

**NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC
ADMINISTRATION AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 1992**

[Public Law 102–567, Approved Oct. 29, 1992, 106 Stat. 4309]

[As Amended Through P.L. 119–60, Enacted December 18, 2025]

【Currency: This publication is a compilation of the text of Public Law 102–567. It was last amended by the public law listed in the As Amended Through note above and below at the bottom of each page of the pdf version and reflects current law through the date of the enactment of the public law listed at <https://www.govinfo.gov/app/collection/comps/>】

【Note: While this publication does not represent an official version of any Federal statute, substantial efforts have been made to ensure the accuracy of its contents. The official version of Federal law is found in the United States Statutes at Large and in the United States Code. The legal effect to be given to the Statutes at Large and the United States Code is established by statute (1 U.S.C. 112, 204).】

AN ACT To authorize appropriations for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Authorization Act of 1992”.

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**TITLE I—NOAA ATMOSPHERIC AND SATELLITE
PROGRAMS**

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SEC. 101. NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE OPERATIONS AND RESEARCH.

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(c) 【15 U.S.C. 325 note】 COOPERATIVE WEATHER OBSERVER PROGRAM.—The Secretary of Commerce may use funds otherwise available for conducting weather observations to strengthen the Cooperative Weather Observer Program and encourage public participation in the program. The Secretary may—

(1) provide distinctive insignia or paraphernalia to Cooperative Weather Observers; and

(2) make awards of nominal value to recognize continued participation in the program by observers or to recognize outstanding achievements by such observers or groups of observers without regard to any law restricting expenditures for such purposes to Federal employees.

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SEC. 106. DATA AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS.

(a)

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(c) **[15 U.S.C. 1537] NEEDS ASSESSMENT FOR DATA MANAGEMENT, ARCHIVAL, AND DISTRIBUTION.**—(1) Not later than 12 months after the date of enactment of this Act and at least biennially thereafter, the Secretary of Commerce shall complete an assessment of the adequacy of the environmental data and information systems of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. In conducting such an assessment, the Secretary shall take into consideration the need to—

(A) provide adequate capacity to manage, archive, and disseminate environmental data and information collected and processed, or expected to be collected and processed, by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and other appropriate departments and agencies;

(B) establish, develop, and maintain information bases, including necessary management systems, which will promote consistent, efficient, and compatible transfer and use of data;

(C) develop effective interfaces among the environmental data and information systems of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and other appropriate departments and agencies;

(D) develop and use nationally accepted formats and standards for data collected by various national and international sources; and

(E) integrate and interpret data from different sources to produce information that can be used by decisionmakers in developing policies that effectively respond to national and global environmental concerns.

(2) Not later than 12 months after the date of enactment of this Act and biennially thereafter, the Secretary of Commerce shall develop and submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives¹ a comprehensive plan, based on the assessment under paragraph (1), to modernize and improve the environmental data and information systems of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The report shall—

(A) set forth modernization and improvement objectives for the 10-year period beginning with the year in which the plan is submitted, including facility requirements and critical new technological components that would be necessary to meet the objectives set forth;

(B) propose specific agency programs and activities for implementing the plan;

(C) identify the data and information management, archival, and distribution responsibilities of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration with respect to other Federal departments and agencies and international organizations, in-

¹ In accordance with section 1(a)(10) of Public Law 104–14 (109 Stat. 187), “the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives shall be treated as referring to the Committee on Science of the House of Representatives”.

cluding the role of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration with respect to large data systems like the Earth Observing System Data and Information System; and

(D) provide an implementation schedule and estimate funding levels necessary to achieve modernization and improvement objectives.

SEC. 107. [15 U.S.C. 313 note] HURRICANE RECONNAISSANCE PROGRAM.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.**—(1) The Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Commerce shall establish a 5-year joint program for collecting operational and reconnaissance data, conducting research, and analyzing data on tropical cyclones to assist the forecast and warning program and increase the understanding of the causes and behavior of tropical cyclones.

(2) The Secretary of Commerce shall establish the Tropical Cyclone Research Advisory Committee, an advisory committee of tropical cyclone research scientists, to make recommendations for tropical cyclone research activities and reconnaissance procedures.

(b) **RESPONSIBILITIES.**—(1) The Secretary of Defense shall have the responsibility for maintaining, flying, and funding tropical cyclone reconnaissance aircraft to accomplish the program established under this section and to transfer the data to the Secretary of Commerce. Program responsibility may not be transferred to any other Federal department or agency, including the Coast Guard, without the agreement and approval of the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of Commerce, and the head of any other Federal agency or department to which the responsibility is transferred.

(2) The Secretary of Commerce shall have the responsibility to provide funding for data gathering and research by remote sensing, ground sensing, research aircraft, and other technologies necessary to accomplish the program established under this section.

(c) **MANAGEMENT PLANS.**—(1) The Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Commerce shall jointly develop and, within 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, submit to the Congress a management plan for the program established under this section, which shall include organizational structure, goals, major tasks, and funding profiles for the 5-year duration of the program.

(2) The Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Commerce, in consultation with the Tropical Cyclone Research Advisory Committee established by section 107(a)(2), shall jointly develop and, within 4 years after the date of enactment of this Act, submit to the Congress a management plan providing for continued tropical cyclone surveillance and reconnaissance which will adequately protect the citizens of the coastal areas of the United States.

(3) The management plans and programs required by this section shall in every sense provide for at least the same degree and quality of protection (such as early warning capability and accuracy of fixing a storm's location) as currently exists with a combination of satellite technology and manned reconnaissance flights. Additionally, such plans and programs shall in no way allow any reduction in the level, quality, timeliness, sustainability, or area served (including the State of Hawaii) of both the existing principal and back-up tropical cyclone reconnaissance and tracking systems.

SEC. 108.² [15 U.S.C. 313 note] UNITED STATES WEATHER RESEARCH PROGRAM.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—The Secretary of Commerce, in cooperation with the Federal Coordinating Council for Science, Engineering, and Technology through the Committee on Earth and Environmental Sciences, shall establish a United States Weather Research Program to—

(1) increase benefits to the Nation from the substantial investment in modernizing the public weather warning and forecast system in the United States;

(2) improve local and regional weather forecasts and warnings;

(3) address critical weather-related scientific issues;

(4) coordinate governmental, university, and private-sector efforts;

(5) submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives, not less frequently than once each year, a report, including—

(A) a list of ongoing research projects;

(B) project goals and a point of contact for each project;

(C) the five projects related to weather observations, short-term weather, or subseasonal forecasts within Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research that are closest to operationalization;

(D) for each project referred to in subparagraph (C)—

(i) the potential benefit;

(ii) any barrier to operationalization; and

(iii) the plan for operationalization, including which line office will financially support the project and how much the line office intends to spend;

(6) establish teams with staff from the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research and the National Weather Service to oversee the operationalization of research products developed by the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research;

(7) develop mechanisms for research priorities of the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research to be informed by the relevant line offices within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the relevant user community, and the weather enterprise;

(8) develop an internal mechanism to track the progress of each research project within the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research and mechanisms to terminate a project that is not adequately progressing;

(9) develop and implement a system to track whether extramural research grant goals were accomplished;

(10) provide facilities for products developed by the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research to be tested in operational simulations, such as test beds;

²Section 109 of Public Law 115–25 provides for amendments to section 108 of the “Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Authorization Act of 1992”, however, such amendments were carried out above to the “National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Authorization Act of 1992” in accordance with the probable intent of Congress.

