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House of Representatives

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT SUBMITTED BY MR. ROGERS OF KENTUCKY, CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS REGARDING HOUSE AMENDMENT NO. 1 TO THE SENATE AMENDMENT ON H.R. 2029

CONSOLIDATED APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016

The following is an explanation of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016.

This Act includes twelve regular appropriations bills for fiscal year 2016. The divisions contained in the Act are as follows:

- Division A—Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2016;

- Division B—Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2016;

- Division C—Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2016;

- Division D—Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2016;

- Division E—Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act, 2016;

- Division F—Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2016;

- Division G—Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2016;

- Division H—Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2016;

- Division I—Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2016;

- Division J—Military Construction and Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2016;

- Division K—Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2016;

- Division L—Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2016;

- Division M—Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016;

- Division N—Cybersecurity Act of 2015;

- Division O—Other Matters; and

- Division P—Tax-Related Provisions.

NOTICE

If the 114th Congress, 1st Session, adjourns sine die on or before December 24, 2015, a final issue of the *Congressional Record* for the 114th Congress, 1st Session, will be published on Thursday, December 31, 2015, to permit Members to insert statements.

All material for insertion must be signed by the Member and delivered to the respective offices of the Official Reporters of Debates (Room HT-59 or S-123 of the Capitol), Monday through Friday, between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. through Wednesday, December 30. The final issue will be dated Thursday, December 31, 2015, and will be delivered on Monday, January 4, 2016.

None of the material printed in the final issue of the *Congressional Record* may contain subject matter, or relate to any event, that occurred after the sine die date.

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Members of the House of Representatives' statements may also be submitted electronically by e-mail, to accompany the signed statement, and formatted according to the instructions for the Extensions of Remarks template at <https://housenet.house.gov/legislative/research-and-reference/transcripts-and-records/electronic-congressional-record-inserts>. The Official Reporters will transmit to GPO the template formatted electronic file only after receipt of, and authentication with, the hard copy, and signed manuscript. Deliver statements to the Official Reporters in Room HT-59.

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By order of the Joint Committee on Printing.

GREGG HARPER, *Chairman.*

This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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Section 3 of the Act states that, unless expressly provided otherwise, any reference to “this Act” contained in any division shall be treated as referring only to the provisions of that division.

Section 4 of the Act specifies that this explanatory statement shall have the same effect with respect to the allocation of funds and implementation of this legislation as if it were a joint explanatory statement of a committee of conference.

Section 5 of the Act provides a statement of appropriations.

Section 6 of the Act states that each amount designated by Congress as being for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism (OCO/GWOT) is contingent on the President so designating all such OCO/GWOT amounts and transmitting such designations to Congress. The provision is consistent with the requirements in the Budget Control Act of 2011 for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism designations by the President.

Section 7 of the Act addresses possible technical scorekeeping differences for fiscal year 2016 between the Office of Management and Budget and the Congressional Budget Office.

Section 8 of the Act makes technical corrections to the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2016.

Section 9 of the Act prohibits cost-of-living adjustments for Members of Congress under the Legislative Reorganization Act during fiscal year 2016.

The Act does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined by clause 9 of rule XXI of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

DIVISION A—AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016

CONGRESSIONAL DIRECTIVES

The explanatory statement is silent on provisions that were in both the House Report (H. Rpt. 114-205) and Senate Report (S. Rpt. 114-82) that remain unchanged by this agreement, except as noted in this explanatory statement.

The agreement restates that executive branch wishes cannot substitute for Congress’s own statements as to the best evidence of congressional intentions, which are the official reports of the Congress. The agreement further points out that funds in this Act must be used for the purposes for which appropriated, as required by section 1301 of title 31 of the United States Code, which provides: “Appropriations shall be applied only to the objects for which the appropriations were made except as otherwise provided by law.”

