modified cash basis financial position, the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission, as of December 31, 2021, and the respective changes in modified cash basis financial position, and, where applicable, cash flows thereof for the year then ended in accordance with the modified cash basis of accounting described in Note A.

Basis of Accounting

We draw attention to Note A of the financial statements, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial statements are prepared on the modified cash basis of accounting, which is a basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Our opinion is not modified with respect to this matter.

Other Matters

Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the management's discussion and analysis and budgetary comparison information, on pages 6-9 and 30-31 be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

Other Information

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission' basic financial statements. The schedule of expenditures of federal awards is presented for purposes of additional analysis as required by Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 200, Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards, and is also not a required part of the basic financial statements.

The schedule of expenditures of federal awards is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relate directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the

audit of the basic financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements or to the basic financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the schedule of expenditures of federal awards is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

Other Reporting Required by *Government Auditing Standards*

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated July 1, 2022, on our consideration of Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission' internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission' internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Pascagoula, Mississippi
July 1, 2022

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION & ANALYSIS

Our discussion and analysis of Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission financial performance provides an overview of the Commission's financial activities for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2021. Please read it in conjunction with the Commission's financial statements, which begin on page 10.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission's net assets decreased a total of $55,942 during the current year, compared to a decrease of $279,160 in the prior year. The decrease is primarily due to a increases in professional services in CARES act grant.

During the year, the Commission had expenses of $53,313,810, which represents a 534% increase over the prior year. Depreciation expense of $49,772 was recorded in the current year.

Operating revenues were $53,201,111 from all sources, compared to $9,713,915 for the previous year. The Commission's cash flows were negative in the amount of $74,387.

USING THIS ANNUAL REPORT

Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission is a quasi-governmental corporation governed by a 15-member board. The Commission has no reportable component units. The Commission's basic financial statements is comprised of three components: 1) the commission-wide financial statements, 2) governmental fund financial statements, and 3) notes to the financial statements. Other supplementary information in addition to the basic financial statements are included in this report.

One of the most important questions asked about the Commission's finances is, "Is the Commission as a whole better off or worse as a result of the year's activities?" The Statement of Net Position – Modified Cash Basis and the Statement of Activities – Modified Cash Basis (commission-wide statements) report information about the Commission as a whole and about its activities in a way that helps answer this question. These statements include all commission activity. All assets and liabilities are presented using the modified cash basis of accounting. The current year's revenues and expenses are recognized when cash is received or paid.

The primary purpose of these statements is to report the changes in the Commission's total net assets. You can think of the Commission's net assets – the difference between assets and liabilities – as one way to measure the Commission's financial health, or financial position. Over time, increases or decreases in the Commission's net assets are one indicator of whether its financial health is improving or deteriorating. Net assets decreased $55,942 in the current year. Of the total net assets of $944,192, $175,496 or 19% are invested in net assets. The $175,496 includes all capital assets less any outstanding debt used to acquire said assets. Capital assets decreased by $43,906 in the year 2021, with

accumulated depreciation increasing $43,906. Fixed assets are used by the Commission as they conduct their programs. Long-term debt is related to capital assets. As of December 31, 2021, the Commission had $23,703 in debt, with $15,624 as the current portion.

The second component of the Commission's basic financial statements are the governmental fund statements. The fund financial statements provide information about the Commission's major funds. These funds are used to track specific funding and spending sources. These fund financial statements show each fund's cash flows in and out and whether there is a balance left at year end for future spending. These funds are reported on the cash basis of accounting. The Commission has a general fund as well as multiple special revenue funds.

The third component of the Commission's basic financial statements are the notes to the financial statements. These notes provide additional details to support data provided in the basic financial statements. The notes to the financial statements are a required part of the basic financial statements.

CONDENSED COMPARATIVE FINANCIAL INFORMATION

The following condensed financial statements are representations of the commission-wide financial statements found in the report and form the basis for the following discussion of Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission's financial condition.

Table 1
Condensed Statement of Net Position - Modified Cash Basis

	2021	2020
Current Assets	$ 384,680	$ 459,067
Non-Current Assets		
Post Employment Health Plan		
Investment Account	369,977	318,348
Capital Assets	214,823	258,729
Total Non-Current Assets	584,800	577,077
Total Assets	969,480	1,036,144
Current Liabilities	17,209	12,308
Non-Current Liabilities	8,079	23,702
Total Liabilities	25,288	36,010
Net Position		
Invested in Capital Assets	175,496	220,090
Unrestricted Net Assets	768,696	780,044
Total Net Position	$ 944,192	$ 1,000,134

Table 2
Condensed Statements of Activities - Modified Cash Basis

	2021	2020
Revenue	$ 53,257,868	$ 9,713,915
Expenses	(53,313,810)	(9,993,075)
Change in Net Assets	$ (55,942)	$ (279,160)
Net Position, Beginning	1,000,134	1,279,294
Net Position, Ending	$ 944,192	$ 1,000,134

Table 3

Changes in Revenue from All Sources

	2021	2020	Difference	Change
General Revenues				
Member State Appropriation	$ 112,500	$ 90,000	$ 22,500	25.00%
Council Activities	45,000	45,000	-	0.00%
Other Income	150	350	(200)	-57.14%
Interest Income	265	5,441	(5,176)	-95.13%
Dividend Income	26,919	10,760	16,159	150.18%
Post Employment Health Plan Revenue	7,867	7,147	720	10.07%
Registration Fees	-	6,894	(6,894)	-100.00%
Realized/Unrealized Gain (Loss) on Investments	14,186	32,232	(18,046)	-55.99%
Gain (Loss) on Sale of Assets	7,370	3,106	4,264	100.00%
Program Revenues				
Collection & Dissemation of Recreational & Commercial Fisheries Information Network	5,604,276	4,788,348	815,928	17.04%
Biological Sampling & Head Boat Sampling	1,080,930	1,333,225	(252,295)	-18.92%
Unallied Science Programs	1,476,573	1,069,898	406,675	38.01%
Interjurisdictional Fisheries Management	866,337	582,113	284,224	48.83%
Coordination of Recreational Fisheries Programs	188,626	187,680	946	0.50%
Collection & Dissemation of Fishery-Independent Data & Information	377,935	251,853	126,082	50.06%
SEAMAP Supplemental	65,965	67,907	(1,942)	-2.86%
Multiplier/Net Gains	-	60,500	(60,500)	100.00%
Fisheries Restoration Project	139,291	1,045,848	(906,557)	100.00%
CARES Act Recovery	43,169,984	24,340	43,145,644	100.00%
Study of Aquatic Nuisances	73,694	101,273	(27,579)	-27.23%
	$ 53,257,868	$ 9,713,915	$ 43,543,953	448.26%

BUDGETARY HIGHLIGHTS

The Commission prepares an annual budget on the cash basis of accounting. This budget reflects expected sources of revenues and expenses as well as anticipated capital expenditures. Revenues and expenditures are generally consistent with the budgeted amounts. Many of the variances are due to the fact that COVID-19 caused shutdowns and delays. With grant spending delayed due to program shutdowns, many of the expenses that would normally allocate to programs as indirect expenses were shifted to the general fund. Another source of variance is for interest income, dividend income, gain(loss) on investments, etc, are not included in the budget, but are received causing a variance.

ECONOMIC EXPECTATIONS

The main sources of income for the Commission are derived from government grant funds. The Commission expects to maintain or increase current funding and look for opportunities to grow their fisheries management projects. In 2020, the Commission was awarded $28,655,574 in CARES Act funding. This program is due to increase activity in 2021.

REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

This financial report is designed to provide a general overview of the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission's finances for all those with an interest in the Commission's finances. Questions concerning any of the information in this report or the requests for additional information should be addressed to the Senior Accountant, Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission, 2404 Government Street, Ocean Springs, Mississippi 39564.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

GULF STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION
STATEMENT OF NET POSITION – MODIFIED CASH BASIS
December 31, 2021

ASSETS	GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES
Current Assets	
Cash & Cash Equivalents	$ 384,680
Total Current Assets	384,680
Non-Current Assets	
Post Employment Health Plan Investment Account	369,977
Capital Assets, Net of Accumulated Depreciation	214,823
Total Non-Current Assets	584,800
Total Assets	$ 969,480
LIABILITIES	
Payroll Liabilities	$ 1,182
Section 125 Cafeteria Plan Payable	403
Current Debt, due within one year	15,624
Total Current Liabilities	17,209
Long term Debt	8,079
Total Non-Current Liabilities	8,079
Total Liabilities	25,288
NET POSITION	
Net investment in Capital Assets	175,496
Unrestricted net position	768,696
Total Net Position	$ 944,192

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

GULF STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION
STATEMENT OF ACTIVTIES – MODIFIED CASH BASIS
December 31, 2021

	Expenses	Charges for Services	Operating Grants and Contributions	Net (Expense) Revenue and Change in Net Position Governmental Activities
FUNCTIONS/PROGRAMS				
Primary Government:				
Programs				
Collection & Dissemination of Commercial & Recreational Fisheries Information	$ 5,588,398	$ -	$ 5,604,276	$ 15,878
Biological Sampling & Head Boat Sampling	1,107,580	-	1,080,930	(26,650)
Unallied Science Programs	1,463,864	-	1,476,573	12,709
Interjurisdictional Fisheries Management	890,696	-	866,337	(24,359)
Coordination of Recreational Fisheries Programs	188,427	-	188,626	199
Collection & Dissemination of Fishery-Independent Data & Information -SEAMAP	401,816	-	377,935	(23,881)
SEAMAP Supplemental	74,228	-	65,965	(8,263)
Multiplier/Net Gains	28,821	-	-	(28,821)
CARES Act Recovery	43,191,725	-	43,169,984	(21,741)
Fishery Restoration Project	168,077	-	139,291	(28,786)
Study of Aquatic Nuisances	77,265	-	73,694	(3,571)
Total	53,180,897	-	53,043,611	(137,286)
GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE				
Local Administration	88,195	-	112,500	24,305
Council Activities	44,718	-	45,000	282
Total	132,913	-	157,500	24,587
Total Primary Government	$53,313,810	$ -	$ 53,201,111	(112,699)
GENERAL REVENUES (LOSSES)				
Other Income			150	150
Post Employment Health Plan Revenue			7,867	7,867
Interest Income			265	265
Dividend Income			26,919	26,919
Realized & Unrealized Gain (Loss) on Investments			14,186	14,186
Gain on the Sale of Assets			7,370	7,370
Total General Revenues (Losses)				56,757
CHANGE IN NET POSITION				(55,942)
Total net position, beginning				1,000,134
Total net position, ending				$ 944,192

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

GULF STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION
STATEMENT OF ASSETS, LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES – CASH BASIS
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
December 31, 2021

		Special Revenue Funds					
	General Fund	RECFIN/ COMFIN Fund	Head Boat Biological and Sampling Fund	Unallied Science Fund	CARES Act Fund	Other Funds	Total Governmental Funds
ASSETS							
Current Assets							
Cash & Cash Equivalents	$ 361,118	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 23,562	$ -	$ 384,680
Total Current Assets	361,118	-	-	-	23,562	-	384,680
Non-Current Assets							
Post Employment Health Plan Investment Account	369,977	-	-	-	-	-	369,977
Total Non-Current Assets	369,977	-	-	-	-	-	369,977
Total Assets	$ 731,095	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 23,562	$ -	$ 754,657
LIABILITIES							
Payroll Liabilities	$ 1,182	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 1,182
Section 125 Cafeteria Plan Payable	403	-	-	-	-	-	403
Total Liabilities	1,585	-	-	-	-	-	1,585
NET POSITION							
Fund balance - assigned for post employment health plan	369,977	-	-	-	-	-	369,977
Fund balance - unassigned	359,533	-	-	-	23,562	-	383,095
Total Fund Balance	729,510	-	-	-	23,562	-	753,072
Total Liabilities and and Fund Balances	$ 731,095	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 23,562	$ -	$ 754,657

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

GULF STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION
RECONCILIATION OF THE GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
STATEMENT OF ASSETS, LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES – CASH BASIS
TO THE STATEMENT OF NET POSITION – MODIFIED CASH BASIS
December 31, 2021

Total fund balances - governmental funds		
Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of net position - modified cash basis are different because:	$	753,072
Capital assets used in governmental activities are not financial resources and therefore are not reported in the funds, net of accumulated depreciation		214,823
Notes payable are not due and payable in the current period expendituress and therefore are not reported in the funds		(23,703)
Total net position - governmental activities	$	944,192

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

GULF STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION
RECONCILIATION OF THE GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES –
CASH BASIS TO THE STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES –
MODIFIED CASH BASIS
December 31, 2021

		Special Revenue Funds					
	General Fund	RECFIN/ COMFIN Fund	Head Boat Biological and Sampling Fund	Unallied Science Fund	CARES Act Fund	Other Funds	Total Governmental Funds
Revenues							
Member State Appropriation	$ 112,500	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 112,500
Other Income	150	-	-	-	-	-	150
Interest Income	265	-	-	-	-	-	265
Dividend Income	26,919	-	-	-	-	-	26,919
Post Employment Health Plan Revenue	7,867	-	-	-	-	-	7,867
Grant Income	-	5,604,276	1,080,930	1,476,573	43,169,984	1,756,848	53,088,611
Gain (Loss) on the Sale of Assets	7,370	-	-	-	-	-	7,370
Registration Fees	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Realized & Unrealized Gain (Loss) on Investments	14,186	-	-	-	-	-	14,186
Totals	169,257	5,604,276	1,080,930	1,476,573	43,169,984	1,756,848	53,257,868
Expenditures							
Personal Services & Benefits	27,071	545,577	36,749	63,095	44,645	694,054	1,411,191
Professional Services	271	4,896,620	1,066,382	1,395,696	43,138,664	1,009,749	51,507,382
Other Purchased Services	5,414	36,232	3,230	4,236	5,740	61,313	116,165
Supplies & Materials	6,025	32,577	494	616	2,196	86,950	128,858
Capital Outlay	520	83,606	1,297	655	1,515	28,473	116,066
Totals	39,301	5,594,612	1,108,152	1,464,298	43,192,760	1,880,539	53,279,662
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	129,956	9,664	(27,222)	12,275	(22,776)	(123,691)	(21,794)
Other Financing Sources (Uses)							
Interfund Loans	(151,750)	(9,664)	27,222	(12,275)	22,776	123,691	-
Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	(151,750)	(9,664)	27,222	(12,275)	22,776	123,691	-
Net Change In Fund Balances	(21,794)	-	-	-	-	-	(21,794)
Fund Balance - Beginning	774,866	-	-	-	-	-	774,866
Fund Balance - Ending	$ 753,072	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 753,072

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

GULF STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION
RECONCILIATION OF THE GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES –
CASH BASIS TO THE STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES –
MODIFIED CASH BASIS
December 31, 2021

Net changes in governmental fund balances	$	(21,794)
Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement are different because:		
Governmental funds report capital outlays as expenditures. However, the statement of activities - modified cash basis reports depreciaiton to allocate those expenditures over the life of the assets. Capital assets purchased amounted to $0 and depreciation expense amounted to $49,772		(49,772)
Payment of principal on long-term liabilities is reported as an expenditure in the governmental funds, but the payment reduces long-term liabilities in the statement of net position - modified cash basis		15,624
Change in net position of governmental activities	$	(55,942)

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

GULF STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS –MODIFIED CASH BASIS
December 31, 2021

CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:	
Cash receipts from customers	$ 150
Cash receipts from grantors	53,201,111
Interest & dividend receipts	27,184
Interest expense	-
Cash paid to employees and benefits	(1,411,191)
Cash paid to suppliers	(51,902,619)
Cash provided (used) by operating activities (Note (B))	(85,365)
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:	
Cash flows from investing activities:	
Purchase of fixed assets	-
PHEP Revenues	18,545
Gain on the sale of fixed assets	7,370
Net cash used by investing activities	25,915
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES:	
Cash flows from financing activities:	
Debt payments	(14,937)
Net cash provided by financing activities	(14,937)
Net increase (decrease) in cash	(74,387)
Cash, beginning of year (Note (A))	459,067
Cash, end of year (Note (A))	$ 384,680

Note (A)

Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents consist of cash on hand and at bank

	Beginning of period	End of period
Cash at bank and in hand	$ 459,067	$ 384,680

Note (B)

Reconciliation of Net Income to Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities

Net Income (Loss)		$ (55,942)
Depreciation and amortization	$ 49,772	
Investment income	(78,232)	
Decrease in accrued liabilities	(963)	
Total adjustments	(29,423)	
Net Cash Provided By Operating Activities		$ (85,365)

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

NOTES TOFINANCIAL STATEMENTS

NOTE A. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Operations - The Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission was formally created with the consent of the 81st Congress of the United States granted by Public Law 66 and approved May 19, 1949. Congress authorized an interstate compact relating to the better utilization of the fisheries of the Gulf of Mexico. Parties to the agreement are the states of Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas. The Commission's office is centrally located in Ocean Springs, Mississippi.

The Commission receives and expends such sums of money as shall from time to time be appropriated for its use by the participating governing authorities, and makes application for and receives and expends funds available under appropriated Federal Programs. The Commission may also receive and expend funds from any other sources not "prohibited by law."

The financial reporting entity – Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission is a quasi-governmental corporation governed by a 15 member board. The Commission has no reportable component units.

Basis of accounting - The accompanying financial statements have been prepared on the modified cash basis of accounting. That basis differs from generally accepted accounting principles because the Commission has not recognized balances, and the related effects on earnings, of grant receivable from third party agencies and of accounts payable to vendors. Revenues are considered available when they are received.

The Commission reports the following major governmental funds:

General Fund – The Commission's primary operating fund. It accounts for all financial resources of the Commission, except those required to be accounted for in another fund.

Recreational Fisheries Information Network and Commercial Fisheries Information Network (RECFIN/COMFIN) Fund – This is the fund that is the Commission's program to collect, manage, and disseminate statistical data information on the commercial and recreational fisheries of the Gulf of Mexico.

Biological and Head Boat Sampling Fund – This is a secondary agreement to support collection of age and length for important state and federal managed marine finfish species. It invoices port sampling of head boats, charter boats, and private recreational anglers at the completion of their fishing trip.

Unallied Science Fund – This program is a partnership program for fisheries resources in the Gulf of Mexico. It provides for the Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership, Aquaculture Oyster – Consortia and Aquaculture Pilots.

NOTE A. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

CARES Act Fund – This program is used to provide assistance to fishery participants affected by COVID-19. The Commission has partnered with Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas to distribute these funds.

All other government funds not meeting the criteria established for major funds are presented as other government funds.

Additionally, the Commission reports the following non-major funds governmental fund types:

Special Revenue Funds –Special revenue funds are used to account for the proceeds of specific revenue sources that are restricted for specific projects or programs. The funds' principal revenue sources are grants and contracts from various federal and member state agencies.

Basis of presentation - The Commission's basic financial statement consists of government-wide statements, including a statement of net position and a statement of activities, and fund financial statements, which provide a more detailed level of financial information.

Government-wide Financial Statements:

The Statement of Net Position – Modified Cash Basis and Statement of Activities – Modified Cash Basis display information about the Commission as a whole. They include all funds of the reporting entity. Government activities generally are finance through taxes, intergovernmental revenues and other non-exchange revenues.

The Statement of Net Position presents the financial condition of the governmental activities of the Commission at year-end, The Government-wide Statement of Activities presents a comparison between direct expenses and program revenues for each function or program of the Commission's governmental activities. Direct expenses are those that are specifically associated with a service, program or department and therefore clearly identifiable to a particular function. Program revenues include charges paid by the recipient of the goods or services offered by the program and grants and contributions that are restricted to meeting the operational or capital requirements of a particular program. Revenues, which are not classified as program revenues, are presented as general revenues of the Commission with certain limited exceptions. The comparison of direct expenses with program revenue identifies the extent to which each governmental function is self-financing or draws from the general revenues of the Commission.

NOTE A. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Fund Financial Statements:

Fund financial statements of the Commission are organized into funds, each of which is considered to be separate accounting entities. Each fund is accounted for by providing a separate set of self-balancing accounts that constitute its assets, liabilities, fund equity, revenues and expenditures/expenses. Funds are organized into one category: governmental. An emphasis is placed on major funds within the governmental category.

Fixed assets – Fixed assets are recorded at actual cost. Contributed assets are reported at the estimated fair value at the time received. The Commission has adopted a policy of capitalizing assets with an acquisition cost of $5,000 or more. Depreciation is computed on the straight-line method over the estimated useful lives of the underlying assets.

Investments – Investments in equity securities with readily determinable fair values and all investments in debt securities are measured at their fair market value in the Statement of Net Position-Modified Cash Basis. The unrealized gain or loss on investments is reflected in the Statement of Activities-Modified Cash Basis.

Income taxes – The Commission is exempt from income taxes as a governmental entity and is classified by the Internal Revenue Services as a governmental organization.

Long-term liabilities – Long-term liabilities are the unmatured principal of notes or other forms of noncurrent or long-term general obligation indebtedness. Long-term liabilities are not limited to liabilities from debt issuances, but may also include liabilities on lease-purchase agreements and other commitments. Long-term liabilities should not be reported as liabilities in governmental funds; but should be reported in the governmental activities column in the governmental-wide Statement of Net Position.

Equity classification

Government-wide Financial Statements:

Equity is classified as net position and displayed in three components:

1. Net investment in capital assets – Consists of capital assets including restricted capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation and reduced by the outstanding balances of any bonds, mortgages, notes or other borrowings that are attributable to the acquisition, construction or improvement of those assets.
2. Restricted net position – Consists of net assets with constraints placed on the use either by (1) external groups such as creditors, grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments; or (2) law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation.

NOTE A. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

3. Unrestricted net position – All other net assets that do not meet the definition of "restricted" or "invested in capital assets, net of related debt."

Fund Financial Statements:

Governmental fund equity is classified as fund balance. Fund balance is further classified as non-spendable, restricted, committed, assigned, or unassigned.

Estimates – The preparation of financial statements in conformity with the modified cash basis of accounting requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from these estimates.

Indirect Costs –Indirect costs are allocated based on a calculated rate. The rate for 2021 was 33.80%.

NOTE B. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

	Hancock Bank
DEMAND DEPOSITS:	
Total Deposits	$ 1,726,673
Covered by:	
FDIC and MS Collateral Pool Insured Amount	1,726,673
Amount of demand deposits not covered by insurance	$ -

A summary of the total unrestricted cash as of December 31, 2021 is as follows:

Operating Account	$ 361,118
CARES Account	23,562
Total unrestricted cash	$ 384,680

NOTE C. INVESTMENTS

Except for nonparticipating investment contracts and for participating interest-earning investment contact and money market investment that had a remaining maturity at the time of purchase of one year or less, investments are reported at fair value which is based on quoted market price. Non participating investment contracts such as repurchase agreements and nonnegotiable certificates of deposit are reported at cost. Participating interest-earning investment contracts and money market investments that has a remaining maturity at time of purchase of one year or less are reported at amortized cost.

The Commission has not adopted an investment policy. Investments made by the Commission that are included on the statement of net position are summarized below. The investments that are represented by specific identifiable investment securities are classified as to credit risk by the categories described below:

> Category I – Insured or registered or for which the securities are held by the Commission or its agent in the Commission's name.
>
> Category II – Uninsured and unregistered for which the securities are held by the broker or dealer's trust department or agent in the Commission's name.
>
> Category III – Uninsured and unregistered for which the securities are held by the broker or dealer, by its trust department or agent but not in the Commission's name.

As of December 31, 2021, all investments held by the Commission are considered Category II.

Interest Rate Risk

The Commission does not have a formal investment policy that limits investment maturities as a means of managing its exposure to fair value losses arising from interest rates.

Credit Risk

The Commission does not have a formal investment policy that would further limit its investment choices or one that addresses credit risk.

Custodial Credit Risk – Investments

Custodial credit risk is defined as the risk that, in the event of the failure of the counterparty, the Commission will not be able to recover the value of its investments or collateral securities that are the possession of an outside party. The Commission does not have a formal investment policy that addresses custodial credit risk.

NOTE C. INVESTMENTS (continued)

Concentration of Credit Risk

The Commission has no specific policy regarding concentrations of credit risk. The modified cash basis requires disclosure of investments by amount and issuer for any issuer that represents five percent or more of total investments. As of December 31, 2021, the Commission had the following investments:

Issuer	# of Shares	Fair Value	% of Total Investments
Cash, Money Funds and Bank Deposits		$ 24,786	6.70%
Invesco Real Estate Fund Class Y	796.414	$ 19,162	5.18%
AMCAP Dund Class F-2	391.587	$ 17,997	4.86%
American Century Heritage Fund Class 1	335.544	$ 9,657	2.61%
American High Income Trust Class F-2	713.424	$ 7,505	2.03%
The Bond Fund of American Class F-2	1,668.879	$ 22,346	6.04%
American Funds Capital World Growth & Income Fund	224.238	$ 14,256	3.85%
Europacific Growth Fund Class F-2	481.653	$ 31,105	8.41%
American Funds Fundamental Investors Fund Class F-2	278.463	$ 21,138	5.71%
The Growth Fund of American Class F-2	493.738	$ 36,566	9.88%
Intermediate Bind Fund Class F-2	1,359.286	$ 18,663	5.04%
The Investment Company of American Class F-2	347.928	$ 18,009	4.87%
New World Fund Class F-2	238.247	$ 20,427	5.52%
Northern Small Cap Value Fund	823.640	$ 17,551	4.74%
Pimco Emerging Markets Bond Fund	726.882	$ 7,436	2.01%
Small Cap World Fund Class F-2	159.587	$ 13,131	3.55%
Transamerica Small Cap Growth Fund	2,095.600	$ 17,708	4.79%
Victory Sycamore Established Value Fund	215.011	$ 10,673	2.88%
Washington Mutual Investors Fund Class F-2	692.949	$ 41,861	11.31%
Total		$ 369,977	100.00%

Ratings are based on the Morningstar Rating for Fund. It scores mutual funds and ETFs from 1 to 5 stars based on risk-adjusted performance relative to similar funds and ETFs.

NOTE D. FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS

The fair value measurement accounting literature establishes a fair value hierarchy that prioritizes the inputs to valuation techniques used to measure fair value. The hierarchy consists of three broad levels:

- Level 1 inputs are unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical securities.
- Level 2 inputs included quoted prices for similar securities in active markets, quoted prices from those willing to trade in markets that are not active, or other inputs that are observable or can be corroborated by market data for the term of the investments. Such inputs include market interest rates, volatilities and yield curves.
- Level 3 inputs are unobservable (supported by little or no market activity) and significant to the fair value measurement including the reporting entity's own assumptions in determining the fair value of the investment.

As of December 31, 2021, the investments held by the Commission are valued at unadjusted quoted market prices and are classified as Level 1.

NOTE E. RETIREMENT PLAN

The Commission has a defined contribution plan for all employees that have been employed for at least six (6) months. The Commission contributes seven (7) percent of each eligible employee's base pay with the amounts being fully vested upon payment by the Commission. The total expense for the year ended December 31, 2021 was $72,371.

NOTE F. OTHER POST EMPLOYMENT BENEFIT PLAN

The Post Employment Health Plan for Non-Collectively Bargained Public Employees (the "Plan") provides postemployment benefits for employees with at least ten (10) years of service, but less than twenty-five (25) years. Upon separation from service, 50% of the employee's unused sick leave hours are multiplied by 50% of the employee's hourly payrate at the separation date to determine a value which will be transferred to a medical savings account.

