

**ANTARCTIC MARINE LIVING RESOURCES CONVENTION  
ACT OF 1984**

[Title III of Public Law 98–623, Approved Nov. 8, 1984, 98 Stat.  
3398]

[As Amended Through P.L. 114–81, Enacted November 05, 2015]

【Currency: This publication is a compilation of the text of Public Law 98–623. 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 approve governing international fishery agreements with Iceland and the EEC; to establish national standards for artificial reefs; to implement the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources; and for other purposes.

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

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**TITLE III—ANTARCTIC MARINE LIVING RESOURCES  
CONVENTION**

**SEC. 301. [16 U.S.C. 2431 note] SHORT TITLE.**

This title may be cited as the “Antarctic Marine Living Resources Convention Act of 1984”.

**SEC. 302. [16 U.S.C. 2431] FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**

(a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds that—

(1) the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources establishes international mechanisms and creates legal obligations necessary for the protection and conservation of Antarctic marine living resources;

(2) the Convention incorporates an innovative ecosystem approach to the management of Antarctic marine living resources, including standards designed to ensure the health of the individual populations and species and to maintain the health of the Antarctic marine ecosystem as a whole;

(3) the Convention serves important United States environmental and resource management interests;

(4) the Convention represents an important contribution to United States long term legal and political objectives of main-

tenance of Antarctica as an area of peaceful international cooperation;

(5) United States basic and directed research programs concerning the marine living resources of the Antarctic are essential to achieve the United States goal of effective implementation of the objectives of the Convention; and

(6) the United States has important security, economic, and environmental interests in developing and maintaining a fleet of icebreaking vessels capable of operating effectively in the heavy ice regions of Antarctica.

(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this title is to provide the legislative authority necessary to implement, with respect to the United States, the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources.

**SEC. 303. [16 U.S.C. 2432] DEFINITIONS.**

For purposes of this title—

(1) ANTARCTIC CONVERGENCE.—The term “Antarctic Convergence” means a line joining the following points along the parallels of latitude and meridians of longitude: 50 degrees south, 0 degrees; 50 degrees south, 30 degrees east; 45 degrees south, 30 degrees east; 45 degrees south, 80 degrees east; 55 degrees south, 80 degrees east; 55 degrees south, 150 degrees east; 60 degrees south, 150 degrees east; 60 degrees south;<sup>1</sup> 50 degrees west; 50 degrees south, 50 degrees west; and 50 degrees south, 0 degrees.

(2) ANTARCTIC MARINE LIVING RESOURCES.—The term “Antarctic marine living resources” means the population of finfish, molluscs, crustaceans and all other species of living organisms, including birds, found south of the Antarctic Convergence.

(3) COMMISSION.—The term “Commission” means the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources established pursuant to article VII of the Convention.

(4) CONVENTION.—The term “Convention” means the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources, done at Canberra, Australia, May 7, 1980, and entered into force with respect to the United States on April 7, 1982.

(5) HARVESTING OR OTHER ASSOCIATED ACTIVITIES.—The terms “harvesting” and “harvesting or other associated activities” mean—

(A) the harassing, molesting, harming, pursuing, hunting, shooting, wounding, killing, trapping, or capturing of Antarctic marine living resources;

(B) attempting to engage in any activity set forth in subparagraph (A);

(C) any other activity which can reasonably be expected to result in any activity described in subparagraph (A); and

(D) any operations at sea in support of, or in preparation for, any activity described in subparagraphs (A) through (C).

(6) HARVEST.—The term “harvest” means to engage in harvesting or other associated activities.

<sup>1</sup> So in original. Probably should be a comma.

(7) **IMPORT.**—The term “import” means to land on, bring into, or introduce into, or attempt to land on, bring into, or introduce into, any place subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, whether or not such landing constitutes an importation within the meaning of the customs laws of the United States.

(8) **PERSON.**—The term “person” means an individual, partnership, corporation, trust, association, and any other entity subject to the jurisdiction of the United States.

(9) **SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE.**—The term “Scientific Committee” means the Scientific Committee for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources established pursuant to article XIV of the Convention.

