

§ 4006. Duties of Secretary with regard to National Council

(a) Duties of Secretary

The Secretary shall—

(1) within sixty days after its submission by the National Council, review the annual marketing and promotion plan and budget and, if the Secretary determines that such plan and budget are in accordance with the purposes and policies of this chapter, approve such plan and budget;

(2) administer the Fund and, in accordance with subsection (b) of this section, withdraw from the Fund such sums as are necessary to carry out the National Council's approved marketing and promotion plan and budget;

(3) promulgate regulations necessary to carry out the purposes and policies of this chapter;

(4) provide such administrative assistance as the National Council may require for purposes of its initial organization and operation; and

(5) make all initial appointments to the National Council within ninety days after November 14, 1986.

(b) Withdrawal of funds

The Secretary shall make withdrawals of sums from the Fund under this section at the request of the National Council, unless the Secretary determines that the purposes for which such sums are requested are not reasonably likely to further the purposes and policies of this chapter.

(Pub. L. 99-659, title II, §207, Nov. 14, 1986, 100 Stat. 3719; Pub. L. 101-627, title VII, §704(c), Nov. 28, 1990, 104 Stat. 4464.)

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

1990—Subsec. (a)(5). Pub. L. 101-627 inserted "initial" before "appointments".

§ 4007. Voluntary payments

Any person may make voluntary payments to assist the National Council to carry out its annual marketing and promotion plan and annual budget. The Secretary shall deposit such payments into the Fund.

(Pub. L. 99-659, title II, §208, Nov. 14, 1986, 100 Stat. 3720.)

§ 4008. Establishment of Fisheries Promotional Fund

(a) Establishment of Fund

There is established in the Treasury of the United States a Fisheries Promotional Fund. The Fund shall be available, to the extent provided for in appropriation Acts, for the purpose of making payments to carry out the annual marketing and promotion plan and annual budget of the National Council under this chapter.

(b) Deposits

There shall be deposited in the Fund—

(1) the moneys transferred to the Fund under section 713c-3(b)(2) of title 15;

(2) payments made voluntarily pursuant to section 4007 of this title; and

(3) receipts from investments made under subsection (c) of this section.

(c) Deposits and investments

Sums in the Fund that are not currently needed for the purposes of the Fund shall be kept on deposit in appropriate interest-bearing accounts that shall be established by the Secretary of the Treasury, or invested in obligations of, or guaranteed by, the United States. Any revenue accruing from such deposits and investments shall be deposited in the Fund.

(d) Authorization

There are authorized to be appropriated from the Fund, for the purposes of carrying out the annual marketing and promotion plan and annual budget of the National Council under this chapter, such sums as are deposited in the Fund under subsection (b) of this section in each fiscal year beginning in fiscal year 1987 through fiscal year 1991.

(Pub. L. 99-659, title II, §209, Nov. 14, 1986, 100 Stat. 3720; Pub. L. 101-627, title VII, §702, Nov. 28, 1990, 104 Stat. 4463.)

Editorial Notes

CODIFICATION

Section is comprised of section 209 of Pub. L. 99-659. Subsec. (e) of section 209 of Pub. L. 99-659 amended section 713c-3 of Title 15, Commerce and Trade.

AMENDMENTS

1990—Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 101-627 substituted "1991" for "1990".

§ 4009. Establishment of seafood marketing councils

(a) Application

An application for a charter for a seafood marketing council for one or more species of fish and fish products of that species may be filed by persons who meet the requirements specified in accordance with subsection (b)(6) of this section.

(b) Form of application

An application for a charter for a council shall be made by filing with the Secretary the text of a proposed charter in such form as shall be prescribed by regulation by the Secretary. The text of a proposed charter must contain such information as the Secretary considers necessary or appropriate for carrying out the provisions of this chapter, including—

(1) the name of the council and a provision proclaiming its establishment;

(2) a declaration of the purposes and objectives of the council;

(3) a description of the species of fish and fish products for which the council will implement marketing and promotion plans under section 4010 of this title;

(4) the identification of each sector and the number and terms of representatives of each sector that will be represented as voting members of the council;

(5) the identification of those sectors (including the sector consisting of harvesters, the sector consisting of receivers, and, if subject to assessment, the sector consisting of

importers) subject to a referendum to establish a council under subsection (e) of this section;

