US Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (Selected Portions)

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OIL POLLUTION ACT OF 1990

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An Act

To establish limitations on liability for damages resulting from oil pollution, to establish a fund for the payment of compensation for such damages, and for other purposes.

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

[*1]
SECTION 1. <*33 USC 2701* note> SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Oil Pollution Act of 1990".

Oil Spills First Principles: Prevention and Best Response. Edited by B.E. Ornitz and M.A. Champ

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TITLE I—OIL POLLUTION LIABILITY AND COMPENSATION
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Sec. 1001. <*33 USC 2701*> DEFINITIONS.

For the purposes of this Act, the term

(1) "act of God" means an unanticipated grave natural disaster or other natural phenomenon of a exceptional, inevitable, and irresistible character the effects of which could not have been prevented or avoided by the exercise of due care or foresight;

(2) "barrel" means 42 United States gallons at 60 degrees fahrenheit;

(3) "claim" means a request, made in writing for a sum certain, for compensation for damages or removal costs resulting from an incident;

(4) "claimant" means any person or government who presents a claim for compensation under this title;

(5) "damages" means damages specified in section 1002(b) of this Act, and includes the cost of assessing these damages;

(6) "deepwater port" is a facility licensed under the Deepwater Port Act of 1974 (*33 USC 1501–1524*);

(7) "discharge" means any emission (other than natural seepage), intentional or unintentional, and includes, but is not limited to, spilling, leaking, pumping, pouring, emitting, emptying, or dumping;

(8) "exclusive economic zone" means the zone established by Presidential Proclamation Numbered 5030, dated March 10, 1983, including the ocean waters of the areas referred to as "eastern special areas" in Article 3(1) of the Agreement between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the Maritime Boundary, signed June 1, 1990;

(9) "facility" means any structure, group of structures, equipment, or device (other than a vessel) which is used for one or more of the following purposes: exploring for, drilling for, producing, storing, handling, transferring, processing, or transporting oil. This term includes any motor vehicle, rolling stock, or pipeline used for one or more of these purposes;

(10) "foreign offshore unit" means a facility which is located, in whole or in part, in the territorial sea or on the continental shelf of a foreign country and which is or was used for one or more of the following purposes: exploring for, drilling for, producing, storing, handling, transferring, processing, or transporting oil produced from the seabed beneath the foreign country's territorial sea or from the foreign country's continental shelf;

(11) "Fund" means the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund, established by section 9509 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (*26 USC 9509*);

(12) "gross ton" has the meaning given that term by the Secretary under part J of title 46, United States Code;

[**487] (13) "guarantor" means any person, other than the responsible party, who provides evidence of financial responsibility for a responsible party under this Act;

(14) "incident" means any occurrence or series of occurrences having the same origin, involving one or more vessels, facilities, or any combination thereof, resulting in the discharge or substantial threat of discharge of oil;

(15) "Indian tribe" means any Indian tribe, band, nation, or other organized group or community, but not including any Alaska Native regional or village corporation, which is recognized as eligible for the special programs and services provided by the United States to Indians because of their status as Indians and has governmental authority over lands belonging to or controlled by the tribe;

(16) "lessee" means a person holding a leasehold interest in an oil or gas lease on lands beneath navigable waters (as that term is defined in section 2(a) of the Submerged Lands Act (*43 USC 1301*(a))) or on submerged lands of the Outer Continental Shelf, granted or maintained under applicable State law or the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (*43 USC 1331 et seq.*);

(17) "liable" or "liability" shall be construed to be the standard of liability which obtains under section 311 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (*33 USC 1321*);

(18) "mobile offshore drilling unit" means a vessel (other than a self-elevating lift vessel) capable of use as an offshore facility;

(19) "National Contingency Plan" means the National Contingency Plan prepared and published under section 311(d) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, as amended by this Act, or revised under section 105 of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (*42 USC 9605*);

(20) "natural resources" includes land, fish, wildlife, biota, air, water, ground water, drinking water supplies, and other such resources belonging to, managed by, held in trust by, appertaining to, or otherwise controlled by the United States (including the resources of the exclusive economic zone), any State or local government or Indian tribe, or any foreign government;

(21) "navigable waters" means the waters of the United States, including the territorial sea;

(22) "offshore facility" means any facility of any kind located in, on, or under any of the navigable waters of the United States, and any facility of any kind which is subject to the jurisdiction of the United States and is located in, on, or under any other waters, other than a vessel or a public vessel;

(23) "oil" means oil of any kind or in any form, including, but not limited to, petroleum, fuel oil, sludge, oil refuse, and oil mixed with wastes other than dredged spoil, but does not include petroleum, including crude oil or any fraction thereof, which is specifically listed or designated as a hazardous substance under subparagraphs (A) through (F) of section 101(14) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (*42 USC 9601*) and which is subject to the provisions of that Act;

(24) "onshore facility" means any facility (including, but not limited to, motor vehicles and rolling stock) of any kind located in, on, or under, any land within the United States other than submerged land;

[**488] (25) the term "Outer Continental Shelf facility" means an offshore facility which is located, in whole or in part, on the Outer Continental Shelf and is or was used for one or more of the following purposes: exploring for, drilling for, producing, stor-

ing, handling, transferring, processing, or transporting oil produced from the Outer Continental Shelf;

(26) "owner or operator" means (A) in the case of a vessel, any person owning, operating, or chartering by demise, the vessel, and (B) in the case of an onshore facility, and an offshore facility, any person owning or operating such onshore facility or offshore facility, and (C) in the case of any abandoned offshore facility, the person who owned or operated such facility immediately prior to such abandonment;

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

(28) "permittee" means a person holding an authorization, license, or permit for geological exploration issued under section 11 of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (*43 USC 1340*) or applicable State law;

(29) "public vessel" means a vessel owned or bareboat chartered and operated by the United States, or by a State or political subdivision thereof, or by a foreign nation, except when the vessel is engaged in commerce;

(30) "remove" or "removal" means containment and removal of oil or a hazardous substance from water and shorelines or the taking of other actions as may be necessary to minimize or mitigate damage to the public health or welfare, including, but not limited to, fish, shellfish, wildlife, and public and private property, shorelines, and beaches;

(31) "removal costs" means the costs of removal that are incurred after a discharge of oil has occurred or, in any case in which there is a substantial threat of a discharge of oil, the costs to prevent, minimize, or mitigate oil pollution from such an incident;

(32) "responsible party" means the following:

(A) VESSELS.—In the case of a vessel, any person owning, operating, or demise chartering the vessel.

(B) ONSHORE FACILITIES.—In the case of an onshore facility (other than a pipeline), any person owning or operating the facility, except a Federal agency, State, municipality, commission, or political subdivision of a State, or any interstate body, that as the owner transfers possession and right to use the property to another person by lease, assignment, or permit.

(C) OFFSHORE FACILITIES.—In the case of an offshore facility (other than a pipeline or a deepwater port licensed under the Deepwater Port Act of 1974 (*33 USC 1501* et seq.)), the lessee or permittee of the area in which the facility is located or the holder of a right of use and easement granted under applicable State law or the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (*43 USC 1301–1356*) for the area in which the facility is located (if the holder is a different person than the lessee or permittee), except a Federal agency, State, municipality, commission, or political subdivision of a State, or any interstate body, that as [**489] owner transfers possession and right to use the property to another person by lease, assignment, or permit.

(D) DEEPWATER PORTS.—In the case of a deepwater port licensed under the Deepwater Port Act of 1974 (*33 USC 1501–1524*), the licensee.

(E) PIPELINES.—In the case of a pipeline, any person owning or operating the pipeline.

(F) ABANDONMENT.—In the case of an abandoned vessel, onshore facility, deepwater port, pipeline, or offshore facility, the persons who would have been responsible parties immediately prior to the abandonment of the vessel or facility.

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

(34) "tank vessel" means a vessel that is constructed or adapted to carry, or that carries, oil or hazardous material in bulk as cargo or cargo residue, and that

(A) is a vessel of the United States;

(B) operates on the navigable waters; or

(C) transfers oil or hazardous material in a place subject to the jurisdiction of the United States;

(35) "territorial seas" means the belt of the seas measured from the line of ordinary low water along that portion of the coast which is in direct contact with the open sea and the line marking the seaward limit of inland waters, and extending seaward a distance of 3 miles;

(36) "United States" and "State" mean the several States of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the United States Virgin Islands, the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, and any other territory or possession of the United States; and

(37) "vessel" means every description of watercraft or other artificial contrivance used, or capable of being used, as a means of transportation on water, other than a public vessel.

[*1002]
SEC. 1002. <*33 USC 2702*> ELEMENTS OF LIABILITY.

(a) IN GENERAL. – Notwithstanding any other provision or rule of law, and subject to the provisions of this Act, each responsible party for a vessel or a facility from which oil is discharged, or which poses the substantial threat of a discharge of oil, into or upon the navigable waters or adjoining shorelines or the exclusive economic zone is liable for the removal costs and damages specified in subsection (b) that result from such incident.

(b) COVERED REMOVAL COSTS AND DAMAGES.

(1) REMOVAL COSTS.—The removal costs referred to in subsection (a) are

(A) all removal costs incurred by the United States, a State, or an Indian tribe under subsection (c), (d), (e), or (1) of section 311 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (*33 USC 1321*), as amended by this Act, under the Intervention on the High Seas Act (*33 USC 1471* et seq.), or under State law; and

(B) any removal costs incurred by any person for acts taken by the person which are consistent with the National Contingency Plan.

(2) DAMAGES.—The damages referred to in subsection (a) are the following:

[**490] (A) NATURAL RESOURCES.—Damages for injury to, destruction of, loss of, or loss of use of, natural resources, including the reasonable costs of assessing the damage, which shall be recoverable by a United States trustee, a State trustee, an Indian tribe trustee, or a foreign trustee.

(B) REAL OR PERSONAL PROPERTY.—Damages for injury to, or economic losses resulting from destruction of, real or personal property, which shall be recoverable by a claimant who owns or leases that property.

(C) SUBSISTENCE USE.—Damages for loss of subsistence use of natural resources, which shall be recoverable by any claimant who so uses natural resources which have been injured, destroyed, or lost, without regard to the ownership or management of the resources.

(D) REVENUES.—Damages equal to the net loss of taxes, royalties, rents, fees, or net profit shares due to the injury, destruction, or loss of real property, personal property, or natural resources, which shall be recoverable by the Government of the United States, a State, or a political subdivision thereof.

(E) PROFITS AND EARNING CAPACITY.—Damages equal to the loss of profits or impairment of earning capacity due to the injury, destruction, or loss of real property, personal property, or natural resources, which shall be recoverable by any claimant.

(F) PUBLIC SERVICES.—Damages for net costs of providing increased or additional public services during or after removal activities, including protection from fire, safety, or health hazards, caused by a discharge of oil, which shall be recoverable by a State, or a political subdivision of a State.

(c) EXCLUDED DISCHARGES.—This title does not apply to any discharge

(1) permitted by a permit issued under Federal, State, or local law;

(2) from a public vessel; or

(3) from an onshore facility which is subject to the Trans-Alaska Pipeline Authorization Act (*43 USC 1651* et seq.).

(d) LIABILITY OF THIRD PARTIES.

(1) IN GENERAL.

(A) THIRD PARTY TREATED AS RESPONSIBLE PARTY.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), in any case in which a responsible party establishes that a discharge or threat of a discharge and the resulting removal costs and damages were caused solely by an act or omission of one or more third parties described in section 1003(a)(3) (or solely by such an act or omission in combination with an act of God or an act of war), the third party or parties shall be treated as the responsible party or parties for purposes of determining liability under this title.

(B) SUBROGATION OF RESPONSIBLE PARTY.—If the responsible party alleges that the discharge or threat of a discharge was caused solely by an act or omission of a third party, the responsible party

(i) in accordance with section 1013, shall pay removal costs and damages to any claimant; and

(ii) shall be entitled by subrogation to all rights of the United States Government and the claimant to recover [**491] removal costs or damages from the third party or the Fund paid under this subsection.

(2) LIMITATION APPLIED.

