

ACT TO PREVENT POLLUTION FROM SHIPS

Acronym: APPS

Citation: 33 U.S.C. §§ 1901-1915 (2002).

Legislative Purpose:

The APPS is the federal legislation implementing the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from ships, as modified by a Protocol of 1978.

Summary:

As originally enacted, the APPS implemented Protocols I and II, and Annexes I and II, of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, as modified by the Protocol of 1978 (MARPOL). In the act, Congress delegated broad rulemaking authority to the Secretary of Transportation to carry out the MARPOL provisions. Annex I of MARPOL establishes requirements to prevent the discharge of oil, except in accordance with specific conditions. Annex H provision covers the discharge of noxious liquid substances.

The APPS applies to U.S. flag ships across the world and to foreign flag vessels operating in U.S. navigable waters or while at a port or terminal under U.S. jurisdiction. The oil and noxious liquid substances provisions apply only to seagoing ships. The regulations implementing Annex I and Annex II of MARPOL limit discharges of oil and noxious substances, establish report requirements for discharges, and establish specific requirements for monitoring equipment and record keeping aboard vessels. In particular, the provisions require that vessels covered by APPS and MARPOL keep Oil Record Books in which all discharges, disposals and transfers of oil are kept.

APPS was amended by the Marine Plastic Pollution Research and Control Act of 1987 which implemented the provisions of Annex V of MARPOL relating to garbage and plastics. Annex V of MARPOL and the regulations implementing it apply to all vessels, whether seagoing or not, on the navigable waters of the United States and in the EEZ of the United States.

Under the regulations implementing the APPS, the discharge of plastics, including synthetic ropes, fishing nets, plastic bags and biodegradable plastics, is prohibited. Discharge of floating dunnage, lining and packing materials is prohibited in navigable waters and in offshore areas less than 25 nautical miles from land. Food waste or paper, trash, glass, metal, bottles, crockery and similar refuse cannot be discharged into navigable waters or offshore inside 12 nautical miles from land. Finally, food waste, paper, rags, glass, and similar refuse cannot be discharged into navigable waters or offshore inside three nautical miles from land.

Under the APPS, the definition of ship includes fixed or floating platforms. There are separate garbage discharge provisions applicable to these units and they are required to keep records of garbage discharges and disposals.

TITLE 33. NAVIGATION AND NAVIGABLE WATERS

CHAPTER 33. PREVENTION OF POLLUTION FROM SHIPS

33 U.S.C. §§ 1901-1915 (2002).

§ 1901. Definitions

(a) Unless the context indicates otherwise, as used in this Act--

(1) "Antarctica" means the area south of 60 degrees south latitude;

(2) "Antarctic Protocol" means the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty, signed October 4, 1991, in Madrid, and all annexes thereto, and includes any future amendments thereto which have entered into force;

(3) "MARPOL Protocol" means the Protocol of 1978 relating to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, and includes the Convention;

(4) "Convention" means the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, including Protocols I and II and Annexes I, II, and V thereto, including any modification or amendments to the Convention, Protocols, or Annexes which have entered into force for the United States;

(5) "discharge" and "garbage" and "harmful substance" and "incident" shall have the meanings provided in the Convention;

(6) "owner" means any person holding title to, or in the absence of title, any other indicia of ownership of, a ship or terminal, but does not include a person who, without participating in the management or operation of a ship or terminal, holds indicia of ownership primarily to protect a security interest in the ship or terminal;

(7) "operator" means--

(a) in the case of a ship, a charterer by demise or any other person, except the owner, who is responsible for the operation, manning, victualing, and supplying of the vessel, or

(b) in the case of a terminal, any person, except the owner, responsible for the operation of the terminal by agreement with the owner;

(8) "person" means an individual, firm, public or private corporation, partnership, association, State, municipality, commission, political subdivision of a State, or any interstate body;

(9) "Secretary" means the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating;

(10) "ship" means a vessel of any type whatsoever, including hydrofoils, air-cushion vehicles, submersibles, floating craft whether self-propelled or not, and fixed or floating platforms;

(11) "submersible" means a submarine, or any other vessel designed to operate under water; and

(12) "terminal" means an onshore facility or an offshore structure located in the navigable waters of the United States or subject to the jurisdiction of the United States and used, or intended to be used, as a port or facility for the transfer or other handling of a harmful substance.

(b) For purposes of this Act, the requirements of Annex V shall apply to the navigable waters of the United States, as well as to all other waters and vessels over which the United States has jurisdiction.