(10) **VESSEL OF THE UNITED STATES.**—The term “vessel of the United States” means—

(A) a vessel documented under chapter 121 of title 46, United States Code, or a vessel numbered as provided in chapter 123 of that title;

(B) a vessel owned in whole or in part by—

(i) the United States or a territory, commonwealth, or possession of the United States;

(ii) a State or political subdivision thereof;

(iii) a citizen or national of the United States; or

(iv) a corporation created under the laws of the United States or any State, the District of Columbia, or any territory, commonwealth, or possession of the United States;

unless the vessel has been granted the nationality of a foreign nation in accordance with Article 5 of the 1958 Convention on the High Seas; and

(C) a vessel that was once documented under the laws of the United States and, in violation of the laws of the United States, was either sold to a person not a citizen of the United States or placed under foreign registry or a foreign flag, whether or not the vessel has been granted the nationality of a foreign nation in accordance with Article 5 of the 1958 Convention on the High Seas.

(11) **VESSEL SUBJECT TO THE JURISDICTION OF THE UNITED STATES.**—The term “vessel subject to the jurisdiction of the United States” includes a vessel without nationality or a vessel assimilated to a vessel without nationality, in accordance with paragraph (2) of Article 6 of the 1958 Convention on the High Seas.

**SEC. 304. [16 U.S.C. 2433] REPRESENTATIVES.**

(a) **REPRESENTATIVE TO THE COMMISSION.**—The Secretary of State, with the concurrence of the Secretary of Commerce and the Director of the National Science Foundation, shall appoint an officer or employee of the United States as the United States representative to the Commission.

(b) **REPRESENTATIVE TO THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE.**—The Secretary of Commerce and the Director of the National Science Foundation, with the concurrence of the Secretary of State, shall designate the United States representative to the Scientific Committee.

(c) COMPENSATION.—The United States representatives to the Commission and the Scientific Committee shall receive no additional compensation by reason of their services as such representatives.

**SEC. 305. [16 U.S.C. 2434] CONSERVATION MEASURES; SYSTEM OF OBSERVATION AND INSPECTION.**

(a) CONSERVATION MEASURES.—(1) The Secretary of State, with the concurrence of the Secretary of Commerce and the Director of the National Science Foundation, is authorized—

(A) to decide on behalf of the United States whether the United States is unable to accept or can no longer accept a conservation measure adopted by the Commission pursuant to article IX of the Convention, and

(B) to notify the Commission of any such decision in accordance with article IX of the Convention.

(2) The Secretary of State shall—

(A) publish in the Federal Register, if practicable, timely notice of each proposed decision under paragraph (1) and invite written public comment regarding it; and

(B) publish in the Federal Register notice of each notification made to the Commission under paragraph (1).

(b) SYSTEM OF OBSERVATION AND INSPECTION.—The Secretary of State, with the concurrence of the Secretary of Commerce, the Director of the National Science Foundation and the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating, is authorized to agree on behalf of the United States to the establishment of a system of observation and inspection, and to interim arrangements pending establishment of such a system, pursuant to article XXIV of the Convention.

(c) COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE COMMISSION.—The Secretary of State is further authorized to receive, on behalf of the United States Government, reports, requests, and other communications from the Commission and to take appropriate action on them, either directly or by reference to the appropriate authority.

**SEC. 306. [16 U.S.C. 2435] UNLAWFUL ACTIVITIES.**

It is unlawful for any person—

(1) to engage in harvesting or other associated activities in violation of the provisions of the Convention or in violation of a conservation measure in force with respect to the United States pursuant to article IX of the Convention;

(2) to violate any regulation promulgated under this title;

(3) to ship, transport, offer for sale, sell, purchase, import, export, or have custody, control or possession of, any Antarctic marine living resource (or part or product thereof) harvested in violation of a conservation measure in force with respect to the United States pursuant to article IX of the Convention or in violation of any regulation promulgated under this title, without regard to the citizenship of the person that harvested, or vessel that was used in the harvesting of, the Antarctic marine living resource (or part or product thereof);

(4) to refuse to permit any authorized officer or employee of the United States to board a vessel of the United States or a vessel subject to the jurisdiction of the United States for pur-

poses of conducting any search, investigation, or inspection in connection with the enforcement of the Convention, this title, or any regulations promulgated under this title;

(5) to assault, resist, oppose, impede, intimidate, or interfere with any authorized officer or employee of the United States in the conduct of any search, investigation, or inspection described in paragraph (4);

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

(7) to interfere with, delay, or prevent, by any means, the apprehension, arrest, or detention of another person, knowing that such other person has committed any act prohibited by this section.

**SEC. 307. [16 U.S.C. 2436] REGULATIONS.** (a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of Commerce, after consultation with the Secretary of State, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating, and the heads of other appropriate departments or agencies of the United States, shall promulgate such regulations as are necessary and appropriate to implement the provisions of this title.

