

representatives a report on which additional measures for comparing cost per unit effort the Secretary intends to use and the rationale for such use.

“(b) DEVELOPMENT OF STRATEGY FOR INCREASED CONTRACTING WITH NONGOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES FOR HYDROGRAPHIC DATA COLLECTION.—Not later than 180 days after the date on which the Secretary completes the activities required by subsection (a), the Secretary shall develop a strategy for how the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration will increase contracting with nongovernmental entities for hydrographic data collection in a manner that is consistent with the requirements of the Ocean and Coastal Mapping Integration Act [(subtitles B of title XII of] Public Law 111–11; 33 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.)”

#### HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEY

Pub. L. 106–541, title V, §554, Dec. 11, 2000, 114 Stat. 2679, provided that: “The Secretary [of the Army] shall enter into an agreement with the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration—

“(1) to require the Secretary, not later than 60 days after the Corps of Engineers completes a project involving dredging of a channel, to provide data to the Administration in a standard digital format on the results of a hydrographic survey of the channel conducted by the Corps of Engineers; and

“(2) to require the Administrator to provide the final charts with respect to the project to the Secretary in digital format, at no charge, for the purpose of enhancing the mission of the Corps of Engineers of maintaining Federal navigation projects.”

### § 892b. Quality assurance program

#### (a) Definition

For purposes of this section, the term “hydrographic product” means any publicly or commercially available product produced by a non-Federal entity that includes or displays hydrographic data.

#### (b) Program

##### (1) In general

The Administrator—

(A) by not later than 2 years after December 19, 2002, shall, subject to the availability of appropriations, develop and implement a quality assurance program that is equally available to all applicants, under which the Administrator may certify hydrographic products that satisfy the standards promulgated by the Administrator under section 892a(a)(3) of this title;

(B) may authorize the use of the emblem or any trademark of the Administration on a hydrographic product certified under subparagraph (A); and

(C) may charge a fee for such certification and use.

##### (2) Limitation on fee amount

Any fee under paragraph (1)(C) shall not exceed the costs of conducting the quality assurance testing, evaluation, or studies necessary to determine whether the hydrographic product satisfies the standards adopted under section 892a(a)(3) of this title, including the cost of administering such a program.

#### (c) Limitation on liability

The Government of the United States shall not be liable for any negligence by a person that produces hydrographic products certified under this section.

### (d) Hydrographic Services Account

#### (1) Establishment

There is established in the Treasury a separate account, which shall be known as the “Hydrographic Services Account”.

#### (2) Content

The account shall consist of—

(A) amounts received by the United States as fees charged under subsection (b)(1)(C); and

(B) such other amounts as may be provided by law.

#### (3) Use

Amounts in the account shall be available to the Administrator, without further appropriation, for hydrographic services.

### (e) Limitation on new fees and increases in existing fees for hydrographic services

After November 13, 1998, the Administrator may not—

(1) establish any fee or other charge for the provision of any hydrographic service except as authorized by this section; or

(2) increase the amount of any fee or other charge for the provision of any hydrographic service except as authorized by this section and section 1307 of title 44.

(Pub. L. 105–384, title III, §304, Nov. 13, 1998, 112 Stat. 3455; Pub. L. 107–372, title I, §104(a), Dec. 19, 2002, 116 Stat. 3080.)

#### AMENDMENTS

2002—Subsec. (b)(1). Pub. L. 107–372 reenacted heading without change and amended text generally. Prior to amendment, text read as follows: “The Administrator may—

“(A) develop and implement a quality assurance program that is equally available to all applicants, under which the Administrator may certify hydrographic products that satisfy the standards promulgated by the Administrator under section 892a(a)(3) of this title;

“(B) authorize the use of the emblem or any trademark of the Administration on a hydrographic product certified under subparagraph (A); and

“(C) charge a fee for such certification and use.”

### § 892c. Hydrographic Services Review Panel

#### (a) Establishment

No later than 1 year after December 19, 2002, the Secretary shall establish the Hydrographic Services Review Panel.

#### (b) Duties

##### (1) In general

The panel shall advise the Administrator on matters related to the responsibilities and authorities set forth in section 892a of this title and such other appropriate matters as the Administrator refers to the panel for review and advice.

##### (2) Administrative resources

The Administrator shall make available to the panel such information, personnel, and administrative services and assistance as it may reasonably require to carry out its duties.

#### (c) Membership

##### (1) In general

(A) The panel shall consist of 15 voting members who shall be appointed by the Adminis-

trator. The Co-directors of the Center for Coastal and Ocean Mapping/Joint Hydrographic Center and no more than 2 employees of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration appointed by the Administrator shall serve as nonvoting members of the panel. The voting members of the panel shall be individuals who, by reason of knowledge, experience, or training, are especially qualified in 1 or more of the disciplines and fields relating to hydrographic data and hydrographic services, marine transportation, port administration, vessel pilotage, coastal and fishery management, and other disciplines as determined appropriate by the Administrator.