At December 31, 2021, sixteen (16) would qualify for this benefit. Assuming that all sixteen (16) separated from service at that date and utilizing their current sick leave hours and rates of pay, the calculated value would be $167,403. During the current year the Commission invested $10,420 to continue funding this benefit. This investment is shown on the Statement of Net Position-Modified Cash Basis at its current market value of $369,977.

Any employee with twenty-five (25) years or more service is provided full health insurance in lieu of the above. This coverage is provided from the date of separation until death. As of December 31, 2021 one (1) employee is receiving this benefit.

NOTE G. CAPITAL ASSETS

Capital asset activity for the year ended December 31, 2021, was as follows:

Restricted	Balance Sheet Beginning January 1, 2021	Additions	Deletions	Balance Sheet Ending December 31, 2021
Vehicles	$ 49,964	$ -	$ -	$ 49,964
Office Equipment	688,296	-	(5,867)	682,429
Totals	738,260	-	(5,867)	732,393
Accumulated depreciation	(568,716)	(45,202)	5,867	(608,051)
Totals	$ 169,544	$ (45,202)	$ -	$ 124,342
Unrestricted				
Land	$ 20,000	$ -	$ -	$ 20,000
Buildings	182,817	-	-	182,817
Office Equipment	28,975	-	-	28,975
Totals	231,792	-	-	231,792
Accumulated depreciation	(136,740)	(4,570)	-	(141,310)
Totals	$ 95,052	$ (4,570)	$ -	$ 90,482
Governmental Activities - Net Property and Equipment:				
Restricted	$ 169,543	$ (45,202)	$ -	$ 124,341
Unrestricted	95,052	(4,570)	-	90,482
Totals	$ 264,595	$ (49,772)	$ -	$ 214,823

Depreciation expenses for the year ending December 31, 2021were $49,772.

NOTE H. LEASES

Capital Leases

During 2017, the Commission acquired a new copier and a new server under a lease agreement. The details of those leases are as follows:

	Cash Value @ Purchase	# of Payments	Interest Rate	Amount of Payments	Present Value of Remaining Minimum Lease Payments
Copier	$69,590	72	4.5%	$ 1,255	$ 35,546
Server	$ 4,995	72	4.5%	$ 109	$ 3,094

	Beginning January 1, 2021	Additions	Deletions	Ending December 31, 2021
Governmental activities				
Capital Leases	$ 38,640	$ -	$(14,937)	$ 23,703

	Principal	Interest
For the year ending December 31, 2022	$ 15,624	747
For the year ending December 31, 2023	8,079	106
For the year ending December 31, 2024		
	$ 23,703	$ 853

NOTE H. LEASES (continued)

Leased equipment under capital leases at December 31, 2021, include the following:

Equipment	$85,301
Less Accumulated Amortization	(67,530)
Net	$17,771

Operating Leases

During 2017, the Commission acquired a new copier under an operating lease agreement. Total copier rent expense for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2021, was $3,107. Required estimated future minimum lease payments are as follows:

For the year ending December 31, 2022	$ 1,553
For the year ending December 31, 2023	-
	$ 1,553

NOTE I. RISK MANAGEMENT

The Commission is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts; theft of, damage to and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; injuries to employees; and natural disasters. The Commission carries commercial insurance for these risks. Settled claims resulting from these risks have not exceeded insurance coverage in any part of the past three fiscal years.

NOTE J. COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES

The Commission was subjected to a U.S. Department of Commerce, Office of Inspector General (OIG) Audit during 2019 and received a final determination letter dated April 15, 2020. The audit included two grants that had closed during a previous year. These grants were under the Oil Disaster Recovery Program and Stock Assessment Enhancement. The OIG report stated the Commission claimed, along with its sub-recipients, questioned cost in the total amount of $1,166,790 consulting and contract services that were unallowable and the Supplemental of total amount of $5,030,452

NOTE J. COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES (continued)

claims for subaward proper documentation and reports that were not organized and could not be identified as associated with the project. As a result, the Commission repaid $139,085 during 2020 that comprised the commission's portion of questioned costs. After filing and appeal, the Commission was able to provide documentation for the unallowable costs of $5,030,452 attributed to funds subawards to Gulf and South Atlantic Fisheries Foundation. Of the remaining $1,027,705 of unallowable costs, documentation was provided for $299,601. The remaining $728,104 in unallowable costs are attributed to subawards to Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Foundation (LWFF). NOAA has allowed LWFF to reduce their funding of award NA20NMF4340010 by $728,104 ($242,701 per year for three years) while still performing the work applicable to the funding in order to repay the unallowable costs. On October 26, 2021, US Department of Commerce, NOAA granted relief to Commission. This resulted in the reduction of the debt associated with the DOC OIG Audit, Final report NO. OIG-20-007-A in the amount of $728,104. The debt associated with this audit is formally resolved and is closed.

In response to the OIG Audit, NOAA has placed all awards to Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission under "agency review status." All funding requests must be entered into the Treasury Payment system and an ASAP Award Action Request must be entered into the Grants Online system. This must include a detail of the expenses with supporting documentation. Once the documents are reviewed and approved, funding will be remitted to the Commission.

NOTE K. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

Events that occur after the Statement of Financial Position date but before the financial statements are available to be issued must be evaluated for recognition or disclosure. The effects of subsequent events that provide evidence about conditions that existed at the Statement of Financial Position date are recognized in the accompanying financial statements. Subsequent events which provide evidence about conditions that existed after the Statement of Financial Position date require disclosure in the accompanying notes.

The Commission has evaluated for consideration of recognition or disclosure, subsequent events that have occurred through the date financial statements were available for issuance (July 1, 2022). Subsequent events occurring after July 1, 2022 have not been evaluated by management.

FEDERAL/GRANTOR PASS-THROUGH GRANTOR/PROGRAM TITLE	Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number	Pass-through Entity Identifying Number	Federal Expenditures	Expenditures to Subrecipients
U.S. Department of Interior				
Direct Programs:				
Aquatic Nuisance	15.608		77,406	54,556
Sport Fish Restoration Program	15.605		189,424	-
Total			266,830	54,556
U.S. Department of Commerce				
Direct Programs:				
Interjurisdictional Fisheries Management Plan	11.407		893,347	575,720
Cooperative Southeast Fisheries Information Network	11.434		6,651,277	5,460,373
Cooperative Southeast Fisheries Information Network Biological Sampling and Head Boat Sampling	11.434	NA18NMF4340335	1,108,152	796,267
Southeast Area Monitoring and Assessment Program (SEAMAP)	11.435		403,106	-
Unallied Science Program	11.472		1,469,627	1,380,255
Unallied Management Programs	11.454		43,261,878	436,716
Habitat Conservation	11.463		192,234	42,434
Total			53,979,621	8,691,765
Pass-Through Programs:				
Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council CY 2020 Liason Program	11.441	20-7060	45,000	-
Total			45,000	-
Total Federal Program Expenditures			$ 54,291,451	8,746,321

See accompanying notes to schedule of expenditures of federal awards

Note A – Basis of Presentation

The Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards (the Schedule) includes the federal awards activity of Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission (the Commission) under programs of the federal government for the year ended December 31, 2021. The information presented in this Schedule is in accordance with the requirements of Title 2 U.S. *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance).Due to the fact that the Schedule only presents a portion of the operations of the Commission, it is not intended to, nor does it present the financial position, changes in net assets or cash flows of the Commission. Therefore, some amounts presented in this schedule may differ from amounts presented in, or used in the preparation of the basic financial statements.

Note B – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

The Schedule is reported on the cash basis of accounting. Such expenditures are recognized flowing the cost principles contained in Title 2 U.S. *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards*, wherein certain types of expenditures may or may not be allowable or may be limited as to reimbursement. The Commission did not use the 10% de minimis indirect cost rate as allowed under the Uniform Guidance.

Note C – Subrecipients

The Commission passes certain federal awards received to other governments or not-for-profit agencies (subrecipients). As Note B describes, the Commission reports expenditures of Federal awards to subrecipients when paid in cash.

As a passthrough, the Commission has certain compliance responsibilities, such as monitoring its subrecipients to help assure they use these subawards as authorized by laws, regulations, and the provisions of contracts or grant agreements, and that subrecipients achieve the award's performance goals.

See Independent Auditors' Report

GULF STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION
BUDGETARY COMPARISION SCHEDULE
For the Year Ended December 31, 2021

	Budget			Actual			
	Operating Fund	Grant Funds	Total	Operating Fund	Grant Funds	Total	Over (Under) Budger
Revenues							
Member State Appropriation	$ 112,500	$ -	$ 112,500	$ 112,500	$ -	$ 112,500	$ -
Other Income	-	-	-	150	-	150	150
Interest Income	-	-	-	265	-	265	265
Dividend Income	-	-	-	26,919	-	26,919	26,919
Post Employment Health Plan	-	-	-	7,867	-	7,867	7,867
Grant Income	-	9,615,806	9,615,806	-	53,088,611	53,088,611	43,472,805
Gain (Loss) on the Sale of Assets	-	-	-	7,370	-	7,370	7,370
Registration Fees	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Realized & Unrealized Gain (Loss) on Investments	-	-	-	14,186	-	14,186	14,186
Totals	**112,500**	**9,615,806**	**9,728,306**	**169,257**	**53,088,611**	**53,257,868**	**43,529,562**
Personal Costs							
Salaries	12,371	1,016,318	1,028,689	20,796	1,021,250	1,042,046	13,357
Payroll Taxes	-	51,499	51,499	1,378	77,768	79,146	27,647
Health Insurance	-	157,680	157,680	3,433	203,749	207,182	49,502
Retirement Expense	-	45,607	45,607	1,456	70,915	72,371	26,764
Post Employment Health Plan	-	6,496	6,496	9	10,411	10,420	3,924
Totals	**12,371**	**1,277,600**	**1,289,971**	**27,072**	**1,384,093**	**1,411,165**	**121,194**
Maintenance/Operations							
Office Supplies	6,062	18,557	24,619	-	112,127	112,127	87,508
Postage	-	4,337	4,337	143	5,001	5,144	807
Travel-Committee	6,200	102,500	108,700	-	16,782	16,782	(91,918)
Travel-Staff	25,000	28,274	53,274	382	4,889	5,271	(48,003)
Telephone	-	1,225	1,225	1,050	19,728	20,778	19,553
Office Equipment	5,900	17,000	22,900	-	18,309	18,309	(4,591)
Copying Expense	-	-	-	489	19,905	20,394	20,394
Printing Expense	-	1,027	1,027	248	1,162	1,410	383
Meeting Costs	35,500	21,650	57,150	-	5,820	5,820	(51,330)
Subscriptions & Dues	-	1,005	1,005	471	2,825	3,296	2,291
Automobile Expenses	-	-	-	80	1,717	1,797	1,797
Insurance	-	-	-	1,270	16,174	17,444	17,444
Maintenance	-	65,152	65,152	520	97,238	97,758	32,606
Professional Expenses	1,700	-	1,700	271	24,112	24,383	22,683
Contractual	-	7,666,147	7,666,147	-	51,482,996	51,482,996	43,816,849
Utilities	-	-	-	883	15,878	16,761	16,761
Janitorial	-	-	-	645	11,604	12,249	12,249
Filing Fees	-	-	-	4,712	-	4,712	4,712
Indirect Cost	14,767	411,332	426,099	-	-	-	(426,099)
Courtesies	5,000	-	5,000	1,065	-	1,065	(3,935)
Totals	100,129	8,338,206	8,438,335	12,229	51,856,267	51,868,496	43,430,161
Excess of Revenues Over Expenses	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 129,956	$ (151,749)	$ (21,793)	$ (21,793)

See Independent Auditors' Report

GULF STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION
BUDGETARY COMPARISION SCHEDULE
For the Year Ended December 31, 2021

Note A - Basis of Presentation

The Budgetary Comparison Schedule presents the original adopted budget, the actual data on the cash basis, and variances between the budget and actual data.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN AUDIT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH *GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS*

To the Board of Commissioners
Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission
Ocean Springs, Mississippi

We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission, as of and for the year ended December 31, 2021, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated July 1,2022.

Internal Control over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) to determine the audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission's internal control.

A *deficiency in internal control* exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements on a timely basis. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or, significant deficiencies. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses may exist that have not been identified.

Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

Purpose of this Report

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the entity's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

Pascagoula, Mississippi
July 1, 2022

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON COMPLIANCE FOR EACH MAJOR PROGRAM AND ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER COMPLIANCE REQUIRED BY THE UNIFORM GUIDANCE

To the Board of Commissioners
Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission
Ocean Springs, Mississippi

Report on Compliance for Each Major Federal Program

We have audited Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission's compliance with the types of compliance requirements described in the *OMB Compliance Supplement* that could have a direct and material effect on each of Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission's major federal programs for the year ended December 31, 2021. Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission's major federal programs are identified in the summary of auditor's results section of the accompanying schedule of findings and questioned costs.

Management's Responsibility

Management is responsible for compliance with federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of its federal awards applicable to its federal programs.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on compliance for each of the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission's major federal programs based on our audit of the types of compliance requirements referred to above. We conducted our audit of compliance in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America; the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States; and the audit requirements of Title 2 U.S. *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance). Those standards and the Uniform Guidance require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether noncompliance with the types of compliance requirements referred to above that could have a direct and material effect on a major federal program occurred. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence about the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission's compliance with those requirements and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.

We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion on compliance for each major federal program. However, our audit does not provide a legal determination of the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission's compliance.

Opinion on Each Major Federal Program

In our opinion, the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission's, complied, in all material respects, with the types of compliance requirements referred to above that could have a direct and material effect on each of its major federal programs for the year ended December 31, 2021.

Report on Internal Control over Compliance

Management of Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission is responsible for establishing and maintaining effective internal control over compliance with the types of compliance requirements referred to above. In planning and performing our audit of compliance, we considered the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission's internal control over compliance with the types of requirements that could have a direct and material effect on each major federal program to determine the auditing procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing an opinion on compliance for each major federal program and to test and report on internal control over compliance in accordance with the Uniform Guidance, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over compliance. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission's internal control over compliance.

A *deficiency in internal control over compliance* exists when the design or operation of a control over compliance does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, noncompliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program on a timely basis. A *material weakness in internal control over compliance* is a deficiency, or combination of deficiencies, in internal control over compliance, such that there is a reasonable possibility that material noncompliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency in internal control over compliance* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control over compliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program that is less severe than a material weakness in internal control over compliance, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control over compliance was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control over compliance that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. We did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over compliance that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses may exist that have not been identified.

The purpose of this report on internal control over compliance is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over compliance and the results of that testing based on the requirements of the Uniform Guidance. Accordingly, this report is not suitable for any other purpose.

Pascagoula, Mississippi
July 1, 2022

GULF STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION
SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS
For the Year Ended December 31, 2021

A. Summary of Audit Results

1. The auditor's report expresses an unqualified opinion on the basic financial statements of Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission.

2. No reportable conditions are reported related to the audit of the basic financial statements in the Report of Compliance and on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting based on the audit of financial statements performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards.*

3. No instances of noncompliance material to the financial statements of Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission were discovered during the audit.

4. There are no reportable conditions related to the audit of major federal award programs.

5. The auditor's report on compliance for the major federal award programs for Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission expresses an unqualified opinion.

6. There are no audit findings relative to the major federal awards program for Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission, that are to be reported.

7. The programs tested as a major program include:

   Recreational Fisheries Information Network –CFDA No. 11.434

   Commercial Fisheries Information Network – CFDA No. 11.434

   Unallied Management Program – CFDA No. 11.454

   Interjurisdictional Fisheries Management – CFDA No. 11.407

8. The threshold for distinguishing Types A and B programs was $750,000.

9. Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission does not qualify as a low-risk auditee.

B. Findings – Financial Statement Audit

None.

C. Findings and Questioned Costs – Major Federal Award Program Audit

None.

GULF STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION

January 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023

	FY2023 Operating Funds	FY2023 Total Grants	FY2023 Total Budget	
EXPENSES				
SALARIES				
Executive Director	3,606	125,411	**129,017**	
IJF/Aquaculture Coordinator	-	75,268	**75,268**	
SM/Habitat/CARES Coordinator	-	70,451	**70,451**	
GulfFIN Program Coordinator	-	79,573	**79,573**	
SEFHIER Coordinator	-	64,435	**64,435**	
ComFIN Sprogrammer	-	61,443	**61,443**	
Fishery Restoration Coordinator	-	50,225	**50,225**	
Sportfish/ANS Coordinator	-	59,617	**59,617**	
Computer Systems Administrator	3,109	85,275	**88,384**	
Administrative Officer	2,218	60,835	**63,053**	
Financial Administrative Assistant	1,644	45,107	**46,751**	
IJF Staff Assistant	-	32,280	**32,280**	
FIN/SM/Grants Assistant	927	34,228	**35,155**	
Senior Accountant/Grants Manager	2,296	62,993	**65,289**	
Data Entry Clerk	-	42,569	**42,569**	
GulfFIN/SEAMAP Data Base Manager	-	72,450	**72,450**	
Sportfish/ANS Staff Assistant	-	32,708	**32,708**	
Personnel (not designated)	552	46,185	**46,737**	
Contract Labor	-	460,985	**460,985**	
Health Insurance	2,494	224,001	**226,495**	
Retirement	966	73,840	**74,806**	
Payroll Taxes	1,083	83,049	**84,132**	
Post Employment Health Benefit	138	10,549	**10,687**	
MAINTENANCE/OPERATIONS				
Facilities	-	-	**-**	
Office Supplies	1,500	118,325	**119,825**	
Postage	163	6,520	**6,683**	
Committee Travel	10,000	170,325	**180,325**	
Travel (Staff)	31,170	32,325	**63,495**	
Telephone	-	1,599	**1,599**	
Office Equipment	-	-	**-**	
Copying Expenses	-	-	**-**	
Printing	-	-	**-**	
Meeting Costs	35,500	30,670	**66,170**	
Subscriptions/Dues	500	890	**1,390**	
Auto Expenses	-	-	**-**	
Insurance	-	-	**-**	
Maintenance	-	145,632	**145,632**	
Professional Services	2,500	-	**2,500**	
GSMFC Courtesies	5,000	-	**5,000**	
Automobile Purchase/Lease	-	-	**-**	
Training and Education	-	-	**-**	
Contractual	-	11,588,235	**11,588,235**	
FIN Prefunding rec'd in 2022		(200,707)	**(200,707)**	
INDIRECT COSTS	7,134	427,092	**434,226**	
TOTAL	**112,500**	**14,274,383**	**14,386,882**	
INCOME				
STATE CONTRIBUTIONS				
Alabama	22,500			
Florida	22,500			
Louisiana	22,500			
Mississippi	22,500			
Texas	22,500			
TOTAL DUES			112,500	
				CONTRACTUAL
GRANTS				BALANCE
210 NOAA Admin and Coordination		3,933,176		7,596,959
600 SEAMAP		486,513		-
601 SEAMAP FIS Supplemental		-		105,483
650 Interjurisdictional Fisheries		1,394,417		2,397,786
700 Council		45,000		-
749 GulfFIN		7,316,557		6,703,055
750 Sport Fish Restoration		200,000		-
799 Biological/Headboat Sampling		563,693		818,410
800 ANS		50,000		-
801 Small Grants Program		55,000		122,165
930 CARES Act		-		-
931 CARES 2		2,733		5,040,242
940 Fishery Restoration Program		227,294		5,522,008
TOTAL GRANTS			14,274,383	28,306,108
TOTAL	**112,500**	**14,274,383**	**14,386,882**	-

GULF STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION

January 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023

	FY2023 Operating Funds	FY2023 Total Grants	FY2023 Total Budget	
EXPENSES				
SALARIES				
Personnel (designated)	13,800	1,054,868	**1,068,668**	
Personnel (not designated)	552	46,185	**46,737**	
Contract Labor	-	460,985	**460,985**	
Health Insurance	2,494	224,001	**226,495**	
Retirement	966	73,840	**74,806**	
Payroll Taxes	1,083	83,049	**84,132**	
Post Employment Health Benefit	138	10,549	**10,687**	
MAINTENANCE/OPERATIONS				
Facilities	-	-	**-**	
Office Supplies	1,500	118,325	**119,825**	
Postage	163	6,520	**6,683**	
Committee Travel	10,000	170,325	**180,325**	
Travel (Staff)	31,170	32,325	**63,495**	
Telephone	-	1,599	**1,599**	
Office Equipment	-	-	**-**	
Copying Expenses	-	-	**-**	
Printing	-	-	**-**	
Meeting Costs	35,500	30,670	**66,170**	
Subscriptions/Dues	500	890	**1,390**	
Auto Expenses	-	-	**-**	
Insurance	-	-	**-**	
Maintenance	-	145,632	**145,632**	
Professional Services	2,500	-	**2,500**	
GSMFC Courtesies	5,000	-	5,000	
Automobile Purchase/Lease	-	-	**-**	
Undesignated Expenditures	-	-	**-**	
Contractual	-	11,588,235	**11,588,235**	
FIN Prefunding rec'd in 2022		(200,707)	**(200,707)**	
INDIRECT COSTS	7,134	427,092	**434,226**	
TOTAL	**112,500**	**14,274,383**	**14,386,882**	
INCOME				
STATE CONTRIBUTIONS				
Alabama	22,500			
Florida	22,500			
Louisiana	22,500			
Mississippi	22,500			
Texas	22,500			
TOTAL DUES			112,500	
GRANTS				CONTRACTUAL BALANCE
210 NOAA Admin and Coordination		3,933,176		7,596,959
600 SEAMAP		486,513		-
601 SEAMAP FIS Supplemental		-		105,483
650 Interjurisdictional Fisheries		1,394,417		2,397,786
700 Council		45,000		-
749 GulfFIN		7,316,557		6,703,055
750 Sport Fish Restoration		200,000		-
799 Biological/Headboat Sampling		563,693		818,410
800 ANS		50,000		-
801 Small Grants Program		55,000		122,165
930 CARES Act		-		-
931 CARES 2		2,733		5,040,242
940 Fishery Restoration Program		227,294		5,522,008
TOTAL GRANTS			14,274,383	28,306,108
TOTAL	**112,500**	**14,274,383**	**14,386,882**	-

GULF STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION
January 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023

	FY2022 Operating Funds	FY2023 Operating Funds		FY2022 Total Grants	FY2023 Total Grants		FY2022 Total Budget	FY2023 Total Budget		% Change
EXPENSES										
SALARIES										
Executive Director	4,047	3,606		121,823	125,411		**125,870**	**129,017**		2.5%
IJF/Aquaculture Coordinator	-	-		73,432	75,268		**73,432**	**75,268**		2.5%
SM/Habitat/CARES Coordinator	-	-		68,732	70,451		**68,732**	**70,451**		2.5%
GulfFIN Program Coordinator	-	-		77,632	79,573		**77,632**	**79,573**		2.5%
SEFHIER Coordinator	-	-		62,863	64,435		**62,863**	**64,435**		2.5%
ComFIN Sprogrammer	-	-		59,946	61,443		**59,946**	**61,443**		2.5%
Fishery Restoration Coordinator	-	-		49,000	50,225		**49,000**	**50,225**		2.5%
Sportfish/ANS Coordinator	-	-		58,161	59,617		**58,161**	**59,617**		2.5%
Computer Systems Administrator	3,503	3,109		82,725	85,275		**86,228**	**88,384**		2.5%
Administrative Officer	2,499	2,218		59,016	60,835		**61,515**	**63,053**		2.5%
Financial Administrative Assistant	1,853	1,644		43,758	45,107		**45,611**	**46,751**		2.5%
IJF Staff Assistant	-	-		31,280	32,280		**31,280**	**32,280**		3.2%
FIN/SM/Grants Assistant	555	927		33,600	34,228		**34,155**	**35,155**		2.9%
Senior Accountant/Grants Manager	2,588	2,296		61,109	62,993		**63,697**	**65,289**		2.5%
Data Entry Clerk	-	-		41,531	42,569		**41,531**	**42,569**		2.5%
GulfFIN/SEAMAP Data Base Manager	-	-		70,683	72,450		**70,683**	**72,450**		2.5%
Sportfish/ANS Staff Assistant	-	-		31,708	32,708		**31,708**	**32,708**		3.2%
Personnel (not designated)	514	552		36,161	46,185		**36,675**	**46,737**		27.4%
Contract Labor	-	-		421,234	460,985		**421,234**	**460,985**		9.4%
Health Insurance	2,423	2,494		207,491	224,001		**209,914**	**226,495**		7.9%
Retirement	1,053	966		71,890	73,840		**72,943**	**74,806**		2.6%
Payroll Taxes	1,180	1,083		80,919	83,049		**82,099**	**84,132**		2.5%
Post Employment Health Benefit	150	138		10,270	10,549		**10,420**	**10,687**		2.6%
MAINTENANCE/OPERATIONS										
Facilities	-	-		-	-		**-**	**-**		
Office Supplies	1,031	1,500		24,884	118,325		**25,915**	**119,825**		362.4%
Postage	-	163		5,274	6,520		**5,274**	**6,683**		26.7%
Committee Travel	5,000	10,000		108,025	170,325		**113,025**	**180,325**		59.5%
Travel (Staff)	30,000	31,920		28,325	32,325		**58,325**	**64,245**		10.2%
Telephone	-	-		2,284	1,599		**2,284**	**1,599**		-30.0%
Office Equipment	5,800	-		20,000	-		**25,800**	**-**		-100.0%
Copying Expenses	-	-		-	-		**-**	**-**		
Printing	-	-		300	-		**300**	**-**		-100.0%
Meeting Costs	35,500	35,500		22,175	30,670		**57,675**	**66,170**		14.7%
Subscriptions/Dues	-	500		1,065	850		**1,065**	**1,350**		26.8%
Auto Expenses	-	-		-	-		**-**	**-**		
Insurance	-	-		-	-		**-**	**-**		
Maintenance	-	-		95,175	145,632		**95,175**	**145,632**		53.0%
Professional Services	1,750	1,750		-	-		**1,750**	**1,750**		0.0%
GSMFC Courtesies	5,000	5,000		-	-		**5,000**	**5,000**		0.0%
Training and Education	-	-		-	-		**-**	**-**		
Contractual	-	-		10,353,092	11,588,235		**10,353,092**	**11,588,235**		11.9%
Utilities/Janitorial	-	-		-	-		**-**	**-**		
FIN Prefunding rec'd in 2021	-	-		(134,276)	(200,707)		**(134,276)**	**(200,707)**		49.5%
INDIRECT COSTS	8,054	7,134		175,834	427,092		**183,888**	**434,226**		136.1%
TOTAL	**112,500**	**112,500**		**12,557,121**	**14,274,343**		**12,669,621**	**14,386,842**		13.6%
INCOME										
STATE CONTRIBUTIONS										
Alabama	22,500	22,500								
Florida	22,500	22,500								
Louisiana	22,500	22,500								
Mississippi	22,500	22,500								
Texas	22,500	22,500								
TOTAL DUES								112,500		
GRANTS				FY2022	FY2023					
210 NOAA Admin and Coordination				3,275,516	3,933,176					20.1%
600 SEAMAP				437,269	486,513					11.3%
601 SEAMAP FIS Supplemental				-	-					0.0%
650 Interjurisdictional Fisheries				1,336,441	1,394,377					4.3%
700 Council				45,000	45,000					0.0%
749 GulfFIN				7,044,889	7,316,557					3.9%
750 Sport Fish Restoration				200,000	200,000					0.0%
799 Biological/Headboat Sampling				25,834	563,693					2082.0%
800 ANS				50,000	50,000					0.0%
801 Small Grants Program				10,332	55,000					432.3%
930 CARES Act				1,936	-					-100.0%
931 CARES 2				32,271	2,733					-91.5%
940 Fishery Restoration Program				97,634	227,294					132.8%
TOTAL GRANTS								14,274,343		
TOTAL	**$112,500**	**$112,500**		**12,557,122**	**$14,274,343**			**$14,386,842**		13.7%