(b) **REGULATIONS TO IMPLEMENT CONSERVATION MEASURES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Notwithstanding subsections (b), (c), and (d) of section 553 of title 5, United States Code, the Secretary of Commerce may publish in the Federal Register a final regulation to implement any conservation measure for which the Secretary of State notifies the Commission under section 305(a)(1)—

(A) that has been in effect for 12 months or less;

(B) that is adopted by the Commission; and

(C) with respect to which the Secretary of State, does not notify Commission in accordance with section 305(a)(1) within the time period allotted for objections under Article IX of the Convention.

(2) **ENTERING INTO FORCE.**—Upon publication of such regulation in the Federal Register, such conservation measure shall enter into force with respect to the United States.

**SEC. 308. [16 U.S.C. 2437] CIVIL PENALTIES.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Any person who commits an act that is unlawful under section 306 shall be liable to the United States for a civil penalty, and may be subject to a permit sanction, under section 308 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1858).

(b) **HEARINGS.**—Hearings for the assessment of civil penalties under subsection (a) shall be conducted in accordance with section 554 of title 5, United States Code. For the purposes of conducting any such hearing, the Secretary of Commerce may issue subpoenas for the attendance and testimony of witnesses and the production of relevant papers, books, and documents, and may administer oaths. Witnesses summoned shall be paid the same fees and mileage that are paid to witnesses in the courts of the United States. In case of contumacy or refusal to obey a subpoena served upon any person pursuant to this subsection, the district court of the United States for any district in which such person is found, resides, or transacts business, upon application by the Attorney Gen-

eral of the United States and after notice to such person, shall have jurisdiction to issue an order requiring such person to appear and give testimony before the Secretary of Commerce or to appear and produce documents before the Secretary of Commerce, or both, and any failure to obey such order of the court may be punished by such court as a contempt thereof.

(c) REVIEW OF CIVIL PENALTY.—Any person against whom a civil penalty is assessed under subsection (a) of this section may obtain review thereof in the appropriate district court of the United States by filing a notice of appeal in such court within 30 days from the date of such order and by simultaneously sending a copy of such notice by certified mail to the Secretary of Commerce, the Attorney General, and the appropriate United States Attorney. The Secretary of Commerce shall promptly refer the matter to the Attorney General of the United States, who shall file in such court a certified copy of the record upon which the violation was found or such penalty imposed, as provided in section 2112 of title 28, United States Code. The court shall set aside the findings and order of the Secretary if the findings and order are found to be unsupported by substantial evidence, as provided in section 706(2)(E) of title 5, United States Code.

(d) RECOVERY OF CIVIL PENALTIES.—The Attorney General of the United States may seek to recover in any appropriate district court of the United States (1) any civil penalty imposed under this section that has become a final and unappealable order and has been referred to the Attorney General by the Secretary of Commerce or (2) any final judgment rendered under this section in favor of the United States by an appropriate Court.

(e) PENALTIES UNDER OTHER LAWS.—The assessment of a civil penalty under subsection (a) for any act shall not be deemed to preclude the assessment of a civil penalty for such act under any other law.

**SEC. 309. [16 U.S.C. 2438] CRIMINAL OFFENSES.**

(a) OFFENSES.—A person is guilty of an offense if that person commits any act prohibited by paragraph (4), (5), (6), or (7) of section 306.

(b) PUNISHMENT.—Any offense described in subsection (a) is punishable by a fine of \$50,000, or imprisonment for not more than ten years, or both.

(c) OFFENSES UNDER OTHER LAWS.—A conviction under subsection (a) for any act shall not be deemed to preclude a conviction for such act under any other law.

**SEC. 310. [16 U.S.C. 2439] ENFORCEMENT.**

(a) RESPONSIBILITY.—The provisions of this title shall be enforced by the Secretary of Commerce and the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating. Such Secretaries may utilize by agreement, on a reimbursable basis or otherwise, the personnel, services, and facilities of any other department or agency of the United States in the performance of such duties.

