§ 1251  CONGRESSIONAL DECLARATION OF GOALS AND POLICY

(a) Restoration and maintenance of chemical, physical and biological integrity of Nation's waters; national goals for achievement of objectives

The objective of this chapter is to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Nation's waters. In order to achieve this objective it is hereby declared that, consistent with the provisions of this chapter—

(1) it is the national goal that the discharge of pollutants into the navigable waters be eliminated by 1985;

(2) it is the national goal that wherever attainable, an interim goal of water quality which provides for the protection and propagation of fish, shellfish, and wildlife and provides for recreation in and on the water be achieved by July 1, 1983;

(3) it is the national policy that the discharge of toxic pollutants in toxic amounts be prohibited;

(4) it is the national policy that Federal financial assistance be provided to construct publicly owned waste treatment works;

(5) it is the national policy that areawide waste treatment management planning processes be developed and implemented to assure adequate control of sources of pollutants in each State;

(6) it is the national policy that a major research and demonstration effort be made to develop technology necessary to eliminate the discharge of pollutants into the navigable waters, waters of the contiguous zone, and the oceans; and

(b) Congressional recognition, preservation, and protection of primary responsibilities and rights of States

It is the policy of the Congress to recognize, preserve, and protect the primary responsibilities and rights of States to prevent, reduce, and eliminate pollution, to plan the development and use (including restoration, preservation, and enhancement) of land and water resources, and to consult with the Administrator in the exercise of his authority under this chapter. It is the policy of Congress that the States manage the construction grant program under this chapter and implement the permit programs under sections 1342 and 1344 of this title. It is further the policy of Congress to support and aid research relating to the prevention, reduction, and elimination of pollution and to provide Federal technical services and financial aid to State and interstate agencies and municipalities in connection with the prevention, reduction, and elimination of pollution.

(c) Congressional policy toward Presidential activities with foreign countries

It is further the policy of Congress that the President, acting through the Secretary of State and such national and international organizations as he determines appropriate, shall take such action as may be necessary to insure that to the fullest extent possible all foreign countries shall take meaningful action for the prevention, reduction, and elimination of pollution in their waters and in international waters and for the achievement of goals regarding the elimination of discharge of pollutants and the improvement of water quality to at least the same extent as the United States does under its laws.

(d) Administrator of Environmental Protection Agency to administer chapter

Except as otherwise expressly provided in this chapter, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (hereinafter in this chapter called "Administrator") shall administer this chapter.

(e) Public participation in development, revision, and enforcement of any regulation, etc.

Public participation in the development, revision, and enforcement of any regulation, standard, effluent limitation, plan, or program established by the Administrator or any State under this chapter shall be provided for, encouraged, and assisted by the Administrator and the States. The Administrator, in cooperation with the States, shall develop and publish regulations specifying minimum guidelines for public participation in such processes.

(f) Procedures utilized for implementing chapter

It is the national policy that to the maximum extent possible the procedures utilized for implementing this chapter shall encourage the drastic minimization of paperwork and inter-
agency decision procedures, and the best use of available manpower and funds, so as to prevent needless duplication and unnecessary delays at all levels of government.

(g) Authority of States over water

It is the policy of Congress that the authority of each State to allocate quantities of water within its jurisdiction shall not be superseded, abrogated or otherwise impaired by this chapter. It is the further policy of Congress that nothing in this chapter shall be construed to supersede or abrogate rights to quantities of water which have been established by any State. Federal agencies shall co-operate with State and local agencies to develop comprehensive solutions to prevent, reduce and eliminate pollution in concert with programs for managing water resources.


AMENDMENTS


1977—Subsec. (b), Pub. L. 95–217, §26(b), inserted provisions expressing Congressional policy that the States manage the construction grant program under this chapter and implement the permit program under sections 1342 and 1344 of this title.

Subsec. (g), Pub. L. 95–217, §5(a), added subsec. (g).