(11) encourage academic collaboration with the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research and the National Weather Service by facilitating visiting scholars; and

(12) carry out the activities of the Earth Prediction Innovation Center as described in section 102(b)(2) of the Weather Research and Forecasting Innovation Act of 2017 (15 U.S.C. 8512(b)(2)).

(b) IMPLEMENTATION PLAN.—The Secretary of Commerce, in cooperation with the Committee on Earth and Environmental Sciences, shall prepare and submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives³ a plan for implementation of the United States Weather Research Program which shall—

(1) establish, for the 10-year period beginning in the year the plan is submitted, the goals and priorities for Federal weather research which most effectively advance the scientific understanding of weather processes and provide information to improve weather warning and forecast systems in the United States;

(2) describe specific activities, including research activities, data collection and data analysis requirements, predictive modeling, participation in international research efforts, demonstration of potential operational forecast applications, and education and training required to achieve such goals and priorities; and

(3) set forth the role of each Federal agency and department to be involved in the United States Weather Research Program, identifying and addressing, as appropriate, relevant programs and activities of the Federal agencies and departments that would contribute to such Program.

(c) SUBSEASONAL DEFINED.—In this section, the term “subseasonal” means the time range between 2 weeks and 3 months.

SEC. 112. [15 U.S.C. 313b] INSTITUTE FOR AVIATION WEATHER PREDICTION.

The Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shall establish an Institute for Aviation Weather Prediction. The Institute shall provide forecasts, weather warnings, and other weather services to the United States aviation community. The Institute shall expand upon the activities of the aviation unit currently at the National Severe Storms Forecast Center in Kansas City, Missouri, and shall be established in the Kansas City, Missouri area. The Administrator shall provide a full and fair opportunity for employees at the National Severe Storms Forecast Center to assume comparable duties and responsibilities within the Institute.

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³In accordance with section 1(a)(10) of Public Law 104–14 (109 Stat. 187), “the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives shall be treated as referring to the Committee on Science of the House of Representatives”.

TITLE III—NOAA MARINE FISHERY PROGRAMS

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SEC. 307. [15 U.S.C. 1511d] CHESAPEAKE BAY OFFICE.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—(1) The Secretary of Commerce shall establish, within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, an office to be known as the Chesapeake Bay Office (in this section referred to as the “Office”).

(2) The Office shall be headed by a Director who shall be appointed by the Secretary of Commerce, in consultation with the Chesapeake Executive Council. Any individual appointed as Director shall have knowledge and experience in research or resource management efforts in the Chesapeake Bay.

(3) The Director may appoint such additional personnel for the Office as the Director determines necessary to carry out this section.

(b) FUNCTIONS.—The Office, in consultation with the Chesapeake Executive Council, shall—

(1) provide technical assistance to the Administrator, to other Federal departments and agencies, and to State and local government agencies in—

(A) assessing the processes that shape the Chesapeake Bay system and affect its living resources;

(B) identifying technical and management alternatives for the restoration and protection of living resources and the habitats they depend upon; and

(C) monitoring the implementation and effectiveness of management plans;

(2) develop and implement a strategy for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration that integrates the science, research, monitoring, data collection, regulatory, and management responsibilities of the Secretary of Commerce in such a manner as to assist the cooperative, intergovernmental Chesapeake Bay Program to meet the commitments of the Chesapeake Bay Agreement;

(3) coordinate the programs and activities of the various organizations within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Chesapeake Bay Regional Sea Grant Programs, and the Chesapeake Bay units of the National Estuarine Research Reserve System, including—

(A) programs and activities in—

(i) coastal and estuarine research, monitoring, and assessment;

(ii) fisheries research and stock assessments;

(iii) data management;

(iv) remote sensing;

(v) coastal management;

(vi) habitat conservation and restoration; and

(vii) atmospheric deposition; and

(B) programs and activities of the Cooperative Oxford Laboratory of the National Ocean Service with respect to—

(i) nonindigenous species;

(ii) estuarine and marine species pathology;

- (iii) human pathogens in estuarine and marine environments; and
 - (iv) ecosystem health;
- (4) coordinate the activities of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration with the activities of the Environmental Protection Agency and other Federal, State, and local agencies;
- (5) establish an effective mechanism which shall ensure that projects have undergone appropriate peer review and provide other appropriate means to determine that projects have acceptable scientific and technical merit for the purpose of achieving maximum utilization of available funds and resources to benefit the Chesapeake Bay area;
- (6) remain cognizant of ongoing research, monitoring, and management projects and assist in the dissemination of the results and findings of those projects; and
- (7) submit a biennial report to the Congress and the Secretary of Commerce with respect to the activities of the Office and on the progress made in protecting and restoring the living resources and habitat of the Chesapeake Bay, which report shall include an action plan consisting of—
 - (A) a list of recommended research, monitoring, and data collection activities necessary to continue implementation of the strategy described in paragraph (2); and
 - (B) proposals for—
 - (i) continuing any new National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration activities in the Chesapeake Bay; and
 - (ii) the integration of those activities with the activities of the partners in the Chesapeake Bay Program to meet the commitments of the Chesapeake 2000 agreement and subsequent agreements.
- (c) CHESAPEAKE BAY FISHERY AND HABITAT RESTORATION SMALL WATERSHED GRANTS PROGRAM.—
 - (1) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Chesapeake Bay Office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (in this section referred to as the “Director”), in cooperation with the Chesapeake Executive Council, shall carry out a community-based fishery and habitat restoration small grants and technical assistance program in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.
 - (2) PROJECTS.—
 - (A) SUPPORT.—The Director shall make grants under this subsection to pay the Federal share of the cost of projects that are carried out by entities eligible under paragraph (3) for the restoration of fisheries and habitats in the Chesapeake Bay.
 - (B) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share under subparagraph (A) shall not exceed 75 percent.
 - (C) TYPES OF PROJECTS.—Projects for which grants may be made under this subsection include—
 - (i) the improvement of fish passageways;
 - (ii) the creation of natural or artificial reefs or substrata for habitats;