GULF STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION
January 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023

	FY2022 Operating Funds	FY2023 Operating Funds		FY2022 Total Grants	FY2023 Total Grants		FY2022 Total Budget	FY2023 Total Budget		
EXPENSES										
SALARIES										
Personnel (designated)	15,045	13,800		1,026,999	1,054,868		**1,042,044**	**1,068,668**		2.6%
Personnel (not designated)	514	552		36,161	46,185		**36,675**	**46,737**		27.4%
Contract Labor	-	-		421,234	460,985		**421,234**	**460,985**		9.4%
Health Insurance	2,423	2,494		207,491	224,001		**209,914**	**226,495**		7.9%
Retirement	1,053	966		71,890	73,840		**72,943**	**74,806**		2.6%
Payroll Taxes	1,180	1,083		80,919	83,049		**82,099**	**84,132**		2.5%
Post Employment Health Benefit	150	138		10,270	10,549		**10,420**	**10,687**		2.6%
MAINTENANCE/OPERATIONS										
Facilities	-	-		-	-		**-**	**-**		
Office Supplies	1,031	1,500		24,884	118,325		**25,915**	**119,825**		362.4%
Postage	-	163		5,274	6,520		**5,274**	**6,683**		26.7%
Committee Travel	5,000	10,000		108,025	170,325		**113,025**	**180,325**		59.5%
Travel (Staff)	30,000	31,920		28,325	32,325		**58,325**	**64,245**		10.2%
Telephone	-	-		2,284	1,599		**2,284**	**1,599**		-30.0%
Office Equipment	5,800	-		20,000	-		**25,800**	**-**		-100.0%
Copying Expenses	-	-		-	-		**-**	**-**		
Printing	-	-		300	-		**300**	**-**		-100.0%
Meeting Costs	35,500	35,500		22,175	30,670		**57,675**	**66,170**		14.7%
Subscriptions/Dues	-	500		1,065	850		**1,065**	**1,350**		26.8%
Auto Expenses	-	-		-	-		**-**	**-**		
Insurance	-	-		-	-		**-**	**-**		
Maintenance	-	-		95,175	145,632		**95,175**	**145,632**		53.0%
Professional Services	1,750	1,750		-	-		**1,750**	**1,750**		0.0%
GSMFC Courtesies	5,000	5,000		-	-		**5,000**	**5,000**		0.0%
Training and Education	-	-		-	-		**-**	**-**		
Contractual	-	-		10,353,092	11,588,235		**10,353,092**	**11,588,235**		11.9%
Utilities/Janitorial	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
FIN Prefunding rec'd in 2021	-	-		(134,276)	(200,707)		(134,276)	(200,707)		49.5%
INDIRECT COSTS	8,054	7,134		175,834	427,092		**183,888**	**434,226**		136.1%
TOTAL	**112,500**	**112,500**		**12,557,121**	**14,274,343**		**12,669,621**	**14,386,842**		13.6%
INCOME										
STATE CONTRIBUTIONS										
Alabama	22,500	22,500								
Florida	22,500	22,500								
Louisiana	22,500	22,500								
Mississippi	22,500	22,500								
Texas	22,500	22,500								
TOTAL DUES								112,500		

GRANTS				
		FY2022	FY2023	
210	NOAA Admin and Coordination	3,275,516	3,933,176	20.1%
600	SEAMAP	437,269	486,513	11.3%
601	SEAMAP FIS Supplemental	-	-	
650	Interjurisdictional Fisheries	1,336,441	1,394,377	4.3%
700	Council	45,000	45,000	0.0%
749	GulfFIN	7,044,889	7,316,557	3.9%
750	Sport Fish Restoration	200,000	200,000	0.0%
799	Biological/Headboat Sampling	25,834	563,693	2082.0%
800	ANS	50,000	50,000	0.0%
801	Small Grants Program	10,332	55,000	432.3%
930	CARES Act	1,936	-	-100.0%
931	CARES 2	32,271	2,733	-91.5%
940	Fishery Restoration Program	97,634	227,294	132.8%
	TOTAL GRANTS			
TOTAL		**12,557,122**	**14,274,343**	0.0%

		14,274,343	
		14,386,842	

Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission
Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC), Fall 2022 Meeting
Florida Report

Emerging Issues Pertinent to Gulf of Mexico Fisheries

Absolute Abundance of Greater Amberjack and Red Snapper

The state of Florida has begun efforts in association with a collaborative project to estimate the absolute abundance of Greater Amberjack in the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic. Efforts conducted to date include two gear calibration cruises and paired baited / unbaited camera deployments to quantify the impact of using baited systems on abundance estimates. Fishery observers on for-hire fishing vessels are also assisting with the deployment of high-reward conventional tags on both coasts of Florida. Sampling will continue through 2023. Learn more here: https://seagrant.noaa.gov/News/ArtMID/468/ArticleID/2872/Team-selected-to-estimate-abundance-of-Greater-Amberjack-in-South-Atlantic-Gulf-of-Mexico

The South Atlantic Red Snapper Research Program is a collaborative effort that includes researchers from academic institutions and resource management agencies throughout the southeastern U.S. As part of this work, FWC is collecting fin clips and otoliths from Red Snapper caught by recreational, for-hire and commercial fishers along the Atlantic coast of Florida. These samples are contributing to the close-kin mark-recapture (CKMR) portion of the study. CKMR uses genetic markers to identify closely related individuals (i.e., kin), which is a useful measure for quantifying the total number of individuals in the Atlantic population. The study is currently funded for two years (2021-22), with the potential of up to two years additional funding. Learn more here: https://www.scseagrant.org/great-red-snapper-count-award/

Redfish

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) approved new management regions and regulation changes for redfish in state waters.

These regulation changes, went in effect Sept. 1, 2022, will:

- Establish nine redfish management regions.
- Prohibit captain and crew from retaining a bag limit of redfish when on a for-hire trip.
- Reduce the off-the-water transport limit from six to four fish per person.
- Reduce the vessel limit in each of the management regions to be:
    - Panhandle, Big Bend, Northeast: four fish.
    - Tampa Bay, Sarasota Bay, Charlotte Harbor, Southwest, Southeast: two fish.
- Allow only catch-and-release fishing for redfish in the Indian River Lagoon region.
- Set the bag limit to one fish in the Panhandle, Big Bend, Tampa Bay, Sarasota Bay, Charlotte Harbor, Southwest, Southeast and Northeast regions.

- This is a reduction to the bag limit in the Northeast region.

The changes to redfish management regions and regulations, as part of FWC's new management approach, will better capture regional differences and improve angler satisfaction. The new management approach includes annual reviews of the redfish fishery and redfish regulations may be changed each year in response to the reviews.

Goliath Grouper

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) approved a limited, highly regulated recreational harvest of goliath grouper in state waters beginning Spring 2023.

This unique recreational opportunity is possible through conservation efforts by state and federal agencies that aided in the goliath grouper population rebuilding over the course of three decades, following years of overfishing. This limited harvest will allow access to a fishery that has been closed since 1990 by issuing up to 200 harvest permit tags via random-draw lottery.

This approved recreational harvest of goliath grouper includes:

- A recreational harvest of up to 200 goliath per year, with a maximum of 50 from Everglades National Park.
- A required recreational goliath harvest permit and tag, issued via a random-draw lottery, to legally harvest a goliath ($150 for residents, $500 for non-residents).
- Limiting harvest to one fish per person per open season with permit and tag, non-transferable.
- A March 1 through May 31 season.
- Allowable gear will be hook-and-line only.
- A slot limit of 24 to 36 inches total length.
- Harvest would be permitted in all state waters except those of Martin County south through the Atlantic coast of the Keys, all of the St. Lucie River and its tributaries, and Dry Tortugas National Park.
- Post-harvest requirements, such as proper utilization of the harvest tag, reporting harvest data and submitting a fin clip for genetic analysis.

Harvest will continue to be prohibited in federal waters.

FWC staff have gathered stakeholder comments on this topic since 2017 from our commenting webpage, various Commission meetings and workshops. This opportunity is intended to provide access to this fishery while balancing the values of various stakeholder groups. Goliath grouper over 36 inches in length will continue to be prohibited from harvest as well as those in heavy dive ecotourism areas. This limited harvest is not intended to address fishing depredation concerns.

Red Snapper

Governor Ron DeSantis announced the 2022 Gulf red snapper recreational season which will total 57 days, the longest season since the state assumed management of red snapper and will include both a summer and fall season. Those fishing from private recreational vessels in state and federal waters in the Gulf and charter vessels without a federal reef fish permit who are limited to fishing in state waters will be able to participate in the 2022 Gulf red snapper season.

The 45-day summer season started on June 17 and continued through July 31. The 12-day fall season is the longest fall season since the beginning of state management and spans the following dates:

- October 8-9
- October 15-16
- October 22-23
- November 11-13 (Veteran's Day Weekend)
- November 25-27 (Weekend after Thanksgiving)

Hurricane Disaster Relief

Hurricane Michael made landfall in the Florida Panhandle on October 10, 2018. On October 23, 2018, Governor Scott requested the US Secretary of Commerce declare a fishery disaster. This request was approved on October 31, 2018. NOAA allocated $7.8 million, under the Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Act of 2019, to FWC for recovery of the Florida fishery. After thorough stakeholder engagement, FWC submitted a spend plan to NOAA in August of 2020. The spend plan outlines the methodology and budgets. The spend plan was approved in August 2021. This program consists solely of direct payments to the affected fishery, as well as reimbursements for infrastructure repairs/improvements. All programs for for-hire charters, commercial fishers, commercial aquaculture farmers, commercial wholesalers, and marina operators have been completed. Overall, $6.3 M in relief funding has been disbursed. The demand for marina repair reimbursement was lower than expected, and resulted in a leftover budget of approximately $1.4 M. If spending authority is secured, additional payouts will be conducted for all other programs, as those payouts were prorated due to limited funds.

In December 2020, Governor DeSantis submitted a federal fisheries disaster declaration request to the Secretary of Commerce to assist with impacted from Hurricane Sally. NOAA replied to the FWC in February 2022, requesting additional information. FWC is reviewing fishery-dependent information and drafting our response to NOAA.

CARES Act 1 & 2

On Mach 27, 2020, the CARES Act was signed into law. One of its major provisions related to the fishing industry was $300 million for fishery disaster assistance nationwide. Of that, Florida was allocated $23.4 million. Applications to eligible fishery participants (commercial aqua culturist, commercial fisher, commercial wholesaler, and for-hire charter) were mailed in late 2020. Overall, 1,595 qualifying Florida fishery participants received financial relief through this program. Total disbursed funds equal $23.4 M. On

Dec. 27, 2020, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 was signed into law. At $2.3 trillion, this bill is one of the largest spending measures ever enacted. Of that, $255 million was allocated for fishery disaster assistance nationwide. Florida was allocated $19.7 million. All relief money was distributed to the interstate commissions. Florida worked with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) to distribute the funding to qualified applicants. NOAA approved FWC's spend plan in late June. The process was similar to the methodology used for the first CARES Act project, with only minor changes to the timeframe. Applications to eligible fishery participants (commercial aqua culturist, commercial fisher, commercial wholesaler, and for-hire charter) were mailed in mid-July. The application period was open for 45 days, followed by a 17-day period to allow for amendments. Over 2,100 applications were received. Payment information was submitted to the ASMFC on October 13, 2021. Overall, 1,362 qualifying Florida fishery participants received financial relief through this program. Total disbursed funds equal $19.1 M. FWC accepted an additional $1.9 M for the CARES Act 1 program, with the funds originating from other states' leftover budgets. Applications for relief were mailed in late April. A total of 643 applications were received within the submission window. Relief payment information was provided to ASMFC in late June for processing. This completed FWC's efforts for the CARES Act 1 program. ASMFC has stated that there may be leftover funds from CARES 2. If there are leftover funds, FWC will request to receive a portion to provide additional relief funds to the fishery.

USDA SPRS Grant

In January 2022, FWC was awarded $516,208 from the USDA to administer the SPRS program, which aimed to financially reimburse Florida seafood processors and dealers who incurred costs to mitigate the effects of COVID-19. FWC, working in cooperation with FDACS, mailed applications in early March. Over 100 applications were received. After an initial review, applicants with incomplete applications were contacted and provided an amendment window to correct their application. Additionally, a randomly-selected sample of applications were audited. In total, 69 applications were eligible to receive funding through this program. Applications were processed in June. Total dispersed funds were $484,806.

Activities Related to Artificial Reef Programs

Florida Artificial Reef Construction

From October 2021 through September 2022, there were 53 new patch reefs created from a total of 48 artificial reef deployments state-wide that were comprised of 38 prefabricated concrete module reefs (330 modules totaling 2,505 tons), 5 secondary-use concrete material reefs (904 tons), 3 limestone boulder mitigation reefs (1,844 tons) and seven vessel reefs (3,103 tons). Of the 48 artificial reef deployments, 3 (6%) were funded by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) and 45 (94%) 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 and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Federal Sport Fish Restoration Program.

Florida Artificial Reef Monitoring and Research

From October 2021 through September 2022, two artificial reef monitoring projects managed by the FWC Artificial Reef Program were completed and three projects are ongoing. Three artificial reef monitoring projects were located off the Gulf Coast and two off the Atlantic Coast:

Ongoing:

- Oriskany Reef Fish PCB Monitoring Project (Northwest Florida – Gulf)
- Artificial Reef Fish Community Dynamics Research, USF (Central Florida – Gulf)
- Depredation and discard mortality of Permit Monitoring Project, FIU (Southeast Florida- Atlantic)

Completed:

- Taylor County Volunteer Artificial Reef Monitoring Project (Central Florida – Gulf)
- Economic Impact and Valuation of Southeast Florida Artificial Reefs, NOAA (Southeast Florida – Atlantic)

Florida Artificial Reef Outreach

On November 6, 2021, Keith Mille virtually attended the National AFS Annual meeting and co-authored a presentation by Lisa Havel (ASMFC) titled "A Profile of Atlantic Artificial Reef Development and Sport Fish Restoration Program Contributions". The presentation provided an overview of the recent 2021 publication, available on the Commission's website http://www.asmfc.org/habitat/artificial-reefs, and highlighted some of those projects funded by Sportfish Restoration Funding. The publication also provides an overview of Atlantic state artificial reef programs and summarizes funding contributions from the Sport Fish Restoration Program.

Looking ahead towards upcoming outreach events, Florida FWC Artificial Reef Program Staff in partnership with Florida Sea Grant, are working towards hosting a SW Florida Regional Artificial Reef Workshop in Bradenton, FL on November 15, 2022. This meeting will bring together about fifty artificial reef managers, scientists and others interested in artificial reefs to discuss new research, statewide initiatives, and regional updates for Florida's Southwest region. This one-day workshop will be held at the Manatee County Extension Office in Palmetto, FL. Doors open at 8am, talks start at 9am, and we'll adjourn by 3:30pm. Breakfast, snacks, coffee, and lunch will be provided. For those wishing to participate remotely, the workshop will also be broadcast live via

Florida Sea Grant's "Florida Artificial Reefs" Facebook during the workshop (https://www.facebook.com/floridaartificialreefs/).

Activities Associated with the Gulf of Mexico Crab Fisheries

Derelict Trap Retrieval Program

The FWC blue crab 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 2022, there were no scheduled blue crab trap fishing closures on the Gulf Coast.

In addition to regional blue crab trap retrieval efforts, FWC also conducts spiny lobster and stone crab derelict trap retrieval on the Gulf Coast annually. In 2022, 2,220 spiny lobster and stone crab traps were removed from Monroe County (82% commercial, 6% unidentified, 7% recreational, 4% rope/buoy) and 264 stone crab traps were removed from Hillsborough/Pinellas through Lee Counties (82% commercial, 5% unidentified, 3% recreational, 10% rope/buoy).

Activities Related to Fisheries Dependent Data Collection

Marine Recreational Information Program

The state of Florida worked collaboratively with GSMFC over the past year to implement new computer assisted telephone interview (CATI) methods for electronic recording of data collected through the For-Hire Survey (FHS). The FHS is a component of MRIP to directly collect trip information directly from charter vessel operators and is used to generate estimates of for-hire fishing effort by state and federally permitted charter vessels in Florida. Currently, paper data sheets are used to log information collected over the phone, which requires data entry and additional QA/QC. Collection of data using the new CATI system is expected to begin in fall 2022.

Scallop Recreational Survey Pilot Study

The recreational scallop fishery along the Gulf coast of Florida has rapidly expanded in recent years. The fishery is concentrated in the Big Bend region and draws recreational participants from across the state and throughout the US southeast region, including from neighboring states of Georgia and Alabama. The recreational fishery is currently managed with a daily harvest limit and open seasons during June-September that vary across five regions. A survey to monitor recreational landings was pilot tested in 2021 with funding through the Interjurisdictional Fisheries Act, and the second year of testing is ongoing. A special intercept survey specifically targeting recreational scallopers was

implemented to measure CPUE, and information on fishing effort was collected through two separate surveys conducted with saltwater fishing license holders. The first capitalizes on the ongoing State Reef Fish Survey that asks anglers to report details for all trips targeting finfish and invertebrates, and the second was a specialized survey that specifically pertained to activities associated with recreational scalloping. Estimates from the two methods will be compared after the second year of the study is complete.

Barotrauma Mitigation

The Return 'Em Right project is a large-scale outreach and education initiative in the Gulf region to encourage for-hire operators and private anglers to adopt the use of descender devices to mitigate the negative impacts of barotrauma in the recreational fishery for reef fishes. Outreach for the program has begun along the Gulf coast of Florida, and the state has been working collaboratively with GSMFC, along with the states of Alabama and Mississippi to monitor the success of the program by deploying fishery observers on for-hire charter and headboat vessels. The state of Florida has dedicated state funds to long-term monitoring of recreational discards since 2020. In addition, funding was received through GSMFC to support the addition of three fishery observers in order to increase sample sizes in the Gulf. New questions were also added to the State Reef Fish Survey dockside intercept survey to collect information on the prevalence of descender device use in the private boat segment of the recreational fishery in Florida. Both the for-hire observer survey and the dockside intercept survey are conducted year-round to collect vital information on recreational discards during open and closed seasons for important managed reef fish species.

Activities Related to Fisheries Independent Sampling

During the current reporting period, some fishery independent monitoring activities conducted by the state of Florida were reduced to better align sampling with available funding. Completed activities and summaries include:

- Monthly, long-term estuarine monitoring in five Gulf of Mexico estuaries (Apalachicola Bay, Cedar Key, Tampa Bay and Charlotte Harbor) continued in 2022. Monthly sampling was conducted with 21.3-m seines and 183-m haul seines in the estuaries, 21.3-m seine sampling in the rivers was reduced (from 12 months to 9 months) in Tampa Bay and Charlotte Harbor, bi-monthly sampling was conducted with 6.1-m otter trawls in the rivers and quarterly sampling was conducted with 6.1-m otter trawls in the estuaries to better align sampling with available funding.
- Bimonthly sampling with 21.3-m seines and 183-m haul seines in Sarasota Bay has been completed through August 2022 and will continue through fiscal year 2022-2023, with funding from the Sarasota Bay Estuary Program. Beginning in 2022, sampling effort was reduced (discontinued 6.1-m otter trawl sampling) to better align sampling with the funding amount.

- Supplemental (June – November), monthly 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.
- Monthly supplemental (June – November) sampling in the western Panhandle (Santa Rosa Sound and Fort Walton area) for spotted seatrout using 183-m haul seines and 6.1-m otter trawls was also conducted.
- Seasonal sampling was conducted in five estuarine areas of the Everglades National Park (ENP; Ten Thousand Islands, Broad River, Lostmans River, Shark River, and Whitewater Bay) with 21.3-m seines, 183-m haul seines, and 6.1-m otter trawls in April and October 2021. Sampling has continued in 2022 (April). Additionally, seasonal sampling in the ENP has expanded in 2022 to include Florida Bay. Sampling is conducted with 21.3-m seines, 183-m haul seines, and 6.1-m otter trawls.
- Monitoring of fishes in a restoration site at Robinson Preserve was also conducted in 2022. Part of the restoration plans at Robinson Preserve included constructing multiple waterbodies with various restoration design features to increase fisheries habitat. Sampling was conducted in January, April, and May to assess abundance in the various waterbodies. Additionally, in April and May 2022, an acoustic receiver array was installed to monitor fish movements within and around the preserve. A total of 22 sport fish have been tagged with acoustic tags in Robinson Preserve; we anticipate tagging 18 additional fish in 2022.
- Updates on abundances of 8 taxa in southwest Florida (Tampa Bay, Sarasota Bay, and Charlotte Harbor) have been provided to FWRI and the FWC Commission as needed to continue evaluating red tide impacts on inshore fish populations and assist with state fisheries management decisions for common snook, red drum, and spotted seatrout.
- Long-term trends in abundance of red drum were provided to the Division of Marine Fisheries Management and the FWC Commissioners to inform decisions on the new red drum management zones and regulations.
- The fall and summer SEAMAP groundfish trawl surveys were conducted as planned using 12.8-m trawls.
- The annual (May – October) reef fish video and habitat mapping survey is ongoing; to date approximately 80% of planned sampling effort has been completed using stationary-baited remote underwater video arrays and side scan sonar to survey artificial and natural reef habitats.
- The first year of a three-year MARFIN project to continue a long-term fishery-independent hooked-gear index and explore alternative techniques for improving diversity of fishes collected was conducted. This project will continue through 2024.
- Processing of survey-related trophodynamics data in support of ecosystem-based fishery management continued.

Results from video survey efforts, particularly those of red snapper, were presented to a January meeting of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council's Science and

Statistical Committee. During this period, indices of abundance of video survey data were generated for the Scamp and Gray Snapper operational assessments and the red snapper research track assessment through SEDAR. Preliminary analyses have also been conducted in association with an upcoming SEDAR procedural workshop focused on fishery independent index development under changing survey design.

Commercial Fisheries

Florida has been using the new VESL commercial trip ticket reporting application developed by Bluefin Data since April of 2019. The full data-entry version with federal fields was made available in January of 2021. VESL is 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. Florida now has 250+ dealers using the web-based application with more dealers added each month. Most new dealers are going to VESL, but the number of federal dealers using the application is limited at this time. One draw-back in the application for federal dealers is the absence of the different reports and deductions features that were available in the PC version. For 2022, Bluefin is currently developing the reports feature and modifying the printable trip ticket form to agency specifications with projected completion by January of 2023. Development of the deductions tool is slated for 2023. Another aspect of trip ticket reporting in Florida is getting paper ticket dealers to go electronic. Many are reluctant because they are a small operation and may not have a computer or are not computer savvy. Also, it is getting more difficult to find printers of the paper form and the cost to print the forms has increased. We are once again notifying paper ticket dealers of the importance of electronic reporting and to encourage them to go electronic. While there are a limited number, we will be providing a tablet to any paper dealer who will switch to electronic reporting.

The 2021 commercial landings information are complete as of July 31, 2022, and subject to revision. Preliminary commercial landings for 2022 are complete through about June. To date, the number of trip ticket records received in 2022 are down about 9% from January-August as compared to the same period in 2021. The reduction in fishing effort may have been affected more by increased fuel costs reducing the number of trips made along the Florida Gulf coast as well as possible weather effects and availability of certain species.

In 2022, Florida commercial field staff continue to sample interjurisdictional (IJ) fisheries such as blue crab, stone crab, shrimp, oysters, mullet, flounder, sheepshead, baitfish, and other potentially under-sampled species from Florida's state waters under a grant through the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission. Sampling is being conducted using NOAA Fisheries Trip Interview Program (TIP) sampling protocols, and all biostatistical data collected from IJ species are recorded in the TIP database. Through August, samplers have conducted 224 interviews resulting in 5,587 fish measured and 448 hard parts

collected of IJ species. Over all species, samplers conducted 334 interviews resulting in 12,898 fish measured and 7,187 hard parts collected under the IJ grant through GulfFIN.

During 2022, Florida FWC commercial field staff continued to conduct bio-statistical sampling for the NOAA Fisheries Trip Interview Program (TIP). Through August of 2022, total sampling of commercial catches along the Gulf coast of Florida accounted for 606 TIP interviews, 22,968 fish measured, and 12,268 age structures collected. While the number of interviews conducted so far in 2022 are up slightly by 7% from 2021, the number of fish measured are up significantly from 2021 at 48%. Strong contributors to the increased sampling are the IJ and Gulf conversion projects as well as some individual efforts. TIP sampling in Florida is funded from a variety of funding sources that include: State of Florida, NOAA Fisheries, and GulfFIN.

Other State Activities

SEDAR 64 Southeastern US Yellowtail Snapper

An interim analysis was conducted for yellowtail snapper following the Benchmark SEDAR 64 (S64) stock assessment. This analysis applied updated landings and discards data for each fleet (commercial, headboat, and recreational) to the S64 base model from 2018 – 2020. The interim analysis found that yellowtail snapper was not overfished nor undergoing overfishing in the terminal year 2020 and the population is estimated around one-and-a-half times the minimum stock size threshold (MSST). The MFMT (defined as $F_{30\%SPR}$) was estimated to be 0.429 yr^{-1} and $F_{current}$ was estimated to be 0.292 yr^{-1} ; therefore, the F ratio ($F_{current}$/MFMT) was equal to 0.68. Status designation of this stock has not changed since the S64 benchmark (terminal year 2017) nor since the first assessment (SEDAR 3).

Alabama State Report
Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission's
Fall 2022 – Texas meeting

Emerging Issues Pertinent to Gulf of Mexico Fisheries.

Regulatory/Administration

The Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources/Marine Resources Division (AMRD) is awaiting a NOAA Fisheries award for disaster funding related to 2019 freshwater flooding to be distributed to Alabama residents and Tribal members that were licensed as: saltwater commercial seafood or aquaculture operators, non-retail seafood dealers or processors, live bait dealers, or for-hire vessel owners/operators during the flooding event.

As a reminder, beginning in 2021, mandatory reporting of recreationally caught Gray Triggerfish and Greater Amberjack landed in Alabama was also required for owner/operators of private recreational and state charter vessels.

Activities Related to Artificial Reef Programs.

Phase II of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's 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. As part of this project, AMRD acquired authorization from the Army Corps of Engineers to construct four inshore reefs in Mobile Bay. A construction contract of $1,100,000 has been executed to construct the four inshore reefs and work is anticipated to begin in October 2022. Additionally, through September 2022, 1,659 10' tall and 456 25' tall concrete/limestone tetrahedron-shaped artificial reef modules and 1,203 low-relief juvenile concrete/limestone reef fish shelters have been deployed as part of this project under two contracts totaling $7,393,200. Juvenile habitat modules and a portion of the 10' tetrahedon-shaped modules were placed in permitted reef zones within 6-9 nm from shore. The remaining 10' modules and all of the 25' modules were deployed in permitted reef zones approximately 15 – 45 nm offshore of Alabama.

A total of 531 individual reefs constructed by members of the public were inspected and permitted by AMRD staff 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 framed boxes. The structures were deployed between approximately 15 - 50 nm offshore of Alabama within areas authorized for artificial reef construction activities.

Activities Associated with the Gulf of Mexico Crab Fisheries.

No derelict trap collection activities were conducted in 2022. AMRD continues to monitor the number of derelict traps and is currently working with partners to determine when a derelict cleanup will be conducted in the future.