(c) For the purposes of this Act, the requirements of Annex IV to the Antarctic Protocol shall apply in Antarctica to all vessels over which the United States has jurisdiction.

§ 1902. Ships subject to preventive measures

(a) Included vessels. This Act shall apply--

(1) to a ship of United States registry or nationality, or one operated under the authority of the United States, wherever located;

(2) with respect to Annexes I and II to the Convention, to a ship, other than a ship referred to in paragraph (1), while in the navigable waters of the United States;

(3) with respect to the requirements of Annex V to the Convention, to a ship, other than a ship referred to in paragraph (1), while in the navigable waters or the exclusive economic zone of the United States; and

(4) with respect to regulations prescribed under section 6 of this Act [[33 USC § 1905](#)], any port or terminal in the United States.

(b) Excluded vessels.

(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), this Act shall not apply to--

(A) a warship, naval auxiliary, or other ship owned or operated by the United States when engaged in noncommercial service; or

(B) any other ship specifically excluded by the MARPOL Protocol or the Antarctic Protocol.

(2) (A) Notwithstanding any provision of the MARPOL Protocol, and subject to subparagraph (B) of this paragraph, the requirements of Annex V to the Convention shall apply as follows:

(i) After December 31, 1993, to all ships referred to in paragraph (1)(A) of this subsection other than those owned or operated by the Department of the Navy.

(ii) Except as provided in subsection (c) of this section, after December 31, 1998, to all ships referred to in paragraph (1)(A) of this subsection other than submersibles owned or operated by the Department of the Navy.

(iii) Except as provided in subsection (c) of this section, after December 31, 2008, to all ships referred to in paragraph (1)(A) of this subsection.

(B) This paragraph shall not apply during time of war or a declared national emergency.

(c) Discharges in special areas.

(1) Except as provided in paragraphs (2) and (3), not later than December 31, 2000, all surface ships owned or operated by the Department of the Navy, and not later than December 31, 2008, all submersibles owned or operated by the Department of the Navy, shall comply with the special area requirements of Regulation 5 of Annex V to the Convention.

(2) (A) Subject to subparagraph (B), any ship described in subparagraph (C) may discharge, without regard to the special area requirements of Regulation 5 of Annex V to the Convention, the following non-plastic, non-floating garbage:

(i) A slurry of seawater, paper, cardboard, or food waste that is capable of passing through a screen with openings no larger than 12 millimeters in diameter.

(ii) Metal and glass that have been shredded and bagged so as to ensure negative buoyancy.

(iii) With regard to a submersible, nonplastic garbage that has been compacted and weighted to ensure negative buoyancy.

(B) (i) Garbage described in subparagraph (A)(i) may not be discharged within 3 nautical miles of land.

(ii) Garbage described in clauses (ii) and (iii) of subparagraph (A) may not be discharged within 12 nautical miles of land.

(C) This paragraph applies to any ship that is owned or operated by the Department of the Navy that, as determined by the Secretary of the Navy--

(i) has unique military design, construction, manning, or operating requirements; and

(ii) cannot fully comply with the special area requirements of Regulation 5 of Annex V to the Convention because compliance is not technologically feasible or would impair the operations or operational capability of the ship.

(3) (A) Not later than December 31, 2000, the Secretary of the Navy shall prescribe and publish in the Federal Register standards to ensure that each ship described in subparagraph (B) is, to the maximum extent practicable without impairing the operations or operational capabilities of the ship, operated in a manner that is consistent with the special area requirements of Regulation 5 of Annex V to the Convention.

(B) Subparagraph (A) applies to surface ships that are owned or operated by the Department of the Navy that the Secretary plans to decommission during the period beginning on January 1, 2001, and ending on December 31, 2005.

(C) At the same time that the Secretary publishes standards under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall publish in the Federal Register a list of the ships covered by subparagraph (B).

(4) [Deleted]

(d) Regulations. The Secretary shall prescribe regulations applicable to the ships of a country not a party to the MARPOL Protocol, including regulations conforming to and giving effect to the requirements of Annex V as they apply under subsection (a) of section 3 [subsec. (a) of this section], to ensure that their treatment is not more favorable than that accorded ships to parties to the MARPOL Protocol.

(e) Compliance by excluded vessels.

(1) The Secretary of the Navy shall develop and, as appropriate, support the development of technologies and practices for solid waste management aboard ships owned or operated by the Department of the Navy, including technologies and practices for the reduction of the waste stream generated aboard such ships, that are necessary to ensure the compliance of such ships with Annex V to the Convention on or before the dates referred to in subsections (b)(2)(A) and (c)(1) of this section.