- (iii) the restoration of wetland or sea grass;
 - (iv) the production of oysters for restoration projects; and
 - (v) the prevention, identification, and control of nonindigenous species.
- (3) **ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.**—The following entities are eligible to receive grants under this subsection:
- (A) The government of a political subdivision of a State in the Chesapeake Bay watershed, and the government of the District of Columbia.
 - (B) An organization in the Chesapeake Bay watershed (such as an educational institution or a community organization)—
 - (i) that is described in section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and is exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of that Code; and
 - (ii) that will administer such grants in coordination with a government referred to in subparagraph (A).
- (4) **ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS.**—The Director may prescribe any additional requirements, including procedures, that the Director considers necessary to carry out the program under this subsection.
- (d) **CHESAPEAKE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.**—For purposes of this section, “Chesapeake Executive Council” means the representatives from the Commonwealth of Virginia, the State of Maryland, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the Environmental Protection Agency, the District of Columbia, and the Chesapeake Bay Commission, who are signatories to the Chesapeake Bay Agreement, and any future signatories to that Agreement.
- (e) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Department of Commerce for the Chesapeake Bay Office \$6,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2002 through 2006.

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TITLE IV—ADMINISTRATION AND OTHER ACCOUNTS

SEC. 401. PROGRAM SUPPORT.

- (a)
- (b) **MARINE SERVICES.**—(1)

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(4) **[33 U.S.C. 891b note]** The Secretary of Commerce shall notify the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives 60 days prior to the proposed deactivation of any other research vessel of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

(5) **[33 U.S.C. 891g note]** The Secretary of Commerce shall consult with the Oceanographer of the Navy regarding appropriate cost effective and practical measures to allow vessels of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to be interoperable

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with vessels of the Department of the Navy, including with respect to operation, maintenance, and repair of those vessels.

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SEC. 406. [15 U.S.C. 1540] COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.

The Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere, may enter into cooperative agreements and other financial agreements with any nonprofit organization to—

- (1) aid and promote scientific and educational activities to foster public understanding of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration or its programs; and
- (2) solicit private donations for the support of such activities.

SEC. 407. RECRUITMENT OF MINORITIES AND WOMEN FOR NOAA SCIENCE EDUCATION ACTIVITIES.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds the following:

(1) In this decade, more than two-thirds of the new entrants to the United States labor force will be minorities and women—groups which for the most part have been historically underrepresented in the sciences.

(2) The National Science Foundation estimates that by the year 2000, the United States will face a shortfall of more than 400,000 science and engineering personnel.

(3) Given the demographics of the United States workforce, the problem of underrepresented minorities and women in the sciences and engineering could seriously compromise the industrial and technological capability of the United States, as well as its ability to compete in international marketplaces.

(4) The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has made important efforts to promote education programs in the sciences for students, teachers, and other citizens.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of the Congress that the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration should continue to expand its educational programs in the sciences, and in this effort, that the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration should develop and promote programs that reach out to and recruit minorities and women for education in the sciences.

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TITLE V—NATIONAL MARINE MONITORING PROGRAM⁴

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TITLE VI—NOAA FLEET MODERNIZATION**SEC. 601. [33 U.S.C. 851 note] SHORT TITLE.**

This title may be cited as the “NOAA Fleet Modernization Act”.

SEC. 602. [33 U.S.C. 891] DEFINITIONS.

In this title, the term—

⁴This title added a new title V to the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act of 1972, which appears elsewhere in this compilation.

(1) “NOAA” means the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

(2) “NOAA fleet” means the fleet of research vessels owned or operated by NOAA.

(3) “Plan” means the NOAA Fleet Replacement and Modernization Plan described in section 604.

(4) “Secretary” means the Secretary of Commerce.

(5) “UNOLS” means University-National Oceanographic Laboratory System.

SEC. 603. [33 U.S.C. 891a] OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF NOAA FLEET.

The Secretary, acting through the Assistant Administrator of NOAA for Marine and Aviation Operations, shall operate and maintain a fleet of vessels to meet the requirements of NOAA in carrying out the mission and functions of NOAA, subject to the requirements of this title.

SEC. 604. [33 U.S.C. 891b] FLEET REPLACEMENT AND MODERNIZATION PLAN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—To carry out the program authorized in section 603, the Secretary, acting through the Assistant Administrator of NOAA for Marine and Aviation Operations, shall develop and submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives a replacement and modernization plan for the NOAA fleet not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2026, and every 2 years thereafter.

(b) PLAN ELEMENTS.—The Plan required in subsection (a) shall include the following—

(1) the number of vessels in operation in the NOAA fleet as of the date of submission of the Plan, a description of the status of those vessels, and a statement of the planned and anticipated service life of those vessels;

(2) a plan with respect to operation, maintenance, and replacement of vessels described in paragraph (1), including the schedule for maintenance or replacement and anticipated funding requirements;

(3) the number of vessels proposed to be constructed by NOAA;

(4) the number of vessels proposed to be acquired, leased, or chartered by NOAA;

(5) the number of vessels, or days at sea, that can be obtained by using the vessels of the UNOLS;

(6) the number of vessels that will be made available to NOAA by the Secretary of the Navy, the Director of the National Science Foundation, or any other Federal official, and the terms and conditions for their availability;

(7) the proposed acquisition of modern scientific instrumentation for the NOAA fleet, including acoustic systems, data transmission positioning and communication systems, physical, chemical, and meteorological oceanographic systems, and data acquisition and processing systems;

(8) a plan for using small vessels, uncrewed systems, and partnerships to augment the requirements of NOAA for days at sea;

(9) the number of officers of the NOAA commissioned officer corps and professional wage mariners needed to operate and maintain the NOAA fleet, including the vessels identified under paragraph (3); and

(10) current and potential challenges with meeting the requirements under paragraph (9) and proposed solutions to those challenges.

(c) **VESSEL PROCUREMENT APPROVAL.**—The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration may not procure vessels that are more than 65 feet in length without the approval of the Assistant Administrator of NOAA for Marine and Aviation Operations.

SEC. 605. [33 U.S.C. 891c] DESIGN OF NOAA VESSELS.

(a) **DESIGN REQUIREMENT.**—Except for the vessel designs identified under subsection (b), the Secretary, acting through the Assistant Administrator of NOAA for Marine and Aviation Operations, shall—

(1) prepare requirements for each class of vessel to be constructed or converted under the Plan; and

(2) contract competitively from nongovernmental entities with expertise in shipbuilding for vessel design and construction based on the requirements for each class of vessel to be acquired.

