Subtitle C—Chesapeake Bay Oyster Research

SEC. 218. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that the Chesapeake Bay Office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shall be the primary representative of the Administration in the Chesapeake Bay.

SEC. 219. GRANTS FOR RESEARCHING OYSTERS IN THE CHESAPEAKE BAY.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of the Commerce, acting through the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, shall establish a grant program (in this section referred to as the “Program”) under which the Secretary shall award grants to eligible entities for the purpose of conducting research on the conservation, restoration, or management of oysters in the Chesapeake Bay.

(b) APPLICATION.—To be eligible to receive a grant under this section, an eligible entity shall submit to the
Secretary an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may re-
quire.

c) ALLOCATION OF GRANT FUNDS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall award a grant under the Program to eligible entities that submit an application under subsection (b).

(2) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the total amount of Federal funding received under the Program by an eligible entity may not exceed 85 percent of the total cost of the research project for which the funding was awarded. For the purposes of this subparagraph, the non-Federal share of project costs may be provided by in-kind contributions and other noncash support.

(B) WAIVER.—The Secretary may waive all or part of the requirement in subparagraph (A) if the Secretary determines that no reasonable means are available through which an eligible entity applying for a grant under this section can meet such requirement and the probable benefit of such research project outweighs the public interest in such requirement.
(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the following definitions apply:

(1) ACADEMIC COMMUNITY.—The term “academic community” means faculty, researchers, professors, and representatives of State-accredited colleges and universities.

(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible entity” means a member of the academic community, the seafood industry, a relevant nonprofit organization, or a relevant State agency, that is proposing or conducting a research project on the conservation, restoration, or management of oysters in the Chesapeake Bay developed through consultation with a member of the academic community, a member of the seafood industry, a relevant nonprofit organization, or a relevant State agency.

(3) NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION.—The term “nonprofit organization” means an organization described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt from tax under section 501(a) of such Code.

(4) SEAFOOD INDUSTRY.—The term “seafood industry” means shellfish growers, shellfish harvesters, commercial fishermen, and recreational fishermen.
(5) Secretary.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Commerce, acting through the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

(e) Authorization of Appropriations.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary $2,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2020 through 2025 to carry out this section.