

NORTHERN PACIFIC HALIBUT ACT OF 1982

[Public Law 97–176, Approved May 17, 1982, 96 Stat. 78]

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

【Currency: This publication is a compilation of the text of Public Law 97–176. 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 give effect to the Protocol Amending the Convention for the Preservation of the Halibut Fishery of the Northern Pacific Ocean and Bering Sea, signed at Washington, March 29, 1979.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That 【16 U.S.C. 773 note】 this Act may be cited as the “Northern Pacific Halibut Act of 1982”.

SEC. 2. 【16 U.S.C. 773】 As used in this Act the term:

(a) “Convention” means the Convention between the United States of America and Canada for the Preservation of the Halibut Fishery of the Northern Pacific Ocean and Bering Sea, signed at Ottawa, Canada on March 2, 1953, as amended by the Protocol Amending the Convention, signed at Washington March 29, 1979, and includes the regulations promulgated thereunder.

(b) “Commission” means the International Pacific Halibut Commission provided for by article III of the Convention.

(c)¹ “Fishery conservation zone” means the fishery conservation zone of the United States established by section 101 of the

¹Effective upon the date on which the Agreement between the United States and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the Maritime Boundary, signed June 1, 1990, enters into force for the United States, section 302(a)(1) of Public Law 102–251 amends section 2(c) to read as follows:

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

Section 302(a)(2) of such Public Law adds at the end of section 2 the following:

“(h) “Special areas” means the areas referred to as eastern special areas in Article 3(1) of the Agreement between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the Maritime Boundary, signed June 1, 1990; in particular, the term refers to those areas east of the maritime boundary, as defined in that Agreement, that lie within 200 nautical miles of the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea of Russia is measured but beyond 200 nautical miles of the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea of the United States is measured.”.

Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976² (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.).

(d) “Convention waters” means the maritime areas off the west coast of the United States and Canada described in article I of the Convention.

(e) “Halibut” means fish of the species *Hippoglossus stenolepis* inhabiting Convention waters.

(f) “Fishing vessel” means—

(1) any vessel engaged in catching fish in Convention waters or in processing or transporting fish loaded in Convention waters;

(2) any vessel outfitted to engage in any activity described in paragraph (1); or

(3) any vessel in normal support of any vessel described in paragraph (1) or (2).

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

SEC. 3. [16 U.S.C. 773a] (a) The United States shall be represented on the Commission by three United States Commissioners to be appointed by the President and to serve at his pleasure. The Commissioners shall receive no compensation for their services as Commissioners. Each United States Commissioner shall be appointed for a term of office not to exceed 2 years, but is eligible for reappointment. Any United States Commissioner may be appointed for a term of less than 2 years if such appointment is necessary to ensure that the terms of office of not more than two Commissioners will expire in any 1 year. A vacancy among the United States Commissioners shall be filled by the President in the manner in which the original appointment was made, but any Commissioner appointed to fill a vacancy occurring before the expiration of the term for which the Commissioner’s predecessor was appointed shall be appointed only for the remainder of such term. Of the Commissioners—

(1) one shall be an official of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; and

(2) two shall be knowledgeable or experienced concerning the Northern Pacific halibut fishery; of these, one shall be a resident of Alaska and the other shall be a nonresident of Alaska. Of the three commissioners described in paragraphs (1) and (2), one shall be a voting member of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council.

(3) Commissioners shall not be considered Federal employees except for the purposes of injury compensation or tort claims liability as provided in section 8101 of title 5, United States Code, et seq. and section 2671 of title 28, United States Code, et seq. Section 3(a) shall take effect on the 90th day after the date of enactment of the Act.

(b) The Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary, may designate from time to time alternate United States Commis-

² Section 211 of the Department of Commerce and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1997 (Division A, title II of P.L. 104-208; 110 Stat. 3009-41) changed (by amendment) the short title of such Act to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery and Conservation and Management Act and provided that “all references to the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act shall be redesignated as references to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act”. Since such section did not actually amend each occurrence of the short title in law, the former short title appears here.

sioners to the Commission. An Alternate United States Commissioner may exercise, at any meeting of the Commission, all 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.

SEC. 4. [16 U.S.C. 773b] The Secretary of State, with the concurrence of the Secretary, may accept or reject, on behalf of the United States, recommendations made by the Commission in accordance with article III of the Convention and paragraphs 14 and 15 of the annex to the Convention.

SEC. 5. [16 U.S.C. 773c] (a) The Secretary shall have general responsibility to carry out the Convention and this Act.

(b) In fulfilling this responsibility, the Secretary—

(1) shall, in consultation with the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating, adopt such regulations as may be necessary to carry out the purposes and objectives of the Convention and this Act; and

(2) may, with the concurrence of the Secretary of State, cooperate with the duly authorized officials of the Government of Canada.