(b) **EXCEPTION.**—The Secretary, acting through the Assistant Administrator of NOAA for Marine and Aviation Operations, shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives, as part of the annual update of the Plan required in section 604, any existing vessel design or design proposals that meet the requirements of the Plan.

SEC. 606. [33 U.S.C. 891d] CONTRACT AUTHORITY.

(a) **MULTIYEAR CONTRACTS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to paragraphs (2) and (3), and notwithstanding section 1341 of title 31, United States Code and section 3732 of the Revised Statutes of the United States (41 U.S.C. 11), the Secretary may acquire vessels for the NOAA fleet by purchase, lease, lease-purchase, or otherwise, under one or more multiyear contracts.

(2) **REQUIRED FINDINGS.**—The Secretary may not enter into a contract pursuant to this subsection unless the Secretary finds with respect to that contract that—

(A) there is a reasonable expectation that throughout the contemplated contract period the Secretary will request from Congress funding for the contract at the level required to avoid contract termination; and

(B) the use of the contract will promote the best interests of the United States by encouraging competition and promoting economic efficiency in the operation of the NOAA fleet.

(3) REQUIRED CONTRACT PROVISIONS.—The Secretary may not enter into a contract pursuant to this subsection unless the contract includes—

(A) a provision under which the obligation of the United States to make payments under the contract for any fiscal year is subject to the availability of appropriations provided in advance for those payments;

(B) a provision that specifies the term of effectiveness of the contract; and

(C) appropriate provisions under which, in case of any termination of the contract before the end of the term specified pursuant to subparagraph (B), the United States shall only be liable for the lesser of—

(i) an amount specified in the contract for such a termination; or

(ii) amounts that—

(I) were appropriated before the date of the termination for the performance of the contract or for procurement of the type of acquisition covered by the contract; and

(II) are unobligated on the date of the termination.

(b) SERVICE CONTRACTS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary may enter into multiyear contracts for oceanographic research, fisheries research, and mapping and charting services to assist the Secretary in fulfilling NOAA missions. The Secretary may only enter into these contracts if—

(1) the Secretary finds that it is in the public interest to do so;

(2) the contract is for not more than 7 years; and

(3)(A) the cost of the contract is less than the cost (including the cost of operation, maintenance, and personnel) to the NOAA of obtaining those services on NOAA vessels; or

(B) NOAA vessels are not available or cannot provide those services.

(c) BONDING AUTHORITY.—Notwithstanding any other law, the Secretary may not require a contractor for the construction, alteration, repair or maintenance of a NOAA vessel to provide a bid bond, payment bond, performance bond, completion bond, or other surety instrument in an amount greater than 20 percent of the value of the base contract quantity (excluding options) unless the Secretary determines that requiring an instrument in that amount will not prevent a responsible bidder or offeror from competing for the award of the contract.

SEC. 607. [33 U.S.C. 891e] RESTRICTION WITH RESPECT TO CERTAIN SHIPYARD SUBSIDIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Commerce may not award a contract for the construction, repair (except emergency repairs), or alteration of any vessel of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in a shipyard, if that vessel benefits or would benefit from significant subsidies for the construction, repair, or alteration of vessels in that shipyard.

(b) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “significant subsidy” includes, but is not limited to, any of the following:

- (1) Officially supported export credits.
- (2) Direct official operating support to the commercial shipbuilding and repair industry, or to a related entity that favors the operation of shipbuilding and repair, including but not limited to—
 - (A) grants;
 - (B) loans and loan guarantees other than those available on the commercial market;
 - (C) forgiveness of debt;
 - (D) equity infusions on terms inconsistent with commercially reasonable investment practices; and
 - (E) preferential provision of goods and services.
- (3) Direct official support for investment in the commercial shipbuilding and repair industry, or to a related entity that favors the operation of shipbuilding and repair, including but not limited to the kinds of support listed in paragraph (2)(A) through (E), and any restructuring support, except public support for social purposes directly and effectively linked to shipyard closures.
- (4) Assistance in the form of grants, preferential loans, preferential tax treatment, or otherwise, that benefits or is directly related to shipbuilding and repair for purposes of research and development that is not equally open to domestic and foreign enterprises.
- (5) Tax policies and practices that favor the shipbuilding and repair industry, directly or indirectly, such as tax credits, deductions, exemptions, and preferences, including accelerated depreciation, if such benefits are not generally available to persons or firms not engaged in shipbuilding or repair.
- (6) Any official regulation or practice that authorizes or encourages persons or firms engaged in shipbuilding or repair to enter into anticompetitive arrangements.
- (7) Any indirect support directly related, in law or in fact, to shipbuilding and repair at national yards, including any public assistance favoring shipowners with an indirect effect on shipbuilding or repair activities, and any assistance provided to suppliers of significant inputs to shipbuilding, which results in benefits to domestic shipbuilders.
- (8) Any export subsidy identified in the Illustrative List of Export Subsidies in the Annex to the Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures referred to in section 101(d)(12) of the Uruguay Round Agreements Act, or any other export subsidy prohibited by that agreement.

SEC. 608. [33 U.S.C. 891f] USE OF VESSELS.

In implementing the NOAA fleet replacement and modernization program, the Secretary, acting through the Assistant Administrator of NOAA for Marine and Aviation Operations, shall use excess capacity of UNOLS vessels where appropriate and may enter into memoranda of agreement with the operators of these vessels to carry out this requirement.

SEC. 609. [33 U.S.C. 891g] INTEROPERABILITY.

The Secretary shall consult with the Oceanographer of the Navy regarding appropriate measures that should be taken, on a

reimbursable basis, to ensure that NOAA vessels are interoperable with vessels of the Department of the Navy, including with respect to operation, maintenance, and repair of those vessels.

SEC. 610. [33 U.S.C. 891h] AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary \$93,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2025 through 2026 to carry out this title and section 302 of the Fisheries Survey Vessel Authorization Act of 2000 (title III of Public Law 106–450; 114 Stat. 1945; 33 U.S.C. 891b note).

(b) LIMITATION ON FLEET MODERNIZATION ACTIVITIES.—All NOAA fleet modernization, shipbuilding, and conversion shall be conducted in accordance with this title.

TITLE VII—WEATHER SERVICE MODERNIZATION⁵

SEC. 701. [15 U.S.C. 313 note] SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Weather Service Modernization Act”.

SEC. 702. [15 U.S.C. 313 note] DEFINITIONS.

