Commercial Engagement through Ocean Technology (CENOTE)

The bill focuses on NOAA's use of unmanned maritime systems technology and ensures a strong partnership with the private sector. CENOTE would advance these unmanned maritime systems, ensure that marine data is readily available, and encourage the private sector to develop useful products.

Bill Summary: The bill directs NOAA to coordinate its development of unmanned maritime systems with universities, the private sector, and the Navy. NOAA would be required to use unmanned technologies to address mission requirements. The data collected from these missions will be made accessible to the public, benefiting commercial, academic, and national security interests.

1. **NOAA Process**. Leverages existing expertise within NOAA's Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) and Office of Marine and Aviation Operations (OMAO) to establish procedures for how NOAA determine assessment and acquisition of its unmanned maritime systems technology.

2. **NOAA-NAVY Partnership**. Encourages NOAA to partner with the Secretary of the Navy on unmanned maritime systems technology.

   a. Leverage the Navy's capacity for assessments
   b. Participate in the Navy's procurement actions through an MOU
   c. Authorize NOAA-managed areas for additional testing

3. **Data from Unmanned Systems**. Utilizes the proficiency of NOAA's National Environmental Satellite and Data Information Service (NESDIS) and National Ocean Service (NOS) to mandate that data should be free and available to the public.

4. **Private Sector Partnerships**. Directs NOAA to engage with the private and academic sectors to use their expertise for improving observation capabilities, increasing cost effectiveness, and capitalizing on emerging technological advances.