AMENDMENT NO.______ Calendar No.______

Purpose: In the nature of a substitute.


S. 1982

To improve efforts to combat marine debris, and for other purposes.

Referred to the Committee on ______________ and ordered to be printed

Ordered to lie on the table and to be printed

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE intended to be proposed by Mr. SULLIVAN

Viz:

1 Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the follow-
2
3 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.
4 This Act may be cited as the “Save Our Seas 2.0
5 Act”.

6 SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.
7 In this Act:
8 (1) CIRCULAR ECONOMY.—The term “circular
9 economy” means an economy that uses a systems-focu-
10 sed approach and involves industrial processes and
11 economic activities that—
(A) are restorative or regenerative by design;

(B) enable resources used in such processes and activities to maintain their highest values for as long as possible; and

(C) aim for the elimination of waste through the superior design of materials, products, and systems (including business models).

(2) **EPA Administrator.**—The term "EPA Administrator" means the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

(3) **INDIAN TRIBE.**—The term "Indian Tribe" has the meaning given the term "Indian tribe" in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304), without regard to capitalization.

(4) **MARINE DEBRIS.**—The term "marine debris" has the meaning given that term in section 7 of the Marine Debris Act (33 U.S.C. 1956).

(5) **NON-FEDERAL FUNDS.**—The term "non-Federal funds" means funds provided by—

(A) a State;

(B) an Indian Tribe;

(C) a territory of the United States;
(D) one or more units of local governments
or Tribal organizations (as defined in section 4
of the Indian Self-Determination and Education
Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304));

(E) a private for-profit entity;

(F) a nonprofit organization; or

(G) a private individual.

(6) **NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION.**—The term
"nonprofit organization" means an organization that
is described in section 501(e) of the Internal Rev-


tue Code of 1986 and exempt from tax under sec-


tion 501(a) of such Code.

(7) **POST-CONSUMER MATERIALS MANAGE-
MENT.**—The term "post-consumer materials man-


gement" means the systems, operation, supervision,
and aftercare of processes and equipment used for
post-use material (including packaging, goods, prod-


ts, and other materials), including—

(A) collection;

(B) transport;

(C) safe disposal of waste that cannot be

recovered, reused, recycled, repaired, or refur-

bished; and
(D) systems and processes related to post-use materials that can be recovered, reused, recycled, repaired, or refurbished.

(8) **State.**—The term "State" means—

(A) a State;

(B) an Indian Tribe;

(C) the District of Columbia; and

(D) a territory or possession of the United States.

(9) **Under Secretary.**—The term "Under Secretary" means the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

**TITLE I—MARINE DEBRIS FOUNDATION**

**SEC. 101. ESTABLISHMENT AND PURPOSES OF FOUNDATION.**

(a) **Establishment.**—There is established the Marine Debris Foundation (in this title referred to as the "Foundation"). The Foundation is a charitable and non-profit organization and is not an agency or establishment of the United States.

(b) **Purposes.**—The purposes of the Foundation are—
(1) to encourage, accept, and administer private gifts of property for the benefit of, or in connection with, the activities and services of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration under the Marine Debris Program established under section 3 of the Marine Debris Act (33 U.S.C. 1952), and other relevant programs and agencies;

(2) to undertake and conduct such other activities as will further the efforts of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to assess, prevent, reduce, and remove marine debris and address the adverse impacts of marine debris on the economy of the United States, the marine environment, and navigation safety;

(3) to participate with, and otherwise assist, State, local, and Tribal governments, foreign governments, entities, and individuals in undertaking and conducting activities to assess, prevent, reduce, and remove marine debris and address the adverse impacts of marine debris and its root causes on the economy of the United States, the marine environment (including waters in the jurisdiction of the United States, the high seas, and waters in the jurisdiction of other countries), and navigation safety;
(4) to administer the Genius Prize for Save Our Seas Innovation as described in title II; and
(5) to support other Federal actions to reduce marine debris.

SEC. 102. BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE FOUNDATION.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT AND MEMBERSHIP.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Foundation shall have a governing Board of Directors (in this title referred to as the "Board"), which shall consist of the Under Secretary and 12 additional Directors appointed in accordance with subsection (b) from among individuals who are United States citizens.