(2) Notwithstanding any effective date of the application of this section to a ship, the provisions of Annex V to the Convention with respect to the disposal of plastic shall apply to ships equipped with plastic processors required for the long-term collection and storage of plastic aboard ships of the Navy upon the installation of such processors in such ships.

(3) Except when necessary for the purpose of securing the safety of the ship, the health of the ship's personnel, or saving life at sea, it shall be a violation of this Act for a ship referred to in subsection (b)(1)(A) of this section that is owned or operated by the Department of the Navy:

(A) With regard to a submersible, to discharge buoyant garbage or plastic.

(B) With regard to a surface ship, to discharge plastic contaminated by food during the last 3 days before the ship enters port.

(C) With regard to a surface ship, to discharge plastic, except plastic that is contaminated by food, during the last 20 days before the ship enters port.

(4) The Secretary of Defense shall publish in the Federal Register:

(A) Each year, the amount and nature of the discharges in special areas, not otherwise authorized under this Act, during the preceding year from ships referred to in subsection (b)(1)(A) of this section owned or operated by the Department of the Navy.

(B) Beginning on October 1, 1996, and each year thereafter until October 1, 1998, a list of the names of such ships equipped with plastic processors pursuant to section 1003(e) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1994 [note to this section].

(f) Waiver authority. The President may waive the effective dates of the requirements set forth in subsection (c) of this section and in subsection 1003(e) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1994 [note to this section] if the President determines it to be in the paramount interest of the United States to do so. Any such waiver shall be for a period not in excess of one year. The President shall submit to the Congress each January a report on all waivers from the requirements of this section granted during the preceding calendar year, together with the reasons for granting such waivers.

(g) Noncommercial shipping standards. The heads of Federal departments and agencies shall prescribe standards applicable to ships excluded from this Act by subsection (b)(1) of this section and for which they are responsible. Standards prescribed under this subsection shall ensure, so far as is reasonable and practicable without impairing the operations or operational capabilities of such ships, that such ships act in a manner consistent with the MARPOL Protocol.

§ 1903. Administration and enforcement

(a) Duty of Secretary; protocol applicable to seagoing ships. Unless otherwise specified in this Act, the Secretary shall administer and enforce the MARPOL Protocol, Annex IV to the Antarctic Protocol, and this Act. In the administration and enforcement of the MARPOL Protocol and this Act, Annexes I and II of the Convention apply only to seagoing ships.

(b) Regulations.

(1) The Secretary shall prescribe any necessary or desired regulations to carry out the provisions of the MARPOL Protocol, Annex IV to the Antarctic Protocol, or this Act.

(2) The Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall--

(A) prescribe regulations which--

(i) require certain ships described in section 3(a)(1) [[33 USC § 1902\(a\)\(1\)](#)] to maintain refuse record books and shipboard management plans, and to display placards which notify the crew and passengers of the requirements of Annex V to the Convention and of Annex IV to the Antarctic Protocol; and

(ii) specify the ships described in section 3(a)(1) [[33 USC § 1902\(a\)\(1\)](#)] to which the regulations apply;

(B) seek an international agreement or international agreements which apply requirements equivalent to those described in subparagraph (A)(i) to all vessels subject to Annex V to the Convention; and

(C) within 2 years after the effective date of this paragraph, report to the Congress--

(i) regarding activities of the Secretary under subparagraph (B); and

(ii) if the Secretary has not obtained agreements pursuant to subparagraph (B) regarding the desirability of applying the requirements described in subparagraph (A)(i) to all vessels described in section 3(a) [[33 USC § 1902](#)(a)] which call at United States ports.

(c) Utilization of personnel, facilities, or equipment of other Federal departments and agencies. The Secretary may utilize by agreement, with or without reimbursement, personnel, facilities, or equipment of other Federal departments and agencies in administering the MARPOL Protocol, this Act, or the regulations thereunder.

§ 1904. Certificates

(a) Issuance by authorized designees; restriction on issuance. The Secretary shall designate those persons authorized to issue on behalf of the United States the certificates required by the MARPOL Protocol. A certificate required by the MARPOL Protocol shall not be issued to a ship which is registered in or of the nationality of a country which is not a party to the MARPOL Protocol.

(b) Validity of foreign certificates. A certificate issued by a country which is a party to the MARPOL Protocol has the same validity as a certificate issued by the Secretary under the authority of the MARPOL Protocol.

(c) Location onboard vessel; inspection of vessels subject to jurisdiction of the United States. A ship required by the MARPOL Protocol to have a certificate--

(1) shall carry a valid certificate onboard in the manner prescribed by the authority issuing the certificate; and

(2) is subject to inspection while in a port or terminal under the jurisdiction of the United States.