Activities Related to Fisheries Dependent Data Collection.

1. APAIS

AMRD continued to use tablets for data collected from anglers participating in NOAA Fisheries' Access Point Angler Intercept Survey (APAIS). From January 1 through July 31, 2022, AMRD samplers completed a total of 340 APAIS assignments and interviewed 3,161 anglers. Six assignments were cancelled during the reporting period. Semi-annual training and fish tests were given to APAIS staff in February and September 2022.

2. Biological Sampling

The Biological Sampling Program (BSP) was created to collect fish hard parts from recreationally caught fish to better estimate the age of fish captured in Gulf of Mexico from this sector. In 2022 a new approach to site and assignment selection was implemented. Assignments were randomly assigned to samplers based on fishing seasons, pressure, and otolith targets. Results from this approach, combined with reduced funding, resulted in fewer hard parts collected compared to recent years. For the period between January 1 through August 29, 2022, a total of 275 sets of otoliths/ or triggerfish spines were collected by AMRD staff representing 12 out of 13 primary target species during 60 assignments at different access points.

BSP Total # Hard Parts Collected by Species: Jan 1, 2022 - Aug 29, 2022		
Species ITIS	**Common Name**	**Collected**
167702	RED GROUPER	--
167759	GAG	1
168689	GREATER AMBERJACK	13
168848	GRAY SNAPPER	11
168853	RED SNAPPER	152
168909	VERMILION SNAPPER	37
169189	SHEEPSHEAD	11
169239	SPOTTED SEATROUT	20
169288	BLACK DRUM	2
169290	RED DRUM	8
172435	KING MACKEREL	10
172738	SOUTHERN FLOUNDER	10
173138	GRAY TRIGGERFISH	28
Total of Target Species Collected		**275**

3. Snapper Check
Alabama's private recreational Red Snapper season opened Friday, May 27th. Since 2020, anglers fishing from private and state licensed charter vessels were allowed to harvest Red Snapper during four day extended weekends (Fri.-Mon.). Preliminary private recreational Red Snapper harvest estimates through July 31st from Alabama's Snapper Check program are 296,385 pounds for private vessel anglers and 35,737 pounds for state charter vessel anglers. Through the same period, AMRD has received 4,385 private vessel landing reports and 381 state charter vessel landing reports.

4. SEFHIER
AMRD staff continued to use tablets for data collected from anglers participating in NOAA Fisheries' Southeast For-Hire Integrated Electronic Reporting (SEFHIER) validation survey. The tablet-based dockside surveys are collected through an application developed for SEFHIER. From January 1, 2022, through July 31, 2022, AMRD samplers completed a total of 59 out of 65 assignments and out of the completed assignments, anglers from 191 federal for-hire vessels were interviewed.

5. At-Sea Observer Program
The AMRD is currently participating in an at-sea observer program funded by the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission (GSMFC) for the next four years. This program was implemented on June 1, 2022. The program consists of scheduling an at-sea observer to ride on for-hire vessel trips where marine reef fish species will be targeted to collect biological information, release condition and discard information of reef fish caught and released during the trip. In addition, when time is available reef fish species of priority are tagged and released. These priority species include, but are not limited to: Red Snapper, Gag, Red Grouper, Gray Triggerfish and Greater Amberjack. From June 1 through July 31, 2022, 22 out of 24 scheduled observer trips were successfully completed with 2 trips being cancelled because of inclement weather. During this reporting period, out of 329 tagged reef fish, 5 have been recaptured and reported to AMRD.

Activities Related to Fisheries Independent Sampling.

1. Shellfish
Quadrat samples collected during the 2022 annual oyster reef assessment were of a similar density of legal-sized oysters compared to 2021 samples. On some reefs, the 2022 samples showed a slight increase in abundance of spat and sub-legal oysters compared to 2021. Based on sample data from the 2022 reef assessment the public reefs will open to harvest on October 3rd.

The 2022-2023 oyster season will include the first four Saturdays to provide an opportunity for youth participation in the harvest. On these Saturdays, the reefs will open to harvest for all commercial and recreational harvesters, however the reefs will close at 12:00 pm instead of 2:00

pm. Saturday harvests may be continued after these initial four Saturdays, dependent upon a review of the participation on those days.

During the 2022 oyster season, AMRD will continue to use the oyster reef grid system to manage harvest on individual reef areas. AMRD staff will monitor the number of sacks harvested and proportion of adult oysters on culling boards in grids open to harvest. AMRD staff will open and close grids as needed to move oyster harvesters within public reef areas. This will ensure an even distribution of harvest across reefs and leave broodstock for continued rebuilding. Each day of the season harvesters will be able see which grids are open and monitor their position within the grid system by accessing a web link on their smart phones.

The AMRD will continue to sell recreational harvest tags (introduced during the 2021 season) at the Oyster Management Station during the 2022 harvest season. Recreational harvesters are required to purchase a tag and attach it to whatever container they use to hold their recreational harvest. Recreational harvesters can harvest up to 100 legal-sized (min. 3 in.) oysters per person per day and oysters can only be harvested from reefs and at times open to commercial harvest. The introduction of this tag has allowed AMRD to collect data on recreational harvest which has been difficult to determine in the past. During the 2021 season, a total of 1,177 recreational tags were sold. This is equivalent to approximately 706 legal commercial sacks.

2. SEAMAP

SEAMAP activities accomplished thus far for 2022 include completion of 28 stations of remotely operated vehicle video with vertical line, six nearshore bottom longline and summer trawl surveys in conjunction with Mississippi. The trawl cruise was in conjunction with the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory as staff from Alabama and Mississippi are working from the same vessel for sampling from statistical zones 8-12. Alabama will continue to sample using video and vertical line gears through 2022 and switch over to a video survey of habitats in 2023. Alabama participated in GSMFC SEAMAP subcommittee and workgroups to continually refine the trawl and bottom long line manuals. The Plankton work group met even though Alabama will not be conducting that survey for the foreseeable future.

3. Inshore Gillnet

Fishery-independent gillnet sampling was conducted each month for the period between January 1, 2022, to July 31, 2022, using small mesh perpendicular one-hour sets with mesh size ranging from 2-4 inches, and large mesh parallel one-hour sets with mesh size ranging from 4.5-6 inches. An evaluation of the gillnet survey has incorporated 30-minute set times. All 30-minute sets were randomized and scheduled in advance and setup to have 1 large mesh and 1 small mesh 30-minute set each month. A total of 133 of 134 scheduled hour-long net sets were completed, and 10 of 10 scheduled 30-minute sets were conducted through July. In August staff completed 26 of

26 hour-long sets and 1 of 2 30-minute sets. Several weeks of thunderstorms and high wind forecasts during August interfered with sampling. A total of 53 different species were collected comprising 3,346 observed individuals. From January through July, 702 otoliths were collected from sampled individuals in addition to taking measurements of length, weight, sex, and gonad weight.

The table below contains a list of number caught and catch per unit effort by select species from gill nets deployed for 1 hour and 30 minutes and number of otoliths collected from select species for the period January July 2022 from gillnets, trawls, seines, marine enforcement seizures, and other sources.

Species	Hour Sets		30-minute Sets		Otoliths		
	Caught	CPUE	Caught	CPUE	Gillnet	Trawl/ Seine	Enforcement/ Misc
Atl. Croaker	281	2.113	15	0.750	93	-	-
Bl. Drum	24	0.180	1	0.050	24	-	1
Bluefish	3	0.023	0	0.000	0	-	-
Fl. Pompano	7	0.053	0	0.000	1	-	-
G. Flounder	1	0.008	0	0.000	2	-	-
Gulf Menhaden	846	6.361	7	0.350	-	-	-
Red Drum	13	0.098	0	0.000	12	-	-
S. Kingfish	16	0.120	3	0.150	19	-	-
S. Mullet	165	1.241	12	0.600	157	1	-
Sand Seatrout	17	0.128	0	0.000	16	3	-
Sheepshead	34	0.256	1	0.050	33	-	-
So. Flounder	9	0.068	0	0.000	11	5	-
Sp. Mackerel	29	0.218	1	0.050	27	-	-
Sp. Seatrout	149	1.120	22	1.100	171	-	-
W. Mullet	181	1.361	7	0.350	125	-	-
Osc. Flounder	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Totals	**1775**		**69***		**691**	**10**	**1**

**Total catch listed for the above species. 30-minute sets were not conducted in Jan./ Feb.*

Other State Activities.

1. Mariculture

The Claude Peteet Mariculture Center (CPMC) continued marine finfish stock enhancement efforts through the Winter, Spring, and Summer of 2022.

In the winter months, Southern Flounder were reared and released. CPMC had its best production year yet releasing 118,954 fish. These fish were released in waters of Mobile and Baldwin Counties.

Spotted Seatrout rearing continued in the Spring and Summer with an additional 131,000 being released. A total of approximately 215,000 have been released into Alabama waters in fiscal year 2022 (October 2021 – September 2022).

Production of Florida Pompano fingerlings has continued to be a challenge. Only 5,300 fish have been released this year. CPMC staff believe the lack of production may be associated with the broodstock being too old or have been spawned too frequently. Therefore, they made a concerted effort in the spring to collect new broodfish. CPMC partnered with a local fishing tournament called "The Pomp Stomp" to collect live broodfish. This partnership allowed ARMD to engage with tournament participants who participated in the tournament and volunteered to donate fish to CPMC. The event was a great success, with 56 fish donated. Enough fish were collected to fully rotate our current stock.

CPMC looks forward to continued Florida Pompano and Spotted Seatrout runs in the coming summer and fall months. Facilities maintenance projects are planned for the early winter, with Southern Flounder culture continuing after the new year.

2. Boating Access

Fort Morgan boat ramp and fishing pier is nearing final completion. Repairs to the Pines boat ramp are completed and additional riprap was replaced for shoreline stabilization. Repairs are in progress at our Viewpoint ramp.

3. Outreach

The AMRD Fisheries and Enforcement sections participated in the Delta Woods and Water Festival, an outreach event with school children, and Shark Week at the Gulf State Park. 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. Marine Mammals and Sea Turtles

The Enforcement and Fisheries Sections continue to work together under a Natural Resources Disaster Assessment funded project to reduce injury and mortality to Alabama's sea turtles and Atlantic Bottlenose Dolphins. Enforcement staff have maintained their vessel and beach patrols to monitor for Endangered Species Act (ESA) and Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) compliance, as well as distributing educational materials to the public that convey protected species viewing guidelines and how to help stranded marine animals. At the end of April 2022, two wireless video monitoring systems were deployed to public beach locations where sea turtles have previously nested and there is a high probability of human interaction. These cameras allow for staff to remotely monitor turtle nesting areas to observe human/sea turtle interactions. To date, Alabama has had over 100 false crawls and over 70 nests this nesting season (runs May 1st through October 31st).

AMRD developed a request for proposals to seek a contractor to conduct social science and fisheries studies to help characterize the nature and extent of dolphin and sea turtle interactions with anglers (commercial and recreational), gauge knowledge of ESA and MMPA viewing guidelines; and characterize the nature and extent of illegal feeding and vessel-based harassment of dolphins in Alabama waters. These studies will provide guidance for a comprehensive and targeted outreach plan. The study should begin in Fall of 2022.

5. Enforcement

From February 2022 through August 2022, AMRD enforcement officers conducted 1,173 commercial fishermen intercepts, 14,788 recreational fishermen intercepts, 864 seafood dealer and processor inspections, 9,588 hours of patrol (combined vessel patrol and shore patrol) and boarded 4,384 vessels.

AMRD Enforcement continues to work with NOAA fisheries as part of a Joint Enforcement Agreement (JEA) enforcing fisheries regulations in Alabama and the federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico. NOAA fisheries has set several priorities for enforcing and managing the various fisheries in these two zones. These priorities target patrols to the different types of fisheries management criteria in offshore and near-shore fisheries. The areas targeted by NOAA are Turtle Excluder Device (T.E.D.) gear enforcement; the recreational gulf reef fish fishery; the Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) fishery that targets: Red Snapper, grouper, and tilefish; marine mammal protection patrols; and the SEFHIER. In 2021, the NOAA implemented a requirement for the Federal For-Hire charter fishing industry. This program requires all Federally permitted for-hire charter fishing vessels to report each fishing trip electronically. This report includes the numbers and types of fish caught, the total number of fishermen, and a summary of fish caught and their quantities. AMRD enforcement officers remain active during the charter fishing season, ensuring that the federally permitted vessels follow the SEFHIER reporting requirements.

As the Covid-19 precautions have all but been eliminated, AMRD Enforcement is once again attending and participating in many of the outreach events that take place in the region. The enforcement section’s opportunities for outreach continued to increase, thus allowing for a much greater chance to interact and educate the public.

The Enforcement and Fisheries Sections continue to work under a dual grant to monitor and protect marine mammals and sea turtles. One of the grant's objectives is to monitor turtle crawls and nesting areas to help prevent nest damage caused by the public. The funding also provides for materials that target the public and educate them on the potential harm they can unknowingly cause to turtle nests, and turtle hatching runs. Funding also provides educational material outlining the dangers caused by marine mammal interactions with people and how current laws related to these interactions are crucial to protecting marine mammals and turtles. The two

portable camera units purchased with this grant have allowed the fisheries (and enforcement) to monitor turtle nests 24 hours a day with live video feeds. When deployed, the cameras can track turtle movements and human interactions and monitor marked nesting sites.

Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission
Technical Coordinating Committee
Mississippi State Report (January 1, 2022 – June 30, 2022)

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1. 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. A total of 41 sampling events occurred during the report period and yielded 662 individual specimens spanning 23 species.

In January 2022, the ARB received and stockpiled 32 truckloads of donated concrete culverts from Design Precast and Pipe totaling 846 pieces. These materials and previously stockpiled clean concrete materials were deployed May through June 2022. The materials were loaded onto barges from the staging site in Gulfport and deployed into FH-13 creating eight new reef sites within the permitted area. To date, this project has contributed approximately 8,008 tons of clean concrete material.

Monitoring was conducted on the new structures deployed in FH-13 via juvenile tagging studies. Juvenile fish traps were deployed on these sites and allowed to soak for one hour. All reef fish captured were weighed, measured, tagged, and released. Nine total traps were set and retrieved. Data was collected from a total of 96 juvenile reef fish from three different species that were captured, tagged, and released.

Efforts to renew USACE permits for all nearshore artificial reefs are ongoing.

The MDMR was recently awarded three projects through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund (GEBF). ARB staff continues to work with NFWF to begin the Engineering and Design phase of the projects to include an expansion of Katrina Key, an inshore reef assessment, and enhancement of Cat Island, FH-8, FH-9/11, and FH-10 Reefs.

2. 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 234 assignments and 860 surveys were completed January through June 2022 in Jackson, Harrison, and Hancock Counties. One assignment was cancelled due to staff error. The Socioeconomic Add-On Survey was added to the MRIP program January 2022 and will continue through December 2022.

SEFHIER

The FB began validation surveys for the Southeast For-Hire Integrated Electronic Reporting (SEFHIER) Program on March 1, 2022. From March through June, a total of 35 assignments were completed and 42 surveys were obtained from the federally permitted vessels in

Harrison County.

Trip Tickets

The FB collected commercial seafood 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 (*Sciaenops ocellatus),* Spotted Seatrout (*Cynoscion nebulosus*), and Southern Flounder (*Paralichthys lethostigma).*
From January through June 2022, there were 2,681 paper and electronic trip tickets submitted for 311 commercial fishermen by 89 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 53. Staff are continuing to work with BlueFin Data and federal partners to make the new system available to federally permitted dealers and are continuing development with BlueFin Data on an electronic reporting system for Mississippi Off Bottom Oyster Aquaculture (OBOA) in the form of a mobile application and a web-based electronic monthly dealer ticket for the Mississippi Live Bait industry. The OBOA form went live on June 1, 2022, and the live bait form will go live tentatively in 2022.

Age and Growth

The FB collected 149 otoliths from nine select species: Black Drum (*Pogonias cromis*) (29), Red Drum (19), Red Snapper (*Lutjanus campechanus*) (149), Sand Seatrout (*Cynoscion arenarius*) (15), Sheepshead (*Archosargus probatocephalus*) (31), Southern Flounder (18), Southern Kingfish (*Menticirrhus americanus*) (10), Spanish Mackerel (*Scomberomorus maculatus*) (1), and Spotted Seatrout (73), and processed 494 otoliths as part of the Biological Sampling Program.

Tails ‘n’ Scales

Red Snapper is currently managed under amendment 50C to the Fishery Management Plan for Reef Fish Resources in the Gulf of Mexico. Mississippi along with the other gulf states moved into state management of Red Snapper beginning with the 2020 season. Management rules for 2022 were set for a private recreational and state for-hire season in state and federal waters off Mississippi to open May 27, 2022, at 12:01am and a mid-season closure projected for July 10, 2022, at 11:59pm. Mississippi's private recreational Annual Catch Limit (ACL) was set for 151,550 pounds. The federal for-hire component was given a 79-day season, lasting from June 1 to August 19, 2022. Vessels with federal reef fish permits are not included under amendment 50 but are required to obtain Tails n’ Scales trip authorization prior to fishing.

3. 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 net sets at ten stations to collect finfish species for subsequent age-and-

growth analysis as well as other biological data. A total of 171 otoliths were collected from seven species: Black Drum (37), Red Drum (43), Sheepshead (8), Southern Flounder (7), Spanish Mackerel (1), Spotted Seatrout (39), and Striped Mullet (*Mugil cephalus*) (35) in Mississippi territorial waters.

The acoustic telemetry work funded by the USFWS Sport Fish Restoration Program for interagency, cooperative tracking of multiple species in Mississippi state waters continued. The FB continues to provide routine maintenance to acoustic receivers (n=45) and detection data were downloaded, summarized, and added to master database. New concrete buoy anchor blocks were prepared as replacement acoustic receiver buoys for deployment in summer 2022. Current findings from this project were presented at the USFWS Wildlife and Sportfish Restoration Coordinators Meeting in Biloxi, MS, the USM Science Café via zoom meeting, the Mississippi Chapter of the American Fisheries Society in Hattiesburg, MS, and at the GSMFC Flounder symposium, Floundering Around: Evaluating a Declining Species in the SE United States, in Baton Rouge, LA. Acoustic tagging of Southern Flounder is to resume in August 2022.

The Fyke Net sampling program, which is used to target Southern Flounder, began sampling in May of 2022. Fyke nets were set and retrieved on a bi-weekly basis at five sampling locations Davis Bayou, Deer Island, Belle Fontaine, Pascagoula 1, and Pascagoula 2. Through May and June, a total of 71 Southern Flounder were collected.

Shrimp and Crab Sampling

The SCB continued to conduct monthly fishery independent trawl sampling under the NOAA project Monitoring and Assessment of Mississippi's Interjurisdictional Marine Resources. This sampling program includes 14 fixed stations located in the western Mississippi Sound and along a transect from Horn Island to the upper end of the Back Bay of Biloxi. Sampling was conducted using a 16-foot otter trawl with liner in the cod end. A total of 83 trawls were completed from January to June 2022.

The SCB continued fishery independent trap surveys for Blue Crab (*Callinectes sapidus*) within three major estuaries: St. Louis Bay, Back Bay of Biloxi, and the lower Pascagoula River. Each estuary was sampled monthly from January to June 2022 for a total of 18 sample sets, a total of 108 traps pulled. This program, which began in September 2014, provides data on CPUE, size and sex composition, Blue Crab abundance, and bycatch composition. In total 307 sample sets have been completed since the beginning of the project, a total of 2,578 traps pulled.

The SCB continued to conduct monthly fishery independent shrimp trawls to monitor seasonal abundance and size 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 Round Island using a standard 16-foot otter trawl. Sampling frequency increases to weekly in April and twice per week in May to monitor Brown Shrimp

(*Farfantepenaeus aztecus*) growth. A total of 150 trawls were completed from January to June 2022.

The SCB continued a fishery independent study using experimental gear types in Mississippi coastal waterways. The program was funded through the GSMFC IJ State Research Funding (SuRF) Program. Two experimental trawls, six-foot and 12-foot, were tested for collection of juvenile finfish, penaeid shrimp and Blue Crab. Two samples were collected with each trawl size in each of the three coastal counties at randomly selected sites each month. A total of 72 small trawls were completed from January to June 2022.

The SCB also continued a fishery independent crab trap survey in Mississippi commercial Blue Crab harvest waters. Six crab traps were placed at a randomly selected site in each of the three coastal counties every month to provide data on CPUE, size and sex composition, Blue Crab abundance, and bycatch composition. A total of 108 traps were set and pulled from January to June 2022.

Shellfish Sampling

The 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 January through June 2022, SB conducted 124 dredge tows, 175 square-meter samples, and cultivated 160 acres of the western MississippiSound.

4. Other State Activities

State Records for Recreational Fishing

A total of five recreational fishing records were approved as state records January through June 2022. There were three Conventional Tackle records approved: Trey Tinkle with a Rock Hind (*Epinephelus adscensionis*) with a weight of 3 pounds 10.4 ounces, Philip Overman with a Smooth Puffer (*Lagocephalus laevigatus*) with a weight of 10 pounds 0.0 ounces, and John Wright with a Blackbelly Rosefish (*Helicolenus dactylopterus*), 2 pounds 11.2 ounces. Two All Tackle records were approved in June 2022 for Bigeye (*Priacanthus arenatus*), 2 pounds 11.52 ounces by Harley Havard, and Unicorn Filefish (*Aluterus monoceros*), 5 pounds 9.8 ounces by Brandon Powell.

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 11 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 32 Special Permits from January to June 2022.

Skimmer TED Reimbursement Program

Staff continued development and implementation of a program to reimburse shrimpers who purchase turtle excluder devices (TEDs) for their skimmervessels. This project is intended to mitigate financial impacts to those vessels affected by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) December 20, 2019, final rule, which requires all skimmer vessels 40-feet in length and larger to use TEDs in their nets beginning August 1, 2021. Two shrimpers were reimbursed for their purchase of a TED from January to June 2022. In total, 50 shrimpers have been reimbursed for skimmer trawl TEDs since the start of the program.

Derelict Crab Trap Removal Program

The SCB removed and recycled a total of four crab traps from the environment from January to June 2022. The Mississippi Derelict Crab Trap Removal program began in 1999, and through June 2022, has removed a total of 22,288 traps from Mississippi state waters.

Oyster Aquaculture

The SB began training the fifth class of Off-Bottom Oyster Aquaculture Program (OBOA) participants in 2022. The OBOA 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. There is now a total of 465 acres available for commercial farming behind Deer Island. MDMR currently has 51 acres leased by 27 active farmers and approximately 3.5 – 4 million oyster seed being cultured. Commercial operations harvested approximately 91,806 oysters from January to June 2022.

Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) Events

Harmful Algal Bloom analyses were performed through monthly seawater samples collected at 15 locations in the Mississippi Sound. Staff collected 180 samples and completed in-house qualitative analysis for HAB presence. No significant HAB events occurred in the Mississippi Sound and relevant fishery areas January through June 2022.

Shellfish Management

The SB monitors water quality and maintains molluscan shellfish growing water classifications as defined by the National Shellfish Sanitation Program through the Shellfish Sanitation and Compliance Program. 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, the water quality samples are used to manage the openings and closings of oyster reefs for harvest. The samples are collected in sterile bottles by boat one-half meter below the surface on the windward side and

transported to an FDA-certified microbiology laboratory for analysis. During the months of January through June 2022, Staff collected 410 routine water samples and zero tissue samples from 62 sites across the Mississippi Sound.

Seafood Technology Bureau

The Seafood Technology Bureau (STB) conducted a total of 105 routine, follow-up, and certification inspections. A total of 71 sanitation and Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) deficiencies were cited and corrected. The STB in collaboration with the Mississippi State University Extension conducted one Basic Seafood HACCP training course for the seafood industry. The workshops were held free of charge for Mississippi residents. They were made possible through a grant from the Mississippi Tidelands Trust Fund Program. A total of 12 students attended HACCP.

Remote Oyster Setting Facility Project

MDMR is in Phase I of the RESTORE Council-funded Remote Oyster Setting Facility Project. The Remote Oyster Setting Facility Project provides a facility with the capability to set 2.5 billion oysters per year to restore Mississippi's decimated oyster reefs at a faster rate than could be achieved in the wild. During Phase I, planning activities are being undertaken to assess the overall feasibility of the facility and determine infrastructure layout ongoing operational and maintenance costs, setting efficiencies and production milestones. The MDMR has identified the Port of Gulfport as the ideal location to situate the Oyster Setting Facility. MDMR successfully produced 8,677,350 spat-on shell oysters over the course of three individual production runs that were completed in May and June during the Summer of 2022. This project is ongoing.

Hatchery Bureau

In January 2022, the Lyman Hatchery became the sixth bureau in the Office of Marine Fisheries. The MDMR Hatchery Bureau (HB) Spotted Seatrout Enhancement work continued with winterizing three broodstock spawning tanks restocked in November of 2021. The first spawn was recorded on April 12 with the three tanks producing 9.5 million fertile eggs through June 30. The first experimental lined pond run began June 6 with the stocking of 400,000 larvae into an artificially salted half-acre lined pond. A small subset of juveniles from a Spotted Seatrout spawn occurring during the initial move to the broodstock facility are being reared in a separate recirculating system. These fish will be grown out to a size large enough to implant 10 acoustic tags and then released in the Mississippi sound.

The HB continued its year-round production of live on-site cultivated feeds to support the needs of operations at the hatchery. Mature Koi held in lined ponds were spawned in April. There are currently three half-acre lined ponds with fingerling size Koi to be harvested and used throughout the hatchery as either frozen or a live fish diet. Two one-acre earthen

ponds with mix of natural vegetation and Sorghum Sudangrass (*Sorghum drummondii*) were stocked in April of 2022 with 60 pounds of adult crawfish per acre to be used as an experimental supplemental diet for hatchery-reared fish.

The HB worked with both the Mississippi Department of Education's Office of Career and Technical Education and the Research and Curriculum Unit at Mississippi State University to update and re-write the 2018 Mississippi High School Aquaculture Curriculum to best prepare current students for continued college education in the field of aquaculture.

Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission
Technical Coordinating Committee
2022 Louisiana Fall State Report

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Emerging Issues Pertinent to Gulf of Mexico Fisheries

Hurricane Impacts

Hurricane Ida made landfall at Port Fourchon on August 29, 2021 as a major, category 4 storm. Hurricane Ida had a widespread area of impact, from western Terrebonne Parish to the Louisiana/Mississippi state line. An infrastructure assessment for each of the commercial fishery sectors has not been completed at this time. Losses within the shrimp, oyster and blue crab industries have been confirmed. Several processors suffered major to total losses of their facilities, while others received minor to moderate damage but a total loss of frozen product. Vessels have been reported on the opposite sides of levee systems, flipped in the marsh and bayous, and damaged. The alternative oyster culture industry took a major loss, while the traditional on bottom oyster reefs have encountered some muddy overburden on reefs; clean-up efforts have started to decrease mortality on the reefs.