(2) REPRESENTATION OF DIVERSE POINTS OF VIEW.—To the maximum extent practicable, the membership of the Board shall represent diverse points of view relating to the assessment, prevention, reduction, and removal of marine debris.

(3) NOT FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.—Appointment as a Director of the Foundation shall not constitute employment by, or the holding of an office of, the United States for the purpose of any Federal law.

(b) APPOINTMENT AND TERMS.—

(1) APPOINTMENT.—Subject to paragraph (2), after consulting with the EPA Administrator, the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife
Service, the Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, and considering the recommendations submitted by the Board, the Under Secretary shall appoint 12 Directors who meet the criteria established by subsection (a), of whom—

(A) at least 4 shall be educated or experienced in the assessment, prevention, reduction, or removal of marine debris, which may include an individual with expertise in post-consumer materials management or a circular economy;

(B) at least 2 shall be educated or experienced in the assessment, prevention, reduction, or removal of marine debris outside the United States;

(C) at least 2 shall be educated or experienced in ocean and coastal resource conservation science or policy; and

(D) at least 2 shall be educated or experienced in international trade or foreign policy.

(2) TERMS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), each Director (other than the Under
Secretary) shall be appointed for a term of 6
years.

(B) INITIAL APPOINTMENTS TO NEW MEM-
BER POSITIONS.—Of the Directors appointed by
the Under Secretary under paragraph (1), the
Secretary shall appoint, not later than 180 days
after the date of the enactment of this Act—

(i) 4 Directors for a term of 6 years;
(ii) 4 Directors for a term of 4 years;

and

(iii) 4 Directors for a term of 2 years.

(3) VACANCIES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Under Secretary
shall fill a vacancy on the Board.

(B) TERM OF APPOINTMENTS TO FILL UN-
EXPIRED TERMS.—An individual appointed to
fill a vacancy that occurs before the expiration
of the term of a Director shall be appointed for
the remainder of the term.

(4) REAPPOINTMENT.—An individual (other
than an individual described in paragraph (1)) shall
not serve more than 2 consecutive terms as a Direc-
tor, excluding any term of less than 6 years.

(5) REQUEST FOR REMOVAL.—The executive
committee of the Board may submit to the Under
Secretary a letter describing the nonperformance of a Director and requesting the removal of the Director from the Board.

(6) Consultation before removal.—Before removing any Director from the Board, the Under Secretary shall consult with the Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and the EPA Administrator.

(c) Chairman.—The Chairman shall be elected by the Board from its members for a 2-year term.

(d) Quorum.—A majority of the current membership of the Board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

(e) Meetings.—The Board shall meet at the call of the Chairman at least once a year. If a Director misses 3 consecutive regularly scheduled meetings, that individual may be removed from the Board and that vacancy filled in accordance with subsection (b).

(f) Reimbursement of Expenses.—Members of the Board shall serve without pay, but may be reimbursed for the actual and necessary traveling and subsistence expenses incurred by them in the performance of the duties of the Foundation.
(g) **GENERAL POWERS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Board may complete the organization of the Foundation by—

(A) appointing officers and employees;

(B) adopting a constitution and bylaws consistent with the purposes of the Foundation and the provisions of this title; and

(C) undertaking of other such acts as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this title.

(2) **LIMITATIONS ON APPOINTMENT.**—The following limitations apply with respect to the appointment of officers and employees of the Foundation:

(A) Officers and employees may not be appointed until the Foundation has sufficient funds to pay them for their service. Officers and employees of the Foundation shall be appointed without regard to the provisions of title 5, United States Code, governing appointments in the competitive service, and may be paid without regard to the provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of such title relating to classification and General Schedule pay rates.
(B) The first officer or employee appointed
by the Board shall be the Secretary of the
Board who—

(i) shall serve, at the direction of the
Board, as its chief operating officer; and
(ii) shall be knowledgeable and experi-
enced in matters relating to the assess-
ment, prevention, reduction, and removal
of marine debris.

