

113TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. _____

To authorize the Secretary of Commerce, through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, to establish a constituent-driven program that develops an information platform capable of efficiently integrating coastal data with decision-support tools, training, and best practices, and coordinates the collection of priority coastal geospatial data to inform and improve local, State, regional, and Federal capacities to manage the coastal region, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Ms. BALDWIN introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of Commerce, through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, to establish a constituent-driven program that develops an information platform capable of efficiently integrating coastal data with decision-support tools, training, and best practices, and coordinates the collection of priority coastal geospatial data to inform and improve local, State, regional, and Federal capacities to manage the coastal region, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Digital Coast Act of
3 2014”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 Congress makes the following findings:

6 (1) The Digital Coast is a model approach for
7 effective Federal partnerships with State and local
8 government, nongovernmental organizations, and the
9 private sector.

10 (2) The lack of access to current, accurate, uni-
11 form, and standards-based geospatial information,
12 tools, and training to characterize the United States
13 coastal region presents a significant liability to ade-
14 quately manage and maintain the environment, in-
15 frastructure, economy, and public safety of the
16 United States.

17 (3) More than half of all people of the United
18 States (153,000,000) currently live on or near a
19 coast and an additional 12,000,000 are expected in
20 the next decade.

21 (4) Coastal counties in the United States aver-
22 age 300 persons per square mile, compared with the
23 national average of 98.

24 (5) On a typical day, more than 1,540 permits
25 for construction of single-family homes are issued in
26 coastal counties, combined with other commercial,

1 retail, and institutional construction to support this
2 population.

3 (6) Over half of the economic productivity of
4 the United States is located within coastal regions.

5 (7) Highly accurate, high-resolution remote
6 sensing and other geospatial data play an important
7 role in management of the coastal zone and econ-
8 omy, including for—

9 (A) flood and coastal storm surge pre-
10 diction;

11 (B) hazard risk and vulnerability assess-
12 ment;

13 (C) emergency response and recovery plan-
14 ning;

15 (D) community resilience to longer range
16 climate change impacts;

17 (E) permitting and zoning decision mak-
18 ing;

19 (F) habitat and ecosystem health assess-
20 ments; and

21 (G) landscape change detection.

22 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

23 In this Act:

24 (1) COASTAL REGION.—The term “coastal re-
25 gion” means the area of United States waters ex-

1 tending inland from the shoreline to include coastal
2 watersheds and seaward to the territorial sea.

3 (2) COASTAL STATE.—The term “coastal
4 State”—

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

10 (B) includes Puerto Rico, the United
11 States Virgin Islands, Guam, the Common-
12 wealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the
13 Trust Territories of the Pacific Islands, Amer-
14 ican Samoa, and any portion of a State that is
15 located within the designated coastal zone of
16 the Atlantic or Pacific Ocean, the Chesapeake
17 Bay, the Gulf of Mexico, or the Great Lakes.

18 (3) DIGITAL COAST.—The term “Digital Coast”
19 means a constituent-driven effort led by the Sec-
20 retary to provide an enabling platform that inte-
21 grates geospatial data, decision-support tools, train-
22 ing, and best practices to address coastal manage-
23 ment issues and needs. The Digital Coast strives to
24 enhance resilient communities, ecosystem values, and
25 coastal economic growth and development by helping

1 communities address their issues, needs, and chal-
2 lenges through cost-effective and participatory solu-
3 tions.

4 (4) FEDERAL GEOGRAPHIC DATA COM-
5 MITTEE.—The term “Federal Geographic Data
6 Committee” means the interagency committee that
7 promotes the coordinated development, use, sharing,
8 and dissemination of geospatial data on a national
9 basis.

10 (5) REMOTE SENSING AND OTHER
11 GEOSPATIAL.—The term “remote sensing and other
12 geospatial” means collecting, storing, retrieving, or
13 disseminating graphical or digital data depicting
14 natural or manmade 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,
18 LiDAR, and services performed by professionals
19 such as surveyors, photogrammetrists, hydrog-
20 raphers, geodesists, cartographers, and other such
21 services.

22 (6) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
23 the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Ad-
24 ministrator of the National Oceanic and Atmos-
25 pheric Administration.