(A) OWNER OR OPERATOR OF VESSEL OR FACILITY.—If the act or omission of a third party that causes an incident occurs in connection with a vessel or facility owned or operated by the third party, the liability of the third party shall be subject to the limits provided in section 1004 as applied with respect to the vessel or facility.

(B) OTHER CASES.—In any other case, the liability of a third party or parties shall not exceed the limitation which would have been applicable to the responsible party of the vessel or facility from which the discharge actually occurred if the responsible party were liable.

[*1003]
SEC. 1003. <*33 USC 2703*> DEFENSES TO LIABILITY.

(a) COMPLETE DEFENSES.—A responsible party is not liable for removal costs or damages under section 1002 if the responsible party establishes, by a preponderance of the evidence, that the discharge or substantial threat of a discharge of oil and the resulting damages or removal costs were caused solely by:

(1) an act of God;

(2) an act of war;

(3) an act or omission of a third party, other than an employee or agent of the responsible party or a third party whose act or omission occurs in connection with any contractual relationship with the responsible party (except where the sole contractual arrangement arises in connection with carriage by a common carrier by rail), if the responsible party establishes, by a preponderance of the evidence, that the responsible party

(A) exercised due care with respect to the oil concerned, taking into consideration the characteristics of the oil and in light of all relevant facts and circumstances; and

(B) took precautions against foreseeable acts or omissions of any such third party and the foreseeable consequences of those acts or omissions; or

(4) any combination of paragraphs (1), (2), and (3).

(b) DEFENSES AS TO PARTICULAR CLAIMANTS.—A responsible party is not liable under section 1002 to a claimant, to the extent that the incident is caused by the

gross negligence or wilful misconduct of the claimant.

(c) LIMITATION ON COMPLETE DEFENSE.—Subsection (a) does not apply with respect to a responsible party who fails or refuses

(1) to report the incident as required by law if the responsible party knows or has reason to know of the incident;

(2) to provide all reasonable cooperation and assistance requested by a responsible official in connection with removal activities; or

(3) without sufficient cause, to comply with an order issued under subsection (c) or (e) of section 311 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (*33 USC 1321*), as amended by this Act, or the Intervention on the High Seas Act (*33 USC 1471* et seq.).

[*1004]
SEC. 1004. <*33 USC 2704*> LIMITS ON LIABILITY.

(a) GENERAL RULE.—Except as otherwise provided in this section, the total of the liability of a responsible party under section 1002 [**492] and any removal costs incurred by, or on behalf of, the responsible party, with respect to each incident shall not exceed

(1) for a tank vessel, the greater of

(A) $1,200 per gross ton; or

(B)(i) in the case of a vessel greater than 3,000 gross tons, $10,000,000; or

(ii) in the case of a vessel of 3,000 gross tons or less, $2,000,000;

(2) for any other vessel, $600 per gross ton or $500,000, whichever is greater;

(3) for an offshore facility except a deepwater port, the total of all removal costs plus $75,000,000; and

(4) for any onshore facility and a deepwater port, $350,000,000.

(b) DIVISION OF LIABILITY FOR MOBILE OFFSHORE DRILLING UNITS.

(1) TREATED FIRST AS TANK VESSEL.—For purposes of determining the responsible party and applying this Act and except as provided in paragraph (2), a mobile offshore drilling unit which is being used as an offshore facility is deemed to be a tank vessel with respect to the discharge, or the substantial threat of a discharge, of oil on or above the surface of the water.

(2) TREATED AS FACILITY FOR EXCESS LIABILITY.—To the extent that removal costs and damages from any incident described in paragraph (1) exceed the amount for which a responsible party is liable (as that amount may be limited under subsection (a)(1)), the mobile offshore drilling unit is deemed to be an offshore facility. For purposes of applying subsection (a)(3), the amount specified in that subsection shall be reduced by the amount for which the responsible party is liable under paragraph (1).

(c) EXCEPTIONS.

(1) ACTS OF RESPONSIBLE PARTY.—Subsection (a) does not apply if the incident was proximately caused by:

(A) gross negligence or willful misconduct of, or

(B) the violation of an applicable Federal safety, construction, or operating regulation by, the responsible party, an agent or employee of the responsible party, or a person acting pursuant to a contractual relationship with the responsible party (except where the sole contractual arrangement arises in connection with carriage by a common carrier by rail).

(2) FAILURE OR REFUSAL OF RESPONSIBLE PARTY.—Subsection (a) does not apply if the responsible party fails or refuses

(A) to report the incident as required by law and the responsible party knows or has reason to know of the incident;

(B) to provide all reasonable cooperation and assistance requested by a responsible official in connection with removal activities; or

(C) without sufficient cause, to comply with an order issued under subsection (c) or (e) of section 311 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (*33 USC 1321*), as amended by this Act, or the Intervention on the High Seas Act (*33 USC 1471* et seq.).

(3) OCS FACILITY OR VESSEL.—Notwithstanding the limitations established under subsection (a) and the defenses of section 1003, all removal costs incurred by the United States Government or any State or local official or agency in connection with a discharge or substantial threat of a discharge of oil from any [**493] Outer Continental Shelf facility or a vessel carrying oil as cargo from such a facility shall be borne by the owner or operator of such facility or vessel.

(d) ADJUSTING LIMITS OF LIABILITY.

(1) ONSHORE FACILITIES.—Subject to paragraph (2), the President may establish by regulation, with respect to any class or category of onshore facility, a limit of liability under this section of less than $350,000,000, but not less than $8,000,000, taking into account size, storage capacity, oil throughput, proximity to sensitive areas, type of oil handled, history of discharges, and other factors relevant to risks posed by the class or category of facility.

(2) DEEPWATER PORTS AND ASSOCIATED VESSELS.

(A) STUDY.—The Secretary shall conduct a study of the relative operational and environmental risks posed by the transportation of oil by vessel to deepwater ports (as defined in section 3 of the Deepwater Port Act of 1974 (*33 USC 1502*)) versus the transportation of oil by vessel to other ports. The study shall include a review and analysis of offshore lightering practices used in connection with that transportation, an analysis of the volume of oil transported by vessel using those practices, and an analysis of the frequency and volume of oil discharges which occur in connection with the use of those practices.

(B) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Congress a report on the results of the study conducted under subparagraph (A).

(C) RULEMAKING PROCEEDING.—If the Secretary determines, based on the results of the study conducted under this subparagraph (A), that the use of deepwater ports in connection with the transportation of oil by vessel results in a lower operational or environmental risk than the use on other ports, the Secretary shall initiate, not later than the 180th day following the date of submission of the report to the Congress under subparagraph (B), a rulemaking proceeding to lower the limits of liability under this section for deepwater ports as the Secretary determines appropriate. The Secretary may establish a limit of liability of less than $350,000,000, but not less than $50,000,000, in accordance with paragraph (1).

(3) PERIODIC REPORTS.—The President shall, within 6 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, and from time to time thereafter, report to the Congress on the desirability of adjusting the limits of liability specified in subsection (a).

(4) ADJUSTMENT TO REFLECT CONSUMER PRICE INDEX.—The President shall, by regulations issued not less often than every 3 years, adjust the limits of liability specified in subsection (a) to reflect significant increases in the Consumer Price Index.

[*1005]
SEC. 1005. <*33 USC 2705*> INTEREST.

(a) GENERAL RULE.—The responsible party or the responsible party's guarantor is liable to a claimant for interest on the amount paid in satisfaction of a claim under this Act for the period described in subsection (b).

(b) PERIOD.

[**494] (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the period for which interest shall be paid is the period beginning on the 30th day following the date on which the claim is presented to the responsible party or guarantor and ending on the date on which the claim is paid.

(2) EXCLUSION OF PERIOD DUE TO OFFER BY GUARANTOR.—If the guarantor offers to the claimant an amount equal to or greater than that finally paid in satisfaction of the claim, the period described in paragraph (1) does not include the period beginning on the date the offer is made and ending on the date the offer is accepted. If the offer is made within 60 days after the date on which the claim is presented under section 1013(a), the period described in paragraph (1) does not include any period before the offer is accepted.

(3) EXCLUSION OF PERIODS IN INTERESTS OF JUSTICE.—If in any period a claimant is not paid due to reasons beyond the control of the responsible party or

because it would not serve the interests of justice, no interest shall accrue under this section during that period.

(4) CALCULATION OF INTEREST.—The interest paid under this section shall be calculated at the average of the highest rate for commercial and finance company paper of maturities of 180 days or less obtaining on each of the days included within the period for which interest must be paid to the claimant, as published in the Federal Reserve Bulletin.

(5) INTEREST NOT SUBJECT TO LIABILITY LIMITS.

(A) IN GENERAL.—Interest (including prejudgment interest) under this paragraph is in addition to damages and removal costs for which claims may be asserted under section 1002 and shall be paid without regard to any limitation of liability under section 1004.

(B) PAYMENT BY GUARANTOR.—The payment of interest under this subsection by a guarantor is subject to section 1016(g).

[*1006]
SEC. 1006. <*33 USC 2706*> NATURAL RESOURCES.

(a) LIABILITY.—In the case of natural resource damages under section 1002(b)(2)(A), liability shall be

(1) to the United States Government for natural resources belonging to, managed by, controlled by, or appertaining to the United States;

(2) to any State for natural resources belonging to, managed by, controlled by, or appertaining to such State or political subdivision thereof;

(3) to any Indian tribe for natural resources belonging to, managed by, controlled by, or appertaining to such Indian tribe; and

(4) in any case in which section 1007 applies, to the government of a foreign country for natural resources belonging to, managed by, controlled by, or appertaining to such country.

(b) DESIGNATION OF TRUSTEES.

(1) IN GENERAL.—The President, or the authorized representative of any State, Indian tribe, or foreign government, shall act on behalf of the public, Indian tribe, or foreign country as trustee of natural resources to present a claim for and to recover damages to the natural resources.

[**495] (2) FEDERAL TRUSTEES.—The President shall designate the Federal officials who shall act on behalf of the public as trustees for natural resources under this Act.

(3) STATE TRUSTEES.—The Governor of each State shall designate State and local officials who may act on behalf of the public as trustee for natural resources under this Act and shall notify the President of the designation.

(4) INDIAN TRIBE TRUSTEES.—The governing body of any Indian tribe shall designate tribal officials who may act on behalf of the tribe or its members as trustee for natural resources under this Act and shall notify the President of the designation.

(5) FOREIGN TRUSTEES.—The head of any foreign government may designate the trustee who shall act on behalf of that government as trustee for natural resources under this Act.

(c) FUNCTIONS OF TRUSTEES.

(1) FEDERAL TRUSTEES.—The Federal officials designated under subsection (b)(2)

(A) shall assess natural resource damages under section 1002(b)(2)(A) for the natural resources under their trusteeship;

(B) may, upon request of and reimbursement from a State or Indian tribe and at the Federal officials' discretion, assess damages for the natural resources under the State's or tribe's trusteeship; and

(C) shall develop and implement a plan for the restoration, rehabilitation, replacement, or acquisition of the equivalent, of the natural resources under their trusteeship.

(2) STATE TRUSTEES.—The State and local officials designated under subsection (b)(3)

(A) shall assess natural resource damages under section 1002(b)(2)(A) for the purposes of this Act for the natural resources under their trusteeship; and

(B) shall develop and implement a plan for the restoration, rehabilitation, replacement, or acquisition of the equivalent, of the natural resources under their trusteeship.

(3) INDIAN TRIBE TRUSTEES.—The tribal officials designated under subsection (b)(4)

(A) shall assess natural resource damages under section 1002(b)(2)(A) for the purposes of this Act for the natural resources under their trusteeship; and

(B) shall develop and implement a plan for the restoration, rehabilitation, replacement, or acquisition of the equivalent, of the natural resources under their trusteeship.

(4) FOREIGN TRUSTEES.—The trustees designated under subsection (b)(5)

(A) shall assess natural resource damages under section 1002(b)(2)(A) for the purposes of this Act for the natural resources under their trusteeship; and

(B) shall develop and implement a plan for the restoration, rehabilitation, replacement, or acquisition of the equivalent, of the natural resources under their trusteeship.

