

or existing under the laws of any State), and any Federal, State, local, or foreign government or any entity of any such government;

(c) “R.M.S. Titanic” means the shipwrecked vessel R.M.S. Titanic, her cargo or other contents, including those items which are scattered on the ocean floor in her vicinity; and

(d) “Secretary” means the Secretary of State.

(Pub. L. 99-513, § 3, Oct. 21, 1986, 100 Stat. 2082.)

§ 450rr-2. Commendation

The Congress of the United States highly commends the members of the joint international expedition which discovered the R.M.S. Titanic.

(Pub. L. 99-513, § 4, Oct. 21, 1986, 100 Stat. 2083.)

§ 450rr-3. International guidelines

(a) The Administrator is directed to enter into consultations with the United Kingdom, France, Canada, and other interested nations to develop international guidelines for research on, exploration of, and if appropriate, salvage of the R.M.S. Titanic, which—

(1) are consistent with its national and international scientific, cultural, and historical significance and the purposes of sections 450rr to 450rr-6 of this title; and

(2) promote the safety of individuals involved in such operations.

(b) In carrying out subsection (a) of this section, the Administrator shall consult with the Secretary and shall promote full participation by other interested Federal agencies, academic and research institutions, and members of the public.

(Pub. L. 99-513, § 5, Oct. 21, 1986, 100 Stat. 2083.)

§ 450rr-4. International agreement

(a) Negotiations

The Secretary is directed to enter into negotiations with the United Kingdom, France, Canada, and other interested nations to develop an international agreement which provides for—

(1) the designation of the R.M.S. Titanic as an international maritime memorial; and

(2) research on, exploration of, and if appropriate, salvage of the R.M.S. Titanic consistent with the international guidelines developed pursuant to section 450rr-3 of this title and the purposes of sections 450rr to 450rr-6 of this title.

(b) Consultation with Administrator

In carrying out the requirements of subsection (a) of this section, the Secretary shall consult with the Administrator, who shall provide research and technical assistance to the Secretary.

(c) Reports to Congressional committees on progress of negotiations and consultations

The Secretary and the Administrator shall report semiannually to the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries and the Committee on Foreign Affairs in the House of Representatives and to the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation in the Senate on the progress of the negotiations and consultations.

(d) Notification of agreement and recommendations to Congressional committees

Upon adoption of an international agreement as described in subsection (a) of this section, the Secretary shall provide notification of the agreement and recommendations for legislation to implement the agreement to the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries and the Committee on Foreign Affairs in the House of Representatives and to the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation in the Senate.

(Pub. L. 99-513, § 6, Oct. 21, 1986, 100 Stat. 2083.)

ABOLITION OF HOUSE COMMITTEE ON MERCHANT MARINE AND FISHERIES

Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries of House of Representatives abolished and its jurisdiction transferred by House Resolution No. 6, One Hundred Fourth Congress, Jan. 4, 1995. For treatment of references to Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries, see section 1(b)(3) of Pub. L. 104-14, set out as a note preceding section 21 of Title 2, The Congress.

§ 450rr-5. Sense of Congress regarding conduct of future activities

It is the sense of Congress that research and limited exploration activities concerning the R.M.S. Titanic should continue for the purpose of enhancing public knowledge of its scientific, cultural, and historical significance: *Provided*, That, pending adoption of the international agreement described in section 450rr-4(a) of this title or implementation of the international guidelines described in section 450rr-3 of this title, no person should conduct any such research or exploration activity which would physically alter, disturb, or salvage the R.M.S. Titanic.

(Pub. L. 99-513, § 7, Oct. 21, 1986, 100 Stat. 2084.)

§ 450rr-6. Disclaimer of extraterritorial sovereignty

By enactment of sections 450rr to 450rr-6 of this title, the United States does not assert sovereignty, or sovereign or exclusive rights or jurisdiction over, or the ownership of, any marine areas or the R.M.S. Titanic.

(Pub. L. 99-513, § 8, Oct. 21, 1986, 100 Stat. 2084.)

§ 450ss. Findings and purposes

Congress finds that—

(1) few events in the past quarter-century have rocked Americans' perception of themselves and their institutions, and brought together the people of our Nation with greater intensity than the April 19, 1995, bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in downtown Oklahoma City;

(2) the resulting deaths of 168 people, some of whom were children, immediately touched thousands of family members whose lives will forever bear scars of having those precious to them taken away so brutally;

(3) suffering with such families are countless survivors, including children, who struggle not only with the suffering around them, but their own physical and emotional injuries and with shaping a life beyond April 19;