The House and Senate report language that is not changed by the explanatory statement is approved and indicates congressional intentions. The explanatory statement, while repeating some report language for emphasis, does not intend to negate the language referred to above unless expressly provided herein.

In cases in which the House or the Senate have directed the submission of a report, such report is to be submitted to both the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations no later than 60 days after enactment of this Act, unless otherwise directed.

Hereafter, in division A of this statement, the term “the Committees” refers to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate.

For the appropriations provided by this Act and previous Acts, the departments and agencies funded by this agreement are reminded that the Committees use the defini-

tions for transfer, reprogramming, and program, project, and activity as defined by the Government Accountability Office (GAO) in GAO-04-261SP Appropriations Law—Vol. I and GAO-05-734SP Budget Glossary.

A transfer is the shifting of funds between appropriations. It applies to (1) transfers from one agency to another, (2) transfers from one account to another within the same agency, and (3) transfers to an interagency or intra-agency working fund. In each instance, statutory authority is required.

Reprogramming is the utilization of funds in an appropriation account for purposes other than those contemplated at the time of appropriation. It is the shifting of funds from one object to another within an appropriation.

A program, project, or activity (PPA) is an element within a budget account. PPAs are identified by reference to include the most specific level of budget items identified in the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Act, 2016, accompanying Committee reports, explanatory statements, the Statement of Managers, and budget justifications. Program activity structures are intended to provide a meaningful representation of the operations financed by a specific budget account by project, activity, or organization.

For fiscal year 2016, the Committees continue to include bill language requiring advanced notification of certain agency actions. Notification will be required at least 15 days in advance of any action if (1) a major capital investment is modified; (2) an office is realigned or reorganized; and (3) activities are carried out that were not described in the budget request.

The agreement directs the Office of Budget and Program Analysis of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to provide an organizational chart for each agency funded by this Act to the division and subdivision level, as appropriate, by January 30, 2016. The agreement also directs the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC), and the Farm Credit Administration (FCA) to provide an organizational chart of each agency respectively to the division and subdivision level, as appropriate, by January 30, 2016.

TITLE I—AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS

PRODUCTION, PROCESSING, AND MARKETING OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY (INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

The agreement provides \$45,555,000 for the Office of the Secretary.

Congress continues to be concerned about the quality of scientific evidence and extraneous factors that were included in the 2015 Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee’s Scientific Report. Such concerns have been conveyed to the Secretary of Agriculture and Secretary of Health and Human Services in public hearings. To ensure the guidelines adhere to the nutritional and dietary scope of the law and are based upon sound science, bill language has been included clearly stating that the final guidelines cannot be released or implemented unless they are based upon significant scientific agreement and adhere to the statutory mandate.

Questions have been raised about the scientific integrity of the process in developing the dietary guidelines and whether balanced nutritional information is reaching the public. The entire process used to formulate and establish the guidelines needs to be reviewed before future guidelines are issued. It is imperative that the guidelines be based upon strong, balanced science and focus on providing consumers with dietary and nutritional information that will assist them in eating a healthy and balanced diet. At a

minimum, the process should include: full transparency, a lack of bias, and the inclusion and consideration of all of the latest available research and scientific evidence, even that which challenges current dietary recommendations. The agreement provides \$1,000,000 to review the dietary guideline process.

As the panel is selected to conduct the study, the agreement expects members of the 2015 Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee to recuse themselves from this process to ensure objectivity. The agreement encourages that stakeholders representing a wide range of viewpoints be engaged for input before the study begins in order to hear the various concerns surrounding the current process. The agreement directs the National Academy of Medicine to provide quarterly reports informing the Committees on the status of the study.

The agreement recognizes USDA’s diligent work regarding the outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza in the commercial poultry industry. The agreement supports the Secretary’s use of all available resources necessary in its continued work with stakeholders and trading partners to eradicate the disease. The agreement directs the Secretary to keep the Committees apprised of new developments. The agreement directs the Secretary to provide a report on the amount of emergency funds transferred from the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) to poultry owners and contract growers respectively under the Animal Health Protection Act during fiscal year 2015.

