

**§ 2623. Authorization of appropriations**

There are authorized to be appropriated \$1,500,000 for each of the fiscal years 1989 and 1990, to carry out this chapter.

(Pub. L. 100-688, title IV, § 4203, Nov. 18, 1988, 102 Stat. 4160.)

**CHAPTER 40—OIL POLLUTION**

**SUBCHAPTER I—OIL POLLUTION LIABILITY AND COMPENSATION**

- Sec.
- 2701. Definitions.
- 2702. Elements of liability.
- 2703. Defenses to liability.
- 2704. Limits on liability.
- 2705. Interest; partial payment of claims.
- 2706. Natural resources.
- 2707. Recovery by foreign claimants.
- 2708. Recovery by responsible party.
- 2709. Contribution.
- 2710. Indemnification agreements.
- 2711. Consultation on removal actions.
- 2712. Uses of Fund.
- 2713. Claims procedure.
- 2714. Designation of source and advertisement.
- 2715. Subrogation.
- 2716. Financial responsibility.
- 2716a. Financial responsibility civil penalties.
- 2717. Litigation, jurisdiction, and venue.
- 2718. Relationship to other law.
- 2719. State financial responsibility.
- 2720. Differentiation among fats, oils, and greases.

**SUBCHAPTER II—PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND PROVISIONS**

- 2731. Oil Spill Recovery Institute.
- 2732. Terminal and tanker oversight and monitoring.
- 2733. Bligh Reef light.
- 2734. Vessel traffic service system.
- 2735. Equipment and personnel requirements under tank vessel and facility response plans.
- 2736. Funding.
- 2737. Limitation.
- 2738. North Pacific Marine Research Institute.

**SUBCHAPTER III—MISCELLANEOUS**

- 2751. Savings provision.
- 2752. Annual appropriations.
- 2753. Repealed.

**SUBCHAPTER IV—OIL POLLUTION RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM**

- 2761. Oil pollution research and development program.
- 2762. Submerged oil program.

**SUBCHAPTER I—OIL POLLUTION LIABILITY AND COMPENSATION**

**§ 2701. Definitions**

For the purposes of this Act, the term—

(1) “act of God” means an unanticipated grave natural disaster or other natural phenomenon of an exceptional, inevitable, and irresistible character the effects of which could not have been prevented or avoided by the exercise of due care or foresight;

(2) “barrel” means 42 United States gallons at 60 degrees Fahrenheit;

(3) “claim” means a request, made in writing for a sum certain, for compensation for damages or removal costs resulting from an incident;

(4) “claimant” means any person or government who presents a claim for compensation under this subchapter;

(5) “damages” means damages specified in section 2702(b) of this title, and includes the cost of assessing these damages;

(6) “deepwater port” is a facility licensed under the Deepwater Port Act of 1974 (33 U.S.C. 1501-1524);

(7) “discharge” means any emission (other than natural seepage), intentional or unintentional, and includes, but is not limited to, spilling, leaking, pumping, pouring, emitting, emptying, or dumping;

(8) “exclusive economic zone” means the zone established by Presidential Proclamation Numbered 5030, dated March 10, 1983, including the ocean waters of the areas referred to as “eastern special areas” in Article 3(1) of the Agreement between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the Maritime Boundary, signed June 1, 1990;

(9) “facility” means any structure, group of structures, equipment, or device (other than a vessel) which is used for one or more of the following purposes: exploring for, drilling for, producing, storing, handling, transferring, processing, or transporting oil. This term includes any motor vehicle, rolling stock, or pipeline used for one or more of these purposes;

(10) “foreign offshore unit” means a facility which is located, in whole or in part, in the territorial sea or on the continental shelf of a foreign country and which is or was used for one or more of the following purposes: exploring for, drilling for, producing, storing, handling, transferring, processing, or transporting oil produced from the seabed beneath the foreign country’s territorial sea or from the foreign country’s continental shelf;

(11) “Fund” means the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund, established by section 9509 of title 26;

(12) “gross ton” has the meaning given that term by the Secretary under part J of title 46;

(13) “guarantor” means any person, other than the responsible party, who provides evidence of financial responsibility for a responsible party under this Act;

(14) “incident” means any occurrence or series of occurrences having the same origin, involving one or more vessels, facilities, or any combination thereof, resulting in the discharge or substantial threat of discharge of oil;

(15) “Indian tribe” means any Indian tribe, band, nation, or other organized group or community, but not including any Alaska Native regional or village corporation, which is recognized as eligible for the special programs and services provided by the United States to Indians because of their status as Indians and has governmental authority over lands belonging to or controlled by the tribe;

(16) “lessee” means a person holding a leasehold interest in an oil or gas lease on lands beneath navigable waters (as that term is defined in section 1301(a) of title 43) or on submerged lands of the Outer Continental Shelf,