

estuarine projects, may waive the application of paragraph (2)(A) with respect to a State or an Indian Tribe, or otherwise reduce the portion of the non-Federal share of the cost of an activity required to be paid by a State or an Indian Tribe under paragraph (1), if the Secretary determines that the State or Indian Tribe does not have sufficient funds not derived from another Federal grant program to pay such non-Federal share, or portion of the non-Federal share, without the use of loans.

(f) Approval

(1) In general

Not later than 90 days after the date of receipt of the recommended priority list of fish habitat conservation projects under subsection (b), and subject to subsection (d) and based, to the maximum extent practicable, on the criteria described in subsection (c), the Secretary, after consulting with the Secretary of Commerce on marine or estuarine projects, shall approve or reject any fish habitat conservation project recommended by the Board.

(2) Funding

If the Secretary approves a fish habitat conservation project under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall use amounts made available to carry out this chapter to provide funds to carry out the fish habitat conservation project.

(3) Notification

If the Secretary rejects under paragraph (1) any fish habitat conservation project recommended by the Board, not later than 90 days after the date of receipt of the recommendation, the Secretary shall provide to the Board, the appropriate Partnership, and the appropriate congressional committees a written statement of the reasons that the Secretary rejected the fish habitat conservation project.

(Pub. L. 116-188, title II, §205, Oct. 30, 2020, 134 Stat. 931.)

Editorial Notes

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, referred to in subsec. (c)(5)(E), is Pub. L. 94-265, Apr. 13, 1976, 90 Stat. 331, which is classified principally to chapter 38 (§1801 et seq.) of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 1801 of this title and Tables.

§ 8206. Technical and scientific assistance

(a) In general

The Director, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Assistant Administrator, the Environmental Protection Agency Assistant Administrator, and the Director of the United States Geological Survey, in coordination with the Forest Service and other appropriate Federal departments and agencies, may provide scientific and technical assistance to Partnerships, participants in fish habitat conservation projects, and the Board.

(b) Inclusions

Scientific and technical assistance provided under subsection (a) may include—

(1) providing technical and scientific assistance to States, Indian Tribes, regions, local communities, and nongovernmental organizations in the development and implementation of Partnerships;

(2) providing technical and scientific assistance to Partnerships for habitat assessment, strategic planning, and prioritization;

(3) supporting the development and implementation of fish habitat conservation projects that are identified as high priorities by Partnerships and the Board;

(4) supporting and providing recommendations regarding the development of science-based monitoring and assessment approaches for implementation through Partnerships;

(5) supporting and providing recommendations for a national fish habitat assessment;

(6) ensuring the availability of experts to assist in conducting scientifically based evaluation and reporting of the results of fish habitat conservation projects; and

(7) providing resources to secure State agency scientific and technical assistance to support Partnerships, participants in fish habitat conservation projects, and the Board.

(Pub. L. 116-188, title II, §206, Oct. 30, 2020, 134 Stat. 934.)

§ 8207. Coordination with States and Indian Tribes

The Secretary shall provide a notice to, and cooperate with, the appropriate State agency or Tribal agency, as applicable, of each State and Indian Tribe within the boundaries of which an activity is planned to be carried out pursuant to this chapter, including notification, by not later than 30 days before the date on which the activity is implemented.

(Pub. L. 116-188, title II, §207, Oct. 30, 2020, 134 Stat. 934.)

§ 8208. Interagency operational plan

Not later than 1 year after October 30, 2020, and every 5 years thereafter, the Director, in cooperation with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Assistant Administrator, the Environmental Protection Agency Assistant Administrator, the Director of the United States Geological Survey, and the heads of other appropriate Federal departments and agencies (including, at a minimum, those agencies represented on the Board) shall develop an interagency operational plan that describes—

(1) the functional, operational, technical, scientific, and general staff, administrative, and material needs for the implementation of this chapter; and

(2) any interagency agreements between or among Federal departments and agencies to address those needs.

(Pub. L. 116-188, title II, §208, Oct. 30, 2020, 134 Stat. 935.)