(c) The Regional Fishery Management Council having authority for the geographic area concerned may develop regulations governing the United States portion of Convention waters, including limited access regulations, applicable to nationals or vessels of the United States, or both, which are in addition to, and not in conflict with regulations adopted by the Commission. Such regulations shall only be implemented with the approval of the Secretary, shall not discriminate between residents of different States, and shall be consistent with the limited entry criteria set forth in section 303(b)(6) of the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act¹. If it becomes necessary to allocate or assign halibut fishing privileges among various United States fishermen, such allocation shall be fair and equitable to all such fishermen, based upon the rights and obligations in existing Federal law, reasonably calculated to promote conservation, and carried out in such manner that no particular individual, corporation, or other entity acquires an excessive share of the halibut fishing privileges: *Provided*, That the Regional Council may provide for the rural coastal villages of Alaska the opportunity to establish a commercial halibut fishery in areas in the Bering Sea to the north of 56 degrees north latitude during a 3 year development period.

SEC. 6. [16 U.S.C. 773d] 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 purposes of assisting the Commission in carrying out its duties under the Convention. Such agency may accept reimbursement from the Commission.

SEC. 7. [16 U.S.C. 773e] It is unlawful—

¹ See footnote 2 to section 2(c).

(1) for any person subject to the jurisdiction of the United States—

(A) to violate any provision of the Convention, this Act or any regulation adopted under this Act;

(B) 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 Act or any regulation adopted under this Act;

(C) 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 (2);

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

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

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

(2) for any foreign fishing vessel, and for the owner or operator of any foreign fishing vessel, to engage in fishing for halibut in the fishery conservation zone², unless such fishing is authorized by, and conducted in accordance with the Convention, this Act and regulations adopted under this Act.

SEC. 8. [16 U.S.C. 773f] (a) Any person who is found by the Secretary, after notice and opportunity for a hearing in accordance with section 554 of title 5, United States Code, to have committed an act prohibited by section 7 shall be liable to the United States for a civil penalty. The amount of the civil penalty shall not exceed \$200,000 for each violation. Each day of a continuing violation shall constitute a separate offense. The amount of such civil penalty shall be assessed by the Secretary, or his designee, by written notice. In determining the amount of such penalty, the Secretary shall take into account the nature, circumstances, extent, and gravity of the prohibited acts committed and, with respect to the violator, the degree of culpability, any history of prior offenses, and such other matters as justice may require. In assessing such penalty, the Secretary may also consider any information provided by the violator relating to the ability of the violator to pay if the information is provided to the Secretary at least 30 days prior to an administrative hearing.

(b) Any person against whom a civil penalty is assessed under subsection (a) may obtain review thereof in the appropriate 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 and the

²Effective upon the date on which the Agreement between the United States and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the Maritime Boundary, signed June 1, 1990, enters into force for the United States, section 302(b) of Public Law 102-251 amends section 7(b) by striking "fishery conservation zone" and inserting "exclusive economic zone or special areas".

Attorney General. The Secretary shall promptly file in such court a certified copy of the record upon which such violation was found or such penalty imposed, in accordance with rules prescribed pursuant to section 2112 of title 28, United States Code. The findings and order of the Secretary shall be set aside by such court if they are not found to be supported by substantial evidence, as provided in section 706(2) of title 5, United States Code.

(c) If any person fails to pay an assessment of a civil penalty after it has become a final and unappealable order, or after the appropriate court has entered final judgment in favor of the Secretary, the Secretary shall refer the matter to the Attorney General of the United States, who shall recover the amount assessed in any appropriate district court of the United States. In such action, the validity and appropriateness of the final order imposing the civil penalty shall not be subject to review.

(d) The Secretary may compromise, modify, or remit, with or without conditions, any civil penalty which is subject to imposition or which has been imposed under this section.

(e) REVOCATION OR SUSPENSION OF PERMIT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may take any action described in paragraph (2) in any case in which—

(A) a vessel has been used in the commission of any act prohibited under section 7;

(B) the owner or operator of a vessel or any other person who has been issued or has applied for a permit under this Act has acted in violation of section 7; or

(C) any amount in settlement of a civil forfeiture imposed on a vessel or other property, or any civil penalty or criminal fine imposed on a vessel or owner or operator of a vessel or any other person who has been issued or has applied for a permit under any marine resource law enforced by the Secretary has not been paid and is overdue.

