

agency designated by the State in development of the Coastal Wetlands Conservation Plan pursuant to this chapter.

(b) Coastal wetlands conservation grants

Of the total amount appropriated during a given fiscal year to carry out this chapter, 15 percent, not to exceed \$15,000,000 shall be available, and shall remain available to the Director, for purposes of making grants—

(1) to any coastal State, except States eligible to receive funding under subsection (a) of this section, to carry out coastal wetlands conservation projects in accordance with section 3954 of this title; and

(2) in the amount of \$2,500,000 in total for an assessment of the status, condition, and trends of wetlands in the State of Texas.

(c) North American wetlands conservation

Of the total amount appropriated during a given fiscal year to carry out this chapter, 15 percent, not to exceed \$15,000,000, shall be available to, and shall remain available until expended by, the Secretary of the Interior for allocation to carry out wetlands conservation projects in coastal wetlands ecosystems in any coastal State under section 4407 of this title.

(Pub. L. 101-646, title III, §306, Nov. 29, 1990, 104 Stat. 4786; Pub. L. 103-375, §5, Oct. 19, 1994, 108 Stat. 3495.)

AMENDMENTS

1994—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 103-375 inserted “in coastal wetlands ecosystems” after “wetlands conservation projects”.

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in sections 3952, 3953, 3954 of this title.

§ 3956. General provisions

(a) Additional authority for Corps of Engineers

The Secretary is authorized to carry out projects for the protection, restoration, or enhancement of aquatic and associated ecosystems, including projects for the protection, restoration, or creation of wetlands and coastal ecosystems. In carrying out such projects, the Secretary shall give such projects equal consideration with projects relating to irrigation, navigation, or flood control.

(b) Study

The Secretary is hereby authorized and directed to study the feasibility of modifying the operation of existing navigation and flood control projects to allow for an increase in the share of the Mississippi River flows and sediment sent down the Atchafalaya River for purposes of land building and wetlands nourishment.

(Pub. L. 101-646, title III, §307, Nov. 29, 1990, 104 Stat. 4787.)

CHAPTER 60—FISH AND SEAFOOD PROMOTION

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 - (a) Authority to make investigations.
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§ 4001. Congressional findings

The Congress finds that—

(1) the commercial fishing industry of the United States significantly contributes to the national economy, and could make a greater contribution if fish resources within the United States Exclusive Economic Zone were more fully utilized;

(2) the commercial fisheries of the United States provide significant employment in coastal areas and in processing and distribution centers;