SHORT TITLE OF 2008 AMENDMENT


SHORT TITLE OF 1994 AMENDMENT


SHORT TITLE OF 1990 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 101–596, §1, Nov. 16, 1990, 104 Stat. 3006, provided that: “This Act [amending sections 1269 and 1270 of this title, enacting sections 1363 and 1364 of this title, and amending provisions set out as notes under this section and section 1270 of this title] may be cited as the ‘Great Lakes Critical Programs Act of 1990.’”

Pub. L. 101–596, title II, §201, Nov. 16, 1990, 104 Stat. 3004, provided that: “This part [probably means title, enacting section 1269 of this title and amending section 1416 of this title] may be cited as the ‘Long Island Sound Improvement Act of 1990.’”

SHORT TITLE OF 1988 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 100–653, title X, §1001, Nov. 14, 1988, 102 Stat. 3835, provided that: “This title [amending section 1330 of this title and enacting provisions set out as notes under section 1330 of this title] may be cited as the ‘Massachusetts Bay Protection Act of 1988.’”

SHORT TITLE OF 1987 AMENDMENT

Section 1(a) of Pub. L. 100–4 provided that: “This Act [enacting sections 1254a, 1257, 1258b, 1259, 1260, 1261, 1262, 1263, 1264 to 1268, 1270, 1285, 1286, 1287, 1288, 1291, 1311 to 1313, 1314, 1317 to 1322, 1324, 1342, 1344, 1345, 1346, 1347, 1348, 1349, 1350, 1351, 1352, 1353, 1354, 1355, 1356, 1357, 1358, 1359, 1360, 1361, 1364, 1365, 1366, 1367, 1368, 1369, 1370, 1371, 1372, 1373, 1374, 1375, 1376, 1377, 1378, 1379, 1380, 1381, 1382, 1383, 1384, 1385, 1386, 1387, 1388, 1389, 1390, 1391, 1392, 1393, 1394, 1395, 1396, 1397, 1398, 1399, 1400, 1401, 1402, 1403, 1404, 1405, 1406, 1407, 1408, 1409, 1410, 1411, 1412, 1413, 1414 of this title, and section 19624–20 of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare] may be cited as the ‘Water Quality Act of 1987.’”

SHORT TITLE OF 1981 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 97–117, §1, Dec. 29, 1981, 95 Stat. 1623, provided that: “This Act [enacting sections 1259, 1260, and 1313a of this title, amending sections 1261 to 1265, 1267, 1291, 1292, 1296, 1311, and 1314 of this title, and enacting provisions set out as notes under sections 1311 and 1375 of this title] may be cited as the ‘Municipal Wastewater Treatment Construction Grant Amendments of 1981.’”

SHORT TITLE OF 1977 AMENDMENT

Section 1 of Pub. L. 95–217 provided that: “That this Act [enacting sections 1281a, 1294 to 1296, and 1297 of this title, amending this section and sections 1252, 1254 to 1258, 1259, 1262, 1263, 1266 to 1269, 1289, 1291, 1292, 1311, 1314, 1315, 1317 to 1319, 1321 to 1324, 1326, 1327, 1341, 1342, 1344, 1345, 1346, 1347, 1348, 1349, 1350, 1351, 1352, 1353, 1354, 1355, 1356, 1357, and 1358 of this title, and amending provisions set out as a note under this section] may be cited as the ‘Clean Water Act of 1977.’”

SHORT TITLE

Section 1 of Pub. L. 92–500 provided that: “That this Act [enacting this chapter, amending section 24 of Title
12, Banks and Banking, sections 633 and 636 of Title 15, Commerce and Trade, and section 711 of former Title 31, Money and Finance, and enacting provisions set out as notes under this section and sections 1261 and 1361 of this title) may be cited as the ‘Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972.’”