(6) a specification for each sector described under paragraph (5) of this subsection of the minimum requirements, as measured by income, volume, or other relevant factors, that a person engaging in business in the sector must meet in order to participate in a referendum;

(7)(A) a description of the procedures for determining assessment rates under section 4012 of this title;

(B) the proposed rate or rates that will be imposed by the council on receivers and, if subject to assessment, importers during its first year of operation;

(C) the maximum amount an assessment rate for any period may be raised above the rate applicable for the immediately preceding period; and

(D) the maximum rate or rates that can be imposed by a council on receivers or importers during the operation of the council;

(8) a provision setting forth the definition of a quorum for making decisions on council business and the procedures for selecting a chairman of the council;

(9) a provision setting forth the voting procedures by which votes may be cast by proxy; and

(10) such other provisions relating to administration of the council as the Secretary considers necessary.

The text of a proposed charter shall be accompanied by a document identifying, to the extent practicable by address of place of business, the persons (hereinafter referred to as "sector participants") that are considered by the applicants to meet the requirements specified in paragraph (6) of this subsection. The text of a proposed charter shall include provisions setting forth procedures for providing refunds to those sector participants subject to assessment under section 4012 of this title, and may also include provisions which establish a maximum limit on the amount that any one sector participant may be required to pay under an assessment for any period.

(c) Contents of charter

The Secretary may not approve a proposed charter filed under subsection (a) of this section unless such charter provides that—

(1) the council will have voting members representing the harvesting, receiving and, if subject to assessment, importing sectors; and

(2) the members of the council shall serve without compensation, but shall be reimbursed for their reasonable expenses incurred in performing their duties as members of the council.

(d) Review of charter

(1) Within 180 days of the receipt of an application to establish a council, the Secretary shall—

(A) identify, to the extent practicable, those sector participants that meet the requirements for eligibility to participate in the referendum under subsection (e) of this section;

(B) determine, to the extent practicable, if the charter is accompanied by a petition com-

prised of the signatures or corporate certifications, as the case may be, of no less than three sector participants in each sector identified in accordance with subsection (b)(5) of this section who collectively accounted for, in the twelve-month period immediately preceding the month in which the application was filed, not less than 10 percent of the value of the fish or fish products described in accordance with subsection (b)(3) of this section that were handled by each such sector during that period; and

(C) determine if the proposed charter is consistent with the provisions of this chapter and any other applicable law.

(2) If any negative determination is made under paragraph (1) of this subsection regarding a proposed charter, the Secretary shall advise in writing the sector participants who made the application of the reasons for such determination. A corrected application may be submitted thereafter to the Secretary for approval.

(e) Conduct of referendum

(1) Upon making affirmative determinations under subsection (d)(1) of this section regarding a proposed charter, the Secretary, within 90 days after the date of the last of such determinations, shall conduct a referendum on the adoption of the proposed charter among all sector participants identified in accordance with subsection (d)(1)(A) of this section. The Secretary shall by order establish the council and approve the proposed charter, if the referendum votes which are cast in favor of the proposed charter constitute a majority of the sector participants voting in each sector and the majority collectively accounts for, in the twelve-month period immediately preceding the month in which the proposed charter was filed under subsection (a) of this section, at least sixty-six percent of the value of the fish and fish products described in accordance with subsection (b)(3) of this section that were handled by that sector during such period.

(2) Not less than thirty days prior to holding a referendum under this subsection, the Secretary shall—

(A) publish (by such means as will result in wide publicity in regions affected by the proposed charter) the text of the proposed charter and a list of those sector participants eligible to vote in the referendum; and

(B) provide for public comment, including the opportunity for a public meeting.

(3)(A) The Secretary shall pay all costs of a referendum which establishes a council under this subsection. Within two years after a council is established the council shall reimburse the Secretary for any expenses incurred for the conduct of the referendum from assessments collected by the council. Prior to the holding of a referendum under this subsection, the Secretary shall require the applicants to post a bond or other security acceptable to the Secretary, in an amount which the Secretary determines to be sufficient to pay any expenses incurred for the conduct of the referendum, and shall immediately recover such amount if a referendum fails to result in the establishment of a council.

