

**§ 1220b. Obsolete ships available; number; equitable administration**

A State may apply for more than one obsolete ship under this chapter. The Secretary shall, however, taking into account the number of obsolete ships which may be or become available for transfer under this chapter, administer this chapter in an equitable manner with respect to the various States.

(Pub. L. 92-402, § 5, Aug. 22, 1972, 86 Stat. 618; Pub. L. 98-623, title II, § 207(1), Nov. 8, 1984, 98 Stat. 3397.)

AMENDMENTS

1984—Pub. L. 98-623 substituted “obsolete ships” for “Liberty ships” wherever appearing.

**§ 1220c. Denial of applications; finality of decision**

A decision by the Secretary denying any application for a<sup>1</sup> obsolete ship under this chapter is final.

(Pub. L. 92-402, § 6, Aug. 22, 1972, 86 Stat. 618; Pub. L. 98-623, title II, § 207(1), Nov. 8, 1984, 98 Stat. 3397.)

AMENDMENTS

1984—Pub. L. 98-623 substituted “obsolete ship” for “Liberty ship”.

**§ 1220c-1. Financial assistance to State to prepare transferred ship**

**(a) Assistance authorized**

The Secretary, subject to the availability of appropriations, may provide, to any State to which an obsolete ship is transferred under this chapter, financial assistance to prepare the ship for use as an artificial reef, including for—

- (1) environmental remediation;
- (2) towing; and
- (3) sinking.

**(b) Amount of assistance**

The Secretary shall determine the amount of assistance under this section with respect to an obsolete ship based on—

- (1) the total amount available for providing assistance under this section;
- (2) the benefit achieved by providing assistance for that ship; and
- (3) the cost effectiveness of disposing of the ship by transfer under this chapter and provision of assistance under this section, compared to other disposal options for that ship.

**(c) Terms and conditions**

The Secretary—

- (1) shall require a State seeking assistance under this section to provide cost data and other information determined by the Secretary to be necessary to justify and document the assistance; and
- (2) may require a State receiving such assistance to comply with terms and conditions necessary to protect the environment and the interests of the United States.

**(d) Limitation**

The Secretary may not provide assistance under this section to a foreign country to which

an obsolete ship is transferred under this chapter.

(Pub. L. 92-402, § 7, as added Pub. L. 107-314, div. C, title XXXV, § 3504(a)(1)(B), Dec. 2, 2002, 116 Stat. 2754; amended Pub. L. 111-84, div. C, title XXXV, § 3513(b), Oct. 28, 2009, 123 Stat. 2724.)

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 7 of Pub. L. 92-402 was renumbered section 8 and is classified to section 1220d of this title.

AMENDMENTS

2009—Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 111-84 added subsec. (d).

**§ 1220d. “Obsolete ship” defined**

For purposes of sections 1220, 1220a, 1220b, and 1220c of this title, the term “obsolete ship” means any vessel owned by the Department of Transportation that has been determined to be of insufficient value for commercial or national defense purposes to warrant its maintenance and preservation in the national defense reserve fleet and has been designated as an artificial reef candidate.

(Pub. L. 92-402, § 8, formerly § 7, as added Pub. L. 98-623, title II, § 207(4), Nov. 8, 1984, 98 Stat. 3397; renumbered § 8, Pub. L. 107-314, div. C, title XXXV, § 3504(a)(1)(A), Dec. 2, 2002, 116 Stat. 2754.)

**CHAPTER 26—ESTUARINE AREAS**

Sec.	
1221.	Congressional declaration of policy.
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1223.	Agreements with States and subdivisions; equitable sharing of costs; development improvements; availability of appropriations; State hunting and fishing laws applicable.
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1226.	Federal agency authority to carry out Federal project within an estuary unaffected.

**§ 1221. Congressional declaration of policy**

Congress finds and declares that many estuaries in the United States are rich in a variety of natural, commercial, and other resources, including environmental natural beauty, and are of immediate and potential value to the present and future generations of Americans. It is therefore the purpose of this chapter to provide a means for considering the need to protect, conserve, and restore these estuaries in a manner that adequately and reasonably maintains a balance between the national need for such protection in the interest of conserving the natural resources and natural beauty of the Nation and the need to develop these estuaries to further the growth and development of the Nation. In connection with the exercise of jurisdiction over the estuaries of the Nation and in consequence of the benefits resulting to the public, it is declared to be the policy of Congress to recognize, preserve, and protect the responsibilities of the

<sup>1</sup> So in original. Probably should be “an”.

States in protecting, conserving, and restoring the estuaries in the United States.

(Pub. L. 90-454, §1, Aug. 3, 1968, 82 Stat. 625.)

