

a State other than a State whose vessels maintain a substantial fishery in the area of the Convention.

**(b) Alternate Commissioners**

The Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary, may designate from time to time and for periods of time deemed appropriate Alternate United States Commissioners to the Commission. Any Alternate United States Commissioner may exercise, at any meeting of the Commission or of the General Advisory Committee or Scientific Advisory Subcommittee established pursuant to section 953(b) of this title, all powers and duties of a United States Commissioner in the absence of any United States Commissioner appointed pursuant to subsection (a) of this section for whatever reason. The number of such Alternate United States Commissioners that may be designated for any such meeting shall be limited to the number of United States Commissioners appointed pursuant to subsection (a) of this section who will not be present at such meeting.

**(c) Administrative matters**

**(1) Employment status**

Individuals serving as United States Commissioners, other than officers or employees of the United States Government, shall not be considered Federal employees except for the purposes of injury compensation or tort claims liability as provided in chapter 81 of title 5 and chapter 171 of title 28.

**(2) Compensation**

The United States Commissioners or Alternate Commissioners, although officers of the United States while so serving, shall receive no compensation for their services as United States Commissioners or Alternate Commissioners.

**(3) Travel expenses**

(A) The Secretary of State shall pay the necessary travel expenses of United States Commissioners and Alternate United States Commissioners to meetings of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission and other meetings the Secretary of State deems necessary to fulfill their duties, in accordance with the Federal Travel Regulations and sections 5701, 5702, 5704 through 5708, and 5731 of title 5.

(B) The Secretary may reimburse the Secretary of State for amounts expended by the Secretary of State under this subsection.

(Sept. 7, 1950, ch. 907, § 3, 64 Stat. 777; 1970 Reorg. Plan No. 4, eff. Oct. 3, 1970, 35 F.R. 15627, 84 Stat. 2090; Pub. L. 102-523, § 3(a)(1), Oct. 26, 1992, 106 Stat. 3433; Pub. L. 105-42, § 7(a), Aug. 15, 1997, 111 Stat. 1137; Pub. L. 106-562, title III, § 302, Dec. 23, 2000, 114 Stat. 2806; Pub. L. 114-81, title II, § 204, Nov. 5, 2015, 129 Stat. 660.)

**Editorial Notes**

AMENDMENTS

2015—Pub. L. 114-81 amended section generally. Prior to amendment, section related to number, appointment, and qualification of United States Commissioners.

2000—Pub. L. 106-562 inserted after first sentence “Individuals serving as such Commissioners shall not be considered to be Federal employees while performing such service, except for purposes of injury compensation or tort claims liability as provided in chapter 81 of title 5 and chapter 171 of title 28.”

1997—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 105-42, which directed the general amendment of section 3(c) of the Tuna Convention Act, was executed by making the amendment to subsec. (c) of this section, to reflect the probable intent of Congress. Prior to amendment, subsec. (c) read as follows: “at least one shall be an officer of the Department of Commerce; and”.

1992—Par. (d). Pub. L. 102-523 added par. (d).

**Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries**

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1997 AMENDMENT

For effective date of amendment by Pub. L. 105-42, see section 8 of Pub. L. 105-42, set out as a note under section 1362 of this title.

ALTERNATE UNITED STATES COMMISSIONERS

For additional provisions relating to the designation of Alternate United States Commissioners, see sections 2672a and 2672b of Title 22, Foreign Relations and Intercourse.

**§ 953. General Advisory Committee and Scientific Advisory Subcommittee**

**(a) General Advisory Committee**

**(1) Appointments; public participation; compensation**

(A) The Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of State, shall appoint a General Advisory Committee which shall consist of not more than 25 individuals who shall be representative of the various groups concerned with the fisheries covered by the Convention, including nongovernmental conservation organizations, providing to the maximum extent practicable an equitable balance among such groups. Members of the General Advisory Committee will be eligible to participate as members of the United States delegation to the Commission and its working groups to the extent the Commission rules and space for delegations allow.

(B) The chair of the Pacific Fishery Management Council's Advisory Subpanel for Highly Migratory Fisheries and the chair of the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council's Advisory Committee shall be ex-officio members of the General Advisory Committee by virtue of their positions in those Councils.

(C) Each member of the General Advisory Committee appointed under subparagraph (A) shall serve for a term of 3 years and is eligible for reappointment.

(D) The General Advisory Committee shall be invited to attend all non-executive meetings of the United States delegation and at such meetings shall be given opportunity to examine and to be heard on all proposed programs of investigation, reports, recommendations, and regulations of the Commission.

(E) The General Advisory Committee shall determine its organization, and prescribe its practices and procedures for carrying out its functions under this chapter, the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.), and the Con-

vention. The General Advisory Committee shall publish and make available to the public a statement of its organization, practices, and procedures. Meetings of the General Advisory Committee, except when in executive session, shall be open to the public, and prior notice of meetings shall be made public in timely fashion. The General Advisory Committee shall not be subject to the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.).

