To direct the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, to conduct coastal community vulnerability assessments related to ocean acidification, and for other purposes.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 13, 2019

Ms. Pingree (for herself, Mr. Rooney of Florida, Mr. Huffman, Ms. Bonamici, Mr. King of New York, Mr. Young, and Mr. Thompson of California) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

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A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, to conduct coastal community vulnerability assessments related to ocean acidification, 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 “Coastal Communities
5 Ocean Acidification Act of 2019”.

_________________________________________________________
SEC. 2. COASTAL COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT.

(a) In General.—Section 12406 of the Federal Ocean Acidification Research And Monitoring Act of 2009 (33 U.S.C. 3705) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (b) as subsection (d); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (a) the following:

“(b) Community Vulnerability Assessment.—

“(1) In General.—The Secretary, through the program established under subsection (a), shall conduct an ocean acidification coastal community vulnerability assessment, and issue a corresponding public report, that shall be updated at least once every 7 years.

“(2) Requirements.—The assessment conducted under paragraph (1) shall—

“(A) identify the United States coastal communities, including island communities, low-population rural communities, and subsistence communities, that are most dependent on coastal and ocean resources that may be impacted by ocean acidification;

“(B) assess the nature of those communities’ social and economic vulnerabilities;
“(C) identify the ocean acidification impacts that might harm those communities, including impacts from changes in ocean and coastal marine resources that are not managed by the Federal Government;

“(D) identify key knowledge gaps where research could be devoted to better understand the possible impacts of ocean acidification on these vulnerable communities, the risks and threats facing these communities, and possible adaptation strategies for these communities; and

“(E) be conducted in collaboration with experts who are familiar with the unique economic, social, ecological, geographic, and resource concerns of the Nation’s coastal communities, including representatives from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s National Marine Fisheries Service and the Office for Coastal Management.

“(c) SUPPORT FOR STATE AND LOCAL VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENTS AND STRATEGIC RESEARCH PLANNING.—In carrying out the program established under subsection (a), the Secretary shall collaborate with State and local government entities that are conducting
or have completed vulnerability assessments, strategic re-
search planning, or other similar activities related to ocean
acidification and its impacts on coastal communities, for
the purpose of—

“(1) determining whether such activities can be
used as a model for other communities; and

“(2) identifying opportunities for the National
Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to support
such activities.”.

(b) **ONGOING INPUT MECHANISM.**—Section
12404(b)(5) of the Federal Ocean Acidification Research
And Monitoring Act of 2009 (33 U.S.C. 3703(b)(5)) is
amended by adding at the end before the period the fol-
lowing: “, also including an ongoing mechanism that al-
lows affected industry members, coastal stakeholders, non-
Federal resource managers, coastal acidification networks,
and scientific experts not employed by the Federal Govern-
ment to provide input on research, data, and monitoring
that is necessary to support on-the-ground management,
decisionmaking, and adaptation related to ocean acidifica-
tion and its impacts”.

(c) **STRATEGIC RESEARCH PLAN.**—Section 12405(b)
of the Federal Ocean Acidification Research And Moni-
toring Act of 2009 (33 U.S.C. 3704(b)) is amended—
(1) in paragraph (8), by striking “and” after the semicolon;

(2) in paragraph (9), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(10) make recommendations for research that should be conducted, including in the social sciences and economics, to address the key knowledge gaps identified in the community vulnerability assessment report conducted under subsection (b) of section 12406.”.

(d) REPORT ON SUPPORT FOR STATE AND LOCAL VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENTS AND STRATEGIC RESEARCH PLANNING.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shall submit to Congress a report on the efforts of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to support State and local community vulnerability assessments and strategic research planning, pursuant to section 12406(c) of the Federal Ocean Acidification Research And Monitoring Act of 2009 (as added by subsection (a) of this section).