

thorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001 (as enacted into law by Public Law 106-398; 1654A-492 [1654A-490]) [54 U.S.C. 308704 note]. The report shall describe such practices, and may include such other matters as the Secretary considers appropriate.”

§ 1220a. Transfer of title; terms and conditions

If, after consideration of such comments and views as are received pursuant to section 1220(c) of this title, the Secretary finds that the use of obsolete ships proposed by a State will not violate any Federal law, contribute to degradation of the marine environment, create undue interference with commercial fishing or navigation, and is not frivolous, he may transfer without consideration to the State all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to any obsolete ships which are available for transfer under this chapter if—

(1) the State gives to the Secretary such assurances as he deems necessary that such ships will be utilized and maintained only for the purposes stated in the application and, when sunk, will be chartered and marked as a hazard to navigation;

(2) the State agrees to secure any licenses or permits which may be required under the provisions of any other applicable Federal law;

(3) the State agrees to such other terms and conditions as the Secretary shall require in order to protect the marine environment and other interests of the United States; and

(4) the transfer would be at no cost to the Government (except for any financial assistance provided under section 1220(c)(1)¹ of this title) with the State taking delivery of such obsolete ships and titles in an “as-is—where-is” condition at such place and time designated as may be determined by the Secretary of Transportation.

(Pub. L. 92-402, §4, Aug. 22, 1972, 86 Stat. 618; Pub. L. 98-623, title II, §207(1), (3), Nov. 8, 1984, 98 Stat. 3397; Pub. L. 107-314, div. C, title XXXV, §3504(a)(2), Dec. 2, 2002, 116 Stat. 2754; Pub. L. 109-163, div. C, title XXXV, §3505(c), Jan. 6, 2006, 119 Stat. 3552.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Section 1220(c)(1) of this title, referred to in par. (4), probably means section 7 of Pub. L. 92-402, which is classified to section 1220c-1 of this title.

AMENDMENTS

2006—Par. (4), Pub. L. 109-163 amended par. (4) generally. Prior to amendment, par. (4) read as follows: “the transfer would be at no cost to the Government (except for any financial assistance provided under section 1220c-1 of this title) with the State taking delivery of such obsolete ships at fleetside of the National Defense Reserve Fleet in an ‘as is—where is’ condition.”

2002—Par. (4), Pub. L. 107-314 inserted “(except for any financial assistance provided under section 1220c-1 of this title)” after “at no cost to the Government”.

1984—Pub. L. 98-623 substituted “obsolete ships” for “Liberty ships” wherever appearing in provisions preceding par. (1) and in par. (4), and substituted “may transfer” for “shall transfer” in provisions preceding par. (1).

¹ See References in Text note below.

§ 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 a¹ 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

¹ So in original. Probably should be “an”.

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.
1224.	Commercial and industrial development considerations; reports to Congress; recommendations.
1225.	State consideration of protection and restoration of estuaries in State comprehensive planning and proposals for financial assistance under certain Federal laws; grants; terms and conditions, prohibition against disposition of lands without approval of the Secretary.
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

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