

with the same jurisdiction, power, and duties as though all applicable terms and provisions of that Act were incorporated into and made a part of this chapter.”

### § 6906. Prohibited acts

#### (a) In general

It is unlawful for any person—

(1) to violate any provision of this chapter or any regulation or permit issued pursuant to this chapter;

(2) to use any fishing vessel to engage in fishing after the revocation, or during the period of suspension, of an applicable permit issued pursuant to this chapter;

(3) to refuse to permit any officer authorized to enforce the provisions of this chapter to board a fishing vessel subject to such person’s control for the purposes of conducting any search, investigation, or inspection in connection with the enforcement of this chapter or any regulation, permit, or the Convention;

(4) to forcibly assault, resist, oppose, impede, intimidate, or interfere with any such authorized officer in the conduct of any search, investigations, or inspection in connection with the enforcement of this chapter or any regulation, permit, or the Convention;

(5) to resist a lawful arrest for any act prohibited by this chapter;

(6) to ship, transport, offer for sale, sell, purchase, import, export, or have custody, control, or possession of, any fish taken or retained in violation of this chapter or any regulation, permit, or agreement referred to in paragraph (1) or (2);

(7) to interfere with, delay, or prevent, by any means, the apprehension or arrest of another person, knowing that such other person has committed any chapter<sup>1</sup> prohibited by this section;

(8) to knowingly and willfully submit to the Secretary false information (including false information regarding the capacity and extent to which a United States fish processor, on an annual basis, will process a portion of the optimum yield of a fishery that will be harvested by fishery vessels of the United States), regarding any matter that the Secretary is considering in the course of carrying out this chapter;

(9) to forcibly assault, resist, oppose, impede, intimidate, sexually harass, bribe, or interfere with any observer on a vessel under this chapter, or any data collector employed by the National Marine Fisheries Service or under contract to any person to carry out responsibilities under this chapter;

(10) to engage in fishing in violation of any regulation adopted pursuant to section 6905(a) of this title;

(11) to ship, transport, purchase, sell, offer for sale, import, export, or have in custody, possession, or control any fish taken or retained in violation of such regulations;

(12) to fail to make, keep, or furnish any catch returns, statistical records, or other reports as are required by regulations adopted pursuant to this chapter to be made, kept, or furnished;

(13) to fail to stop a vessel upon being hailed and instructed to stop by a duly authorized official of the United States;

(14) to import, in violation of any regulation adopted pursuant to section 6905(a) of this title, any fish in any form of those species subject to regulation pursuant to a recommendation, resolution, or decision of the Commission, or any tuna in any form not under regulation but under investigation by the Commission, during the period such fish have been denied entry in accordance with the provisions of section 6905(a) of this title.

#### (b) Entry certification

In the case of any fish described in subsection (a) offered for entry into the United States, the Secretary of Commerce shall require proof satisfactory to the Secretary that such fish is not ineligible for such entry under the terms of section 6905(a) of this title.

(Pub. L. 109-479, title V, § 507, Jan. 12, 2007, 120 Stat. 3641; Pub. L. 114-81, title I, § 105(2), Nov. 5, 2015, 129 Stat. 657.)

#### AMENDMENTS

2015—Subsec. (a)(2). Pub. L. 114-81 substituted “suspension, of” for “suspension, on”.

### § 6907. Cooperation in carrying out convention

#### (a) Federal and State agencies; private institutions and organizations

The Secretary may cooperate with agencies of the United States government,<sup>1</sup> any public or private institutions or organizations within the United States or abroad, and, through the Secretary of State, the duly authorized officials of the government of any party to the WCPFC Convention, in carrying out responsibilities under this chapter.

#### (b) Scientific and other programs; facilities and personnel

All Federal agencies are authorized, upon the request of the Secretary, to cooperate in the conduct of scientific and other programs and to furnish facilities and personnel for the purpose of assisting the Commission in carrying out its duties under the WCPFC Convention.

#### (c) Sanctioned fishing operations and biological experiments

Nothing in this chapter, or in the laws or regulations of any State, prevents the Secretary or the Commission from—

(1) conducting or authorizing the conduct of fishing operations and biological experiments at any time for purposes of scientific investigation; or

(2) discharging any other duties prescribed by the WCPFC Convention.

#### (d) State jurisdiction not affected

Except as provided in subsection (e) of this section, nothing in this chapter shall be construed to diminish or to increase the jurisdiction of any State in the territorial sea of the United States.

