

**§ 973h. Enforcement****(a) Federal responsibilities; utilization of personnel, etc., of other Federal and State agencies**

The provisions of this chapter shall be enforced by the Secretary in cooperation with the Secretary of State. The Secretary, after consultation with the Secretary of State, may by agreement, on a reimbursable basis or otherwise, utilize the personnel, services, equipment (including aircraft and vessels), and facilities of any other Federal agency and of any State agency in the performance of these duties.

**(b) Investigation and report of alleged Treaty infringement involving U.S. vessel; notice requirements to operator of vessel; comments, information, or evidence by operator**

(1) The Secretary shall, at the request of a Pacific Island Party made to the Secretary of State, fully investigate any alleged infringement of the Treaty involving a vessel of the United States, and report as soon as practicable, and in any case within 2 months, to that Party through the Secretary of State on any action taken or proposed by the Secretary in regard to the alleged infringement.

(2) Upon commencement of an investigation under paragraph (1) of this subsection, the Secretary shall notify the operator of any vessel concerned regarding—

(A) the nature of the investigation;

(B) the right of the operator to submit comments, information, or evidence bearing on the investigation and to receive, upon the operator's timely written request to the Secretary, an opportunity to present such comments, information, or evidence orally to the Secretary or the Secretary's representative within 30 days after receipt of such notification.

**(c) Notice requirements to Pacific Island Party concerning institution and outcome of legal proceedings**

(1) Prior to instituting any legal proceedings under this chapter for any action which involves an alleged infringement of the Treaty in waters within the jurisdiction of a Pacific Island Party, the Secretary, through the Secretary of State, shall notify the Pacific Island Party in accordance with paragraph 8 of Article 4 of the Treaty that the proceedings will be instituted. Such notice shall include a statement of the facts believed to show an infringement of the Treaty and the nature of the proposed proceedings, including any proposed charges and any proposed penalties. The Secretary shall not institute such proceedings if the Pacific Island Party objects within 30 days after the effective date of the notice under Article 10 of the Treaty.

(2) The Pacific Island Party exercising jurisdiction over the waters involved in such a legal proceeding shall be promptly notified by the Secretary, through the Secretary of State, concerning the outcome of the proceeding.

**(d) Searches and seizures by Authorized Officers; limitations on powers**

(1) Any Authorized Officer may—

(A) with or without a warrant or other process—

(i) arrest any person, if he has reasonable cause to believe that the person has committed any act subject to prosecution under section 973e of this title;

(ii) board, and search or inspect, any fishing vessel which is subject to the provisions of this chapter; or

(iii) seize samples of fish or items for evidence (other than the vessel or its fishing gear or equipment) related to any violation of any provision of this chapter;

(iv) order a vessel into the most convenient port of the United States for investigation when an investigation has been requested by a Pacific Island Party in accordance with the Treaty and when such an order is necessary to gather information for such an investigation;

(B) execute any warrant or other process issued by any court of competent jurisdiction;

(C) exercise any other lawful authority; and

(D) investigate alleged violations of the Treaty to the same extent authorized to investigate alleged violations of this chapter.

(2) To the extent possible, Authorized Officers shall exercise their powers under paragraph (1)(A)(ii), (iii), and (iv) of this subsection so as not to interfere unduly with the lawful operation of the vessel.

(3) Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to limit the enforcement of this or other applicable Federal laws under section 89<sup>1</sup> of title 14.

**(e) Exclusive jurisdiction**

The district courts of the United States shall have exclusive jurisdiction over any case or controversy arising under the provisions of this chapter.

(Pub. L. 100-330, §10, June 7, 1988, 102 Stat. 597.)

**Editorial Notes**

## REFERENCES IN TEXT

Section 89 of title 14, referred to in subsec. (d)(3), redesignated section 522 of title 14 by Pub. L. 115-282, title I, §105(b), Dec. 4, 2018, 132 Stat. 4200, and references to section 89 of title 14 deemed to refer to such redesignated section, see section 123(b)(1) of Pub. L. 115-282, set out as a References to Sections of Title 14 as Redesignated by Pub. L. 115-282 note preceding section 101 of Title 14, Coast Guard.

