

1996—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 104-208 made technical amendment to reference in original act which appears in text as reference to section 1860 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1997 AMENDMENT

For effective date of amendment by Pub. L. 105-42, see section 8 of Pub. L. 105-42, set out as a note under section 1362 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1996 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 104-208, div. A, title I, §101(a) [title II, §211(b)], Sept. 30, 1996, 110 Stat. 3009, 3009-41, provided that the amendment made by that section is effective 15 days after Oct. 11, 1996.

§ 1418. Repealed. Pub. L. 105-42, §6(e), Aug. 15, 1997, 111 Stat. 1137

Section, Pub. L. 92-522, title III, §308, as added Pub. L. 102-523, §2(a), Oct. 26, 1992, 106 Stat. 3432, related to authorization of appropriations.

Another section 308 of Pub. L. 92-522 was renumbered section 409, and is classified to section 1421g of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF REPEAL

For effective date of repeal, see section 8 of Pub. L. 105-42, set out as an Effective Date of 1997 Amendment note under section 1362 of this title.

SUBCHAPTER V—MARINE MAMMAL HEALTH AND STRANDING RESPONSE

§ 1421. Establishment of Program

(a) Establishment

The Secretary shall, in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior, the Marine Mammal Commission, and individuals with knowledge and experience in marine science, marine mammal science, marine mammal veterinary and husbandry practices, and marine conservation, including stranding network participants, establish a program to be known as the “Marine Mammal Health and Stranding Response Program”.

(b) Purposes

The purposes of the Program shall be to—

(1) facilitate the collection and dissemination of reference data on the health of marine mammals and health trends of marine mammal populations in the wild;

(2) correlate the health of marine mammals and marine mammal populations, in the wild, with available data on physical, chemical, and biological environmental parameters; and

(3) coordinate effective responses to unusual mortality events by establishing a process in the Department of Commerce in accordance with section 1421c of this title.

(Pub. L. 92-522, title IV, §401, formerly title III, §301, as added Pub. L. 102-587, title III, §3003(a), Nov. 4, 1992, 106 Stat. 5060; renumbered title IV, §401, and amended Pub. L. 103-238, §24(b), (c)(1), Apr. 30, 1994, 108 Stat. 565, 566.)

AMENDMENTS

1994—Subsec. (b)(3). Pub. L. 103-238, §24(c)(1), made technical amendment to reference to section 1421c of this title to reflect renumbering of corresponding section of original act.

FINDINGS

Pub. L. 102-587, title III, §3002, Nov. 4, 1992, 106 Stat. 5060, provided that: “The Congress finds the following:

“(1) Current stranding network participants have performed an undeniably valuable and ceaseless job of responding to marine mammal strandings over the last 15 years.

“(2) Insufficient understanding of the connection between marine mammal health and the physical, chemical, and biological parameters of their environment prevents an adequate understanding of the causes of marine mammal unusual mortality events.

“(3) An accurate assessment of marine mammal health, health trends in marine mammal populations in the wild, and causes of marine mammal unusual mortality events cannot be made without adequate reference data on marine mammals and the environment in which they live.

“(4) A systematic assessment of the sources, presence, levels, and effects of potentially harmful contaminants on marine mammals would provide a better understanding of some of the causes of marine mammal unusual mortality events and may serve as an indicator of the general health of our coastal and marine environments.

“(5) Responses to marine mammal unusual mortality events are often uncoordinated, due to the lack of sufficient contingency planning.

“(6) Standardized methods for the reporting of dying, dead, or otherwise incapacitated marine mammals in the wild would greatly assist in the determination of the causes of marine mammal unusual mortality events and enhance general knowledge of marine mammal species.

“(7) A formal system for collection, preparation, and archiving of, and providing access to, marine mammal tissues will enhance efforts to investigate the health of marine mammals and health trends of marine mammal populations, and to develop reference data.

“(8) Information on marine mammals, including results of analyses of marine mammal tissues, should be broadly available to the scientific community, including stranding network participants, through a marine mammal data base.”

§ 1421a. Determination; data collection and dissemination

(a) Determination for release

The Secretary shall, in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior, the Marine Mammal Commission, and individuals with knowledge and experience in marine science, marine mammal science, marine mammal veterinary and husbandry practices, and marine conservation, including stranding network participants, develop objective criteria, after an opportunity for public review and comment, to provide guidance for determining at what point a rehabilitated marine mammal is releasable to the wild.

(b) Collection

The Secretary shall, in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior, collect and update, periodically, existing information on—

(1) procedures and practices for—

(A) rescuing and rehabilitating stranded marine mammals, including criteria used by stranding network participants, on a species-by-species basis, for determining at what point a marine mammal undergoing rescue and rehabilitation is returnable to the wild; and

(B) collecting, preserving, labeling, and transporting marine mammal tissues for physical, chemical, and biological analyses;

(2) appropriate scientific literature on marine mammal health, disease, and rehabilitation;