(d) Onboard inspections; other Federal inspection authority unaffected. An inspection conducted under subsection (c)(2) of this section is limited to verifying whether or not a valid certificate is onboard, unless clear grounds exist which reasonably indicate that the condition of the ship or its equipment does not substantially agree with the particulars of its certificate. This section shall not limit the authority of any official or employee of the United States under any other treaty, law, or regulation to board and inspect a ship or its equipment.

(e) Detention orders; duration of detention; shipyard option. In addition to the penalties prescribed in section 9 of the Act [[33 USC § 1908](#)], a ship required by the MARPOL Protocol to have a certificate--

(1) which does not have a valid certificate onboard; or

(2) whose condition or whose equipment's condition does not substantially agree with the particulars of the certificate onboard;

shall be detained by order of the Secretary at the port or terminal where the violation is discovered until, in the opinion of the Secretary, the ship can proceed to sea without presenting an unreasonable threat of harm to the marine environment. The detention order may authorize the ship to proceed to the nearest appropriate available shipyard rather than remaining at the place where the violation was discovered.

(f) Ship clearance or permits; refusal or revocation. If a ship is under a detention order under this section,

the Secretary of the Treasury, upon the request of the Secretary, may refuse or revoke--

(1) the clearance required by section 4197 of the Revised Statutes of the United States, as amended ([46 U.S.C. 91](#)) [[46 USC Appx. § 91](#)]; or

(2) a permit to proceed under section 4367 of the Revised Statutes of the United States ([46 U.S.C. 313](#)) [[46 USC Appx. § 313](#)] or section 442 of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended ([19 U.S.C. 1443](#)).

(g) Review of detention orders; petition; determination by Secretary. A person whose ship is subject to a detention order under this section may petition the Secretary, in the manner prescribed by regulation, to review the detention order. Upon receipt of a petition under this subsection, the Secretary shall affirm, modify, or withdraw the detention order within the time prescribed by regulation.

(h) Compensation for loss or damage. A ship unreasonably detained or delayed by the Secretary acting under the authority of this Act is entitled to compensation for any loss or damage suffered thereby.

§ 1905. Pollution reception facilities

(a) Adequacy; criteria.

(1) The Secretary, after consultation with the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, shall establish regulations setting criteria for determining the adequacy of a port's or terminal's reception facilities for mixtures containing oil or noxious liquid substances and shall establish procedures whereby a person in charge of a port or terminal may request the Secretary to certify that the port's or terminal's facilities for receiving the residues and mixtures containing oil or noxious liquid substance from seagoing ships are adequate.

(2) The Secretary, after consulting with appropriate Federal agencies, shall establish regulations setting criteria for determining the adequacy of reception facilities for garbage at a port or terminal, and stating such additional measures and requirements as are appropriate to ensure such adequacy. Persons in charge of ports and terminals shall provide reception facilities, or ensure that such facilities are available, for receiving garbage in accordance with those regulations.

(b) Traffic considerations. In determining the adequacy of reception facilities required by the MARPOL Protocol or the Antarctic Protocol at a port or terminal, and in establishing regulations under subsection (a) of this section, the Secretary may consider, among other things, the number and types of ships or seagoing ships using the port or terminal, including their principal trades.

(c) Certificate; issuance; validity; appeal of suspension or revocation.

(1) If reception facilities of a port or terminal meet the requirements of Annex I and Annex II to the Convention or of this Act and the regulations prescribed under subsection (a)(1), the Secretary shall, after consultation with the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, issue a certificate to that effect to the applicant.

(2) (A) Subject to subparagraph (B), if reception facilities of a port or terminal meet the requirements of Annex V to the Convention and the regulations prescribed under subsection (a)(2), the Secretary may, after consultation with appropriate Federal agencies, issue a certificate to that effect to the person in charge of the port or terminal.

(B) The Secretary may not issue a certificate attesting to the adequacy of reception facilities under this paragraph unless, prior to the issuance of the certificate, the Secretary conducts an inspection of the reception facilities of the port or terminal that is the subject of the certificate.

(C) The Secretary may, with respect to certificates issued under this paragraph prior to the date of enactment of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 1996 [enacted Oct. 19, 1996], prescribe by regulation differing periods of validity for such certificates.

