

“(4) analyze, in consultation with the Director of the National Bureau of Standards, plastic materials which are claimed to be capable of reduction to environmentally benign submits under the action of normal environmental forces (including biological decomposition, photodegradation, and hydrolysis); and  
 “(5) recommend legislation which is necessary to prohibit, tax, or regulate sources of plastic materials that enter the marine environment.”

#### TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

For transfer of authorities, functions, personnel, and assets of the Coast Guard, including the authorities and functions of the Secretary of Transportation relating thereto, to the Department of Homeland Security, and for treatment of related references, see sections 468(b), 551(d), 552(d), and 557 of Title 6, Domestic Security, and the Department of Homeland Security Reorganization Plan of November 25, 2002, as modified, set out as a note under section 542 of Title 6.

### § 1915. Plastic pollution public education program

#### (a) Outreach program

##### (1) In general

Not later than April 1, 1988, the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, in consultation with the Secretary of Transportation, shall jointly commence and thereafter conduct a public outreach program to educate the public (including recreational boaters, fishermen, and other users of the marine environment) regarding—

- (A) the harmful effects of plastic pollution;
- (B) the need to reduce such pollution;
- (C) the need to recycle plastic materials;
- (D) the need to reduce the quantity of plastic debris in the marine environment; and
- (E) the requirements under this Act and the Act to Prevent Pollution from Ships (33 U.S.C. 1901 et seq.) with respect to ships and ports, and the authority of citizens to report violations of this Act and the Act to Prevent Pollution from Ships (33 U.S.C. 1901 et seq.).

##### (2) Authorized activities

###### (A) Public outreach program

A public outreach program under paragraph (1) may include—

- (i) developing and implementing a voluntary boaters' pledge program;
- (ii) workshops with interested groups;
- (iii) public service announcements;
- (iv) distribution of leaflets and posters; and
- (v) any other means appropriate to educating the public.

###### (B) Grants and cooperative agreements

To carry out this section, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating, the Secretary of Commerce, and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency are authorized to award grants, enter into cooperative agreements with appropriate officials of other Federal agencies and agencies of States and political subdivisions of States and with public and private entities, and provide other financial assistance to eligible recipients.

### (C) Consultation

In developing outreach initiatives for groups that are subject to the requirements of this title and the Act to Prevent Pollution from Ships (33 U.S.C. 1901 et seq.), the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating, in consultation with the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, shall consult with—

- (i) the heads of State agencies responsible for implementing State boating laws; and
- (ii) the heads of other enforcement agencies that regulate boaters or commercial fishermen.

### (b) Citizen Pollution Patrols

The Secretary of Commerce, along with the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency and the Secretary of the Department in which the Coast Guard is operating, shall conduct a program to encourage the formation of volunteer groups, to be designated as “Citizen Pollution Patrols”, to assist in monitoring, reporting, cleanup, and prevention of ocean and shoreline pollution.

(Pub. L. 100–220, title II, §2204, Dec. 29, 1987, 101 Stat. 1466; Pub. L. 104–324, title VIII, §802(c), Oct. 19, 1996, 110 Stat. 3945.)

#### REFERENCES IN TEXT

This Act and this title, referred to in subsec. (a)(1)(E), (2)(C), probably should all be “this title” meaning title II of Pub. L. 100–220, Dec. 29, 1987, 101 Stat. 1460, as amended, known as the Marine Plastic Pollution Research and Control Act of 1987. For complete classification of title II to the Code, see Short Title of 1987 Amendment note set out under section 1901 of this title and Tables.

The Act to Prevent Pollution from Ships, referred to in subsec. (a)(1)(E), (2)(C), is Pub. L. 96–478, Oct. 21, 1980, 94 Stat. 2297, as amended, which is classified principally to this chapter (§1901 et seq.). For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 1901 of this title and Tables.

#### CODIFICATION

Section was formerly set out as a note under section 6981 of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare.

Section was enacted as part of the Marine Plastic Pollution Research and Control Act of 1987 and as part of the United States-Japan Fishery Agreement Approval Act of 1987, and not as part of the Act to Prevent Pollution from Ships which comprises this chapter.

#### AMENDMENTS

1996—Subsec. (a)(1). Pub. L. 104–324, §802(c)(1)–(4), struck out “for a period of at least 3 years,” after “conduct” in introductory provisions and added subpar. (E).

Subsec. (a)(2). Pub. L. 104–324, §802(c)(5), added par. (2) and struck out heading and text of former par. (2). Text read as follows: “A public outreach program under paragraph (1) may include—

- “(A) workshops with interested groups;
- “(B) public service announcements;
- “(C) distribution of leaflets and posters; and
- “(D) any other means appropriate to educating the public.”

#### TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

For transfer of authorities, functions, personnel, and assets of the Coast Guard, including the authorities

and functions of the Secretary of Transportation relating thereto, to the Department of Homeland Security, and for treatment of related references, see sections 468(b), 551(d), 552(d), and 557 of Title 6, Domestic Security, and the Department of Homeland Security Reorganization Plan of November 25, 2002, as modified, set out as a note under section 542 of Title 6.

### CHAPTER 33A—MARINE DEBRIS RESEARCH, PREVENTION, AND REDUCTION

Sec.	
1951.	Purposes.
1952.	NOAA Marine Debris Prevention and Removal Program.
1953.	Coast Guard program.
1954.	Interagency coordination.
1955.	Federal information clearinghouse.
1956.	Definitions.
1957.	Relationship to Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act.
1958.	Authorization of appropriations.

#### § 1951. Purposes

The purposes of this chapter are—

- (1) to help identify, determine sources of, assess, reduce, and prevent marine debris and its adverse impacts on the marine environment and navigation safety;
- (2) to reactivate the Interagency Marine Debris Coordinating Committee; and
- (3) to develop a Federal marine debris information clearinghouse.

(Pub. L. 109-449, §2, Dec. 22, 2006, 120 Stat. 3333.)

#### REFERENCES IN TEXT

This chapter, referred to in text, was in the original “this Act”, meaning Pub. L. 109-449, Dec. 22, 2006, 120 Stat. 3333, which is classified generally to this chapter. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out below and Tables.

#### SHORT TITLE

Pub. L. 109-449, §1, Dec. 22, 2006, 120 Stat. 3333, provided that: “This Act [enacting this chapter and amending section 1914 of this title] may be cited as the ‘Marine Debris Research, Prevention, and Reduction Act.’”

#### § 1952. NOAA Marine Debris Prevention and Removal Program

##### (a) Establishment of Program

There is established, within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, a Marine Debris Prevention and Removal Program to reduce and prevent the occurrence and adverse impacts of marine debris on the marine environment and navigational safety.

##### (b) Program components

The Administrator, acting through the Program and subject to the availability of appropriations, shall carry out the following activities:

##### (1) Mapping, identification, impact assessment, removal, and prevention

The Administrator shall, in consultation with relevant Federal agencies, undertake marine debris mapping, identification, impact assessment, prevention, and removal efforts, with a focus on marine debris posing a threat to living marine resources and navigation safety, including—

(A) the establishment of a process, building on existing information sources maintained by Federal agencies such as the Environmental Protection Agency and the Coast Guard, for cataloguing and maintaining an inventory of marine debris and its impacts found in the navigable waters of the United States and the United States exclusive economic zone, including location, material, size, age, and origin, and impacts on habitat, living marine resources, human health, and navigation safety;

(B) measures to identify the origin, location, and projected movement of marine debris within United States navigable waters, the United States exclusive economic zone, and the high seas, including the use of oceanographic, atmospheric, satellite, and remote sensing data; and

(C) development and implementation of strategies, methods, priorities, and a plan for preventing and removing marine debris from United States navigable waters and within the United States exclusive economic zone, including development of local or regional protocols for removal of derelict fishing gear and other marine debris.

##### (2) Reducing and preventing loss of gear

The Administrator shall improve efforts to reduce adverse impacts of lost and discarded fishing gear on living marine resources and navigation safety, including—

(A) research and development of alternatives to gear posing threats to the marine environment, and methods for marking gear used in specific fisheries to enhance the tracking, recovery, and identification of lost and discarded gear; and

(B) development of effective nonregulatory measures and incentives to cooperatively reduce the volume of lost and discarded fishing gear and to aid in its recovery.

##### (3) Outreach

The Administrator shall undertake outreach and education of the public and other stakeholders, such as the fishing industry, fishing gear manufacturers, and other marine-dependent industries, and the plastic and waste management industries, on sources of marine debris, threats associated with marine debris and approaches to identify, determine sources of, assess, reduce, and prevent marine debris and its adverse impacts on the marine environment and navigational safety, including outreach and education activities through public-private initiatives. The Administrator shall coordinate outreach and education activities under this paragraph with any outreach programs conducted under section 1915 of this title.

##### (c) Grants, cooperative agreements, and contracts

##### (1) In general

The Administrator, acting through the Program, shall enter into cooperative agreements and contracts and provide financial assistance in the form of grants for projects to accomplish the purpose set forth in section 1951(1) of this title.