

for operation and maintenance activities at existing levee projects in compliance with all applicable laws; and

(D) any recommendations for legislation and other congressional actions necessary to ensure national levee safety.

(2) Inclusion

Each report under paragraph (1) shall include a report of the committee that describes the independent recommendations of the committee for the implementation of the levee safety initiative.

(b) National dam and levee safety program

Not later than 3 years after June 10, 2014, to the maximum extent practicable, the Secretary and the Administrator, in coordination with the committee, shall submit to Congress and make publicly available a report that includes recommendations regarding the advisability and feasibility of, and potential approaches for, establishing a joint national dam and levee safety program.

(c) Alignment of Federal programs relating to levees

Not later than 2 years after June 10, 2014, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress a report on opportunities for alignment of Federal programs to provide incentives to State, tribal, and local governments and individuals and entities—

(1) to promote shared responsibility for levee safety;

(2) to encourage the development of strong State and tribal levee safety programs;

(3) to better align the levee safety initiative with other Federal flood risk management programs; and

(4) to promote increased levee safety through other Federal programs providing assistance to State and local governments.

(d) Liability for certain levee engineering projects

Not later than 1 year after June 10, 2014, the Secretary shall submit to Congress and make publicly available a report that includes recommendations that identify and address any legal liability associated with levee engineering projects that prevent—

(1) levee owners from obtaining needed levee engineering services; or

(2) development and implementation of a State or tribal levee safety program.

(Pub. L. 110–114, title IX, §9006, as added Pub. L. 113–121, title III, §3016(e)(2), June 10, 2014, 128 Stat. 1299.)

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 9006 of Pub. L. 110–114 was renumbered section 9008, and is classified to section 3305 of this title.

“SECRETARY” DEFINED

Secretary means the Secretary of the Army, see section 2 of Pub. L. 110–114, set out as a note under section 2201 of this title.

§ 3304. Limitations on statutory construction

Nothing in this chapter shall be construed as—

(1) creating any liability of the United States or its officers or employees for the recovery of damages caused by an action or failure to act; or

(2) relieving an owner or operator of a levee of a legal duty, obligation, or liability incident to the ownership or operation of a levee.

(Pub. L. 110–114, title IX, §9007, formerly §9005, Nov. 8, 2007, 121 Stat. 1290; renumbered §9007, Pub. L. 113–121, title III, §3016(e)(1), June 10, 2014, 128 Stat. 1293.)

§ 3305. Authorization of appropriations

There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary—

(1) to carry out sections 3302, 3303a(c), 3303a(d), 3303a(e), and 3303a(f) of this title, \$4,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2015 through 2019;

(2) to carry out section 3303 of this title, \$20,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2015 through 2019; and

(3) to carry out section 3303a(h) of this title, \$30,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2015 through 2019.

(Pub. L. 110–114, title IX, §9008, formerly §9006, Nov. 8, 2007, 121 Stat. 1291; renumbered §9008 and amended Pub. L. 113–121, title III, §3016(e)(1), (f), June 10, 2014, 128 Stat. 1293, 1300.)

AMENDMENTS

2014—Pub. L. 113–121, §3016(f)(2), substituted “Secretary—” for “Secretary to carry out this chapter \$20,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2013.” and added pars. (1) to (3).

Pub. L. 113–121, §3016(f)(1), which directed the substitution of “is” for “are”, could not be executed because “are” does not appear in text.

“SECRETARY” DEFINED

Secretary means the Secretary of the Army, see section 2 of Pub. L. 110–114, set out as a note under section 2201 of this title.

CHAPTER 47—OCEAN EXPLORATION

SUBCHAPTER I—EXPLORATION

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SUBCHAPTER I—EXPLORATION

§ 3401. Purpose

The purpose of this subchapter is to establish the national ocean exploration program and the national undersea research program within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

(Pub. L. 111–11, title XII, §12001, Mar. 30, 2009, 123 Stat. 1417.)