(2) PERMIT-RELATED ACTIONS.—Under the circumstances described in paragraph (1) the Secretary may—

(A) revoke any permit issued with respect to such vessel or person, with or without prejudice to the issuance of subsequent permits;

(B) suspend such permit for a period of time considered by the Secretary to be appropriate;

(C) deny such permit; or

(D) impose additional conditions and restrictions on any permit issued to or applied for by such vessel or person under this Act and, with respect to any foreign fishing vessel, on the approved application of the foreign nation involved and on any permit issued under that application.

(3) FACTORS TO BE CONSIDERED.—In imposing a sanction under this subsection, the Secretary shall take into account—

(A) the nature, circumstances, extent, and gravity of the prohibited acts for which the sanction is imposed; and

(B) with respect to the violator, the degree of culpability, any history of prior offenses, and such other matters as justice may require.

(4) TRANSFERS OF OWNERSHIP.—Transfer of ownership of a vessel, a permit, or any interest in a permit, by sale or other-

wise, shall not extinguish any permit sanction that is in effect or is pending at the time of transfer of ownership. Before executing the transfer of ownership of a vessel, permit, or interest in a permit, by sale or otherwise, the owner shall disclose in writing to the prospective transferee the existence of any permit sanction that will be in effect or pending with respect to the vessel, permit, or interest at the time of the transfer.

(5) REINSTATEMENT.—In the case of any permit that is suspended under this subsection for nonpayment of a civil penalty, criminal fine, or any amount in settlement of a civil forfeiture, the Secretary shall reinstate the permit upon payment of the penalty, fine, or settlement amount and interest thereon at the prevailing rate.

(6) HEARING.—No sanction shall be imposed under this subsection unless there has been prior opportunity for a hearing on the facts underlying the violation for which the sanction is imposed either in conjunction with a civil penalty proceeding under this section or otherwise.

(7) PERMIT DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term “permit” means any license, certificate, approval, registration, charter, membership, exemption, or other form of permission issued by the Commission or the Secretary, and includes any quota share or other transferable quota issued by the Secretary.

SEC. 9. [16 U.S.C. 773g] (a) A person is guilty of any offense if he commits an act prohibited by section 7(a) (2), (3), (4), or (6); or section 7(b).

(b) Any offense described in subsection (a) is punishable by a fine of not more than \$200,000 or imprisonment for not more than 6 months, or both; except that if in the commission of any offense the person uses a dangerous weapon, engages in conduct that causes bodily injury to any officer authorized to enforce the provisions of this Act, or places any such officer in fear of imminent bodily injury the offense is punishable by a fine of not more than \$400,000, or imprisonment for not more than 10 years or both.

(c) There is Federal jurisdiction over any offense described in this section.

SEC. 10. [16 U.S.C. 773h] (a) Any fishing vessel (including its fishing gear, furniture, appurtenances, stores, and cargo) used, and any fish taken or retained, in any manner, in connection with or as a result of the commission of any act prohibited by section 7 shall be subject to forfeiture to the United States. All or part of such vessel may, and all such fish shall, be forfeited to the United States pursuant to a civil proceeding under this section.

(b) Any district court of the United States shall have jurisdiction, upon application by the Attorney General on behalf of the United States, to order any forfeiture authorized under subsection (a) and any action provided for under subsection (d).

(c) If a judgment is entered for the United States in a civil forfeiture proceeding under this section, the Attorney General may seize any property or other interest declared forfeited to the United States, which has not previously been seized pursuant to this Act or for which security has not previously been obtained under subsection (d). The provisions of the customs laws relating to—

(1) the disposition of forfeited property;

- (2) the proceeds from the sale of forfeited property;
- (3) the remission or mitigation of forfeitures; and
- (4) the compromise of claims;

shall apply to any forfeiture ordered, and to any case in which forfeiture is alleged to be authorized, under this section, unless such provisions are inconsistent with the purposes, policy, and provisions of this Act. The duties and powers imposed upon the Commissioner of Customs or other persons under such provisions shall, with respect to this Act, be performed by officers or other persons designated for such purpose by the Secretary.

(d)(1) Any officer authorized to serve any process in rem which is issued by a court having jurisdiction under section 11(d) shall—

(A) stay the execution of such process; or

(B) discharge any fish seized pursuant to such process;

upon the receipt of a satisfactory bond or other security from any person claiming such property. Such bond or other security shall be conditioned upon such person delivering such property to the appropriate court upon order thereof, without any impairment of its value, or paying the monetary value of such property pursuant to an order of such court. Judgment shall be recoverable on such bond or other security against both the principal and any sureties in the event that any condition thereof is breached, as determined by such court.

(2) Any fish seized pursuant to this Act may be disposed of pursuant to the order of a court of competent jurisdiction or, if perishable, in a manner prescribed by regulations of the Secretary or the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating.

(e) For purposes of this section, it shall be a rebuttable presumption that all fish found on board a fishing vessel which is seized in connection with an act prohibited by section 7 were taken or retained in violation of the Convention and this Act.