SAVINGS PROVISION
Pub. L. 92–500, §4, Oct. 18, 1972, 86 Stat. 896, provided that:

“(a) No suit, action, or other proceeding lawfully commenced by or against the Administrator or any other officer or employee of the United States in his official capacity or in relation to the discharge of his official duties under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act as in effect immediately prior to the date of enactment of this Act [Oct. 18, 1972] shall abate by reason of the taking effect of the amendment made by section 2 of this Act [which enacted this chapter]. The court may on its own motion or that of any party made at any time within twelve months after such taking effect, allow the same to be maintained by or against the Administrator or such officer or employee.

“(b) All rules, regulations, orders, determinations, contracts, certifications, authorizations, delegations, or other actions duly issued, made, or taken by or pursuant to the Federal Water Pollution Control Act as in effect immediately prior to the date of enactment of this Act [Oct. 18, 1972], and pertaining to any functions, powers, requirements, and duties under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act as in effect immediately prior to the date of enactment of this Act [Oct. 18, 1972], and pursuant to any functions, powers, requirements, and duties under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act as in effect immediately prior to the date of enactment of this Act [Oct. 18, 1972], and shall continue in full force and effect after the date of enactment of this Act [Oct. 18, 1972] until modified or rescinded in accordance with the Federal Water Pollution Control Act as amended by this Act [this chapter].

“(c) The Federal Water Pollution Control Act as in effect immediately prior to the date of enactment of this Act [Oct. 18, 1972] shall remain applicable to all grants made from funds authorized for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1972, and prior fiscal years, including any increases in the monetary amount of any such grant which may be paid from authorizations for fiscal years beginning after June 30, 1972, except as specifically otherwise provided in section 202 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act as amended by this Act [section 1262 of this title] and in subsection (c) of section 3 of this Act.”

SEPARABILITY
Act June 30, 1948, ch. 758, title V, §512, as added by Pub. L. 92–500, §2, Oct. 18, 1972, 86 Stat. 894, provided that: “If any provision of this Act [this chapter], or the application of any provision of this Act [this chapter] to any person or circumstance, is held invalid, the application of such provision to other persons or circumstances, and the remainder of this Act [this chapter], shall not be affected thereby.”

NATIONAL SHELLFISH INDICATOR PROGRAM

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF A RESEARCH PROGRAM.—The Secretary of Commerce, in cooperation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, shall establish and administer a 5-year national shellfish research program (hereafter referred to as the ‘Program’) for the purpose of improving existing classification systems for shellfish growing waters using the latest technological advancements in microbiology and epidemiological methods. Within 12 months after the date of enactment of this Act [Oct. 29, 1992], the Secretary shall, in consultation with the Lead State, as defined in section 301, and the Consortium, shall develop a comprehensive 5-year plan for the Program which shall at a minimum provide—

“(1) an environmental assessment of commercial shellfish growing areas in the United States, including an evaluation of the relationships between indicators of fecal contamination and human enteric pathogens;

“(2) the evaluation of such relationships with respect to potential health hazards associated with human consumption of shellfish;

“(3) a comparison of the current microbiological methods used for evaluating indicator bacteria and human enteric pathogens in shellfish and shellfish growing waters with new technological methods designed for this purpose;

“(4) the evaluation of current and projected systems for human sewage treatment in eliminating viruses and other human enteric pathogens which accumulate in shellfish;

“(5) the design of epidemiological studies to relate microbiological data, sanitary survey data, and human shellfish consumption data to actual hazards to health associated with such consumption; and

“(6) recommendations for revising Federal shellfish standards and improving the capabilities of Federal and State agencies to effectively manage shellfish and ensure the safety of shellfish intended for human consumption.

“(b) ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—(1) For the purpose of providing oversight of the Program on a continuing basis, an advisory committee (hereafter in this section referred to as the ‘Committee’) shall be established under a memorandum of understanding between the Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Conference and the National Marine Fisheries Service.

