

100-220, title II, Dec. 29, 1987, 101 Stat. 1460. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title of 1987 Amendment note set out under section 1901 of this title and Tables.

The Act to Prevent Pollution from Ships, referred to in subsec. (d)(2), is Pub. L. 96-478, Oct. 21, 1980, 94 Stat. 2297, which is classified principally to chapter 33 (§1901 et seq.) of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 1901 of this title and Tables.

#### CODIFICATION

Former section 1954(c)(2) of this title, which was transferred and redesignated as subsec. (e) of this section by Pub. L. 112-213, title VI, §606(b)(1), Dec. 20, 2012, 126 Stat. 1578, was based on Pub. L. 109-449, §5(c)(2), Dec. 22, 2006, 120 Stat. 3338.

Section was formerly section 2203 of Pub. L. 100-220 and was classified to section 1914 of this title.

#### PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 5 of Pub. L. 109-449, Dec. 22, 2006, 120 Stat. 3337, which related to interagency coordination to address problems of marine debris, was classified to this section prior to repeal by Pub. L. 112-213, title VI, §606(a)(1), Dec. 20, 2012, 126 Stat. 1578. Subsec. (a) of such prior section 5 of Pub. L. 109-449 amended section 2203 of Pub. L. 100-220, which was renumbered as a new section 5 of Pub. L. 109-449 by Pub. L. 112-213 and was transferred to this section.

#### AMENDMENTS

2012—Subsec. (d)(2). Pub. L. 112-213, §606(a)(2), substituted “the Marine Plastic Pollution Research and Control Act of 1987” for “this Act” and inserted “of the Marine Plastic Pollution Research and Control Act of 1987” after “section 2201”.

Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 112-213, §606(b)(2), in heading, substituted “Biennial progress reports” for “Annual progress reports” and in text, substituted “Biennially” for “Not later than 3 years after December 22, 2006, and biennially thereafter” and “Chairperson” for “chairperson”, inserted “Natural” before “Resources”, and struck out “Interagency” before “Committee, through” and before “Committee and”, redesignated subpars. (A) to (E) as pars. (1) to (5), respectively, and realigned margins.

Pub. L. 112-213, §606(b)(1), transferred subsec. (c)(2) of former section 1954 of this title and redesignated it as subsec. (e) of this section. See Codification note above.

2006—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 109-449, §5(a)(1), added subsec. (a) and struck out former subsec. (a). Text read as follows: “The Secretary of Commerce shall establish a Marine Debris Coordinating Committee.”

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 109-449, §5(a)(2), inserted “public, interagency” before “forum”.

1996—Pub. L. 104-324 amended section generally. Prior to amendment, section read as follows: “Not later than September 30, 1988, the Secretary of Commerce shall submit to the Congress a report on the effects of plastic materials on the marine environment. The report shall—

“(1) identify and quantify the harmful effects of plastic materials on the marine environment;

“(2) assess the specific effects of plastic materials on living marine resources in the marine environment;

“(3) identify the types and classes of plastic materials that pose the greatest potential hazard to living marine resources;

“(4) analyze, in consultation with the Director of the National Bureau of Standards, plastic materials which are claimed to be capable of reduction to environmentally benign submits under the action of normal environmental forces (including biological decomposition, photodegradation, and hydrolysis); and

“(5) recommend legislation which is necessary to prohibit, tax, or regulate sources of plastic materials that enter the marine environment.”

#### TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

For transfer of authorities, functions, personnel, and assets of the Coast Guard, including the authorities and functions of the Secretary of Transportation relating thereto, to the Department of Homeland Security, and for treatment of related references, see sections 468(b), 551(d), 552(d), and 557 of Title 6, Domestic Security, and the Department of Homeland Security Reorganization Plan of November 25, 2002, as modified, set out as a note under section 542 of Title 6.

### § 1955. Federal information clearinghouse

The Administrator, in coordination with the Interagency Committee, shall—

(1) maintain a Federal information clearinghouse on marine debris that will be available to researchers and other interested persons to improve marine debris source identification, data sharing, and monitoring efforts through collaborative research and open sharing of data; and

(2) take the necessary steps to ensure the confidentiality of such information (especially proprietary information), for any information required by the Administrator to be submitted under this section.

(Pub. L. 109-449, §6, Dec. 22, 2006, 120 Stat. 3338; Pub. L. 112-213, title VI, §607, Dec. 20, 2012, 126 Stat. 1578.)

#### AMENDMENTS

2012—Par. (2). Pub. L. 112-213 struck out “by the fishing industry” after “to be submitted”.

### § 1956. Definitions

In this chapter:

#### (1) Administrator

The term “Administrator” means the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

#### (2) Interagency Committee

The term “Interagency Committee” means the Interagency Marine Debris Coordinating Committee established under section 1954 of this title.

#### (3) Marine debris

The term “marine debris” means any persistent solid material that is manufactured or processed and directly or indirectly, intentionally or unintentionally, disposed of or abandoned into the marine environment or the Great Lakes.

#### (4) MARPOL; Annex V; Convention

The terms “MARPOL”, “Annex V”, and “Convention” have the meaning given those terms under section 1901(a) of this title.

#### (5) Program

The term “Program” means the Marine Debris Program established under section 1952 of this title.

#### (6) Severe marine debris event

The term “severe marine debris event” means atypically large amounts of marine debris caused by a natural disaster, including a tsunami, flood, landslide, or hurricane, or other source.

#### (7) State

The term “State” means—