

the need for expensive manmade control measures;

(5) wetland ecosystems make a significant contribution to water availability and quality, recharging ground water, filtering surface runoff, and providing waste treatment;

(6) wetland ecosystems provide aquatic areas important for recreational and aesthetic purposes;

(7) more than 50 per centum of the original wetlands in the United States alone have been lost;

(8) wetlands destruction, loss of nesting cover, and degradation of migration and wintering habitat have contributed to long-term downward trends in populations of migratory bird species such as pintails, American bitterns, and black ducks;

(9) the migratory bird treaty obligations of the United States with Canada, Mexico, and other countries require protection of wetlands that are used by migratory birds for breeding, wintering, or migration and are needed to achieve and to maintain optimum population levels, distributions, and patterns of migration;

(10) the 1988 amendments to the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act of 1980 require the Secretary of the Interior to identify conservation measures to assure that nongame migratory bird species do not reach the point at which measures of the Endangered Species Act [16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.] are necessary;

(11) protection of migratory birds and their habitats requires long-term planning and the close cooperation and coordination of management activities by Canada, Mexico, and the United States within the framework of the 1916 and 1936 Migratory Bird Conventions and the Convention on Nature Protection and Wildlife Preservation in the Western Hemisphere;

(12) the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, signed in 1986 by the Minister of Environment for Canada and the Secretary of the Interior for the United States, provides a framework for maintaining and restoring an adequate habitat base to ensure perpetuation of populations of North American waterfowl and other migratory bird species;

(13) a tripartite agreement signed in March 1988, by the Director General for Ecological Conservation of Natural Resources of Mexico, the Director of the Canadian Wildlife Service, and the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, provides for expanded cooperative efforts in Mexico to conserve wetlands for migratory birds that spend the winter there;

(14) the long-term conservation of migratory birds and habitat for these species will require the coordinated action of governments, private organizations, landowners, and other citizens; and

(15) the treaty obligations of the United States under the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as waterfowl habitat requires promotion of conservation and wise use of wetlands.

## (b) Purpose

The purposes of this chapter are to encourage partnership among public agencies and other interests—

(1) to protect, enhance, restore, and manage an appropriate distribution and diversity of wetland ecosystems and other habitats for migratory birds and other fish and wildlife in North America;

(2) to maintain current or improved distributions of migratory bird populations; and

(3) to sustain an abundance of waterfowl and other migratory birds consistent with the goals of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan and the international obligations contained in the migratory bird treaties and conventions and other agreements with Canada, Mexico, and other countries.

(Pub. L. 101-233, § 2, Dec. 13, 1989, 103 Stat. 1968.)

## REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act of 1980, referred to in subsec. (a)(10), is Pub. L. 96-366, Sept. 29, 1980, 94 Stat. 1322, as amended, which is classified generally to chapter 49 (§2901 et seq.) of this title. In 1988, section 2912 of that chapter was enacted and section 2910 of that chapter was amended by Pub. L. 100-653, title VIII, Nov. 14, 1988, 102 Stat. 3833. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 2901 of this title and Tables.

The Endangered Species Act, referred to in subsec. (a)(10), probably means the Endangered Species Act of 1973, Pub. L. 93-205, Dec. 28, 1973, 87 Stat. 884, as amended, which is classified generally to chapter 35 (§1531 et seq.) of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 1531 of this title and Tables.

This chapter, referred to in subsec. (b), was in the original “this Act”, meaning Pub. L. 101-233, Dec. 13, 1989, 103 Stat. 1968, as amended, which is classified principally to this chapter. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out below and Tables.

## SHORT TITLE OF 1998 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 105-312, title III, §301, Oct. 30, 1998, 112 Stat. 2958, provided that: “This title [amending sections 3744 and 4406 of this title and enacting provisions set out as a note under section 4403 of this title] may be cited as the ‘Wetlands and Wildlife Enhancement Act of 1998’.”

## SHORT TITLE OF 1994 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 103-375, §1, Oct. 19, 1994, 108 Stat. 3494, provided that: “This Act [enacting section 4414 of this title and amending sections 3742 to 3744, 3955, 4406, 4407, 4409, and 4410 of this title] may be cited as the ‘North American Wetlands Conservation Act Amendments of 1994’.”

## SHORT TITLE

Section 1 of Pub. L. 101-233 provided that: “This Act [enacting this chapter, amending sections 669b, 669c, 703, 715a, 2912, and 3931 of this title, enacting provisions set out as a note under section 669b of this title, and amending provisions set out as a note under section 668dd of this title] may be cited as the ‘North American Wetlands Conservation Act’.”

