

tion from Ships, 1973, in United States waters and, not later than 1 year after October 19, 1996, and annually thereafter, shall publish in the Federal Register a list of the enforcement actions taken against any domestic or foreign ship (including any commercial or recreational ship) pursuant to the Act to Prevent Pollution from Ships (33 U.S.C. 1901 et seq.).

(b) Report on inability to comply

Within 3 years after the effective date of this section, the head of each Federal agency that operates or contracts for the operation of any ship referred to in section 3(b)(1)(A) of the Act to Prevent Pollution from Ships [33 U.S.C. 1902(b)(1)(A)] that may not be able to comply with the requirements of that section shall report to the Congress describing—

- (1) the technical and operational impediments to achieving that compliance;
- (2) an alternative schedule for achieving that compliance as rapidly as is technologically feasible;
- (3) the ships operated or contracted for operation by the agency for which full compliance with section 3(b)(2)(A) [33 U.S.C. 1902(b)(2)(A)] is not technologically feasible; and
- (4) any other information which the agency head considers relevant and appropriate.

(c) Congressional action

Upon receipt of the compliance report under subsection (b), the Congress shall modify the applicability of Annex V to ships referred to in section 3(b)(1)(A) of the Act to Prevent Pollution from Ships [33 U.S.C. 1902(b)(1)(A)], as may be appropriate with respect to the requirements of Annex V to the Convention.

(Pub. L. 100-220, title II, § 2201, Dec. 29, 1987, 101 Stat. 1464; Pub. L. 104-66, title I, § 1121(c), Dec. 21, 1995, 109 Stat. 724; Pub. L. 104-324, title VIII, § 802(a), Oct. 19, 1996, 110 Stat. 3944.)

Editorial Notes

REFERENCES IN TEXT

For effective date of this section, referred to in subsecs. (a) and (b), see section 2002 of Pub. L. 100-220, set out as an Effective Date of 1987 Amendment note under section 1901 of this title.

The Act to Prevent Pollution from Ships, referred to in subsec. (a), is Pub. L. 96-478, Oct. 21, 1980, 94 Stat. 2297, which is classified principally to this chapter (§1901 et seq.). For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 1901 of this title and Tables.

CODIFICATION

Section was formerly set out as a note under section 1902 of this title.

Section was enacted as part of the Marine Plastic Pollution Research and Control Act of 1987 and as part of the United States-Japan Fishery Agreement Approval Act of 1987, and not as part of the Act to Prevent Pollution from Ships which comprises this chapter.

AMENDMENTS

1996—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 104-324 struck out “for a period of 6 years” after “triennially thereafter” and inserted “and, not later than 1 year after October 19, 1996, and annually thereafter, shall publish in the Federal Register a list of the enforcement actions taken against any domestic or foreign ship (including any commercial or recreational ship) pursuant to the Act

to Prevent Pollution from Ships (33 U.S.C. 1901 et seq.)” before period at end.

1995—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 104-66 substituted “triennially” for “biennially”.

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

For transfer of authorities, functions, personnel, and assets of the Coast Guard, including the authorities and functions of the Secretary of Transportation relating thereto, to the Department of Homeland Security, and for treatment of related references, see sections 468(b), 551(d), 552(d), and 557 of Title 6, Domestic Security, and the Department of Homeland Security Reorganization Plan of November 25, 2002, as modified, set out as a note under section 542 of Title 6.

§ 1914. Transferred

Section, Pub. L. 100-220, title II, § 2203, Dec. 29, 1987, 101 Stat. 1466; Pub. L. 104-324, title VIII, § 802(b), Oct. 19, 1996, 110 Stat. 3944; Pub. L. 109-449, § 5(a), Dec. 22, 2006, 120 Stat. 3337, was redesignated section 5 of Pub. L. 109-449 and transferred to section 1954 of this title.

§ 1915. Repealed. Pub. L. 112-213, title VI, § 604(d), Dec. 20, 2012, 126 Stat. 1577

Section, Pub. L. 100-220, title II, § 2204, Dec. 29, 1987, 101 Stat. 1466; Pub. L. 104-324, title VIII, § 802(c), Oct. 19, 1996, 110 Stat. 3945, related to creation of a plastic pollution public education program.

CHAPTER 33A—MARINE DEBRIS RESEARCH, PREVENTION, AND REDUCTION

Sec.	Purpose.
1951.	NOAA Marine Debris Program.
1952.	Coast Guard program.
1953.	Coordination.
1954.	Federal information clearinghouse.
1955.	Definitions.
1956.	Relationship to Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act.
1957.	Authorization of appropriations.
1958.	Prioritization of marine debris in existing innovation and entrepreneurship programs.
1959.	

§ 1951. Purpose

The purpose of this chapter is to address the adverse impacts of marine debris on the United States economy, the marine environment (including waters in the jurisdiction of the United States, the high seas, and waters in the jurisdiction of other countries), and navigation safety through the identification, determination of sources, assessment, prevention, reduction, and removal of marine debris.