1 **SEC. 4. BUILDING THE DIGITAL COAST.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish Dig-
3 ital Coast as a program that provides data integration,
4 tool development, training, documentation, dissemination,
5 and archive by—

6 (1) making data and resulting integrated prod-
7 ucts developed under this section readily accessible
8 via the Digital Coast Internet website of the Na-
9 tional Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the
10 GeoPlatform.gov and data.gov Internet websites, and
11 other such other Internet technologies as the Sec-
12 retary considers appropriate;

13 (2) developing decision-support tools that use
14 and display resulting integrated data and provide
15 training on use of such tools;

16 (3) documenting such data to Federal Geo-
17 graphic Data Committee standards; and

18 (4) archiving all raw data acquired under this
19 Act at the appropriate National Oceanic and Atmos-
20 pheric Administration data center or such other
21 Federal data center as the Secretary considers ap-
22 propriate.

23 (b) COORDINATION.—The Secretary shall coordinate
24 the activities carried out pursuant to this Act to maximize
25 data collection, sharing and integration, and to minimize
26 duplication by—

1 (1) convening and engaging coastal managers
2 and decision makers in dialog concerning coastal
3 issues, and sharing information and best practices,
4 as the Secretary considers appropriate, with—

5 (A) other Federal efforts, including efforts
6 under the Ocean and Coastal Mapping Integra-
7 tion Act (33 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.), the Coastal
8 Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C.
9 1451 et seq.), the Integrated Coastal and
10 Ocean Observation System Act of 2009 (33
11 U.S.C. 3601 et seq.), and the Hydrographic
12 Services Improvement Act of 1998 (33 U.S.C.
13 892 et seq.);

14 (B) coastal States;

15 (C) local governments; and

16 (D) representatives of nongovernmental en-
17 tities;

18 (2) participating, pursuant to section 216 of the
19 E-Government Act of 2002 (Public Law 107–347;
20 44 U.S.C. 3501 note), in the establishment of such
21 standards and common protocols as the Secretary
22 considers necessary to assure the interoperability of
23 remote sensing and other geospatial data with all
24 users of such information within—

1 (A) the National Oceanic and Atmospheric
2 Administration;

3 (B) other Federal agencies;

4 (C) State and local government; and

5 (D) the private sector; and

6 (3) coordinating with, seeking assistance and
7 cooperation of, and providing liaison to the Federal
8 Geographic Data Committee pursuant to Office of
9 Management and Budget Circular A-16 and Execu-
10 tive Order 12906 of April 14, 1994 (59 Fed. Reg.
11 17671), as amended by Executive Order 13286 of
12 March 5, 2003 (68 Fed. Reg. 10619).

13 (c) FILLING NEEDS AND GAPS.—In carrying out this
14 section, the Secretary shall—

15 (1) recognize that remote sensing and other
16 geospatial data acquisition for navigational and posi-
17 tioning purposes is carried out through other au-
18 thorities and programs;

19 (2) focus on filling data needs and gaps for
20 critical coastal management issues;

21 (3) support the coordinated collection of—

22 (A) coastal elevation data;

23 (B) land use and land cover data;

24 (C) socioeconomic and human use data;

25 (D) critical infrastructure data;

1 (E) structures data;

2 (F) living resources and habitat data;

3 (G) cadastral data; and

4 (H) aerial imagery;

5 (4) integrate the priority supporting data set
6 forth under paragraph (3) with other available data
7 for the benefit of the broadest measure of coastal re-
8 source management constituents and applications;

9 (5) enter into financial agreements to carry out
10 this Act, including—

11 (A) program support to non-Federal enti-
12 ties that participate in implementing this Act;

13 (B) financial agreements, including grants,
14 cooperative agreements, interagency agree-
15 ments, and contracts with other Federal, tribal,
16 State, and local governmental and nongovern-
17 mental entities; and

18 (C) registration fees in support of training,
19 workshops, and conferences that advance the
20 purposes of this Act; and

21 (6) enter into such contracts with private sector
22 entities for such products and services as the Sec-
23 retary determines may be necessary to collect remote
24 sensing and other geospatial data, which contracts
25 shall be considered “surveying and mapping” serv-

1 ices as such term is used in and as such contracts
2 are awarded by the Secretary in accordance with the
3 selection procedures in chapter 11 of title 40, United
4 States Code.

5 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

6 There is authorized to be appropriated to the Sec-
7 retary such sums as may be necessary to carry out this
8 section in each of fiscal years 2015 through 2020.