

(4) the R.M.S. Titanic represents a special opportunity for deep ocean scientific research and exploration.

**(b) Purposes**

The Congress declares that the purposes of sections 450rr to 450rr-6 of this title are—

(1) to encourage international efforts to designate the R.M.S. Titanic as an international maritime memorial to those who lost their lives aboard her in 1912;

(2) to direct the United States to enter into negotiations with other interested nations to establish an international agreement which will provide for the designation of the R.M.S. Titanic as an international maritime memorial, and protect the scientific, cultural, and historical significance of the R.M.S. Titanic;

(3) to encourage, in those negotiations or in other fora, the development and implementation of international guidelines for conducting research on, exploration of, and if appropriate, salvage of the R.M.S. Titanic; and

(4) to express the sense of the United States Congress that, pending such international agreement or guidelines, no person should physically alter, disturb, or salvage the R.M.S. Titanic in any research or exploratory activities which are conducted.

(Pub. L. 99-513, § 2, Oct. 21, 1986, 100 Stat. 2082.)

SHORT TITLE

Pub. L. 99-513, § 1, Oct. 21, 1986, 100 Stat. 2082, provided that: "This Act [enacting this section and sections 450rr-1 to 450rr-6 of this title] may be cited as the 'R.M.S. Titanic Maritime Memorial Act of 1986'."

**§ 450rr-1. Definitions**

For the purposes of sections 450rr to 450rr-6 of this title, the term—

(a) "Administrator" means the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA);

(b) "person" means any individual (whether or not a citizen or national of the United States), any corporation, partnership, association, or other entity (whether or not organized 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, explo-

ration 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), 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), 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), 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.