

**CHAPTER 41—NATIONAL COASTAL  
MONITORING**

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**§ 2801. Purposes**

The purposes of this chapter are to—

(1) establish a comprehensive national program for consistent monitoring of the Nation's coastal ecosystems;

(2) establish long-term water quality assessment and monitoring programs for high priority coastal waters that will enhance the ability of Federal, State, and local authorities to develop and implement effective remedial programs for those waters;

(3) establish a system for reviewing and evaluating the scientific, analytical, and technological means that are available for monitoring the environmental quality of coastal ecosystems;

(4) establish methods for identifying uniform indicators of coastal ecosystem quality;

(5) provide for periodic, comprehensive reports to Congress concerning the quality of the Nation's coastal ecosystems;

(6) establish a coastal environment information program to distribute coastal monitoring information;

(7) provide state<sup>1</sup> programs authorized under the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1451 et seq.) with information necessary to design land use plans and coastal zone regulations that will contribute to the protection of coastal ecosystems; and

(8) provide certain water pollution control programs authorized under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.) with information necessary to design and implement effective coastal water pollution controls.

(Pub. L. 92-532, title V, §501, as added Pub. L. 102-567, title V, §501, Oct. 29, 1992, 106 Stat. 4293.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, referred to in par. (7), is title III of Pub. L. 89-454 as added by Pub. L. 92-583, Oct. 27, 1972, 86 Stat. 1280, as amended, which is classified generally to chapter 33 (§1451 et seq.) of Title 16, Conservation. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 1451 of Title 16 and Tables.

The Federal Water Pollution Control Act, referred to in par. (8), is act June 30, 1948, ch. 758, as amended generally by Pub. L. 92-500, §2, Oct. 18, 1972, 86 Stat. 816, which is classified generally to chapter 26 (§1251 et seq.) of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 1251 of this title and Tables.

SHORT TITLE

Title V of Pub. L. 92-532, which comprises this chapter, is popularly known as the "National Coastal Monitoring Act".

<sup>1</sup> So in original. Probably should be capitalized.

**§ 2802. Definitions**

For the purposes of this chapter, the term—

(1) "Administrator" means the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency;

(2) "coastal ecosystem" means a system of interacting biological, chemical, and physical components throughout the water column, water surface, and benthic environment of coastal waters;

(3) "coastal water quality" means the physical, chemical and biological parameters that relate to the health and integrity of coastal ecosystems;

(4) "coastal water quality monitoring" means a continuing program of measurement, analysis, and synthesis to identify and quantify coastal water quality conditions and trends to provide a technical basis for decisionmaking;

(5) "coastal waters" means waters of the Great Lakes, including their connecting waters and those portions of rivers, streams, and other bodies of water having unimpaired connection with the open sea up to the head of tidal influence, including wetlands, intertidal areas, bays, harbors, and lagoons, including waters of the territorial sea of the United States and the contiguous zone";<sup>1</sup> and

(6) "Under Secretary" means Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere.

(Pub. L. 92-532, title V, §502, as added Pub. L. 102-567, title V, §501, Oct. 29, 1992, 106 Stat. 4294.)

TERRITORIAL SEA AND CONTIGUOUS ZONE OF UNITED STATES

For extension of territorial sea and contiguous zone of United States, see Proc. No. 5928 and Proc. No. 7219, respectively, set out as notes under section 1331 of Title 43, Public Lands.

**§ 2803. Comprehensive Coastal Water Quality Monitoring Program**

**(a) Authority; joint implementation**

(1) The Administrator and the Under Secretary, in conjunction with other Federal, State, and local authorities, shall jointly develop and implement a program for the long-term collection, assimilation, and analysis of scientific data designed to measure the environmental quality of the Nation's coastal ecosystems pursuant to this section. Monitoring conducted pursuant to this section shall be coordinated with relevant monitoring programs conducted by the Administrator, Under Secretary, and other Federal, State, and local authorities.

(2) Primary leadership for the monitoring program activities conducted by the Environmental Protection Agency pursuant to this section shall be located at the Environmental Research Laboratory in Narragansett, Rhode Island.

**(b) Program elements**

The Comprehensive Coastal Water Quality Monitoring Program shall include, but not be limited to—

<sup>1</sup> So in original. The closing quotation marks preceding the semicolon probably should not appear.