**§ 973i. Findings by Secretary****(a) Order of vessel to leave waters upon failure to submit to jurisdiction of Pacific Island Party; procedure applicable**

Following any investigation conducted in accordance with section 973h(b) of this title, the Secretary, with the concurrence of the Secretary of State, and upon the request of the Pacific Island Party concerned, may order a fishing vessel which has not submitted to the jurisdiction of that Pacific Island Party to leave immediately the Licensing Area, all Limited Areas, and all Closed Areas upon making a finding—

(1) that the fishing vessel—

(A) while fishing in the Licensing Area did not have a license under the Treaty to fish

<sup>1</sup> See References in Text note below.

in the Licensing Area, and that under paragraph 2 of Article 3 of the Treaty, such fishing is not authorized to be conducted in the Licensing Area without a license;

(B) was involved in any incident in which an Authorized Officer, Authorized Party Officer, or observer was allegedly assaulted with resultant bodily harm, physically threatened, forcefully resisted, refused boarding, or subjected to physical intimidation or physical interference in the performance of duties as authorized by this chapter or the Treaty;

(C) has not made full payment within 60 days of any amount due as a result of a final judgment or other final determination deriving from a violation in waters within the Treaty Area of a Pacific Island Party; or

(D) was not represented by an agent for service of process in accordance with the Treaty; or

(2) that there is probable cause to believe that the fishing vessel—

(A) was used in violation of section 973c(a)(4), (a)(5), (b)(2), or (b)(3) of this title;

(B) used an aircraft in violation of section 973c(b)(7) of this title; or

(C) was involved in an incident in which section 973c(a)(7) of this title was violated.

**(b) Order of vessel to leave waters where Pacific Island Party investigating alleged Treaty infringement**

Upon being advised by the Secretary of State that proper notification to Parties has been made under paragraph 7 of Article 5 of the Treaty that a Pacific Island Party is investigating an alleged infringement of the Treaty by a vessel in waters under the jurisdiction of such Pacific Island Party, the Secretary shall order the vessel to leave such waters until the Secretary of State notifies the Secretary that such order is no longer necessary.

**(c) Rescission of orders**

The Secretary shall rescind any order issued on the basis of a finding under subsection (a)(1)(C) or (D) of this section as soon as the Secretary determines that the facts underlying the finding do not apply.

**(d) Prohibition on judicial review of orders**

No order issued in accordance with this section is subject to judicial review.

**(e) Enforcement of orders by Attorney General**

Upon a request by the Secretary, the Attorney General shall commence a civil action for appropriate relief, including permanent or temporary injunction, to enforce any order issued by the Secretary under this section.

(Pub. L. 100-330, §11, June 7, 1988, 102 Stat. 598; Pub. L. 100-350, §4(3), June 27, 1988, 102 Stat. 660.)

**Editorial Notes**

AMENDMENTS

1988—Subsec. (a)(2)(C). Pub. L. 100-350 substituted “section 973c(a)(7) of this title” for “section 973c(b)(7) of this title”.

**§ 973j. Reporting requirements; disclosure of information**

(a) Holders of licenses shall comply with the reporting requirements of part 4 of Annex I to the Treaty.

(b) Information provided by license holders in Schedules 5 and 6 of Annex I of the Treaty shall be provided to the Secretary for transmittal to the Administrator and to an entity designated by the license holder. Such information thereafter shall not be released and shall be maintained as confidential by the Secretary, including information requested under the Freedom of Information Act [5 U.S.C. 552], unless disclosure is required under court order or unless the information is essential for an enforcement action under section 973c, 973h(b), 973h(c), or 973i of this title, or any other proper law enforcement action.

(Pub. L. 100-330, §12, June 7, 1988, 102 Stat. 599.)

**§ 973k. Closed Area stowage requirements**

At all times while a vessel is in a Closed Area, the fishing gear of the vessel shall be stowed in such a manner as not to be readily available for fishing. In particular, the boom shall be lowered as far as possible so that the vessel cannot be used for fishing, but so that the skiff is accessible for use in emergency situations; the helicopter, if any, shall be tied down; and launches shall be secured.

(Pub. L. 100-330, §13, June 7, 1988, 102 Stat. 599.)

**§ 973l. Observers**

**(a) Required access and assistance; scope of authorities**

The operator and each member of the crew of a vessel shall allow and assist any individual identified as an observer under the Treaty by the Pacific Island Parties—

(1) to board the vessel for scientific, compliance, monitoring and other functions at the point and time notified by the Pacific Island Parties to the Secretary;

(2) without interfering unduly with the lawful operation of the vessel, to have full access to and use of facilities and equipment on board the vessel which the observer may determine are necessary to carry out observer duties; have full access to the bridge, fish on board, and areas which may be used to hold, process, weigh, and store fish; remove samples; have full access to the vessel's records, including its log and documentation for the purpose of inspection and copying; and gather any other information relating to fisheries in the Licensing Area;

(3) to disembark at the point and time notified by the Pacific Island Parties to the Secretary; and

(4) to carry out observer duties safely.

**(b) Free provision of food, etc., while on vessel**

The operator shall provide any such observer, while on board the vessel, at no expense to the Pacific Island Parties, with food, accommodation, and medical facilities of such reasonable standard as may be acceptable to the Pacific Island Party whose representative is serving as the observer.