(5) NOTICE AND OPPORTUNITY TO BE HEARD.—Plans shall be developed and implemented under this section only after adequate [**496] public notice, opportunity for a hearing, and consideration of all public comment.

(d) MEASURE OF DAMAGES.

(1) IN GENERAL.—The measure of natural resource damages under section 1002(b)(2)(A) is

(A) the cost of restoring, rehabilitating, replacing, or acquiring the equivalent of, the damaged natural resources;

(B) the diminution in value of those natural resources pending restoration; plus

(C) the reasonable cost of assessing those damages.

(2) DETERMINE COSTS WITH RESPECT TO PLANS.—Costs shall be determined under paragraph (1) with respect to plans adopted under subsection (c).

(3) NO DOUBLE RECOVERY.—There shall be no double recovery under this Act for natural resource damages, including with respect to the costs of damage assessment or restoration, rehabilitation, replacement, or acquisition for the same incident and natural resource.

(e) DAMAGE ASSESSMENT REGULATIONS.

(1) REGULATIONS.—The President, acting through the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and in consultation with the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and the heads of other affected agencies, not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, shall promulgate regulations for the assessment of natural resource damages under section 1002(b)(2)(A) resulting from a discharge of oil for the purpose of this Act.

(2) REBUTTABLE PRESUMPTION.—Any determination or assessment of damages to natural resources for the purposes of this Act made under subsection (d) by a Federal, State, or Indian trustee in accordance with the regulations promulgated under paragraph (1) shall have the force and effect of a rebuttable presumption on behalf of the trustee in any administrative or judicial proceeding under this Act.

(f) USE OF RECOVERED SUMS.—Sums recovered under this Act by a Federal, State, Indian, or foreign trustee for natural resource damages under section 1002(b)(2)(A) shall be retained by the trustee in a revolving trust account, without further appropriation, for use only to reimburse or pay costs incurred by the trustee under subsection (c) with respect to the damaged natural resources. Any amounts in excess of those required for these reimbursements and costs shall be deposited in the Fund.

(g) COMPLIANCE.—Review of actions by any Federal official where there is alleged to be a failure of that official to perform a duty under this section that is not discretionary with that official may be had by any person in the district court in which the person resides or in which the alleged damage to natural resources occurred. The court may award costs of litigation (including reasonable attorney and expert witness fees) to any prevailing or substantially prevailing party. Nothing in this subsection shall restrict any right which any person may have to seek relief under any other provision of law.

[*1007]
SEC. 1007. <*33 USC 2707*> RECOVERY BY FOREIGN CLAIMANTS.

(a) REQUIRED SHOWING BY FOREIGN CLAIMANTS.

[**497] (1) IN GENERAL.—In addition to satisfying the other requirements of this Act, to recover removal costs or damages resulting from an incident a foreign claimant shall demonstrate that

(A) the claimant has not been otherwise compensated for the removal costs or damages; and

(B) recovery is authorized by a treaty or executive agreement between the United States and the claimant's country, or the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Attorney General and other appropriate officials, has certified that the claimant's country provides a comparable remedy for United States claimants.

(2) EXCEPTIONS.—Paragraph (1)(B) shall not apply with respect to recovery by a resident of Canada in the case of an incident described in subsection (b)(4).

(b) DISCHARGES IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES.—A foreign claimant may make a claim for removal costs and damages resulting from a discharge, or substantial threat of a discharge, of oil in or on the territorial sea, internal waters, or adjacent shoreline of a foreign country, only if the discharge is from

(1) an Outer Continental Shelf facility or a deepwater port;

(2) a vessel in the navigable waters;

(3) a vessel carrying oil as cargo between 2 places in the United States; or

(4) a tanker that received the oil at the terminal of the pipeline constructed under the Trans-Alaska Pipeline Authorization Act (*43 USC 1651* et seq.), for transportation to a place in the United States, and the discharge or threat occurs prior to delivery of the oil to that place.

(c) FOREIGN CLAIMANT DEFINED.—In this section, the term "foreign claimant" means

(1) a person residing in a foreign country;

(2) the government of a foreign country; and

(3) an agency or political subdivision of a foreign country.

[*1008]
SEC. 1008. <*33 USC 2708*> RECOVERY BY RESPONSIBLE PARTY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The responsible party for a vessel or facility from which oil is discharged, or which poses the substantial threat of a discharge of oil, may assert a claim for removal costs and damages under section 1013 only if the responsible party demonstrates that

(1) the responsible party is entitled to a defense to liability under section 1003; or

(2) the responsible party is entitled to a limitation of liability under section 1004.

(b) EXTENT OF RECOVERY.—A responsible party who is entitled to a limitation of liability may assert a claim under section 1013 only to the extent that the sum of the removal costs and damages incurred by the responsible party plus the amounts paid by the responsible party, or by the guarantor on behalf of the responsible party, for claims asserted under section 1013 exceeds the amount to which the total of the liability under section 1002 and removal costs and damages incurred by, or on behalf of, the responsible party is limited under section 1004.

[*1009]
SEC. 1009. <*33 USC 2709*> CONTRIBUTION.

A person may bring a civil action for contribution against any other person who is liable or potentially liable under this Act or [**498] another law. The action shall be brought in accordance with section 1017.

[*1010]
SEC. 1010. <*23 USC 2710*> INDEMNIFICATION AGREEMENTS.

(a) AGREEMENTS NOT PROHIBITED.—Nothing in this Act prohibits any agreement to insure, hold harmless, or indemnify a party to such agreement for any liability under this Act.

(b) LIABILITY NOT TRANSFERRED.—No indemnification, hold harmless, or similar agreement or conveyance shall be effective to transfer liability imposed under this Act from a responsible party or from any person who may be liable for an incident under this Act to any other person.

(c) RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER CAUSES OF ACTION.—Nothing in this Act, including the provisions of subsection (b), bars a cause of action that a responsible party subject to liability under this Act, or a guarantor, has or would have, by reason of subrogation or otherwise, against any person.

[*1011]
SEC. 1011. <*33 USC 2711*> CONSULTATION ON REMOVAL ACTIONS.

The President shall consult with the affected trustees designated under section 1006 on the appropriate removal action to be taken in connection with any discharge of oil. For the purposes of the National Contingency Plan, removal with respect to any discharge shall be considered completed when so determined by the President in consultation with the Governor or Governors of the affected States. However, this determination

shall not preclude additional removal actions under applicable State law.

[*1012]
SEC. 1012. <*33 USC 2712*> USES OF THE FUND.

(a) USES GENERALLY.—The Fund shall be available to the President for

(1) the payment of removal costs, including the costs of monitoring removal actions, determined by the President to be consistent with the National Contingency Plan

(A) by Federal authorities; or

(B) by a Governor or designated State official under subsection (d);

(2) the payment of costs incurred by Federal, State, or Indian tribe trustees in carrying out their functions under section 1006 for assessing natural resource damages and for developing and implementing plans for the restoration, rehabilitation, replacement, or acquisition of the equivalent of damaged resources determined by the President to be consistent with the National Contingency Plan;

(3) the payment of removal costs determined by the President to be consistent with the National Contingency Plan as a result of, and damages resulting from, a discharge, or a substantial threat of a discharge, of oil from a foreign offshore unit;

(4) the payment of claims in accordance with section 1013 for uncompensated removal costs determined by the President to be consistent with the National Contingency Plan or uncompensated damages;

(5) the payment of Federal administrative, operational, and personnel costs and expenses reasonably necessary for and incidental to the implementation, administration, and enforcement of this Act (including, but not limited to, sections 1004(d)(2), 1006(e), 4107, 4110, 4111, 4112, 4117, 5006, 8103, and [**499] title VII) and subsections (b), (c), (d), (j), and (l) of section 311 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (*33 USC 1321*) as amended by this Act, with respect to prevention, removal, and enforcement related to oil discharges, provided that

(A) not more than $25,000,000 in each fiscal year shall be available to the Secretary for operating expenses incurred by the Coast Guard;

(B) not more than $30,000,000 each year through the end of fiscal year 1992 shall be available to establish the National Response System under section 311(j) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, as amended by this Act, including the purchase and prepositioning of oil spill removal equipment; and

(C) not more than $27,250,000 in each fiscal year shall be available to carry out title VII of this Act.

(b) DEFENSE TO LIABILITY FOR FUND.—The Fund shall not be available to pay any claim for removal costs or damages to a particular claimant, to the extent that the incident, removal costs, or damages are caused by the gross negligence or willful misconduct of that claimant.

(c) OBLIGATION OF FUND BY FEDERAL OFFICIALS.—The President may promulgate regulations designating one or more Federal officials who may obligate money in accordance with subsection (a).

(d) ACCESS TO FUND BY STATE OFFICIALS.

(1) IMMEDIATE REMOVAL.—In accordance with regulations promulgated under this section, the President, upon the request of the Governor of a State or pursuant to an agreement with a State under paragraph (2), may obligate the Fund for payment in an amount not to exceed $250,000 for removal costs consistent with the National Contingency Plan required for the immediate removal of a discharge, or the mitigation or prevention of a substantial threat of a discharge, of oil.

(2) AGREEMENTS.

(A) IN GENERAL.—The President shall enter into an agreement with the Governor of any interested State to establish procedures under which the Governor or a designated State official may receive payments from the Fund for removal costs pursuant to paragraph (1).

(B) TERMS.—Agreements under this paragraph

(i) may include such terms and conditions as may be agreed upon by the President and the Governor of a State;

(ii) shall provide for political subdivisions of the State to receive payments for reasonable removal costs; and

(iii) may authorize advance payments from the Fund to facilitate removal efforts.

(e) REGULATIONS.—The President shall

(1) not later than 6 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, publish proposed regulations detailing the manner in which the authority to obligate the Fund and to enter into agreements under this subsection shall be exercised; and

(2) not later than 3 months after the close of the comment period for such proposed regulations, promulgate final regulations for that purpose.

(f) RIGHTS OF SUBROGATION.—Payment of any claim or obligation by the Fund under this Act shall be subject to the United States [**500] Government acquiring by subrogation all rights of the claimant or State to recover from the responsible party.

(g) AUDITS.—The Comptroller General shall audit all payments, obligations, reimbursements, and other uses of the Fund, to assure that the Fund is being properly administered and that claims are being appropriately and expeditiously considered. The Comptroller General shall submit to the Congress an interim report one year after the date of the enactment of this Act. The Comptroller General shall thereafter audit the Fund as is appropriate. Each Federal agency shall cooperate with the Comptroller General in carrying out this subsection.

(h) PERIOD OF LIMITATIONS FOR CLAIMS.

(1) REMOVAL COSTS.—No claim may be presented under this title for recovery of removal costs for an incident unless the claim is presented within 6 years after the date of completion of all removal actions for that incident.

(2) DAMAGES.—No claim may be presented under this section for recovery of damages unless the claim is presented within 3 years after the date on which the injury and its connection with the discharge in question were reasonably discoverable with the exercise of due care, or in the case of natural resource damages under section 1002(b)(2)(A), if later, the date of completion of the natural resources damage assessment under section 1006(e).

(3) MINORS AND INCOMPETENTS.—The time limitations contained in this subsection shall not begin to run

(A) against a minor until the earlier of the date when such minor reaches 18 years of age or the date on which a legal representative is duly appointed for the minor, or

(B) against an incompetent person until the earlier of the date on which such incompetent's incompetency ends or the date on which a legal representative is duly appointed for the incompetent.

(i) LIMITATION ON PAYMENT FOR SAME COSTS.—In any case in which the President has paid an amount from the Fund for any removal costs or damages specified under subsection (a), no other claim may be paid from the Fund for the same removal costs or damages.

(j) OBLIGATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH PLAN.

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), amounts may be obligated from the Fund for the restoration, rehabilitation, replacement, or acquisition of natural resources only in accordance with a plan adopted under section 1006(c).