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

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

**(e) Application of regulations****(1) In general**

Regulations promulgated under section 6905(a) of this title shall apply within the boundaries of any State bordering on the Convention area if the Secretary has provided notice to such State, the State does not request an agency hearing, and the Secretary determines that the State—

(A) has not, within a reasonable period of time after the promulgation of regulations pursuant to this chapter, enacted laws or promulgated regulations that implement the recommendations of the Commission within the boundaries of such State; or

(B) has enacted laws or promulgated regulations that implement the recommendations of the commission within the boundaries of such State that—

(i) are less restrictive than<sup>2</sup> the regulations promulgated under section 6905(a) of this title; or

(ii) are not effectively enforced.

**(2) Determination by Secretary**

The regulations promulgated pursuant to section 6905(a) of this title shall apply until the Secretary determines that the State is effectively enforcing within its boundaries measures that are not less restrictive than the regulations promulgated under section 6905(a) of this title.

**(3) Hearing**

If a State requests a formal agency hearing, the Secretary shall not apply the regulations promulgated pursuant<sup>3</sup> section 6905(a) of this title within that State's boundaries unless the hearing record supports a determination under paragraph (1)(A) or (B).

**(f) Review of State laws and regulations**

To ensure that the purposes of subsection (e) are carried out, the Secretary shall undertake a continuing review of the laws and regulations of all States to which subsection (e) applies or may apply and the extent to which such laws and regulations are enforced.

(Pub. L. 109-479, title V, §508, Jan. 12, 2007, 120 Stat. 3642.)

**§ 6908. Territorial participation**

The Secretary of State shall ensure participation in the Commission and its subsidiary bodies by American Samoa, Guam, and the Northern Mariana Islands to the same extent provided to the territories of other nations.

(Pub. L. 109-479, title V, §509, Jan. 12, 2007, 120 Stat. 3643.)

**§ 6909. Exclusive Economic Zone notification**

Masters of commercial fishing vessels of nations fishing for species under the management authority of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Convention that do not carry vessel monitoring systems capable of communicating with United States enforcement authorities

<sup>2</sup> So in original. Probably should be "than".

<sup>3</sup> So in original. Probably should be followed by "to".

shall, prior to, or as soon as reasonably possible after, entering and transiting the Exclusive Economic Zone seaward of Hawaii and of the Commonwealths, territories, and possessions of the United States in the Pacific Ocean area—

(1) notify the United States Coast Guard or the National Marine Fisheries Service Office of Law Enforcement in the appropriate region of the name, flag state, location, route, and destination of the vessel and of the circumstances under which it will enter United States waters;

(2) ensure that all fishing gear on board the vessel is stowed below deck or otherwise removed from the place where it is normally used for fishing and placed where it is not readily available for fishing; and

(3) where requested by an enforcement officer, proceed to a specified location so that a vessel inspection can be conducted.

(Pub. L. 109-479, title V, §510, Jan. 12, 2007, 120 Stat. 3643.)

**§ 6909a. United States conservation, management, and enforcement objectives**

The Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of State, in the course of negotiations, shall seek—

(1) to minimize any disadvantage to United States fishermen in relation to other members of the Commission;

(2) to maximize the opportunities for fishing vessels of the United States to harvest fish stocks on the high seas in the Convention area, recognizing that such harvests may be restricted if the Commission, based on the best available scientific information provided by the Scientific Committee, determines it is necessary to achieve the conservation objective set forth in Article 2 of the Convention;

(3) to prevent any requirement for the transfer to other nations or foreign entities of the fishing capacity, fishing capacity rights, or fishing vessels of the United States or its territories, unless any such requirement is voluntary and market-based; and

(4) to ensure that conservation and management measures take into consideration traditional fishing patterns of fishing vessels of the United States and the operating requirements of the fisheries covered by the Western and Central Pacific Convention.

(Pub. L. 109-479, title V, §511, as added Pub. L. 114-327, title III, §301(a)(2), Dec. 16, 2016, 130 Stat. 1994.)

**PRIOR PROVISIONS**

A prior section 511 of Pub. L. 109-479 was renumbered section 512 and is classified to section 6910 of this title.

**§ 6910. Authorization of appropriations**

There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Commerce such sums as may be necessary to carry out this chapter and to pay the United States' contribution to the Commission under section 5 of part III of the WCPFC Convention.

(Pub. L. 109-479, title V, §512, formerly §511, Jan. 12, 2007, 120 Stat. 3644; renumbered §512, Pub. L.