

111TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 6215

To authorize the Secretary of Commerce to establish a program to develop a coordinated and comprehensive Federal coastal mapping effort for the Nation's coastal zone to include all coastal State and territorial waters of the United States, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 23, 2010

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of Commerce to establish a program to develop a coordinated and comprehensive Federal coastal mapping effort for the Nation's coastal zone to include all coastal State and territorial waters of the United States, 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 “Digital Coast Act of
5 2010”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds that—

1 (1) more than half of all people of the United
2 States, 153 million people, currently live on or near
3 a coast and an additional 12 million are expected in
4 the next decade;

5 (2) coastal counties in the United States aver-
6 age 300 persons per square mile, compared with the
7 national average of 98;

8 (3) on a typical day, more than 1,540 permits
9 for construction of single-family homes are issued in
10 coastal counties, combined with other commercial,
11 retail, and institutional construction to support this
12 population;

13 (4) much of the 95,000 miles of United States
14 shoreline does not have current, accurate maps and
15 geospatial information;

16 (5) the lack of current and accurate remote
17 sensing and geospatial data on United States coasts,
18 harbors, and ports results in an environmental, in-
19 frastructure, economic, and homeland security vul-
20 nerability for the Nation;

21 (6) the Federal Government can and should
22 play an important role in the development and dem-
23 onstration of innovative remote sensing and other
24 geospatial techniques to improve the management of
25 the coast of the United States, comprehensive emer-

1 agency preparedness and response in the event of a
2 tsunami, storm surges, and oil spills as well as for
3 homeland security;

4 (7) highly accurate, high resolution remote
5 sensing and other geospatial data, including ele-
6 vation data, play an important role in management
7 of the coastal zone, including flood prediction capa-
8 bilities; risk, vulnerability, and hazard assessments;
9 emergency response plans; permitting and zoning de-
10 cisionmaking; and landscape change detection; as
11 well as port security and other homeland security
12 applications;

13 (8) the full range of applications of remote
14 sensing and other forms of geospatial information to
15 meet national requirements has not been adequately
16 explored or exploited; and

17 (9) the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Ad-
18 ministration, in coordination with other agencies,
19 can play a unique role in demonstrating how com-
20 mercial remote sensing and other private sector
21 geospatial capabilities can be applied to assist State,
22 local, regional, and tribal agencies in emergency pre-
23 paredness, emergency response, homeland security,
24 infrastructure management, environmental decision-
25 making, and other applications in such areas as ag-

1 riculture, weather forecasting, and forest manage-
2 ment.

3 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

4 In this Act—

5 (1) the term “digital coast” means a con-
6 stituent-driven effort led by the National Oceanic
7 and Atmospheric Administration to provide an ena-
8 bling platform that integrates geospatial data, deci-
9 sion support tools, training, and case studies to ad-
10 dress coastal and emergency management issues;

11 (2) the term “remote sensing and other
12 geospatial” mean collecting, storing, retrieving, or
13 disseminating graphical or digital data depicting
14 natural or man-made physical features, phenomena,
15 or boundaries of the Earth and any information re-
16 lated thereto, including surveys, maps, charts, sat-
17 ellite and airborne remote sensing data, images, and
18 services performed by professionals such as sur-
19 veyors, photogrammetrists, hydrographers, geode-
20 sists, cartographers, and other such services;

21 (3) the term “Secretary” means the Secretary
22 of Commerce, acting through the Director of the
23 Coastal Services Center of the National Oceanic and
24 Atmospheric Administration; and

25 (4) the term “State”—

1 (A) means a State of the United States in,
2 or bordering on, the Atlantic, Pacific, or Arctic
3 Ocean, the Chesapeake Bay, the Gulf of Mex-
4 ico, Long Island Sound, or one or more of the
5 Great Lakes; and

6 (B) includes Puerto Rico, the United
7 States Virgin Islands, Guam, the Common-
8 wealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the
9 Trust Territories of the Pacific Islands, Amer-
10 ican Samoa, and any portion of a State that is
11 located within 100 kilometers of the Atlantic or
12 Pacific Ocean, the Chesapeake Bay, the Gulf of
13 Mexico, or the Great Lakes.

14 **SEC. 4. COASTAL SERVICES CENTERS.**

15 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary may establish
16 coastal services centers as may be needed to facilitate
17 products and services to address the needs of local, State,
18 and regional entities involved with coastal and ocean deci-
19 sionmaking including those State coastal management and
20 research reserves benefitting from this Act.

21 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the coastal services
22 centers shall be to—

23 (1) support the environmental, social, and eco-
24 nomic well being of the coast by linking people, in-
25 formation, and technology;

1 (4) benthic habitat and aquatic vegetation map-
2 ping;

3 (5) parcel data;

4 (6) planimetric data; and

5 (7) socioeconomic and human use data.

6 (b) COORDINATION.—The Secretary shall coordinate
7 the activities carried out pursuant to this Act to maximize
8 data sharing and integration and minimize duplication
9 by—

10 (1) coordinating activities when appropriate,
11 with—

12 (A) other Federal efforts, including the
13 Ocean and Coastal Mapping Integration Act
14 (33 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.), the Coastal Zone
15 Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1451 et
16 seq.), and the Integrated Coastal and Ocean
17 Observation System Act of 2009 (33 U.S.C.
18 3601 et seq.);

19 (B) coastal States and United States terri-
20 tories;

21 (C) local governments; and

22 (D) representatives of nongovernmental en-
23 tities;

24 (2) participating, pursuant to section 216 of
25 Public Law 107–347 (44 U.S.C. 3501 note), in the

1 establishment of such standards and common proto-
2 cols as are necessary to assure the interoperability
3 of remote sensing and other geospatial data with all
4 users of such information within—

5 (A) the National Oceanic and Atmospheric
6 Administration;

7 (B) other Federal agencies;

8 (C) State and local government; and

9 (D) the private sector;

10 (3) coordinating with, seeking assistance and
11 cooperation of, and providing liaison to the Federal
12 Geographic Data Committee pursuant to Office of
13 Management and Budget Circular A-16 and Execu-
14 tive Order No. 12906; and

15 (4) providing for the utilization of contracts
16 with the private sector, to the maximum extent prac-
17 ticable, to provide such products and services as are
18 necessary to collect remote sensing and other
19 geospatial data; which contracts shall be considered
20 “surveying and mapping” services as such term is
21 used and as such contracts are awarded in accord-
22 ance with the selection procedures in chapter 11 of
23 title 40, United States Code.

1 **SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

2 There are authorized to be appropriated to the Sec-
3 retary \$100,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2011
4 through 2016 to carry out this Act.

○