

**§ 1914. Transferred**

Section, Pub. L. 100-220, title II, § 2203, Dec. 29, 1987, 101 Stat. 1466; Pub. L. 104-324, title VIII, § 802(b), Oct. 19, 1996, 110 Stat. 3944; Pub. L. 109-449, § 5(a), Dec. 22, 2006, 120 Stat. 3337, was redesignated section 5 of Pub. L. 109-449 and transferred to section 1954 of this title.

**§ 1915. Repealed. Pub. L. 112-213, title VI, § 604(d), Dec. 20, 2012, 126 Stat. 1577**

Section, Pub. L. 100-220, title II, § 2204, Dec. 29, 1987, 101 Stat. 1466; Pub. L. 104-324, title VIII, § 802(c), Oct. 19, 1996, 110 Stat. 3945, related to creation of a plastic pollution public education program.

**CHAPTER 33A—MARINE DEBRIS RESEARCH, PREVENTION, AND REDUCTION**

Sec.	Purpose.
1951.	NOAA Marine Debris Program.
1952.	Coast Guard program.
1953.	Coordination.
1954.	Federal information clearinghouse.
1955.	Definitions.
1956.	Relationship to Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act.
1957.	Authorization of appropriations.

**§ 1951. Purpose**

The purpose of this chapter is to address the adverse impacts of marine debris on the United States economy, the marine environment, and navigation safety through the identification, determination of sources, assessment, prevention, reduction, and removal of marine debris.

(Pub. L. 109-449, § 2, Dec. 22, 2006, 120 Stat. 3333; Pub. L. 112-213, title VI, § 603, Dec. 20, 2012, 126 Stat. 1576.)

**AMENDMENTS**

2012—Pub. L. 112-213 amended section generally. Prior to amendment, text read as follows: “The purposes of this chapter are—

“(1) to help identify, determine sources of, assess, reduce, and prevent marine debris and its adverse impacts on the marine environment and navigation safety;

“(2) to reactivate the Interagency Marine Debris Coordinating Committee; and

“(3) to develop a Federal marine debris information clearinghouse.”

**SHORT TITLE OF 2012 AMENDMENT**

Pub. L. 112-213, title VI, § 601, Dec. 20, 2012, 126 Stat. 1576, provided that: “This title [amending this section and sections 1952 to 1956 of this title, transferring section 1914 of this title to section 1954 of this title, repealing sections 1915 and 1954 of this title, and amending provisions set out as a note under this section] may be cited as the ‘Marine Debris Act Amendments of 2012.’”

**SHORT TITLE**

Pub. L. 109-449, § 1, Dec. 22, 2006, 120 Stat. 3333, as amended by Pub. L. 112-213, title VI, § 602(a), Dec. 20, 2012, 126 Stat. 1576, provided that: “This Act [enacting and amending this chapter] may be cited as the ‘Marine Debris Act.’”

**§ 1952. NOAA Marine Debris Program****(a) Establishment of Program**

There is established, within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, a Marine Debris Program to identify, determine sources of, assess, prevent, reduce, and remove marine

debris and address the adverse impacts of marine debris on the economy of the United States, the marine environment, and navigation safety.

**(b) Program components**

The Administrator, acting through the Program and subject to the availability of appropriations, shall—

(1) identify, determine sources of, assess, prevent, reduce, and remove marine debris, with a focus on marine debris posing a threat to living marine resources and navigation safety;

(2) provide national and regional coordination to assist States, Indian tribes, and regional organizations in the identification, determination of sources, assessment, prevention, reduction, and removal of marine debris;

(3) undertake efforts to reduce the adverse impacts of lost and discarded fishing gear on living marine resources and navigation safety, including—

(A) research and development of alternatives to gear posing threats to the marine environment and methods for marking gear used in certain fisheries to enhance the tracking, recovery, and identification of lost and discarded gear; and

(B) the development of effective non-regulatory measures and incentives to cooperatively reduce the volume of lost and discarded fishing gear and to aid in gear recovery;

(4) undertake outreach and education activities for the public and other stakeholders on sources of marine debris, threats associated with marine debris, and approaches to identifying, determining sources of, assessing, preventing, reducing, and removing marine debris and its adverse impacts on the United States economy, the marine environment, and navigation safety, including outreach and education activities through public-private initiatives; and

(5) develop, in consultation with the Interagency Committee, interagency plans for the timely response to events determined by the Administrator to be severe marine debris events, including plans to—

(A) coordinate across agencies and with relevant State, tribal, and local governments to ensure adequate, timely, and efficient response;

(B) assess the composition, volume, and trajectory of marine debris associated with a severe marine debris event; and

(C) estimate the potential impacts of a severe marine debris event, including economic impacts on human health, navigation safety, natural resources, tourism, and livestock, including aquaculture.

**(c) Grants, cooperative agreements, and contracts****(1) In general**

The Administrator, acting through the Program, shall enter into cooperative agreements and contracts and provide financial assistance in the form of grants for projects to accomplish the purpose set forth in section 1951 of this title.