For the purposes of this title, the term—

(1) “automate” means to replace employees with automated weather service equipment;

(2) “change operations at a field office” means transfer service responsibility, commission weather observation systems, decommission a National Weather Service radar, change staffing levels significantly, or move a field office to a new location inside the local commuting and service area;

(3) “Committee” means the Modernization Transition Committee established by section 707;

(4) “degradation of service” means any decrease in or failure to maintain the quality and type of weather services provided by the National Weather Service to the public in a service area, including but not limited to a reduction in existing weather radar coverage at an elevation of 10,000 feet;

(5) “field office” means any National Weather Service Office or National Weather Service Forecast Office;

(6) “Plan” means the National Implementation Plan required under section 703;

(7) “relocate” means to transfer from one location to another location that is outside the local commuting or service area;

(8) “Secretary” means the Secretary of Commerce;

(9) “service area” means the geographical area for which a field office provides services or conducts observations, including but not limited to local forecasts, severe weather warnings, aviation support, radar coverage, and ground weather observations; and

(10) “Strategic Plan” means the 10-year strategic plan for the comprehensive modernization of the National Weather Service, required under section 407 of the National Aero-

⁵This title was enacted as title VII of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Authorization Act of 1992 (Public Law 102–567), which is included elsewhere in this compilation.

nautics and Space Administration Authorization Act, Fiscal Year 1989 (15 U.S.C. 313 note).

SEC. 703. [15 U.S.C. 313 note] NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION PLAN.

(a) NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION PLAN.—As part of the budget justification documents submitted to Congress in support of the annual budget request for the Department of Commerce, the Secretary shall include a National Implementation Plan for modernization of the National Weather Service for each fiscal year following fiscal year 1993 until such modernization is complete. The Plan shall set forth the actions, during the 2-year period beginning with the fiscal year for which the budget request is made, that will be necessary to accomplish the objectives described in the Strategic Plan, and shall include—

(1) detailed requirements for new technologies, facilities, staffing levels and positions, and funding, in accordance with the overall schedule for modernization;

(2) notification of any proposed action to change operations at a field office and the intended date of such operational change;

(3) identification of any field office that the Secretary intends to certify under section 706, including the intended date of such certification;

(4) special measures to test, evaluate, and demonstrate key elements of the modernized National Weather Service operations prior to national implementation, including a multistation operational demonstration which tests the performance of the modernization in an integrated manner for a sustained period;

(5) detailed plans and funding requirements for meteorological research to be accomplishment under this title to assure that new techniques in forecasting will be developed to utilize the new technologies being implemented in the modernization; and

(6) training and education programs to ensure that employees gain the necessary expertise to utilize the new technologies and to minimize employee displacement as a consequence of modernization.

(b) TRANSMITTAL TO COMMITTEE.—The Secretary shall transmit a copy of each annual Plan to the Committee.

(c) CONSULTATION.—In developing the Plan, the Secretary shall consult, as appropriate, with the Committee and public entities responsible for providing or utilizing weather services.

SEC. 704. [15 U.S.C. 313 note] MODERNIZATION CRITERIA.

(a) NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL REVIEW.—The Secretary shall contract with the National Research Council for a review of the scientific and technical modernization criteria by which the Secretary proposes to certify action to close, consolidate, automate, or relocate a field office under section 706. In conducting such review, the National Research Council shall prepare and submit to the Secretary, no later than 9 months after the date of enactment of this Act, a report which—

(1) assesses requirements and procedures for commissioning new weather observation systems, decommissioning an

outdated National Weather Service radar, and evaluating staffing needs for field offices in an affected service area;

(2) assesses the statistical and analytical measures that should be made for a service area to form an adequate basis for determining that there will be no degradation of service; and

(3) includes such other recommendations as the National Research Council determines are appropriate to ensure public safety.

(b) CRITERIA.—No later than 12 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in consultation with the National Research Council and the Committee and after notice and opportunity for public comment, shall publish in the Federal Register modernization criteria (including all requirements and procedures), based on the report required under this section, for—

(1) commissioning new weather observation systems, decommissioning an outdated National Weather Service radar, and evaluating staffing needs for field offices in an affected service area; and

(2) certifying action to close, consolidate, automate, or relocate a field office under section 706.

SEC. 705. [15 U.S.C. 313 note] CHANGES IN FIELD OFFICE OPERATIONS.

(a) NOTIFICATION.—The Secretary shall not change operations at a field office pursuant to implementation of the Strategic Plan unless the Secretary has provided the notification required by section 703.

(b) WEATHER RADAR DECOMMISSIONING.—The Secretary shall not remove or permanently decommission any National Weather Service radar until the Secretary has prepared radar commissioning and decommissioning reports documenting that such action would be consistent with the modernization criteria established under section 704(b)(1). The commissioning report shall document that the radar system performs reliably, satisfactory maintenance support is in place, sufficient staff with adequate training are present to operate the system, technical coordination with weather service users has been completed, and the radar being commissioned satisfactorily supports field office operations. The decommissioning report shall document that the replacement radar has been commissioned, technical coordination with service users has been completed, and the radar being decommissioned is no longer needed to support field office operations.

(c) SURFACE OBSERVING SYSTEM COMMISSIONING.—The Secretary may not commission an automated surface observing system located at an airport unless it is determined, in consultation with the Secretary of Transportation, that the weather services provided after commissioning will continue to be in full compliance with applicable flight aviation rules promulgated by the Federal Aviation Administration.

SEC. 706. [15 U.S.C. 313 note] RESTRUCTURING FIELD OFFICES.⁶

SEC. 706. (a) PROHIBITION.—The Secretary shall not close, before January 1, 1996, any field office pursuant to implementation of the Strategic Plan.

(b) CERTIFICATION.—The Secretary shall not close, consolidate, automate, or relocate any field office, unless the Secretary has certified that such action will not result in any degradation of service. Such certification shall include—

(1) a description of local weather characteristics and weather-related concerns which affect the weather services provided within the service area;

(2) a detailed comparison of the services provided within the service area and the services to be provided after such action;

(3) a description of any recent or expected modernization of National Weather Service operations which will enhance services in the service area;

(4) an identification of any area within any State which would not receive coverage (at an elevation of 10,000 feet) by the next generation weather radar network;

(5) evidence, based upon operational demonstration of modernized National Weather Service operations, which was considered in reaching the conclusion that no degradation in service will result from such action; and

(6) any report of the Committee submitted under section 707(c) that evaluates the proposed certification.

(c) PUBLIC REVIEW.—Each certification decision shall be preceded by—

(1) publication in the Federal Register of a proposed certification; and

(2) a 60-day period after such publication during which the public may provide comments to the Secretary on the proposed certification.

