

**CHAPTER 75—HIGH SEAS FISHING  
COMPLIANCE**

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**§ 5501. Purpose**

It is the purpose of this chapter—

- (1) to implement the Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas, adopted by the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on November 24, 1993; and
- (2) to establish a system of permitting, reporting, and regulation for vessels of the United States fishing on the high seas.

(Pub. L. 104-43, title I, § 102, Nov. 3, 1995, 109 Stat. 367.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

This chapter, referred to in text, was in the original “this Act”, and was translated as reading “this title”, meaning title I of Pub. L. 104-43, to reflect the probable intent of Congress.

EFFECTIVE DATE

Pub. L. 104-43, title I, § 111, Nov. 3, 1995, 109 Stat. 376, provided that: “This title [enacting this chapter] shall take effect 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act [Nov. 3, 1995].”

SHORT TITLE

Pub. L. 104-43, § 1, Nov. 3, 1995, 109 Stat. 366, provided that: “This Act [enacting this chapter, chapters 76 (§ 5601 et seq.) and 77 (§ 5701 et seq.) of this title, sections 971j, 971k, and 1826d to 1826g of this title, and sections 1980a and 1980b of Title 22, Foreign Relations and Intercourse, amending sections 971, 971b, 971c to 971e, 971h, 971i, 973g, 1383a, and 5002 of this title and section 1977 of Title 22, enacting provisions set out as notes under this section, sections 971, 971c, 1383a, 1801, 1821, 1823, 1826d, 5601, and 5701 of this title, and section 1980a of Title 22, and amending provisions set out as a note under section 1823 of this title] may be cited as the ‘Fisheries Act of 1995.’”

Pub. L. 104-43, title I, § 101, Nov. 3, 1995, 109 Stat. 367, provided that: “This title [enacting this chapter] may be cited as the ‘High Seas Fishing Compliance Act of 1995.’”

**§ 5502. Definitions**

As used in this chapter—

(1) The term “Agreement” means the Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas, adopted by the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on November 24, 1993.

(2) The term “FAO” means the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

(3) The term “high seas” means the waters beyond the territorial sea or exclusive economic zone (or the equivalent) of any nation, to the extent that such territorial sea or ex-

clusive economic zone (or the equivalent) is recognized by the United States.

(4) The term “high seas fishing vessel” means any vessel of the United States or subject to the jurisdiction of the United States used or intended for use—

(A) on the high seas;

(B) for the purpose of the commercial exploitation of living marine resources; and

(C) as a harvesting vessel, as a mother ship, or as any other support vessel directly engaged in a fishing operation.

(5) The term “international conservation and management measures” means measures to conserve or manage one or more species of living marine resources that are adopted and applied in accordance with the relevant rules of international law, as reflected in the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, and that are recognized by the United States. Such measures may be adopted by global, regional, or sub-regional fisheries organizations, subject to the rights and obligations of their members, or by treaties or other international agreements.

(6) The term “length” means—

(A) for any high seas fishing vessel built after July 18, 1982, 96 percent of the total length on a waterline at 85 percent of the least molded depth measured from the top of the keel, or the length from the fore side of the stem to the axis of the rudder stock on that waterline, if that is greater, except that in ships designed with a rake of keel the waterline on which this length is measured shall be parallel to the designed waterline; and

(B) for any high seas fishing vessel built before July 18, 1982, registered length as entered on the vessel’s documentation.

(7) The term “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.

(8) The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Commerce.

(9) The term “vessel of the United States” means—

(A) a vessel documented under chapter 121 of title 46 or numbered in accordance with chapter 123 of title 46;

(B) a vessel owned in whole or part by—

(i) the United States or a territory, commonwealth, or possession of the United States;

(ii) a State or political subdivision thereof;

(iii) a citizen or national of the United States; or

(iv) a corporation created under the laws of the United States or any State, the District of Columbia, or any territory, commonwealth, or possession of the United States; unless the vessel has been granted the nationality of a foreign nation in accordance with article 92 of the 1982 United