The agreement directs the Secretary to notify in writing the Committees 15 days prior to the expenditure of any emergency funds from the CCC.

The agreement seeks to bring more transparency and coordination of nutrition research and evaluation projects conducted by the Department. The Secretary is directed to ensure both the Research, Education, and Economics and the Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services mission areas coordinate and finalize the FNS Research and Evaluation Plan submitted in fiscal year 2016 to prevent duplication of efforts and resources. The plan submitted for fiscal year 2016 shall include a brief description of the projects FNS expects to pursue and whether or not it was mandated by law.

Section 737 states that FNS shall not receive any funding for new research and evaluation projects in fiscal year 2016 until the Committees receive the fiscal year 2016 Research and Evaluation Plan that has been developed in coordination with the Research, Education, and Economics mission area. In submitting the fiscal year 2017 budget justification, FNS is directed to provide its Research and Evaluation Plan simultaneously with its budget request. There is an expectation that this process will be followed in the future.

It has been more than 300 days since the publication in the New York Times of the article entitled ‘U.S. Research Lab Lets Livestock Suffer in Quest for Profit’ about the Agricultural Research Service’s Meat Animal Research Center (MARC) in Clay Center, Nebraska. Despite having nearly a year to address this matter, the Department has provided a wholly inadequate public response to the allegations of animal mistreatment at MARC and it has been delinquent in providing necessary information and updates to the Committees. This agreement re-affirms the directives and requirements on this issue included in H. Rpt. 114-205 and S. Rpt. 114-82. If the Department fails to comply fully with these directives and requirements, the Committees will pursue further action to ensure they are met.

The following table reflects the agreement:

DIVISION B—COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016

Report language included in House Report 114-130 (“the House report”) or Senate Report 114-66 (“the Senate report”) that is not changed by this explanatory statement or this Act is approved. The explanatory statement, while repeating some language for emphasis, is not intended to negate the language referred to above unless expressly provided herein. In cases where both the House report and the Senate report address a particular issue not specifically addressed in the explanatory statement, the House report and the Senate report should be read as consistent and are to be interpreted accordingly. In cases where the House report or the Senate report directs the submission of a report, such report is to be submitted to both the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations (“the Committees”).

Each department and agency funded in this Act shall follow the directions set forth in this Act and the accompanying explanatory statement, and shall not reallocate resources or reorganize activities except as provided herein. Reprogramming procedures shall apply to: funds provided in this Act; unobligated balances from previous appropriations Acts that are available for obligation or expenditure in fiscal year 2016; and non-appropriated resources such as fee collections that are used to meet program requirements in fiscal year 2016. These procedures are specified in section 505 of this Act.

Any reprogramming request shall include any out-year budgetary impacts and a separate accounting of program or mission impacts on estimated carryover funds. Any program, project or activity cited in this statement, or in the House report or the Senate report and not changed by this Act or statement, shall be construed as the position of the Congress and shall not be subject to reductions or reprogramming without prior approval of the Committees. Further, any department or agency funded in this Act that plans a reduction-in-force shall notify the Committees by letter no later than 30 days in advance of the date of any such planned personnel action.

When a department or agency submits a reprogramming or transfer request to the Committees and does not receive identical responses, it shall be the responsibility of the department or agency seeking the reprogramming to reconcile the differences between the two bodies before proceeding. If reconciliation is not possible, the items in disagreement in the reprogramming or transfer request shall be considered unapproved. Departments and agencies shall not submit reprogramming notifications after July 1, 2016, except in extraordinary circumstances. Any such notification shall include a description of the extraordinary circumstances.

In compliance with section 534 of this Act, each department and agency funded in this Act shall submit spending plans, signed by the respective department or agency head, for the Committees’ review not later than 45 days after enactment of this Act.