(d) FINAL DECISION.—If after consideration of the public comment received under subsection (c) the Secretary, in consultation with the Committee, decides to close, consolidate, automate, or relocate any such field office, the Secretary shall publish a final certification in the Federal Register and submit the certification to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives⁷.

(e) SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES.—The Secretary may not close or relocate any field office—

(1) which is located at an airport, unless the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Transportation and the Committee, first conducts an air safety appraisal, determines that such action will not result in degradation of service that affects aircraft safety, and includes such determination in the certification required under subsection (b); or

⁶So in law.

⁷In accordance with section 1(a)(10) of Public Law 104-14 (109 Stat. 187), “the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives shall be treated as referring to the Committee on Science of the House of Representatives”.

(2) which is the only office in a State, unless the Secretary first evaluates the effect on weather services provided to in-State users, such as State agencies, civil defense officials, and local public safety offices, and includes in the certification required under subsection (b) the Secretary's determination that a comparable level of weather services provided to such in-State users will remain.

(f) LIAISON OFFICER.—The Secretary may not close, consolidate, automate, or relocate a field office until arrangements have been made to maintain for a period of at least 2 years at least one person in the service area to act as a liaison officer who—

(1) provides timely information regarding the activities of the National Weather Service which may affect service to the community, including modernization and restructuring; and

(2) works with area weather service users, including persons associated with general aviation, civil defense, emergency preparedness, and the news media, with respect to the provision of timely weather warnings and forecasts.

SEC. 707. [15 U.S.C. 313 note] MODERNIZATION TRANSITION COMMITTEE.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a committee of 12 members to be known as the Modernization Transition Committee.

(b) MEMBERSHIP AND TERMS.—(1) The Committee shall consist of—

(A) five members representing agencies and departments of the United States which are responsible for providing or using weather services, including but not limited to the National Weather Service, the Department of Defense, the Federal Aviation Administration, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency; and

(B) seven members to be appointed by the Secretary from civil defense and public safety organizations, news media, any labor organization certified by the Federal Labor Relations Authority as an exclusive representative of weather service employees, meteorological experts, and private sector users of weather information such as pilots and farmers.

(2) The terms of office of a member of the Committee shall be 3 years; except that, of the original membership, four shall serve a 5-year term, four shall serve a 4-year term, and four shall serve a 3-year term. No individual may serve for more than one additional 3-year term.

(3) The Secretary shall designate a chairman of the Committee from among its members.

(c) DUTIES.—(1) The Committee may review any proposed certification under section 706 for which the Secretary has provided a notice of intent to certify in the Plan, and should review such a proposed certification if there is a significant possibility of degradation of service within the affected service area. Upon the request of the Committee, the Secretary shall make available to the Committee the supporting documents developed by the Secretary in connection with the proposed certification. The Committee may prepare and submit to the Secretary, prior to publication of the proposed certification, a report which evaluates the proposed cer-

tification on the basis of the modernization criteria and with respect to the requirement that there be no degradation of service.

(2) The Committee shall advise the Congress and the Secretary on—

(A) the implementation of the Strategic Plan, annual development of the Plan, and establishment and implementation of modernization criteria; and

(B) matters of public safety and the provision of weather services which relate to the comprehensive modernization of the National Weather Service.

(d) **PAY AND TRAVEL EXPENSES.**—Members of the Committee who are not employees of the United States shall each be paid at a rate equal to the daily equivalent of the rate for GS-18 of the General Schedule under section 5332 of title 5, United States Code, for each day (including travel time) during which the member is engaged in the actual performance of duties vested in the Committee. Members shall receive travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, as authorized by section 5703 of title 5, United States Code.

(e) **STAFF.**—The Secretary shall make available to the Committee such staff, information, and assistance as it may reasonably require to carry out its activities.

(f) **TERMINATION.**—The Committee shall terminate on December 31, 1999.

SEC. 708. [15 U.S.C. 313 note] WEATHER SERVICE REPORT.

(a) **REPORT.**—The Secretary shall prepare a report on the proposed modernization of the National Weather Service and transmit the report, not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act, to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives⁸.

(b) **CONTENTS.**—(1) The report required by subsection (a) shall identify the size of the geographic area of responsibility of each proposed Weather Forecast Office and shall include an explanation of the number and type of personnel required at each Weather Forecast Office. For each proposed Weather Forecast Office covering a geographic area greater than two times the average geographic area of responsibility of Weather Forecast Offices nationwide, the report shall detail the reasons for assigning those Weather Forecast Offices a geographic area which differs significantly from the national average.

(2) The report shall list the number of next generation weather radars that will be associated with each Weather Forecast Office nationwide under the proposed modernization plan. If some Weather Forecast Offices will be associated with more than one such radar, the report shall explain the deviation from the National Weather Service's stated policy of associating one such radar with one Weather Forecast Office, and shall analyze and compare any differences in the expected efficiency of those Weather Forecast Of-

⁸In accordance with section 1(a)(10) of Public Law 104-14 (109 Stat. 187), "the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives shall be treated as referring to the Committee on Science of the House of Representatives".

fices with Weather Forecast Offices that will be associated with only one such radar.

(c) CONSULTATION.—In preparing portions of the report that address Weather Forecast Offices located in areas of the Nation that are uniquely dependent on general aviation as a means of transportation, the Secretary shall consult with local aviation groups. In the case of Alaska, such local groups shall include the Alaska Aviation Safety Foundation, the Alaska Airmen's Association, and the regional representatives of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association.

SEC. 709. [15 U.S.C. 313 note] REPEALS.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act, Fiscal Year 1989 (15 U.S.C. 313 note), is amended by repealing—

- (1) subsections (b), (c), and (d) of section 407; and
- (2) section 408.

**TITLE VIII—NORTH PACIFIC ANADROMOUS STOCKS
CONVENTION**

SEC. 801. [16 U.S.C. 5001 note] SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “North Pacific Anadromous Stocks Act of 1992”.

SEC. 802. [16 U.S.C. 5001] PURPOSE.

It is the purpose of this title to implement the Convention for the Conservation of Anadromous Stocks in the North Pacific Ocean, signed in Moscow, February 11, 1992.

SEC. 803. [16 U.S.C. 5002] DEFINITIONS.

As used in this title, the term—

- (1) “Anadromous stocks” means stocks of species listed in the Annex to the Convention that migrate into the Convention area.
- (2) “Anadromous fish” means fish of the species listed in the Annex to the Convention that migrate into the Convention area.
- (3) “Authorized officer” means a law enforcement official authorized to enforce this title under section 809(a).
- (4) “Commission” means the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission provided for by article VIII of the Convention.
- (5) “Convention” means the Convention for the Conservation of Anadromous Stocks of the North Pacific Ocean, signed in Moscow, February 11, 1992.
- (6) “Convention area” means the waters of the North Pacific Ocean and its adjacent seas, north of 33 degrees North Latitude, beyond 200 nautical miles from the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured.
- (7) “Directed fishing” means fishing targeted at a particular species or stock of fish.
- (8) “Ecologically related species” means living marine species which are associated with anadromous stocks found in the Convention area, including, but not restricted to, both predators and prey of anadromous fish.