In early 2022 LDWF and Louisiana Sea Grant (LSG) completed a study titled, "Projected Infrastructure, Revenue and Resource Losses to Louisiana Fisheries from the Hurricanes of 2020 and 2021". From August 27, 2020 to August 29, 2021, four Hurricanes (Laura, Delta, Zeta, and Ida) made landfall in coastal Louisiana, causing major destruction to a region of national importance for domestic fisheries and seafood production. In response to these storms, numerous efforts were initiated by public and private entities to provide humanitarian aid and basic commercial necessities. As part of an ongoing effort to assist the state in the documentation of economic impacts, this study was initiated to provide a detailed examination of the storms' impact on fisheries infrastructure, revenue, and biological resources. The analysis is based on an expansion of spatial impact assessment methods established in the wake of previous storms. Business addresses, obtained from state licensing and permitting records, were geocoded for 8,503 firms representing five marine sectors (commercial fishing vessels, seafood dealers, seafood processors, charter operations and coastal marinas). Economic valuation of individual businesses was based on firm- and industry-level revenue data within established methods of income capitalization and market-based appraisal. All business location and valuation data were integrated into a geographic information system, and combined with highly detailed estimates of maximum surge height and wind speeds for each storm at each firm location. Sixteen survey-derived damage functions were developed and applied to geocoded firm- and storm-data to produce geographically specific estimates of damage to coastal fisheries infrastructure and estimates of annual revenue loss. The following points contain select findings from the analysis.

- Total losses, estimated at **$579.9 million,** represent the midpoint of alternative damage estimation techniques based on linear and nonlinear damage models.
- In 2020, 99% of the maximum storm surge elevations and 83% of the maximum wind speeds in southwestern LA were attributed to Hurricane Laura, with the remainder from Hurricane Delta.
- From 2020-2021, 99% of maximum storm surge and 97% of the maximum wind speeds in southeastern LA were attributed to Hurricane Ida, the remainder were from Hurricane Zeta.

- Total damage to fisheries infrastructure, estimated at $304.9 million, equates to a 22% reduction to the $1.36 billion in appraised value of infrastructure for the five sectors of the analysis.
- Of the $304.9 million in infrastructure damages, Hurricanes Laura, Delta, and Zeta in 2020 accounted for 30%, and Hurricane Ida in 2021 accounted for 70%.
- Wind was the primary driver of impact for all four storms, accounting for 85% of the damage to vessels, 80% for dealers, 80% for processors, 89% for charters and 54% for marinas.
- Revenue losses for 22 coastal parishes totaled $155.3 million, with $48.1 million (31%) for 2020; $66.4 (43%) for 2021; and, $40.7 million (26%) in carry over losses expected for 2022.
- Annual revenue losses approaching or exceeding 35% were projected for one species (Brown Shrimp) and seven parishes (Cameron, Calcasieu, Jefferson, Lafourche, St. Charles, St. John and Terrebonne).
- Resource losses, estimated at $118.5 million for 2020-2021, are derived from field surveys by LDWF biologists and restitution values obtained from Natural Resource Damage Assessments.
- Survey data indicate ongoing challenges related to the availability and affordability of marine insurance, vessel evacuation options, and damages to residential dwellings.

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. Continued delays related to dual claim water bottoms makes it difficult to estimate when Phase 0 will be completed.

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 three oil and gas structures. There are 65 structures permitted for deployment as permanent artificial reefs, and one new reef site has been recently proposed. Permitting of an additional six structures is currently underway, including the deployment of a Fish Attracting Device (FAD) buoy.

Multi-beam surveying of the Program's offshore reefs is ongoing (annually) and is available on the Program's website.

Inshore

LDWF's Artificial Reef Program enhanced the Finfish artificial reef with 2,200 tons of crushed limestone and the Bay Ronquille artificial reef with 1,100 tons in June 2022. The Program has also applied for a permit to create the Hackberry artificial reef in Hackberry Bay.

Nearshore
LDWF's Artificial Reef Program completed two new nearshore reefs (West Cameron 45 and Eugene Island 51) in partnership with CCA. The reefs were constructed with recycled concrete structures. The Program also has permits and agreements to create three more nearshore reef sites and has applied for an additional four permits.
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

During the 2019 Regular Session, Senate Bill 65 (SB65) was promulgated to provide for the location of escape rings in crab traps. This Bill amended the previous law by defining that escape rings in the upper chamber must be flush with the baffle and giving an allowance of no more than one mesh length from the trap floor for the lower escape ring. Additionally, the Bill stated that all escape rings shall be located no greater than one mesh length from the corners by July 1, 2022, which takes place this year.

No additional changes to policy or regulation took place during the reporting period.

Derelict Crab Trap Program

The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission (LWFC) adopted a Notice of Intent in August 2021 to establish four defined derelict crab trap cleanup areas during the 2022 harvest season. Within the four areas, the use of crab traps would be prohibited for up to fourteen days. These closure areas are to be held within the Barataria Basin, Calcasieu Basin, Terrebonne Basin, and Vermilion-Tech Basin. A scheduled volunteer event is planned to take place on the first Saturday of the Barataria Basin closure and the Calcasieu Basin closure.

The closure are scheduled as follows:

- Terrebonne Basin – February 1, 2022 – February 14, 2022.
- Vermilion-Teche - February 1, 2022 – February 14, 2022.
- Barataria Basin – February 7, 2022 – February 20, 2022.
- Calcasieu Basin – February 18, 2022 – February 23, 2022.

A total of 815 derelict or abandoned crab traps were removed from the closure areas. The two volunteer events that were held in the Baratraia Basin and the Calcasieu Basin resulted in the removal of nearly 500 traps. These two events were sponsored by Jean Lafitte Harbor and Fenstermaker.

Sustainability

The Louisiana commercial crab trap fishery remains certified under 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. The first surveillance audit is scheduled to take place in the fall of 2022. The final audit report and reassessment were published later in 2021 and recommended that the Louisiana blue crab commercial trap fishery remain certified.

The Louisiana commercial crab trap fishery remains certified under the Louisiana Crab Task Force voted to have Global Trust take over the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) assessments. Information for the third surveillance audit of the Louisiana blue crab commercial trap fishery against the MSC fisheries standards was gathered by Global Trust during the Gulf-RFM audit on May 19, 2021. The MSC final audit report recommended continued certification. The fourth surveillance audit is scheduled to take place in fall of 2022, while the fishery announcement for reassessment must be take place before the April 2023 deadline.

Stock Assessments

An updated stock assessment of Blue Crab was completed in April of 2022. This assessment uses a catch-survey model to estimate annual time-series of exploitable biomass and fishing mortality rates. Time-series of fishery landings along with fishery-independent relative abundance indices of juvenile and adult life stages are the primary model inputs. Based on results of this assessment, the stock is currently not overfished and not experiencing overfishing.

Landings

All landings data presented in this section are preliminary and subject to change.

Blue crab landings from January – June in 2022 totaled 20.6 million pounds with a dockside value of approximately $46.9 million. Landings from this period in 2022 showed an increase of 16 percent when compared to the five-year average (2017-2021), while the dockside value increased by 48 percent. With the increase of landings and dockside value, the 2022 average price per pound was $2.28, which is $0.50 above the five-year average.

Blue Crab Biological Sampling

For the second year in a row, the GSMFC awarded the Department with a grant from its IJ funding to sample commercial blue crab and collect data that will assist in characterizing the size and sex composition of commercially landed blue crab. Sampling began in January 2022, with each coastal study area (CSA) responsible for collecting data on 510 crab per two-month period, or wave. There are a total of five CSAs, so an expected total of 2,550 blue crab are

sampled every two months. Approximately 7,936 blue crabs were sampled during the first three waves of 2022. Of the 7,936 crabs sampled, 5,503 were male and 2,432 were female. Market grade #2, or medium, consisted of 3,123 crabs sampled, while #1, or large, crabs sampled numbered 2,272. Additional market grades that are notable were small, females, and factory.

Activities Related to Fisheries Dependent Data Collection

LA Creel

Through the LA Creel program, 4,284 recreational fishing trips, comprised of 11,476 individual anglers, were surveyed dockside during 2022 Sample Weeks 1-25 (January 2, 2022 – June 26, 2022). Fifty-six different interviewers completed 771 (99.5%) of the 775 assignments as drawn during the sample period. Three assignments required site substitution. One assignment was worked, but at the wrong site. One assignment was cancelled due to Louisiana State office closure declaration. Three more assignments should have been worked, but were missed due to various reasons.

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. Although we count shellfish whenever present, LA Creel is concerned with finfish. For that reason, observation figures pertain to finfish only. For the sample period, 29,612 Type 1's, equaling 74.9 percent of all fish in possession of the angler at the time of survey, were identified and counted by staff. Type 1 observation numbers have been depressed since the onset of COVID in 2020 as social distancing became commonplace. There were 9,928 Type 2 observations made.

Seventy-one species were represented among Type 1 fish. Spotted sea trout was the most commonly counted species, with 13,895. Red Drum was second with 5,919 counted and Sheepshead was the third most common with 2,313 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 before being surveyed 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 period as provided above, staff recorded 14,151 Type 3's, 0 Type 4's, and 3,999 Type 5's.

In addition to the dockside survey, angler effort must be determined to generate harvest estimates. LA Creel uses two separate surveys to determine angler effort. One survey targets charter captains in which ten percent of almost 800 charter license holders and thirty percent of the approximately 108 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 required to possess tunas, billfish, swordfish, amberjacks, groupers, snappers, hinds, cobia, wahoo, and dolphinfish in Louisiana waters. Gray triggerfish were added to the species list in May 2022. The purpose of the ROLP is to increase the chances of drawing anglers who fish offshore for effort surveys. One hundred percent of ROLP holding charter captains are drawn during state and federal red snapper season. Department staff attempt to contact drawn captains to ask about the number of charter trips taken during the sample week, how many paying customers were on each trip, and what basin the trip occurred in.

During 2022 Sample Weeks 1-25, 1,760 captains were drawn, with replacement. Of those 1,181 captains (67%) completed the survey. As a result, the estimated number of saltwater charter fishing trips taken during the period was 75,123.

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 LA Creel's four regions 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 2022 Sample Weeks 1 – 25, a total of 42,000 Louisiana recreational saltwater fishing license holders were drawn, with replacement. Of those, a total of 21,132 (50.3%) completed the survey. The estimated number of private saltwater fishing trips taken during the period was 697,903.

A stable version of the iPad application used for data entry of dockside surveys was released on February 14, 2022.

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 2022. From Jan 1, 2022 through June 30, 2022, the lab has received 4,985 recreational marine fisheries otoliths and aged 4,913 of these otoliths. All otolith collection and ageing data has been transferred to GSMFC through the month of June. Staff have begun July otolith processing.
Otolith totals are as follows:

- Black Drum – 489
- Cobia – 0
- Gray Snapper – 29
- Greater Amberjack – 2
- Gray Triggerfish – 8
- King Mackerel – 0
- Red Drum – 1357
- Red Snapper – 252
- Sheepshead – 547
- Southern Flounder – 254
- Spotted Seatrout – 1896
- Striped Mullet – 58
- Tripletail - 0
- Vermilion Snapper – 21

Commercial Shrimp, Oyster, and Crab Seasons and Landings

Shrimp

The 2021 fall inshore shrimp season closed on January 24, 2022 in all remaining state inside waters except for the open waters of Breton and Chandeleur Sounds. Additionally, the portions of Louisiana territorial seas from Freshwater Bayou Canal eastward to Calliou Boca closed on January 24, 2022.

A portion of state territorial seas from Caillou Boca westward to Mound Point on Marsh Island opened on April 4, 2022. The remaining portion of state territorial seas from Mound Point on Marsh Island westward to Freshwater Bayou Canal opened on April 25, 2022.

The spring inshore shrimp season opened at 6:00 a.m. on May 16, 2022 from the Mississippi/Louisiana state line westward to the eastern shore of South Pass of the Mississippi River except the area known as the Biloxi Marsh, which opened at 6:00 a.m. on May 23, 2022. The spring inshore shrimp season opened at 6:00 a.m. on May 9, 2022 from to the eastern shore of South Pass of the Mississippi River westward to the western shore of the Freshwater Bayou Canal. The spring inshore shrimp season opened at 6:00 a.m. on May 23, 2022 from the Freshwater Bayou Canal westward to the Louisiana/Texas state line except for the Mermentau River, which opened at 6:00 a.m. on May 28, 2022.

Shrimp landings (all species combined and heads on unless specified otherwise) between January – June 2022 totaled approximately 33.3 million pounds with a dockside value of $51.0 million. The 2022 shrimp landings during this period decreased by approximately 2 percent compared to the 5-year average (2017-2021), while the dockside value increased by nearly 18 percent. While overall landings in 2022 were slightly below the five-year average, the shrimp average price per pound in this period was $1.53, which is $0.26 above the five-year average.

Louisiana brown shrimp landings during the time period mentioned above in 2022 were well below the 5-year average, approximately 54 percent; the dockside value of brown shrimp was 47 percent below the five-year average. Brown shrimp price per pound for this period of 2022 was $0.13 above the five-year average. It is possible that brown shrimp landings were well below the five-year average because fishers were targeting the abundant, larger, white shrimp with bigger mesh nets.

White shrimp landings during this period in 2022 greatly surpassed the five-year average. White shrimp landings were 60 percent above the five-year average, while the dockside value was 51 percent above the five-year average. White shrimp price per pound averaged $0.10 below the five-year average. The increased abundance of white shrimp in the spring of 2022 may be a result in the large amount of over-wintering white shrimp observed in state offshore waters in January. With a mild winter and a warm, dry spring, it is likely these over-wintering white shrimp emigrated into inshore waters and remained throughout spring. Landings data in January supports this theory due to the high volume of white shrimp reported through trip ticket data.

Blue Crab

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

Oyster

The table below summarizes the 2021-2022 Louisiana public oyster ground season. The goal was to reduce harvest stress on the resource, allowing for continued recovery, while using thresholds from the shell budget model in most basins, while Calcasieu Lake is managed where

harvest closes once it reaches 10% of the total available resource from the annual oyster stock assessment.

2021-2022 LDWF Oyster Season Summary--FINAL						
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	closed				
	Little Lake, Barataria Bay	closed				
5	Deep Lake, Lake Chien, Lake Felicity and Lake Tambour	closed				
	Bay Junop, Lake Mechant	closed				
	Sister Lake	25-Oct	25-Oct	Seed Harvest	1	1,105 bbls
		26-Oct	29-Oct	Market Harvest	4	1,334 sacks
		7-Mar	10-Mar	Market Harvest	4	2,764 sacks
		21-Mar	23-Mar	Market Harvest	3	2,147 sacks
6	Vermilion Bay	closed				
7	Calcasieu Lake	1-Nov	30-Apr	East Side: Market Harvest	181	3,437 sacks
		1-Nov	30-Apr	West Cove: Market Harvest	181	9,941 sacks

*Estimated harvest numbers are reported through LDWF surveys conducted during oyster fishing activities.

Activities Related to Fisheries Independent Sampling

Stock Assessments

LDWF completed an update stock assessment of Striped Mullet in November of 2021 that was presented to the LFWC for transmittal to the Louisiana Legislature in February 2022. 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.

An updated stock assessment of Blue Crab was completed in April of 2022. This assessment uses a catch-survey model to estimate annual time-series of exploitable biomass and fishing mortality rates. Time-series of fishery landings along with fishery-independent relative abundance indices of juvenile and adult life stages are the primary model inputs. Based on results of this assessment, the stock is currently not overfished and not experiencing overfishing.

LDWF continued work a stock assessment of Red Drum in 2021 that will be completed in 2022. This assessment also 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 abundance indices developed from the LDWF fishery independent marine trammel net survey, the LDWF component of the SEAMAP nearshore bottom long line survey, and the historic NOAA Fisheries mark and recapture population estimates are the primary model inputs.

Fisheries Research Lab

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

Southeast Area Monitoring and Assessment Program (SEAMAP)

LDWF participated in the SEAMAP Shrimp/Groundfish Trawl, and Bottom Longline Surveys. The summer Shrimp/Groundfish survey was completed over three days with environmental and biological data collected at 21 stations during the survey period. Bottom Longline is split into spring, summer, and fall sampling periods. Sampling began in April and will continue through September or until all stations have been sampled. The all seasons Bottom Longline sampling has yielded 32 stations sampled with 17 and 15 stations in spring and summer, respectively.

Spotted Seatrout Life History Study

The Fisheries Research Lab is developing methods to target spawning Spotted Seatrout in an effort to estimate spawning frequency, fecundity, and related histological parameters. To target larger spawning trout, gillnets (750' long, 1.75" and 2.0" mesh sizes) were deployed in passes between barrier islands, on the gulf-side surf zone of barrier islands, and in select marsh habitat behind Grand Isle. The gill nets were subsequently truncated to 100' lengths due to difficulties in deploying and maintaining the nets at high energy pass and beach sites. A total of 19 gill nets were set across seven sampling days. Five hydrated (i.e., ready to spawn) female seatrout were sampled. Seatrout sampling is ongoing, and histological analysis of ovaries is pending.

Sheepshead Life History Study

In 2021, LDWF biologists sampled 141 female Sheepshead from March through May. Histological processing revealed that 79% of the females collected were in spawning condition, which led to the ongoing processing of 93 fecundity samples from hydrated individuals. Fifty-three fecundity

samples were prepared, scanned, and read during the reporting period. Ages range from 2-9 years with age 3-5 accounting for 71% of the sample. Sheepshead look to be daily spawners that spawn for only two months. When data analysis is complete, this data will determine if spawning stock biomass is an appropriate proxy for total egg production and will further inform managers for establishing regulations.

Southern Flounder Experimental Gear/Fyke Net Pilot Survey

Southern Flounder adults are not well represented in 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. Quantitatively, the annual average Southern Flounder catch rate from 2015-2021 in trammel nets was 4.9% of the stations sampled and 1.4% in gillnets. Because of this data gap, modified fyke nets are currently being tested to establish a new fisheries independent survey targeting Southern Flounder. During the 2021-22 sampling season, a total of 188 flounder were encountered, of which 19.1% were captured in the current reporting period. Of the 154 females captured, 67 still remain to be processed, and histological analysis/fecundity counts have yet to be conducted. Percent positive catch rate was higher for modified fyke nets (0.41 %) relative to traditional fyke nets (0.03%).

Post-release survival of fishes released using descending devices

Data on post-release depredation fishes released using fish descending devices (FDDs) is lacking, but necessary for developing post-release mortality estimates as well as identifying ways to minimize predation of fishes experiencing barotrauma. To quantify this, Red Snapper, Greater Amberjack, and Gray Triggerfish are captured using conventional angling gear, descended using one of three FDDs (lip grip, inverted hook, or fish elevator), then observed via video for post-release survival. To date 20 Red Snapper have been observed for post-release survival, with a release success rate of 18%. Field sampling and video review are ongoing.

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 2022, a total of (249) 6-foot trawl samples were conducted.

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 and closing dates for the fall inshore shrimp season. During January – June 2022, a total of (747) 16-foot trawl samples were conducted.

The 20-foot trawl sampling data are used to monitor shrimp resources in state offshore waters. A total of (125) 20-foot trawl samples were conducted during January – June 2022. 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.

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 was conducted monthly, except the month of July, on 72 sampling stations. Stations are representative of known and historical public ground reefs. Station locations range from the Louisiana/Mississippi state line to the western shore of Calcasieu Lake. In addition, six stations in Sabine Lake were dredge sampled quarterly during the reporting period, which brings the total number of dredge stations to 78 (samples collected in January and April). Two dredge replicates are taken per station to monitor size frequency, presence and/or absence of resource, and mortality. A total of 888 dredge samples were collected between January 1, 2022 and June 30, 2022.

LDWF biologists perform quantitative evaluations using SCUBA equipment to collect oyster samples from within a square-meter frame as part of an annual Oyster Stock Assessment (OSA). Annual stock assessment samples are taken in July of each year and will be reported in the next report. LDWF uses oyster stock assessment information to make recommendations regarding setting oyster seasons to the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, which can begin as early as mid -September and run through the end of April of the following year.

Sabine Lake was closed to oyster harvest by Act 159 (RS2018). To reduce program costs, dredge sampling is conducted quarterly and square-meter sampling is done every other year in Sabine Lake. The six Sabine Lake sites are included in the dredge site and sample tallies above, but they are not scheduled to be square-meter sampled again until 2023.

Finfish Sampling

LDWF conducts biological monitoring for finfish statewide in the coastal, nearshore, and offshore areas of Louisiana. During fiscal year 2021-22, the fisheries independent finfish sampling program collected 938 gillnet samples, 1,241 seine samples, and 264 trammel net samples for a 97 percent overall completion rate statewide, with the majority of missing samples being a result of Hurricane Ida. Electro-fishing samples (144 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 Large and Small Coastal Sharks on January 1, 2022, concurrent with an opening in federal waters.

Louisiana waters opened to the commercial harvest of Spotted Seatrout on January 2, 2022.

At its regular January meeting, the LWFC adopted a Notice of Intent to add gray triggerfish to the list of species that require an ROLP and to increase the age requirement from 16 to 18 to remain consistent with a similar change in saltwater license requirements. Public comment was taken through March 3, 2022 and the rule published as final on May 20, 2022.

At its regular January meeting, the LWFC amended a previous Notice of Intent to establish ¼-mile buffer zones coast wide and larger buffer zones around Elmer's Island (1 mile), Grand Isle (3 mile), and Grand Terre Island (1 mile) in the commercial menhaden fishery by removing the buffer requirement in the areas of Breton and Chandeleur Sounds. A special public meeting was held on February 22, 2022 to take comment. The rule was published as final on June 20, 2022.

Louisiana waters closed to the commercial harvest of Striped Mullet with strike nets on January 17, 2022.

Louisiana waters closed to the recreational harvest of Scamp and Black, Red, Yellowfin, and Yellowmouth Groupers from February 1, 2021 through March 31, 2022 in waters seaward of 120 feet, concurrent with a seasonal closure in federal waters.

Louisiana waters opened to the recreational harvest of Gray Triggerfish on March 1, 2022, concurrent with an opening in federal waters.

At its regular March meeting, the LWFC adopted a Notice of Intent to establish a closed season for the commercial and recreational harvest of southern flounder from October 15 through November 30 of each year. Public comment was accepted through noon on May 2, 2022 and the rule published as final on July 20, 2022.

Louisiana increased the allowable daily possession limit for commercially harvested sharks to 55 per licensed commercial harvester per day on March 10, 2022, concurrent with an increase in federal waters.

Louisiana waters closed to the commercial harvest of Greater Amberjack from March 1, 2022 through May 31, 2022 for an annual seasonal closure.

Louisiana waters closed to the recreational and commercial possession of all sharks from April

1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 for an annual seasonal closure.

Louisiana waters opened to the commercial harvest of bait Gulf Menhaden on March 14, 2022.

Louisiana waters opened to the commercial harvest of Gulf Menhaden for reduction on April 18, 2022.

Louisiana waters opened to the recreational harvest of Greater Amberjack from May 1, 2022 through May 31, 2022, concurrent with an opening in federal waters.

Louisiana waters and Federal waters off Louisiana opened to the recreational harvest of red snapper on May 27, 2022, during weekends only (Friday, Saturday, and Sunday including the Mondays of Memorial Day, Independence Day, and Labor Day).

Louisiana waters opened to the recreational harvest of Gag Grouper on June 1, 2021, concurrent with an opening in federal waters.

Louisiana waters closed to the recreational and commercial harvest of Gray Triggerfish from June 1, 2022 through July 31, 2022, concurrent with a closure in federal waters.

Louisiana waters closed to the recreational harvest of Greater Amberjack from June 1, 2022 through August 31, 2022, concurrent with a closure in federal waters.

Louisiana waters reopened to the commercial harvest of Greater Amberjack on June 1, 2022, concurrent with a reopening in federal waters.

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 2022 Season

The spring 2022 hatchery production focused on producing diploid pediveligers and seed for LDWF sales and restoration efforts. Hatchery operations were significantly impacted by Hurricane Ida (August 26, 2021) resulting in a delayed start to 2022 production efforts.

Pediveligers produced were used directly in restoration efforts (e.g., spat-on-shell production) or to create single seed oysters for industry support. During this reporting period, 133,860,166 pediveliger larvae were produced with 34,358,333 being directly used for restoration efforts. The remaining larvae were set to create seed oysters. A total of 2,010,941 seed oysters were produced with 1,333,195 going to restoration efforts and 660,000 supporting industry demand.

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. Previously experienced water quality issues in microalgal culture systems were absent during the reporting period suggesting improvements in culture and filtration systems were efficacious.

Spat on Shell Projects

Michael C. Voisin Oyster Hatchery produces oysters for state restoration projects consisting of producing diploid oysters, then setting oyster larvae to set on oyster shells, referred as spat-on-shell (SOS). Spat on shell consists adding recycled oyster shells into mesh bags that are three feet long , called shellbags. Recycled shell were obtained through a collaboration with the Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana's Oyster Shell Recycling Program. Between January and June, 2022, there were two spat-on-shell (SOS) deployments—one: first deployment in May deployed in Karako Bay brood stock reef (Biloxi Marsh/Pontchatrain Basin); and the second deployed in June to Machias brood stock reef (Breton Sound Basin). Follow up monitoring to assess survival success are typically scheduled for months 1, 6, and 18 post deployment, weather permitting.

Oyster Cultch Plant, Brood Reef, and Water Bottom Survey Projects

All reef construction, water bottom assessment, and reef monitoring were funded through Deepwater Horizon Natural Resource Damage Assessment (DWH NRDA) settlement dollars to help restore for injuries to oysters that occurred as a result of the spill. The Louisiana Trustee Implementation Group (LA TIG) approved 26 million dollars in oyster projects, including enhancing oyster recovery using brood reefs, cultch-plant oyster restoration, and hatchery-based oyster restoration.

In May 2022, LDWF completed a water bottom assessment survey of approximately 8,300 acres in Morgan Harbor (St. Bernard Parish, Louisiana) to identify existing oyster reefs, characterize bottom types, and assist in the planning of future restoration projects.

LDWF continues to monitor the NRDA Sister Lake Cultch Plant (Terrebonne Parish). The monitoring consists of conducting dredge tows in the spring, fall, and winter and quarter-meter square sampling in the summer. A grid map of (200) 1-acre grid squares has been generated for the constructed reef, and 10 grid sites are randomly selected for each sampling event. A single

sample is collected per selected grid. Quarterly dredge sampling was conducted in February and May and showed a considerable amount of live oysters.

In addition, four NRDA brood reefs located at Petit Pass, Karako Bay, Lake Machias, and Mozambique Point (Plaquemines and St. Bernard Parishes), are monitored quarterly to characterize reef performance. Sample baskets were deployed in December 2021 on each reef and on adjacent substrate devoid of rock riprap. Quarterly monitoring was designed to retrieve baskets, evaluate contents for live oyster size class and density, and redeploy baskets to be sampled at next quarterly monitoring event. Monitoring in April and June 2022 found no live oysters at any of the sites.

These oyster projects are among the first projects included in the Department's "Louisiana Oyster Management and Rehabilitation Strategic Plan" to be initiated. A copy of the plan can be viewed here:

https://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/assets/Resources/Publications/Oyster/Final-Draft---Oyster-Strategic-Plan---12.30.20.pdf

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:

- City of New Iberia CVA Sanitation Facility – construction bid phase
- City of New Iberia Civic Center Marina Phase I – construction phase
- Marina Del Ray Renovations – project cancelled due to storm damage
- City of New Iberia Civic Center Marina Phase II – design phase
- Town of Leonville Boat Launch Improvements – construction bid phase
- Town of Madisonville Boat Launch Improvements – construction completed
- Bucktown Harbor Marina and Dock Renovation – permitting phase
- City of West Monroe Riverfront Park Fishing Pier – permitting phase

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.

Repairs are underway at existing and ongoing projects to address damage resulting from Hurricane Ida.

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 (LFF), 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, and global fishing industries. LFF materials are available at https://www.lafisheriesforward.org/.

