Public Law 105–384
105th Congress

An Act

To approve a governing international fishery agreement between the United States and the Republic of Poland, and for other purposes.

Nov. 13, 1998
[H.R. 3461]

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

TITLE I—GOVERNING INTERNATIONAL FISHERY AGREEMENT WITH POLAND

SEC. 101. GOVERNING INTERNATIONAL FISHERY AGREEMENT WITH POLAND.

16 USC 1823 note.

Notwithstanding section 203 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1823), the governing international fishery agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Poland, as contained in the message to Congress from the President of the United States dated February 5, 1998, is approved as a governing international fishery agreement for the purposes of such Act and shall enter into force and effect with respect to the United States on the date of the enactment of this Act.

TITLE II—MISCELLANEOUS FISHERIES PROVISIONS

SEC. 201. REAUTHORIZATION OF THE NORTHWEST ATLANTIC FISHERIES CONVENTION ACT OF 1995.

(a) REAUTHORIZATION.—Section 211 of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Convention Act of 1995 (16 U.S.C. 5610) is amended by striking "for each of" and all that follows through the end of the sentence and inserting "for each fiscal year through fiscal year 2001.".

(b) MISCELLANEOUS TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.—The Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Convention Act of 1995 is further amended—

(1) in section 207(e) (16 U.S.C. 5606(e)), by striking "sections" and inserting "section";

(2) in section 209(c) (16 U.S.C. 5608(c)), by striking "chapter 17" and inserting "chapter 171"; and

(3) in section 210(6) (16 U.S.C. 5609(6)), by striking "the Magnuson Fishery" and inserting "the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery".

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(c) REPORT REQUIREMENT.—The Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Convention Act of 1995 (16 U.S.C. 201 et seq.) is further amended by adding at the end the following:

16 USC 5611.

"SEC. 212. ANNUAL REPORT.

"The Secretary shall annually report to the Congress on the activities of the Fisheries Commission, the General Council, the Scientific Council, and the consultative committee established under section 208.".

(d) NORTH ATLANTIC FISHERIES ORGANIZATION QUOTA ALLOCATION PRACTICE.—The Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Convention Act of 1995 (16 U.S.C. 201 et seq.) is further amended by adding at the end the following:

16 USC 5612.

"SEC. 213. QUOTA ALLOCATION PRACTICE.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Secretary of State, shall promptly seek to establish a new practice for allocating quotas under the Convention that—

"(1) is predictable and transparent;

"(2) provides fishing opportunities for all members of the Organization; and

"(3) is consistent with the Straddling Fish Stocks Agreement.

"(b) REPORT.—The Secretary of Commerce shall include in annual reports under section 212—

"(1) a description of the results of negotiations held pursuant to subsection (a);

"(2) an identification of barriers to achieving such a new allocation practice; and

"(3) recommendations for any further legislation that is necessary to achieve such a new practice.

"(c) DEFINITION.—In this section the term 'Straddling Fish Stocks Agreement' means the United Nations Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 Relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks.".

SEC. 202. REAUTHORIZATION OF THE ATLANTIC TUNAS CONVENTION ACT OF 1975.

(a) REAUTHORIZATION.—Section 10(4) of the Atlantic Tunas Convention Act of 1975 (16 U.S.C. 971h(4)) is amended by striking "For fiscal year 1998," and inserting "For each of fiscal years 1998, 1999, 2000, and 2001,".

(b) MISCELLANEOUS TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.—(1) The Atlantic Tunas Convention Act of 1975 is further amended—

(A) in section 2 (16 U.S.C. 971), by redesignating the second paragraph (4) as paragraph (5);

(B) in section 5(b) (16 U.S.C. 971c(b)), by striking "fisheries zone" and inserting "exclusive economic zone";

(C) in section 6(c)(6) (16 U.S.C. 971d(c)(6))—

(i) by designating the last sentence as subparagraph (B), and by indenting the first line thereof; and

(ii) in subparagraph (A)(iii), by striking "subparagraph (A)" and inserting "clause (i)";

(D) by redesignating the first section 11 (16 U.S.C. 971 note) as section 13, and moving that section so as to appear after section 12 of that Act;

(E) by amending the style of the heading and designation for each of sections 11 and 12 so as to conform to the style of the headings and designations of the other sections of that Act; and 16 USC 971j, 971k.

(F) by striking "Magnuson Fishery" each place it appears and inserting "Magnuson-Stevens Fishery". 16 USC 971, 971b, 971d, 971e.