(9) "Enforcement officer" means a law enforcement official authorized by any Party to enforce this title.

(10) "Exclusive economic zone" means the zone established by Proclamation Numbered 5030, dated March 10, 1983. For purposes of applying this title, the inner boundary of that zone is a line coterminous with the seaward boundary of each of the coastal States.

(11) "Fish" means finfish, mollusks, crustaceans, and all other forms of marine animal and plant life other than marine mammals and birds.

(12) "Fishing" means—

(A) the catching, taking, or harvesting of fish, or any other activity that can reasonably be expected to result in the catching, taking, or harvesting of fish; or

(B) any operation at sea in preparation for or in direct support of any activity described in subparagraph (A).

(13) "Fishing vessel" means—

(A) any vessel engaged in catching fish within the Convention area or in processing or transporting fish loaded in the Convention area;

(B) any vessel outfitted to engage in any activity described in subparagraph (A);

(C) any vessel supporting a vessel described in subparagraph (A) or (B).

(14) "Incidental taking" means catching, taking, or harvesting a species or stock of fish while conducting directed fishing for another species or stock of fish.

(15) "Party" means Canada, Japan, the Russian Federation, the United States, and any other nation that may accede to the Convention.

(16) "Secretary" means the Secretary of State.

(17) "United States Section" means the United States Commissioners of the Commission.

SEC. 804. [16 U.S.C. 5003] UNITED STATES COMMISSIONERS.

(a) COMMISSIONERS.—The United States shall be represented on the Commission by not more than three United States Commissioners to be appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the President. Each United States Commissioner shall be appointed for a term of office not to exceed 4 years, but is eligible for reappointment. 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, United States Code, and chapter 171 of title 28, United States Code. Of the Commissioners—

(1) one shall be an official of the United States Government;

(2) one shall be a resident of the State of Alaska; and

(3) one shall be a resident of the State of Washington.

An individual is not eligible for appointment under paragraph (2) or (3) as a Commissioner unless the individual is knowledgeable or experienced concerning the anadromous stocks and ecologically related species of the North Pacific Ocean.

(b) **ALTERNATE COMMISSIONERS.**—The Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Commerce, may designate from time to time Alternate United States Commissioners to the Commission. An Alternate United States Commissioner may exercise all designated powers and duties of a United States Commissioner in the absence of a duly designated Commissioner 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 authorized United States Commissioners that will not be present.

(c) **UNITED STATES SECTION.**—The United States Section, in consultation with the Advisory Panel established in section 805, shall identify and recommend to the Commission research needs and priorities for anadromous stocks and ecologically related species subject to the Convention, and oversee the United States research programs involving such fisheries, stocks, and species.

(d) **COMPENSATION.**—United States Commissioners and Alternate United States Commissioners shall receive no compensation for their services as Commissioners and Alternate Commissioners.

(e) **TRAVEL EXPENSES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary may pay the necessary travel expenses of the United States Commissioners and Alternate United States Commissioners in carrying out the duties of the Commission in accordance with the Federal Travel Regulations and sections 5701, 5702, 5704 through 5708, and 5731 of title 5, United States Code.

(2) **REIMBURSEMENT.**—The Secretary of Commerce may reimburse the Secretary for amounts expended by the Secretary under this subparagraph.

SEC. 805. [16 U.S.C. 5004] ADVISORY PANEL.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT OF PANEL.**—An Advisory Panel to the United States Section is established. The Advisory Panel shall be composed of the following:

(1) The Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

(2) The Director of the Washington Department of Fisheries.

(3) One representative of the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission, designated by the Executive Director of that commission.

(4) Eleven members (six of whom shall be residents of the State of Alaska and five of whom shall be residents of the State of Washington), appointed by the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Commerce, from among a slate of 12 persons nominated by the Governor of Alaska and a slate of 10 persons nominated by the Governor of Washington.

(b) **QUALIFICATIONS.**—Persons appointed to the Advisory Panel shall be individuals who are knowledgeable or experienced concerning anadromous stocks and ecologically related species. In submitting a slate of nominees pursuant to subsection (a)(4), the Governors of Alaska and Washington shall seek to represent the broad range of parties interested in anadromous stocks and ecologically related species, and at a minimum shall include on each slate at

least one representative of commercial salmon fishing interests and of environmental interests concerned with protection of living marine resources.

(c) **LIMITATION ON SERVICE.**—Any person appointed to the Advisory Panel pursuant to subsection (a)(4) shall serve for a term not to exceed 4 years, and may not serve more than two consecutive terms.

(d) **FUNCTIONS.**—The Advisory Panel shall be invited to all nonexecutive meetings of the United States Section and at such meetings shall be granted the opportunity to examine and to be heard on all proposed programs of study and investigation, reports, and recommendations of the United States Section.

(e) **COMPENSATION.**—The members of the Advisory Panel shall receive no compensation for their service as such members.

(f) **TRAVEL EXPENSES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary may pay the necessary travel expenses of the members of the Advisory Panel in carrying out their service as such members in accordance with the Federal Travel Regulations and sections 5701, 5702, 5704 through 5708, and 5731 of title 5, United States Code.

(2) **REIMBURSEMENT.**—The Secretary of Commerce may reimburse the Secretary for amounts expended by the Secretary under this subparagraph.

SEC. 806. [16 U.S.C. 5005] COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS.

The Secretary, with the concurrence of the Secretary of Commerce, may accept or reject, on behalf of the United States, recommendations made by the Commission in accordance with article IX of the Convention.

SEC. 807. [16 U.S.C. 5006] ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT OF CONVENTION.

(a) **RESPONSIBILITIES.**—The Secretary of Commerce shall be responsible for administering provisions of the Convention, this title, and regulations issued under this title. The Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Commerce and the Secretary of Transportation, shall be responsible for coordinating the participation of the United States in the Commission.

(b) **CONSULTATION AND COOPERATION.**—In carrying out such functions, the Secretary of Commerce—

(1) shall, in consultation with the Secretary of Transportation and the United States Section, issue such regulations as may be necessary to carry out the purposes and objectives of the Convention and this title; and

(2) may, with the concurrence of the Secretary, cooperate with the authorized officials of the government of any Party.

