

(1) Watch; warning**(A) In general**

Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the terms “watch” and “warning”, with respect to a hazardous flash flood event, mean products issued by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, intended for use by the general public—

- (i) to alert the general public to the potential for or presence of the event; and
- (ii) to inform action to prevent loss of life and property.

(B) Exclusion

The terms “watch” and “warning” do not include technical or specialized meteorological and hydrological forecasts, outlooks, or model guidance products.

(2) Weather enterprise

The term “weather enterprise” has the meaning given that term in section 8501 of this title.

(Pub. L. 117-316, § 6, Dec. 27, 2022, 136 Stat. 4410.)

§ 9706. Freshwater monitoring along the coast**(a) Data availability assessment**

The Administrator shall assess the availability of short- and long-term data on large-scale freshwater flooding into oceans, bays, and estuaries, including data on—

- (1) flow rate, including discharge;
- (2) conductivity;
- (3) oxygen concentration;
- (4) nutrient load;
- (5) water temperature; and
- (6) sediment load.

(b) Data needs assessment

The Administrator shall assess the need for additional data to assess and predict the effect of the flooding and freshwater discharge described in subsection (a).

(c) Inventory of data needs

Based on the assessments required by subsections (a) and (b), the Administrator shall create an inventory of data needs with respect to the flooding and freshwater discharge described in subsections (a) and (b).

(d) Planning

In planning for the collection of additional data necessary for ecosystem-based modeling of the effect of the flooding and freshwater discharge described in subsections (a) and (b), the Administrator shall use the inventory created under subsection (c).

(Pub. L. 117-316, § 7, Dec. 27, 2022, 136 Stat. 4412.)

§ 9707. Estimates of precipitation frequency in the United States**(a) Definitions**

In this section:

(1) Freely Associated States

The term “Freely Associated States” means the Republic of Palau, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Federated States of Micronesia, which have each entered into a

Compact of Free Association with the United States.

(2) United States

The term “United States” means the 50 States of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Freely Associated States.

(b) In general

The Administrator shall establish a program, to be known as the “NOAA Precipitation Frequency Atlas of the United States”, to compile, estimate, analyze, and communicate the frequency of precipitation in the United States.

(c) Functions

The NOAA Precipitation Frequency Atlas of the United States—

(1) shall better inform the public and provide information on—

- (A) temporal and spatial distribution of heavy precipitation;
- (B) analyses of seasonality in precipitation; and
- (C) trends in annual maximum series data; and

(2) may serve as the official source of the Federal Government on estimates of precipitation frequency and associated information with respect to the United States.

(d) Requirements**(1) Coverage**

The NOAA Precipitation Frequency Atlas of the United States shall include such estimates of the frequency of precipitation in the United States as the Administrator determines appropriate.

(2) Frequency

Such estimates—

- (A) shall be conducted not less frequently than once every 10 years; and
- (B) may be conducted more frequently if determined appropriate by the Administrator.

(3) Publication

Such estimates and methodologies used to conduct such estimates shall be—

- (A) subject to an appropriate, scientific process, as determined by the Administrator; and
- (B) published on a publicly accessible website of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

(e) Partnerships

The Administrator may partner with other Federal agencies, members of the private sector, academic cooperative partnerships, or non-government associations to assist in carrying out the functions described in subsection (c).

(f) Consultation

In carrying out this section, the Administrator may consult with relevant Federal, State, local, Tribal, and Territorial government agencies, research institutions, and the private sector, as the Administrator determines necessary.

(g) Coordination

In carrying out this section, the Administrator may coordinate with other Federal agencies.

(h) Authorization of appropriations

There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section, from amounts otherwise authorized to be appropriated to the Administrator to carry out this chapter, \$3,500,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2030.

(Pub. L. 117-316, §12, Dec. 27, 2022, 136 Stat. 4413.)

Editorial Notes**REFERENCES IN TEXT**

This chapter, referred to in subsec. (h), was in the original “this Act”, meaning Pub. L. 117-316, Dec. 27, 2022, 136 Stat. 4406, known as the Flood Level Observation, Operations, and Decision Support Act, which is classified principally to this chapter. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 9701 of this title and Tables.

§ 9708. Interagency Committee on Water Management and Infrastructure**(a) Establishment**

There is established a committee, to be known as the “Interagency Committee on Water Management and Infrastructure” (in this section referred to as the “Water Policy Committee”).

(b) Membership

The Water Policy Committee shall be composed of the following members:

- (1) The Administrator.
- (2) The Secretary of the Interior.
- (3) The Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.
- (4) The Secretary of Agriculture.
- (5) The Secretary of Commerce.
- (6) The Secretary of Energy.
- (7) The Secretary of the Army.
- (8) The heads of such other agencies as the co-chairs consider appropriate.

(c) Co-chairs

The Water Policy Committee shall be co-chaired by the Secretary of the Interior and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

(d) Meetings

The Water Policy Committee shall meet not less frequently than 6 times each year, at the call of the co-chairs.

(e) General purpose and duties

The Water Policy Committee shall ensure that agencies and departments across the Federal Government that engage in water-related matters, including water storage and supplies, water quality and restoration activities, water infrastructure, transportation on United States rivers and inland waterways, and water forecasting, work together where such agencies and departments have joint or overlapping responsibilities to—

- (1) improve interagency coordination among Federal agencies and departments on water resource management and water infrastructure issues;

(2) coordinate existing water-related Federal task forces, working groups, and other formal cross-agency initiatives, as appropriate;

(3) prioritize managing the water resources of the United States and promoting resilience of the water-related infrastructure of the United States, including—

- (A) increasing water storage, water supply reliability, and drought resiliency;
- (B) improving water quality, source water protection, and nutrient management;
- (C) promoting restoration activities;
- (D) improving water systems, including with respect to drinking water, desalination, water reuse, wastewater, and flood control; and
- (E) improving water data management, research, modeling, and forecasting;

(4) improve interagency coordination of data management, access, modeling, and visualization with respect to water-related matters;

(5) promote integrated planning for Federal investments in water-related infrastructure to enhance coordination and protect taxpayer investment; and

(6) support workforce development and efforts to recruit, train, and retain professionals to operate and maintain essential drinking water, wastewater, flood control, hydropower, water delivery, and water storage facilities in the United States.

(f) Cross-agency priority research needs

Not later than 1 year after December 27, 2022, the Water Policy Committee shall develop and submit to Congress a list of research needs that includes needs for cross-agency research and coordination.

(Pub. L. 117-316, §13, Dec. 27, 2022, 136 Stat. 4414.)

§ 9709. National Weather Service hydrologic research fellowship program**(a) Definitions**

In this section:

(1) Assistant Administrator

The term “Assistant Administrator” means the Assistant Administrator for Weather Services of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

(2) Decision support services

The term “decision support services” means information, including data and refined products, that supports water resources-related decision-making processes.

(3) Institution of higher education

The term “institution of higher education” has the meaning given that term in section 1001 of title 20.

(4) NOAA line offices

The term “NOAA line offices” means the following offices of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration:

- (A) The National Ocean Service.
- (B) The National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service.
- (C) The National Marine Fisheries Service.
- (D) The Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research.