(2) Section 3(b)(3)(B) of the Act of September 4, 1980 (Public Law 96–339; 16 U.S.C. 971i(b)(3)(B)), is amended by inserting "of 1975" after "Act".

SEC. 203. AUTHORITY OF STATES OF WASHINGTON, OREGON, AND CALIFORNIA TO MANAGE DUNGENESS CRAB FISHERY. 16 USC 1856 note.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the provisions of this section and notwithstanding section 306(a) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1856(a)), each of the States of Washington, Oregon, and California may adopt and enforce State laws and regulations governing fishing and processing in the exclusive economic zone adjacent to that State in any Dungeness crab (Cancer magister) fishery for which there is no fishery management plan in effect under that Act.

(b) REQUIREMENTS FOR STATE MANAGEMENT.—Any law or regulation adopted by a State under this section for a Dungeness crab fishery—

(1) except as provided in paragraph (2), shall apply equally to vessels engaged in the fishery in the exclusive economic zone and vessels engaged in the fishery in the waters of the State, and without regard to the State that issued the permit under which a vessel is operating; Applicability.

(2) shall not apply to any fishing by a vessel in exercise of tribal treaty rights except as provided in United States v. Washington, D.C. No. CV–70–09213, United States District Court for the Western District of Washington; and

(3) shall include any provisions necessary to implement tribal treaty rights pursuant to the decision in United States v. Washington, D.C. No. CV–70–09213.

(c) LIMITATION ON ENFORCEMENT OF STATE LIMITED ACCESS SYSTEMS.—Any law of the State of Washington, Oregon, or California that establishes or implements a limited access system for a Dungeness crab fishery may not be enforced against a vessel that is otherwise legally fishing in the exclusive economic zone adjacent to that State and that is not registered under the laws of that State, except a law regulating landings.

(d) STATE PERMIT OR TREATY RIGHT REQUIRED.—No vessel may harvest or process Dungeness crab in the exclusive economic zone adjacent to the State of Washington, Oregon, or California, except as authorized by a permit issued by any of those States or pursuant to any tribal treaty rights to Dungeness crab pursuant to the decision in United States v. Washington, D.C. No. CV–70–09213.

(e) STATE AUTHORITY OTHERWISE PRESERVED.—Except as expressly provided in this section, nothing in this section reduces the authority of any State under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.) to regulate fishing, fish processing, or landing of fish.

(f) TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.—The authority of the States of Washington, Oregon, and California under this section with respect to a Dungeness crab fishery shall expire on the effective

date of a fishery management plan for the fishery under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

(g) REPEAL.—Section 112(d) of Public Law 104–297 (16 U.S.C. 1856 note) is repealed.

Applicability.

(h) DEFINITIONS.—The definitions set forth in section 3 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1802) shall apply to this section.

(i) SUNSET.—This section shall have no force or effect on and after September 30, 2001.

Hydrographic Services Improvement Act of 1998.

TITLE III—NOAA HYDROGRAPHIC SERVICES

33 USC 851 note.

SEC. 301. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the "Hydrographic Services Improvement Act of 1998".

33 USC 892.

SEC. 302. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term "Administrator" means the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

(2) ADMINISTRATION.—The term "Administration" means the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

(3) HYDROGRAPHIC DATA.—The term "hydrographic data" means information acquired through hydrographic or bathymetric surveying, photogrammetry, geodetic measurements, tide and current observations, or other methods, that is used in providing hydrographic services.

(4) HYDROGRAPHIC SERVICES.—The term "hydrographic services" means—

(A) the management, maintenance, interpretation, certification, and dissemination of bathymetric, hydrographic, geodetic, and tide and current information, including the production of nautical charts, nautical information databases, and other products derived from hydrographic data;

(B) the development of nautical information systems; and

(C) related activities.

(5) ACT OF 1947.—The term "Act of 1947" means the Act entitled "An Act to define the functions and duties of the Coast and Geodetic Survey, and for other purposes", approved August 6, 1947 (33 U.S.C. 883a et seq.).

33 USC 892a.

SEC. 303. FUNCTIONS OF THE ADMINISTRATOR.

(a) RESPONSIBILITIES.—To fulfill the data gathering and dissemination duties of the Administration under the Act of 1947, the Administrator shall—

(1) acquire and disseminate hydrographic data;

Standards.