SEC. 808. [16 U.S.C. 5007] COOPERATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Any agency of the Federal Government is authorized, upon request of the Commission, to cooperate in the conduct of scientific and other programs, and to furnish, on a reimbursable basis, facilities and personnel for the purpose of assisting the Commission in carrying out its duties under the Convention. Such agency may accept reimbursement from the Commission.

(b) **FUNCTIONS OF SECRETARY OF COMMERCE.**—In carrying out the provisions of the Convention and this title, the Secretary of

Commerce may arrange for cooperation with agencies of the United States, the States, private institutions and organizations, and agencies of the government of any Party, to conduct scientific and other programs, and may execute such memoranda as may be necessary to reflect such agreements.

SEC. 809. [16 U.S.C. 5008] ENFORCEMENT PROVISIONS.

(a) **DUTIES OF SECRETARIES OF COMMERCE AND TRANSPORTATION.**—This title shall be enforced by the Secretary of Commerce and the Secretary of Transportation. Such Secretaries may by agreement utilize, on a reimbursable basis or otherwise, the personnel, services, equipment (including aircraft and vessels), and facilities of any other Federal agency, including all elements of the Department of Defense, and of any State agency, in the performance of such duties. Such Secretaries shall, and the head of any Federal or State agency that has entered into an agreement with either such Secretary under the preceding sentence may (if the agreement so provides), authorize officers to enforce the provisions of the Convention, this title, and regulations issued under this title. Any such agreement or contract entered into pursuant to this section shall be effective only to such extent or in such amounts as are provided in advance in appropriations Acts.

(b) **DISTRICT COURT JURISDICTION.**—The district courts of the United States shall have exclusive jurisdiction over any case or controversy arising under the provisions of this title.

(c) **POWERS OF ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS.**—Authorized officers may, shoreward of the outer boundary of the exclusive economic zone, or during hot pursuit from the zone—

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

(A) arrest any person, if the officer has reasonable cause to believe that such person has committed an act prohibited by section 810;

(B) board, and search or inspect, any fishing vessel subject to the provisions of the Convention and this title;

(C) seize any fishing vessel (together with its fishing gear, furniture, appurtenances, stores, and cargo) used or employed in, or with respect to which it reasonably appears that such vessel was used or employed in, the violation of any provision of the Convention, this title, or regulations issued under this title;

(D) seize any fish (wherever found) taken or retained in violation of any provision referred to in subparagraph (C);⁹

(E) seize any other evidence related to any violation of any provision referred to in subparagraph (C);

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

(3) exercise any other lawful authority.

(d) **ADDITIONAL POWERS.**—(1) An authorized officer may in the Convention area—

(A) board a vessel of any Party that reasonably can be believed to be engaged in directed fishing for, incidental taking of, or processing of anadromous fish, and, without warrant or

⁹ So in law. Probably should include “and” after the semicolon.

process, inspect equipment, logs, documents, catch, and other articles, and question persons, on board the vessel, for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of the Convention, this title, or any regulation issued under this title; and

(B) If¹⁰ any such vessel or person on board is actually engaged in operations in violation of any such provision, or there is reasonable ground to believe any person or vessel was obviously so engaged before the boarding of such vessel by the authorized officer, arrest or seize such person or vessel and further investigate the circumstance if necessary.

If an authorized officer, after boarding and investigation, has reasonable cause to believe that any such fishing vessel or person engaged in operations in violation of any provision referred to in subparagraph (A), the officer shall deliver the vessel or person as promptly as practicable to the enforcement officers of the appropriate Party, in accordance with the provisions of the Convention.

(2) When requested by the appropriate authorities of a Party, an authorized officer may be directed to attend as a witness, and to produce such available records and files or duly certified copies thereof as may be necessary, for the prosecution by that Party of any violation of the provisions of the Convention or any law of that Party relating to the enforcement thereof.

SEC. 810. [16 U.S.C. 5009] UNLAWFUL ACTIVITIES.

It is unlawful for any person or fishing vessel subject to the jurisdiction of the United States—

(1) to fish for any anadromous fish in the Convention area;

(2) to retain on board any anadromous fish taken incidentally in a fishery directed at nonanadromous fish in the Convention area;

(3) to fail to return immediately to the sea any anadromous fish taken incidentally in a fishery directed at nonanadromous fish in the Convention area;

(4) to ship, transport, offer for sale, sell, purchase, import, export, or have custody, control, or possession of, any anadromous fish taken or retained in violation of the Convention, this title, or any regulation issued under this title;

(5) to refuse to permit any enforcement officer to board a fishing vessel subject to such person's control for purposes of conducting any search, investigation, or inspection in connection with the enforcement of the Convention, this title, or any regulation issued under this title;

(6) to forcibly assault, resist, oppose, impede, intimidate, or interfere with any enforcement officer in the conduct of any search, investigation, or inspection described in paragraph (5);

(7) to resist a lawful arrest or detection for any act prohibited by this section;

(8) to interfere with, delay, or prevent, by any means, the apprehension, arrest, or detection of another person, knowing that such person has committed any act prohibited by this section; or

(9) to violate any provision of the Convention, this title, or any regulation issued under this title.

¹⁰So in law. Probably should be "if".

SEC. 811 ¹¹. [16 U.S.C. 5010] ADDITIONAL PROHIBITIONS AND ENFORCEMENT.

For additional prohibitions relating to this Act and enforcement of this Act, see section 606 of the High Seas Driftnet Fishing Moratorium Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 1826g).

SEC. 812. [16 U.S.C. 5011] FUNDING REQUIREMENTS.

(a) **AUTHORIZATION.**—There are authorized to be appropriated from time to time such sums as may be necessary for carrying out the purposes and provisions of the Convention and this title, including—

(1) necessary travel expenses of the United States Commissioners or Alternate Commissioners; and

(2) the United States' share of the joint expenses of the Commission.

(b) **RESEARCH.**—Such funds as shall be made available to the Secretary of Commerce for research and related activities shall be expended to carry out the program of the Commission in accordance with the recommendations of the United States Section and to carry out other research and observer programs pursuant to the Convention.

SEC. 813. [16 U.S.C. 5012] DISPOSITION OF PROPERTY.

The Secretary shall dispose of any United States property held by the International North Pacific Fisheries Commission on the date of its termination in a manner that would further the purposes of this title.

SEC. 814. REPEAL OF THE NORTH PACIFIC FISHERIES ACT OF 1954.

The Act of August 12, 1954 (16 U.S.C. 1021–1035) is repealed.

¹¹The amendment made by section 103(b) of Public Law 114–81 to the “Northern Pacific Anadromous Stocks Act of 1992” was carried out to the “North Pacific Anadromous Stocks Act of 1992” in order to reflect the probable intent of Congress.