(2) EXCEPTION.—Paragraph (1) shall not apply in a situation requiring action to avoid irreversible loss of natural resources or to prevent or reduce any continuing danger to natural resources or similar need for emergency action.

(k) PREFERENCE FOR PRIVATE PERSONS IN AREA AFFECTED BY DISCHARGE.

(1) IN GENERAL.—In the expenditure of Federal funds for removal of oil, including for distribution of supplies, construction, and other reasonable and appropriate activities, under a contract or agreement with a private person, preference shall be given, to the extent feasible and practicable, to private persons residing or doing business primarily in the area affected by the discharge of oil.

(2) LIMITATION.—This subsection shall not be considered to restrict the use of Department of Defense resources.

[**501] [*1013]
SEC. 1013. <*33 USC 2713*> CLAIMS PROCEDURE.

(a) PRESENTATION.—Except as provided in subsection (b), all claims for removal costs or damages shall be presented first to the responsible party or guarantor of the source designated under section 1014(a).

(b) PRESENTATION TO FUND.

(1) IN GENERAL.—Claims for removal costs or damages may be presented first to the Fund

(A) if the President has advertised or otherwise notified claimants in accordance with section 1014(c);

(B) by a responsible party who may assert a claim under section 1008;

(C) by the Governor of a State for removal costs incurred by that State; or

(D) by a United States claimant in a case where a foreign offshore unit has discharged oil causing damage for which the Fund is liable under section 1012(a).

(2) LIMITATION ON PRESENTING CLAIM.—No claim of a person against the Fund may be approved or certified during the pendency of an action by the person in court to recover costs which are the subject of the claim.

(c) ELECTION.—If a claim is presented in accordance with subsection (a) and –

(1) each person to whom the claim is presented denies all liability for the claim, or

(2) the claim is not settled by any person by payment within 90 days after the date upon which (A) the claim was presented, or (B) advertising was begun pursuant to section 1014(b), whichever is later, the claimant may elect to commence an action in court against the responsible party or guarantor or to present the claim to the Fund.

(d) UNCOMPENSATED DAMAGES.—If a claim is presented in accordance with this section and full and adequate compensation is unavailable, a claim for the uncompensated damages and removal costs may be presented to the Fund.

(e) PROCEDURE FOR CLAIMS AGAINST FUND.—The President shall promulgate, and may from time to time amend, regulations for the presentation, filing, processing, settlement, and adjudication of claims under this Act against the Fund.

[*1014]
SEC. 1014. <*33 USC 2714*> DESIGNATION OF SOURCE AND ADVERTISEMENT.

(a) DESIGNATION OF SOURCE AND NOTIFICATION.—When the President receives information of an incident, the President shall, where possible and appropriate, designate the source or sources of the discharge or threat. If a designated source is a vessel or a facility, the President shall immediately notify the responsible party and

the guarantor, if known, of that designation.

(b) ADVERTISEMENT BY RESPONSIBLE PARTY OR GUARANTOR.—If a responsible party or guarantor fails to inform the President, within 5 days after receiving notification of a designation under subsection (a), of the party's or the guarantor's denial of the designation, such party or guarantor shall advertise the designation and the procedures by which claims may be presented, in accordance with regulations promulgated by the President. Advertisement under the preceding sentence shall begin no later than 15 days after the date of the designation made under subsection (a). If advertisement is not otherwise made in accordance with this subsection, the President [**502] shall promptly and at the expense of the responsible party or the guarantor involved, advertise the designation and the procedures by which claims may be presented to the responsible party or guarantor. Advertisement under this subsection shall continue for a period of no less than 30 days.

(c) ADVERTISEMENT BY PRESIDENT.—If

(1) the responsible party and the guarantor both deny a designation within 5 days after receiving notification of a designation under subsection (a),

(2) the source of the discharge or threat was a public vessel, or

(3) the President is unable to designate the source or sources of the discharge or threat under subsection (a), the President shall advertise or otherwise notify potential claimants of the procedures by which claims may be presented to the Fund.

[*1015]
SEC. 1015. <*33 USC 2715*> SUBROGATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Any person, including the Fund, who pays compensation pursuant to this Act to any claimant for removal costs or damages shall be subrogated to all rights, claims, and causes of action that the claimant has under any other law.

(b) ACTIONS ON BEHALF OF FUND.—At the request of the Secretary, the Attorney General shall commence an action on behalf of the Fund to recover any compensation paid by the Fund to any claimant pursuant to this Act, and all costs incurred by the Fund by reason of the claim, including interest (including prejudgment interest), administrative and adjudicative costs, and attorney's fees. Such an action may be commenced against any responsible party or (subject to section 1016) guarantor, or against any other person who is liable, pursuant to any law, to the compensated claimant or to the Fund, for the cost or damages for which the compensation was paid. Such an action shall be commenced against the responsible foreign government or other responsible party to recover any removal costs or damages paid from the Fund as the result of the discharge, or substantial threat of discharge, of oil from a foreign offshore unit.

[*1016]
SEC. 1016. <*33 USC 2716*> FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY.

(a) REQUIREMENT.—The responsible party for

(1) any vessel over 300 gross tons (except a non-self-propelled vessel that does not carry oil as cargo or fuel) using any place subject to the jurisdiction of the United States; or

(2) any vessel using the waters of the exclusive economic zone to transship or lighter oil destined for a place subject to the jurisdiction of the United States; shall establish and maintain, in accordance with regulations promulgated by the Secretary, evidence of financial responsibility sufficient to meet the maximum amount of liability to which, in the case of a tank vessel, the responsible party could be subject under section 1004 (a)(1) or (d) of this Act, or to which, in the case of any other vessel, the responsible party could be subjected under section 1004 (a)(2) or (d), in a case where the responsible party would be entitled to limit liability under that section. If the responsible party owns or operates more than one vessel, evidence of financial responsibility need be established only to meet the amount of the maximum liability applicable to the vessel having the greatest maximum liability.

(b) SANCTIONS.

[**503] (1) WITHHOLDING CLEARANCE.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall withhold or revoke the clearance required by section 4197 of the Revised Statutes of the United States of any vessel subject to this section that does not have the evidence of financial responsibility required for the vessel under this section.

(2) DENYING ENTRY TO OR DETAINING VESSELS.—The Secretary may

(A) deny entry to any vessel to any place in the United States, or to the navigable waters, or

(B) detain at the place, any vessel that, upon request, does not produce the evidence of financial responsibility required for the vessel under this section.

(3) SEIZURE OF VESSEL.—Any vessel subject to the requirements of this section which is found in the navigable waters without the necessary evidence of financial responsibility for the vessel shall be subject to seizure by and forfeiture to the United States.

(c) OFFSHORE FACILITIES.

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), each responsible party with respect to an offshore facility shall establish and maintain evidence of financial responsibility of $150,000,000 to meet the amount of liability to which the responsible party could be subjected under section 1004(a) in a case in which the responsible party would be entitled to limit liability under that section. In a case in which a person is the responsible party for more than one facility subject to this subsection, evidence

of financial responsibility need be established only to meet the maximum liability applicable to the facility having the greatest maximum liability.

(2) DEEPWATER PORTS.—Each responsible party with respect to a deepwater port shall establish and maintain evidence of financial responsibility sufficient to meet the maximum amount of liability to which the responsible party could be subjected under section 1004(a) of this Act in a case where the responsible party would be entitled to limit liability under that section. If the Secretary exercises the authority under section 1004(d)(2) to lower the limit of liability for deepwater ports, the responsible party shall establish and maintain evidence of financial responsibility sufficient to meet the maximum amount of liability so established. In a case in which a person is the responsible party for more than one deepwater port, evidence of financial responsibility need be established only to meet the maximum liability applicable to the deepwater port having the greatest maximum liability.

(e) METHODS OF FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY.—Financial responsibility under this section may be established by any one, or by any combination, of the following methods which the Secretary (in the case of a vessel) or the President (in the case of a facility) determines to be acceptable: evidence of insurance, surety bond, guarantee, letter of credit, qualification as a self-insurer, or other evidence of financial responsibility. Any bond filed shall be issued by a bonding company authorized to do business in the United States. In promulgating requirements under this section, the Secretary or the President, as appropriate, may specify policy or other contractual terms, conditions, or defenses which are necessary, or which are unacceptable, [**504] in establishing evidence of financial responsibility to effectuate the purposes of this Act.

(f) CLAIMS AGAINST GUARANTOR.—Any claim for which liability may be established under section 1002 may be asserted directly against any guarantor providing evidence of financial responsibility for a responsible party liable under that section for removal costs and damages to which the claim pertains. In defending against such a claim, the guarantor may invoke (1) all rights and defenses which would be available to the responsible party under this Act, (2) any defense authorized under subsection (e), and (3) the defense that the incident was caused by the willful misconduct of the responsible party. The guarantor may not invoke any other defense that might be available in proceedings brought by the responsible party against the guarantor.

(g) LIMITATION ON GUARANTOR'S LIABILITY.—Nothing in this Act shall impose liability with respect to an incident on any guarantor for damages or removal costs which exceed, in the aggregate, the amount of financial responsibility required under this Act which that guarantor has provided for a responsible party.

(h) CONTINUATION OF REGULATIONS.—Any regulation relating to financial

responsibility, which has been issued pursuant to any provision of law repealed or superseded by this Act, and which is in effect on the date immediately preceding the effective date of this Act, is deemed and shall be construed to be a regulation issued pursuant to this section. Such a regulation shall remain in full force and effect unless and until superseded by a new regulation issued under this section.

(i) UNIFIED CERTIFICATE.—The Secretary may issue a single unified certificate of financial responsibility for purposes of this Act and any other law.

[*1017]
SEC. 1017. <*33 USC 2717*> LITIGATION, JURISDICTION, AND VENUE.

(a) REVIEW OF REGULATIONS.—Review of any regulation promulgated under this Act may be had upon application by any interested person only in the Circuit Court of Appeals of the United States for the District of Columbia. Any such application shall be made within 90 days from the date of promulgation of such regulations. Any matter with respect to which review could have been obtained under this subsection shall not be subject to judicial review in any civil or criminal proceeding for enforcement or to obtain damages or recovery of response costs.

(b) JURISDICTION.—Except as provided in subsections (a) and (c), the United States district courts shall have exclusive original jurisdiction over all controversies arising under this Act, without regard to the citizenship of the parties or the amount in controversy. Venue shall lie in any district in which the discharge or injury or damages occurred, or in which the defendant resides, may be found, has its principal office, or has appointed an agent for service of process. For the purposes of this section, the Fund shall reside in the District of Columbia.

(c) STATE COURT JURISDICTION.—A State trial court of competent jurisdiction over claims for removal costs or damages, as defined under this Act, may consider claims under this Act or State law and any final judgment of such court (when no longer subject to ordinary forms of review) shall be recognized, valid, and enforceable for all purposes of this Act.

[**505] (d) ASSESSMENT AND COLLECTION OF TAX.—The provisions of subsections (a), (b), and (c) shall not apply to any controversy or other matter resulting from the assessment or collection of any tax, or to the review of any regulation promulgated under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

(e) SAVINGS PROVISION.—Nothing in this title shall apply to any cause of action or right of recovery arising from any incident which occurred prior to the date of enactment of this title. Such claims shall be adjudicated pursuant to the law applicable

on the date of the incident.

(f) PERIOD OF LIMITATIONS.

(1) DAMAGES.—Except as provided in paragraphs (3) and (4), an action for damages under this Act shall be barred unless the action is brought within 3 years after

(A) the date on which the loss and the connection of the loss with the discharge in question are reasonably discoverable with the exercise of due care, or

(B) in the case of natural resource damages under section 1002(b)(2)(A), the date of completion of the natural resources damage assessment under section 1006(c).

(2) REMOVAL COSTS.—An action for recovery of removal costs referred to in section 1002(b)(1) must be commenced within 3 years after completion of the removal action. In any such action described in this subsection, the court shall enter a declaratory judgment on liability for removal costs or damages that will be binding on any subsequent action or actions to recover further removal costs or damages. Except as otherwise provided in this paragraph, an action may be commenced under this title for recovery of removal costs at any time after such costs have been incurred.