SEC. 103. RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF THE FOUNDATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Foundation—

(1) shall have perpetual succession;

(2) may conduct business throughout the sev-
eral States, territories, and possessions of the
United States and abroad; and

(3) shall at all times maintain a designated
agent authorized to accept service of process for the
Foundation.

(b) SERVICE OF PROCESS.—The serving of notice to,
or service of process upon, the agent required under sub-
section (a)(3), or mailed to the business address of such
agent, shall be deemed as service upon or notice to the
Foundation.

(e) POWERS.—
(1) IN GENERAL.—To carry out its purposes under section 101, the Foundation shall have, in addition to the powers otherwise given it under this title, the usual powers of a corporation acting as a trustee in the District of Columbia, including the power—

(A) to accept, receive, solicit, hold, administer, and use any gift, devise, or bequest, either absolutely or in trust, of real or personal property or any income therefrom or other interest therein;

(B) to acquire by purchase or exchange any real or personal property or interest therein;

(C) to invest any funds provided to the Foundation by the Federal Government in obligations of the United States or in obligations or securities that are guaranteed or insured by the United States;

(D) to deposit any funds provided to the Foundation by the Federal Government into accounts that are insured by an agency or instrumentality of the United States;

(E) to make use of any interest or investment income that accrues as a consequence of
actions taken under subparagraph (C) or (D) to carry out the purposes of the Foundation;

(F) to use Federal funds to make payments under cooperative agreements to provide substantial long-term benefits for the assessment, prevention, reduction, and removal of marine debris;

(G) unless otherwise required by the instrument of transfer, to sell, donate, lease, invest, reinvest, retain or otherwise dispose of any property or income therefrom;

(H) to borrow money and issue bonds, debentures, or other debt instruments;

(I) to sue and be sued, and complain and defend itself in any court of competent jurisdiction, except that the Directors of the Foundation shall not be personally liable, except for gross negligence;

(J) to enter into contracts or other arrangements with, or provide financial assistance to, public agencies and private organizations and persons and to make such payments as may be necessary to carry out its functions; and
(K) to do any and all acts necessary and
proper to carry out the purposes of the Founda-
tion.

(2) NON-FEDERAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE
FUND.—A gift, devise, or bequest may be accepted
by the Foundation without regard to whether the
gift, devise, or bequest is encumbered, restricted, or
subject to beneficial interests of private persons if
any current or future interest in the gift, devise, or
bequest is for the benefit of the Foundation.

(d) NOTICE TO MEMBERS OF CONGRESS.—The
Foundation may not make a grant of Federal funds in
an amount greater than $100,000 unless, by not later
than 15 days before the grant is made, the Foundation
provides notice of the grant to the Member of Congress
for the congressional district in which the project to be
funded with the grant will be carried out.

(e) COORDINATION OF INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS.—
Any efforts of the Foundation carried out in a foreign
country, and any grants provided to an individual or entity
in a foreign country, shall be made only with the concur-
rence of the Secretary of State, in consultation, as appro-
priate, with the Administrator of the United States Agen-
cy for International Development.
(f) CONSULTATION WITH NOAA.—The Foundation shall consult with the Under Secretary during the planning of any restoration or remediation action using funds resulting from judgments or settlements relating to the damage to trust resources of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

SEC. 104. ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES AND SUPPORT.

(a) PROVISION OF SERVICES.—The Under Secretary may provide personnel, facilities, and other administrative services to the Foundation, including reimbursement of expenses, not to exceed the current Federal Government per diem rates, for a period of up to 5 years beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) REIMBURSEMENT.—The Under Secretary may request reimbursement from the Foundation for any administrative service provided under subsection (a). The Under Secretary shall deposit any reimbursement received under this subsection into the Treasury to the credit of the appropriations then current and chargeable for the cost of providing such services.

SEC. 105. VOLUNTEER STATUS.

The Secretary of Commerce may accept, without regard to the civil service classification laws, rules, or regulations, the services of the Foundation, the Board, and the officers and employees of the Board, without com-
pensation from the Department of Commerce, as volun-
teers in the performance of the functions authorized in
this title.