**TITLE I—DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
INTERNATIONAL TRADE ADMINISTRATION
OPERATIONS AND ADMINISTRATION**

This Act includes \$493,000,000 in total resources for the programs of the International Trade Administration (ITA). This amount is offset by \$10,000,000 in estimated fee collections, resulting in a direct appropriation of \$483,000,000. This Act includes an increase in funding above the fiscal year 2015 enacted level for Enforcement and Compliance activities. ITA shall make enforcement of anti-

dumping and countervailing duties a priority, including thoroughly investigating the extent of harm caused to domestic industries and reducing case backlogs.

Fee collections.—ITA is directed to include an accurate estimate of fee collections in the fiscal year 2017 budget submission. Fees have been underestimated each year since fiscal year 2009, by an average of 13 percent and by as much as 22 percent. ITA shall also include an accurate assessment of expected fee collections and corresponding expenditures in the fiscal year 2016 spending plan, and shall report to the Committees on updated fee projections on a quarterly basis thereafter.

Foreign Trade Zones (FTZ).—Of the amounts provided for ITA in this Act, \$5,000,000 shall not be available until 15 days following the delivery of a report and certification from the FTZ Board to the Committees on Appropriations. The report shall include: (1) a survey of all current and past business models utilized by FTZ grantees for zone management and administration activities; (2) specific impacts 15 CFR 400.43 has or may have on these various business models; (3) the specific activities and components of current and past business models that are allowed under partial and full waivers granted by the FTZ Board, as of the date of enactment of this Act pursuant to this regulation; and (4) the specific steps the FTZ Board will take to ensure that all FTZ grantees are in compliance with the regulation. The FTZ Board shall simultaneously provide a certified list of the specific business practices and business models that a FTZ grantee would need to achieve in order to qualify for a waiver under the regulation.

Trade enforcement.—The Act provides up to \$10,000,000 for the Interagency Trade Enforcement Center (ITEC), provided that the Department of Commerce shall lead ITEC, with the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) providing an advisory and assistance role. Within funds provided, ITA shall oversee and support the full salary of the ITEC director and no funds shall be transferred to any other agency but shall remain within ITA’s Enforcement and Compliance Unit, except that FTEs included under this account may be housed outside of the Department through an interagency agreement. The agreement strongly supports the continued interagency partnership that has been developed through ITEC to advance our nation’s business and trade interests. Not later than June 30, 2016, ITA, in coordination with USTR, shall submit an action plan to the Committees detailing any changes necessary to meet this directive. The action plan shall be submitted for approval by the Committees, and subject to that approval, the transition of ITEC leadership shall be completed no later than November 15, 2016.

**BUREAU OF INDUSTRY AND SECURITY
OPERATIONS AND ADMINISTRATION**

This Act includes \$112,500,000 for the Bureau of Industry and Security.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION

This Act includes \$261,000,000 for the programs and administrative expenses of the Economic Development Administration (EDA). Section 524 of this Act includes a rescission of \$10,000,000 in Economic Development Assistance Program balances. The funds shall be derived from recoveries and unobligated grant funds.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

This Act includes \$222,000,000 for Economic Development Assistance Programs. Funds are to be distributed as follows; any deviation of funds shall be subject to the procedures set forth in section 505 of this Act:

Public Works	\$100,000,000
Partnership Planning	32,000,000
Technical Assistance	10,500,000
Research and Evaluation	1,500,000
Trade Adjustment Assistance	13,000,000
Economic Adjustment Assistance	35,000,000
Assistance to Coal Communities	15,000,000
Section 27 Regional Innovation Program	
Grants	15,000,000
Total	\$222,000,000

Regional Innovation Program.—In lieu of Senate language regarding regional innovation grants under Economic Adjustment Assistance, the agreement provides \$15,000,000 for the Regional Innovation Program.