**(2) Information sharing**

The Secretary and the Secretary of State shall furnish the General Advisory Committee with relevant information concerning fisheries and international fishery agreements.

**(3) Administrative matters**

(A) The Secretary shall provide to the General Advisory Committee in a timely manner such administrative and technical support services as are necessary for its effective functioning.

(B) Individuals appointed to serve as a member of the General Advisory Committee—

(i) shall serve without pay, but while away from their homes or regular places of business to attend meetings of the General Advisory Committee shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, in the same manner as persons employed intermittently in the Government service are allowed expenses under section 5703 of title 5; and

(ii) shall not be considered Federal employees except for the purposes of injury compensation or tort claims liability as provided in chapter 81 of title 5 and chapter 171 of title 28.

**(b) Scientific Advisory Subcommittee**

(1) The Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of State, shall appoint a Scientific Advisory Subcommittee of not less than 5 nor more than 15 qualified scientists with balanced representation from the public and private sectors, including nongovernmental conservation organizations.

**(2) SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY SUBCOMMITTEE.—**

(A) **ADVICE.**—The Scientific Advisory Subcommittee shall advise the General Advisory Committee and the Commissioners on matters including—

- (i) the conservation of ecosystems;
- (ii) the sustainable uses of living marine resources related to the tuna fishery in the eastern Pacific Ocean; and
- (iii) the long-term conservation and management of stocks of living marine resources in the eastern tropical Pacific Ocean.

(B) **OTHER FUNCTIONS AND ASSISTANCE.**—The Scientific Advisory Subcommittee shall, as requested by the General Advisory Committee, the United States Commissioners, or the Secretary, perform functions and provide assistance required by formal agreements entered into by the United States for this fishery, including the International Dolphin Conservation Program. These functions may include—

- (i) the review of data from the Program, including data received from the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission;

(ii) recommendations on research needs, including ecosystems, fishing practices, and gear technology research, including the development and use of selective, environmentally safe and cost-effective fishing gear, and on the coordination and facilitation of such research;

(iii) recommendations concerning scientific reviews and assessments required under the Program and engaging, as appropriate, in such reviews and assessments;

(iv) consulting with other experts as needed; and

(v) recommending measures to assure the regular and timely full exchange of data among the parties to the Program and each nation's National Scientific Advisory Committee (or its equivalent).

(3) **ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS.**—The Scientific Advisory Subcommittee shall be invited to have representatives attend all nonexecutive meetings of the United States sections and the General Advisory Committee and shall be given full opportunity to examine and to be heard on all proposed programs of scientific investigation, scientific reports, and scientific recommendations of the commission. Representatives of the Scientific Advisory Subcommittee may attend meetings of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission in accordance with the rules of such Commission.

(Sept. 7, 1950, ch. 907, § 4, 64 Stat. 778; Pub. L. 102-523, § 3(a)(2), Oct. 26, 1992, 106 Stat. 3433; Pub. L. 105-42, § 7(b), Aug. 15, 1997, 111 Stat. 1137; Pub. L. 114-81, title II, § 205, Nov. 5, 2015, 129 Stat. 661.)

**Editorial Notes**

**REFERENCES IN TEXT**

This chapter, referred to in subsec. (a)(1)(E), was in the original “this title” and was translated as reading “this Act” to reflect the probable intent of Congress. Act Sept. 7, 1950, which comprises this chapter, does not contain titles.

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, referred to in subsec. (a)(1)(E), is Pub. L. 94-265, Apr. 13, 1976, 90 Stat. 331, which is classified generally 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.

The Federal Advisory Committee Act, referred to in subsec. (a)(1)(E), is Pub. L. 92-463, Oct. 6, 1972, 86 Stat. 770, which is set out in the Appendix to Title 5, Government Organization and Employees.

**AMENDMENTS**

2015—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 114-81, §205(1), added subsec. (a) and struck out former subsec. (a), which related to General Advisory Committee appointment, public participation, and compensation.

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 114-81, §205(2), substituted “Scientific Advisory Subcommittee” for “Functions” in heading.

Subsec. (b)(1). Pub. L. 114-81, §205(2), added par. (1) and struck out former par. (1) which read as follows: “The General Advisory Committee shall be invited to have representatives attend all nonexecutive meetings of the United States sections and shall be given full opportunity to examine and to be heard on all proposed programs of investigations, reports, recommendations, and regulations of the Commission. The General Advisory Committee may attend all meetings of the international commissions to which they are invited by such commissions.”

Subsec. (b)(3). Pub. L. 114-81, §205(3), substituted “General Advisory Committee” for “General Advisory Subcommittee”.