(3) A certificate issued under this subsection--

(A) is valid for the 5-year period beginning on the date of issuance of the certificate, except that if--

(i) the charge for operation of the port or terminal is transferred to a person or entity other than the person or entity that is the operator on the date of issuance of the certificate--

(I) the certificate shall expire on the date that is 30 days after the date of the transfer; and

(II) the new operator shall be required to submit an application for a certificate before a certificate may be issued for the port or terminal; or

(ii) the certificate is suspended or revoked by the Secretary, the certificate shall cease to be valid; and

(B) shall be available for inspection upon the request of the master, other person in charge, or agent of a ship using or intending to use the port or terminal.

(4) The suspension or revocation of a certificate issued under this subsection may be appealed to the Secretary and acted on by the Secretary in the manner prescribed by regulation.

(d)(1) The Secretary shall maintain a list of ports or terminals with respect to which a certificate issued under this section--

(A) is in effect; or

(B) has been revoked or suspended.

(2) The Secretary shall make the list referred to in paragraph (1) available to the general public.

(e) Entry; denial.

(1) Except in the case of force majeure, the Secretary shall deny entry to a seagoing ship required by the Convention or the Antarctic Protocol to retain onboard while at sea, residues and mixtures containing oil or noxious liquid substances, if--

(A) the port or terminal is one required by Annexes I and II of the Convention or Article 9 of Annex IV to the Antarctic Protocol or regulations hereunder to have adequate reception facilities; and

(B) the port or terminal does not hold a valid certificate issued by the Secretary under this section.

(2) The Secretary may deny the entry of a ship to a port or terminal required by regulations issued under this section to provide adequate reception facilities for garbage if the port or terminal is not in compliance with those regulations.

(f) Surveys.

(1) The Secretary is authorized to conduct surveys of existing reception facilities in the United States to determine measures needed to comply with the MARPOL Protocol or the Antarctic Protocol.

(2) [(A)] Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 1996 [enacted Oct. 19, 1996], the Secretary shall promulgate regulations that require the operator of each port or terminal that is subject to any requirement of the MARPOL Protocol relating to reception facilities to post a placard in a location that can easily be seen by port and terminal users. The placard shall state,

at a minimum, that a user of a reception facility of the port or terminal should report to the Secretary any inadequacy of the reception facility.

§ 1906. Incidents involving ships

(a) The master, person in charge, owner, charterer, manager, or operator of a ship involved in an incident shall report the incident in the manner prescribed by Article 8 of the Convention in accordance with regulations promulgated by the Secretary for that purpose.

(b) The master or person in charge of--

(1) a ship of United States registry or nationality, or operated under the authority of the United States, wherever located;

(2) another ship while in the navigable waters of the United States; or

(3) a sea port or oil handling facility subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, shall report a discharge, probable discharge, or presence of oil in the manner prescribed by Article 4 of the International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Cooperation, 1990 (adopted at London, November 30, 1990), in accordance with regulations promulgated by the Secretary for that purpose.

§ 1907. Violations

(a) General prohibition; cooperation and enforcement; detection and monitoring measures; reports; evidence. It is unlawful to act in violation of the MARPOL Protocol, Annex IV to the Antarctic Protocol, this Act, or the regulations issued thereunder. The Secretary shall cooperate with other parties to the MARPOL Protocol or to the Antarctic Protocol in the detection of violations and in enforcement of the MARPOL Protocol and Annex IV to the Antarctic Protocol. The Secretary shall use all appropriate and practical measures of detection and environmental monitoring, and shall establish adequate procedures for reporting violations and accumulating evidence.

(b) Investigations; subpoenas: issuance by Secretary, enforcement; action by Secretary; information to party. Upon receipt of evidence that a violation has occurred, the Secretary shall cause the matter to be investigated. In any investigation under this section the Secretary may issue subpoenas to require the attendance of any witness and the production of documents and other evidence. In case of refusal to obey a subpoena issued to any person, the Secretary may request the Attorney General to invoke the aid of the appropriate district court of the United States to compel compliance. Upon completion of the investigation, the Secretary shall take the action required by the MARPOL Protocol or the Antarctic Protocol and whatever further action he considers appropriate under the circumstances. If the initial evidence was provided by a party to the MARPOL Protocol or the Antarctic Protocol, the Secretary, acting through the Secretary of State, shall inform that party of the action taken or proposed.

(c) Ship inspections; reports to Secretary; additional action for other than domestic ships.

(1) This subsection applies to inspections relating to possible violations of Annex I or Annex II to the Convention, of Article 3 or Article 4 of Annex IV to the Antarctic Protocol, or of this Act by any seagoing ship referred to in section 3(a)(2) of this Act [[33 USC § 1902\(a\)\(2\)](#)].

