

Public Law 108–456
108th Congress

An Act

Dec. 10, 2004
[S. 3014]

To reauthorize the Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Act of 1998, and for other purposes.

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

Harmful Algal
Bloom and
Hypoxia
Amendments Act
of 2004.
16 USC 1451
note.

**TITLE I—HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOM AND
HYPOXIA AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2004**

SEC. 101. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Amendments Act of 2004”.

16 USC 1451
note.

SEC. 102. RETENTION OF TASK FORCE.

Section 603 of the Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Act of 1998 (16 U.S.C. 1451 nt) is amended by striking subsection (e). In developing the assessments, reports, and plans under the amendments made by this title, the Task Force shall consult with the coastal States, Indian tribes, local governments, appropriate industries (including fisheries, agriculture, and fertilizer), academic institutions, and nongovernmental organizations with expertise in coastal zone science and management.

16 USC 1451
note.

SEC. 103. PREDICTION AND RESPONSE REPORT.

Section 603 of such Act, as amended by section 102, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“(d) REPORT TO CONGRESS ON HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOM IMPACTS.—

President.

“(1) DEVELOPMENT.—Not later than 12 months after the date of enactment of the Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Amendments Act of 2004, the President, in consultation with the chief executive officers of the States, shall develop and submit to the Congress a report that describes and evaluates the effectiveness of measures described in paragraph (2) that may be utilized to protect environmental and public health from impacts of harmful algal blooms. In developing the report, the President shall consult with the Task Force, the coastal States, Indian tribes, local governments, appropriate industries (including fisheries, agriculture, and fertilizer), academic institutions, and nongovernmental organizations with expertise in coastal zone science and management, and also consider the scientific assessments developed under this Act.

“(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The report shall—

“(A) review techniques for prediction of the onset, course, and impacts of harmful algal blooms including evaluation of their accuracy and utility in protecting environmental and public health and provisions for their development;

“(B) identify innovative research and development methods for the prevention, control, and mitigation of harmful algal blooms and provisions for their development; and

“(C) include incentive-based partnership approaches regarding subparagraphs (A) and (B) where practicable.

“(3) PUBLICATION AND OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMENT.—At least 90 days before submitting the report to the Congress, the President shall cause a summary of the proposed plan to be published in the Federal Register for a public comment period of not less than 60 days.

Deadline.
President.
Federal Register,
publication.

“(4) FEDERAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary of Commerce, in coordination with the Task Force and to the extent of funds available, shall provide for Federal cooperation with and assistance to the coastal States, Indian tribes, and local governments regarding the measures described in paragraph (2), as requested.”.

SEC. 104. LOCAL AND REGIONAL SCIENTIFIC ASSESSMENTS.

Section 603 of such Act, as amended by section 103, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

Deadlines.
16 USC 1451
note.

“(e) LOCAL AND REGIONAL SCIENTIFIC ASSESSMENTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Commerce, in coordination with the Task Force and appropriate State, Indian tribe, and local governments, to the extent of funds available, shall provide for local and regional scientific assessments of hypoxia and harmful algal blooms, as requested by States, Indian tribes, and local governments, or for affected areas as identified by the Secretary. If the Secretary receives multiple requests, the Secretary shall ensure, to the extent practicable, that assessments under this subsection cover geographically and ecologically diverse locations with significant ecological and economic impacts from hypoxia or harmful algal blooms. The Secretary shall establish a procedure for reviewing requests for local and regional assessments. The Secretary shall ensure, through consultation with Sea Grant Programs, that the findings of the assessments are communicated to the appropriate State, Indian tribe, and local governments, and to the general public.

“(2) PURPOSE.—Local and regional assessments shall examine—

“(A) the causes and ecological consequences, and the economic cost, of hypoxia or harmful algal blooms in that area;

“(B) potential methods to prevent, control, and mitigate hypoxia or harmful algal blooms in that area and the potential ecological and economic costs and benefits of such methods; and

“(C) other topics the Task Force considers appropriate.

“(f) SCIENTIFIC ASSESSMENT OF FRESHWATER HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOMS.—(1) Not later than 24 months after the date of enactment of the Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Amendments Act of 2004

the Task Force shall complete and submit to Congress a scientific assessment of current knowledge about harmful algal blooms in freshwater, such as the Great Lakes and upper reaches of estuaries, including a research plan for coordinating Federal efforts to better understand freshwater harmful algal blooms.