SHORT TITLE

Pub. L. 111–11, title XII, §12101, Mar. 30, 2009, 123 Stat. 1419, provided that: “This part [part II (§§12101–12107) of subtitle A of title XII of Pub. L. 111–11, enacting subchapter II of this chapter] may be cited as the ‘NOAA Undersea Research Program Act of 2009’.”

§ 3402. Program established

The Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shall, in consultation with the National Science Foundation and other appropriate Federal agencies, establish a coordinated national ocean exploration program within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration that promotes collaboration with other Federal ocean and undersea research and exploration programs. To the extent appropriate, the Administrator shall seek to facilitate coordination of data and information management systems, outreach and education programs to improve public understanding of ocean and coastal resources, and development and transfer of technologies to facilitate ocean and undersea research and exploration.

(Pub. L. 111–11, title XII, §12002, Mar. 30, 2009, 123 Stat. 1417.)

§ 3403. Powers and duties of the Administrator

(a) In general

In carrying out the program authorized by section 3402 of this title, the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shall—

(1) conduct interdisciplinary voyages or other scientific activities in conjunction with other Federal agencies or academic or educational institutions, to explore and survey little known areas of the marine environment, inventory, observe, and assess living and non-living marine resources, and report such findings;

(2) give priority attention to deep ocean regions, with a focus on deep water marine systems that hold potential for important scientific discoveries, such as hydrothermal vent communities and seamounts;

(3) conduct scientific voyages to locate, define, and document historic shipwrecks, submerged sites, and other ocean exploration activities that combine archaeology and oceanographic sciences;

(4) develop and implement, in consultation with the National Science Foundation, a transparent, competitive process for merit-based peer-review and approval of proposals for activities to be conducted under this program, taking into consideration advice of the Board established under section 3405 of this title;

(5) enhance the technical capability of the United States marine science community by promoting the development of improved oceanographic research, communication, navigation, and data collection systems, as well as underwater platforms and sensor and autonomous vehicles; and

(6) establish an ocean exploration forum to encourage partnerships and promote commu-

nication among experts and other stakeholders in order to enhance the scientific and technical expertise and relevance of the national program.

(b) Donations

The Administrator may accept donations of property, data, and equipment to be applied for the purpose of exploring the oceans or increasing knowledge of the oceans.

(Pub. L. 111–11, title XII, §12003, Mar. 30, 2009, 123 Stat. 1417.)

§ 3404. Ocean exploration and undersea research technology and infrastructure task force

(a) In general

The Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, in coordination with the National Science Foundation, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the United States Geological Survey, the Department of the Navy, the Mineral Management Service, and relevant governmental, non-governmental, academic, industry, and other experts, shall convene an ocean exploration and undersea research technology and infrastructure task force to develop and implement a strategy—

(1) to facilitate transfer of new exploration and undersea research technology to the programs authorized under this subchapter and subchapter II of this chapter;

(2) to improve availability of communications infrastructure, including satellite capabilities, to such programs;

(3) to develop an integrated, workable, and comprehensive data management information processing system that will make information on unique and significant features obtained by such programs available for research and management purposes;

(4) to conduct public outreach activities that improve the public understanding of ocean science, resources, and processes, in conjunction with relevant programs of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the National Science Foundation, and other agencies; and

(5) to encourage cost-sharing partnerships with governmental and nongovernmental entities that will assist in transferring exploration and undersea research technology and technical expertise to the programs.

(b) Budget coordination

The task force shall coordinate the development of agency budgets and identify the items in their annual budget that support the activities identified in the strategy developed under subsection (a).

(Pub. L. 111–11, title XII, §12004, Mar. 30, 2009, 123 Stat. 1418.)

§ 3405. Ocean Exploration Advisory Board

(a) Establishment

The Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shall appoint an Ocean Exploration Advisory Board composed of experts in relevant fields—