(Pub. L. 109-449, § 2, Dec. 22, 2006, 120 Stat. 3333; Pub. L. 112-213, title VI, § 603, Dec. 20, 2012, 126 Stat. 1576; Pub. L. 116-224, title I, § 101(1), Dec. 18, 2020, 134 Stat. 1074.)

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

2020—Pub. L. 116-224 substituted “marine environment (including waters in the jurisdiction of the United States, the high seas, and waters in the jurisdiction of other countries),” for “marine environment.”

2012—Pub. L. 112-213 amended section generally. Prior to amendment, text read as follows: “The purposes of this chapter are—

- “(1) to help identify, determine sources of, assess, reduce, and prevent marine debris and its adverse im-

pacts on the marine environment and navigation safety;

“(2) to reactivate the Interagency Marine Debris Coordinating Committee; and

“(3) to develop a Federal marine debris information clearinghouse.”

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

SHORT TITLE OF 2012 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 112-213, title VI, §601, Dec. 20, 2012, 126 Stat. 1576, provided that: “This title [amending this section and sections 1952 to 1956 of this title, transferring section 1914 of this title to section 1954 of this title, repealing sections 1915 and 1954 of this title, and amending provisions set out as a note under this section] may be cited as the ‘Marine Debris Act Amendments of 2012.’”

SHORT TITLE

Pub. L. 109-449, §1, Dec. 22, 2006, 120 Stat. 3333, as amended by Pub. L. 112-213, title VI, §602(a), Dec. 20, 2012, 126 Stat. 1576, provided that: “This Act [enacting and amending this chapter] may be cited as the ‘Marine Debris Act.’”

§ 1952. NOAA Marine Debris Program

(a) Establishment of Program

There is established, within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, a Marine Debris Program to identify, determine sources of, assess, prevent, reduce, and remove marine debris and address the adverse impacts of marine debris on the economy of the United States, the marine environment, and navigation safety.

(b) Program components

The Administrator, acting through the Program and subject to the availability of appropriations, shall—

(1) identify, determine sources of, assess, prevent, reduce, and remove marine debris, with a focus on marine debris posing a threat to living marine resources and navigation safety;

(2) provide national and regional coordination to assist States, Indian tribes, and regional organizations in the identification, determination of sources, assessment, prevention, reduction, and removal of marine debris;

(3) undertake efforts to reduce the adverse impacts of lost and discarded fishing gear on living marine resources and navigation safety, including—

(A) research and development of alternatives to gear posing threats to the marine environment and methods for marking gear used in certain fisheries to enhance the tracking, recovery, and identification of lost and discarded gear; and

(B) the development of effective non-regulatory measures and incentives to cooperatively reduce the volume of lost and discarded fishing gear and to aid in gear recovery;

(4) undertake outreach and education activities for the public and other stakeholders on sources of marine debris, threats associated with marine debris, and approaches to identifying, determining sources of, assessing, preventing, reducing, and removing marine debris and its adverse impacts on the United States economy, the marine environment, and navigation safety, including outreach and education activities through public-private initiatives;

(5) develop, in consultation with the Interagency Committee, interagency plans for the timely response to events determined by the Administrator to be severe marine debris events, including plans to—

(A) coordinate across agencies and with relevant State, tribal, and local governments to ensure adequate, timely, and efficient response;

(B) assess the composition, volume, and trajectory of marine debris associated with a severe marine debris event; and

(C) estimate the potential impacts of a severe marine debris event, including economic impacts on human health, navigation safety, natural resources, tourism, and livestock, including aquaculture;

(6) work to develop outreach and education strategies with other Federal agencies to address sources of marine debris;

(7) except for discharges of marine debris from vessels, in consultation with the Department of State and other Federal agencies, promote international action, as appropriate, to reduce the incidence of marine debris, including providing technical assistance to expand waste management systems internationally; and

(8) in the case of an event determined to be a severe marine debris event under subsection (c)—

(A) assist in the cleanup and response required by the severe marine debris event; or

(B) conduct such other activity as the Administrator determines is appropriate in response to the severe marine debris event.

(c) Severe marine debris events

At the discretion of the Administrator or at the request of the Governor of an affected State, the Administrator shall determine whether there is a severe marine debris event.

(d) Grants, cooperative agreements, and contracts

(1) In general

The Administrator, acting through the Program, shall enter into cooperative agreements and contracts and provide financial assistance in the form of grants for projects to accomplish the purpose set forth in section 1951 of this title.

(2) Grant cost sharing requirement

(A) In general

Except as provided in subparagraphs (B) and (C), Federal funds for any grant under this section may not exceed 50 percent of the total cost of such project. For 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 Administrator may waive all or part of the matching requirement under subparagraph (A) if the Administrator determines that no reasonable means are available