(b) POWERS OF AUTHORIZED OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES.—Any officer or employee of the United States who is authorized (by the Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating, or the head of any department or

agency of the United States which has entered into an agreement with either Secretary under subsection (a)) to enforce the provisions of this title and of any regulation promulgated under this title may, in enforcing such provisions—

(1) secure, execute, and serve any order, warrant, subpoena, or other process, which is issued under the authority of the United States;

(2) search without warrant any person, place, vehicle or aircraft subject to the jurisdiction of the United States where there are reasonable grounds to believe that a person has committed or is attempting to commit an act prohibited by section 306;

(3) with or without a warrant board and search or inspect any vessel of the United States or vessel subject to the jurisdiction of the United States;

(4) seize without warrant—

(A) any evidentiary item where there are reasonable grounds to believe that a person has committed or is attempting to commit an act prohibited by section 306,

(B) any Antarctic marine living resources (or part of<sup>1</sup> product thereof) with respect to which such an act is committed,

(C) any vessel of the United States (including its gear, furniture, appurtenances, stores, and cargo), any vessel subject to the jurisdiction of the United States (including its gear, furniture, appurtenances, stores, and cargo), and any vehicle, aircraft, or other means of transportation subject to the jurisdiction of the United States used in connection with such an act, and

(D) any guns, traps, nets, or equipment used in connection with such an act;

(5) offer and pay rewards for services or information which may lead to the apprehension of persons violating such provisions;

(6) make inquiries, and administer to, or take from, any person an oath, affirmation, or affidavit, concerning any matter which is related to the enforcement of such provisions;

(7) in coordination with the Secretary of the Treasury, detain for inspection and inspect any package, crate, or other container, including its contents, and all accompanying documents, upon importation into, or exportation from, the United States;

(8) make an arrest with or without a warrant with respect to any act prohibited by paragraph (4), (5), (6), or (7) of section 306 if such officer or employee has reasonable grounds to believe that the person to be arrested is committing such act in his or her presence or view or has committed such act;

(9) exercise enforcement powers conferred on such officer or employee under a system of observation and inspection, or interim arrangements pending the establishment of such a system, which the Secretary of State has agreed to on behalf of the United States pursuant to section 305(b); and

<sup>1</sup> So in original. Probably should be “or”.

(10) exercise any other authority which such officer or employee is permitted by law to exercise.

(c) SEIZURE.—Subject to the succeeding provisions of this subsection, any property or item seized pursuant to subsection (b) shall be held by any officer or employee of the United States, who is authorized by the Secretary of Commerce or the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating, pending the disposition of civil or criminal proceedings concerning the violation relating to the property or item, or the institution of an action in rem for the forfeiture of such property or item. Such authorized officer or employee may, upon the order of a court of competent jurisdiction, either release such seized property or item to the wild or destroy such property or item, when the cost of maintenance of the property or item pending the disposition of the case is greater than the legitimate market value of the property or item. Such authorized officer or employee and all officers or employees acting by or under his or her direction shall be indemnified from any penalties or actions for damages for so releasing or destroying such property or item. Such authorized officer or employee may, in lieu of holding such property or item, permit the owner or consignee thereof to post a bond or other satisfactory surety.

(d) FORFEITURE.—(1) Any Antarctic marine living resource (or part or product thereof) with respect to which an act prohibited by section 306 is committed, any vessel of the United States (including its gear, furniture, appurtenances, stoves, and cargo), vessel subject to the jurisdiction of the United States (including its gear, furniture, appurtenances, stoves, and cargo), or vessel, vehicle, or aircraft or other means of transportation subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, which is used in connection with an act prohibited by section 306, and all guns, traps, nets, and other equipment used in connection with such act, shall be subject to forfeiture to the United States.

(2) Upon the forfeiture to the United States of any property or item described in paragraph (1), or upon the abandonment or waiver of any claim to any such property or item, it shall be disposed of by the Secretary of Commerce, or the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating, as the case may be, in such a manner, consistent with the purposes of this title, as may be prescribed by regulation.

(e) APPLICATION OF CUSTOMS LAWS.—All provisions of law relating to the seizure, forfeiture, and condemnation of property (including vessels) for violation of the customs laws, the disposition of such property or the proceeds from the sale thereof, and the remission or mitigation of such forfeiture, shall apply to the seizures and forfeitures incurred, or alleged to have been incurred, and the compromise of claims, under the provisions of this title, insofar as such provisions of law are applicable and not inconsistent with the provisions of this title; except that all powers, rights, and duties conferred or imposed by the customs laws upon any officer or employee of the Customs Service may, for the purposes of this title, also be exercised or performed by the Secretary of Commerce or the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating, or by such officers or employees of the United States as each Secretary may designate.