(2) While at a port or terminal subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, a ship to which the MARPOL Protocol or the Antarctic Protocol applies may be inspected by the Secretary--

(A) to verify whether or not the ship has discharged a harmful substance in violation of the MARPOL Protocol, Annex IV to the Antarctic Protocol, or this Act; or

(B) to comply with a request from a party to the MARPOL Protocol or the Antarctic Protocol for an investigation as to whether the ship may have discharged a harmful substance anywhere in violation of the MARPOL Protocol or Annex IV to the Antarctic Protocol. An investigation may be undertaken under this clause only when the requesting party has furnished sufficient evidence to allow the Secretary reasonably to believe that a discharge has occurred.

If an inspection under this subsection indicates that a violation has occurred, the investigating officer shall forward a report to the Secretary for appropriate action. The Secretary shall undertake to notify the master of the ship concerned and, acting in coordination with the Secretary of State, shall take any additional action required by Article 6 of the Convention.

(d) Inspection; violation of Annex V.

(1) The Secretary may inspect a ship referred to in section 3(a)(3) of this Act [[33 USC § 1902\(a\)\(3\)](#)] to verify whether the ship has disposed of garbage in violation of Annex V to the Convention, Article 5 of Annex IV to the Antarctic Protocol, or this Act.

(2) If an inspection under this subsection indicates that a violation has occurred, the Secretary may undertake enforcement action under section 9 of this Act [[33 USC § 1908](#)].

(e) Inspection; violation of Protocol.

(1) The Secretary may inspect at any time a ship of United States registry or nationality or operating under the authority of the United States to which the MARPOL Protocol or the Antarctic Protocol applies to verify whether the ship has discharged a harmful substance or disposed of garbage in violation of those Protocols or this Act.

(2) If an inspection under this subsection indicates that a violation of the MARPOL Protocol, of Annex IV to the Antarctic Protocol, or of this Act has occurred the Secretary may undertake enforcement action under section 9 of this Act [[33 USC § 1908](#)].

(f) Supplemental remedies and requirements; other provisions and available remedies unaffected. Remedies and requirements of this Act supplement and neither amend nor repeal any other provisions of law, except as expressly provided in this Act. Nothing in this Act shall limit, deny, amend, modify, or repeal any other remedy available to the United States or any other person, except as expressly provided in this Act.

§ 1908. Penalties for violations

(a) Criminal penalties. A person who knowingly violates the MARPOL Protocol, [,] Annex IV to the Antarctic Protocol, this Act, or the regulations issued thereunder commits a class D felony. In the discretion of the Court, an amount equal to not more than 1/2 of such fine may be paid to the person giving information leading to conviction.

(b) Civil penalties; separate violations; assessment notice; considerations affecting amount. A person who

is found by the Secretary, after notice and an opportunity for a hearing, to have--

(1) violated the MARPOL Protocol,[,] Annex IV to the Antarctic Protocol, this Act, or the regulations issued thereunder shall be liable to the United States for a civil penalty, not to exceed \$ 25,000 for each violation; or

(2) made a false, fictitious, or fraudulent statement or representation in any matter in which a statement or representation is required to be made to the Secretary under the MARPOL Protocol,[,] Annex IV to the Antarctic Protocol, this Act, or the regulations thereunder, shall be liable to the United States for a civil penalty, not to exceed \$ 5,000 for each statement or representation.

Each day of a continuing violation shall constitute a separate violation. The amount of the civil penalty shall be assessed by the Secretary, or his designee, by written notice. In determining the amount of the penalty, the Secretary shall take into account the nature, circumstances, extent, and gravity of the prohibited acts committed and, with respect to the violator, the degree of culpability, any history of prior offenses, ability to pay, and other matters as justice may require. An amount equal to not more than 1/2 of such penalties may be paid by the Secretary to the person giving information leading to the assessment of such penalties.

(c) Abatement of civil penalties; collection by Attorney General. The Secretary may compromise, modify, or remit, with or without conditions, any civil penalty which is subject to assessment or which has been assessed under this section. If any person fails to pay an assessment of a civil penalty after it has become final, the Secretary may refer the matter to the Attorney General of the United States for collection in any appropriate district court of the United States.

(d) Liability in rem; district court jurisdiction. A ship operated in violation of the MARPOL Protocol,[,] Annex IV to the Antarctic Protocol, this Act, or the regulations thereunder is liable in rem for any fine imposed under subsection (a) or civil penalty assessed pursuant to subsection (b), and may be proceeded against in the United States district court of any district in which the ship may be found.