(2) promulgate standards for hydrographic data used by the Administration in providing hydrographic services;

(3) promulgate standards for hydrographic services provided by the Administration;

(4) ensure comprehensive geographic coverage of hydrographic services, in cooperation with other appropriate Federal agencies;

(5) maintain a national database of hydrographic data, in cooperation with other appropriate Federal agencies;

(6) provide hydrographic services in uniform, easily accessible formats;

(7) participate in the development of, and implement for the United States in cooperation with other appropriate Federal agencies, international standards for hydrographic data and hydrographic services; and

(8) to the greatest extent practicable and cost-effective, fulfill the requirements of paragraphs (1) and (6) through contracts or other agreements with private sector entities.

(b) AUTHORITIES.—To fulfill the data gathering and dissemination duties of the Administration under the Act of 1947, and subject to the availability of appropriations, the Administrator—

(1) may procure, lease, evaluate, test, develop, and operate vessels, equipment, and technologies necessary to ensure safe navigation and maintain operational expertise in hydrographic data acquisition and hydrographic services;

(2) may enter into contracts and other agreements with qualified entities, consistent with subsection (a)(8), for the acquisition of hydrographic data and the provision of hydrographic services;

(3) shall award contracts for the acquisition of hydrographic data in accordance with title IX of the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 (40 U.S.C. 541 et seq.); and

Contracts.

(4) may design and install where appropriate Physical Oceanographic Real-Time Systems to enhance navigation safety and efficiency.

SEC. 304. QUALITY ASSURANCE PROGRAM.

33 USC 892b.

(a) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this section, the term "hydrographic product" means any publicly or commercially available product produced by a non-Federal entity that includes or displays hydrographic data.

(b) PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator may—

(A) develop and implement a quality assurance program that is equally available to all applicants, under which the Administrator may certify hydrographic products that satisfy the standards promulgated by the Administrator under section 303(a)(3);

(B) authorize the use of the emblem or any trademark of the Administration on a hydrographic product certified under subparagraph (A); and

(C) charge a fee for such certification and use.

(2) LIMITATION ON FEE AMOUNT.—Any fee under paragraph (1)(C) shall not exceed the costs of conducting the quality assurance testing, evaluation, or studies necessary to determine whether the hydrographic product satisfies the standards adopted under section 303(a)(3), including the cost of administering such a program.

(c) LIMITATION ON LIABILITY.—The Government of the United States shall not be liable for any negligence by a person that produces hydrographic products certified under this section.

(d) HYDROGRAPHIC SERVICES ACCOUNT.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the Treasury a separate account, which shall be known as the "Hydrographic Services Account".

(2) CONTENT.—The account shall consist of—

(A) amounts received by the United States as fees charged under subsection (b)(1)(C); and

(B) such other amounts as may be provided by law.

(3) USE.—Amounts in the account shall be available to the Administrator, without further appropriation, for hydrographic services.

(e) LIMITATION ON NEW FEES AND INCREASES IN EXISTING FEES FOR HYDROGRAPHIC SERVICES.—After the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator may not—

(1) establish any fee or other charge for the provision of any hydrographic service except as authorized by this section; or

(2) increase the amount of any fee or other charge for the provision of any hydrographic service except as authorized by this section and section 1307 of title 44, United States Code.

SEC. 305. REPORTS.

Deadline.

(a) PORTS.—Not later than 6 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator and the Commandant of the Coast Guard shall report to the Congress on—

(1) the status of implementation of real-time tide and current data systems in United States ports;

(2) existing safety and efficiency needs in United States ports that could be met by increased use of those systems; and

(3) a plan for expanding those systems to meet those needs, including an estimate of the cost of implementing those systems in priority locations.

(b) MAINTAINING FEDERAL EXPERTISE IN HYDROGRAPHIC SERVICES.—

Deadline.

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 6 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall report to the Congress on a plan to ensure that Federal competence and expertise in hydrographic surveying will be maintained after the decommissioning of the 3 existing Administration hydrographic survey vessels.

(2) CONTENTS.—The report shall include—

(A) an evaluation of the seagoing capacity, personnel, and equipment necessary to maintain Federal expertise in hydrographic services;

(B) an estimated schedule for decommissioning the 3 existing survey vessels;

(C) a plan to maintain Federal expertise in hydrographic services after the decommissioning of these vessels; and

(D) an estimate of the cost of carrying out this plan.

SEC. 306. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS. 33 USC 892.

There is authorized to be appropriated to the Administrator the following:

(1) To carry out nautical mapping and charting functions under the Act of 1947 and sections 303 and 304, except for conducting hydrographic surveys, $33,000,000 for fiscal year 1999, $34,000,000 for fiscal year 2000, and $35,000,000 for fiscal year 2001.