(3) CONTRIBUTION.—No action for contribution for any removal costs or damages may be commenced more than 3 years after

(A) the date of judgment in any action under this Act for recovery of such costs or damages, or

(B) the date of entry of a judicially approved settlement with respect to such costs or damages.

(4) SUBROGATION.—No action based on rights subrogated pursuant to this Act by reason of payment of a claim may be commenced under this Act more than 3 years after the date of payment of such claim.

(5) COMMENCEMENT.—The time limitations contained herein shall not begin to run

(A) against a minor until the earlier of the date when such minor reaches 18 years of age or the date on which a legal representative is duly appointed for such minor, or

(B) against an incompetent person until the earlier of the date on which such incompetent's incompetency ends or the date on which a legal representative is duly appointed for such incompetent.

[*1018]

SEC. 1018. <*33 USC 2718*> RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER LAW.

(a) PRESERVATION OF STATE AUTHORITIES; SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL ACT.—Nothing in this Act or the Act of March 3, 1851 shall

(1) affect, or be construed or interpreted as preempting, the authority of any State or political subdivision thereof from [**506] imposing any additional liability or requirements with respect to

(A) the discharge of oil or other pollution by oil within such State; or

(B) any removal activities in connection with such a discharge; or

(2) affect, or be construed or interpreted to affect or modify in any way the obligations or liabilities of any person under the Solid Waste Disposal Act (*42 USC 6901* et seq.) or State law, including common law.

(b) PRESERVATION OF STATE FUNDS.—Nothing in this Act or in section 9509 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (*26 USC 9509*) shall in any way affect, or be construed to affect, the authority of any State –

(1) to establish, or to continue in effect, a fund any purpose of which is to pay for costs or damages arising out of, or directly resulting from, oil pollution or the substantial threat of oil pollution; or

(2) to require any person to contribute to such a fund.

(c) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS AND LIABILITIES; PENALTIES.—Nothing in this Act, the Act of March 3, 1851 (*46 USC 183* et seq.), or section 9509 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (*26 USC 9509*), shall in any way affect, or be construed to affect, the authority of the United States or any State or political subdivision thereof –

(1) to impose additional liability or additional requirements; or

(2) to impose, or to determine the amount of, any fine or penalty (whether criminal or civil in nature) for any violation of law; relating to the discharge, or substantial threat of a discharge, of oil.

(d) FEDERAL EMPLOYEE LIABILITY.—For purposes of section 2679(b)(2)(B) of title 28, United States Code, nothing in this Act shall be construed to authorize or create a cause of action against a Federal officer or employee in the officer's or employee's personal or individual capacity for any act or omission while acting within the scope of the officer's or employee's office or employment.

[*1019]
SEC. 1019. <*33 USC 2719*> STATE FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY.

A State may enforce, on the navigable waters of the State, the requirements for evidence of financial responsibility under section 1016.

[*1020]
SEC. 1020. <*33 USC 2701* note> APPLICATION.

This Act shall apply to an incident occurring after the date of the enactment of this Act.

TITLE II—CONFORMING AMENDMENTS

[*2001]
SEC. 2001. INTERVENTION ON THE HIGH SEAS ACT.

Section 17 of the Intervention on the High Seas Act (33 .S.C. 1486) is amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 17. The Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund shall be available to the Secretary for actions taken under sections 5 and 7 of this Act."

[**507] [*2002]
SEC. 2002. <*33 USC 1321* note> FEDERAL WATER POLLUTION CONTROL ACT.

(a) APPLICATION.—Subsections (f), (g), (h), and (i) of section 311 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (*33 USC 1321*) shall not apply with respect to any incident for which liability is established under section 1002 of this Act.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 311 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (*33 USC 1321*) is amended as follows:

(1) Subsection (i) is amended by striking "(1)" after "(i)" and by striking paragraphs (2) and (3).

(2) <*33 USC 1321* note> Subsection (k) is repealed. Any amounts remaining in the revolving fund established under that subsection shall be deposited in the Fund. The Fund shall assume all liability incurred by the revolving fund established under that subsection.

(3) Subsection (l) is amended by striking the second sentence.

(4) Subsection (p) is repealed.

(5) The following is added at the end thereof:

"(s) The Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund established under section 9509 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (*26 USC 9509*) shall be available to carry out subsections (b), (c), (d), (j), and (l) as those subsections apply to discharges, and substantial threats of discharges, of oil. Any amounts received by the United States under this section shall be deposited in the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund."

[*2003]
SEC. 2003. DEEPWATER PORT ACT.

(a) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—The Deepwater Port Act of 1974 (*33 USC 1502* et seq.) is amended

(1) in section 4(c)(1) <*33 USC 1503*> by striking "section 18(l) of this Act;" and inserting "section 1016 of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990"; and

(2) <*33 USC 1517*> by striking section 18.

(b) <*26 USC 9509* note> AMOUNTS REMAINING IN DEEPWATER PORT FUND.—Any amounts remaining in the Deepwater Port Liability Fund established under section 18(f) of the Deepwater Port Act of 1974 (*33 USC 1517*(f)) shall be deposited in the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund established under section 9509 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (*26 USC 9509*). The Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund shall assume all liability incurred by the Deepwater Port Liability Fund.

[*2004]
SEC. 2004. OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF LANDS ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1978.

Title III of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act Amendments of 1978 (*43 USC 1811–1824*) <*26 USC 9509* note> is repealed. Any amounts remaining in the Offshore Oil Pollution Compensation Fund established under section 302 of that title (*43 USC 1812*) shall be deposited in the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund established under section 9509 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (*26 USC 9509*). The Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund shall assume all liability incurred by the Offshore Oil Pollution Compensation Fund.

TITLE III—INTERNATIONAL OIL POLLUTION PREVENTION AND REMOVAL

[*3001]
SEC. 3001. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL REGIME.

It is the sense of the Congress that it is in the best interests of the United States to participate in an international oil pollution liability [**508] and compensation regime that is at least as effective as Federal and State laws in preventing incidents and in guaranteeing full and prompt compensation for damages resulting from incidents.

[*3002]
SEC. 3002. UNITED STATES–CANADA GREAT LAKES OIL SPILL COOPERATION.

(a) REVIEW.—The Secretary of State shall review relevant international agreements and treaties with the Government of Canada, including the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, to determine whether amendments or additional international agreements are necessary to

(1) prevent discharges of oil on the Great Lakes;

(2) ensure an immediate and effective removal of oil on the Great Lakes; and

(3) fully compensate those who are injured by a discharge of oil on the Great Lakes.

(b) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary of State shall consult with the Department of Transportation, the Environmental Protection Agency, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Great Lakes States, the International Joint Commission, and other appropriate agencies.

(c) REPORT.—The Secretary of State shall submit a report to the Congress on the results of the review under this section within 6 months after the date of the enactment of this Act.

[*3003]
SEC. 3003. UNITED STATES-CANADA LAKE CHAMPLAIN OIL SPILL CO. OPERATION.

(a) REVIEW.—The Secretary of State shall review relevant international agreements and treaties with the Government of Canada, to determine whether amendments or additional international agreements are necessary to
(1) prevent discharges of oil on Lake Champlain;
(2) ensure an immediate and effective removal of oil on Lake Champlain; and
(3) fully compensate those who are injured by a discharge of oil on Lake Champlain.

(b) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary of State shall consult with the Department of Transportation, the Environmental Protection Agency, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the States of Vermont and New York, the International Joint Commission, and other appropriate agencies.

(c) REPORT.—The Secretary of State shall submit a report to the Congress on the results of the review under this section within 6 months after the date of the enactment of this Act.

[*3004]
SEC. 3004. INTERNATIONAL INVENTORY OF REMOVAL EQUIPMENT AND PERSONNEL.

The President shall encourage appropriate international organizations to establish an international inventory of spill removal equipment and personnel.

[*3005]
SEC. 3005. NEGOTIATIONS WITH CANADA CONCERNING TUG ESCORTS IN PUGET SOUND.

Congress urges the Secretary of State to enter into negotiations with the Government of Canada to ensure that tugboat escorts are required for all tank vessels with a capacity over 40,000 deadweight tons in the Strait of Juan de Fuca and in Haro Strait.

[**509] TITLE IV—PREVENTION AND REMOVAL

SUBTITLE A—PREVENTION

[*4115]
SEC. 4115. ESTABLISHMENT OF DOUBLE HULL REQUIREMENT FOR TANK VESSELS.

(a) DOUBLE HULL REQUIREMENT.—Chapter 37 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 3703 the following new section:
"§ 3703a. Tank vessel construction standards

"(a) Except as otherwise provided in this section, a vessel to which this chapter applies shall be equipped with a double hull
"(1) if it is constructed or adapted to carry, or carries, oil in bulk as cargo or cargo residue; and
[**518] "(2) when operating on the waters subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, including the Exclusive Economic Zone.

"(b) This section does not apply to
"(1) a vessel used only to respond to a discharge of oil or a hazardous substance;
"(2) a vessel of less than 5,000 gross tons equipped with a double containment system determined by the Secretary to be as effective as a double hull for the prevention of a discharge of oil; or
"(3) before January 1, 2015
"(A) a vessel unloading oil in bulk at a deepwater port licensed under the Deepwater Port Act of 1974 (*33 USC 1501* et seq.); or
"(B) a delivering vessel that is offloading in lightering activities
"(i) within a lightering zone established under section 3715(b) (5) of this title; and
"(ii) more than 60 miles from the baseline from which the territorial sea of the United States is measured.

"(c)(1) In this subsection, the age of a vessel is determined from the later of the date on which the vessel
"(A) is delivered after original construction;
"(B) is delivered after completion of a major conversion; or

"(C) had its appraised salvage value determined by the Coast Guard and is qualified for documentation under section 4136 of the Revised Statutes of the United States (*46 App. USC 14*).

"(2) A vessel of less than 5,000 gross tons for which a building contract or contract for major conversion was placed before June 30, 1990, and that is delivered under that contract before January 1, 1994, and a vessel of less than 5,000 gross tons that had its appraised salvage value determined by the Coast Guard before June 30, 1990, and that qualifies for documentation under section 4136 of the Revised Statutes of the United States (*46 App. USC 14*) before January 1, 1994, may not operate in the navigable waters or the Exclusive Economic Zone of the United States after January 1, 2015, unless the vessel is equipped with a double hull or with a double containment system determined by the Secretary to be as effective as a double hull for the prevention of a discharge of oil.