§ 8209. Accountability and reporting

(a) Reporting

(1) In general

Not later than 5 years after October 30, 2020, and every 5 years thereafter, the Board shall

submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report describing the progress of this chapter.

(2) Contents

Each report submitted under paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) an estimate of the number of acres, stream miles, or acre-feet, or other suitable measures of fish habitat, that was maintained or improved by Partnerships under this chapter during the 5-year period ending on the date of submission of the report;

(B) a description of the public access to fish habitats established or improved under this chapter during that 5-year period;

(C) a description of the improved opportunities for public recreational fishing achieved under this chapter; and

(D) an assessment of the status of fish habitat conservation projects carried out with funds provided under this chapter during that period, disaggregated by year, including—

(i) a description of the fish habitat conservation projects recommended by the Board under section 8205(b) of this title;

(ii) a description of each fish habitat conservation project approved by the Secretary under section 8205(f) of this title, in order of priority for funding;

(iii) a justification for—

(I) the approval of each fish habitat conservation project; and

(II) the order of priority for funding of each fish habitat conservation project;

(iv) a justification for any rejection of a fish habitat conservation project recommended by the Board under section 8205(b) of this title that was based on a factor other than the criteria described in section 8205(c) of this title; and

(v) an accounting of expenditures by Federal, State, or local governments, Indian Tribes, or other entities to carry out fish habitat conservation projects under this chapter.

(b) Status and trends report

Not later than December 31, 2021, and every 5 years thereafter, the Board shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that includes—

(1) a status of all Partnerships designated under this chapter;

(2) a description of the status of fish habitats in the United States as identified by designated Partnerships; and

(3) enhancements or reductions in public access as a result of—

(A) the activities of the Partnerships; or

(B) any other activities carried out pursuant to this chapter.

(Pub. L. 116-188, title II, §209, Oct. 30, 2020, 134 Stat. 935.)

§ 8210. Effect of this chapter

(a) Water rights

Nothing in this chapter—

(1) establishes any express or implied reserved water right in the United States for any purpose;

(2) affects any water right in existence on October 30, 2020;

(3) preempts or affects any State water law or interstate compact governing water; or

(4) affects any Federal or State law in existence on October 30, 2020, regarding water quality or water quantity.

(b) Authority to acquire water rights or rights to property

Only a State, local government, or other non-Federal entity may acquire, under State law, water rights or rights to property with funds made available through section 8212 of this title.

(c) State authority

Nothing in this chapter—

(1) affects the authority, jurisdiction, or responsibility of a State to manage, control, or regulate fish and wildlife under the laws and regulations of the State; or

(2) authorizes the Secretary to control or regulate within a State the fishing or hunting of fish and wildlife.

(d) Effect on Indian Tribes

Nothing in this chapter abrogates, abridges, affects, modifies, supersedes, or alters any right of an Indian Tribe recognized by treaty or any other means, including—

(1) an agreement between the Indian Tribe and the United States;

(2) Federal law (including regulations);

(3) an Executive order; or

(4) a judicial decree.

(e) Adjudication of water rights

Nothing in this chapter diminishes or affects the ability of the Secretary to join an adjudication of rights to the use of water pursuant to subsection (a), (b), or (c) of section 666 of title 43.

(f) Department of Commerce authority

Nothing in this chapter affects the authority, jurisdiction, or responsibility of the Department of Commerce to manage, control, or regulate fish or fish habitats under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.).

(g) Effect on other authorities

(1) Private property protection

Nothing in this chapter permits the use of funds made available to carry out this chapter to acquire real property or a real property interest without the written consent of each owner of the real property or real property interest, respectively.

(2) Mitigation

Nothing in this chapter authorizes the use of funds made available to carry out this chapter for fish and wildlife mitigation purposes under—

(A) the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.);

(B) the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.);

(C) the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (Public Law 99-662; 100 Stat. 4082); or

(D) any other Federal law or court settlement.

(3) Clean Water Act

Nothing in this chapter affects any provision of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33