“(2) The freshwater harmful algal bloom scientific assessment shall—

“(A) examine the causes and ecological consequences, and the economic costs, of harmful algal blooms with significant effects on freshwater, including estimations of the frequency and occurrence of significant events;

“(B) establish priorities and guidelines for a competitive, peer-reviewed, merit-based interagency research program, as part of the Ecology and Oceanography of Harmful Algal Blooms (ECOHAB) project, to better understand the causes, characteristics, and impacts of harmful algal blooms in freshwater locations; and

“(C) identify ways to improve coordination and to prevent unnecessary duplication of effort among Federal agencies and departments with respect to research on harmful algal blooms in freshwater locations.

“(g) SCIENTIFIC ASSESSMENTS OF HYPOXIA.—(1) Not less than once every 5 years the Task Force shall complete and submit to the Congress a scientific assessment of hypoxia in United States coastal waters including the Great Lakes. The first such assessment shall be completed not less than 24 months after the date of enactment of the Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Amendments Act of 2004.

“(2) The assessments under this subsection shall—

“(A) examine the causes and ecological consequences, and the economic costs, of hypoxia;

“(B) describe the potential ecological and economic costs and benefits of possible policy and management actions for preventing, controlling, and mitigating hypoxia;

“(C) evaluate progress made by, and the needs of, Federal research programs on the causes, characteristics, and impacts of hypoxia, including recommendations of how to eliminate significant gaps in hypoxia modeling and monitoring data; and

“(D) identify ways to improve coordination and to prevent unnecessary duplication of effort among Federal agencies and departments with respect to research on hypoxia.

“(h) SCIENTIFIC ASSESSMENTS OF HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOMS.—(1) Not less than once every 5 years the Task Force shall complete and submit to Congress a scientific assessment of harmful algal blooms in United States coastal waters. The first such assessment shall be completed not later than 24 months after the date of enactment of the Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Amendments Act of 2004 and shall consider only marine harmful algal blooms. All subsequent assessments shall examine both marine and freshwater harmful algal blooms, including those in the Great Lakes and upper reaches of estuaries.

“(2) The assessments under this subsection shall—

“(A) examine the causes and ecological consequences, and economic costs, of harmful algal blooms;

“(B) describe the potential ecological and economic costs and benefits of possible actions for preventing, controlling, and mitigating harmful algal blooms;

“(C) evaluate progress made by, and the needs of, Federal research programs on the causes, characteristics, and impacts of harmful algal blooms; and

“(D) identify ways to improve coordination and to prevent unnecessary duplication of effort among Federal agencies and departments with respect to research on harmful algal blooms.

“(i) NATIONAL SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, DEMONSTRATION, AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER PLAN ON REDUCING IMPACTS FROM HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOMS.—(1) Not later than 12 months after the date of enactment of the Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Amendments Act of 2004, the Task Force shall develop and submit to Congress a plan providing for a comprehensive and coordinated national research program to develop and demonstrate prevention, control, and mitigation methods to reduce the impacts of harmful algal blooms on coastal ecosystems (including the Great Lakes), public health, and the economy.

“(2) The plan shall—

“(A) establish priorities and guidelines for a competitive, peer reviewed, merit based interagency research, development, demonstration, and technology transfer program on methods for the prevention, control, and mitigation of harmful algal blooms;

“(B) identify ways to improve coordination and to prevent unnecessary duplication of effort among Federal agencies and departments with respect to the actions described in paragraph (1); and

“(C) include to the maximum extent practicable diverse institutions, including Historically Black Colleges and Universities and those serving large proportions of Hispanics, Native Americans, Asian Pacific Americans, and other underrepresented populations.

“(3) The Secretary of Commerce, in conjunction with other appropriate Federal agencies, shall establish a research, development, demonstration, and technology transfer program that meets the priorities and guidelines established under paragraph (2)(A). The Secretary shall ensure, through consultation with Sea Grant Programs, that the results and findings of the program are communicated to State, Indian tribe, and local governments, and to the general public.”.

