

(1) conduct such studies, research, and investigations, as they deem desirable to determine the causes of the population increase of the “Crown of Thorns”, their effects on corals and coral reefs, and the stability and regeneration of reefs following predation;

(2) to monitor areas where the “Crown of Thorns” may be increasing in numbers and to determine future needs for control;

(3) to develop improved methods of control and to carry out programs of control in areas where these are deemed necessary; and

(4) to take such other actions as deemed desirable to gain an understanding of the ecology and control of the seastar “Crown of Thorns”.

(Pub. L. 91-427, §2, Sept. 26, 1970, 84 Stat. 884; 1970 Reorg. Plan No. 4, eff. Oct. 3, 1970, 35 F.R. 15627, 84 Stat. 2090.)

TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

Transfer of functions to Secretary of Commerce from Secretary of the Interior by Reorg. Plan No. 4 of 1970, see note set out under section 1211 of this title.

§ 1213. Authorization of appropriations

For the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this chapter, there is authorized to be appropriated for the period commencing on September 26, 1970, and ending June 30, 1975, not to exceed \$4,500,000.

(Pub. L. 91-427, §3, Sept. 26, 1970, 84 Stat. 884.)

CHAPTER 25B—REEFS FOR MARINE LIFE CONSERVATION

Sec.	
1220.	State applications for obsolete ships for use as offshore reefs.
	(a) Conservation of marine life.
	(b) Manner and form of applications; minimum requirements.
	(c) Copies to Federal officers for official comments and views.
1220a.	Transfer of title; terms and conditions.
1220b.	Obsolete ships available; number; equitable administration.
1220c.	Denial of applications; finality of decision.
1220d.	“Obsolete ship” defined.

§ 1220. State applications for obsolete ships for use as offshore reefs

(a) Conservation of marine life

Any State may apply to the Secretary of Transportation (hereafter referred to in this chapter as the “Secretary”) for obsolete ships which, but for the operation of this chapter, would be designated by the Secretary for scrapping if the State intends to sink such ships for use as an offshore artificial reef for the conservation of marine life.

(b) Manner and form of applications; minimum requirements

A State shall apply for obsolete ships under this chapter in such manner and form as the Secretary shall prescribe, but such application shall include at least (1) the location at which the State proposes to sink the ships, (2) a certificate from the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, that the proposed use of the particular vessel or vessels requested by the

State will be compatible with water quality standards and other appropriate environmental protection requirements, and (3) statements and estimates with respect to the conservation goals which are sought to be achieved by use of the ships.

(c) Copies to Federal officers for official comments and views

Before taking any action with respect to an application submitted under this chapter, the Secretary shall provide copies of the application to the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Defense, and any other appropriate Federal officer, and shall consider comments and views of such officers with respect to the application.

(Pub. L. 92-402, §3, Aug. 22, 1972, 86 Stat. 618; Pub. L. 98-623, title II, §207(1), (2), Nov. 8, 1984, 98 Stat. 3397.)

AMENDMENTS

1984—Subsecs. (a), (b). Pub. L. 98-623, §207, substituted “Secretary of Transportation” for “Secretary of Commerce” and “obsolete ships” for “Liberty ships”, wherever appearing.

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in sections 1220a, 1220d of this title.

§ 1220a. Transfer of title; terms and conditions

If, after consideration of such comments and views as are received pursuant to section 1220(c) of this title, the Secretary finds that the use of obsolete ships proposed by a State will not violate any Federal law, contribute to degradation of the marine environment, create undue interference with commercial fishing or navigation, and is not frivolous, he may transfer without consideration to the State all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to any obsolete ships which are available for transfer under this chapter if—

(1) the State gives to the Secretary such assurances as he deems necessary that such ships will be utilized and maintained only for the purposes stated in the application and, when sunk, will be charted and marked as a hazard to navigation;

(2) the State agrees to secure any licenses or permits which may be required under the provisions of any other applicable Federal law;

(3) the State agrees to such other terms and conditions as the Secretary shall require in order to protect the marine environment and other interests of the United States; and

(4) the transfer would be at no cost to the Government with the State taking delivery of such obsolete ships at fleetside of the National Defense Reserve Fleet in an “as is—where is” condition.

(Pub. L. 92-402, §4, Aug. 22, 1972, 86 Stat. 618; Pub. L. 98-623, title II, §207(1), (3), Nov. 8, 1984, 98 Stat. 3397.)

AMENDMENTS

1984—Pub. L. 98-623 substituted “obsolete ships” for “Liberty ships” wherever appearing in provisions preceding par. (1) and in par. (4), and substituted “may transfer” for “shall transfer” in provisions preceding par. (1).