

RESCUE OCEANS ACT

Removing and Sequestering Carbon Unleashed in the Environment and Oceans Act

Led by Senators Brian Schatz (D-Hawai‘i) and Lisa Murkowski (R-AK),
Representatives Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR) and Buddy Carter (R-GA)

SECTION-BY-SECTION

Section 1. Short title; Table of Contents

Section 2. Definitions

Section 3. Purposes

- Support research, development, and field trials for safe and responsible mCDR
- Ensure robust monitoring and protection of coastal and marine ecosystems
- Coordinate Federal mCDR activity
- Support meaningful engagement with coastal communities and consultation with Tribes, Tribal organizations, and Native Hawaiian organizations

TITLE I – NOAA

Section 101. Research

- Directs the Secretary, through NOAA, to establish a program to conduct research on mCDR; outlines program objectives
- Directs the Secretary to award competitive grants that may include funding for community engagement and require researchers to adhere to the code of conduct developed by the interagency working group
- Directs the Secretary to develop and implement a data management strategy to ensure responsible data stewardship and access
- Requires coordination with the Department of State

Section 102. Monitoring

- Directs the Secretary to develop or provide monitoring infrastructure to minimize negative impacts and maximize co-benefits
- Outlines the goals of monitoring, including supporting the goals of the NOAA program established in Section 101, compliance, R&D of mCDR and monitoring technologies, evaluation of efficacy and ecosystem responses, and development of standards and protocols
- Authorizes the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury and the Secretary of Energy, to provide technical assistance to promote key indicators of high-integrity carbon markets
- Authorizes the Secretary to enter into contracts and public-private-academic partnerships
- Mandates that monitoring data is made publicly available, subject to IP restrictions and restrictions on sharing the data of Tribes, Tribal organizations, and Native Hawaiian organizations

Section 103. Research Areas for mCDR

- Authorizes the Secretary to establish federally administered mCDR research areas and award grants to establish non-federally run research areas; outlines their purpose, including studying basic and applied sciences, coordinating permitting, clustering resources and sensors, and enabling long-term community engagement
- Directs the Secretary to inventory potential research area sites, solicit public comment, and assess the suitability of proposed sites
- Directs the Secretary to leverage private sector investment
- Directs the Secretary to develop terms and conditions agreements for each research area, including mitigation and cleanup plans
- Outlines the process for research area duration, reestablishment and termination
- Directs the Secretary to develop community benefit schemes at research sites to the extent possible
- Lists the relevant stakeholders with whom the Secretary must engage and consult when establishing a research area
- Directs the Secretary to appoint a board to oversee each mCDR research area

Section 104. Interagency Working Group (IWG)

- Establishes an IWG for mCDR co-chaired by NOAA and DOE
- Directs the IWG to develop or adopt a Federal research plan for mCDR that prioritizes public engagement and ecosystem impacts
- Directs the IWG to create a research code of conduct that all IWG members must adopt; emphasizes transparency, incorporation of traditional knowledge, and mitigation of harm

Section 105. Report

- Directs the IWG to publish a report on mCDR every two years and outlines contents, including a summary of key findings and assessments of the mCDR technologies, the permitting regime, and barriers
- Mandates that reports are made publicly available

Section 106. Authorizations

- Authorizes NOAA appropriations for fiscal years 2027 through 2031

TITLE II – National Science Foundation (NSF)

Sec. 201. Researching mCDR

- Directs NSF to award mCDR grants to support the Federal research plan and to leverage workforce development programs for such purposes

TITLE III – National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)

Sec. 301. Measuring mCDR from space

- Directs NASA to leverage its assets to support the Federal research plan described in section 104, including through NASA's monitoring and modeling programs and Mission Directorates

Sec. 302. Authorization of appropriations

- Authorizes NASA appropriations for fiscal years 2027 through 2031

TITLE IV – National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)

Sec. 401. Validating mCDR

- Directs NIST to develop measurements and data to advance mCDR innovation and validate performance of mCDR technologies
- Directs NIST, in coordination with the Department of State, to engage with international bodies to promote global standardization of mCDR measurement

Sec. 402. Authorization of appropriations

- Authorizes NIST appropriations for fiscal years 2027 through 2031