SEC. 106. REPORT REQUIREMENTS; PETITION OF ATTOR-
NEY GENERAL FOR EQUITABLE RELIEF.

(a) REPORT.—The Foundation shall, as soon as prac-
ticable after the end of each fiscal year, transmit to the
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of
the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources and
the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House
of Representatives a report—

(1) describing the proceedings and activities of
the Foundation during that fiscal year, including a
full and complete statement of its receipts, expendi-
tures, and investments; and

(2) including a detailed statement of the recipient,
amount, and purpose of each grant made by the
Foundation in the fiscal year.

(b) RELIEF WITH RESPECT TO CERTAIN FOUNDA-
TION ACTS OR FAILURE TO ACT.—If the Foundation—

(1) engages in, or threatens to engage in, any
act, practice, or policy that is inconsistent with its
purposes set forth in section 101(b), or

(2) refuses, fails, or neglects to discharge its
obligations under this title, or threatens to do so,
the Attorney General may petition in the United States
District Court for the District of Columbia for such equi-
table relief as may be necessary or appropriate.

SEC. 107. UNITED STATES RELEASE FROM LIABILITY.
The United States shall not be liable for any debts,
defaults, acts, or omissions of the Foundation nor shall
the full faith and credit of the United States extend to
any obligation of the Foundation.

SEC. 108. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.
(a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Commerce
shall carry out this title using existing amounts that
are appropriated or otherwise made available to the
Department of Commerce.

(2) USE OF APPROPRIATED FUNDS.—Subject to
paragraph (3), amounts made available under para-
graph (1) shall be provided to the Foundation to
match contributions (whether in currency, services,
or property) made to the Foundation, or to a recipi-
ent of a grant provided by the Foundation, by pri-
ivate persons and State and local government agen-
cies.

(3) PROHIBITION ON USE FOR ADMINISTRATIVE
EXPENSES.—
(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), no Federal funds made available under paragraph (1) may be used by the Foundation for administrative expenses of the Foundation, including for salaries, travel and transportation expenses, and other overhead expenses.

(B) EXCEPTION.—The Secretary may allow the use of Federal funds made available under paragraph (1) to pay for salaries during the 18-month period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) ADDITIONAL AUTHORIZATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In addition to the amounts made available under subsection (a), the Foundation may accept Federal funds from a Federal agency under any other Federal law for use by the Foundation to further the assessment, prevention, reduction, and removal of marine debris in accordance with the requirements of this title.

(2) USE OF FUNDS ACCEPTED FROM FEDERAL AGENCIES.—Federal funds provided to the Foundation under paragraph (1) shall be used by the Foundation for matching, in whole or in part, contributions (whether in currency, services, or property)
made to the Foundation by private persons and
State and local government agencies.

(c) Prohibition on Use of Grant Amounts for
Litigation and Lobbying Expenses.—Amounts pro-
vided as a grant by the Foundation shall not be used for—

(1) any expense related to litigation consistent
with Federal-wide cost principles; or

(2) any activity the purpose of which is to influ-
ence legislation pending before Congress consistent
with Federal-wide cost principles.

TITLE II—GENIUS PRIZE FOR
SAVE OUR SEAS INNOVATIONS

SEC. 201. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) Prize Competition.—The term “prize
competition” means the competition for the award of
the Genius Prize for Save Our Seas Innovations es-

established under section 202.

(2) Secretary.—The term “Secretary” means
the Secretary of Commerce.

SEC. 202. GENIUS PRIZE FOR SAVE OUR SEAS INNOVA-
TIONS.

(a) In General.—

(1) In General.—Not later than 1 year after
the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary

(A) to encourage technological innovation with the potential to reduce plastic waste, and associated and potential pollution, and thereby prevent marine debris; and

(B) to award 1 or more prizes biennially for projects that advance human understanding and innovation in removing and preventing plastic waste, in one of the categories described in paragraph (2).

(2) CATEGORIES FOR PROJECTS.—The categories for projects are:

(A) Advancements in materials used in packaging and other products that, if such products enter the coastal or ocean environment, will fully degrade without harming the environment, wildlife, or human health.