(e) Ship clearance or permits; refusal or revocation; bond or other surety. If any ship subject to the MARPOL Protocol, Annex IV to the Antarctic Protocol, or this Act, its owner, operator, or person in charge is liable for a fine or civil penalty under this section, or if reasonable cause exists to believe that the ship, its owner, operator, or person in charge may be subject to a fine or civil penalty under this section, the Secretary of the Treasury, upon the request of the Secretary, shall refuse or revoke the clearance required by section 4197 of the Revised Statutes of the United States ([46 U.S.C. App. 91](#)). Clearance may be granted upon the filing of a bond or other surety satisfactory to the Secretary.

(f) Referrals for appropriate action by foreign country. Notwithstanding subsection (a), (b), or (d) of this section, if the violation is by a ship registered in or of the nationality of a country party to the MARPOL Protocol or the Antarctic Protocol, or one operated under the authority of a country party to the MARPOL Protocol or the Antarctic Protocol, the Secretary, acting in coordination with the Secretary of State, may refer the matter to the government of the country of the ship's registry or nationality, or under whose authority the ship is operating for appropriate action, rather than taking the actions required or authorized by this section.

§ 1909. MARPOL Protocol; proposed amendments

(a) Acceptance of certain amendments by the President. A proposed amendment to the MARPOL Protocol received by the United States from the Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization pursuant to Article VI of the MARPOL Protocol, may be accepted on behalf of the United States by the President following the advice and consent of the Senate, except as provided for in subsection (b) of this section.

(b) Action on certain amendments by the Secretary of State. A proposed amendment to Annex I, II, or V to the Convention, appendices to those Annexes, or Protocol I of the Convention received by the United States from the Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization pursuant to Article VI of the MARPOL Protocol, may be the subject of appropriate action on behalf of the United States by the Secretary of State following consultation with the Secretary, who shall inform the Secretary of State as to what action he considers appropriate at least 30 days prior to the expiration of the period specified in Article VI of the MARPOL Protocol during which objection may be made to any amendment received.

(c) Declaration of nonacceptance by the Secretary of State. Following consultation with the Secretary, the Secretary of State may make a declaration that the United States does not accept an amendment proposed pursuant to Article VI of the MARPOL Protocol.

§ 1910. Legal actions

(a) Persons with adversely affected interests as plaintiffs; defendants. Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, any person having an interest which is, or can be, adversely affected, may bring an action on his own behalf--

(1) against any person alleged to be in violation of the provisions of this Act, or regulations issued hereunder;

(2) against the Secretary where there is alleged a failure of the Secretary to perform any act or duty under this Act which is not discretionary with the Secretary;

(3) against the Secretary of the Treasury where there is alleged a failure of the Secretary of the Treasury to take action under section 9(e) of this Act [[33 USC § 1908\(e\)](#)].

(b) Commencement conditions. No action may be commenced under subsection (a) of this section--

(1) prior to 60 days after the plaintiff has given notice, in writing and under oath, to the alleged violator, the Secretary concerned, and the Attorney General; or

(2) if the Secretary has commenced enforcement or penalty action with respect to the alleged violation and is conducting such procedures diligently.

(c) Venue. Any suit brought under this section shall be brought--

(1) in a case concerning an onshore facility or port, in the United States district court for the judicial district where the onshore facility or port is located;

(2) in a case concerning an offshore facility or offshore structure under the jurisdiction of the United States, in the United States district court for the judicial district nearest the offshore facility or offshore structure;

(3) in a case concerning a ship, in the United States district court for any judicial district wherein the ship or its owner or operator may be found; or

(4) in any case, in the District Court for the District of Columbia.

(d) Costs; attorney fees; witness fees. The court, in issuing any final order in any action brought pursuant to this section, may award costs of litigation (including reasonable attorney and expert witness fees) to any party including the Federal Government.

(e) Federal intervention. In any action brought under this section, if the Secretary or Attorney General are not parties of record, the United States, through the Attorney General, shall have the right to intervene.

§ 1911. Authority of Secretary under port and tanker safety program unaffected

Nothing in this Act shall be construed as limiting, diminishing, or otherwise restricting any of the authority of the Secretary under the Port and Tanker Safety Act of 1978 (Public Law 95-474)

§ 1912. Compliance with international law

Any action taken under this Act shall be taken in accordance with international law.

§ 1913. Compliance reports

(a) In general. Within 1 year after the effective date of this section, and triennially thereafter, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating, in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of Commerce, shall report to the Congress regarding compliance with Annex V to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, in United States waters and, not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 1996 [enacted Oct. 19, 1996], and annually thereafter, shall publish in the Federal Register a list of the enforcement actions taken against any domestic or foreign ship (including any commercial or recreational ship) pursuant to the Act to Prevent Pollution from Ships ([33 U.S.C. 1901](#) et seq.).

