

**(d) Research and observation**

Furthermore, after timely notice and during the period of research provided in this section, duly authorized agents of the Secretary are hereby empowered to board and to accompany any commercial fishing vessel documented under the laws of the United States, there being space available, on a regular fishing trip for the purpose of conducting research or observing operations in regard to the development of improved fishing methods and gear as authorized by this section. Such research and observation shall be carried out in such manner as to minimize interference with fishing operations. The Secretary shall provide for the cost of quartering and maintaining such agents. No master, operator, or owner of such a vessel shall impair or in any way interfere with the research or observation being carried out by agents of the Secretary pursuant to this section.

(Pub. L. 92-522, title I, § 111, Oct. 21, 1972, 86 Stat. 1041.)

**EFFECTIVE DATE**

Section effective upon the expiration of the sixty-day period following Oct. 21, 1972, see section 4 of Pub. L. 92-522, set out as a note under section 1361 of this title.

**§ 1382. Regulations and administration****(a) Consultation with Federal agencies**

The Secretary, in consultation with any other Federal agency to the extent that such agency may be affected, shall prescribe such regulations as are necessary and appropriate to carry out the purposes of this subchapter.

**(b) Cooperation by Federal agencies**

Each Federal agency is authorized and directed to cooperate with the Secretary, in such manner as may be mutually agreeable, in carrying out the purposes of this subchapter.

**(c) Contracts, leases, and cooperative agreements**

The Secretary may enter into such contracts, leases, cooperative agreements, or other transactions as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this subchapter or subchapter V and on such terms as he deems appropriate with any Federal or State agency, public or private institution, or other person.

**(d) Annual review; suspension of program**

The Secretary shall review annually the operation of each program in which the United States participates involving the taking of marine mammals on lands. If at any time the Secretary finds that any such program cannot be administered on lands owned by the United States or in which the United States has an interest in a manner consistent with the purposes of<sup>1</sup> policies of this chapter, he shall suspend the operation of that program and shall include in the annual report to the public and the Congress required under section 1373(f) of this title his reasons for such suspension, together with recommendations for such legislation as he deems

<sup>1</sup> So in original.

necessary and appropriate to resolve the problem.

**(e) Measures to alleviate impacts on strategic stocks**

If the Secretary determines, based on a stock assessment under section 1386 of this title or other significant new information obtained under this chapter, that impacts on rookeries, mating grounds, or other areas of similar ecological significance to marine mammals may be causing the decline or impeding the recovery of a strategic stock, the Secretary may develop and implement conservation or management measures to alleviate those impacts. Such measures shall be developed and implemented after consultation with the Marine Mammal Commission and the appropriate Federal agencies and after notice and opportunity for public comment.

(Pub. L. 92-522, title I, § 112, Oct. 21, 1972, 86 Stat. 1042; Pub. L. 96-470, title II, § 201(e), Oct. 19, 1980, 94 Stat. 2241; Pub. L. 102-587, title III, § 3004(a)(3), Nov. 4, 1992, 106 Stat. 5067; Pub. L. 103-238, §§ 7(a), 24(c)(11), Apr. 30, 1994, 108 Stat. 542, 566.)

**AMENDMENTS**

1994—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 103-238, § 24(c)(11), made technical amendment to reference to subchapter V of this chapter to reflect renumbering of corresponding title of original act.

Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 103-238, § 7(a), added subsec. (e).

1992—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 102-587 inserted “or subchapter V” after “of this subchapter”.

1980—Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 96-470 substituted “include in the annual report to the public and the Congress required under section 1373(f) of this title” for “forthwith submit to Congress”.

**EFFECTIVE DATE**

Section effective upon the expiration of the sixty-day period following Oct. 21, 1972, see section 4 of Pub. L. 92-522, set out as a note under section 1361 of this title.

**§ 1383. Application to other treaties and conventions****(a) Generally; findings; waiver of penalties**

The provisions of this subchapter shall be deemed to be in addition to and not in contravention of the provisions of any existing international treaty, convention, or agreement, or any statute implementing the same, which may otherwise apply to the taking of marine mammals. Upon a finding by the Secretary that the provisions of any international treaty, convention, or agreement, or any statute implementing the same has been made applicable to persons subject to the provisions of this subchapter in order to effect essential compliance with the regulatory provisions of this chapter so as to reduce to the lowest practicable level the taking of marine mammals incidental to commercial fishing operations, section 1375 of this title may not apply to such persons.

**(b) Review of effectiveness of Agreement on the Conservation of Polar Bears**

Not later than 1 year after April 30, 1994, the Secretary of the Interior shall, in consultation with the contracting parties, initiate a review of the effectiveness of the Agreement on the Conservation of Polar Bears, as provided for in Arti-

cle IX of the Agreement, and establish a process by which future reviews shall be conducted.