## § 4402. Definitions

For the purposes of this chapter:

(1) The term “Agreement” means the Tripartite Agreement signed in March 1988, by the Director General for Ecological Conservation of Natural Resources of Mexico, the Director of the Canadian Wildlife Service, and

the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

(2) The term “appropriate Committees” means the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the United States Senate and the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries of the United States House of Representatives.

(3) The term “flyway” means the four administrative units used by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the States in the management of waterfowl populations.

(4) The term “Migratory Bird Conservation Commission” means that commission established by section 715a of this title.

(5) The term “migratory birds” means all wild birds native to North America that are in an unconfined state and that are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act [16 U.S.C. 703 et seq.], including ducks, geese, and swans of the family Anatidae, species listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), and species defined as nongame under the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act of 1980 (16 U.S.C. 2901–2912).

(6) The term “Plan” means the North American Waterfowl Management Plan signed by the Minister of the Environment for Canada and the Secretary of the Interior for the United States in May 1986.

(7) The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(8) The term “State” means the State fish and wildlife agency, which shall be construed to mean any department, or any division of any department of another name, of a State that is empowered under its laws to exercise the functions ordinarily exercised by a State fish and wildlife agency.

(9) The term “wetlands conservation project” means—

(A) the obtaining of a real property interest in lands or waters, including water rights, if the obtaining of such interest is subject to terms and conditions that will ensure that the real property will be administered for the long-term conservation of such lands and waters and the migratory birds and other fish and wildlife dependent thereon;

(B) the restoration, management, or enhancement of wetland ecosystems and other habitat for migratory birds and other fish and wildlife species if such restoration, management, or enhancement is conducted on lands and waters that are administered for the long-term conservation of such lands and waters and the migratory birds and other fish and wildlife dependent thereon; and

(C) in the case of projects undertaken in Mexico, includes technical training and development of infrastructure necessary for the conservation and management of wetlands and studies on the sustainable use of wetland resources.

(Pub. L. 101–233, §3, Dec. 13, 1989, 103 Stat. 1969.)

#### REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act, referred to in par. (5), is act July 3, 1918, ch. 128, 40 Stat. 755, as amended,

which is classified generally to subchapter II (§703 et seq.) of chapter 7 of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see section 710 of this title and Tables.

The Endangered Species Act, referred to in par. (5), probably means the Endangered Species Act of 1973, Pub. L. 93–205, Dec. 28, 1973, 87 Stat. 884, as amended, which is classified generally to chapter 35 (§1531 et seq.) of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 1531 of this title and Tables.

The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act of 1980, referred to in par. (5), is Pub. L. 96–366, Sept. 29, 1980, 94 Stat. 1322, as amended, which is classified generally to chapter 49 (§2901 et seq.) of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 2901 of this title and Tables.

#### ABOLITION OF HOUSE COMMITTEE ON MERCHANT MARINE AND FISHERIES

Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries of House of Representatives abolished and its jurisdiction transferred by House Resolution No. 6, One Hundred Fourth Congress, Jan. 4, 1995. Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries of House of Representatives treated as referring to Committee on Resources of House of Representatives in case of provisions relating to fisheries, wildlife, international fishing agreements, marine affairs (including coastal zone management) except for measures relating to oil and other pollution of navigable waters, or oceanography by section 1(b)(3) of Pub. L. 104–14, set out as a note preceding section 21 of Title 2, The Congress.

#### § 4403. Establishment of North American Wetlands Conservation Council

##### (a) Council membership

(1) There shall be established a North American Wetlands Conservation Council (hereinafter in this chapter referred to as the “Council”) which shall consist of nine members who may not receive compensation as members of the Council. Of the Council members—

(A) one shall be the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, who shall be the responsible Federal official for ensuring Council compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.);

(B) one shall be the Secretary of the Board of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation appointed pursuant to section 3702(2)(B)<sup>1</sup> of this title;

(C) four shall be individuals who shall be appointed by the Secretary, who shall reside in different flyways and who shall each be a Director of the State fish and wildlife agency; and

(D) three shall be individuals who shall be appointed by the Secretary and who shall each represent a different charitable and nonprofit organization which is actively participating in carrying out wetlands conservation projects under this chapter, the Plan, or the Agreement.

The provisions of Public Law 92–463, as amended, shall not apply to the Council.

(2) The Secretary shall appoint an alternate member of the Council who shall be knowledgeable and experienced in matters relating to fish, wildlife, and wetlands conservation and who

<sup>1</sup> So in original. Probably should be section “3702(g)(2)(B)”.