"(3) A vessel for which a building contract or contract for major conversion was placed before June 30, 1990, and that is delivered under that contract before January 1, 1994, and a vessel that had its appraised salvage value determined by the Coast Guard before June 30, 1990, and that qualifies for documentation under section 4136 of the Revised Statutes of the United States (*46 App. USC 14*) before January 1, 1994, may not operate in the navigable waters or Exclusive Economic Zone of the United States unless equipped with a double hull

"(A) in the case of a vessel of at least 5,000 gross tons but less than 15,000 gross tons

"(i) after January 1, 1995, if the vessel is 40 years old or older and has a single hull, or is 45 years old or older and has a double bottom or double sides;

"(ii) after January 1, 1996, if the vessel is 39 years old or older and has a single hull, or is 44 years old or older and has a double bottom or double sides;

[**519] "(iii) after January 1, 1997, if the vessel is 38 years old or older and has a single hull, or is 43 years old or older and has a double bottom or double sides;

"(iv) after January 1, 1998, if the vessel is 37 years old or older and has a single hull, or is 42 years old or older and has a double bottom or double sides;

"(v) after January 1, 1999, if the vessel is 36 years old or older and has a single hull, or is 41 years old or older and has a double bottom or double sides;

"(vi) after January 1, 2000, if the vessel is 35 years old or older and has a single hull, or is 40 years old or older and has a double bottom or double sides; and

"(vii) after January 1, 2005, if the vessel is 25 years old or older and has a single hull, or is 30 years old or older and has a double bottom or double sides;

"(B) in the case of a vessel of at least 15,000 gross tons but less than 30,000 gross tons

"(i) after January 1, 1995, if the vessel is 40 years old or older and has a single hull, or is 45 years old or older and has a double bottom or double sides;

"(ii) after January 1, 1996, if the vessel is 38 years old or older and has a single hull, or is 43 years old or older and has a double bottom or double sides;

"(iii) after January 1, 1997, if the vessel is 36 years old or older and has a single hull, or is 41 years old or older and has a double bottom or double sides;

"(iv) after January 1, 1998, if the vessel is 34 years old or older and has a single hull, or is 39 years old or older and has a double bottom or double sides;

"(v) after January 1, 1999, if the vessel is 32 years old or older and has a single hull, or 37 years old or older and has a double bottom or double sides;

"(vi) after January 1, 2000, if the vessel is 30 years old or older and has a single hull, or is 35 years old or older and has a double bottom or double sides;

"(vii) after January 1, 2001, if the vessel is 29 years old or older and has a single hull, or is 34 years old or older and has a double bottom or double sides;

"(viii) after January 1, 2002, if the vessel is 28 years old or older and has a single hull, or is 33 years old or older and has a double bottom or double sides;

"(ix) after January 1, 2003, if the vessel is 27 years old or older and has a single hull, or is 32 years old or older and has a double bottom or double sides;

"(x) after January 1, 2004, if the vessel is 26 years old or older and has a single hull, or is 31 years old or older and has a double bottom or double sides; and

"(xi) after January 1, 2005, if the vessel is 25 years old or older and has a single hull, or is 30 years old or older and has a double bottom or double sides; and

"(C) in the case of a vessel of at least 30,000 gross tons

"(i) after January 1, 1995, if the vessel is 28 years old or older and has a single hull, or 33 years old or older and has a double bottom or double sides;

"(ii) after January 1, 1996, if the vessel is 27 years old or older and has a single hull, or is 32 years old or older and has a double bottom or double sides;

[**520] "(iii) after January 1, 1997, if the vessel is 26 years old or older and has a single hull, or is 31 years old or older and has a double bottom or double sides;

"(iv) after January 1, 1998, if the vessel is 25 years old or older and has a single hull, or is 30 years old or older and has a double bottom or double sides;

"(v) after January 1, 1999, if the vessel is 24 years old or older and has a single hull, or 29 years old or older and has a double bottom or double sides; and

"(vi) after January 1, 2000, if the vessel is 23 years old or older and has a single hull, or is 28 years old or older and has a double bottom or double sides.

"(4) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section

"(A) a vessel that has a single hull may not operate after January 1, 2010; and

"(B) a vessel that has a double bottom or double sides may not operate after January 1, 2015."

(b) <*46 USC 3703a* note> RULEMAKING.—The Secretary shall, within 12 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, complete a rulemaking proceeding and issue a final rule to require that tank vessels over 5,000 gross tons affected by section 3703a of title 46, United States Code, as added by this section, comply until January 1, 2015, with structural and operational requirements that the Secretary determines will provide as substantial protection to the environment as is economically and tech-

nologically feasible.

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 37 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 3703 the following:

"3703a. Tank vessel construction standards."

(d) LIGHTERING REQUIREMENTS.—Section 3715(a) of title 46, United States Code, is amended

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking "; and" and inserting a semicolon;

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking the period and inserting ";and"; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

"(3) the delivering and the receiving vessel had on board at the time of transfer, a certificate of financial responsibility as would have been required under section 1016 of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990, had the transfer taken place in a place subject to the jurisdiction of the United States;

"(4) the delivering and the receiving vessel had on board at the time of transfer, evidence that each vessel is operating in compliance with section 311(j) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (*33 USC 1321*(j)); and

"(5) the delivering and the receiving vessel are operating in compliance with section 3703a of this title."

(e) <*46 USC 3703a* note> SECRETARIAL STUDIES.

(1) OTHER REQUIREMENTS.—Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall determine, based on recommendations from the National Academy of Sciences or other qualified organizations, whether other structural and operational tank vessel requirements will provide protection to the marine environment equal to or greater than that provided by double hulls, and shall report to the Congress that determination and recommendations for legislative action.

[**521] (2) REVIEW AND ASSESSMENT.—The Secretary shall

(A) periodically review recommendations from the National Academy of Sciences and other qualified organizations on methods for further increasing the environmental and operational safety of tank vessels;

(B) not later than 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act, assess the impact of this section on the safety of the marine environment and the economic viability and operational makeup of the maritime oil transportation industry; and

(C) report the results of the review and assessment to the Congress with recommendations for legislative or other action.

(f) VESSEL FINANCING.—Section 1104 of the Merchant Marine Act of 1936 (*46 App. USC 1274*) is amended

(1) by striking "SEC. 1104." and inserting "Sec. 1104A."; and

(2) by inserting after section 1104A (as redesignated by paragraph (1)) the following:

"SEC. 1104B. *<46 USC app. 1274a>* (a) Notwithstanding the provisions of this title, except as provided in subsection (d) of this section, the Secretary, upon the terms the Secretary may prescribe, may guarantee or make a commitment to guarantee, payment of the principal of and interest on an obligation which aids in financing and refinancing, including reimbursement to an obligor for expenditures previously made, of a contract for construction or reconstruction of a vessel or vessels owned by citizens of the United States which are designed and to be employed for commercial use in the coastwise or intercoastal trade or in foreign trade as defined in section 905 of this Act if

"(1) the construction or reconstruction by an applicant is made necessary to replace vessels the continued operation of which is denied by virtue of the imposition of a statutorily mandated change in standards for the operation of vessels, and where, as a matter of law, the applicant would otherwise be denied the right to continue operating vessels in the trades in which the applicant operated prior to the taking effect of the statutory or regulatory change;

"(2) the applicant is presently engaged in transporting cargoes in vessels of the type and class that will be constructed or reconstructed under this section, and agrees to employ vessels constructed or reconstructed under this section as replacements only for vessels made obsolete by changes in operating standards imposed by statute;

"(3) the capacity of the vessels to be constructed or reconstructed under this title will not increase the cargo carrying capacity of the vessels being replaced;

"(4) the Secretary has not made a determination that the market demand for the vessel over its useful life will diminish so as to make the granting of the guarantee fiduciarily imprudent; and

"(5) the Secretary has considered the provisions of section 1104A(d)(1)(A) (iii), (iv), and (v) of this title.

"(b) For the purposes of this section

"(1) the maximum term for obligations guaranteed under this program may not exceed 25 years;

[**522] "(2) obligations guaranteed may not exceed 75 percent of the actual cost or depreciated actual cost to the applicant for the construction or reconstruction of the vessel; and

"(3) reconstruction cost obligations may not be guaranteed unless the vessel after reconstruction will have a useful life of at least 15 years.

"(c)(1) The Secretary shall by rule require that the applicant provide adequate security against default. The Secretary may, in addition to any fees assessed under section 1104A(e), establish a Vessel Replacement Guarantee Fund into which shall be paid by obligors under this section

"(A) annual fees which may be an additional amount on the loan guarantee fee in section 1104A(e) not to exceed an additional 1 percent; or

"(B) fees based on the amount of the obligation versus the percentage of the obligor's fleet being replaced by vessels constructed or reconstructed under this section.

"(2) The Vessel Replacement Guarantee Fund shall be a subaccount in the Federal Ship Financing Fund, and shall

"(A) be the depository for all moneys received by the Secretary under sections 1101 through 1107 of this title with respect to guarantee or commitments to guarantee made under this section;

"(B) not include investigation fees payable under section 1104A(f) which shall be paid to the Federal Ship Financing Fund; and

"(C) be the depository, whenever there shall be outstanding any notes or obligations issued by the Secretary under section 1105(d) with respect to the Vessel Replacement Guarantee Fund, for all moneys received by the Secretary under sections 1101 through 1107 from applicants under this section.

"(d) The program created by this section shall, in addition to the requirements of this section, be subject to the provisions of sections 1101 through 1103; 1104A(b)(1), (4), (5), (6); 1104A(e); 1104A(f); 1104A(h); and 1105 through 1107; except that the Federal Ship Financing Fund is not liable for any guarantees or commitments to guarantee issued under this section."

[*4116]
SEC. 4116. PILOTAGE.

(a) PILOT REQUIRED.—Section 8502(g) of title 46, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

"(g)(1) The Secretary shall designate by regulation the areas of the approaches to and waters of Prince William Sound, Alaska, if any, on which a vessel subject to this section is not required to be under the direction and control of a pilot licensed under section 7101 of this title.

"(2) In any area of Prince William Sound, Alaska, where a vessel subject to this section is required to be under the direction and control of a pilot licensed under section 7101 of this title, the pilot may not be a member of the crew of that vessel and shall be a pilot licensed by the State of Alaska who is operating under a Federal license, when the vessel is navigating waters between 60 degrees 49!cf60+25 North latitude and the Port of Valdez, Alaska."

(b) SECOND PERSON REQUIRED.—Section 8502 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(h) The Secretary shall designate waters on which tankers over 1,600 gross tons subject to this section shall have on the bridge a [**523] master or mate licensed to

direct and control the vessel under section 7101(c)(1) of this title who is separate and distinct from the pilot required under subsection (a) of this section."

(c) <*46 USC 3703* note> ESCORTS FOR CERTAIN TANKERS.—Not later than 6 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall initiate issuance of regulations under section 3703(a)(3) of title 46, United States Code, to define those areas, including Prince William Sound, Alaska, and Rosario Strait and Puget Sound, Washington (including those portions of the Strait of Juan de Fuca east of Port Angeles, Haro Strait, and the Strait of Georgia subject to United States jurisdiction), on which single hulled tankers over 5,000 gross tons transporting oil in bulk shall be escorted by at least two towing vessels (as defined under section 2101 of title 46, United States Code) or other vessels considered appropriate by the Secretary.

(d) <*46 USC 3703* note> TANKER DEFINED.—In this section the term "tanker" has the same meaning the term has in section 2101 of title 46, United States Code.

[*4117]
SEC. 4117. <*46 USC app. 1295* note> MARITIME POLLUTION PREVENTION TRAINING PROGRAM STUDY.

The Secretary shall conduct a study to determine the feasibility of a Maritime Oil Pollution Prevention Training program to be carried out in cooperation with approved maritime training institutions. The study shall assess the costs and benefits of transferring suitable vessels to selected maritime training institutions, equipping the vessels for oil spill response, and training students in oil pollution response skills. The study shall be completed and transmitted to the Congress no later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

[*4118]
SEC. 4118. <*33 USC 1203* note> VESSEL COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT REGULATIONS.

The Secretary shall, not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, issue regulations necessary to ensure that vessels subject to the Vessel Bridge-to-Bridge Radiotelephone Act of 1971 (*33 USC 1203*) are also equipped as necessary to

(1) receive radio marine navigation safety warnings; and

(2) engage in radio communications on designated frequencies with the Coast Guard, and such other vessels and stations as may be specified by the Secretary.

SUBTITLE B—REMOVAL

[*4201]
SEC. 4201. FEDERAL REMOVAL AUTHORITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (c) of section 311 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (*33 USC 1321*(c)) is amended to read as follows:

"(c) FEDERAL REMOVAL AUTHORITY.

"(1) GENERAL REMOVAL REQUIREMENT.—(A) The President shall, in accordance with the National Contingency Plan and any appropriate Area Contingency Plan, ensure effective and immediate removal of a discharge, and mitigation or prevention of a substantial threat of a discharge, of oil or a hazardous substance

"(i) into or on the navigable waters;

"(ii) on the adjoining shorelines to the navigable waters;

[**524] "(iii) into or on the waters of the exclusive economic zone; or

"(iv) that may affect natural resources belonging to, appertaining to, or under the exclusive management authority of the United States.

"(B) In carrying out this paragraph, the President may

"(i) remove or arrange for the removal of a discharge, and mitigate or prevent a substantial threat of a discharge, at any time;

"(ii) direct or monitor all Federal, State, and private actions to remove a discharge; and

"(iii) remove and, if necessary, destroy a vessel discharging, or threatening to discharge, by whatever means are available.