Legislation passed during the 2014 regular session that required the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to establish a program to increase and elevate professionalism in the commercial crab industry. Throughout the fall of 2014, LDWF developed the Louisiana Fisheries Forward Commercial Crab Gear Requirement. The Commercial Crab Gear Requirement consists of basic training and field training requirements that focus on education such as proper fishing techniques necessary for the health and sustainability of crabs, proper techniques for the best capture and presentation of the crabs for marketability and proper placement, tending and maintenance of crab traps to reduce potential conflicts with other user groups. Beginning Nov. 15, 2014, any person who wishes to obtain a commercial crab trap gear license must first complete this program unless the following exception applies (possessed a valid crab trap gear license any two of the license years, 2011, 2012, 2013 or 2014). Since its inception, there has been 677 participants who have completed the training requirements. Commercial Crab Gear Requirement details are available at https://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/page/mandatory-crab-trap-license-training.

Additionally, LFF continues to strive towards the return of its LFF Seafood Summit a bi-annual commercial fishing trade show, which last occurred in March of 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic

Aquatic Plant Control

Invasive aquatic vegetation continues to threaten access and recreational activities throughout Louisiana. Spring surveys conducted from April - May 2022 revealed an estimated 196,160 acres of nuisance aquatic plant coverage, mostly composed of water hyacinth (46,408 acres) and giant salvinia (39,032 acres). Spring surveys are conducted at the beginning of the growing season and usually reflect lower coverage than fall surveys conducted at the end of the growing season. From January 1, 2022 through June 30, 2022, LDWF applied EPA-approved herbicides to 13,138 acres of nuisance vegetation across the state. The majority of plant control efforts focused on giant salvinia and water hyacinth, with 7,970 and 3,273 acres treated, respectively.

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. A relatively warm winter and reduced contractor spraying due to budget constraints has resulted in widespread nuisance aquatic weed issues across the state in 2022. Increased funding in Fiscal Year 2023, as a result of the license fee restructure, will allow more herbicide control efforts to combat the growing plant coverage.

Giant salvinia weevils continue to provide excellent control of the exotic weed throughout south Louisiana. Established populations of the weevil are present throughout coastal Louisiana, and have significantly reduced the need for herbicide applications to giant salvinia in

those areas. Established populations have also been found this year in waterbodies where the weevils had previously struggled to become established. Iatt Lake, Black-Clear Lake, and Indian Creek Reservoir have all benefited from what appears to be surviving weevil populations. The presence of high weevil numbers in these lakes is resulting in thinner mats, less biomass, and less overall coverage of giant salvinia in some cases. Weevil populations in these and other lakes are being monitored regularly to track survival from year to year.

Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission
73rd Annual Fall Meeting
Technical Coordinating Committee
Tuesday, 18 October 2022
San Antonio, Texas

1. Emerging Issues Pertinent to Gulf of Mexico Fisheries.

Proposed Regulatory Changes/Proposals

Statewide Recreational Fishing

Spotted Seatrout Harvest Rules – Adopted by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission (TPWC) at the January 2022 meeting.

- The temporary new rule (effective March 16, 2022) imposes bag, possession, and length limits for Spotted Seatrout identical to those imposed by the emergency rule (minimum length limit of 17 inches, maximum length limit of 23 inches, possession limit of three fish) over a larger geographical area and specifies a date certain of August 31, 2023 for those limits to expire, at which time the harvest regulations would revert to the previous limits.

Oyster Management Strategies Update – TPWC Briefing

- Closure of Oyster Reef Areas – March 24, 2022, the TPWC tabled the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's (TPWD) proposal to permanently close reefs in Ayres, Mesquite, and Carlos Bays to harvest, following opposition from the commercial fishers. They recommended forming a working group representing the different groups that provided public testimony at the March meeting. An oyster workgroup was formed and has met several times to discuss management options.
- TPWD staff briefed the TPWC on the current end of year status regarding the areas which had been proposed to close and a summary of the two meetings held by each of the two (regulation and restoration) ad hoc working groups which were formed. The briefing included a summary of recent public concerns and potential management strategies that are currently being evaluated.

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 and began accepting mariculture applications in the fall of 2020. Significant program developments include:

September 2022

- We continue to refine the program processes, procedures, guidance documents, and applications.

- An application for Cultivated Oyster Mariculture Hatcheries has been added to the program; there are currently two hatcheries in the application process.
- There are currently three fully permitted grow-out locations and two conditionally permitted grow-out locations (Table 1).
- We participated in the State Marine Aquaculture Coordination Network (SMACN) meeting in May to discuss issues with oyster mariculture around the Gulf.
- The online application portal will soon be operational.
- We have updated our Biosecurity and Genetic Integrity Protocols to cover both out-of-state and in-state movement of oysters.
- The first oysters harvested for commercial sale and consumption started in April.

Table 1. Permitted Texas Commercial Oyster Mariculture applicants.

Applicant	Date application received	Applied acreage	Shellfish area	Area	Status	Permit Date
Oyster Company, LLC	1/14/2021	8	TX-32	Copano Bay	Permitted	7/26/2021
Texas Sustainable Oysters, LLC	1/11/2021	9.74	TX-1	East Galveston Bay	Permitted	9/24/2021
DJ's Oyster Co, LLC	9/1/2021	5	TX-14	Tres Palacios Bay in Matagorda Bay System	Conditionally Permitted	3/23/2022
Copano Oyster Company	7/26/2022	5	TX-32	Copano Bay	Conditionally Permitted	

Acoustic Surveying and Mapping of Oyster Habitat

In spring 2022, TPWD began conducting a large-scale acoustic survey of Aransas Bay to map subtidal oyster habitat and collect other bathymetric data. The habitat extent data from this project will be publicly available on the Habitat Assessment Team's website and ArcGIS Online upon completion of the survey in 2024.

Coastal Fisheries staff conducted pre- and post-harvest season bathymetric surveys on oyster reefs, paired with oyster dredge and patent tong samples, as part of an on-going effort to assess reef health metrics that can be used to inform management decisions.

Oyster Restoration

Using shell recovery fees, TPWD restored 24 acres of oyster reef in Espiritu Santo Bay this September. The restoration design for this project included cultch mounds with varying degrees of vertical relief. Data from post-restoration monitoring samples will be used to conduct a cost-benefit analysis to inform future restoration strategies.

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). Since 2018, 3,483,796 sacks were harvested, which converts to $4,598,609 in fees or 60,482.2 cu yds of cultch. So far, $1,160,655 in fees and 43,094 cubic yards of cultch have been placed in the bays by oyster dealers. Out of all the required payments, 71% have been with cultch, 25% has been through monetary payments, and 4% have not yet been paid (Table 2).

Table 2. Summary of Oyster Shell Recovery program (LY2018-2022)

				Final Disposition (actual)		
LY	**Sacks Harvested**	**Cultch Due (cu yds)**	**Fee in lieu of cultch**	**Cultch (cu yds)**	**Fee ($)**	**% accounted for**
2018	564,787	9,805.30	$745,518	6,590.5	$248,448	100.5
2019	754,565	13,100.00	$996,025	9,705.3	$228,047	97.0
2020	878,503	15,251.70	$1,159,624	3,219.9	$306,294	47.5
2021	861,939	14,964.12	$1,137,759	16,150.2	$242,715	129.3
2022	424,002	7,361.10	$559,683	7,428.4	$135,151	**125.1**
Total	**3,483,796**	**60,482.22**	**$4,598,609**	**43,094.3**	**$1,160,655**	**96.5**
Balance (as of 8/31/2022)		**2,143.3**	**$162,963**	71.3%	25.2%	

Texas Oyster Landings

Commercial oyster landings (public and private reefs) in Texas have been variable over the last 20 years (license years, Sep-Aug); however, after a low point in harvest in 2016 of 315,424 sacks, landings have increased significantly to a recent peak in 2020 of 878,548 sacks. A similar harvest was reported in 2021 (862,027); however, the 2022 season experienced a significantly lower (public/private) season total of 428,438 sacks (Figure 1). A factor that appears to be related to the increase in harvest is the increase in active oyster vessels fishing over those same periods, with only 302 oyster vessels fishing in 2016 then increasing to 485 vessels fishing in 2020, and slightly decreasing to 447 (Figure 2). There is a moratorium on new licenses, but inactive (not fished) licenses have been transferred to license holders that are actively fishing. The 2022 season has had similarly high harvest rates to the last several years when comparing the first 60 days of the season (Nov-Dec; Figure 3). However, during the season, our management teams were closely monitoring reefs in our public harvest areas using Targeted Oyster Sampling (TOS) with dredges

to determine if Market Oyster CPUE and % undersized oyster thresholds for closing reef areas have been met. Unfortunately, over the course of this season, many of our reef areas were found to have fallen below the CPUE and % undersized levels that would necessitate a closure of those areas.

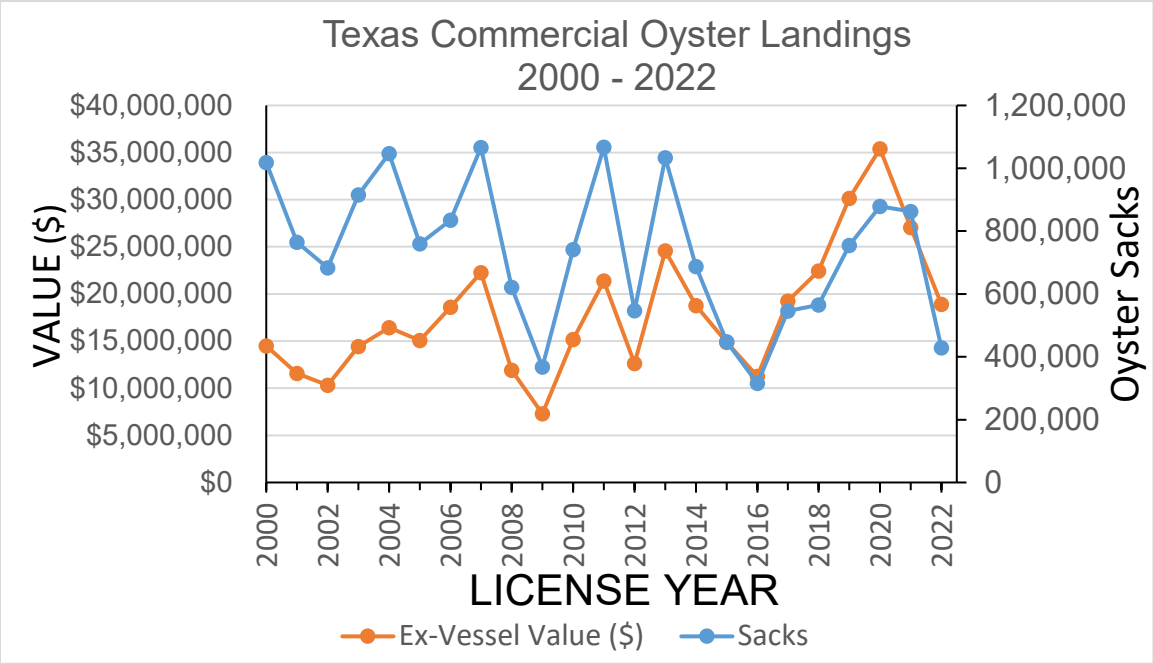

Figure 1. Texas commercial oyster harvest (public/private) from 2000 to 2022 license years (Sep-Aug).

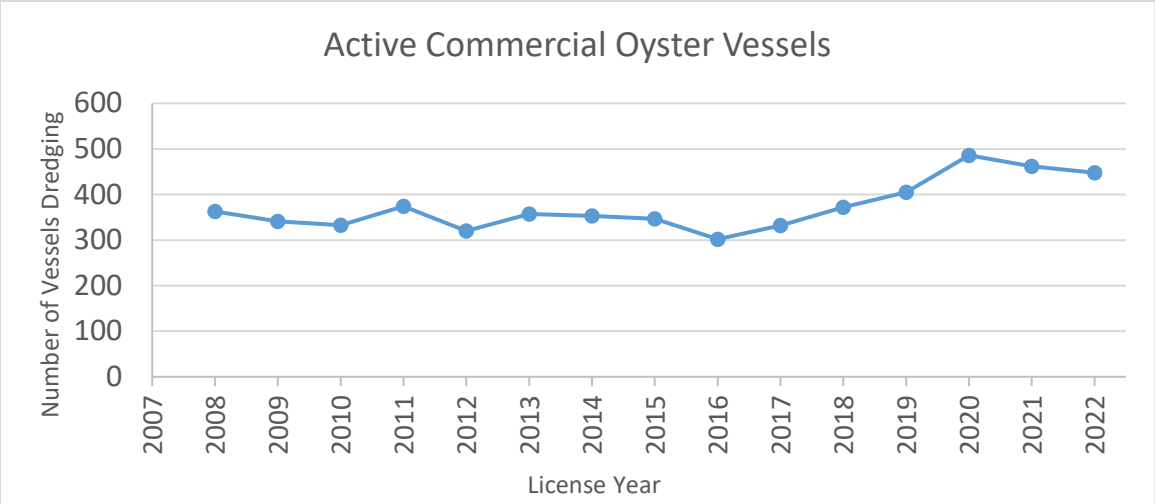

Figure 2. Active oyster vessels reported on Trip Tickets during public season (Nov – Apr).

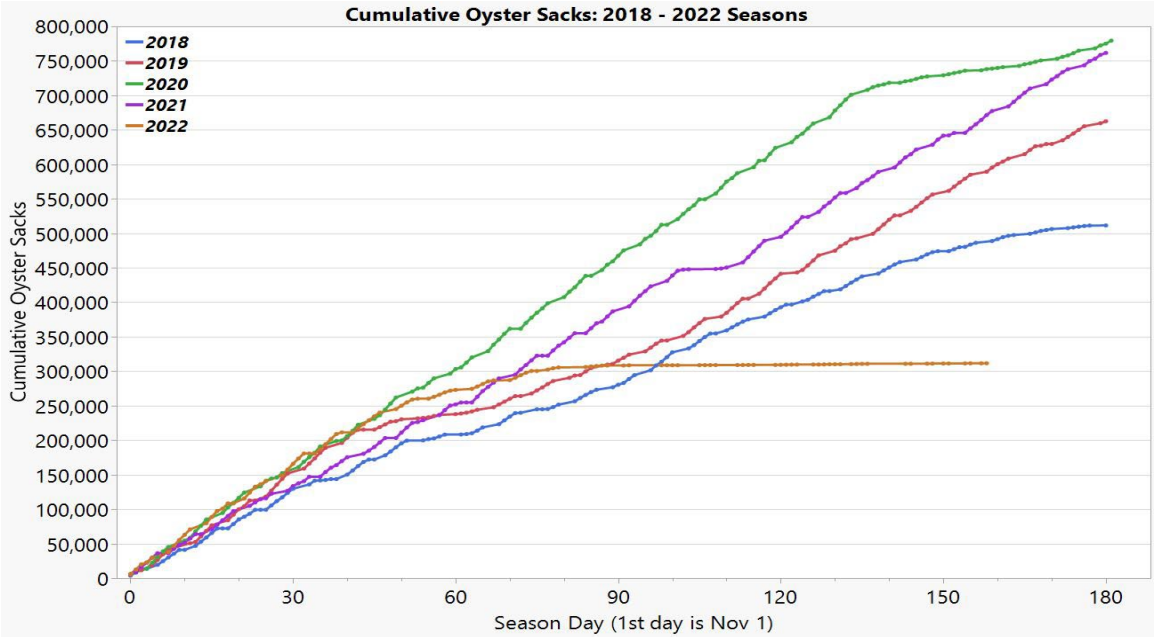

Figure 3. Cumulative number of sacks collected by the Texas oyster industry during the last 5 years of the public season.

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 declining trends in all life stages, from juvenile recruits to adults. For example, recent gill net survey data showed decreases in catch rates of 60% or greater compared to historic long-term trends (Figure 4). Despite the declining abundance trends, the average length of Southern Flounder landed in both the recreational and commercial fishery has slightly increased over the last 20 years (Figure 5).

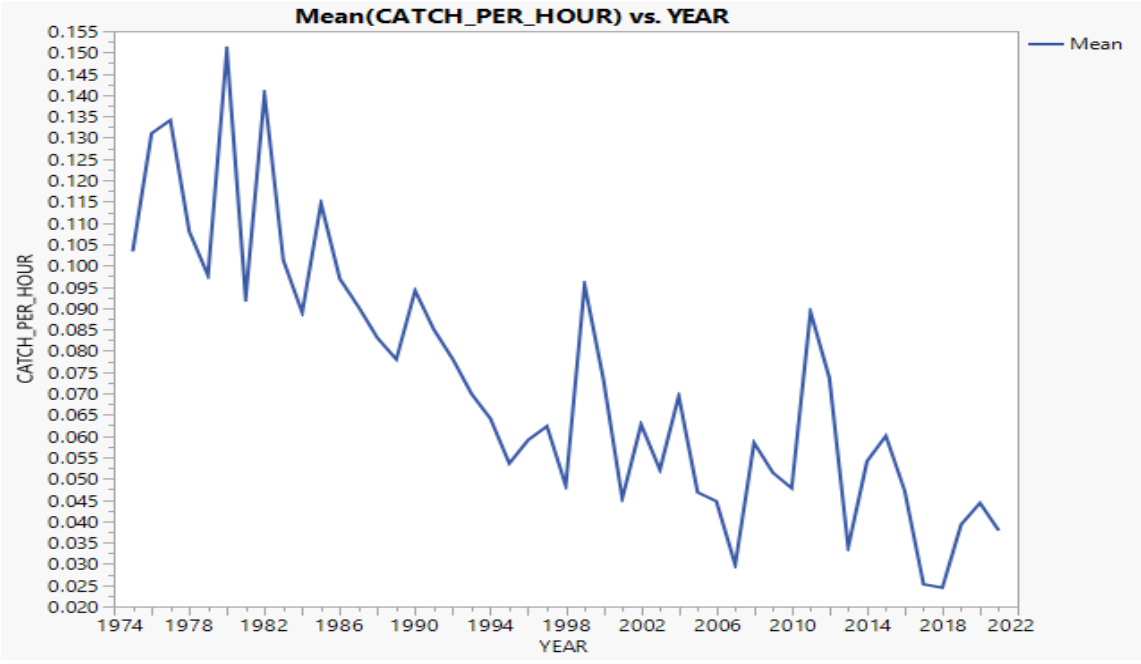

Figure 4. Gill net catch rates (catch/hour) of Southern Flounder (Fall season 1975-2021).

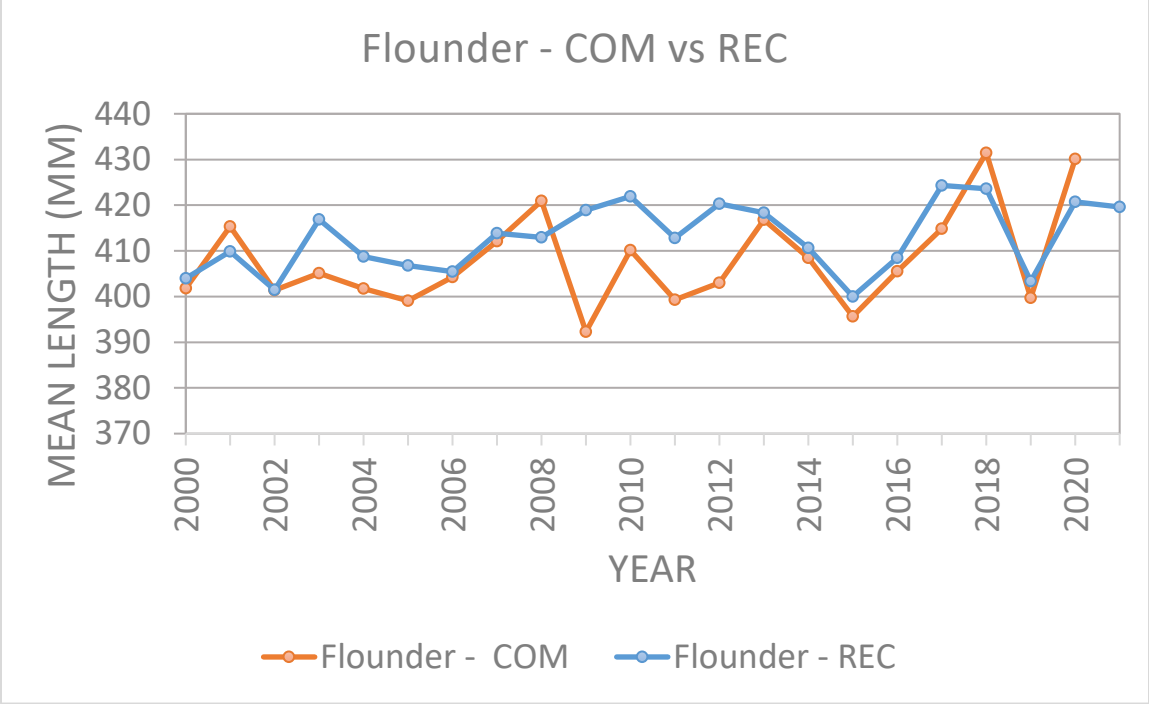

Figure 5. Mean flounder length landed in TX recreational and commercial fisheries.

Spotted Seatrout

Following winter storm Uri (Feb 14, 2021) a decline in the coastwide catch rate for Spotted Seatrout was observed in both spring and fall sampling periods as compared to long-term trends from TPWD's fisheries independent monitoring program (Figure 6). The most noteworthy declines were in bays and estuaries on the middle and southern coast of Texas. Immediately following Uri, an emergency Spotted Seatrout regulation for the Laguna Madre (4/1/2021 - 9/27/2021) was put into place. The spring 2022 gillnet surveys did show some increase over the previous spring CPUEs following the closures (Figure 6). Additionally, The Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission (TPWC) approved changes to bag and size limits for Spotted Seatrout on the middle and lower Texas coast during the January 2022 meeting. The new rules took effect on March 16, 2022 in Matagorda Bay, San Antonio Bay, Aransas Bay, Corpus Christi Bay, and the Upper and Lower Laguna Madre Bay systems.

From March 16, 2022 to August 31, 2023, the Spotted Seatrout bag and size limits south of FM 457 will be: 1) Three fish per day per angler, 2) A minimum size of 17 inches and a maximum size limit of 23 inches, and 3) No fish over the maximum length may be retained. Biologists expect this regulation change to result in an increase in population numbers since more mature fish will be left in the water to spawn from April to September in 2022 and 2023.

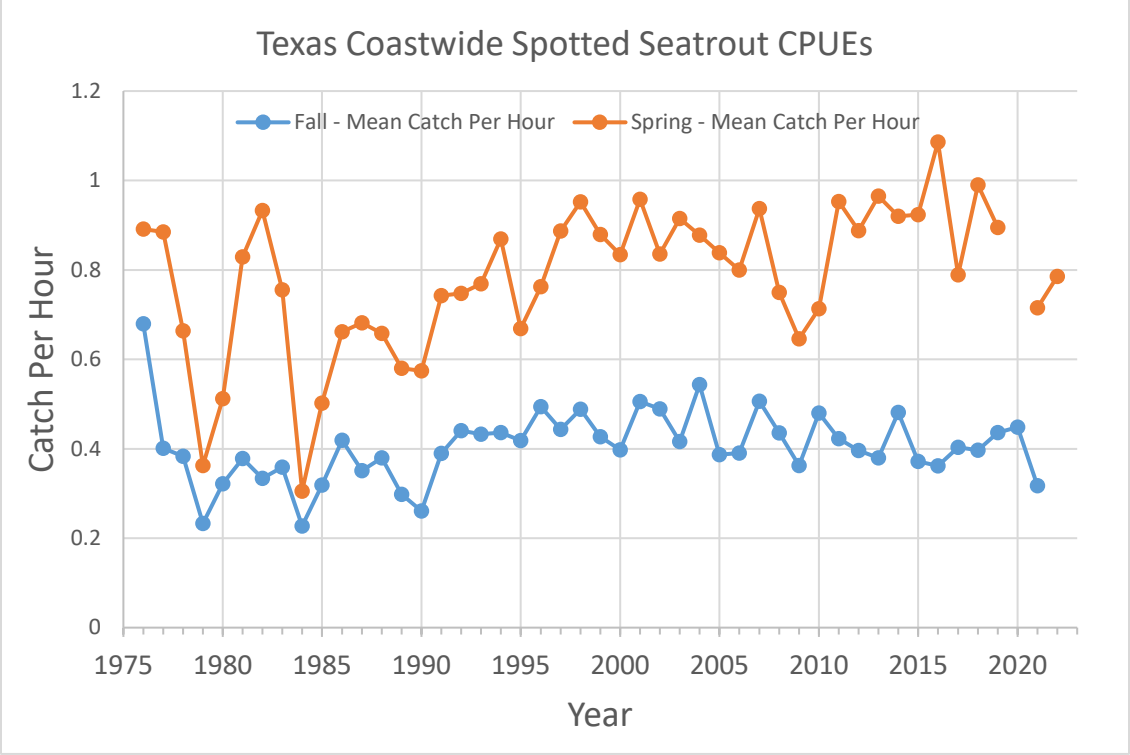

Figure 6. Catch per hour of Spotted Seatrout from Spring and Fall gillnets. 2020 data were not collected due to COVID restrictions (Fall 2022 still pending).

Gulf Menhaden

The Texas menhaden catch thus far for the 2022 fishing season (April-October) is 1,932,950 lbs (Figure 7). This is based on the ratio of 670lbs/1000 fish which were taken west of a line from Latitude 29°38'37.329N, Longitude 93°49'30.940W to Latitude 29°32'06.784N, Longitude 93°47'41.699W. Total fish caught thus far are 2,885,000 individuals. Thirty-two sets have been made in 2022, all within the month of September during the 21st week of the season. The total allowable catch (TAC) of menhaden from Texas waters is 34,650,000 lbs. therefore just under 6% of the TAC has been used. This is comparable to the last 8 years of landings, which have greatly decreased compared to the previous years where reports from Texas waters were available.

All information is based on weekly reports from Omega Protein which operates the fishing and fish reduction activities for the Texas menhaden fishery.

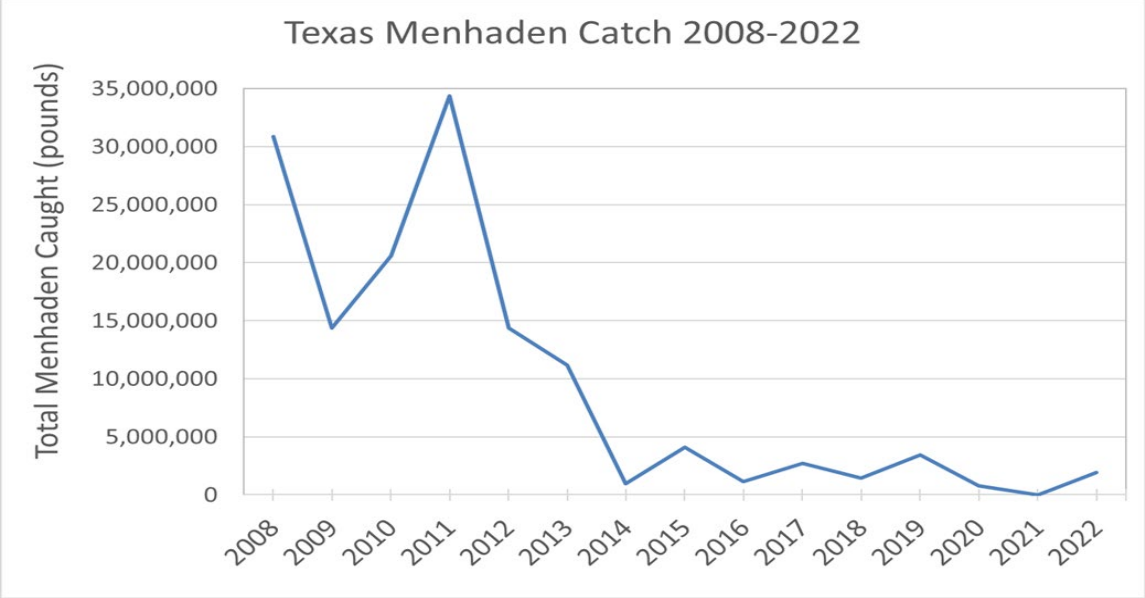

Figure 7. Total pounds of menhaden caught from Texas waters during yearly fishing seasons.

