

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1196

To require the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to establish a grant program to benefit coastal habitats, resiliency, and the economy, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 24, 2023

Ms. PLASKETT (for herself, Ms. SALAZAR, Mrs. PELTOLA, and Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## A BILL

To require the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to establish a grant program to benefit coastal habitats, resiliency, and the economy, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Don Young Restora-  
5 tion Grants for Coastlines and Fisheries Act of 2023”.

1 **SEC. 2. DON YOUNG RESTORATION GRANTS FOR COAST-**  
2 **LINES AND FISHERIES.**

3 (a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—The Administrator shall es-  
4 tablish a grant program to provide funding and technical  
5 assistance to eligible entities for purposes of carrying out  
6 a project described in subsection (d).

7 (b) **PROJECT PROPOSAL.**—To be considered for a  
8 grant under this section, an eligible entity shall submit  
9 a grant proposal to the Administrator in a time, place,  
10 and manner determined by the Administrator. Such pro-  
11 posal shall include monitoring, data collection, and meas-  
12 urable performance criteria with respect to the project.

13 (c) **DEVELOPMENT OF CRITERIA.**—The Adminis-  
14 trator shall select eligible entities to receive grants under  
15 this section based on criteria developed by the Adminis-  
16 trator, in consultation with relevant offices of the National  
17 Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, such as the Of-  
18 fice of Habitat Conservation, the Office for Coastal Man-  
19 agement, the Office of Response and Restoration, and the  
20 Office of National Marine Sanctuaries.

21 (d) **ELIGIBLE PROJECTS.**—A proposal is eligible for  
22 a grant under this section if—

23 (1) the purpose of the project is to restore a  
24 marine, estuarine, coastal, or Great Lake habitat,  
25 including—

1 (A) restoration of habitat to protect or re-  
2 cover a species that is threatened, endangered,  
3 or a species of concern under the Endangered  
4 Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.);

5 (B) through the removal or remediation of  
6 marine debris, including derelict vessels and  
7 abandoned, lost, and discarded fishing gear, in  
8 coastal and marine habitats; or

9 (C) for the benefit of—

10 (i) shellfish;

11 (ii) fish, including diadromous fish;

12 (iii) coral reef systems;

13 (iv) marine wildlife;

14 (v) blue carbon ecosystems such as  
15 coastal wetlands, marshes, coastal forests,  
16 seagrasses, kelp forests, and other habitats  
17 important to carbon sequestration and  
18 storage; or

19 (vi) ecosystems such as beaches,  
20 dunes, oyster beds, submerged aquatic  
21 vegetation, and other ecosystems that pro-  
22 vide protection from flooding, wave effects,  
23 and other coastal hazards; or

24 (2) provides adaptation to climate change, in-  
25 cluding sequestering and storing carbon or by con-

1 structing, restoring, or protecting ecological features  
2 or nature-based infrastructure that protects coastal  
3 communities from sea level rise, coastal storms, or  
4 flooding.

5 (e) PRIORITY.—In determining which projects to  
6 fund under this section, the Administrator shall give pri-  
7 ority to a proposed project—

8 (1) that would stimulate the economy;

9 (2) for which the applicant can demonstrate  
10 that the grant will fund work that will begin not  
11 more than 90 days after the date of award;

12 (3) for which the applicant can demonstrate  
13 that the grant will fund work that will employ fish-  
14 ermen who have been negatively impacted by finan-  
15 cial hardship or pay a fisherman for the use of a  
16 fishing vessel;

17 (4) for which the applicant can demonstrate  
18 that any preliminary study or permit required before  
19 the project can begin has been completed or can be  
20 completed shortly after an award is made;

21 (5) that includes communities that may not  
22 have adequate resources including low-income com-  
23 munities, communities of color, Tribal communities,  
24 Indigenous communities, and rural communities; or

1           (6) that is happening within National Wildlife  
2       Refuges, National Parks, and Marine Protected  
3       Areas, such as National Marine Sanctuaries.

4       (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is  
5       authorized to be appropriated to the Administrator  
6       \$1,000,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2023 through  
7       2032 to carry out this section, to remain available until  
8       expended.

9       (g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the following defi-  
10      nitions apply:

11           (1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Adminis-  
12      trator” means the Administrator of the National  
13      Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

14           (2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-  
15      ty” means a nonprofit, a for-profit business, an in-  
16      stitution of higher education, or a State, local, Trib-  
17      al, or Territorial government.

18           (3) FISHERMEN.—The term “fishermen”  
19      means commercial or for-hire fishermen or oyster  
20      farmers.

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