SEC. 105. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

16 USC 1451
note.

Section 605 of such Act is amended—

(1) by striking “and” after “2000,” in the first sentence and in the paragraphs (1), (2), (3), and (5);

(2) by inserting “\$23,500,000 for fiscal year 2005, \$24,500,000 for fiscal year 2006, \$25,000,000 for fiscal year 2007, and \$25,500,000 for fiscal year 2008,” after “2001,” in the first sentence;

(3) by inserting “, and \$2,500,000 for each of fiscal years 2005 through 2008” after “2001” in paragraph (1);

(4) by inserting “, and \$6,500,000, of which \$1,000,000 shall be used for the research program described in section 603(f)(2)(B), for each of fiscal years 2005 through 2008” after “2001” in paragraph (2);

(5) by striking “2001” in paragraph (3) and inserting “2001, and \$3,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2005 through 2008”;

(6) by striking “blooms;” in paragraph (3) and inserting “blooms and to carry out section 603(d);”;

(7) by striking “and 2001” in paragraph (4) and inserting “2001, and \$6,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2005 through 2008”;

(8) by striking “and” after the semicolon in paragraph (4);

(9) by striking “2001” in paragraph (5) and inserting “2001, \$4,000,000 for fiscal year 2005, \$5,000,000 for fiscal year 2006, \$5,500,000 for fiscal year 2007, and \$6,000,000 for fiscal year 2008”;

(10) by striking “Administration.” in paragraph (5) and inserting “Administration; and”;

(11) by adding at the end the following:

“(6) \$1,500,000 for each of fiscal years 2005 through 2008 to carry out section 603(e).”.

TITLE II—MISCELLANEOUS

SEC. 201. AVAILABILITY OF NOAA REAL PROPERTY ON VIRGINIA KEY, FLORIDA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Commerce may make available to the University of Miami real property under the administrative jurisdiction of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration on Virginia Key, Florida, for development by the University of a Marine Life Science Center.

(b) MANNER OF AVAILABILITY.—The Secretary may make property available under this section by easement, lease, license, or long-term agreement with the University.

(c) AUTHORIZED USES BY UNIVERSITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Property made available under this section may be used by the University (subject to paragraph (2)) to develop and operate facilities for multidisciplinary environmental and fisheries research, assessment, management, and educational activities.

(2) AGREEMENT.—Property made available under this section may not be used by the University (including any affiliate of the University) except in accordance with an agreement with the Secretary that—

(A) specifies—

(i) the conditions for non-Federal use of the property; and

(ii) the retained Federal interests in the property, including interests in access to and egress from the property by Federal personnel and preservation of existing rights-of-way;

(B) establishes conditions for joint occupancy of buildings and other facilities on the property by the University and Federal agencies; and

(C) includes provisions that ensure—

(i) that there is no diminishment of existing National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration programs and services at Virginia Key; and

(ii) the availability of the property for planning, development, and construction of future Federal buildings and facilities.

(3) **TERMINATION OF AVAILABILITY.**—The availability of property under this section shall terminate immediately upon use of the property by the University—

(A) for any purpose other than as described in paragraph (1); or

(B) in violation of the agreement under paragraph (2).

(d) **USE OF FACILITIES BY SECRETARY.**—The Secretary may—

(1) subject to the availability of funding, enter into an agreement to occupy facilities constructed by the University on property made available under this section; and

(2) participate with the University in collaborative research at, or administered through, such facilities.

(e) **NO CONVEYANCE OF TITLE.**—This section shall not be construed to convey or authorize conveyance of any interest of the United States in title to property made available under this section.

SEC. 202. CONVEYANCE OF NOAA VESSEL WHITING.

Mexico.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of Commerce shall convey to the Government of Mexico, without consideration, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration vessel WHITING—

(1) for use as a hydrographic survey platform in support of activities of the United States-Mexico Charting Advisors Committee; and

(2) to enhance coordination and cooperation between the United States and Mexico regarding hydrographic surveying and nautical charting activities in the border waters of both countries in the Gulf of Mexico and in the Pacific Ocean.

(b) **OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE.**—The Government of the United States shall not be responsible or liable for any remediation, maintenance, or operation of a vessel conveyed under this section after the date of the delivery of the vessel to the Government of Mexico.

(c) **DEADLINE.**—The Secretary shall seek to complete the conveyance by as soon as practicable after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(d) DELIVERY OF VESSEL.—The Secretary shall deliver the vessel WHITING pursuant to this section at the vessel's homeport location of Norfolk, Virginia, at no additional cost to the United States.

Approved December 10, 2004.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—S. 3014 (H.R. 1856):

HOUSE REPORTS: No. 108–326, Pt. 1, accompanying H.R. 1856 (Comm. on Resources).

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 150 (2004):

Nov. 19, considered and passed Senate.

Nov. 20, considered and passed House.