

**(b) Purpose**

It is the purpose of this chapter to promote aquaculture in the United States by—

- (1) declaring a national aquaculture policy;
- (2) establishing and implementing a national aquaculture development plan;
- (3) establishing the Department of Agriculture as the lead Federal agency with respect to the coordination and dissemination of national aquaculture information by designating the Secretary of Agriculture as the permanent chairman of the coordinating group and by establishing a National Aquaculture Information Center within the Department of Agriculture; and
- (4) encouraging aquaculture activities and programs in both the public and private sectors of the economy;

that will result in increased aquacultural production, the coordination of domestic aquaculture efforts, the conservation and enhancement of aquatic resources, the creation of new industries and job opportunities, and other national benefits.

**(c) Policy**

Congress declares that aquaculture has the potential for reducing the United States trade deficit in fisheries products, for augmenting existing commercial and recreational fisheries and for producing other renewable resources, thereby assisting the United States in meeting its future food needs and contributing to the solution of world resource problems. It is, therefore, in the national interest, and it is the national policy, to encourage the development of aquaculture in the United States.

(Pub. L. 96-362, §2, Sept. 26, 1980, 94 Stat. 1198; Pub. L. 99-198, title XVII, §1732, Dec. 23, 1985, 99 Stat. 1641.)

## AMENDMENTS

1985—Subsec. (a)(3). Pub. L. 99-198, §1732(1), substituted “13 percent” for “10 per centum” and “6 percent” for “3 per centum”.

Subsec. (a)(7). Pub. L. 99-198, §1732(2), inserted “scientific,” before “economic,” and “the lack of supportive Government policies,” after “management information.”

Subsec. (b)(3), (4). Pub. L. 99-198, §1732(3), added par. (3) and redesignated former par. (3) as (4).

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 99-198, §1732(4), inserted “or reducing the United States trade deficit in fisheries products.”

## SHORT TITLE OF 1985 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 99-198, title XVII, §1731, Dec. 23, 1985, 99 Stat. 1641, provided that: “This subtitle [subtitle C [D]] (§§1731-1737) of title XVII of Pub. L. 99-198, amending this section and sections 2802 to 2805 and 2809 of this title] may be cited as the ‘National Aquaculture Improvement Act of 1985.’”

## SHORT TITLE

Pub. L. 96-362, §1, Sept. 26, 1980, 94 Stat. 1198, provided: “That this Act [enacting this chapter] may be cited as the ‘National Aquaculture Act of 1980.’”

**§ 2802. Definitions**

As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires—

- (1) The term “aquaculture” means the propagation and rearing of aquatic species in con-

trolled or selected environments, including, but not limited to, ocean ranching (except private ocean ranching of Pacific salmon for profit in those States where such ranching is prohibited by law).

(2) The term “aquaculture facility” means any land, structure, or other appurtenance that is used for aquaculture and is located in any State. Such term includes, but is not limited to, any laboratory, hatchery, rearing pond, raceway, pen, incubator, or other equipment used in aquaculture.

(3) The term “aquatic species” means any species of finfish, mollusk, crustacean, or other aquatic invertebrate, amphibian, reptile, or aquatic plant.

(4) The term “coordinating group” means the interagency aquaculture coordinating group established by section 2805 of this title.

(5) The term “person” means any individual who is a citizen or national of the United States or of any State, any Indian tribe, any institution of higher education, and any corporation, partnership, association or other entity (including, but not limited to, any community development corporation, producer cooperative, or fishermen’s cooperative) organized or existing under the laws of any State.

(6) The term “Plan” means the National Aquaculture Development Plan required to be established under section 2803 of this title.

(7) The term “Secretaries” means the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of Commerce, and the Secretary of the Interior.

(8) The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Agriculture.

(9) The term “State” means any of the several States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, American Samoa, the Virgin Islands of the United States, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, or any other territory or possession of the United States.

(Pub. L. 96-362, §3, Sept. 26, 1980, 94 Stat. 1199; Pub. L. 99-198, title XVII, §1733, Dec. 23, 1985, 99 Stat. 1641.)

## AMENDMENTS

1985—Pars. (8), (9). Pub. L. 99-198 added par. (8) and redesignated former par. (8) as (9).

## TERMINATION OF TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

For termination of Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, see note set out preceding section 1681 of Title 48, Territories and Insular Possessions.

**§ 2803. National Aquaculture Development Plan****(a) In general**

(1) Within eighteen months after September 26, 1980, the Secretaries shall establish the National Aquaculture Development Plan.