**§ 1222. General study and inventory of estuaries and their natural resources**

**(a) Estuaries included; considerations; other applicable studies**

The Secretary of the Interior, in consultation and in cooperation with the States, the Secretary of the Army, and other Federal agencies, shall conduct directly or by contract a study and inventory of the Nation's estuaries, including without limitation coastal marshlands, bays, sounds, seaward areas, lagoons, and land and waters of the Great Lakes. For the purpose of this study, the Secretary shall consider, among other matters, (1) their wildlife and recreational potential, their ecology, their value to the marine, anadromous, and shell fisheries and their esthetic value, (2) their importance to navigation, their value for flood, hurricane, and erosion control, their mineral value, and the value of submerged lands underlying the waters of the estuaries, and (3) the value of such areas for more intensive development for economic use as part of urban developments and for commercial and industrial developments. This study and inventory shall be carried out in conjunction with the comprehensive estuarine pollution study authorized by section 5(g) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, as amended [33 U.S.C. 1254(n)], and other applicable studies.

**(b) Federal or State land acquisition or administration; other protective methods**

The study shall focus attention on whether any land or water area within an estuary and the Great Lakes should be acquired or administered by the Secretary or by a State or local subdivision thereof, or whether such land or water area may be protected adequately through local, State, or Federal laws or other methods without Federal land acquisition or administration.

**(c) Report to Congress; recommendations; authorization for acquisition of lands; consultation with States and Federal agencies; accompanying statement of views, probable effects, and major trends**

The Secretary of the Interior shall, not later than January 30, 1970, submit to the Congress through the President a report of the study conducted pursuant to this section, together with any legislative recommendations, including recommendations on the feasibility and desirability of establishing a nationwide system of estuarine areas, the terms, conditions, and authorities to govern such system, and the designation and acquisition of any specific estuarine areas of national significance which he believes should be acquired by the United States. No lands within such area may be acquired until authorized by subsequent Act of Congress. Recommendations made by the Secretary for the acquisition of any estuarine area shall be developed in consultation with the States, municipalities, and other interested Federal agencies. Each such recommendation shall be accompanied by (1) expressions of any views which the interested

States, municipalities, and other Federal agencies and river basin commissions may submit within sixty days after having been notified of the proposed recommendations, (2) a statement setting forth the probable effect of the recommended action on any comprehensive river basin plan that may have been adopted by Congress or that is serving as a guide for coordinating Federal programs in the basin wherein such area is located, (3) in the absence of such a plan, a statement indicating the probable effect of the recommended action on alternative beneficial users of the resources of the proposed estuarine area, and (4) a discussion of the major economic, social, and ecological trends occurring in such area.

**(d) Authorization of appropriations**

There is authorized to be appropriated not to exceed \$250,000 for fiscal year 1969 and \$250,000 for fiscal year 1970 to carry out the provisions of this section. Such sums shall be available until expended.

(Pub. L. 90-454, §2, Aug. 3, 1968, 82 Stat. 626.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Section 5(g) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, as amended, referred to in text, was originally classified to section 466c(g) of Title 33, Navigation and Navigable Waters. Section 5(g) of the Act was redesignated as section 5(m) by sec. 105(j) of Pub. L. 91-224, Apr. 3, 1970, 84 Stat. 111, and was reclassified to section 1155(m) of Title 33. The Federal Water Pollution Control Act was amended generally by sec. 2 of Pub. L. 92-500, Oct. 18, 1972, 86 Stat. 816, and the provisions relating to comprehensive estuarine pollution study are contained in section 104(n), which is classified to section 1254(n) of Title 33.

**§ 1223. Agreements with States and subdivisions; equitable sharing of costs; development improvements; availability of appropriations; State hunting and fishing laws applicable**

After the completion of the general study authorized by section 1222 of this title, the Secretary of the Interior, with the approval of the President, may enter into an agreement, containing such terms and conditions as are mutually acceptable, with any State or with a political subdivision or agency thereof (if the agreement with such subdivision or agency is first approved by the Governor of the State involved or by a State agency designated for that purpose) for the permanent management, development, and administration of any area, land, or interests therein within an estuary and adjacent lands which are owned or thereafter acquired by a State or by any political subdivision thereof: *Provided*, That, with the approval of the Governor of the State involved or of a State agency designated for that purpose, the Secretary may also enter into such an agreement for any particular area whenever the segment of the general study applicable to that area is completed subject to the provisions of subsections (a) and (b) of section 1222 of this title. Such agreement shall, among other things, provide that the State or a political subdivision or agency thereof and the Secretary shall share in an equitable manner in the cost of managing, administering, and developing such areas, and such development may include the construction, operation,