(B) Innovations in production and packaging design that reduce the use of raw materials, increase recycled content, encourage reusability and recyclability, and promote a circular economy.
(C) Improvements in marine debris detection, monitoring, and cleanup technologies and processes.

(D) Improvements or improved strategies to increase solid waste collection, processing, sorting, recycling, or reuse.

(E) New designs or strategies to reduce overall packaging needs and promote reuse.

(b) DESIGNATION.—The prize competition established under subsection (a) shall be known as the “Genius Prize for Save Our Seas Innovations”.

(c) PRIORITIZATION.—In selecting awards for the prize competition, priority shall be given to projects that—

(1) have a strategy, submitted with the application or proposal, to move the new technology, process, design, material, or other product supported by the prize to market-scale deployment;

(2) support the concept of a circular economy; and

(3) promote development of materials that—

(A) can fully degrade in the ocean without harming the environment, wildlife, or human health; and

(B) are to be used in fishing gear or other maritime products that have an increased likeli-
hood of entering the coastal or ocean environ-
ment as unintentional waste.

SEC. 203. AGREEMENT WITH THE MARINE DEBRIS FOUNDATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall offer to enter
into an agreement, which may include a grant or coopera-
tive agreement, under which the Marine Debris Founda-
tion established under title I shall administer the prize
competition.

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—An agreement entered into
under subsection (a) shall comply with the following re-
quirements:

(1) DUTIES.—The Marine Debris Foundation
shall—

(A) advertise the prize competition;

(B) solicit prize competition participants;

(C) administer funds relating to the prize
competition;

(D) receive Federal and non-Federal
funds—

(i) to administer the prize competi-
tion; and

(ii) to award a cash prize;
(E) carry out activities to generate contributions of non-Federal funds to offset, in whole or in part——

(i) the administrative costs of the prize competition; and

(ii) the costs of a cash prize;

(F) in the design and award of the prize, consult, as appropriate with experts from——

(i) Federal agencies with jurisdiction over the prevention of marine debris or the promotion of innovative materials;

(ii) State agencies with jurisdiction over the prevention of marine debris or the promotion of innovative materials;

(iii) State, regional, or local conservation or post-consumer materials management organizations, the mission of which relates to the prevention of marine debris or the promotion of innovative materials;

(iv) conservation groups, technology companies, research institutions, scientists (including those with expertise in marine environments) institutions of higher education, industry, or individual stakeholders with an interest in the prevention of ma-
rine debris or the promotion of innovative materials;

(v) experts in the area of standards development regarding the degradation, breakdown, or recycling of polymers; and

(vi) other relevant experts of the Board's choosing;

(G) in consultation with, and subject to final approval by, the Secretary, develop criteria for the selection of prize competition winners;

(H) provide advice and consultation to the Secretary on the selection of judges under section 204 based on criteria developed in consultation with, and subject to the final approval of, the Secretary;

(I) announce 1 or more annual winners of the prize competition;

(J) subject to paragraph (2), award 1 or more cash prizes biennially of not less than $100,000; and

(K) protect against unauthorized use or disclosure by the Marine Debris Foundation of any trade secret or confidential business information of a prize competition participant.
(2) ADDITIONAL CASH PRIZES.—The Marine Debris Foundation may award more than 1 cash prize in a year—

(A) if the initial cash prize referred to in paragraph (1)(I) and any additional cash prizes are awarded using only non-Federal funds; and

(B) consisting of an amount determined by the Under Secretary after the Secretary is notified by the Marine Debris Foundation that non-Federal funds are available for an additional cash prize.

(3) SOLICITATION OF FUNDS.—The Marine Debris Foundation—

(A) may request and accept Federal funds and non-Federal funds for a cash prize or administration of the prize competition;

(B) may accept a contribution for a cash prize in exchange for the right to name the prize; and

(C) shall not give special consideration to any Federal agency or non-Federal entity in exchange for a donation for a cash prize awarded under this section.
SEC. 204. JUDGES.