"(2) DISCHARGE POSING SUBSTANTIAL THREAT TO PUBLIC HEALTH OR WELFARE.—(A) If a discharge, or a substantial threat of a discharge, of oil or a hazardous substance from a vessel, offshore facility, or onshore facility is of such a size or character as to be a substantial threat to the public health or welfare of the United States (including but not limited to fish, shellfish, wildlife, other natural resources, and the public and private beaches and shorelines of the United States), the President shall direct all Federal, State, and private actions to remove the discharge or to mitigate or prevent the threat of the discharge.

"(B) In carrying out this paragraph, the President may, without regard to any other provision of law governing contracting procedures or employment of personnel by the Federal Government

"(i) remove or arrange for the removal of the discharge, or mitigate or prevent the substantial threat of the discharge; and

"(ii) remove and, if necessary, destroy a vessel discharging, or threatening to discharge, by whatever means are available.

"(3) ACTIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH NATIONAL CONTINGENCY PLAN.—(A) Each Federal agency, State, owner or operator, or other person participating in efforts under this subsection shall act in accordance with the National Contingency Plan or as directed by the President.

"(B) An owner or operator participating in efforts under this subsection shall act in accordance with the National Contingency Plan and the applicable response plan required under subsection (j), or as directed by the President.

"(4) EXEMPTION FROM LIABILITY.—(A) A person is not liable for removal costs or damages which result from actions taken or omitted to be taken in the course of rendering care, assistance, or advice consistent with the National Contingency Plan or as otherwise directed by the President.

"(B) Subparagraph (A) does not apply

"(i) to a responsible party;

"(ii) to a response under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (*42 USC 9601* et seq.);

"(iii) with respect to personal injury or wrongful death; or

"(iv) if the person is grossly negligent or engages in willful misconduct.

[**525] "(C) A responsible party is liable for any removal costs and damages that another person is relieved of under subparagraph (A).

"(5) OBLIGATION AND LIABILITY OF OWNER OR OPERATOR NOT AFFECTED.—Nothing in this subsection affects

"(A) the obligation of an owner or operator to respond immediately to a discharge, or the threat of a discharge, of oil; or

"(B) the liability of a responsible party under the Oil Pollution Act of 1990.

"(6) RESPONSIBLE PARTY DEFINED.—For purposes of this subsection, the term 'responsible party' has the meaning given that term under section 1001 of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990."

(b) NATIONAL CONTINGENCY PLAN.—Subsection (d) of section 311 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (*33 USC 1321*(d)) is amended to read as follows:

"(d) NATIONAL CONTINGENCY PLAN.

"(1) PREPARATION BY PRESIDENT.—The President shall prepare and publish a National Contingency Plan for removal of oil and hazardous substances pursuant to this section.

"(2) CONTENTS.—The National Contingency Plan shall provide for efficient, coordinated, and effective action to minimize damage from oil and hazardous substance discharges, including containment, dispersal, and removal of oil and hazardous substances, and shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

"(A) Assignment of duties and responsibilities among Federal departments and agencies in coordination with State and local agencies and port authorities including, but not limited to, water pollution control and conservation and trusteeship of natural resources (including conservation of fish and wildlife).

"(B) Identification, procurement, maintenance, and storage of equipment and supplies.

"(C) Establishment or designation of Coast Guard strike teams, consisting of

"(i) personnel who shall be trained, prepared, and available to provide necessary services to carry out the National Contingency Plan;

"(ii) adequate oil and hazardous substance pollution control equipment and material; and

"(iii) a detailed oil and hazardous substance pollution and prevention plan, including measures to protect fisheries and wildlife.

"(D) A system of surveillance and notice designed to safeguard against as well as ensure earliest possible notice of discharges of oil and hazardous substances and imminent threats of such discharges to the appropriate State and Federal agencies.

"(E) Establishment of a national center to provide coordination and direction for operations in carrying out the Plan.

"(F) Procedures and techniques to be employed in identifying, containing, dispersing, and removing oil and hazardous substances.

"(G) A schedule, prepared in cooperation with the States, identifying

[**526] "(i) dispersants, other chemicals, and other spill mitigating devices and substances, if any, that may be used in carrying out the Plan,

"(ii) the waters in which such dispersants, other chemicals, and other spill mitigating devices and substances may be used, and

"(iii) the quantities of such dispersant, other chemicals, or other spill mitigating device or substance which can be used safely in such waters, which schedule shall provide in the case of any dispersant, chemical, spill mitigating device or substance, or waters not specifically identified in such schedule that the President, or his delegate, may, on a case-by-case basis, identify the dispersants, other chemicals, and other spill mitigating devices and substances which may be used, the waters in which they may be used, and the quantities which can be used safely in such waters.

"(H) A system whereby the State or States affected by a discharge of oil or hazardous substance may act where necessary to remove such discharge and such State or States may be reimbursed in accordance with the Oil Pollution Act of 1990, in the case of any discharge of oil from a vessel or facility, for the reasonable costs incurred for that removal, from the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund.

"(I) Establishment of criteria and procedures to ensure immediate and effective Federal identification of, and response to, a discharge, or the threat of a discharge, that results in a substantial threat to the public health or welfare of the United States, as required under subsection (c)(2).

"(J) Establishment of procedures and standards for removing a worst case discharge of oil, and for mitigating or preventing a substantial threat of such a discharge.

"(K) Designation of the Federal official who shall be the Federal On-Scene Coordinator for each area for which an Area Contingency Plan is required to be prepared under subsection (j).

"(L) Establishment of procedures for the coordination of activities of

"(i) Coast Guard strike teams established under subparagraph (C);

"(ii) Federal On-Scene Coordinators designated under subparagraph (K);

"(iii) District Response Groups established under subsection (j); and

"(iv) Area Committees established under subsection (j).

"(M) A fish and wildlife response plan, developed in consultation with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and other interested parties (including State fish and wildlife conservation officials), for the immediate and effective protection, rescue, and rehabilitation of, and the minimization of risk of damage to, fish and wildlife resources and their habitat that are harmed or that may be jeopardized by a discharge.

[**527] "(3) REVISIONS AND AMENDMENTS.—The President may, from time to time, as the President deems advisable, revise or otherwise amend the National Contingency Plan.

"(4) ACTIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH NATIONAL CONTINGENCY PLAN.—After publication of the National Contingency Plan, the removal of oil and hazardous substances and actions to minimize damage from oil and hazardous substance discharges shall, to the greatest extent possible, be in accordance with the National Contingency Plan."

(b) DEFINITIONS.—Section 311(a) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (*33 USC 1321*(a)) is amended

(1) in paragraph (8), by inserting "containment and" after "refers to"; and

(2) in paragraph (16) by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon;

(3) in paragraph (17)

(A) by striking "Otherwise" and inserting "otherwise"; and

(B) by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

"(18) 'Area Committee' means an Area Committee established under subsection (j);

"(19) 'Area Contingency Plan' means an Area Contingency Plan prepared under subsection (j);

"(20) 'Coast Guard District Response Group' means a Coast Guard District Response Group established under subsection (j);

"(21) 'Federal On-Scene Coordinator' means a Federal On-Scene Coordinator designated in the National Contingency Plan;

"(22) 'National Contingency Plan' means the National Contingency Plan prepared and published under subsection (d);

"(23) 'National Response Unit' means the National Response Unit established under subsection (j); and

"(24) 'worst case discharge' means

"(A) in the case of a vessel, a discharge in adverse weather conditions of its entire cargo; and

"(B) in the case of an offshore facility or onshore facility, the largest foreseeable discharge in adverse weather conditions."

(c) <*33 USC 1321* note> REVISION OF NATIONAL CONTINGENCY PLAN.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall revise and republish the National Contingency Plan prepared under section 311(c)(2) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (as in effect immediately before the date of the enactment of this Act) to implement the amendments made by this section and section 4202.

[*4202]
SEC. 4202. NATIONAL PLANNING AND RESPONSE SYSTEM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (j) of section 311 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (*33 USC 1321*(j)) is amended

(1) by striking "(j)" and inserting the following:

"(j) NATIONAL RESPONSE SYSTEM.—";

(2) by moving paragraph (1) so as to begin immediately below the heading for subsection (j) (as added by paragraph (1) of this subsection);

[**528] (3) by moving paragraph (1) two ems to the right, so the left margin of that paragraph is aligned with the left margin of paragraph (2) of that subsection (as added by paragraph (6) of this subsection);

(4) in paragraph (1) by striking "(1)" and inserting the following:

"(1) IN GENERAL.—";

(5) by striking paragraph (2); and

(6) by adding at the end the following:

"(2) NATIONAL RESPONSE UNIT.—The Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall establish a National Response Unit at Elizabeth City, North Carolina. The Secretary, acting through the National Response Unit

"(A) shall compile and maintain a comprehensive computer list of spill removal resources, personnel, and equipment that is available worldwide and within the areas designated by the President pursuant to paragraph (4), which shall be available to Federal and State agencies and the public;

"(B) shall provide technical assistance, equipment, and other resources requested by a Federal On-Scene Coordinator;

"(C) shall coordinate use of private and public personnel and equipment to remove a worst case discharge, and to mitigate or prevent a substantial threat of such a discharge, from a vessel, offshore facility, or onshore facility operating in or near an area designated by the President pursuant to paragraph (4);

"(D) may provide technical assistance in the preparation of Area Contingency Plans required under paragraph (4);

"(E) shall administer Coast Guard strike teams established under the National Contingency Plan;

"(F) shall maintain on file all Area Contingency Plans approved by the President under this subsection; and

"(G) shall review each of those plans that affects its responsibilities under this subsection.

"(3) COAST GUARD DISTRICT RESPONSE GROUPS.

(A) The Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall establish in each Coast Guard district a Coast Guard District Response Group.

"(B) Each Coast Guard District Response Group shall consist of

"(i) the Coast Guard personnel and equipment, including firefighting equipment, of each port within the district;

"(ii) additional prepositioned equipment; and

"(iii) a district response advisory staff.

"(C) Coast Guard district response groups

"(i) shall provide technical assistance, equipment, and other resources when required by a Federal On-Scene Coordinator;

"(ii) shall maintain all Coast Guard response equipment within its district;

"(iii) may provide technical assistance in the preparation of Area Contingency Plans required under paragraph (4); and

"(iv) shall review each of those plans that affect its area of geographic responsibility.

[**529] "(4) AREA COMMITTEES AND AREA CONTINGENCY PLANS.

(A) There is established for each area designated by the President an Area Committee comprised of members appointed by the President from qualified personnel of Federal, State, and local agencies.

"(B) Each Area Committee, under the direction of the Federal On-Scene Coordinator for its area, shall

"(i) prepare for its area the Area Contingency Plan required under subparagraph (C);

"(ii) work with State and local officials to enhance the contingency planning of those officials and to assure preplanning of joint response efforts, including appropriate procedures for mechanical recovery, dispersal, shoreline cleanup, protection of sensitive environmental areas, and protection, rescue, and rehabilitation of fisheries and wildlife; and

"(iii) work with State and local officials to expedite decisions for the use of dispersants and other mitigating substances and devices.

"(C) Each Area Committee shall prepare and submit to the President for approval an Area Contingency Plan for its area. The Area Contingency Plan shall

"(i) when implemented in conjunction with the National Contingency Plan, be adequate to remove a worst case discharge, and to mitigate or prevent a substantial threat of such a discharge, from a vessel, offshore facility, or onshore facility operating in or near the area;

"(ii) describe the area covered by the plan, including the areas of special economic or environmental importance that might be damaged by a discharge;

"(iii) describe in detail the responsibilities of an owner or operator and of Federal, State, and local agencies in removing a discharge, and in mitigating or preventing a substantial threat of a discharge;

"(iv) list the equipment (including firefighting equipment), dispersants or other mitigating substances and devices, and personnel available to an owner or operator and Federal, State, and local agencies, to ensure an effective and immediate removal of a discharge, and to ensure mitigation or prevention of a substantial threat of a discharge;

"(v) describe the procedures to be followed for obtaining an expedited decision regarding the use of dispersants;

"(vi) describe in detail how the plan is integrated into other Area Contingency Plans and vessel, offshore facility, and onshore facility response plans approved under this subsection, and into operating procedures of the National Response Unit;

"(vii) include any other information the President requires; and

"(viii) be updated periodically by the Area Committee.

