

under subsection (c) of this section, of the gains and losses of coastal wetlands as a result of development activities.

(2) Report to Congress

Twenty-four months after the initial one hundred and eighty day period set forth in paragraph (1), and at the end of each twenty-four-month period thereafter, the Secretary, the Director, and the Administrator shall, report to the Congress on the status of the conservation plan and provide an evaluation of the effectiveness of the plan in meeting the goal of this section.

(Pub. L. 101-646, title III, §304, Nov. 29, 1990, 104 Stat. 4783.)

§ 3954. National coastal wetlands conservation grants

(a) Matching grants

The Director shall, with the funds made available in accordance with section 3955 of this title, make matching grants to any coastal State to carry out coastal wetlands conservation projects from funds made available for that purpose.

(b) Priority

Subject to the cost-sharing requirements of this section, the Director may grant or otherwise provide any matching moneys to any coastal State which submits a proposal substantial in character and design to carry out a coastal wetlands conservation project. In awarding such matching grants, the Director shall give priority to coastal wetlands conservation projects that are—

(1) consistent with the National Wetlands Priority Conservation Plan developed under section 3921 of this title; and

(2) in coastal States that have established dedicated funding for programs to acquire coastal wetlands, natural areas and open spaces. In addition, priority consideration shall be given to coastal wetlands conservation projects in maritime forests on coastal barrier islands.

(c) Conditions

The Director may only grant or otherwise provide matching moneys to a coastal State for purposes of carrying out a coastal wetlands conservation project if the grant or provision is subject to terms and conditions that will ensure that any real property interest acquired in whole or in part, or enhanced, managed, or restored with such moneys will be administered for the long-term conservation of such lands and waters and the fish and wildlife dependent thereon.

(d) Cost-sharing

(1) Federal share

Grants to coastal States of matching moneys by the Director for any fiscal year to carry out coastal wetlands conservation projects shall be used for the payment of not to exceed 50 percent of the total costs of such projects: except that such matching moneys may be used for payment of not to exceed 75 percent of the costs of such projects if a coastal State has established and is using one of the follow-

ing for the purpose of acquiring coastal wetlands, other natural areas or open spaces:

(A) a trust fund from which the principal is not spent; or

(B) a fund derived from a dedicated recurring source of monies including, but not limited to, real estate transfer fees or taxes, cigarette taxes, tax check-offs, or motor vehicle license plate fees.

(2) Form of State share

The matching moneys required of a coastal State to carry out a coastal wetlands conservation project shall be derived from a non-Federal source.

(3) In-kind contributions

In addition to cash outlays and payments, in-kind contributions of property or personnel services by non-Federal interests for activities under this section may be used for the non-Federal share of the cost of those activities.

(e) Partial payments

(1) The Director may from time to time make matching payments to carry out coastal wetlands conservation projects as such projects progress, but such payments, including previous payments, if any, shall not be more than the Federal pro rata share of any such project in conformity with subsection (d) of this section.

(2) The Director may enter into agreements to make matching payments on an initial portion of a coastal wetlands conservation project and to agree to make payments on the remaining Federal share of the costs of such project from subsequent moneys if and when they become available. The liability of the United States under such an agreement is contingent upon the continued availability of funds for the purpose of this section.

(f) Wetlands assessment

The Director shall, with the funds made available in accordance with section 3955 of this title, direct the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's National Wetland Inventory to update and digitize wetlands maps in the State of Texas and to conduct an assessment of the status, condition, and trends of wetlands in that State.

(Pub. L. 101-646, title III, §305, Nov. 29, 1990, 104 Stat. 4785; Pub. L. 102-212, title III, §302(a), Dec. 11, 1991, 105 Stat. 1660.)

AMENDMENTS

1991—Subsec. (d)(1). Pub. L. 102-212 substituted “has established and is using one of the following for the purpose of acquiring coastal wetlands, other natural areas or open spaces:

“(A) a trust fund from which the principal is not spent; or

“(B) a fund derived from a dedicated recurring source of monies including, but not limited to, real estate transfer fees or taxes, cigarette taxes, tax check-offs, or motor vehicle license plate fees” for “has established a trust fund, from which the principal is not spent, for the purpose of acquiring coastal wetlands, other natural area or open spaces”.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1991 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 102-212, title III, §302(b), Dec. 11, 1991, 105 Stat. 1661, provided that: “This section [amending this section] shall apply to grants awarded in fiscal year 1992 and each fiscal year thereafter.”

