

and cargo) used in the commission of an act prohibited by section 5505 of this title shall be liable in rem for any civil penalty assessed for such violation under subsection (a) of this section and may be proceeded against in any district court of the United States having jurisdiction thereof. Such penalty shall constitute a maritime lien on such vessel that may be recovered in an action in rem in the district court of the United States having jurisdiction over the vessel.

(Pub. L. 104-43, title I, § 108, Nov. 3, 1995, 109 Stat. 373.)

### § 5508. Criminal offenses

#### (a) Offenses

A person is guilty of an offense if the person commits any act prohibited by paragraph (6), (7), (8), or (9) of section 5505 of this title.

#### (b) Punishment

Any offense described in subsection (a) of this section is a class A misdemeanor punishable by a fine under title 18, or imprisonment for not more than one year, or both; except that if in the commission of any offense the person uses a dangerous weapon, engages in conduct that causes bodily injury to any authorized officer, or places any such officer in fear of imminent bodily injury, the offense is a felony punishable by a fine under title 18, or imprisonment for not more than 10 years, or both.

(Pub. L. 104-43, title I, § 109, Nov. 3, 1995, 109 Stat. 375.)

### § 5509. Forfeitures

#### (a) In general

Any high seas fishing vessel (including its fishing gear, furniture, appurtenances, stores, and cargo) used, and any living marine resources (or the fair market value thereof) taken or retained, in any manner, in connection with or as a result of the commission of any act prohibited by section 5505 of this title (other than an act for which the issuance of a citation under section 5506 of this title is a sufficient sanction) shall be subject to forfeiture to the United States. All or part of such vessel may, and all such living marine resources (or the fair market value thereof) shall, be forfeited to the United States pursuant to a civil proceeding under this section.

#### (b) Jurisdiction of district courts

Any district court of the United States shall have jurisdiction, upon application of the Attorney General on behalf of the United States, to order any forfeiture authorized under subsection (a) of this section and any action provided for under subsection (d) of this section.

#### (c) Judgment

If a judgment is entered for the United States in a civil forfeiture proceeding under this section, the Attorney General may seize any property or other interest declared forfeited to the United States, which has not previously been seized pursuant to this chapter or for which security has not previously been obtained. The provisions of the customs laws relating to—

(1) the seizure, forfeiture, and condemnation of property for violation of the customs law;

(2) the disposition of such property or the proceeds from the sale thereof; and

(3) the remission or mitigation of any such forfeiture;

shall apply to seizures and forfeitures incurred, or alleged to have been incurred, under the provisions of this chapter, unless such provisions are inconsistent with the purposes, policy, and provisions of this chapter.

#### (d) Procedure

(1) Any officer authorized to serve any process in rem that is issued by a court under section 5506(b) of this title shall—

(A) stay the execution of such process; or

(B) discharge any living marine resources seized pursuant to such process;

upon receipt of a satisfactory bond or other security from any person claiming such property. Such bond or other security shall be conditioned upon such person delivering such property to the appropriate court upon order thereof, without any impairment of its value, or paying the monetary value of such property pursuant to an order of such court. Judgment shall be recoverable on such bond or other security against both the principal and any sureties in the event that any condition thereof is breached, as determined by such court.

(2) Any living marine resources seized pursuant to this chapter may be sold, subject to the approval of the appropriate court, for not less than the fair market value thereof. The proceeds of any such sale shall be deposited with such court pending the disposition of the matter involved.

#### (e) Rebuttable presumption

For purposes of this section, all living marine resources found on board a high seas fishing vessel and which are seized in connection with an act prohibited by section 5505 of this title are presumed to have been taken or retained in violation of this chapter, but the presumption can be rebutted by an appropriate showing of evidence to the contrary.

(Pub. L. 104-43, title I, § 110, Nov. 3, 1995, 109 Stat. 375.)