(B) As used in this paragraph, the term “expenses incurred for the conduct of the referendum” does not include salaries of Government employees or other administrative overhead, but is limited to those additional direct costs incurred in connection with conduct of the referendum.

(f) Nominations

(1) Within thirty days after a council is established under subsection (e) of this section, the Secretary shall solicit from the sectors represented on the council nominations for members of the council. If the harvesters and receivers represented on the council are engaged in business in two or more regions of the United States, the nominations made under this paragraph, and the appointments to the council made under paragraph (3) of this subsection, must, to the extent practicable, result in equitable representation for the constituent regions.

(2) No person is eligible for nomination or appointment as a member of a council unless such person is knowledgeable and experienced with regard to the activities of, and is or has been actively engaged in the business of, the sector which such person will represent on the council.

(3) The Secretary shall, within sixty days after the end of the thirty-day period referred to in paragraph (1) of this subsection, appoint the members of the council from among the nominees.

(4) A vacancy on a council shall be filled, within sixty days after the vacancy occurs, in the same manner in which the original appointment was made. A member appointed to fill a vacancy occurring before the expiration of the term for which the member's predecessor was appointed shall be appointed only for the remainder of such term.

(5) The Secretary shall remove any member of a council if the council concerned first recommends, by not less than two-thirds of its members, removal for cause. Such a recommendation of a council must be in writing and accompanied by a statement of the reasons upon which the recommendation is based.

(g) Nature of a council

A council is not an instrumentality of the United States Government.

(Pub. L. 99-659, title II, §210, Nov. 14, 1986, 100 Stat. 3721.)

§ 4010. Functions and powers of councils

(a) Activities of a council

(1) Each council shall—

(A) Adopt¹ a seal which shall be judicially noticed;

(B) implement all terms of its charter;

(C) prepare and submit to the Secretary, for review and approval under section 4011(a)(1) of this title, a marketing and promotion plan and amendments to such plan which contain descriptions of the projected consumer education, research, and other marketing and promotion activities of the council;

(D) implement and administer an approved marketing and promotion plan and amendments to such plan;

(E) determine the assessments to be made under section 4012 of this title and administer the collection of such assessments to finance council expenses described in paragraph (2) of this subsection;

(F) receive, investigate and report to the Secretary accounts of violations of rules or orders relating to assessments collected under section 4012 of this title, or quality standard requirements established under subsection (c) of this section;

(G) prepare and submit to the Secretary, for review and approval under section 4011(a)(1) of this title, a budget (on a fiscal year basis) of the anticipated expenses and disbursements of the council, including—

(i) all administrative and contractual expenses;

(ii) the probable costs of consumer education, research, and other marketing and promotion plans or projects;

(iii) the costs of the collection of assessments; and

(iv) the expense of repayment of the costs of each referendum conducted in regard to the council;

(H) maintain books and records, prepare and submit to the Secretary such reports from time to time as may be necessary for appropriate accounting with respect to the receipt and disbursement of funds entrusted to it, and cause a complete audit report to be submitted to the Secretary at the end of each fiscal year;

(I) reimburse the Secretary for the expenses incurred for the conduct of the referendum to establish the council or any subsequent referendum to terminate the council that fails; and

(J) prepare and submit to the Secretary from time to time such reports or proposals as the council determines appropriate to further the purposes of this chapter.

(2) Funds collected by a council under section 4012 of this title shall be used by the council for—

(A) research, consumer education, and other marketing and promotion activities regarding the quality and marketing of fish and fish products;

(B) other expenses, as described in subsection (a)(1)(G) of this section;

(C) such other expenses for the administration, maintenance, and functioning of the council as may be authorized by the Secretary;

(D) any reserve fund established under subsection (b)(5) of this section and any administrative expenses incurred by the Secretary specified as reimbursable under this chapter.

(3) Marketing and promotion plans and amendments to such plans prepared by a council under subsection (a)(1)(C) of this section shall be designed to increase the general demand for fish and fish products described in accordance with section 4009(b)(3) of this title by encouraging, expanding, and improving the marketing, promotion and utilization of such fish and fish products, in domestic or foreign markets, or both, through consumer education, research, and other marketing and promotion activities.

¹ So in original. Probably should not be capitalized.