(a) APPOINTMENT.—The Secretary shall appoint not fewer than 3 judges who shall, except as provided in subsection (b), select the 1 or more annual winners of the prize competition.

(b) DETERMINATION BY THE SECRETARY.—The judges appointed under subsection (a) shall not select any annual winner of the prize competition if the Secretary makes a determination that, in any fiscal year, none of the technological advancements entered into the prize competition merits an award.

SEC. 205. REPORT TO CONGRESS.

Not later than 60 days after the date on which a cash prize is awarded under this title, the Secretary shall post on a publicly available website a report on the prize competition that includes—

(1) a statement by the Committee that describes the activities carried out by the Committee relating to the duties described in section 203;

(2) if the Secretary has entered into an agreement under section 203, a statement by the Marine Debris Foundation that describes the activities carried out by the Marine Debris Foundation relating to the duties described in section 203; and
(3) a statement by 1 or more of the judges ap-
pointed under section 204 that explains the basis on
which the winner of the cash prize was selected.

SEC. 206. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

The Secretary of Commerce shall carry out this title
using existing amounts that are appropriated or otherwise
made available to the Department of Commerce.

SEC. 207. TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.

The prize program will terminate after 5 prize com-
petition cycles have been completed.

TITLE III—OTHER MEASURES
RELATING TO COMBATING
MARINE DEBRIS

SEC. 301. PRIORITIZATION OF MARINE DEBRIS IN EXISTING
INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP PRO-
GRAMS.

The Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of Energy,
the EPA Administrator, and the heads of other relevant
Federal agencies, shall prioritize efforts to combat marine
debris in innovation and entrepreneurship programs estab-
lished before the date of the enactment of this Act, includ-
ing by using such programs to increase innovation in and
the effectiveness of post-consumer materials management,
monitoring, detection, and data-sharing related to the
prevalence and location of marine debris, demand for recy-
eled content, alternative uses for plastic waste, product design, reduction of disposable plastic consumer products and packaging, ocean biodegradable materials development, waste prevention, and cleanup.

**SEC. 302. EXPANSION OF DERELICT VESSEL RECYCLING.**

Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Under Secretary and the EPA Administrator shall jointly conduct a study to determine the feasibility of developing a nationwide derelict vessel recycling program—

(1) using as a model the fiberglass boat recycling program from the pilot project in Rhode Island led by Rhode Island Sea Grant and its partners; and

(2) including, if possible, recycling of vessels made from materials other than fiberglass.

**SEC. 303. INCENTIVE FOR FISHERMEN TO COLLECT AND DISPOSE OF PLASTIC FOUND AT SEA.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Under Secretary shall establish a pilot program to assess the feasibility and advisability of providing incentives, such as grants, to fishermen based in the United States who incidentally capture marine debris while at sea—

(1) to track or keep the debris on board; and

(2) to dispose of the debris properly on land.
(b) SUPPORT FOR COLLECTION AND REMOVAL OF DERELICT GEAR.—The Under Secretary shall encourage United States efforts, such as the Fishing for Energy net disposal program, that support—

1. collection and removal of derelict fishing gear and other fishing waste;
2. disposal or recycling of such gear and waste; and
3. prevention of the loss of such gear.

SEC. 304. AMENDMENTS TO MARINE DEBRIS PROGRAM.

(a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 9(a) of the Marine Debris Act (33 U.S.C. 1958(a)) is amended by—

1. striking "$10,000,000" and inserting "$15,000,000"; and
2. striking "5 percent" and inserting "7 percent".

(b) ENHANCEMENT OF PURPOSE.—Section 2 of the Marine Debris Act (33 U.S.C. 1951) is amended by striking "marine environment," and inserting "marine environment (including waters in the jurisdiction of the United States, the high seas, and waters in the jurisdiction of other countries),".
(c) TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.—Section 3(d)(2) of the Marine Debris Act (33 U.S.C. 1952(d)(2)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (B), by striking "the matching requirement under subparagraph (A)" and inserting "a matching requirement under subparagraph (A) or (C)"; and

(2) in subparagraph (C), in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking "Notwithstanding subparagraph (A)" and inserting "Notwithstanding subparagraph (A) and except as provided in subparagraph (B)".