## CHAPTER 76—NORTHWEST ATLANTIC FISHERIES CONVENTION

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**§ 5601. Representation of United States under Convention**

**(a) Commissioners**

**(1) Appointments, generally**

The Secretary shall appoint not more than 3 individuals to serve as the representatives of the United States on the General Council and the Fisheries Commission, who shall each—

(A) be known as a “United States Commissioner to the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization”; and

(B) serve at the pleasure of the Secretary.

**(2) Requirements for appointments**

(A) The Secretary shall ensure that of the individuals serving as Commissioners—

(i) at least 1 is appointed from among representatives of the commercial fishing industry;

(ii) 1 (but no more than 1) is an official of the Government; and

(iii) 1, other than the individual appointed under clause (ii), is a voting member of the New England Fishery Management Council.

(B) The Secretary may not appoint as a Commissioner an individual unless the individual is knowledgeable and experienced concerning the fishery resources to which the Convention applies.

**(3) Terms**

(A) The term of an individual appointed as a Commissioner—

(i) shall be specified by the Secretary at the time of appointment; and

(ii) may not exceed 4 years.

(B) An individual who is not a Government official may not serve more than 2 consecutive terms as a Commissioner.

**(b) Alternate Commissioners**

**(1) Appointment**

The Secretary may, for any anticipated absence of a duly appointed Commissioner at a meeting of the General Council or the Fisheries Commission, designate an individual to serve as an Alternate Commissioner.

**(2) Functions**

An Alternate Commissioner may exercise all powers and perform all duties of the Commissioner for whom the Alternate Commissioner is designated, at any meeting of the General Council or the Fisheries Commission for which the Alternate Commissioner is designated.

**(c) Representatives**

**(1) Appointment**

The Secretary shall appoint not more than 3 individuals to serve as the representatives of the United States on the Scientific Council, who shall each be known as a “United States Representative to the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization Scientific Council”.

**(2) Eligibility for appointment**

(A) The Secretary may not appoint an individual as a Representative unless the individual is knowledgeable and experienced concerning the scientific issues dealt with by the Scientific Council.

(B) The Secretary shall appoint as a Representative at least 1 individual who is an official of the Government.

**(3) Term**

An individual appointed as a Representative—

(A) shall serve for a term of not to exceed 4 years, as specified by the Secretary at the time of appointment;

(B) may be reappointed; and

(C) shall serve at the pleasure of the Secretary.

**(d) Alternate Representatives**

**(1) Appointment**

The Secretary may, for any anticipated absence of a duly appointed Representative at a meeting of the Scientific Council, designate an individual to serve as an Alternate Representative.

**(2) Functions**

An Alternate Representative may exercise all powers and perform all duties of the Representative for whom the Alternate Representative is designated, at any meeting of the Scientific Council for which the Alternate Representative is designated.

**(e) Experts and advisers**

The Commissioners, Alternate Commissioners, Representatives, and Alternate Representatives may be accompanied at meetings of the Organization by experts and advisers.

**(f) Coordination and consultation**

**(1) In general**

In carrying out their functions under the Convention, Commissioners, Alternate Commissioners, Representatives, and Alternate Representatives shall—

(A) coordinate with the appropriate Regional Fishery Management Councils established by section 1852 of this title; and

(B) consult with the committee established under section 5607 of this title.

**(2) Relationship to other law**

The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to coordination and consultations under this subsection.

(Pub. L. 104-43, title II, §202, Nov. 3, 1995, 109 Stat. 377.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Federal Advisory Committee Act, referred to in subsec. (f)(2), is Pub. L. 92-463, Oct. 6, 1972, 86 Stat. 770, as amended, which is set out in the Appendix to Title 5, Government Organization and Employees.

SHORT TITLE

Pub. L. 104-43, title II, §201, Nov. 3, 1995, 109 Stat. 377, provided that: “This title [enacting this chapter] may be cited as the ‘Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Convention Act of 1995.’”

**§ 5602. Requests for scientific advice**

**(a) Restriction**

The Representatives may not make a request or specification described in subsection (b)(1) or (2) of this section, respectively, unless the Representatives have first—