“(2) The Committee shall—

“(A) identify priorities for achieving the purpose of the Program;

“(B) review and recommend approval or disapproval of Program work plans and plans of operation;

“(C) review and comment on all subcontracts and grants to be awarded under the Program;

“(D) receive and review progress reports from the Consortium and program subcontractors and grantees; and

“(E) provide such other advice on the Program as is appropriate.

“(3) The Committee shall consist of at least ten members and shall include—

“(A) three members representing agencies having authority under State law to regulate the shellfish industry, of whom one shall represent each of the Atlantic, Pacific, and Gulf of Mexico shellfish growing regions;

“(B) three members representing persons engaged in the shellfish industry in the Atlantic, Pacific, and Gulf of Mexico shellfish growing regions (who shall be appointed from among at least six recommendations by the industry members of the Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Conference Executive Board), of whom one shall represent the shellfish industry in each region;

“(C) three members, of whom one shall represent each of the following Federal agencies: the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Food and Drug Administration; and

“(D) one member representing the Shellfish Institute of North America.

“(4) The Chairman of the Committee shall be selected from among the Committee members described in paragraph (3)(A).

“(5) The Committee shall establish and maintain a subcommittee of scientific experts to provide advice,
assistance, and information relevant to research funded under the Program, except that no individual who is awarded, or whose application is being considered for, a grant or subcontract under the Program may serve on such subcommittee. The membership of the subcommittee shall, to the extent practicable, be regionally balanced with experts who have scientific knowledge concerning each of the Atlantic, Pacific, and Gulf of Mexico shellfish growing regions. Scientists from the National Academy of Sciences and appropriate Federal agencies (including the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Food and Drug Administration, Centers for Disease Control, National Institutes of Health, Environmental Protection Agency, and National Science Foundation) shall be considered for membership on the subcommittee.

“(6) Members of the Committee and its scientific subcommittee established under this subsection shall not be paid for serving on the Committee or subcommittee, but shall receive travel expenses as authorized by section 5703 of title 5, United States Code.

“(c) CONTRACT WITH CONSORTIUM.—Within 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act [Oct. 29, 1992], the Secretary of Commerce shall seek to enter into a cooperative agreement or contract with the Consortium under which the Consortium will—

“(1) be the academic administrative organization and fiscal agent for the Program;

“(2) award and administer such grants and subcontracts as are approved by the Committee under subsection (b);

“(3) develop and implement a scientific peer review process for evaluating grant and subcontractor applications prior to review by the Committee;

“(4) in cooperation with the Secretary of Commerce and the Committee, procure the services of a scientific project director;

“(5) develop and submit budgets, progress reports, work plans, and plans of operation for the Program to the Secretary of Commerce and the Committee; and

“(6) make available to the Committee such staff, information, and assistance as the Committee may reasonably require to carry out its activities.

“(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—(1) Of the sums authorized under section 4(a) of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Marine Fisheries Program Authorization Act (Public Law 96–210; 97 Stat. 1499), there are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Commerce $5,200,000 for each of the fiscal years 1990 through 1997 for carrying out the Program. Of the amounts appropriated pursuant to this authorization, not more than 5 percent of such appropriation may be used for administrative purposes by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The remaining 95 percent of such appropriation shall be used to meet the administrative and scientific objectives of the Program.

“(2) The Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Conference shall not administer appropriations authorized under this section, but may be reimbursed from such appropriations for its expenses in arranging for travel, meetings, workshops, or conferences necessary to carry out the Program.

“(e) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section, the term—

“(1) ‘Consortium’ means the Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium; and

“(2) ‘shellfish’ means any species of oyster, clam, or mussel that is harvested for human consumption.

LIMITATION ON PAYMENTS

Section 2 of Pub. L. 100–4 provided that: “No payments may be made under this Act [see Short Title of 1987 Amendment note above] except to the extent provided in advance in appropriation Acts.”