(B) An individual may not be appointed as a voting member of the panel if the individual is a full-time officer or employee of the United States.

(C) Any voting member of the panel who is an applicant for, or beneficiary (as determined by the Secretary) of, any assistance under this subchapter shall disclose to the panel that relationship, and may not vote on any matter pertaining to that assistance.

## (2) Terms

(A) The term of office of a voting member of the panel shall be 4 years, except that of the original appointees, five shall be appointed for a term of 2 years, five shall be appointed for a term of 3 years, and five shall be appointed for a term of 4 years, as specified by the Administrator at the time of appointment.

(B) Any individual appointed to a partial or full term may be reappointed for one additional full term. A voting member may serve after the date of the expiration of the term of office for which appointed until his or her successor has taken office.

## (3) Nominations

At least once each year, the Secretary shall publish a notice in the Federal Register soliciting nominations for membership on the panel.

## (4) Chairman and Vice Chairman

(A) The panel shall select one voting member to serve as the Chairman and another voting member to serve as the Vice Chairman.

(B) The Vice Chairman shall act as Chairman in the absence or incapacity of the Chairman.

## (d) Compensation

Voting members of the panel shall—

(1) receive compensation at a rate established by the Secretary, not to exceed the maximum daily rate payable under section 5376 of title 5 when actually engaged in the performance of duties for such panel; and

(2) be reimbursed for actual and reasonable expenses incurred in the performance of such duties.

## (e) Meetings

The panel shall meet on a biannual basis and, at any other time, at the call of the Chairman or upon the request of a majority of the voting members or of the Secretary.

## (f) Powers

The panel may exercise such powers as are reasonably necessary in order to carry out its duties under subsection (b).

(Pub. L. 105-384, title III, §305, Nov. 13, 1998, 112 Stat. 3456; Pub. L. 105-383, title IV, §432(c), Nov. 13, 1998, 112 Stat. 3445; Pub. L. 107-372, title I, §105, Dec. 19, 2002, 116 Stat. 3080; Pub. L. 110-386, §4, Oct. 10, 2008, 122 Stat. 4107.)

### REFERENCES IN TEXT

This subchapter, referred to in subsec. (c)(1)(C), was in the original “this Act”, and was translated, to reflect the probable intent of Congress, as reading “this title”, meaning title III of Pub. L. 105-384, Nov. 13, 1998, 112 Stat. 3454, known as the Hydrographic Services Improvement Act of 1998, which is classified principally to this subchapter. For complete classification of title III to the Code, see Short Title of 1998 Amendment note set out under section 851 of this title and Tables.

### AMENDMENTS

2008—Subsec. (c)(1)(A). Pub. L. 110-386 amended subpar. (A) generally. Prior to amendment, subpar. (A) read as follows: “The panel shall consist of 15 voting members who shall be appointed by the Administrator. The Director of the Joint Hydrographic Institute and no more than 2 employees of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration appointed by the Administrator shall serve as nonvoting members of the panel. The voting members of the panel shall be individuals who, by reason of knowledge, experience, or training, are especially qualified in one or more of the disciplines and fields relating to hydrographic surveying, tide, current geodetic and geospatial measurement, marine transportation, port administration, vessel pilotage, and coastal and fishery management.”

2002—Pub. L. 107-372 amended section generally, substituting provisions establishing Hydrographic Services Review Panel for provisions requiring report, not later than 6 months after November 13, 1998, on a plan to ensure maintenance of Federal competence and expertise in hydrographic surveying.

1998—Pub. L. 105-383, which directed the amendment of this section by striking out subsecs. (a) and (d), was executed by striking out subsec. (a), because no subsec. (d) has been enacted. Prior to amendment, subsec. (a) read as follows:

“(a) PORTS.—Not later than 6 months after November 13, 1998, the Administrator and the Commandant of the Coast Guard shall report to the Congress on—

“(1) the status of implementation of real-time tide and current data systems in United States ports;

“(2) existing safety and efficiency needs in United States ports that could be met by increased use of those systems; and

“(3) a plan for expanding those systems to meet those needs, including an estimate of the cost of implementing those systems in priority locations.”

### EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1998 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 105-383, title IV, §432(a), Nov. 13, 1998, 112 Stat. 3444, provided that: “Subsections (b) and (c) [amending this section and section 892d of this title] shall take effect immediately after the later of—

“(1) the enactment of the Hydrographic Services Improvement Act of 1998 [Pub. L. 105-384, title III, Nov. 13, 1998]; or

“(2) the enactment of this Act [Nov. 13, 1998].”

## § 892d. Authorization of appropriations

### (a) In general

There are authorized to be appropriated to the Administrator the following:

(1) To carry out nautical mapping and charting functions under sections 892b and 892c of