

Each Board should use existing research administrative capability to the extent practicable.

**(2) Committees and subcommittees**

Each Board shall establish such committees and subcommittees as are appropriate in the performance of its functions.

**(3) Staff and support**

Each Board is authorized to hire such staff as are necessary to carry out the functions of the Board.

**(f) Termination**

Each Board shall cease to exist on October 1, 1999, unless extended by Congress.

(Pub. L. 92-532, title IV, §403, as added Pub. L. 101-593, title III, §301, Nov. 16, 1990, 104 Stat. 2964.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

This Act, referred to in subsec. (d)(7), means Pub. L. 92-532, which enacted this chapter, chapter 32 (§1431 et seq.) of this title, and chapters 27 (§1401 et seq.) and 41 (§2801 et seq.) of Title 33, Navigation and Navigable Waters.

**§ 1447c. Regional research plans**

**(a) Development and amendment of regional plans**

**(1) In general**

Each Board shall develop a comprehensive 4-year marine research plan for the region for which the Board is responsible, and shall amend the plan at such times as the Board considers necessary to reflect changing conditions, but no less frequently than once every 4 years.

**(2) Review and consideration of national plan**

In the development and amendment of its research plan, the Board shall consider findings and recommendations of the national plan developed pursuant to the National Ocean Pollution Planning Act of 1978 (33 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.).<sup>1</sup>

**(b) Contents of plan**

Such marine research plan shall include—

(1) an overview of the environmental quality conditions in the coastal and marine waters of the region and expected trends in these conditions;

(2) a comprehensive inventory and description of all marine research related to water quality and ecosystem health expected to be conducted in the region during the 4-year term of the research plan;

(3) a statement and explanation of the marine research needs and priorities applicable to the marine and coastal waters of the region over the upcoming 10-year period with emphasis on the upcoming 3-to-5 year period;

(4) an assessment of how the plan will incorporate existing marine, coastal, and estuarine research and management in the region, including activities pursuant to section 1330 of title 33 and section 1461 of this title; and

(5) a general description of marine research and monitoring objectives and timetables for

achievement through the funding of projects under this chapter during the 4-year period covered by the plan so as to meet the priorities specified in the plan in accordance with paragraph (3).

**(c) Plan review and approval**

**(1) In general**

When a Board has developed a marine research plan, including amendments thereto, the Board shall submit the plan to the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Administration of the Environmental Protection Agency, who shall jointly determine whether the plan meets the requirements of subsection (b).

**(2) Time for approval or disapproval**

The Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, shall jointly approve or disapprove such research plan within 120 days after receiving the plan.

**(3) Action after disapproval**

In the case of disapproval of such research plan, the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall jointly notify the appropriate Board in writing, stating in detail the revisions necessary to obtain approval of the plan. Such Administrators shall approve or disapprove the revised plan within 90 days after receiving the revised plan from the Board.

(Pub. L. 92-532, title IV, §404, as added Pub. L. 101-593, title III, §301, Nov. 16, 1990, 104 Stat. 2966.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The National Ocean Pollution Planning Act of 1978, referred to in subsec. (a)(2), is Pub. L. 95-273, May 8, 1978, 92 Stat. 228, as amended, which was classified generally to chapter 31 (§1701 et seq.) of Title 33, Navigation and Navigable Waters, and was repealed by Pub. L. 102-567, title II, §204, Oct. 29, 1992, 106 Stat. 4282.

**§ 1447d. Research grant program**

**(a) Program administration**

The Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shall administer a grant program to support the administrative functions of each Board.

**(b) Research grants**

(1) Each Board may annually submit a grant application to the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to fund projects aimed at achieving the research priorities set forth in each research plan, including amendments thereto, developed and approved pursuant to section 1447c of this title.

(2) Projects eligible for funding under this section shall include research, investigations, studies, surveys, or demonstrations with respect to—

(A) baseline assessment of marine environmental quality, including chemical, physical, and biological indicators of environmental quality;

(B) effects or potential effects of contaminants, including nutrients, toxic chemicals

<sup>1</sup> See References in Text note below.