

(d) Compromise, modification, and remission of penalties

The Secretary may compromise, modify, or remit, with or without conditions, any civil penalty which is subject to imposition or which has been imposed under this section.

(e) Revocation or suspension of permit**(1) In general**

The Secretary may take any action described in paragraph (2) in any case in which—

(A) a vessel has been used in the commission of any act prohibited under section 773e of this title;

(B) the owner or operator of a vessel or any other person who has been issued or has applied for a permit under this subchapter has acted in violation of section 773e of this title; or

(C) any amount in settlement of a civil forfeiture imposed on a vessel or other property, or any civil penalty or criminal fine imposed on a vessel or owner or operator of a vessel or any other person who has been issued or has applied for a permit under any marine resource law enforced by the Secretary has not been paid and is overdue.

(2) Permit-related actions

Under the circumstances described in paragraph (1) the Secretary may—

(A) revoke any permit issued with respect to such vessel or person, with or without prejudice to the issuance of subsequent permits;

(B) suspend such permit for a period of time considered by the Secretary to be appropriate;

(C) deny such permit; or

(D) impose additional conditions and restrictions on any permit issued to or applied for by such vessel or person under this subchapter and, with respect to any foreign fishing vessel, on the approved application of the foreign nation involved and on any permit issued under that application.

(3) Factors to be considered

In imposing a sanction under this subsection, the Secretary shall take into account—

(A) the nature, circumstances, extent, and gravity of the prohibited acts for which the sanction is imposed; and

(B) with respect to the violator, the degree of culpability, any history of prior offenses, and such other matters as justice may require.

(4) Transfers of ownership

Transfer of ownership of a vessel, a permit, or any interest in a permit, by sale or otherwise, shall not extinguish any permit sanction that is in effect or is pending at the time of transfer of ownership. Before executing the transfer of ownership of a vessel, permit, or interest in a permit, by sale or otherwise, the owner shall disclose in writing to the prospective transferee the existence of any permit sanction that will be in effect or pending with respect to the vessel, permit, or interest at the time of the transfer.

(5) Reinstatement

In the case of any permit that is suspended under this subsection for nonpayment of a civil penalty, criminal fine, or any amount in settlement of a civil forfeiture, the Secretary shall reinstate the permit upon payment of the penalty, fine, or settlement amount and interest thereon at the prevailing rate.

(6) Hearing

No sanction shall be imposed under this subsection unless there has been prior opportunity for a hearing on the facts underlying the violation for which the sanction is imposed either in conjunction with a civil penalty proceeding under this section or otherwise.

(7) Permit defined

In this subsection, the term “permit” means any license, certificate, approval, registration, charter, membership, exemption, or other form of permission issued by the Commission or the Secretary, and includes any quota share or other transferable quota issued by the Secretary.

(Pub. L. 97-176, § 8, May 17, 1982, 96 Stat. 80; Pub. L. 109-479, title III, § 301(a), (b), Jan. 12, 2007, 120 Stat. 3621, 3622.)

Editorial Notes**AMENDMENTS**

2007—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 109-479, § 301(a), substituted “\$200,000” for “\$25,000” and “violation, the degree of culpability, any history of prior offenses,” for “violation, the degree of culpability, and history of prior offenses, ability to pay,” and inserted at end “In assessing such penalty, the Secretary may also consider any information provided by the violator relating to the ability of the violator to pay if the information is provided to the Secretary at least 30 days prior to an administrative hearing.”

Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 109-479, § 301(b), added subsec. (e).

§ 773g. Crimes and criminal penalties**(a) Offenses**

A person is guilty of any¹ offense if he commits an act prohibited by section 773e(a)(2), (3), (4), or (6)² of this title; or section 773e(b)² of this title.

(b) Fines; imprisonment

Any offense described in subsection (a) is punishable by a fine of not more than \$200,000 or imprisonment for not more than 6 months, or both; except that if in the commission of any offense the person uses a dangerous weapon, engages in conduct that causes bodily injury to any officer authorized to enforce the provisions of this subchapter, or places any such officer in fear of imminent bodily injury the offense is punishable by a fine of not more than \$400,000, or imprisonment for not more than 10 years or both.

(c) Federal jurisdiction

There is Federal jurisdiction over any offense described in this section.

(Pub. L. 97-176, § 9, May 17, 1982, 96 Stat. 81; Pub. L. 109-479, title III, § 301(c), Jan. 12, 2007, 120 Stat. 3623.)

¹ So in original. Probably should be “an”.

² See References in Text note below.

Editorial Notes

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Subsec. (a) and pars. (2), (3), (4), and (6) of subsec. (a) of section 773e of this title, referred to in subsec. (a), were renumbered par. (1) and subpars. (B), (C), (D), and (F), respectively, of par. (1) of section 773e of this title by Pub. L. 114-81, title I, §110(1), (2), Nov. 5, 2015, 129 Stat. 659.