CARES Act Updates

TPWD Staff received approval to send out notification letters to qualified applicants for a 2nd Chance round of CARES funding (leftover round 2 funds). Letters of this funding opportunity were sent out by certified mail on February 1, 2022. In all, 85 applicants qualified for this second chance and were sent letters (2 for-hire guides, 79 fishery participants, and 4 seafood dealers). Most appeals consisted of tax documents to prove income, especially for 2020, which in many cases was suspiciously low in applications vs trip ticket landings data. A number of 2020 values were indeed greater than what were in the original application, so loss analyses were redone to verify percent loss was greater than 35%. Overall, we received 23 appeals, of which 12 were approved for funding. All the 2nd Chance approved applications were in the Commercial Fishing sector (Table 3).

TPWD had previously received approval for some of the remaining funds to go to TDA to develop and implement a TX seafood marketing plan. We also continue to work on developing plans for an oyster restoration project. After distribution of funds to TDA, the estimated CARES Act funds remaining for projects is $3,347,053.54.

Table 3. Summary of Texas CARES Act applications and funding distribution.

Sector	2nd Chance Letters sent	# of appeals	# of approvals	Approved 2nd chance distributions
Commercial Fishing	79	22	12	$1,569,590
Seafood Dealers	4	1	0	$0
Recreational For-Hire	2	0	0	$0
All Sectors	**85**	**23**	**12**	**$1,569,590**

2. Activities Related to Artificial Reef Programs.

Rigs-to-Reefs

- No platforms were deployed between March 2022 and August 2022.
- However, the following platforms are in discussion as possible Rigs to Reefs donations:
  - AC-25 A (Hoover spar)
  - EB-159 A
  - EB-160 A
  - HI A376 C
  - HI A376 A
  - HI A376 B
  - HI A382 F
  - HI-A-550 A
  - HI A573 A
  - HI A573 B
  - HI A595 D
  - HI A595 CF
  - HI A596 E
  - PN-969
  - PN-975

- The Black Elk Energy platform, HI-A-370 A, was decommissioned and deployed by JAB Energy Solutions in January 2021. However, with both Black Elk and JAB in bankruptcy, the agreed upon donation amount has been in discussion even prior to deployment. It was important for TPWD and the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) that a path forward could be found so that the platform could be accepted into the TPWD Artificial Reef Program and not be considered "orphaned." Orphaned platforms revert to the federal government and would require complete removal from the sea floor. TPWD Legal Division assisted with the mediation to find a workable solution.
- Ships-to-Reefs
  - *No updates at this time*

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. The contract placed 1,150 pyramids and 255 low relief plates at the reefs with a total cost of $2.7m. Most of the funding came from Hurricane mitigation funds, with an additional $559,000 from CCA. Laredo began deployment of the reef materials in early December 2021. All 150 pyramids for the Sabine HI-20 nearshore reef site and the 500 pyramids for the Big Man's reef site were deployed by 16 December 2021. Deployments at Kate's reef site of both pyramids and reef plates occurred in March 2022.

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). Staff are working with the contracting and purchasing division to amend the contract with Laredo Construction, Inc. for the additional structures. All materials were deployed by 18 July 2022.
- The GLO Asset Removal team and the ARP finalized the plan for the 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). A contract between the GLO and the ARP will allow for the ARP to oversee and carry out the required archeology survey for a new reef site. The contracted vendor, SEARCH, Inc., has received the antiquities permit from the Texas Historical Commission and but weather conditions kept the survey from occurring. After numerous delays and SEARCH hiring a local subcontractor, the archeological survey was completed in August 2023 and submitted to the Texas Historical Commission for review. Upon approval from the THC, the permitting process may begin.

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

Abandoned Crab Trap Program

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) closed state waters to crabbing (with crab traps) from February 18 – February 27, 2022. 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 1,258 traps were removed. We documented 250 volunteers participating onboard 79 boats during the annual closure. Table 4 has this data broken down by major bay in Texas.

Table 4. 2022 Abandoned Crab Trap Removal Program Summary

ACTRP 2022 Results	Traps	Volunteers	Boats*
Sabine Lake	1	2	2
Galveston Bay	110	63	12
Matagorda Bay	298	14	8
San Antonio Bay	608	109	30
Aransas Bay	198	61	24
Corpus Christi Bay	43	1	1
Upper Laguna Madre	0	0	0
Lower Laguna Madre	7	0	2
Totals	**1258**	**250**	**79**

***Note, vessels with no volunteers indicates TPWD staff members operating vessels and collecting traps with no volunteers on board (i.e., Lower Laguna Madre)**

Blue Crab Updates

Blue Crab trends in Texas remain relatively unchanged from last year's report. 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 (Figure 8), bag seine and bay trawl catch-rates (Figures 9 and 10, respectively) suggest that juvenile abundance continues to remain low. Preliminary data from 2022 (not shown) suggests that these trends continue to remain largely unchanged.

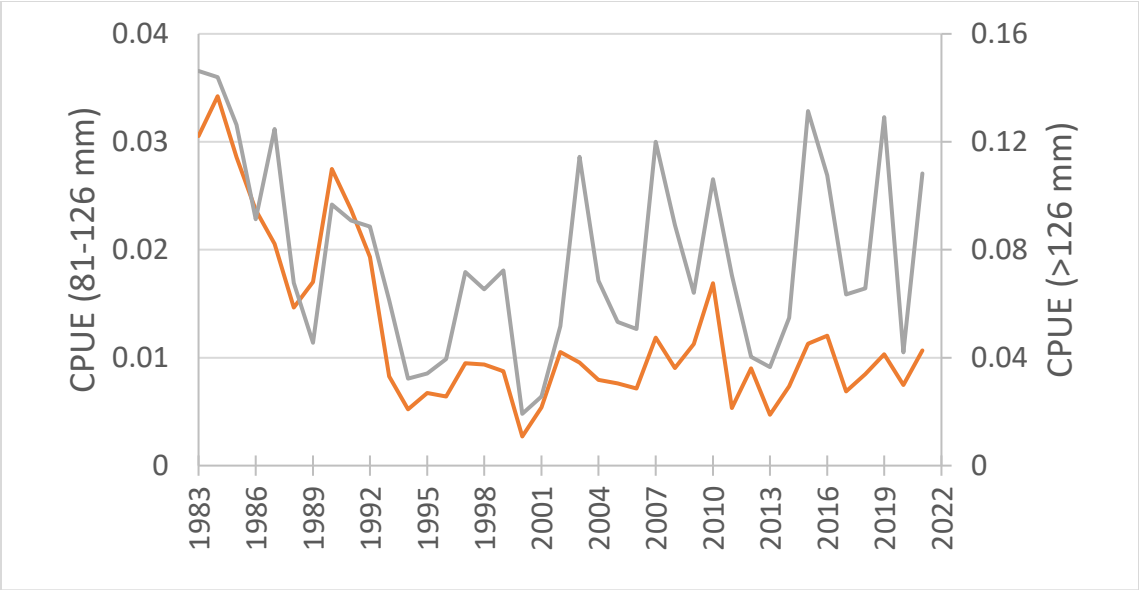

Figure 8. Blue Crab catch-per-unit-effort (CPUE; catch/hour) in fishery independent gill net surveys conducted in Texas bays from 1983-2021. The orange line represents blue crabs 81-126 mm, and the gray line represents crabs ≥127 mm. Note, gill net samples were not collected during the spring of 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic (i.e., 2020 consists of only fall gill net samples).

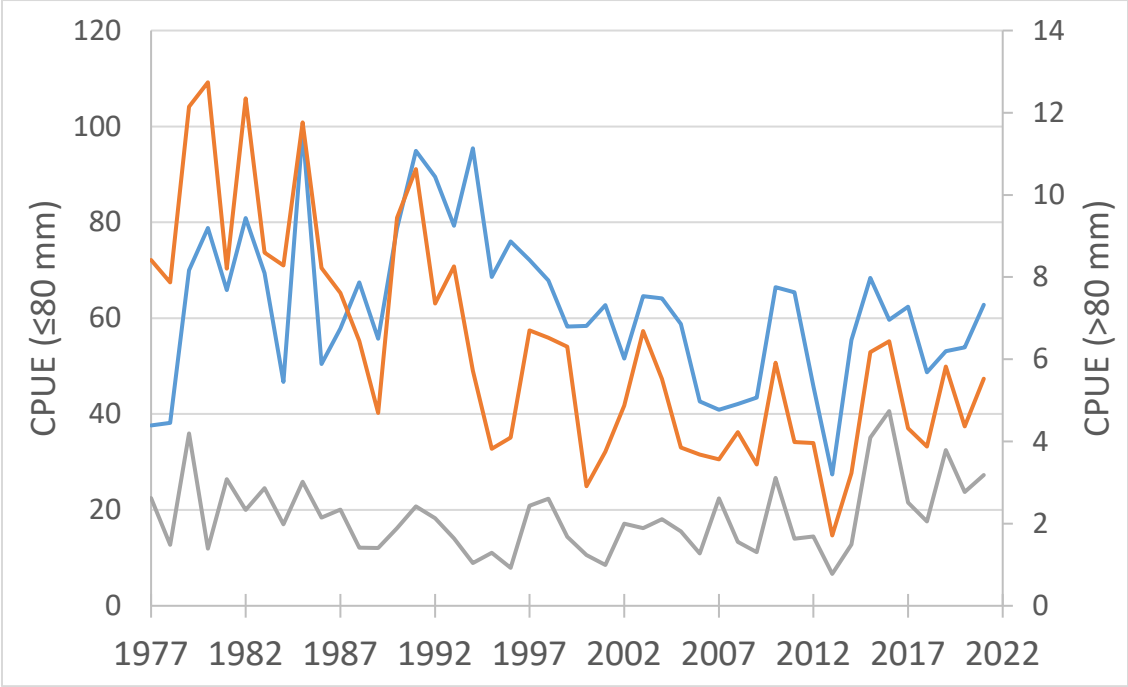

Figure 9. Blue Crab catch-per-unit-effort (CPUE; catch/hectare) in fisheries independent bag seine surveys conducted in Texas bays from 1977-2021. The blue line represents Blue Crabs ≤80 mm, the orange line represents Blue Crabs 81-126 mm, and the gray line represents crabs ≥127 mm.

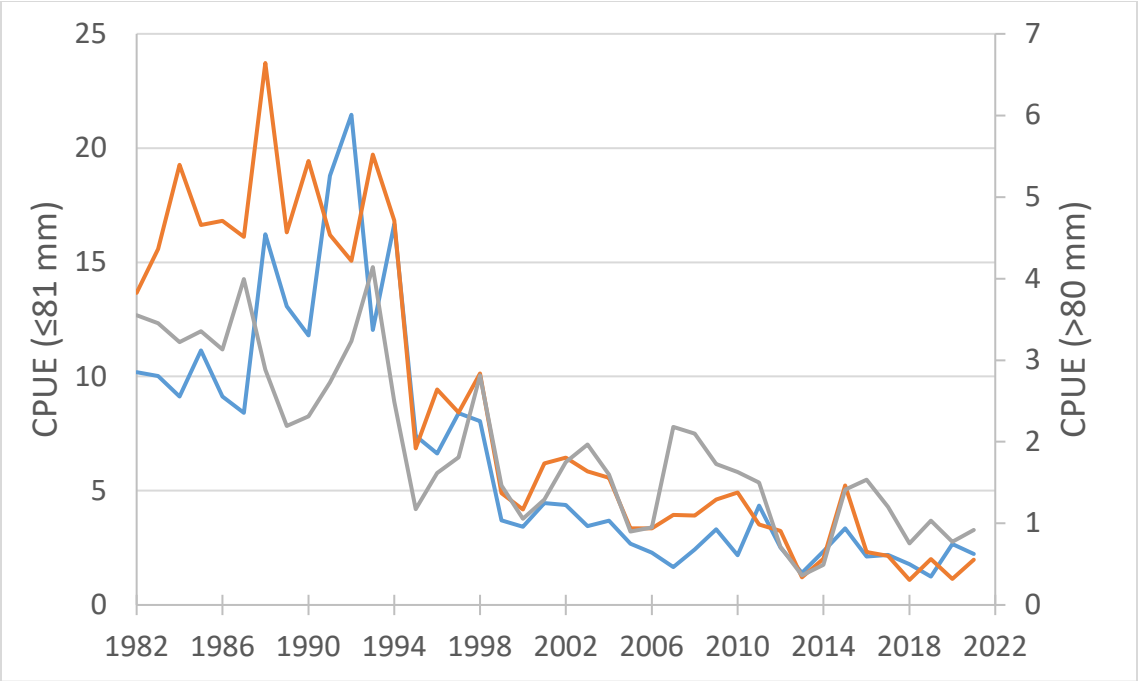

Figure 10. Blue Crab catch-per-unit-effort (CPUE) in fisheries independent bay trawl surveys (i.e., trawls conducted in Texas estuaries) conducted in Texas bays from 1982-2021. The blue line represents Blue Crabs ≤80 mm, the orange line represents Blue Crabs 81-126 mm, and the gray line represents crabs ≥127 mm.

4. Activities Related to Fisheries Dependent Data Collection.

Texas Trip Ticket Program

Trip ticket staff have continued to work with BlueFin software developers to improve the production version of the VESL web-based Trip Ticket System. As of September 2022, we have 212 dealers (out of 319 current) using the new VESL system, including new dealers and previous electronic and paper dealers. There are still 28 dealers using the original electronic program and 79 dealers using paper tickets. We continue to move dealers from the original electronic program to VESL and try to persuade paper dealers to switch. We continue to work with our programmers and dealers to address any issues. In August of 2021, we began working with VESL programmers (BlueFin) and Federal staff to program VESL so that federally permitted seafood dealers could report. We are hoping that this will be available to those dealers in September 2022. We also are hoping that dealers will have the ability to produce reports (as available to them in the PC Trip Ticket program) within VESL in the coming year. Also, harvest from our new Commercial Oyster Mariculture program will eventually get reported through the VESL system.

The TX Trip Ticket Program is currently applying new conversion factors (Head-On to Tail weight) to their shrimp previously submitted shrimp data (2020-current). These new conversion factors were produced from a Gulf-wide FIS project conducted by each state and the results were combined to get an overall value (Table 5).

The TX Trip Ticket team is also working on a snapper-grouper gut weight to whole weight conversion factor project. So far, we have been able to weigh and measure 206 Red Snapper, 85

Vermilion Snapper, and 32 Yellowedge Grouper. We plan on getting additional samples in the early fall; however, the data collected so far has shown a very tight relationship between whole weight and gut weight in each species with R^2 values around 0.99. Using the Proc Survey Means procedure, the preliminary results for converting gut weight to whole weight are 1.051 for Red Snapper, 1.072 for Vermilion Snapper, and 1.050 for Yellowedge Grouper. Our current conversion factor for each one of these species is 1.11, which should clearly be different for these species, and is much higher than preliminary results.

Table 5. Results of the FIS Shrimp Conversion Factor Project.

Species	Previous Factor	State	N	Mean_HO_WT (g)	Mean T_WT (g)	New Factor	R^2
Brown Shrimp	1.61	**AL**	887	14.3	8.7	1.528	0.990
		FL	116	4.1	2.6	1.600	0.983
		LA	262	9.3	6.0	1.537	0.991
		MS	531	8.4	5.3	1.601	0.990
		TX	1,133	16.9	10.9	1.549	0.985
		Combined	2929	13.4	8.5	**1.548**	0.991
White Shrimp	1.54	**AL**	1718	17.9	11.2	1.564	0.990
		FL	92	20.0	13.3	1.508	0.988
		LA	757	12.7	8.2	1.536	0.993
		MS	506	17.3	11.1	1.566	0.994
		TX	615	26.2	16.4	1.603	0.979
		Combined	3688	18.2	11.5	**1.568**	0.990
Pink Shrimp	1.60	**AL**	204	13.5	9.1	1.496	0.975
		FL	1255	25.6	16.3	1.571	0.939
		MS	7	8.7	5.3	1.635	0.998
		Combined	1466	23.8	15.2	**1.565**	0.945
Royal Red Shrimp	1.80	**AL**	766	29.2	14.4	**1.970**	0.980

Red Snapper Fishery Dependent data

Commercial fish lengths are collected by our staff at various seafood dealer locations along the coast each month during the year (since 1993). Our staff also collect measurements on our long-term creel surveys. Comparisons of the average sizes of the Red Snapper sampled from both the recreational and commercial fisheries show average sizes of snapper caught within the recreational fishery are much larger on average than the commercial fishery (Figures 11 and 12). Some of these differences are likely due to the smaller commercial minimum size limit of 13" vs 15/16" for recreational Red Snapper.

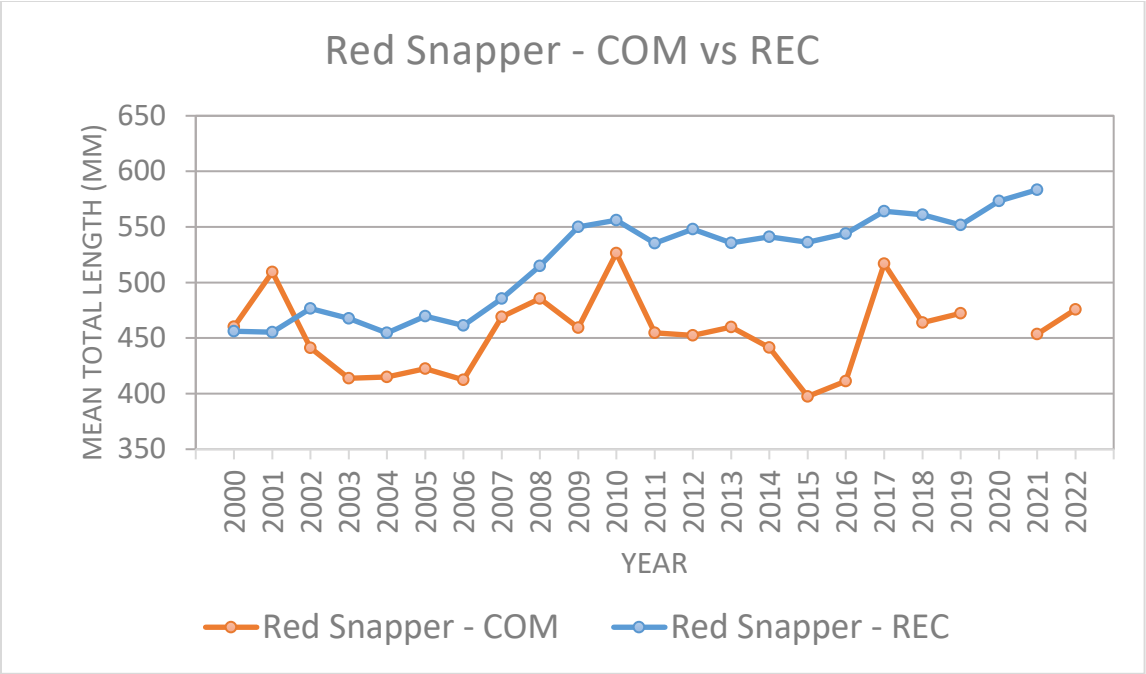

Figure 11. Red Snapper mean total lengths from 2000 – 2021 from recreational (creel) and commercial (commercial fish length surveys) fisheries.

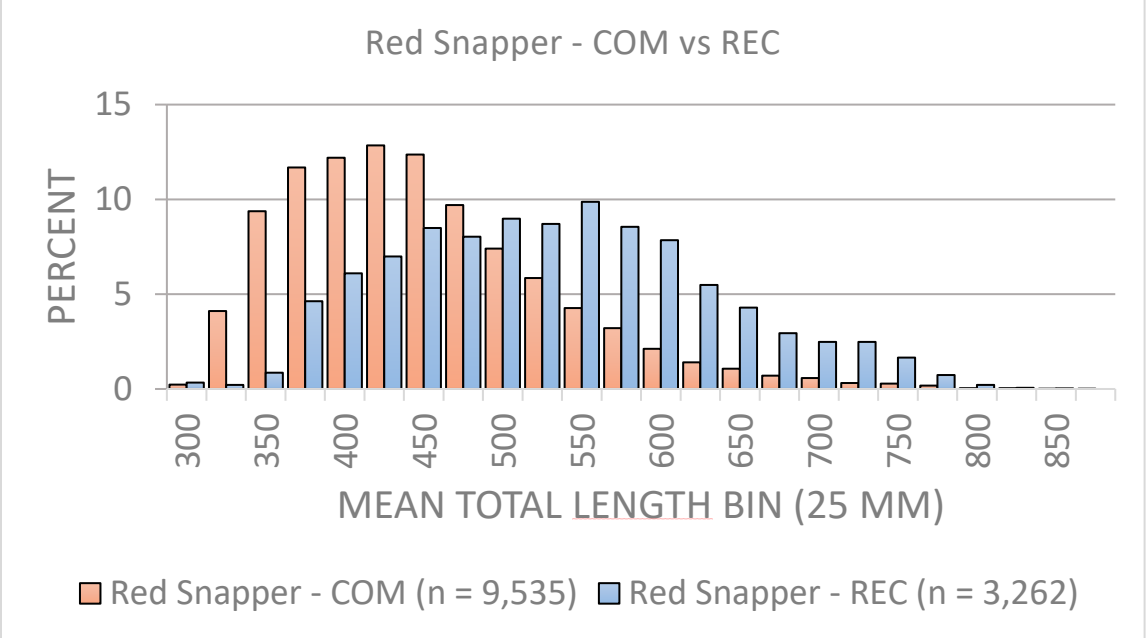

Figure 12. Histogram of Red Snapper length measurements from TX recreational and commercial fisheries (since 2010 – mean rec snapper lengths were weighted for catches within a trip).

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

Our current agreement with GSMFC for biosampling started in September 2021. Otoliths are being collected from recreational anglers and aged via independent contractors paid by GSMFC, with aging analysis occurring at the PRB facility (Table 6). To date, the following samples have been processed:

Table 6. 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*	0	75
Vermillion Snapper	*Rhomboplites aurorubens*	37	170
Red Snapper	*Lutjanus campechanus*	126	400
Triggerfish	*Balistes capriscus*	0	50
King Mackerel	*Scomberomorus cavalla*	1	300
Sheepshead	*Archosargus probatocephalus*	113	70
Southern Flounder	*Paralichthys lethostigma*	48	100
Black Drum	*Pogonias cromis*	445	340
Red Drum	*Sciaenops ocellatus*	587	750
Spotted Seatrout	*Cynoscion nebulosus*	761	1500

5. Activities Related to Fisheries-Independent Sampling.

SEAMAP

Bottom longline and Vertical line sampling

We are on track to complete all 30 BLL stations by the end of the month, currently, only one station is missing. This year, we partnered again with Texas A&M - Galveston and they collected two spring BLL stations.

Vertical Line (VL)

We are also on track to complete all 60 VL stations by the end of October, currently, there are 11 stations missing. This will be the last year that we do VL sampling, next year we will switch to either habitat mapping or a video survey.

Resource sampling

Almost all resource data is now entered electronically using mobile devices and then uploaded to our database in near real time. Data is still subject to the regular editing process; however, it is available at any stage.

Spring gill nets yielded an unusually low number of Green sea turtles, only two were captured during the 10-week season that ran from April to June. While we actually try to avoid them, this could indicate recent freeze events had a negative impact on the population.

Fall gill net season started September 12 and will run through November 20.

6. Other State Activities.

Fisheries Enhancement Program (Hatcheries)

During FY 2022, the saltwater enhancement program stocked 23,024,916 fingerlings in Texas' public waters (Table 7) Most fingerlings are stocked May - October.

Table 7. Total Red Drum, Spotted Seatrout, and Southern Flounder fingerlings produced and stocked into various Texas water bodies during FY 2022 (9/1/2021 – 8/31/2022).

FY 2022 Water Body	Red Drum Fingerlings Stocked	Spotted Seatrout Fingerlings Stocked	Southern Flounder Fingerlings Stocked
Aransas	1,076,344	1,162,757	28,474
Corpus Christi	437,430	373,703	0
East Matagorda	1,127,817	742,760	0
Galveston	1,178,736	587,437	63,903
Lower Laguna Madre	2,912,508	1,429,380	0
Sabine Lake	483,444	0	0
San Antonio	867,105	1,195,290	0
West Matagorda	2,643,711	1,691,168	0
Upper Laguna Madre	1,890,659	2,144,708	0
Freshwater			
Calaveras	643,620		
Kleberg Park	3,356		
Lake Bryan	0		
Victor Brauning	340,606		
Total	**13,605,336**	**9,327,203**	**92,377**

License Buyback Program

Shrimp

Buyback Round 40

- Application period closed April 27, 2022 (open approximately 30 days)
- 12 applications received
- Offered to purchase 6 licenses, but one applicant withdrew his bid, so we purchased a total of 5 (3 bay and 2 bait)
- Total purchase price was $41,300
- Avg. purchase price was $8,260

Finfish

Buyback Round 28

- Application period closed April 27, 2022 (Open approximately 30 days)

• 2 applications received

• Did not offer to purchase any licenses

Crab

Buyback Round 25

• Application period closed April 27, 2022 (Open approximately 30 days)

• No applications received

Oyster

Buyback Round 6

• Applications mailed out on August 22, 2022. Application period will end on September 30, 2022.

Perry R. Bass Marine Fisheries Research Station Updates

PRB Projects

Eastern Oyster (*Crassostrea virginica*) population genomics

This project consists of sampling oysters throughout the Gulf and generating a high resolution SNP genomic data set. Genomic sequencing of samples from Florida (n = 3), Louisiana (n = 2), Alabama (n = 1) and Texas (n = 11), has been completed. Sequencing and bioinformatics are being supported by the Marine Genomics lab at Texas A&M Corpus Christi (MGL). We have created a final variant file including nearly 20,0000 unique genomic loci that will be used for spatial genetic analysis; analysis of that data set is in its final stages, and manuscript preparation has begun.

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. We are continuing and expanding our sampling effort for this project. Sampling has continued in 2020 and 2021. 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. Sampling has now been completed and data analysis is ongoing. A paper reporting the presence and prevalence of sBG has been published in Marine and Coastal Fisheries (AFS), and a second paper describing updated sampling results is in review at the same outlet.

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. Six trials

have been completed (May, August, November 2020, May, August, November 2021) and data analysis is ongoing. Manuscript preparation is in progress.

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. Additionally, a collaborative component to this project with the TPWD stock enhancement program has yielded direct comparisons of growth and metamorphosis in wild versus hatchery fish. Preliminary results of this study include (1) relative consistency in daily growth of hatchery versus wild fish, (2) temporal and regional differences in the timing of metamorphosis (and ostensibly hatch), of Southern Flounder along the Texas coastline based on reverse calculations of growth from wild-caught fish over the last 30 years, and (3) progressive changes to the timing of hatch and metamorphosis in this species over the entire time series. Data analysis complete, manuscript is still in review.