SEAFOOD PROCESSING STUDY; SUBMITTAL OF RESULTS TO CONGRESS NOT LATER THAN JANUARY 1, 1979

Pub. L. 95–217, §74, Dec. 27, 1977, 91 Stat. 1609, provided that the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency conduct a study to examine the geographical, hydrological, and biological characteristics of marine waters to determine the effects of seafood processing operations and the discharge of such wastes into such waters and to include in this study an examination of technologies which may be used in such processes to facilitate the use of the nutrients in these wastes or to reduce the discharge of such wastes into the marine environment and to submit the result of this study to Congress not later than Jan. 1, 1979.

STANDARDS

For provisions relating to the responsibility of the head of each Executive agency for compliance with applicable pollution control standards, see Ex. Or. No. 12886, Oct. 13, 1978, 43 F.R. 47707, set out as a note under section 3221 of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare.

OVERSIGHT STUDY

Pub. L. 92–500, §5, Oct. 18, 1972, 86 Stat. 897, authorized the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study and review of the research, pilot, and demonstration programs related to prevention and control of water pollution conducted, supported, or assisted by any Federal agency pursuant to any Federal law or regulation and assess conflicts between these programs and their coordination and efficacy, and to report to Congress thereon by Oct. 1, 1973.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE STUDY

Pub. L. 92–500, §6, Oct. 18, 1972, 86 Stat. 897, provided that:

“(a) The Secretary of Commerce, in cooperation with other interested Federal agencies and with representatives of industry and the public, shall undertake immediately an investigation and study to determine—

“(1) the extent to which pollution abatement and control programs will be imposed on, or voluntarily undertaken by, United States manufacturers in the near future and the probable short- and long-range effects of the costs of such programs (computed to the greatest extent practicable on an industry-by-industry basis) on (A) the production costs of such domestic manufacturers, and (B) the market prices of the goods produced by them;

“(2) the probable extent to which pollution abatement and control programs will be implemented in foreign industrial nations in the near future and the extent to which the production costs (computed to the greatest extent practicable on an industry-by-industry basis) of foreign manufacturers will be affected by the costs of such programs;

“(3) the probable competitive advantage which any article manufactured in a foreign nation will likely have in relation to a comparable article made in the United States if that foreign nation—

“(A) does not require its manufacturers to implement pollution abatement and control programs.

“(B) requires a lesser degree of pollution abatement and control in its programs or

“(C) in any way reimburses or otherwise subsidizes its manufacturers for the costs of such program;

“(4) alternative means by which any competitive advantage accruing to the products of any foreign nation as a result of any factor described in paragraph (3) may be (A) accurately and quickly determined, and (B) equalized, for example, by the imposition of a surcharge or duty, on a foreign product in an amount necessary to compensate for such advantage; and

“(5) the impact, if any, which the imposition of a compensating tariff or other equalizing measure may have in encouraging foreign nations to implement pollution and abatement control programs.

“(b) The Secretary shall make an initial report to the President and Congress within six months after the date of enactment of this section [Oct. 18, 1972] of the results of the study and investigation carried out pur-
suant to this section and shall make additional reports thereat such times as he deems appropriate taking into account the development of relevant data, but not less than once every twelve months.'"

INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS

Pub. L. 92–500, § 7, Oct. 18, 1972, 86 Stat. 898, provided that: ‘The President shall undertake to enter into international agreement to apply uniform standards of performance for the control of the discharge and emission of pollutants from new sources, uniform controls over the discharge and emission of toxic pollutants, and uniform controls over the discharge of pollutants into the ocean. For this purpose the President shall negotiate multilateral treaties, conventions, resolutions, or other agreements, and formulate, present, or support proposals at the United Nations and other appropriate international forums.'"

NATIONAL POLICIES AND GOAL STUDY

Pub. L. 92–500, § 10, Oct. 18, 1972, 86 Stat. 899, directed President to make a full and complete investigation and study of all national policies and goals established by law to determine what the relationship should be between these policies and goals, taking into account the resources of the Nation, and to report results of his investigation and study together with his recommendations to Congress not later than two years after Oct. 18, 1972.