(b) Report on inability to comply. Within 3 years after the effective date of this section, the head of each Federal agency that operates or contracts for the operation of any ship referred to in section 3(b)(1)(A) of the Act to Prevent Pollution from Ships [[33 USC § 1902](#)(b)(1)(A)] that may not be able to comply with the requirements of that section shall report to the Congress describing--

- (1) the technical and operational impediments to achieving that compliance;
- (2) an alternative schedule for achieving that compliance as rapidly as is technologically feasible;
- (3) the ships operated or contracted for operation by the agency for which full compliance with section 3(b)(2)(A) [[33 USC § 1902](#)(b)(2)(A)] is not technologically feasible; and
- (4) any other information which the agency head considers relevant and appropriate.

(c) Congressional action. Upon receipt of the compliance report under subsection (b), the Congress shall modify the applicability of Annex V to ships referred to in section 3(b)(1)(A) of the Act to Prevent Pollution from Ships [[33 USC § 1902](#)(b)(1)(A)], as may be appropriate with respect to the requirements of Annex

V to the Convention.

§ 1914. Coordination

(a) Establishment of Marine Debris Coordinating Committee. The Secretary of Commerce shall establish a Marine Debris Coordinating Committee.

(b) Membership. The Committee shall include a senior official from--

(1) the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, who shall serve as the Chairperson of the Committee;

(2) the Environmental Protection Agency;

(3) the United States Coast Guard;

(4) the United States Navy; and

(5) such other Federal agencies that have an interest in ocean issues or water pollution prevention and control as the Secretary of Commerce determines appropriate.

(c) Meetings. The Committee shall meet at least twice a year to provide a forum to ensure the coordination of national and international research, monitoring, education, and regulatory actions addressing the persistent marine debris problem.

(d) Monitoring. The Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, in cooperation with the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, shall utilize the marine debris data derived under title V of the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 ([33 U.S.C. 2801](#) et seq.) to assist--

(1) the Committee in ensuring coordination of research, monitoring, education and regulatory actions; and
(2) the United States Coast Guard in assessing the effectiveness of this Act and the Act to Prevent Pollution from Ships in ensuring compliance under section 2201 [[33 USC § 1913](#)].

§ 1915. Plastic pollution public education program

(a) Outreach program.

(1) In general. Not later than April 1, 1988, the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, in consultation with the Secretary of Transportation, shall jointly commence and thereafter conduct a public outreach program to educate the public (including recreational boaters, fishermen, and other users of the marine environment) regarding--

(A) the harmful effects of plastic pollution;

(B) the need to reduce such pollution;

(C) the need to recycle plastic materials;

(D) the need to reduce the quantity of plastic debris in the marine environment; and

(E) the requirements under this Act and the Act to Prevent Pollution from Ships ([33 U.S.C. 1901](#) et seq.) with respect to ships and ports, and the authority of citizens to report violations of this Act and the Act to Prevent Pollution from Ships ([33 U.S.C. 1901](#) et seq.).

(2) Authorized activities.

(A) Public outreach program. A public outreach program under paragraph (1) may include--

(i) developing and implementing a voluntary boaters' pledge program;

(ii) workshops with interested groups;

(iii) public service announcements;

(iv) distribution of leaflets and posters; and

(v) any other means appropriate to educating the public.

(B) Grants and cooperative agreements. To carry out this section, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating, the Secretary of Commerce, and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency are authorized to award grants, enter into cooperative agreements with appropriate officials of other Federal agencies and agencies of States and political subdivisions of States and with public and private entities, and provide other financial assistance to eligible recipients.

(C) Consultation. In developing outreach initiatives for groups that are subject to the requirements of this title and the Act to Prevent Pollution from Ships ([33 U.S.C. 1901](#) et seq.), the Secretary of the department

in which the Coast Guard is operating, in consultation with the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, shall consult with--

- (i) the heads of State agencies responsible for implementing State boating laws; and
- (ii) the heads of other enforcement agencies that regulate boaters or commercial fishermen.

(b) Citizen Pollution Patrols. The Secretary of Commerce, along with the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency and the Secretary of the Department in which the Coast Guard is operating, shall conduct a program to encourage the formation of volunteer groups, to be designated as "Citizen Pollution Patrols", to assist in monitoring, reporting, cleanup, and prevention of ocean and shoreline pollution.