Economic Adjustment Assistance.—In lieu of Senate language regarding 40 U.S.C. 14101 et seq., the agreement provides no less than the fiscal year 2015 level of support for States covered under that section.

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

This Act includes \$39,000,000 for EDA salaries and expenses.

MINORITY BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

MINORITY BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

This Act includes \$32,000,000 for the Minority Business Development Agency.

ECONOMIC AND STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

This Act includes \$109,000,000 for Economic and Statistical Analysis.

International trade statistics.—In lieu of House language under the heading “Bureau of the Census, Current Surveys and Programs,” the Department is directed to report, on not less than a quarterly basis, statistics on each individual country with which the United States has a trade agreement. Such statistics shall be included as part of the Department’s regular reporting on U.S. International Transactions Accounts and shall include, but not be limited to, U.S. exports, imports, and balance, by country. The Department is further directed to submit a progress report on this effort to the Committees within 120 days of enactment of this Act.

BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

This Act includes \$1,370,000,000 for the Bureau of the Census.

CURRENT SURVEYS AND PROGRAMS

This Act includes \$270,000,000 for the Current Surveys and Programs account of the Bureau of the Census.

PERIODIC CENSUSES AND PROGRAMS

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

In lieu of House and Senate language regarding specific funding levels under the Periodic Censuses and Programs account, the Act includes \$1,100,000,000 for these activities. The Bureau is directed to prioritize increases in spending on activities that have the greatest potential to reduce cost and risk for the 2020 Census, as well as activities to reduce survey respondent burden. The spend plan referenced in Section 534 of this Act shall include a proposed allocation of increases in funding for each activity under this account.

NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

This Act includes \$39,500,000 for the Salaries and Expenses of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

This Act includes language making available to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) \$3,272,000,000, the full

amount of offsetting fee collections estimated for fiscal year 2016.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY

This Act includes \$964,000,000 for the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST).

SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL RESEARCH AND SERVICES

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

This Act provides \$690,000,000 for NIST's Scientific and Technical Research and Services (STRS) account. Funding provided for STRS includes the requested increases for Disaster Resilient Buildings and Infrastructure, Strengthening NIST Cryptographic Capabilities, the Materials Genome Initiative, and Quantum-Based Sensors and Measurements. Additionally, the Act provides up to the fiscal year 2015 enacted level for Lab to Market activities and for Standards Coordination and Special Programs. Senate language regarding the National Strategy for Trusted Identities in Cyberspace (NSTIC) is adopted, including integration of its activities into the National Cybersecurity Center of Excellence (NCCoE). The NCCoE is thus funded at \$31,500,000, and no separate appropriation is provided for NSTIC.

Forensics.—The agreement does not adopt House report language regarding Forensic Science Advisory Committee activities. Instead, the agreement acknowledges a transfer of \$3,000,000, the current funding level, from the Department of Justice to NIST to support ongoing interagency forensic programs.

Metals-based additive manufacturing.—In lieu of Senate language under Industrial

Technology Services, up to \$5,000,000 is provided for these purposes under this heading.

INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

This Act includes \$155,000,000 for Industrial Technology Services, including \$130,000,000 for the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership and \$25,000,000 for the National Network for Manufacturing Innovation (NNMI), to include funding for center establishment and up to \$5,000,000 for coordination activities. The agreement also merges the activities of the Advanced Manufacturing Technology Consortia (AMTech) into NNMI. NIST shall follow the direction of the Revitalize American Manufacturing and Innovation Act of 2014 (Public Law 113–235) in requiring open competition to select the technological focus areas of industry-driven manufacturing institutes.

CONSTRUCTION OF RESEARCH FACILITIES

This Act includes \$119,000,000 for Construction of Research Facilities, including no less than \$60,000,000 to begin the design and renovation of its outdated and unsafe radiation physics infrastructure in fiscal year 2016. Additional Senate direction regarding NIST construction is adopted by reference. NIST shall also provide a detailed spending plan to the Committees no later than 60 days after enactment of this Act documenting how NIST will allocate funds to address existing construction projects, address maintenance needs across its campuses, and plan for the continued renovation of its radiation physics infrastructure in future fiscal years.

