

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 660

To require the Secretary of Commerce 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 1, 2021

Ms. PLASKETT (for herself and Mr. YOUNG) 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 Secretary of Commerce 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 “Shovel-Ready Restora-  
5 tion Grants for Coastlines and Fisheries Act of 2021”.

1 **SEC. 2. SHOVEL-READY RESTORATION AND RESILIENCY**  
2 **GRANT PROGRAM.**

3 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish  
4 a grant program to provide funding and technical assist-  
5 ance to eligible entities for purposes of carrying out a  
6 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 Secretary in a time, place, and  
10 manner determined by the Secretary. Such proposal shall  
11 include monitoring, data collection, and measurable per-  
12 formance criteria with respect to the project.

13 (c) DEVELOPMENT OF CRITERIA.—The Secretary  
14 shall select eligible entities to receive grants under this  
15 section based on criteria developed by the Secretary, in  
16 consultation with relevant offices of the National Oceanic  
17 and Atmospheric Administration, such as the Office of  
18 Habitat Conservation and the Office for Coastal Manage-  
19 ment.

20 (d) ELIGIBLE PROJECTS.—A project is described in  
21 this subsection if—

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

25 (A) restoration of habitat to protect or re-  
26 cover a species that is threatened, endangered,

1 or a species of concern under the Endangered  
2 Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.);

3 (B) through the removal or remediation of  
4 marine debris, including derelict vessels and  
5 fishing gear, in coastal and marine habitats;  
6 and

7 (C) for the benefit of—

8 (i) shellfish;

9 (ii) fish, including diadromous fish; or

10 (iii) coral reef; or

11 (2) the project provides adaptation to climate  
12 change, including—

13 (A) by constructing or protecting ecological  
14 features or nature-based infrastructure that  
15 protects coastal communities from sea level rise,  
16 coastal storms, or flooding; and

17 (B) blue carbon projects.

18 (e) PRIORITY.—In determining which projects to  
19 fund under this section, the Secretary shall give priority  
20 to a proposed project—

21 (1) that would stimulate the economy;

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

1           (3) for which the applicant can demonstrate  
2           that the grant will fund work that will employ fish-  
3           ermen who have been negatively impacted by the  
4           COVID–19 pandemic or pay a fisherman for the use  
5           of a fishing vessel;

6           (4) for which the applicant can demonstrate  
7           that any preliminary study or permit required before  
8           the project can begin has been completed or can be  
9           completed shortly after an award is made; or

10          (5) that includes communities that may not  
11          have adequate resources, including low-income com-  
12          munities, communities of color, Tribal communities,  
13          Indigenous communities, and rural communities.

14          (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is  
15          authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Com-  
16          merce \$3,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2021, to remain  
17          available until expended, to carry out this section.

18          (g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

19               (1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-  
20               ty” means a nonprofit, a for-profit business, an in-  
21               stitution of higher education (as such term is de-  
22               fined in section 101(a) of the Higher Education Act  
23               of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a))), or a State, local,  
24               Tribal, or Territorial government.

1           (2) FISHERMAN.—The term “fisherman”  
2 means a commercial or for-hire fisherman or an oys-  
3 ter farmer.

4           (3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
5 the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Ad-  
6 ministrator of the National Oceanic and Atmos-  
7 pheric Administration.

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