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. We have collected 354 ladyfish specimens *via* TPWD fishery independent sampling. Morphological characters which diagnose each species have been counted and paired with mtDNA sequencing to take census of these species in Texas' waters. To date, both species have been identified in Texas, with *E. saurus* (approximately 90% of specimens) encountered more frequently than *E. smithi*. We are also using otolith increment analysis to observe age/growth parameters in *Elops sp*. Analysis is complete, manuscript is in 2nd round of journal review.

Investigating the use of environmental DNA (eDNA) for assessing presence and abundance of marine finfish in the coastal waters of Texas

We are in year 2 proof-of-concept study to test the efficacy of eDNA as a sampling methodology in the various estuarine habitats in Texas. We are now testing a community-level assay (DNA metabarcoding) to detect marine species. Side-by-side water sampling with TPWD gill nets was completed in the Spring of 2022, and the first library preparation/DNA sequencing event from Spring samples was successful. Data analysis ongoing, 2nd round of samples will be collected in the Fall.

Analysis of taxonomic uncertainty and field identification of snook (*Centropomus sp.*)

In order to improve field identification of the two snook species that occur in Texas, we will pair morphological examination with genetic identification (DNA sequencing) in order to identify key characters for each species. Previous work in our lab has identified problems with using commonly employed keys to differentiate *C. undecimalis* from *C. mexicanus* in Texas. Additionally, age/growth curves generated from otoliths obtained from TPWD field-identified specimens indicate (1) 2 different growth trajectories, suggesting species-specific growth

functions, and (2) data contamination of each growth function due to (presumed) mis-identification in the field. For otoliths already on hand, we will explore improving taxonomic ID using species-specific differences in gross otolith morphology (i.e., fourier series shape analysis using the uncut, paired sagittal otolith). Field sampling will begin in Fall of 2021 and field specimens will be used to validate otolith shape differences and further examine external morphological key characters using a number of published keys. We anticipate the following deliverables: (1) improvement of the key characters that can be used for field identification of *Centropomus* sp. in Texas, and (2) taxonomic resolution of potentially mis-identified otolith snook specimens for accurate age/growth function analysis.

Analysis of stage-specific Red Drum residency patterns in Texas (NEW)

We will be using long-term otolith collections from our facility to develop an accurate age/length key for Red Drum, then using lengths from long-running fishery-independent data collections to estimate ages of all fishes collected by TPWD since 1990. Age data will be applied such that three life stages can be identified in the fishery-independent data set; we will then use location and hydrology data for those collections to develop coast-wide, stage-specific residency models for Red Drum in Texas. This project leverages otoliths that have already been collected, as well as coast-wide fishery independent data collections of TPWD. Data analysis is ongoing.

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. Manuscript is in review at Conservation Biology.

Using population genomics to inform stock enhancement and ecosystem-based management of Spotted Seatrout *Cynoscion nebulosus*

In collaboration with Drs. Portnoy and Hollenbeck (TAMUCC) as well as TPWD hatchery staff (Mace, Fincannon, Cason) we will be collecting YOY Spotted Seatrout in conjunction with TPWD routine monitoring samples starting in Spring 2022 (bag seines and gill nets). The collections will serve two purposes: (1) we intend to examine genomic patterns of variation which have a spatial component (population genetics), and (2) we intend to estimate the contribution of hatchery-origin spotted seatrout to fish sampled in the wild. An additional deliverable of this project will be a genetic linkage map that will be generated by examining full- and half-sibling crosses from hatchery spotted seatrout families. Sample collection has begun and is ongoing for this project. This project is funded through Sea Grant and is anticipated to last through 2024.

Utilizing eDNA and plankton sampling to monitor American Eel recruitment in Texas

In collaboration with Drs. Guillen and Oakley (U. Houston, Clear Lake) we will be using a combined eel ramp and eDNA approach to identify potential migratory routes and timing for American Eel juveniles. Eel entrapment structures (aka “eel ramps”) will be located along several lower rivers in Texas spanning from the Nueces River up through several northern coast drainages (specific

sample sites not yet selected). Regular checks of these ramps will coincide with eDNA water sampling. We are also partnering informally with Stephen Davis (Lower Colorado River Authority) to assay similar sites in his area using eDNA methods. We have selected appropriate DNA assays and have quality controlled the lab eDNA steps and water sampling methodology. Site selection and deployment has been completed, and ramp visits began in July 2022. Work is supported through State Wildlife Grant funds (SWG).

Identification of a novel lineage within the Fat Snook species-complex of the genus *Centropomus* (Perciformes: Centropomidae)

We are supporting the work of Dr. Seifu Seyoum and others (Florida FWRI), in an effort to describe the evolutionary history and population genetics of the Fat Snook complex (*C. parallelus/mexicanus*) throughout the Gulf of Mexico and northern Caribbean. The TPWD has long recognized that there might be problems with the currently described phylogeny in this group, and we have agreed to partner with Dr. Seyoum in describing some of the inconsistencies associated with DNA sequence data and lineage definitions. This is an FWRI-lead effort; our role is in provision of DNA samples from Texas Fat Snook, and we are assisting Dr. Seyoum with data analysis and manuscript preparation. Manuscript was submitted in Spring of 2022 and is currently in review.

TX-FISH-DNA: A regionally-focused DNA barcode interface to enhance identification, monitoring, and biosecurity of TX Gulf Coast fishes (NEW)

This project is collaborative with Drs. Kevin Conway and David Portnoy (Texas A&M) and Preston Bean (Inland Fisheries). The goal of this project is to establish TX-FISH-DNA, a regionally-focused DNA-database for all species of fishes inhabiting freshwater, estuarine and marine habitats in Texas. TX-FISH-DNA will be populated by reference DNA-sequences obtained from expert-verified and museum vouchered specimens collected from Texas waters and will offer diverse end users rapid access to high quality mitochondrial DNA sequences that can be applied to solve myriad scientific problems. The project was funded through State Wildlife Grant Funds (SWG).

GULF STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION
PUBLICATIONS

Publications are available upon request until supply is exhausted.

No. 315 February 2022. Annual Report of the Fisheries Information Network in the Southeast Region (FIN). January 1, 2021 - December 31, 2021. Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission.

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No. 312 July 2022. Awareness, Attitudes, Perceptions, and Use of Best Fishing Practices by Recreational Reef Anglers in the Gulf of Mexico. Southwick Associates (Editor). Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission (online only).

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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)
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Thirty-third (1981-1982)
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Thirty-seventh (1985-1986)
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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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NEWSLETTER - Discontinued

"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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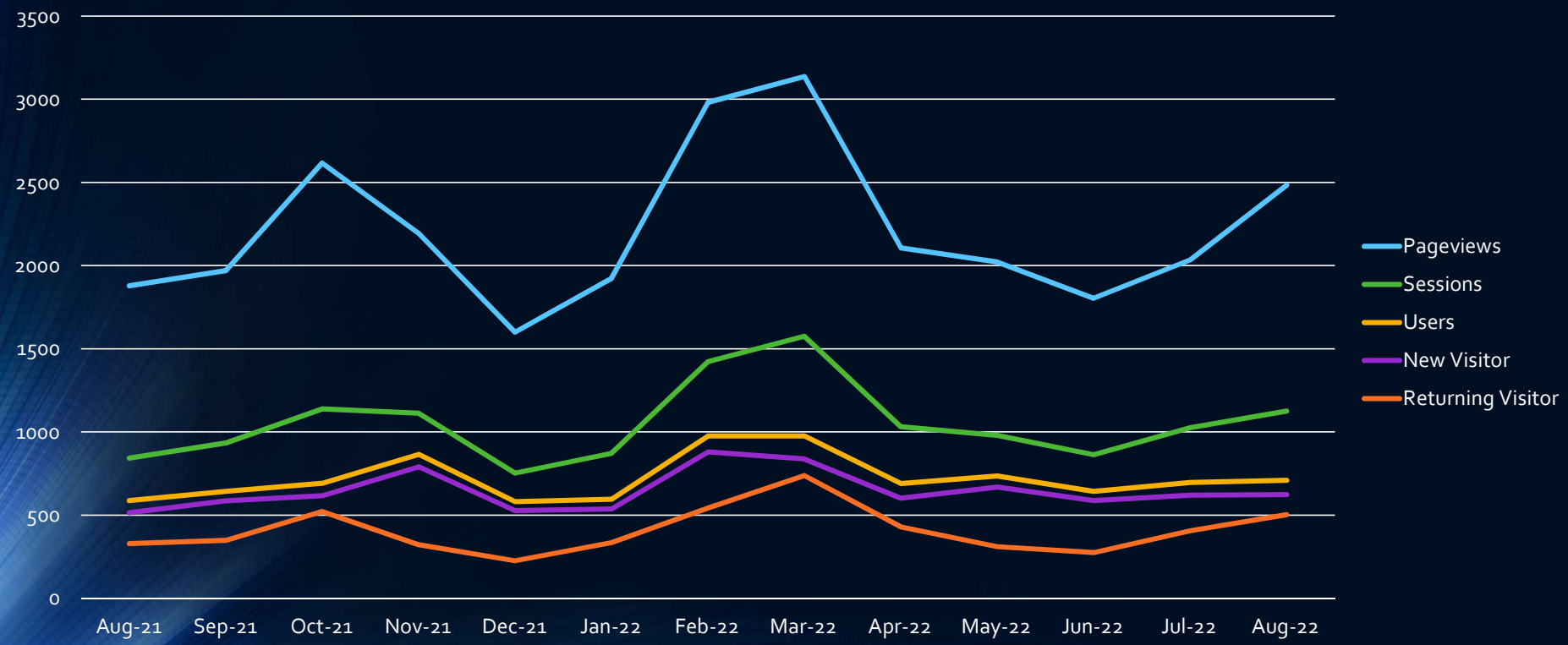
May 1993. Proceedings: Fifth Annual MARFIN Conference, October 28-29, 1992, Corpus Christi, Texas.

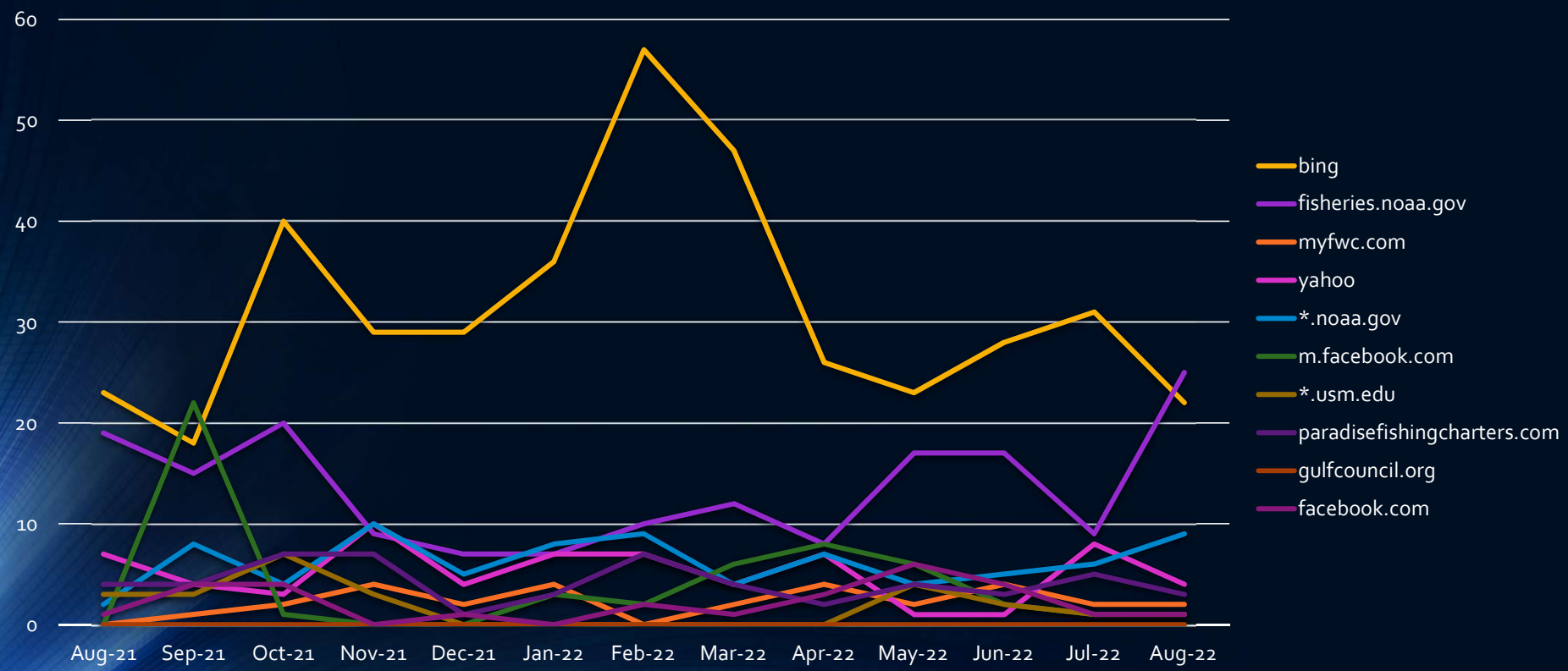
GSMFC Website Stats

WWW.GSMFC.ORG

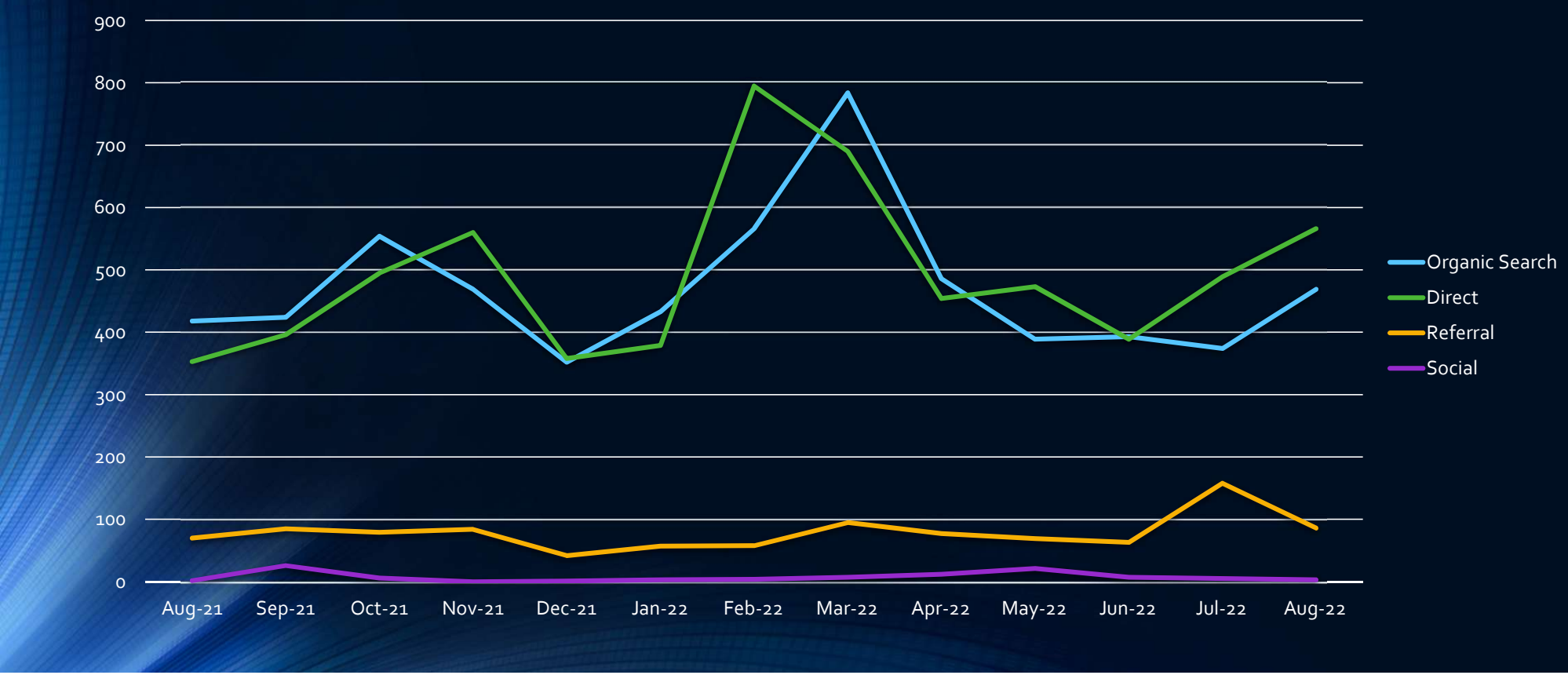
GSMFC Website Overview



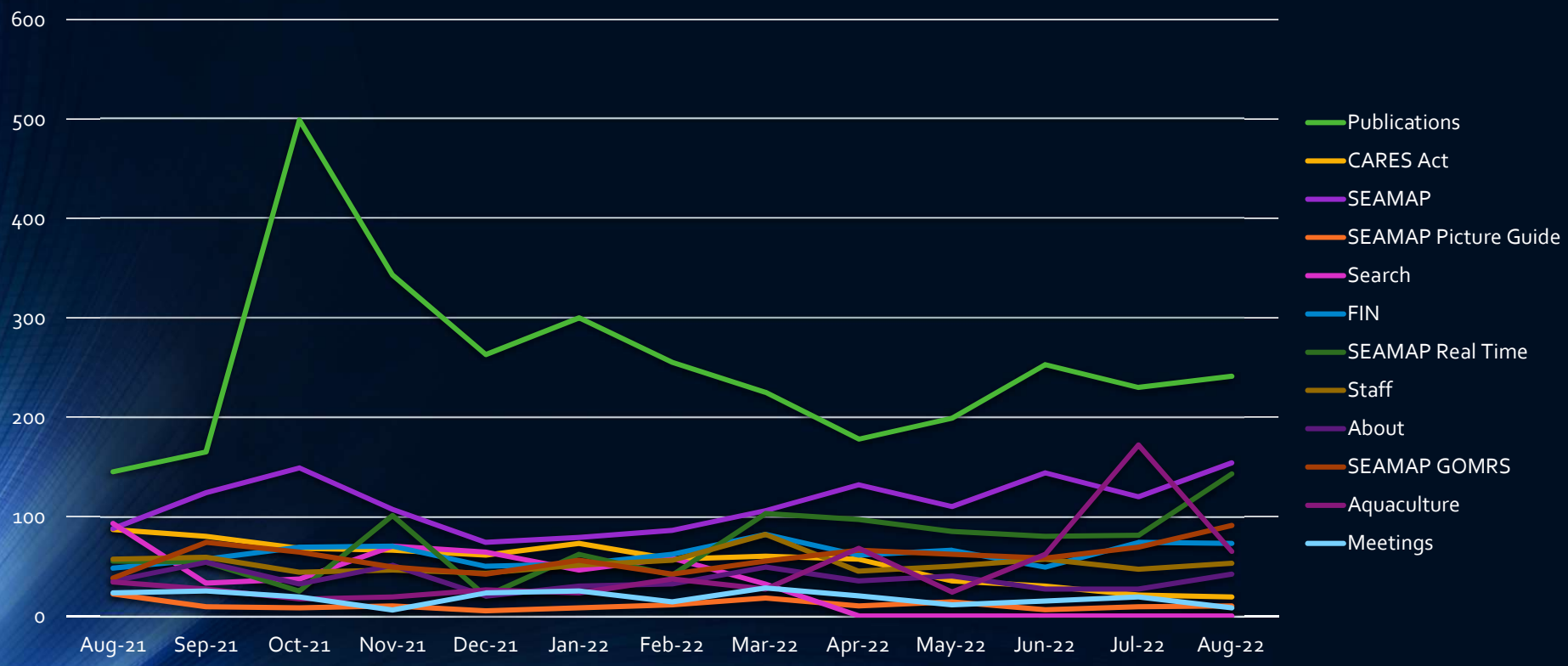
GSMFC Website Sessions from Source



GSMFC Website
Sessions from Channel



GSMFC Website Top Pages



GSMFC Website
Top Search Terms

GULF STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION
LIST OF OFFICERS
1989 - 2022

	1989 - 1990
Chairman	Tommy Gollott (MS)
V. Chairman	Don Duden (FL)
	1990 - 1991
Chairman	Don Duden (FL)
V. Chairman	Leroy Kiffe (LA)
2nd V. Chairman	Taylor Harper (AL)
	1991 - 1992
Chairman	Leroy Kiffe (LA)
V. Chairman	Taylor Harper (AL)
2nd V. Chairman	Rudy Rosen (TX)
	1992 - 1993
Chairman	Taylor Harper (AL)
V. Chairman	Rudy Rosen (TX)
2nd V. Chairman	Joe Gill (MS)
	1993 - 1994
Chairman	Rudy Rosen (TX) (vacated 6/94)
Chairman	Joe Gill (MS) (took over 6/94)
V. Chairman	Ed Conklin (FL)
2nd V. Chairman	Vacant (LA)
	1994-1995
Chairman	Joe Gill (MS) (vacated 12/94)
Chairman	Ed Conklin (FL) (took over 1/95)
V. Chairman	Corky Perret (LA)
2nd V. Chairman	Vacant (AL)
	1995-1996
Chairman	Corky Perret (LA) (vacated 7/96)
Chairman	C. Nelson (AL) (took over 8/96)
V. Chairman	G. McCarty (TX)
2nd V. Chairman	Vacant (MS)
	1996-1997
Chairman	Walter Penry (AL) (took over 10/96)
V. Chairman	Gene McCarty (TX)
2nd V. Chairman	George Sekul (MS)

	1997-1998
Chairman	Buster Brown (TX)
V. Chairman	George Sekul (MS)
2nd V. Chairman	Ed Conklin (FL)

	1998-1999
Chairman	George Sekul (MS)
V. Chairman	Ed Conklin (FL)
2nd V. Chairman	Frederic Miller (LA)

	1999-2000
Chairman	Frederic Miller (LA)
V. Chairman	Russell Nelson (FL)
2nd V. Chairman	Vernon Minton (AL)
Chairman Appointee	Don Perkins (TX)
Immediate Past Chairman	George Sekul (MS)

	2000 - 2001
Chairman	Virginia Vail (FL)
V. Chairman	Vernon Minton (AL
2nd V. Chairman	Mike Ray (TX)
Chairman Appointee	Corky Perret (MS)
Immediate Past Chairman	Frederic Miller (LA)

	2001 - 2002
Chairman	Vernon Minton (AL)
V. Chairman	Mike Ray (TX)
2nd V. Chairman	Billy Hewes (MS)
Chairman Appointee	John Roussel (LA)
Immediate Past Chairman	Virginia Vail (FL)

	2002 - 2003
Chairman	Mike Ray (TX)
V. Chairman	Billy Hewes (MS)
2nd V. Chairman	John Roussel (LA)
Chairman Appointee	Virginia Vail (FL)
Immediate Past Chairman	Vernon Minton (AL)

	2003 - 2004
Chairman	Billy Hewes (MS)
V. Chairman	John Roussel (LA)
2nd V. Chairman	Virginia Vail (FL)
Chairman Appointee	Vernon Minton (AL)
Immediate Past Chairman	Mike Ray (TX)

	2004 - 2005
Chairman	John Roussel (LA)
V. Chairman	Virginia Vail (FL)
2nd V. Chairman	Chris Nelson (AL)
Chairman Appointee	Mike Ray (TX)
Immediate Past Chairman	Vacant (MS)

	2005 - 2006
Chairman	Virginia Vail (FL)
V. Chairman	Vernon Minton (AL)
2nd V. Chairman	Ralph Rayburn (TX)
Chairman Appointee	Corky Perret (MS)
Immediate Past Chairman	John Roussel (LA)

	2006 - 2007
Chairman	Vernon Minton (AL)
V. Chairman	Ralph Rayburn (TX)
2nd V. Chairman	Joe Gill (MS)
Chairman Appointee	John Roussel (LA)
Immediate Past Chairman	Virginia Vail (FL)

	2007 - 2008
Chairman	Ralph Rayburn (TX) (deceased 1/08)
Chairman	Joe Gill (MS) (took over 2/08)
V. Chairman	John Roussel (LA)
2nd V. Chairman	Virginia Vail (FL)
Chairman Appointee	Mike Ray (TX)
Immediate Past Chairman	Vernon Minton (AL)

	2008 - 2009
Chairman	Butch Gautreaux (LA)
V. Chairman	Virginia Vail (FL)
2nd V. Chairman	Vernon Minton (AL)
Chairman Appointee	Mike Ray (TX)
Immediate Past Chairman	Joe Gill (MS)

	2009 - 2010
Chairman	Virginia Vail (FL)
V. Chairman	Vernon Minton (AL)
2nd V. Chairman	Mike Ray (TX)
Chairman Appointee	Joe Gill (MS)
Immediate Past Chairman	Butch Gautreaux (LA)

	2010 - 2011
Chairman	Mike Ray (TX)
V. Chairman	Chris Blankenship (AL)
2nd V. Chairman	Joe Gill (MS)
Chairman Appointee	Joey Shepard (LA)
Immediate Past Chairman	Vacant (FL)

	2011 - 2012
Chairman	Chris Blankenship (AL)
V. Chairman	Joe Gill (MS)
2nd V. Chairman	Joey Shepard (LA)
Chairman Appointee	David Heil (FL)
Immediate Past Chairman	Mike Ray (TX)

	2012 - 2013
Chairman	Joe Gill (MS)
V. Chairman	Randy Pausina (LA)
2nd V. Chairman	David Heil (FL)
Chairman Appointee	Mike Ray (TX)
Immediate Past Chairman	Chris Blankenship (AL)

	2013 - 2014
Chairman	Randy Pausina (LA)
V. Chairman	Dan Ellinor (FL)
2nd V. Chairman	Robin Riechers (TX)
Chairman Appointee	Chris Blankenship (AL)
Immediate Past Chairman	Joe Gill (MS)

	2014 - 2015
Chairman	Dan Ellinor (FL)
V. Chairman	Mark Lingo (TX)
2nd V. Chairman	Chris Blankenship (AL)
Chairman Appointee	Kelly Lucas (MS)
Immediate Past Chairman	Randy Pausina (LA)

	2015 - 2016
Chairman	Mark Lingo (TX)
V. Chairman	Chris Blankenship (AL)
2nd V. Chairman	Kelly Lucas (MS)
Chairman Appointee	Patrick Banks (LA)
Immediate Past Chairman	Dan Ellinor (FL)

	2016-2017
Chairman	Chris Blankenship (AL)
V. Chairman	Jamie Miller (MS)
2nd V. Chairman	Bret Allain (LA)
Chairman Appointee	Dan Ellinor (FL)
Immediate Past Chairman	Mark Lingo (TX)

	2017-2018
Chairman	Jamie Miller (MS) (vacated 12/17)
Chairman	Bret Allain (LA) (took over 1/18)
V. Chairman	Joe Spraggins (MS)
2nd V. Chairman	Dan Ellinor (FL)
Chairman Appointee	Mark Lingo (TX)
Immediate Past Chairman	Scott Bannon (AL)

	2018-2019
Chairman	Joe Spraggins (MS)
V. Chairman	Dan Ellinor (FL)
2nd V. Chairman	Lance Robinson (TX)
Chairman Appointee	Scott Bannon (AL)
Immediate Past Chairman	Bret Allain (LA)

	2019-2020
Chairman	Dan Ellinor (FL)
V. Chairman	Lance Robinson (TX)
2nd V. Chairman	Scott Bannon (AL)
Chairman Appointee	Jason Froeba (LA)
Immediate Past Chairman	Joe Spraggins (MS)

	2020-2022
Chairman	Doug Boyd (TX)
V. Chairman	Scott Bannon (AL)
2nd V. Chairman	Jason Froeba (LA)
Chairman Appointee	Joe Spraggins (MS)
Immediate Past Chairman	Dan Ellinor (FL)