

**(d) Vessels; liability in rem; exempt vessels; consent or privity of owners or bareboat charterers**

Any vessel, except a public vessel engaged in noncommercial activities, used in a violation of this chapter or of any rule or regulation issued pursuant to this chapter, shall be liable in rem for any civil penalty assessed or criminal fine imposed and may be proceeded against in any district court of the United States having jurisdiction thereof; but no vessel shall be liable unless it shall appear that one or more of the owners, or bareboat charterers, was at the time of the violation, a consenting party or privity to such violation.

(Pub. L. 93-627, §15, Jan. 3, 1975, 88 Stat. 2140; Pub. L. 101-380, title IV, §4302(m), Aug. 18, 1990, 104 Stat. 539.)

AMENDMENTS

1990—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 101-380 substituted “commits a class A misdemeanor for each day of violation” for “shall on conviction be fined not more than \$25,000 for each day of violation or imprisoned for not more than 1 year, or both”.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1990 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 101-380 applicable to incidents occurring after Aug. 18, 1990, see section 1020 of Pub. L. 101-380, set out as an Effective Date note under section 2701 of this title.

DEPOSIT OF CERTAIN PENALTIES INTO OIL SPILL LIABILITY TRUST FUND

Penalties paid pursuant to this chapter and sections 1319(c) and 1321 of this title to be deposited in the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund created under section 9509 of Title 26, Internal Revenue Code, see section 4304 of Pub. L. 101-380, set out as a note under section 9509 of Title 26.

**§ 1515. Citizen civil action**

**(a) Equitable relief; case or controversy; district court jurisdiction**

Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, any person may commence a civil action for equitable relief on his own behalf, whenever such action constitutes a case or controversy—

(1) against any person (including (A) the United States, and (B) any other governmental instrumentality or agency to the extent permitted by the eleventh amendment to the Constitution) who is alleged to be in violation of any provision of this chapter or any condition of a license issued pursuant to this chapter; or

(2) against the Secretary where there is alleged a failure of the Secretary to perform any act or duty under this chapter which is not discretionary with the Secretary. Any action brought against the Secretary under this paragraph shall be brought in the district court for the District of Columbia or the district of the appropriate adjacent coastal State.

In suits brought under this chapter, the district court shall have jurisdiction, without regard to the amount in controversy or the citizenship of the parties, to enforce any provision of this chapter or any condition of a license issued pursuant to this chapter, or to order the Secretary to perform such act or duty, as the case may be.

**(b) Notice; intervention of right by person**

No civil action may be commenced—

(1) under subsection (a)(1) of this section—

(A) prior to 60 days after the plaintiff has given notice of the violation (i) to the Secretary and (ii) to any alleged violator; or

(B) if the Secretary or the Attorney General has commenced and is diligently prosecuting a civil or criminal action with respect to such matters in a court of the United States, but in any such action any person may intervene as a matter of right; or

(2) under subsection (a)(2) of this section prior to 60 days after the plaintiff has given notice of such action to the Secretary.

Notice under this subsection shall be given in such a manner as the Secretary shall prescribe by regulation.

**(c) Intervention of right by Secretary or Attorney General**

In any action under this section, the Secretary or the Attorney General, if not a party, may intervene as a matter of right.

**(d) Costs of litigation; attorney and witness fees**

The Court, in issuing any final order in any action brought pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, may award costs of litigation (including reasonable attorney and expert witness fees) to any party whenever the court determines that such an award is appropriate.

**(e) Statutory or common law rights unaffected**

Nothing in this section shall restrict any right which any person (or class of persons) may have under any statute or common law to seek enforcement or to seek any other relief.

(Pub. L. 93-627, §16, Jan. 3, 1975, 88 Stat. 2140.)

**§ 1516. Judicial review; persons aggrieved; jurisdiction of courts of appeal**

Any person suffering legal wrong, or who is adversely affected or aggrieved by the Secretary's decision to issue, transfer, modify, renew, suspend, or revoke a license may, not later than 60 days after any such decision is made, seek judicial review of such decision in the United States Court of Appeals for the circuit within which the nearest adjacent coastal State is located. A person shall be deemed to be aggrieved by the Secretary's decision within the meaning of this chapter if he—

(A) has participated in the administrative proceedings before the Secretary (or if he did not so participate, he can show that his failure to do so was caused by the Secretary's failure to provide the required notice); and

(B) is adversely affected by the Secretary's action.

(Pub. L. 93-627, §17, Jan. 3, 1975, 88 Stat. 2141.)

**§ 1517. Repealed. Pub. L. 101-380, title II, § 2003(a)(2), Aug. 18, 1990, 104 Stat. 507**

Section, Pub. L. 93-627, §18, Jan. 3, 1975, 88 Stat. 2141; Pub. L. 98-419, §4(a), Sept. 25, 1984, 98 Stat. 1608, set penalties for discharge of oil into marine environment and provided for creation and maintenance of a Deepwater Port Liability Fund.