1997—Pub. L. 105-42 which directed insertion of catchline and general amendment of text of section 4 of the Tuna Conventions Act, was executed to this section, to reflect the probable intent of Congress. Prior to amendment, text read as follows: “The United States Commissioners shall (a) appoint an advisory committee which shall be composed of not less than five nor more than fifteen persons who shall be selected from the various groups participating in the fisheries included under the conventions, and from nongovernmental conservation organizations, and (b) shall fix the terms of office of the members of such committee, who shall receive no compensation for their services as such members. The advisory committee shall be invited to attend all nonexecutive meetings of the United States sections and shall be given full opportunity to examine and to be heard on all proposed programs of investigation, reports, recommendations, and regulations of the commissions. The advisory committee may attend all meetings of the international commissions to which they are invited by such commissions.”

1992—Pub. L. 102-523 inserted “and from nongovernmental conservation organizations,” after “under the conventions,”.

#### Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

##### EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1997 AMENDMENT

For effective date of amendment by Pub. L. 105-42, see section 8 of Pub. L. 105-42, set out as a note under section 1362 of this title.

##### TERMINATION OF ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Advisory committees established after Jan. 5, 1973, to terminate not later than the expiration of the 2-year period beginning on the date of their establishment, unless, in the case of a committee established by the President or an officer of the Federal Government, such committee is renewed by appropriate action prior to the expiration of such 2-year period, or in the case of a committee established by the Congress, its duration is otherwise provided by law. See section 14 of Pub. L. 92-463, Oct. 6, 1972, 86 Stat. 776, set out in the Appendix to Title 5, Government Organization and Employees.

#### § 954. Repealed. Pub. L. 92-471, title II, §203(b), Oct. 9, 1972, 86 Stat. 787

Section, act Sept. 7, 1950, ch. 907, §5, 64 Stat. 778, provided that service of individuals appointed as United States Commissioners shall not be treated as service for the purposes of certain sections of Title 18, Crimes and Criminal Procedure, and Title 5, Government Organization and Employees.

#### § 955. Rulemaking

##### (a) Regulations

The Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of State and, with respect to enforcement measures, the Secretary of the Department in which the Coast Guard is operating, may promulgate such regulations as may be necessary to carry out the United States international obligations under the Convention and this chapter, including recommendations and decisions adopted by the Commission. In cases where the Secretary has discretion in the implementation of one or more measures adopted by the Commission that would govern fisheries under the authority of a Regional Fishery Management Council, the Secretary may, to the extent practicable within the implementation schedule of the Convention and any recommendations and

decisions adopted by the Commission, promulgate such regulations as may be necessary to carry out the United States international obligations under the Convention and this chapter, in accordance with the procedures established by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.).

##### (b) Jurisdiction

The Secretary may promulgate regulations as may be necessary to carry out the United States international obligations under the Convention and this chapter, applicable to all vessels and persons subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, including vessels documented under chapter 121 of title 46, wherever they may be operating, on such date as the Secretary shall prescribe.

(Sept. 7, 1950, ch. 907, §6, 64 Stat. 778; Pub. L. 87-814, §2, Oct. 15, 1962, 76 Stat. 923; 1970 Reorg. Plan No. 4, eff. Oct. 3, 1970, 35 F.R. 15627, 84 Stat. 2090; Pub. L. 114-81, title II, §206, Nov. 5, 2015, 129 Stat. 663.)

#### Editorial Notes

##### REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, referred to in subsec. (a), 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.

##### AMENDMENTS

2015—Pub. L. 114-81 amended section generally. Prior to amendment, section authorized Secretary of State to act for United States.

1962—Subsecs. (a), (b). Pub. L. 87-814 substituted “Secretary of the Interior” for “head of the enforcement agency”.

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 87-814 added subsec. (c).

#### Executive Documents

##### TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

Functions of the Secretary of the Interior transferred to the Secretary of Commerce in view of: creation of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in Department of Commerce and Office of Administrator of such Administration; abolition of Bureau of Commercial Fisheries in Department of the Interior and Office of Director of such Bureau; transfers of functions formerly vested by law in Secretary of the Interior or Department of the Interior which were administered through Bureau of Commercial Fisheries or were primarily related to such Bureau, exclusive of certain enumerated functions with respect to Great Lakes fishery research, Missouri River Reservoir research, Gulf Breeze Biological Laboratory, and Trans-Alaska pipeline investigations; and transfer of marine sport fish program of Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife by Reorg. Plan No. 4 of 1970, eff. Oct. 3, 1970, 35 F.R. 15627, 84 Stat. 2090, set out in the Appendix to Title 5, Government Organization and Employees.

#### § 956. Inspection of returns, records, or other reports

Any person authorized to carry out enforcement activities under this chapter and any person authorized by the commissions shall have power without warrant or other process, to inspect, at any reasonable time, catch returns,