(2) To conduct hydrographic surveys under section 303(a)(1), including the leasing of ships, $33,000,000 for fiscal year 1999, $35,000,000 for fiscal year 2000, and $37,000,000 for fiscal year 2001. Of these amounts, no more than $16,000,000 is authorized for any one fiscal year to operate hydrographic survey vessels owned and operated by the Administration.

(3) To carry out geodetic functions under the Act of 1947, $25,000,000 for fiscal year 1999, $30,000,000 for fiscal year 2000, and $30,000,000 for fiscal year 2001.

(4) To carry out tide and current measurement functions under the Act of 1947, $22,500,000 for each of fiscal years 1999 through 2001. Of these amounts $4,500,000 is authorized for each fiscal year to implement and operate a national quality control system for real-time tide and current and maintain the national tide network, and $7,000,000 is authorized for each fiscal year to design and install real-time tide and current data measurement systems under section 303(b)(4).

SEC. 307. AUTHORIZED NUMBER OF NOAA CORPS COMMISSIONED OFFICERS.

(a) AUTHORIZED NUMBER.—Section 2 of the Coast and Geodetic Survey Commissioned Officers' Act of 1948 (33 U.S.C. 853a) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (a) through (e) as subsections (b) through (f), respectively; and

(2) by inserting before subsection (b), as redesignated, the following:

"(a)(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), there are authorized to be not less than 264 and not more than 299 commissioned officers on the active list of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for fiscal years 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, and 2003.

"(2) The Administrator may reduce the number of commissioned officers on the active list below 264 if the Administrator determines that it is appropriate, taking into consideration—

"(A) the number of billets on the fisheries, hydrographic, and oceanographic vessels owned and operated by the Administration;

"(B) the need of the Administration to collect high-quality oceanographic, fisheries, and hydrographic data and information on a continuing basis;

"(C) the need for effective and safe operation of the Administration's fisheries, hydrographic and oceanographic vessels;

"(D) the need for effective management of the commissioned Corps; and

"(E) the protection of the interests of taxpayers.

"(3) At least 90 days before beginning any reduction as described in paragraph (2), the Administrator shall provide notice Notice.

of such reduction to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Resources of the House of Representatives.".

(b) OFFICER RESPONSIBLE FOR COMMISSIONED OFFICERS AND VESSEL FLEET.—Section 24(a) of the Coast and Geodetic Survey Commissioned Officers' Act of 1948 (33 U.S.C. 853u(a)) is amended by inserting "One such position shall be appointed from the officers on the active duty promotion list serving in or above the grade of captain, and who shall be responsible for administration of the commissioned officers, and for oversight of the operation of the vessel fleet, of the Administration." before "An officer".

(c) RELIEF FROM MORATORIUM ON NEW APPOINTMENTS.—The Secretary of Commerce immediately shall terminate the moratorium on new appointments of commissioned officers to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Corps.

Northwest Straits Marine Conservation Initiative Act.

TITLE IV—NORTHWEST STRAITS MARINE CONSERVATION INITIATIVE

SEC. 401. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the "Northwest Straits Marine Conservation Initiative Act".

SEC. 402. ESTABLISHMENT.

There is established a commission to be known as the Northwest Straits Advisory Commission (in this title referred to as the "Commission").

SEC. 403. ORGANIZATION AND OPERATION.

The Commission shall be organized and operated in accordance with the provisions of the Northwest Straits Citizen's Advisory Commission Report of August 20, 1998, on file with the Secretary of Commerce (in this title referred to as the "Report").

SEC. 404. FUNDING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Commerce may, from amounts available to the Secretary to carry out the work of the Commission, provide assistance for use in accordance with the Report and the priorities of the Commission—

Records.

(1) to collect marine resources data in the Northwest Straits;

(2) to coordinate Federal, State, and local marine resources protection and restoration activities in the Northwest Straits; and

(3) to carry out other activities identified in the Report as important to the protection and restoration of marine resources in the Northwest Straits.

(b) PROVISION.—The Secretary may provide the assistance authorized by subsection (a) through the Director of the Padilla Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, unless the Governor of the State of Washington objects. If the Governor objects, then the Secretary may provide the assistance though the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

SEC. 405. LIMITATION.

Nothing in this title provides the Commission with the authority to implement any Federal law or regulation.

Approved November 13, 1998.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—H.R. 3461:

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 144 (1998):
Oct. 12, considered and passed House.
Oct. 21, considered and passed Senate.