

chapter] may be cited as the ‘National Oceans and Coastal Security Act.’”

### § 7502. Purposes and agreements

#### (a) Purposes

The purposes of this chapter are to better understand and utilize the oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes of the United States, and ensure present and future generations will benefit from the full range of ecological, economic, social, and recreational opportunities, security, and services these resources are capable of providing.

#### (b) Agreements

The Administrator and the Foundation may enter into such agreements as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this chapter.

(Pub. L. 114–113, div. O, title IX, §903, Dec. 18, 2015, 129 Stat. 3031.)

### § 7503. National Oceans and Coastal Security Fund

#### (a) Establishment

The Administrator and the Foundation are authorized to establish the National Oceans and Coastal Security Fund as a tax exempt fund to further the purposes of this chapter.

#### (b) Deposits

##### (1) In general

There shall be deposited into the Fund amounts appropriated or otherwise made available to carry out this chapter.

##### (2) Prohibitions on donations from foreign governments

No amounts donated by a foreign government, as defined in section 7342 of title 5, may be deposited into the Fund.

#### (c) Requirements

Any amounts received by the Foundation pursuant to this chapter shall be subject to the provisions of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Establishment Act (16 U.S.C. 3701 et seq.), except the provisions of—

(1) section 4(e)(1)(B) of that Act (16 U.S.C. 3703(e)(1)(B)); and

(2) section 10(a) of that Act (16 U.S.C. 3709(a)).

#### (d) Expenditure

Of the amounts deposited into the Fund for each fiscal year—

(1) funds may be used by the Foundation to award grants to coastal States under section 7505(b) of this title;

(2) funds may be used by the Foundation to award grants under section 7505(c) of this title;

(3) no more than 2 percent may be used by the Administrator and the Foundation for administrative expenses to carry out this chapter, which amount shall be divided between the Administrator and the Foundation pursuant to an agreement reached and documented by both the Administrator and the Foundation.

#### (e) Recovery of payments

After notice and an opportunity for a hearing, the Administrator is authorized to recover any

Federal payments under this section if the Foundation—

(1) makes a withdrawal or expenditure from the Fund that is not consistent with the requirements of section 7504 of this title; or

(2) fails to comply with a procedure, measure, method, or standard established under section 7505(a)(1) of this title.

(Pub. L. 114–113, div. O, title IX, §904, Dec. 18, 2015, 129 Stat. 3031.)

### Editorial Notes

#### REFERENCES IN TEXT

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Establishment Act, referred to in subsec. (c), is Pub. L. 98–244, Mar. 26, 1984, 98 Stat. 107, which is classified generally to chapter 57 (§3701 et seq.) of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 3701 of this title and Tables.

### § 7504. Eligible uses

#### (a) In general

Amounts in the Fund may be allocated by the Foundation to support programs and activities intended to better understand and utilize ocean and coastal resources, coastal infrastructure, and ecosystem services provided by natural systems such as coral reefs, including baseline scientific research, ocean observing, and other programs and activities carried out in coordination with Federal and State departments or agencies.

#### (b) Prohibition on use of funds for litigation or other purposes

No funds made available under this chapter may be used to—

(1) fund litigation against the Federal Government; or

(2) fund the creation of national marine monuments and marine protected areas, marine spatial planning, or the National Ocean Policy.

(Pub. L. 114–113, div. O, title IX, §905, Dec. 18, 2015, 129 Stat. 3032; Pub. L. 117–263, div. J, title C, § 10001(b), Dec. 23, 2022, 136 Stat. 3951.)

### Editorial Notes

#### AMENDMENTS

2022—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 117–263 substituted “, coastal infrastructure, and ecosystem services provided by natural systems such as coral reefs” for “and coastal infrastructure”.

### § 7505. Grants

#### (a) Administration of grants

##### (1) In general

Not later than 90 days after funds are deposited into the Fund and made available to the Foundation for administrative purposes, the Foundation shall establish the following:

(A) Application and review procedures for the awarding of grants under this section, including requirements ensuring that any amounts awarded under such subsections may only be used for an eligible use described under section 7504 of this title.

(B) Selection procedures and criteria for the awarding of grants under this section that—