

(B) Federal expenditures required incident to studies, evaluations, design, construction, operation, maintenance, or rehabilitation of Federal water resource development activities, including channel improvements;

(C) the commodity loans and purchases program and cotton, feed grain, wheat, and rice production stabilization programs administered by the Department of Agriculture; and

(D) Federal expenditures for the construction of publicly owned or publicly operated highways, roads, structures, or facilities that are essential links in a larger network or system; and

(7) recommendations for the conservation of wetlands resources based on an evaluation and comparison of all management alternatives, and combinations of management alternatives, such as State and local actions, Federal actions, and initiatives by private organizations and individuals.

(Pub. L. 99-645, title IV, § 402, Nov. 10, 1986, 100 Stat. 3589.)

#### CHAPTER 59A—WETLANDS

Sec.	
3951.	Definitions.
3952.	Priority Louisiana coastal wetlands restoration projects.
3953.	Louisiana coastal wetlands conservation planning.
3954.	National coastal wetlands conservation grants.
3955.	Distribution of appropriations.
3956.	General provisions.
3957.	Environmental banks.

#### § 3951. Definitions

As used in this chapter, the term—

(1) “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Army;

(2) “Administrator” means the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency;

(3) “development activities” means any activity, including the discharge of dredged or fill material, which results directly in a more than de minimus<sup>1</sup> change in the hydrologic regime, bottom contour, or the type, distribution or diversity of hydrophytic vegetation, or which impairs the flow, reach, or circulation of surface water within wetlands or other waters;

(4) “State” means the State of Louisiana;

(5) “coastal State” means a State of the United States in, or bordering on, the Atlantic, Pacific, or Arctic Ocean, the Gulf of Mexico, Long Island Sound, or one or more of the Great Lakes; for the purposes of this chapter, the term also includes Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Trust Territories of the Pacific Islands, and American Samoa;

(6) “coastal wetlands restoration project” means any technically feasible activity to create, restore, protect, or enhance coastal wet-

lands through sediment and freshwater diversion, water management, or other measures that the Task Force finds will significantly contribute to the long-term restoration or protection of the physical, chemical and biological integrity of coastal wetlands in the State of Louisiana, and includes any such activity authorized under this chapter or under any other provision of law, including, but not limited to, new projects, completion or expansion of existing or on-going projects, individual phases, portions, or components of projects and operation, maintenance<sup>2</sup> and rehabilitation of completed projects; the primary purpose of a “coastal wetlands restoration project” shall not be to provide navigation, irrigation or flood control benefits;

(7) “coastal wetlands conservation project” means—

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

(B) the restoration, management, or enhancement of coastal wetlands ecosystems if such restoration, management, or enhancement is conducted on coastal lands and waters that are administered for the long-term conservation of such lands and waters and the hydrology, water quality and fish and wildlife dependent thereon;

(8) “Governor” means the Governor of Louisiana;

(9) “Task Force” means the Louisiana Coastal Wetlands Conservation and Restoration Task Force which shall consist of the Secretary, who shall serve as chairman, the Administrator, the Governor, the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of Commerce; and

(10) “Director” means the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

(Pub. L. 101-646, title III, § 302, Nov. 29, 1990, 104 Stat. 4778.)

#### REFERENCES IN TEXT

This chapter, referred to in text, was in the original “this title”, meaning title III of Pub. L. 101-646, Nov. 29, 1990, 104 Stat. 4778, which is classified principally to this chapter. For complete classification of title III to the Code, see Short Title note set out below and Tables.

#### SHORT TITLE

Pub. L. 101-646, title III, § 301, Nov. 29, 1990, 104 Stat. 4778, provided that: “This title [enacting this chapter and amending section 777c of this title] may be cited as the ‘Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act’.”

#### TERMINATION OF TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

For termination of Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, see note set out preceding section 1681 of Title 48, Territories and Insular Possessions.

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

<sup>2</sup> So in original. Probably should be “maintenance”.