EFFICIENCY STUDY

Pub. L. 92–500, § 11, Oct. 18, 1972, 86 Stat. 899, directed President, by utilization of the General Accounting Office, to conduct a full and complete investigation and study of ways and means of most effectively using all of the various resources, facilities, and personnel of the Federal Government in order to most efficiently carry out the provisions of this chapter and to report results of his investigation and study together with his recommendations to Congress not later than two hundred and seventy days after Oct. 18, 1972.

SEX DISCRIMINATION

Pub. L. 92–500, § 13, Oct. 18, 1972, 86 Stat. 903, provided that: ‘No person in the United States shall on the ground of sex be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal assistance under this Act [see Short Title note above] the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (this chapter), or the Environmental Financing Act [set out as a note under section 1321 of Title 42, Public Health and Welfare]. This section shall be enforced through agency provisions and rules similar to those already established, with respect to racial and other discrimination, under title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (section 2004d et seq., of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare). However, this remedy is not exclusive and will not prejudice or cut off any other legal remedies available to a discriminatee.'"

CONTINUOUS ZONE OF UNITED STATES

For extension of contiguous zone of United States, see Proc. No. 7219, set out as a note under section 1331 of Title 43, Public Lands.

PREVENTION, CONTROL, AND ABATEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION AT FEDERAL FACILITIES


EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 11548


EX. ORD. NO. 11742. DELEGATION OF FUNCTIONS TO SECRETARY OF STATE RESPECTING THE NEGOTIATION OF INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS RELATING TO THE ENHANCEMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Ex. Ord. No. 11742, Oct. 23, 1973, 38 F.R. 29457, provided:

Under and by virtue of the authority vested in me by section 301 of title 3 of the United States Code and as President of the United States, I hereby authorize and empower the Secretary of State, in coordination with the Council on Environmental Quality, the Environmental Protection Agency, and other appropriate Federal agencies, to perform, without the approval, ratification, or other action of the President, the functions vested in the President by Section 7 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972 (Public Law 92–500; 86 Stat. 898) with respect to international agreements relating to the enhancement of the environment.

RICHARD NIXON.

DEFINITION OF ‘ADMINISTRATOR’

Pub. L. 100–4, § 1(d), Feb. 4, 1987, 101 Stat. 8, provided that: ‘For purposes of this Act [see Short Title of 1987 Amendment note above], the term ‘Administrator’ means the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.’

§ 1252. Comprehensive programs for water pollution control

(a) Preparation and development

The Administrator shall, after careful investigation, and in cooperation with other Federal agencies, State water pollution control agencies, interstate agencies, and the municipalities and industries involved, prepare or develop comprehensive programs for preventing, reducing, or eliminating the pollution of the navigable waters and ground waters and improving the sanitary condition of surface and underground waters. In the development of such comprehensive programs due regard shall be given to the improvements which are necessary to conserve such waters for the protection and propagation of fish and aquatic life and wildlife, recreational purposes, and the withdrawal of such waters for public water supply, agricultural, industrial, and other purposes. For the purpose of this section, the Administrator is authorized to make joint investigations with any such agencies of the condition of any waters in any State or States, and of the discharges of any sewage, industrial wastes, or substance which may adversely affect such waters.

(b) Planning for reservoirs; storage for regulation of streamflow

(1) In the survey or planning of any reservoir by the Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation, or other Federal agency, consideration shall be given to inclusion of storage for regulation of streamflow, except that any such storage and water releases shall not be provided as a substitute for adequate treatment by other methods of controlling waste at the source.

(2) The need for and the value of storage for regulation of streamflow (other than for water quality) including but not limited to navigation, salt water intrusion, recreation, esthetics, and fish and wildlife, shall be determined by the Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation, or other Federal agencies.

(3) The need for, the value of, and the impact of, storage for water quality control shall be de-