(2) In developing the Plan, and revisions thereto under subsection (d) of this section, beginning not later than six months after September 26, 1980, the Secretary shall consult with the Secretary of Commerce and the Secretary of the Interior, other appropriate Federal officers, States, regional fishery management councils established under section 1852 of this title, and

representatives of the aquaculture industry. In addition, the Secretary shall give interested persons and organizations an opportunity to comment during the development of the Plan.

**(b) Contents of Plan**

The Plan shall—

(1) identify aquatic species that the Secretaries determine to have significant potential for culturing on a commercial or other basis;

(2) recommend actions to be taken by the public and private sectors (which may include, but are not limited to, research and development, technical assistance, demonstration, extension education, and training activities) that are necessary to achieve such potential;

(3) address, after taking into account the status of aquaculture regarding the aquatic species concerned—

(A) aquaculture facility design and operation,

(B) water quality management,

(C) use of waste products (including thermal effluents),

(D) nutrition and the development of economical feeds, including natural food sources,

(E) life history, genetics, physiology, pathology, and disease control (including research regarding organisms that may not be harmful to fish and shellfish, but are injurious to humans),

(F) processing and market development,

(G) production management and quality control, and

(H) the development of adequate supplies of seed stock;

(4) include, where appropriate, research programs on the effect of aquaculture on estuarine and other water areas and on the management of such areas for aquaculture;

(5) include, where appropriate, programs to analyze, and formulate proposed resolutions of, the legal or regulatory constraints that may affect aquaculture; and

(6) include such other research and development, technical assistance, demonstration, extension education, and training programs as the Secretary deems necessary or appropriate to carry out this chapter.

In formulating the Plan, the Secretary shall, to the extent practicable, take into account any significant action that (i) has been, or is proposed to be, undertaken by any other Federal department or agency, any State agency, or any person, and (ii) may affect the implementation of the Plan.

**(c) Actions and implementation**

The Plan shall specify—

(1) with respect to those actions that the Secretary determines should be undertaken, the period of time within which each such action should be completed, in order to implement the Plan; and

(2) with respect to each such action which of the Secretaries, acting individually, jointly, or collectively, has the responsibility for implementing the action.

The specifications of Secretarial responsibilities under paragraph (2) for implementing actions shall be determined on the basis of—

(A) the responsibilities conferred on the respective Secretaries by law or by any executive action having the effect of law (including, but not limited to, Reorganization Plan Numbered 4 of 1970);

(B) the experience, expertise, and other appropriate resources that the department of each such Secretary may have with respect to the action required under the activity concerned; and

(C) the concurrence of the Secretaries.

**(d) Revision of Plan**

The Secretaries shall undertake periodic reviews of the operation and effectiveness of the Plan. If as a result of any such review, or the aquaculture assessment required under subsection (e) of this section, the Secretaries determine that—

(1) any aquatic species not currently identified in the Plan has significant potential for aquaculture;

(2) any action specified in the Plan is not being accomplished on a successful and timely basis; or

(3) any action specified in the Plan should be terminated because its objectives have been achieved or its projected benefits do not warrant further support;

the Secretaries shall appropriately amend the Plan.

**(e) Continuing aquaculture assessment**

The Secretaries, through the coordinating group, shall undertake a continuing assessment of aquaculture in the United States for the purpose of maintaining, on a continuing basis—

(1) a complete profile of the aquacultural industry with respect to the incidence, size, and status of commercial aquacultural enterprises;

(2) the identification of the private and public institutions and organizations involved in aquacultural research, extension, credit, and market development;

(3) the identification of the various aquatic species being cultured and a description of the status of commercial development of each of those species;

(4) to the extent practicable, the identification of aquacultural production regions, species, and markets that have significant potential for development;

(5) a catalog describing all Federal programs and activities that directly or indirectly encourage, support, or assist aquaculture; and

(6) the identification of the economic, physical, legal, institutional, and social constraints that inhibit the development of aquaculture in the United States.

(Pub. L. 96-362, §4, Sept. 26, 1980, 94 Stat. 1199; Pub. L. 96-561, title II, §238(b), Dec. 22, 1980, 94 Stat. 3300; Pub. L. 99-198, title XVII, §1734, Dec. 23, 1985, 99 Stat. 1641; Pub. L. 104-208, div. A, title I, §101(a) [title II, §211(b)], Sept. 30, 1996, 110 Stat. 3009, 3009-41.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Reorganization Plan Numbered 4 of 1970, referred to in subsec. (c)(A), is Reorg. Plan No. 4 of 1970, 35 F.R. 15627, 84 Stat. 2090, which is set out in the Appendix to Title 5, Government Organization and Employees.

## AMENDMENTS

1996—Subsec. (a)(2). Pub. L. 104-208 made technical amendment to reference in original act which appears in text as reference to section 1852 of this title.