SEC. 11. [16 U.S.C. 773i] (a) The Convention, this Act, and any regulation adopted under this Act, shall be enforced by the Secretary and the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating. Such Secretaries may, by agreement, on a reimbursable basis or otherwise, utilize the personnel, services, equipment (including aircraft and vessels), and facilities of any other Federal agency, and of any State agency, in the performance of such duties.

(b) Any officer who is authorized by the Secretary, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating, or the head of any Federal or State agency which has entered into an agreement with such Secretaries under subsection (a) to enforce the Convention, this Act or any regulation adopted under this Act may—

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

(A) arrest any person, if he has reasonable cause to believe that such person has committed an act prohibited by section 7;

(B) board, and search or inspect, any fishing vessel which is subject to this Act;

(C) at reasonable times enter, and search or inspect, shoreside facilities in which fish taken subject to this Act are processed, packed or held;

(D) 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, an act prohibited by section 7;

(E) seize any fish (wherever found) taken or retained in the course of an act prohibited by section 7, or the proceeds of the sale of such fish; and

(F) seize any other evidence related to an act prohibited by section 7;

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

(3) exercise any other lawful authority.

(c) If any officer authorized to enforce this Act (as provided for in this section) finds that a fishing vessel is operating or has been operated in the commission of an act prohibited by section 7, such officer may, in accordance with regulations issued jointly by the Secretary and the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating, issue a citation to the owner or operator of such vessel in lieu of proceeding under subsection (b). If a permit has been issued pursuant to this Act for such vessel, such officer shall note the issuance of any citation under this subsection, including the date thereof and the reason therefor, on the permit. The Secretary shall maintain a record of all citations issued pursuant to this subsection.

(d) The district courts of the United States shall have exclusive jurisdiction over any case or controversy arising under this Act. Any such court may, at any time—

(1) enter restraining orders or prohibitions;

(2) issue warrants, process in rem or other process;

(3) prescribe and accept satisfactory bonds or other security; and

(4) take such other actions as are in the interest of justice.

(e) When requested by the appropriate authorities of Canada, officers or employees of the Coast Guard, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration or any other agency of the United States 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 in Canada of any violation of the Convention or any Canadian law relating to the enforcement thereof.

(f)(1) In cooperation with such other agencies as may be appropriate, the Secretary may conduct or cause to be conducted such law enforcement investigations as are deemed necessary to carry out the purposes of this Act.

(2) For the purpose of all investigations which, in the opinion of the Secretary, are necessary and proper for the enforcement of this Act, the Secretary or any officer designated by him is empowered to administer oaths and affirmations, subpoena¹ witnesses,

¹ So in law. Probably should be "subpoena".

take evidence, and require the production of any books, papers, or other documents which the Secretary deems relevant or material to the inquiry. Such attendance of witnesses and the production of such documentary evidence may be required from any place in the United States at any designated place or hearing.

(3) Process of the Secretary may be served by anyone duly authorized by him either—

(A) by delivering a copy thereof to the individual to be served, or to a member of the partnership to be served, or the president, secretary, or other executive officer or a director of the corporation to be served; or the agent designated for service of process;

(B) by leaving a copy thereof at the residence or the principal office or place of business of such individual, partnership, or corporation; or

(C) by mailing a copy thereof by registered or certified mail addressed to such individual, partnership, or corporation at his or its residence or principal office or place of business. The verified return by the individual so serving such complaint, order, or other process setting forth the manner of service shall be proof of same, and the returned post office receipt for such complaint, order, or other process mailed by registered or certified mail shall be proof of the service of the same.

SEC. 12. [16 U.S.C. 773j] There is hereby authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 1983 and beyond, such sums as may be necessary for carrying out the Convention and this Act, including—

(a) necessary travel expenses of the United States Commissioners or alternate Commissioners; and

(b) the United States share of the joint expenses of the Commission: *Provided*, That the Commissioners shall not, with respect to commitments concerning the United States share of the joint expenses of the Commission, be subject to section 262(b) of title 22, United States Code, insofar as it limits the authority of United States representatives to international organizations with respect to such commitments.

SEC. 13. [16 U.S.C. 773k] There are hereby authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary for the Secretary of State to provide for fiscal year 1983 and beyond, by contract, grant, or otherwise, facilities for office and any other necessary space for the Commission. Such facilities shall be located on or near the campus of the University of Washington in the State of Washington and shall be provided without regard to the cost-sharing provisions in the Convention.

SEC. 14. The Northern Pacific Halibut Act of 1937, as amended (50 Stat. 325, 67 Stat. 494, 79 Stat. 902), is repealed as of the 90th day after the date of enactment of this Act.