**(c) Review of implementation of Agreement on the Conservation of Polar Bears; report**

The Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Secretary of State and the Marine Mammal Commission, shall review the effectiveness of United States implementation of the Agreement on the Conservation of Polar Bears, particularly with respect to the habitat protection mandates contained in Article II. The Secretary shall report the results of this review to the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate not later than April 1, 1995.

**(d) Consultation regarding conservation of polar bears in Russia and Alaska; report**

Not later than 6 months after April 30, 1994, the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Secretary of State and in consultation with the Marine Mammal Commission and the State of Alaska, shall consult with the appropriate officials of the Russian Federation on the development and implementation of enhanced cooperative research and management programs for the conservation of polar bears in Alaska and Russia. The Secretary shall report the results of this consultation and provide periodic progress reports on the research and management programs to the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation of the Senate.

(Pub. L. 92-522, title I, § 113, Oct. 21, 1972, 86 Stat. 1042; Pub. L. 103-238, § 7(b), Apr. 30, 1994, 108 Stat. 542.)

CODIFICATION

A prior subsec. (b) of section 113 of Pub. L. 92-522 amended section 659 of this title.

AMENDMENTS

1994—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 103-238, § 7(b)(1), directed the amendment of this section by “designating the existing paragraph” as subsec. (a), notwithstanding the existing first par. of this section was already designated (a).

Subsecs. (b) to (d). Pub. L. 103-238, § 7(b)(2), added subsecs. (b) to (d). See Codification note above.

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective upon the expiration of the sixty-day period following Oct. 21, 1972, see section 4 of Pub. L. 92-522, set out as a note under section 1361 of this title.

ABOLITION OF HOUSE COMMITTEE ON MERCHANT MARINE AND FISHERIES

Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries of House of Representatives abolished and its jurisdiction transferred by House Resolution No. 6, One Hundred Fourth Congress, Jan. 4, 1995. Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries of House of Representatives treated as referring to Committee on Resources of House of Representatives in case of provisions relating to fisheries, wildlife, international fishing agreements, marine affairs (including coastal zone management) except for measures relating to oil and other pollution of navigable waters, or oceanography by section 1(b)(3) of Pub. L. 104-14, set out as a note preceding section 21 of Title 2, The Congress. Committee on Resources of House of Representatives changed to Committee on

Natural Resources of House of Representatives by House Resolution No. 6, One Hundred Tenth Congress, Jan. 5, 2007.

**§ 1383a. Interim exemption for commercial fisheries**

**(a) Effective and termination dates of preemptive provisions; law governing incidental taking of marine mammals in course of commercial yellowfin tuna fishing**

(1) During the period beginning on November 23, 1988, and until superseded by regulations prescribed under section 1387 of this title, or until September 1, 1995, whichever is earlier, except as provided in paragraph (2), the provisions of this section, rather than sections 1371, 1373, and 1374 of this title, shall govern the incidental taking of marine mammals in the course of commercial fishing operations by persons using vessels of the United States and vessels which have valid fishing permits issued by the Secretary in accordance with section 1824(b) of this title. In any event it shall be the immediate goal that the incidental kill or serious injury of marine mammals permitted in the course of commercial fishing operations be reduced to insignificant levels approaching a zero mortality and serious injury rate.

(2) The provisions of this section other than subsection (e)(6)(A) shall not govern the incidental taking of marine mammals in the course of commercial yellowfin tuna fishing subject to section 1374(h)(2) of this title.

**(b) Proposed and final list of fisheries taking marine mammals; publication in Federal Register; grant of exemption; conditions; suspension of grant of exemption; administration of exemption provisions; fees**

(1) The Secretary shall, after consultation with the Marine Mammal Commission—

(A) publish in the Federal Register, for public comment, not later than sixty days after November 23, 1988, a proposed list of those fisheries, along with a statement of the marine mammals and the approximate number of vessels or persons involved in each such fishery, that have—

- (i) frequent incidental taking of marine mammals;
- (ii) occasional incidental taking of marine mammals; or
- (iii) a remote likelihood of or no known incidental taking of marine mammals;

(B) publish in the Federal Register not later than one hundred and twenty days after November 23, 1988, a final list of the fisheries and other information required by paragraph (A), together with a summary of the provisions of this section and information sufficient to advise vessel owners on how to obtain an exemption and otherwise comply with the requirements of this section; and

(C) at least once each year thereafter, and at such other times as the Secretary considers appropriate, reexamine, based on information gathered from the program established under subsections (c), (d), (e), and (f), and other relevant sources and after notice and opportunity for public comment, the classification of fisheries and other determinations required under