1985—Subsec. (a)(2). Pub. L. 99-198, §1734(1)(A), (B), substituted “Secretary” for “Secretaries” wherever appearing and inserted provisions requiring consultations with the Secretary of Commerce and the Secretary of the Interior.

Subsec. (a)(3). Pub. L. 99-198, §1734(1)(C), struck out par. (3) which provided for the establishment of an advisory committee to assist in the initial development of the Plan.

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 99-198, §1734(2), inserted “to” after “determine” in par. (1), substituted “Secretary deems” for “Secretaries deem” in par. (6), and substituted “Secretary” for “Secretaries” in provisions following par. (6).

Subsec. (c)(1). Pub. L. 99-198, §1734(3)(A), substituted “Secretary determines” for “Secretaries determine”.

Subsec. (c)(2)(C). Pub. L. 99-198, §1734(3)(B)-(D), added subpar. (C).

1980—Subsec. (a)(2). Pub. L. 96-561 made technical amendment to reference in original act which appears in text as reference to section 1852 of this title.

## EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1996 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 104-208, div. A, title I, §101(a) [title II, §211(b)], Sept. 30, 1996, 110 Stat. 3009, 3009-41, provided that the amendment made by that section is effective 15 days after Oct. 11, 1996.

## EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1980 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 96-561, title II, §238(b), Dec. 22, 1980, 94 Stat. 3300, provided that the amendment made by that section is effective 15 days after Dec. 22, 1980.

**§ 2804. Functions and powers of Secretaries****(a) Mandatory functions**

In implementing the Plan, the Secretaries shall—

(1) provide advisory, educational, and technical assistance (including training) with respect to aquaculture to interested persons, and in providing such assistance, shall, to the maximum extent practicable, avoid duplication of similar assistance provided by other Federal departments and agencies and by State agencies;

(2) consult and cooperate with interested persons, Federal departments and agencies, State agencies, and regional fishery management councils established under section 1852 of this title;

(3) encourage the implementation of aquacultural technology in the rehabilitation and enhancement of publicly owned fish and shellfish stocks (including rehabilitation and enhancement by private nonprofit enterprises), and in the development of private commercial aquacultural enterprises; and

(4) prescribe such regulations as may be necessary to carry out the Plan.

**(b) Discretionary functions**

In implementing the Plan, the Secretaries may—

(1) for the purposes of assessing the biological, technical, and economic feasibility of any aquacultural system—

(A) conduct tests of the system, and, if necessary to demonstrate its feasibility, construct, operate, and maintain developmental aquaculture facilities for testing laboratory results, and

(B) conduct such other tests or analyses as may be necessary;

(2) develop methods to enhance seed stocks of aquatic species; and

(3) conduct such other tests or analyses or take such other actions as the Secretaries deem necessary or appropriate.

**(c) Information services**

(1) In addition to performing such other mandatory functions under this chapter—

(A) the Secretaries shall collect and analyze scientific, technical, legal, and economic information relating to aquaculture, including acreages, water use, production, marketing, culture techniques, and other relevant matters;

(B) the Secretary shall—

(i) establish, within the Department of Agriculture, a National Aquaculture Information Center that shall serve as a repository for the information generated under subparagraph (A) and other provisions of this chapter and shall, on a request basis, make that information available to the public,

(ii) arrange with foreign nations for the exchange of information relating to aquaculture and support a translation service, and

(iii) conduct a study of the extent to which the United States aquaculture industry has access to relevant Federal programs which assist the agricultural sector and report to Congress on the findings of such study by December 31, 1986;

(C) the Secretary of Commerce shall conduct a study, and report to Congress thereon by December 31, 1987, to determine whether existing capture fisheries could be adversely affected by competition from products produced by commercial aquacultural enterprises and include in such study an assessment of any adverse effect, by species and by geographical region, on such fisheries and recommend measures to ameliorate any such effect; and

(D) the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Secretary of Commerce, shall undertake a study, and report to Congress thereon by December 31, 1987, to identify exotic species introduced into the United States waters as a result of aquaculture activities, and to determine the potential benefits and impacts of the introduction of exotic species.

(2) Any production information submitted to the Secretaries under paragraph (1)(A) shall be confidential and may only be disclosed if required under court order. The Secretaries shall preserve such confidentiality. The Secretaries may release or make public any information in any aggregate or summary form that does not directly or indirectly disclose the identity, business transactions, or trade secrets of any person who submits such information.

**(d) Biennial report**

The Secretary, through the coordinating group and in consultation with the Secretary of Commerce and the Secretary of the Interior,<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> So in original.