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§ 5101. Findings and purpose

(a) Findings

The Congress finds the following:

(1) Coastal fishery resources that migrate, or are widely distributed, across the jurisdictional boundaries of two or more of the Atlantic States and of the Federal Government are of substantial commercial and recreational importance and economic benefit to the Atlantic coastal region and the Nation.

(2) Increased fishing pressure, environmental pollution, and the loss and alteration of habitat have reduced severely certain Atlantic coastal fishery resources.

(3) Because no single governmental entity has exclusive management authority for Atlantic coastal fishery resources, harvesting of such resources is frequently subject to disparate, inconsistent, and intermittent State and Federal regulation that has been detrimental to the conservation and sustainable use of such resources and to the interests of fishermen and the Nation as a whole.

(4) The responsibility for managing Atlantic coastal fisheries rests with the States, which carry out a cooperative program of fishery oversight and management through the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. It is the responsibility of the Federal Government to support such cooperative interstate management of coastal fishery resources.

(5) The failure by one or more Atlantic States to fully implement a coastal fishery management plan can affect the status of Atlantic coastal fisheries, and can discourage other States from fully implementing coastal fishery management plans.

(6) It is in the national interest to provide for more effective Atlantic State fishery resource conservation and management.

(b) Purpose

The purpose of this chapter is to support and encourage the development, implementation, and enforcement of effective interstate conservation and management of Atlantic coastal fishery resources.

(Pub. L. 103-206, title VIII, §802, Dec. 20, 1993, 107 Stat. 2447; Pub. L. 106-555, title I, §122(b)(1)(A), Dec. 21, 2000, 114 Stat. 2766.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

This chapter, referred to in subsec. (b), was in the original “this title”, meaning title VIII of Pub. L. 103-206, Dec. 20, 1993, 107 Stat. 2447, which is classified principally to this chapter. For complete classification of title VIII to the Code, see Short Title note below and Tables.

AMENDMENTS

2000—Subsec. (a)(3). Pub. L. 106-555, which directed amendment of par. (3) of this section by substituting “such resources is” for “such resources in”, was executed by making the substitution in par. (3) of subsec. (a), to reflect the probable intent of Congress.

SHORT TITLE OF 2000 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 106-555, title I, §121, Dec. 21, 2000, 114 Stat. 2766, provided that: “This subtitle [subtitle B (§§121, 122) of title I of Pub. L. 106-555, amending this section and sections 5102, 5103, 5106, and 5107a to 5108 of this title and enacting provisions set out as a note under section 5107 of this title] may be cited as the ‘Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Act of 2000.’”

SHORT TITLE

Pub. L. 103-206, title VIII, §801, Dec. 20, 1993, 107 Stat. 2447, provided that: “This title [enacting this chapter and amending section 4107 of this title and provisions set out as a note under section 1851 of this title] may be cited as the ‘Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act.’”

§ 5102. Definitions

In this chapter, the following definitions apply:

(1) The term “coastal fishery management plan” means a plan for managing a coastal fishery resource, or an amendment to such plan, prepared and adopted by the Commission, that—

(A) contains information regarding the status of the resource and related fisheries; and

(B) specifies conservation and management actions to be taken by the States.

(2) The term “coastal fishery resource” means any fishery, any species of fish, or any stock of fish that moves among, or is broadly distributed across, waters under the jurisdiction of two or more States or waters under the jurisdiction of one or more States and the exclusive economic zone.

(3) The term “Commission” means the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission established under the interstate compact consented to and approved by the Congress in Public Laws 77-539 and 81-721.

(4) The term “conservation” means the restoring, rebuilding, and maintaining of any coastal fishery resource and the marine environment, in order to assure the availability of coastal fishery resources on a long-term basis.

(5) The term “Councils” means Regional Fishery Management Councils established under section 1852 of this title.

(6) The term “exclusive economic zone” means the exclusive economic zone of the United States established by Proclamation Number 5030, dated March 10, 1983. For the purposes of this chapter, the inner boundary of that zone is a line coterminous with the seaward boundary of each of the coastal States, and the outer boundary of that zone is a line drawn in such a manner that each point on it is 200 nautical miles from the baseline from which the territorial sea is measured.

(7) The term “fish” means finfish, mollusks, crustaceans, and all other forms of marine animal life other than marine mammals and birds.

