

“(3) The environmental best management practices under paragraph (1) shall—

“(A) include recommended practices for the preparation of vessels for use as artificial reefs to ensure that vessels so prepared will be environmentally sound in their use as artificial reefs;

“(B) promote consistent use of such practices nationwide;

“(C) provide a basis for estimating the costs associated with the preparation of vessels for use as artificial reefs; and

“(D) include mechanisms to enhance the utility of the Artificial Reefing Program of the Maritime Administration as an option for the disposal of obsolete vessels.

“(4) The environmental best management practices developed under paragraph (1) shall serve as national guidance for Federal agencies for the preparation of vessels for use as artificial reefs.

“(5) Not later than March 31, 2004, the Secretary of Transportation, acting through the Maritime Administration, and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall jointly establish an application process for governments of States, commonwealths, and United States territories and possession, and foreign governments, for the preparation of vessels for use as artificial reefs, including documentation and certification requirements for that application process.

“(6) The Secretary of Transportation shall submit to Congress a report on the environmental best management practices developed under paragraph (1) through the existing ship disposal reporting requirements in section 3502 of Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001 (as enacted into law by Public Law 106-398; 1654A-492) [16 U.S.C. 5405 note]. The report shall describe such practices, and may include such other matters as the Secretary considers appropriate.”

§ 1220a. Transfer of title; terms and conditions

If, after consideration of such comments and views as are received pursuant to section 1220(c) of this title, the Secretary finds that the use of obsolete ships proposed by a State will not violate any Federal law, contribute to degradation of the marine environment, create undue interference with commercial fishing or navigation, and is not frivolous, he may transfer without consideration to the State all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to any obsolete ships which are available for transfer under this chapter if—

(1) the State gives to the Secretary such assurances as he deems necessary that such ships will be utilized and maintained only for the purposes stated in the application and, when sunk, will be charted and marked as a hazard to navigation;

(2) the State agrees to secure any licenses or permits which may be required under the provisions of any other applicable Federal law;

(3) the State agrees to such other terms and conditions as the Secretary shall require in order to protect the marine environment and other interests of the United States; and

(4) the transfer would be at no cost to the Government (except for any financial assistance provided under section 1220(c)(1)¹ of this title) with the State taking delivery of such obsolete ships and titles in an “as-is—where-is” condition at such place and time des-

ignated as may be determined by the Secretary of Transportation.

(Pub. L. 92-402, § 4, Aug. 22, 1972, 86 Stat. 618; Pub. L. 98-623, title II, § 207(1), (3), Nov. 8, 1984, 98 Stat. 3397; Pub. L. 107-314, div. C, title XXXV, § 3504(a)(2), Dec. 2, 2002, 116 Stat. 2754; Pub. L. 109-163, div. C, title XXXV, § 3505(c), Jan. 6, 2006, 119 Stat. 3552.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Section 1220(c)(1) of this title, referred to in par. (4), probably means section 7 of Pub. L. 92-402, which is classified to section 1220c-1 of this title.

AMENDMENTS

2006—Par. (4). Pub. L. 109-163 amended par. (4) generally. Prior to amendment, par. (4) read as follows: “the transfer would be at no cost to the Government (except for any financial assistance provided under section 1220c-1 of this title) with the State taking delivery of such obsolete ships at fleetside of the National Defense Reserve Fleet in an ‘as is—where is’ condition.”

2002—Par. (4). Pub. L. 107-314 inserted “(except for any financial assistance provided under section 1220c-1 of this title)” after “at no cost to the Government”.

1984—Pub. L. 98-623 substituted “obsolete ships” for “Liberty ships” wherever appearing in provisions preceding par. (1) and in par. (4), and substituted “may transfer” for “shall transfer” in provisions preceding par. (1).

§ 1220b. Obsolete ships available; number; equitable administration

A State may apply for more than one obsolete ship under this chapter. The Secretary shall, however, taking into account the number of obsolete ships which may be or become available for transfer under this chapter, administer this chapter in an equitable manner with respect to the various States.

(Pub. L. 92-402, § 5, Aug. 22, 1972, 86 Stat. 618; Pub. L. 98-623, title II, § 207(1), Nov. 8, 1984, 98 Stat. 3397.)

AMENDMENTS

1984—Pub. L. 98-623 substituted “obsolete ships” for “Liberty ships” wherever appearing.

§ 1220c. Denial of applications; finality of decision

A decision by the Secretary denying any application for a¹ obsolete ship under this chapter is final.

(Pub. L. 92-402, § 6, Aug. 22, 1972, 86 Stat. 618; Pub. L. 98-623, title II, § 207(1), Nov. 8, 1984, 98 Stat. 3397.)

AMENDMENTS

1984—Pub. L. 98-623 substituted “obsolete ship” for “Liberty ship”.

§ 1220c-1. Financial assistance to State to prepare transferred ship

(a) Assistance authorized

The Secretary, subject to the availability of appropriations, may provide, to any State to which an obsolete ship is transferred under this chapter, financial assistance to prepare the ship for use as an artificial reef, including for—

¹ See References in Text note below.

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