§ 3955. Distribution of appropriations**(a) Priority project and conservation planning expenditures**

Of the total amount appropriated during a given fiscal year to carry out this chapter, 70 percent shall be available, and shall remain available until expended, for the purposes of making expenditures—

(1) not to exceed the aggregate amount of \$5,000,000 annually to assist the Task Force in the preparation of the list required under this chapter and the plan required under this chapter, including preparation of—

- (A) preliminary assessments;
- (B) general or site-specific inventories;
- (C) reconnaissance, engineering or other studies;
- (D) preliminary design work; and
- (E) such other studies as may be necessary

to identify and evaluate the feasibility of coastal wetland restoration projects;

(2) to carry out coastal wetlands restoration projects in accordance with the priorities set forth on the list prepared under this chapter;

(3) to carry out wetlands restoration projects in accordance with the priorities set forth in the restoration plan prepared under this chapter;

(4) to make grants not to exceed \$2,500,000 annually or \$10,000,000 in total, to assist the agency designated by the State in development of the Coastal Wetlands Conservation Plan pursuant to this chapter.

(b) Coastal wetlands conservation grants

Of the total amount appropriated during a given fiscal year to carry out this chapter, 15 percent shall be available, and shall remain available to the Director, for purposes of making grants—

(1) to any coastal State, except States eligible to receive funding under subsection (a) of this section, to carry out coastal wetlands conservation projects in accordance with section 3954 of this title; and

(2) in the amount of \$2,500,000 in total for an assessment of the status, condition, and trends of wetlands in the State of Texas.

(c) North American wetlands conservation

Of the total amount appropriated during a given fiscal year to carry out this chapter, 15 percent shall be available to, and shall remain available until expended by, the Secretary of the Interior for allocation to carry out wetlands conservation projects in coastal wetlands ecosystems in any coastal State under section 4407 of this title.

(Pub. L. 101-646, title III, §306, Nov. 29, 1990, 104 Stat. 4786; Pub. L. 103-375, §5, Oct. 19, 1994, 108 Stat. 3495; Pub. L. 108-447, div. C, title I, §114(a), Dec. 8, 2004, 118 Stat. 2944.)

AMENDMENTS

2004—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 108-447, §114(a)(1), struck out “, not to exceed \$70,000,000,” before “shall be available” in introductory provisions.

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 108-447, §114(a)(2), struck out “, not to exceed \$15,000,000” before “shall be available” in introductory provisions.

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 108-447, §114(a)(3), struck out “, not to exceed \$15,000,000,” before “shall be available”.

1994—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 103-375 inserted “in coastal wetlands ecosystems” after “wetlands conservation projects”.

§ 3956. General provisions**(a) Additional authority for Corps of Engineers**

The Secretary is authorized to carry out projects for the protection, restoration, or enhancement of aquatic and associated ecosystems, including projects for the protection, restoration, or creation of wetlands and coastal ecosystems. In carrying out such projects, the Secretary shall give such projects equal consideration with projects relating to irrigation, navigation, or flood control.

(b) Study

The Secretary is hereby authorized and directed to study the feasibility of modifying the operation of existing navigation and flood control projects to allow for an increase in the share of the Mississippi River flows and sediment sent down the Atchafalaya River for purposes of land building and wetlands nourishment.

(Pub. L. 101-646, title III, §307, Nov. 29, 1990, 104 Stat. 4787.)

CHAPTER 60—FISH AND SEAFOOD PROMOTION

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§ 4001. Congressional findings

The Congress finds that—

(1) the commercial fishing industry of the United States significantly contributes to the national economy, and could make a greater contribution if fish resources within the United States Exclusive Economic Zone were more fully utilized;

(2) the commercial fisheries of the United States provide significant employment in coastal areas and in processing and distribution centers;

(3) fish contribute an important nutritional component to the American diet;

(4) increased consumption of seafood in the United States could significantly lower the risk of many cardiovascular diseases;

(5) Federally supported development programs for commercial fisheries are unable to meet present and future marketing needs;

(6) many fish species are underutilized by the United States fishing industry because of underdeveloped markets; and