Subsec. (b) of section 773e of this title, referred to in subsec. (a), was renumbered par. (2) of section 773e of this title by Pub. L. 114-81, title I, §110(2), Nov. 5, 2015, 129 Stat. 659.

AMENDMENTS

2007—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 109-479 substituted “\$200,000” for “\$50,000” and “\$400,000,” for “\$100,000.”

§ 773h. Forfeitures**(a) Civil forfeiture proceeding**

Any fishing vessel (including its fishing gear, furniture, appurtenances, stores, and cargo) used, and any fish taken or retained, in any manner, in connection with or as a result of the commission of any act prohibited by section 773e of this title shall be subject to forfeiture to the United States. All or part of such vessel may, and all such fish shall, be forfeited to the United States pursuant to a civil proceeding under this section.

(b) United States district court jurisdiction

Any district court of the United States shall have jurisdiction, upon application by the Attorney General on behalf of the United States, to order any forfeiture authorized under subsection (a) and any action provided for under subsection (d).

(c) Seizure of forfeited property

If a judgment is entered for the United States in a civil forfeiture proceeding under this section, the Attorney General may seize any property or other interest declared forfeited to the United States, which has not previously been seized pursuant to this subchapter or for which security has not previously been obtained under subsection (d). The provisions of the customs laws relating to—

- (1) the disposition of forfeited property;
- (2) the proceeds from the sale of forfeited property;
- (3) the remission or mitigation of forfeitures; and
- (4) the compromise of claims;

shall apply to any forfeiture ordered, and to any case in which forfeiture is alleged to be authorized, under this section, unless such provisions are inconsistent with the purposes, policy, and provisions of this subchapter. The duties and powers imposed upon the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection or other persons under such provisions shall, with respect to this subchapter, be performed by officers or other persons designated for such purpose by the Secretary.

(d) Bond or other security; disposal of seized fish

(1) Any officer authorized to serve any process in rem which is issued by a court having jurisdiction under section 773i(d) of this title shall—

- (A) stay the execution of such process; or

(B) discharge any fish seized pursuant to such process;

upon the receipt of a satisfactory bond or other security from any person claiming such property. Such bond or other security shall be conditioned upon such person delivering such property to the appropriate court upon order thereof, without any impairment of its value, or paying the monetary value of such property pursuant to an order of such court. Judgment shall be recoverable on such bond or other security against both the principal and any sureties in the event that any condition thereof is breached, as determined by such court.

(2) Any fish seized pursuant to this subchapter may be disposed of pursuant to the order of a court of competent jurisdiction or, if perishable, in a manner prescribed by regulations of the Secretary or the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating.

(e) Presumption of violation

For purposes of this section, it shall be a rebuttable presumption that all fish found on board a fishing vessel which is seized in connection with an act prohibited by section 773e of this title were taken or retained in violation of the Convention and this subchapter.

(Pub. L. 97-176, §10, May 17, 1982, 96 Stat. 81; Pub. L. 114-125, title VIII, §802(d)(2), Feb. 24, 2016, 130 Stat. 210.)

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

CHANGE OF NAME

“Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection” substituted for “Commissioner of Customs” in concluding provisions of subsec. (c) on authority of section 802(d)(2) of Pub. L. 114-125, set out as a note under section 211 of Title 6, Domestic Security.

TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

For transfer of functions, personnel, assets, and liabilities of the United States Customs Service of the Department of the Treasury, including functions of the Secretary of the Treasury relating thereto, to the Secretary of Homeland Security, and for treatment of related references, see sections 203(1), 551(d), 552(d), and 557 of Title 6, Domestic Security, and the Department of Homeland Security Reorganization Plan of November 25, 2002, as modified, set out as a note under section 542 of Title 6. For establishment of U.S. Customs and Border Protection in the Department of Homeland Security, treated as if included in Pub. L. 107-296 as of Nov. 25, 2002, see section 211 of Title 6, as amended generally by Pub. L. 114-125, and section 802(b) of Pub. L. 114-125, set out as a note under section 211 of Title 6.

For transfer of authorities, functions, personnel, and assets of the Coast Guard, including the authorities and functions of the Secretary of Transportation relating thereto, to the Department of Homeland Security, and for treatment of related references, see sections 468(b), 551(d), 552(d), and 557 of Title 6, Domestic Security, and the Department of Homeland Security Reorganization Plan of November 25, 2002, as modified, set out as a note under section 542 of Title 6.

§ 773i. Administration and enforcement**(a) Secretary of Commerce and Secretary of department in which Coast Guard is operating**

The Convention, this subchapter, and any regulation adopted under this subchapter, shall be enforced by the Secretary and the Secretary of