

(G) for purposes of this section and sections 1902 through 1905 of this title only, methane hydrate; and

(H) other marine resources that are not—

- (i) oil and gas;
- (ii) fisheries; or
- (iii) marine mammals.

(7) The term “methane hydrate” means—

(A) a methane clathrate that is in the form of a methane-water ice-like crystalline material and is stable and occurs naturally in deep-ocean and permafrost areas; and

(B) other natural gas hydrates found in association with deep-ocean and permafrost deposits of methane hydrate.

(8) The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(Pub. L. 91-631, title II, §201, as added Pub. L. 104-325, §2(3), Oct. 19, 1996, 110 Stat. 3994; amended Pub. L. 106-193, §4, May 2, 2000, 114 Stat. 236.)

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

2000—Par. (6)(G), (H). Pub. L. 106-193, §4(1), added subpar. (G) and redesignated former subpar. (G) as (H).

Pars. (7), (8). Pub. L. 106-193, §4(2), (3), added par. (7) and redesignated former par. (7) as (8).

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

SHORT TITLE

Pub. L. 104-325, §1, Oct. 19, 1996, 110 Stat. 3994, provided that: “This Act [enacting this chapter] may be cited as the ‘Marine Mineral Resources Research Act of 1996’.”

§ 1902. Research program

(a) In general

The Secretary shall establish and carry out a program of research on marine mineral resources.

(b) Program goal

The goal of the program shall be to—

(1) promote research, identification, assessment, and exploration of marine mineral resources in an environmentally responsible manner;

(2) assist in developing domestic technologies required for efficient and environmentally sound development of marine mineral resources;

(3) coordinate and promote the use of technologies developed with Federal assistance, and the use of available Federal assets, for research, identification, assessment, exploration, and development of marine mineral resources; and

(4) encourage academia and industry to conduct basic and applied research, on a joint basis, through grants, cooperative agreements, or contracts with the Federal Government.

(c) Responsibilities of Secretary

In carrying out the program, the Secretary shall—

(1) promote and coordinate partnerships between industry, government, and academia to research, identify, assess, and explore marine mineral resources in an environmentally sound manner;

(2) undertake programs to develop the basic information necessary to the long-term national interest in marine mineral resources (including seabed mapping) and to ensure that data and information are accessible and widely disseminated as needed and appropriate;

(3) identify, and promote cooperation among agency programs that are developing, technologies developed by other Federal programs that may hold promise for facilitating undersea applications related to marine mineral resources, including technologies related to vessels and other platforms, underwater vehicles, survey and mapping systems, remote power sources, data collection and transmission systems, and various seabed research systems; and

(4) foster communication and coordination between Federal and State agencies, universities, and private entities concerning marine mineral research on seabeds of the continental shelf, ocean basins, and arctic and cold water areas.

In carrying out these responsibilities, the Secretary shall ensure the participation of non-Federal users of technologies and data related to marine mineral resources in planning and priority setting.

(Pub. L. 91-631, title II, §202, as added Pub. L. 104-325, §2(3), Oct. 19, 1996, 110 Stat. 3995.)

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

METHANE HYDRATE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

Pub. L. 106-193, May 2, 2000, 114 Stat. 234, known as the Methane Hydrate Research and Development Act of 2000, which was set out as a note under this section, was amended and transferred to chapter 32 (§2001 et seq.) of this title by Pub. L. 109-58, title IX, §968, Aug. 8, 2005, 119 Stat. 894.

§ 1903. Grants, contracts, and cooperative agreements

(a) Assistance and coordination

(1) In general

The Secretary shall award grants or contracts to, or enter into cooperative agreements with, eligible entities to support research for the development or utilization of—

(A) methods, equipment, systems, and components necessary for the identification, assessment, and exploration of marine mineral resources in an environmentally responsible manner;

(B) methods of detecting, monitoring, and predicting the presence of adverse environmental effects in the marine environment and remediating the environmental effects of marine mineral resource exploration, development, and production; and

(C) education and training material in marine mineral research and resource management.

(2) Cost-sharing for contracts or cooperative agreements

(A) Federal share

Except as provided in subparagraph (B)(ii), the Federal share of the cost of a contract or cooperative agreement carried out under