- (8) The term “fishery” means—
 (A) one or more stocks of fish that can be treated as a unit for purposes of conservation and management and that are identified on the basis of geographical, scientific, technical, commercial, recreational, or economic characteristics; or
 (B) any fishing for such stocks.
- (9) The term “fishing” means—
 (A) the catching, taking, or harvesting of fish;
 (B) the attempted catching, taking, or harvesting of fish;
 (C) any other activity that can be reasonably expected to result in the catching, taking, or harvesting of fish; or
 (D) any operations at sea in support of, or in preparation for, any activity described in subparagraphs (A) through (C).

Such term does not include any scientific research activity or the catching, taking, or harvesting of fish in an aquaculture operation.

(10) The term “implement and enforce” means to enact and implement laws or regulations as required to conform with the provisions of a coastal fishery management plan and to assure compliance with such laws or regulations by persons participating in a fishery that is subject to such plan.

(11) 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.

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

(13) The term “State” means Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, the District of Columbia, or the Potomac River Fisheries Commission.

(Pub. L. 103-206, title VIII, § 803, Dec. 20, 1993, 107 Stat. 2448; Pub. L. 104-297, title IV, § 404(a), Oct. 11, 1996, 110 Stat. 3619; Pub. L. 106-555, title I, § 122(b)(3), Dec. 21, 2000, 114 Stat. 2766.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Public Law 77-539, referred to in par. (3), is act May 4, 1942, ch. 283, 56 Stat. 267, which is not classified to the Code.

Public Law 81-721, referred to in par. (3), is act Aug. 19, 1950, ch. 763, 64 Stat. 467, which is not classified to the Code.

Proclamation Number 5030, referred to in par. (6), is set out as a note under section 1453 of this title.

AMENDMENTS

2000—Par. (5). Pub. L. 106-555 made technical amendment to reference in original act which appears in text as reference to section 1852 of this title.

1996—Par. (1). Pub. L. 104-297 inserted “and” after semicolon in subpar. (A), substituted “States.” for “States; and” in subpar. (B), and struck out subpar. (C) which read as follows: “recommends actions to be taken by the Secretary in the exclusive economic zone to conserve and manage the fishery.”

TERRITORIAL SEA OF UNITED STATES

For extension of territorial sea of United States, see Proc. No. 5928, set out as a note under section 1331 of Title 43, Public Lands.

§ 5103. State-Federal cooperation in Atlantic coastal fishery management

(a) Federal support for State coastal fisheries programs

The Secretary in cooperation with the Secretary of the Interior shall develop and implement a program to support the interstate fishery management efforts of the Commission. The program shall include activities to support and enhance State cooperation in collection, management, and analysis of fishery data; law enforcement; habitat conservation; fishery research, including biological and socioeconomic research; and fishery management planning.

(b) Federal regulation in exclusive economic zone

(1) In the absence of an approved and implemented fishery management plan under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.), and after consultation with the appropriate Councils, the Secretary may implement regulations to govern fishing in the exclusive economic zone that are—

(A) compatible with the effective implementation of a coastal fishery management plan; and

(B) consistent with the national standards set forth in section 301 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1851).

The regulations may include measures recommended by the Commission to the Secretary that are necessary to support the provisions of the coastal fishery management plan. Regulations issued by the Secretary to implement an approved fishery management plan prepared by the appropriate Councils or the Secretary under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.) shall supersede any conflicting regulations issued by the Secretary under this subsection.

(2) The provisions of sections 307, 308, 309, 310, and 311 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1857, 1858, 1859, 1860, and 1861) regarding prohibited acts, civil penalties, criminal offenses, civil forfeitures, and enforcement shall apply with respect to regulations issued under this subsection as if such regulations were issued under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.).

(Pub. L. 103-206, title VIII, § 804, Dec. 20, 1993, 107 Stat. 2449; Pub. L. 104-297, title IV, § 404(b), Oct. 11, 1996, 110 Stat. 3619; Pub. L. 106-555, title I, § 122(b)(3), Dec. 21, 2000, 114 Stat. 2766.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, referred to in subsec. (b), is Pub. L. 94-265, Apr. 13, 1976, 90 Stat. 331, as amended, which is classified principally to chapter 38 (§ 1801 et seq.) of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 1801 of this title and Tables.