**SEC. 311. [16 U.S.C. 2440] JURISDICTION OF COURTS.**

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

**SEC. 312. [16 U.S.C. 2441] FEDERAL AGENCY COOPERATION.**

(a) RESPONSIBILITIES.—(1) For the purpose of carrying out the policies and objectives of the Convention or to implement any decision of the Commission—

(A) the Director of the National Science Foundation, in consultation with the Secretary of State and the heads of other appropriate departments and agencies of the United States, shall continue to support basic research investigations of the Antarctic marine ecosystem as a part of the United States Antarctic Program;

(B) the Secretary of Commerce, in consultation with the Director of the National Science Foundation, the Secretary of State and the heads of other appropriate Federal agencies, shall design and conduct the program of directed scientific research as set forth in paragraph 2<sup>1</sup> supplemental to and coordinated with the United States Antarctic Program; and

(C) the Secretary of Commerce and the Director of the National Science Foundation, in consultation with the Secretary of State, may furnish facilities and personnel to the Commission in order to assist the Commission in carrying out its functions.

(2)(A) The Secretary of Commerce, in consultation with the Secretary of State, the Director of the National Science Foundation, and other appropriate Federal officials, shall prepare a plan, which shall be updated annually, for conducting the directed research program required under paragraph (1)(B) for each period of three consecutive fiscal years occurring during the period beginning on October 1, 1985, and ending on September 30, 1991. The plan shall—

(i) describe priority directed research needs for the implementation of the Convention;

(ii) identify which of those needs are to be fulfilled by the United States; and

(iii) specify the design of the research referred to in paragraph (1)(B) and the funds, personnel, and facilities required for the research, including, in particular, the need for the cost of enhanced ship capacity.

(B) In preparing the plan referred to in subparagraph (A), the Secretary of Commerce shall take into account, in addition to any other matters the Secretary considers appropriate, the possibilities of securing productive results, the minimization of duplication, and the methods for monitoring and evaluating a project.

(C) The Secretary of Commerce shall submit to the Congress each year the plan required under subparagraph (A). That part of the plan covering fiscal years 1986 through 1988 shall be submitted not later than October 1, 1985. That part of the plan covering each 3-fiscal-year period thereafter shall be submitted not

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

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later than the February 1 occurring before the beginning of the first fiscal year covered by that part of the plan.

(b) **CONSULTATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES.**—In carrying out their functions under this section, the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Commerce, and the Director of the National Science Foundation shall consult, as appropriate, with the Marine Mammal Commission and with other departments and agencies of the United States.

(c) **ICEBREAKING.**—The Department of Homeland Security shall facilitate planning for the design, procurement, maintenance, deployment, and operation of icebreakers needed to provide a platform for Antarctic research. All funds necessary to support icebreaking operations, except for recurring incremental costs associated with specific projects, shall be allocated to the United States Coast Guard.

**SEC. 313. [16 U.S.C. 2442] RELATIONSHIP TO EXISTING TREATIES AND STATUTES.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Nothing in this Act shall be construed as contravening or superseding (1) the provisions of any international treaty, convention, or agreement, if such treaty, convention or agreement is in force with respect to the United States on the date of the enactment of this title, or (2) the provisions of any statute which implements any such treaty, convention, or agreement. Nothing in this title shall be construed as contravening or superseding the provisions of any statute enacted before the date of the enactment of this title which may otherwise apply to Antarctic marine living resources.

(b) **APPLICATION OF MORE RESTRICTIVE PROVISIONS.**—Nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent the application of provisions of the Convention, conservation measures adopted by the Commission pursuant to article IX of the Convention, or regulations promulgated under this title, which are more restrictive than the provisions of, measures adopted under, or regulations promulgated under, the treaties or statutes described in subsection (a).

**SEC. 314. [16 U.S.C. 2443] AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

There are authorized to be appropriated, out of any moneys in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, such sums as may be necessary for carrying out the provisions of this title, including, but not limited to—

(1) necessary travel expenses of the United States representatives referred to in section 304, alternate United States representatives, and authorized advisers and experts, in accordance with sections 5701 through 5708, 5731, and 5733 of title 5, United States Code, and the regulations issued under those sections;

(2) the United States contribution to the budget of the Commission as provided in article XIX of the Convention; and

(3) the directed research program and the furnishing of facilities and personnel to the Commission referred to in section 312.

**SEC. 315. [16 U.S.C. 2444] SEVERABILITY.**

If any provision of this title or the application of this title to any person or circumstance is held invalid, neither the remainder

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of this title nor the application of that provision to other persons  
or circumstances shall be affected thereby.

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