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

This Act includes total appropriations of \$5,765,579,000 for the National Oceanic and

Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The agreement does not include section 570 of the House bill regarding the National Ocean Policy. No funding was provided in fiscal year 2015, and none was requested by any agencies funded in this Act in fiscal year 2016, to implement the National Ocean Policy. Consequently, no funds for National Ocean Policy activities are included for any agency funded in this Act.

OPERATIONS, RESEARCH, AND FACILITIES

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

This Act includes a total program level of \$3,453,477,000 under this account for the coastal, fisheries, marine, weather, satellite and other programs of NOAA. This total funding level includes \$3,305,813,000 in direct appropriations; a transfer of \$130,164,000 from balances in the ‘‘Promote and Develop Fishery Products and Research Pertaining to American Fisheries’’ fund; and \$17,500,000 is derived from recoveries of prior year obligations.

The following narrative descriptions and tables identify the specific activities and funding levels included in this Act:

National Ocean Service.—\$500,100,000 is for the National Ocean Service.

Navigation, Observations and Positioning.—Senate language is modified to stipulate that not more than 7 percent of funds available for the Hydrographic Survey Priorities/Contracts program may be used for internal Hydrographic Survey Priorities/Contracts program management costs.

NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE
Operations, Research, and Facilities
(in thousands of dollars)

Program	Amount
Navigation, Observations and Positioning	
Navigation, Observations and Positioning	\$149,000
Integrated Ocean Observing System Regional Observations	29,500
Hydrographic Survey Priorities/Contracts	27,000
	205,500
Navigation, Observations and Positioning	205,500
Coastal Science and Assessment	
Coastal Science, Assessment, Response and Restoration	72,600
Competitive External Research	9,000
	81,600
Coastal Science and Assessment	81,600
Ocean and Coastal Management and Services	
Coastal Zone Management and Services	40,000
Coastal Management Grants	75,000
Coral Reef Program	26,000
Sanctuaries and Marine Protected Areas	49,000
National Estuarine Research Reserve System	23,000
	213,000
Ocean and Coastal Management and Services	213,000
Total, National Ocean Service, Operations, Research, and Facilities	\$500,100

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS).—\$849,497,000 is for NMFS Operations, Research, and Facilities.

Hatchery genetic management plans.—The agreement adopts the House language requiring a comprehensive plan to address the backlog of Hatchery Genetic Management plans and directs NOAA to increase funding for the review of these plans above the fiscal year 2015 level.

Gulf of Mexico reef fish stock assessments.—The agreement adopts House and Senate language regarding reef fish in the Gulf of Mexico. The agreement provides \$5,000,000 within the amount provided for Fisheries Data Col-

lections, Surveys, and Assessments, and \$5,000,000 within the amount provided for Sea Grant for the purposes stated in the House and Senate reports. The Committees direct NOAA to, in addition to current surveys and assessments, use fishery independent data that includes surveying and assessing red snapper populations on and aggregated near marine structures including offshore oil and gas platforms, artificial reefs, and structures created in the Gulf of Mexico and naturally occurring reefs and rock structures. NOAA shall ensure the research supported by this funding is complementary between respective line offices and not duplicative. Addi-

tionally, NOAA shall provide the Committees with a plan for these research efforts, and how they will be coordinated, not later than 45 days after enactment of this Act. The Committees strongly encourage NOAA to incorporate data from all external assessments carried out under this paragraph at the earliest possible date, but not later than fiscal year 2017, for the purposes of determining reef fish quotas and Annual Catch Limits in the Gulf of Mexico. NOAA shall report to the Committees, within 45 days of enactment, any impediments to incorporating these data for such purposes.