

§ 459h. Gulf Islands National Seashore

(a) Establishment

In order to preserve for public use and enjoyment certain areas possessing outstanding natural, historic, and recreational values, the Secretary of the Interior (hereinafter referred to as the “Secretary”) may establish and administer the Gulf Islands National Seashore (hereinafter referred to as the “seashore”).

(b) Composition

(1) In general

The seashore shall comprise the areas described in paragraphs (2) and (3).

(2) Areas included in boundary plan numbered NS-GI-7100J

The areas described in this paragraph are the following gulf coast islands and mainland areas, together with adjacent water areas as generally depicted on the drawing entitled “Proposed Boundary Plan, Proposed Gulf Islands National Seashore,” numbered NS-GI-7100J, and dated December 1970:

- (A) Ship, Petit Bois, and Horn Islands in Mississippi;
- (B) the eastern portion of Perdido Key in Florida;
- (C) Santa Rosa Island in Florida;
- (D) the Naval Live Oaks Reservation in Florida;
- (E) Fort Pickens and the Fort Pickens State Park in Florida; and
- (F) a tract of land in the Pensacola Naval Air Station in Florida that includes the Coast Guard Station and Lighthouse, Fort San Carlos, Fort Barrancas, and Fort Redoubt and sufficient surrounding land for proper administration and protection of the historic resources.

(3) Cat Island

Upon its acquisition by the Secretary, the area described in this paragraph is the parcel consisting of approximately 2,000 acres of land on Cat Island, Mississippi, as generally depicted on the map entitled “Boundary Map, Gulf Islands National Seashore, Cat Island, Mississippi”, numbered 635/80085, and dated November 9, 1999 (referred to in sections 459h to 459h-10 of this title¹ as the “Cat Island Map”).

(4) Availability of Map

The Cat Island Map shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the National Park Service.

(Pub. L. 91-660, §1, Jan. 8, 1971, 84 Stat. 1967; Pub. L. 106-554, §1(a)(4) [div. B, title I, §137(a)], Dec. 21, 2000, 114 Stat. 2763, 2763A-231.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Sections 459h to 459h-10 of this title, referred to in subsec. (b)(3), was in the original “this title”, and was translated as reading “this Act”, meaning Pub. L. 91-660, which enacted sections 459h to 459h-10 of this title, to reflect the probable intent of Congress, because Pub. L. 91-660 does not contain titles.

AMENDMENTS

2000—Pub. L. 106-554 inserted section catchline and subsec. (a) designation and heading, substituted “In

order” for “That, in order”, inserted subsec. (b) designation and heading, added par. (1), inserted par. (2) designation and heading and substituted “The areas described in this paragraph are” for “The seashore shall comprise”, redesignated former pars. (1) to (6) as subpars. (A) to (F), respectively, of par. (2), realigned margins, and added pars. (3) and (4).

§ 459h-1. Acquisition of property

(a) Authority of Secretary; concurrence of State owner; administrative site and related facilities; transfer from Federal agency to administrative jurisdiction of Secretary

Within the boundaries of the seashore, the Secretary may acquire submerged land, land, waters, and interests therein by donation, purchase with donated or appropriated funds, or exchange, except that property owned by a State or any political subdivision thereof may be acquired only with the consent of the owner. The Secretary may acquire by any of the above methods not more than four hundred acres of land or interests therein outside of the seashore boundaries on the mainland in the vicinity of Biloxi-Gulfport, Mississippi, for an administrative site and related facilities for access to the seashore. With the concurrence of the agency having custody thereof, any Federal property within the seashore and mainland site may be transferred without consideration to the administrative jurisdiction of the Secretary for the purposes of the seashore.

(b) Improved residential property owner's reservation of right of use and occupancy for residential purposes for life or fixed term of years; election by owner; transfer or assignment of right; adjustment of compensation

With respect to improved residential property acquired for the purposes of sections 459h to 459h-10 of this title, which is beneficially owned by a natural person and which the Secretary of the Interior determines can be continued in that use for a limited period of time without undue interference with the administration, development, or public use of the seashore, the owner thereof may on the date of its acquisition by the Secretary retain a right of use and occupancy of the property for noncommercial residential purposes for a term, as the owner may elect, ending either (1) at the death of the owner or his spouse, whichever occurs later, or (2) not more than twenty-five years from the date of acquisition. Any right so retained may during its existence be transferred or assigned. The Secretary shall pay to the owner the fair market value of the property on the date of such acquisition, less their¹ fair market value on such date of the right retained by the owner.

(c) “Improved residential property” defined

As used in sections 459h to 459h-10 of this title, “improved residential property” means a single-family year-round dwelling, the construction of which began before January 1, 1967, and which serves as the owner's permanent place of abode at the time of its acquisition by the United States, together with not more than three acres of land on which the dwelling and appurtenant buildings are located that the Secretary finds is

¹ See References in Text note below.

¹ So in original. Probably should be “the”.