SEC. 305. MARINE DEBRIS ON NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM LAND.

(a) SPECIAL-USE AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary of Agriculture (referred to in this section as the "Secretary") shall not require a volunteer organization to obtain a special-use authorization for the removal of any marine debris being stored on National Forest System land.

(b) TEMPORARY STORAGE.—Marine debris may be stored on National Forest System land in a location determined by the Secretary for a period of not more than to 90 days, which may be extended in 90-day increments with approval by the relevant U.S. Forest Service District Ranger.
(c) REQUIREMENTS.—Except as otherwise provided
in this section, any activities related to the removal of ma-
rine debris from National Forest System land shall be con-
ducted in a manner consistent with applicable law and reg-
ulations and subject to such reasonable terms and condi-
tions as the Secretary may require.

TITLE IV—STUDIES AND
REPORTS

SEC. 401. REPORT ON OPPORTUNITIES FOR INNOVATIVE
USES OF PLASTIC WASTE.

Not later than 2 years after the date of the enact-
ment of this Act, the Marine Debris Coordinating Com-
mittee established under section 5 of the Marine Debris
Act (33 U.S.C. 1954) (in this title referred to as the
“Interagency Marine Debris Coordinating Committee”) shall submit to Congress a report on innovative uses for
plastic waste in consumer products.

SEC. 402. REPORT ON MICROFIBER POLLUTION.

Not later than 2 years after the date of the enact-
ment of this Act, the Interagency Marine Debris Coordi-
nating Committee shall submit to Congress a report on
microfiber pollution that includes—

(1) a definition for “microfiber”;

(2) an assessment of the sources, prevalence,

and causes of microfiber pollution;
(3) a recommendation for a standardized methodology to measure and estimate the prevalence of microfiber pollution;

(4) recommendations for reducing microfiber pollution; and

(5) a plan for how Federal agencies, in partnership with other stakeholders, can lead on opportunities to reduce microfiber pollution during the 5-year period beginning on such date of enactment.

SEC. 403. STUDY ON UNITED STATES PLASTIC POLLUTION DATA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Under Secretary, in consultation with the EPA Administrator and the Secretary of the Interior, shall seek to enter into an arrangement with the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine under which the National Academies will undertake a multifaceted study that includes the following:

(1) An evaluation of United States contributions to global ocean plastic waste, including types, sources, and geographic variations.

(2) An assessment of the prevalence of marine debris and mismanaged plastic waste in saltwater and freshwater United States navigable waterways and tributaries.
(3) An examination of the import and export of plastic waste to and from the United States, including the destinations of the exported plastic waste and the waste management infrastructure and environmental conditions of these locations.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Under Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on the study conducted under subsection (a) that includes—

(1) the findings of the National Academies;

(2) recommendations on knowledge gaps that warrant further scientific inquiry; and

(3) recommendations on the potential value of a national marine debris tracking and monitoring system and how such a system might be designed and implemented.

SEC. 404. STUDY ON MASS BALANCE METHODOLOGIES TO CERTIFY CIRCULAR POLYMERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The National Institute of Standards and Technology shall conduct a study of available mass balance methodologies that are or could be readily standardized to certify circular polymers.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Institute shall submit to Con-
gress a report on the study conducted under subsection (a) that includes—
(1) an identification and assessment of existing mass balance methodologies, standards, and certification systems that are or may be applicable to supply chain sustainability of polymers, considering the full life cycle of the polymer, and including an examination of—
(A) the International Sustainability and Carbon Certification; and
(B) the Roundtable on Sustainable Biomaterials; and
(2) an assessment of any legal or regulatory barriers to developing a standard and certification system for circular polymers.
(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:
(1) CIRCULAR POLYMERS.—The term "circular polymers" means polymers that can be reused multiple times or converted into a new, higher-quality product.
(2) MASS BALANCE METHODOLOGY.—The term "mass balance methodology" means the method of chain of custody accounting designed to track the exact total amount of certain content in products or materials through the production system and to en-
sure an appropriate allocation of this content in the
finished goods based on auditable bookkeeping.