AMENDMENT TO RULES

COMMITTEE PRINT 117–31

OFFERED BY MS. PLASKETT OF VIRGIN ISLANDS

Page 1668, after line 13, insert the following:

SEC. 71104. SHOVEL-READY RESTORATION GRANTS FOR COASTLINES AND FISHERIES.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Administrator shall estab-

lish a grant program to provide funding and technical assistance to eligible entities for purposes of carrying out a project described in subsection (d).

(b) PROJECT PROPOSAL.—To be considered for a grant under this section, an eligible entity shall submit a grant proposal to the Administrator in a time, place, and manner determined by the Administrator. Such proposal shall include monitoring, data collection, and measurable performance criteria with respect to the project.

(c) DEVELOPMENT OF CRITERIA.—The Adminis-

trator shall select eligible entities to receive grants under this section based on criteria developed by the Adminis-

trator, in consultation with relevant offices of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, such as the Office of Habitat Conservation and the Office for Coastal Management.
(d) Eligible Projects.—A proposal is eligible for a grant under this section if—

(1) the purpose of the project is to restore a marine, estuarine, coastal, or Great Lake habitat, including—

(A) restoration of habitat to protect or recover a species that is threatened, endangered, or a species of concern under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.);

(B) through the removal or remediation of marine debris, including derelict vessels and abandoned, lost, and discarded fishing gear, in coastal and marine habitats; or

(C) for the benefit of—

(i) shellfish;

(ii) fish, including diadromous fish;

(iii) coral reef systems;

(iv) marine wildlife; or

(v) blue carbon ecosystems such as coastal wetlands, beaches, dunes, marshes, coastal forests, oyster beds, kelp forests, and submerged aquatic vegetation; or

(2) provides adaptation to climate change, including sequestering and storing carbon or by constructing, restoring, or protecting ecological features
or nature-based infrastructure that protects coastal communities from sea level rise, coastal storms, or flooding.

(e) PRIORITY.—In determining which projects to fund under this section, the Administrator shall give priority to a proposed project—

(1) that would stimulate the economy;

(2) for which the applicant can demonstrate that the grant will fund work that will begin not more than 90 days after the date of award;

(3) for which the applicant can demonstrate that the grant will fund work that will employ fishermen who have been negatively impacted by the COVID–19 pandemic or pay a fisherman for the use of a fishing vessel;

(4) for which the applicant can demonstrate that any preliminary study or permit required before the project can begin has been completed or can be completed shortly after an award is made; or

(5) that includes communities that may not have adequate resources including low income communities, communities of color, Tribal communities, Indigenous communities, and rural communities.

(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Administrator
$10,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2022 to carry out this section, to remain available until expended.

(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the following definitions apply:

(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Administrator” means the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible entity” means a nonprofit, a for-profit business, an institution of higher education, or a State, local, Tribal, or Territorial government.

(3) FISHERMEN.—The term “fishermen” means commercial or for-hire fishermen or oyster farmers.