**§ 3952. Priority Louisiana coastal wetlands restoration projects**

**(a) Priority project list**

**(1) Preparation of list**

Within forty-five days after November 29, 1990, the Secretary shall convene the Task Force to initiate a process to identify and prepare a list of coastal wetlands restoration projects in Louisiana to provide for the long-term conservation of such wetlands and dependent fish and wildlife populations in order of priority, based on the cost-effectiveness of such projects in creating, restoring, protecting, or enhancing coastal wetlands, taking into account the quality of such coastal wetlands, with due allowance for small-scale projects necessary to demonstrate the use of new techniques or materials for coastal wetlands restoration.

**(2) Task Force procedures**

The Secretary shall convene meetings of the Task Force as appropriate to ensure that the list is produced and transmitted annually to the Congress as required by this subsection. If necessary to ensure transmittal of the list on a timely basis, the Task Force shall produce the list by a majority vote of those Task Force members who are present and voting; except that no coastal wetlands restoration project shall be placed on the list without the concurrence of the lead Task Force member that the project is cost effective and sound from an engineering perspective. Those projects which potentially impact navigation or flood control on the lower Mississippi River System shall be constructed consistent with section 3953 of this title.

**(3) Transmittal of list**

No later than one year after November 29, 1990, the Secretary shall transmit to the Congress the list of priority coastal wetlands restoration projects required by paragraph (1) of this subsection. Thereafter, the list shall be updated annually by the Task Force members and transmitted by the Secretary to the Congress as part of the President's annual budget submission. Annual transmittals of the list to the Congress shall include a status report on each project and a statement from the Secretary of the Treasury indicating the amounts available for expenditure to carry out this chapter.

**(4) List of contents**

(A) AREA IDENTIFICATION; PROJECT DESCRIPTION.—The list of priority coastal wetlands restoration projects shall include, but not be limited to—

- (i) identification, by map or other means, of the coastal area to be covered by the coastal wetlands restoration project; and
- (ii) a detailed description of each proposed coastal wetlands restoration project including a justification for including such project on the list, the proposed activities to be carried out pursuant to each coastal wetlands restoration project, the benefits to be realized by such project, the identification of the lead Task Force member to undertake

each proposed coastal wetlands restoration project and the responsibilities of each other participating Task Force member, an estimated timetable for the completion of each coastal wetlands restoration project, and the estimated cost of each project.

(B) PRE-PLAN.—Prior to the date on which the plan required by subsection (b) of this section becomes effective, such list shall include only those coastal wetlands restoration projects that can be substantially completed during a five-year period commencing on the date the project is placed on the list.

(C) Subsequent to the date on which the plan required by subsection (b) of this section becomes effective, such list shall include only those coastal wetlands restoration projects that have been identified in such plan.

**(5) Funding**

The Secretary shall, with the funds made available in accordance with section 3955 of this title, allocate funds among the members of the Task Force based on the need for such funds and such other factors as the Task Force deems appropriate to carry out the purposes of this subsection.

**(b) Federal and State project planning**

**(1) Plan preparation**

The Task Force shall prepare a plan to identify coastal wetlands restoration projects, in order of priority, based on the cost-effectiveness of such projects in creating, restoring, protecting, or enhancing the long-term conservation of coastal wetlands, taking into account the quality of such coastal wetlands, with due allowance for small-scale projects necessary to demonstrate the use of new techniques or materials for coastal wetlands restoration. Such restoration plan shall be completed within three years from November 29, 1990.

**(2) Purpose of the plan**

The purpose of the restoration plan is to develop a comprehensive approach to restore and prevent the loss of, coastal wetlands in Louisiana. Such plan shall coordinate and integrate coastal wetlands restoration projects in a manner that will ensure the long-term conservation of the coastal wetlands of Louisiana.

**(3) Integration of existing plans**

In developing the restoration plan, the Task Force shall seek to integrate the "Louisiana Comprehensive Coastal Wetlands Feasibility Study" conducted by the Secretary of the Army and the "Coastal Wetlands Conservation and Restoration Plan" prepared by the State of Louisiana's Wetlands Conservation and Restoration Task Force.

**(4) Elements of the plan**

The restoration plan developed pursuant to this subsection shall include—

- (A) identification of the entire area in the State that contains coastal wetlands;
- (B) identification, by map or other means, of coastal areas in Louisiana in need of coastal wetlands restoration projects;
- (C) identification of high priority coastal wetlands restoration projects in Louisiana