"(D) The President shall

"(i) review and approve Area Contingency Plans under this paragraph; and

"(ii) periodically review Area Contingency Plans so approved.

"(5) TANK VESSEL AND FACILITY RESPONSE PLANS.

(A) The President shall issue regulations which require an owner or [**530] operator of a tank vessel or facility described in subparagraph (B) to prepare and submit to the President a plan for responding, to the maximum extent practicable, to a worst case discharge, and to a substantial threat of such a discharge, of oil or a hazardous substance.

"(B) The tank vessels and facilities referred to in subparagraph (A) are the following:

"(i) A tank vessel, as defined under section 2101 of title 46, United States Code.

"(ii) An offshore facility.

"(iii) An onshore facility that, because of its location, could reasonably be expected to cause substantial harm to the environment by discharging into or on the navigable waters, adjoining shorelines, or the exclusive economic zone.

"(C) A response plan required under this paragraph shall

"(i) be consistent with the requirements of the National Contingency Plan and Area Contingency Plans;

"(ii) identify the qualified individual having full authority to implement removal actions, and require immediate communications between that individual and the appropriate Federal official and the persons providing personnel and equipment pursuant to clause (iii);

"(iii) identify, and ensure by contract or other means approved by the President the availability of, private personnel and equipment necessary to remove to the maximum extent practicable a worst case discharge (including a discharge resulting from fire or explosion), and to mitigate or prevent a substantial threat of such a discharge;

"(iv) describe the training, equipment testing, periodic unannounced drills, and response actions of persons on the vessel or at the facility, to be carried out under the plan to ensure the safety of the vessel or facility and to mitigate or prevent the discharge, or the substantial threat of a discharge;

"(v) be updated periodically; and

"(vi) be resubmitted for approval of each significant change.

"(D) With respect to any response plan submitted under this paragraph for an onshore facility that, because of its location, could reasonably be expected to cause significant and substantial harm to the environment by discharging into or on the navigable waters or adjoining shorelines or the exclusive economic zone, and with respect to each response plan submitted under this paragraph for a tank vessel or offshore facility, the President shall

"(i) promptly review such response plan;

"(ii) require amendments to any plan that does not meet the requirements of this paragraph;

"(iii) approve any plan that meets the requirements of this paragraph; and

"(iv) review each plan periodically thereafter.

"(E) A tank vessel, offshore facility, or onshore facility required to prepare a response plan under this subsection may not handle, store, or transport oil unless

"(i) in the case of a tank vessel, offshore facility, or onshore facility for which a response plan is reviewed by [**531] the President under subparagraph (D), the plan has been approved by the President; and

"(ii) the vessel or facility is operating in compliance with the plan.

"(F) Notwithstanding subparagraph (E), the President may authorize a tank vessel, offshore facility, or onshore facility to operate without a response plan approved under this paragraph, until not later than 2 years after the date of the submission to the President of a plan for the tank vessel or facility, if the owner or operator certifies that the owner or operator has ensured by contract or other means approved by the President the availability of private personnel and equipment necessary to respond, to the maximum extent practicable, to a worst case discharge or a substantial threat of such a discharge.

"(G) The owner or operator of a tank vessel, offshore facility, or onshore facility may not claim as a defense to liability under title I of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 that the owner or operator was acting in accordance with an approved response plan.

"(H) The Secretary shall maintain, in the Vessel Identification System established under chapter 125 of title 46, United States Code, the dates of approval and review of a response plan under this paragraph for each tank vessel that is a vessel of the United States.

"(6) EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS AND INSPECTION.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this section, the President shall require—

"(A) periodic inspection of containment booms, skimmers, vessels, and other major equipment used to remove discharges; and

"(B) vessels operating on navigable waters and carrying oil or a hazardous substance in bulk as cargo to carry appropriate removal equipment that employs the best technology economically feasible and that is compatible with the safe operation of the vessel.

"(7) AREA DRILLS.—The President shall periodically conduct drills of removal capability, without prior notice, in areas for which Area Contingency Plans are required under this subsection and under relevant tank vessel and facility response plans. The drills may include participation by Federal, State, and local agencies, the owners and operators of vessels and facilities in the area, and private industry. The President may publish annual reports on these drills, including assessments of the effectiveness of the plans and a list of amendments made to improve plans.

"(8) UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT NOT LIABLE.—The United States Government is not liable for any damages arising from its actions or omissions relating to any response plan required by this section."

(b) <*33 USC 1321* note> IMPLEMENTATION.

(1) AREA COMMITTEES AND CONTINGENCY PLANS.

(A) Not later than 6 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall designate the areas for which Area Committees are established under section 311(j)(4) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, as amended by this Act. In designating such areas, the President shall ensure that all navigable waters, adjoining shorelines, and waters of the exclusive economic zone are subject to an Area Contingency Plan under that section.

[**532] (B) Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, each Area Committee established under that section shall submit to the President the Area Contingency Plan required under that section.

(C) Not later than 24 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall

(i) promptly review each plan;

(ii) require amendments to any plan that does not meet the requirements of section 311(j)(4) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act; and

(iii) approve each plan that meets the requirements of that section.

(2) NATIONAL RESPONSE UNIT.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall establish a National Response Unit in accordance with section 311(j)(2) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, as amended by this Act.

(3) COAST GUARD DISTRICT RESPONSE GROUPS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall establish Coast Guard District Response Groups in accordance with section 311(j)(3) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, as amended by this Act.

(4) TANK VESSEL AND FACILITY RESPONSE PLANS; TRANSITION PROVISION; EFFECTIVE DATE OF PROHIBITION.

(A) Not later than 24 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall issue regulations for tank vessel and facility response plans under section 311(j)(5) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, as amended by this Act.

(B) During the period beginning 30 months after the date of the enactment of this paragraph and ending 36 months after that date of enactment, a tank vessel or facility for which a response plan is required to be prepared under section 311(j)(5) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, as amended by this Act, may not handle, store, or transport oil unless the owner or operator thereof has submitted such a plan to the President.

(C) Subparagraph (E) of section 311(j)(5) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, as amended by this Act, shall take effect 36 months after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) STATE LAW NOT PREEMPTED.—Section 311(o)(2) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (*33 USC 1321*(o)(2)) is amended by inserting before the period the following: ", or with respect to any removal activities related to such discharge".

[*4203]
SEC. 4203. <*14 USC 92* note> COAST GUARD VESSEL DESIGN.

The Secretary shall ensure that vessels designed and constructed to replace Coast Guard buoy tenders are equipped with oil skimming systems that are readily available and operable, and that complement the primary mission of servicing aids to navigation.

[*4204]
SEC. 4204. DETERMINATION OF HARMFUL QUANTITIES OF OIL AND HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES.

Section 311(b)(4) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (*33 USC 1321*(b)(4)) is amended by inserting "or the environment" after "the public health or welfare".

[**533] [*4205]
SEC. 4205. COASTWISE OIL SPILL RESPONSE COOPERATIVES.

Section 12106 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(d)(1) A vessel may be issued a certificate of documentation with a coastwise endorsement if

"(A) the vessel is owned by a not-for-profit oil spill response cooperative or by members of such a cooperative who dedicate the vessel to use by the cooperative;

"(B) the vessel is at least 50 percent owned by persons or entities described in section 12102(a) of this title;

"(C) the vessel otherwise qualifies under section 12106 to be employed in the coastwise trade; and

"(D) use of the vessel is restricted to

"(i) the deployment of equipment, supplies, and personnel to recover, contain, or transport oil discharged into the navigable waters of the United States, or within the Exclusive Economic Zone, or

"(ii) for training exercises to prepare to respond to such a discharge.

"(2) For purposes of the first proviso of section 27 of the Merchant Marine Act, 1920, section 2 of the Shipping Act of 1916, and section 12102(a) of this title, a vessel meeting the criteria of this subsection shall be considered to be owned exclusively by citizens of the United States."

SUBTITLE C—PENALTIES AND MISCELLANEOUS

[*4301]
SEC. 4301. FEDERAL WATER POLLUTION CONTROL ACT PENALTIES.

(a) NOTICE TO STATE AND FAILURE TO REPORT.—Section 311(b)(5) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (*33 USC 1321*(b)(5)) is amended

(1) by inserting after the first sentence the following: "The Federal agency shall immediately notify the appropriate State agency of any State which is, or may reasonably be expected to be, affected by the discharge of oil or a hazardous substance.";

(2) by striking "fined not more than $10,000, or imprisoned for not more than one year, or both" and inserting "fined in accordance with title 18, United States Code, or imprisoned for not more than 5 years, or both"; and

(3) in the last sentence by

(A) striking "or information obtained by the exploitation of such notification"; and

(B) inserting "natural" before "person".

(b) PENALTIES FOR DISCHARGES AND VIOLATIONS OF REGULATIONS.—Section 311(b) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (*33 USC 1321*(b)) is amended by striking paragraph (6) and inserting the following new paragraphs:

"(6) ADMINISTRATIVE PENALTIES.

"(A) VIOLATIONS.—Any owner, operator, or person in charge of any vessel, onshore facility, or offshore facility

"(i) from which oil or a hazardous substance is discharged in violation of paragraph (3), or

"(ii) who fails or refuses to comply with any regulation issued under subsection (j) to which that owner, operator, or person in charge is subject,

[**534] may be assessed a class I or class II civil penalty by the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating or the Administrator.

"(B) CLASSES OF PENALTIES.

"(i) CLASS I.—The amount of a class I civil penalty under subparagraph (A) may not exceed $10,000 per violation, except that the maximum amount of any class I civil penalty under this subparagraph shall not exceed $25,000. Before assessing a civil penalty under this clause, the Administrator or Secretary, as the case may be, shall give to the person to be assessed such penalty written notice of the Administrator's or Secretary's proposal to assess the penalty and the opportunity to request, within 30 days of the date the notice is received by such person, a hearing on the proposed penalty. Such hearing shall not be subject to section 554 or 556 of title 5, United States Code, but shall provide a reasonable opportunity to be heard and to present evidence.

"(ii) CLASS II.—The amount of a class II civil penalty under subparagraph (A) may not exceed $10,000 per day for each day during which the violation continues; except that the maximum amount of any class II civil penalty under this subparagraph shall not exceed $125,000. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, a class II civil penalty shall be assessed and collected in the same manner, and subject to the same provisions, as in the case of civil penalties assessed and collected after notice and opportunity for a hearing on the record in accordance with section 554 of title 5, United States Code. The Administrator and Secretary may issue rules for discovery procedures for hearings under this paragraph.

"(C) RIGHTS OF INTERESTED PERSONS.

"(i) PUBLIC NOTICE.—Before issuing an order assessing a class II civil penalty under this paragraph the Administrator or Secretary, as the case may be, shall provide public notice of and reasonable opportunity to comment on the proposed issuance of such order.

"(ii) PRESENTATION OF EVIDENCE.—Any person who comments on a proposed assessment of a class II civil penalty under this paragraph shall be given notice of any hearing held under this paragraph and of the order assessing such penalty. In any hearing held under this paragraph, such person shall have a reasonable opportunity to be heard and to present evidence.

"(iii) RIGHTS OF INTERESTED PERSONS TO A HEARING.—If no hearing is held under subparagraph (B) before issuance of an order assessing a class II civil penalty under this paragraph, any person who commented on the proposed assessment may petition, within 30 days after the issuance of such order, the Administrator or Secretary, as the case may be, to set aside such order and to provide a hearing on the penalty. If the evidence presented by the petitioner in support of the petition is material and was not considered in the issuance of the order, the Administrator or Secretary shall immediately [**535] set aside such order and provide a hearing in accordance with subparagraph (B)(ii). If the Administrator or Secretary denies a hearing under

this clause, the Administrator or Secretary shall provide to the petitioner, and publish in the Federal Register, notice of and the reasons for such denial.

"(D) FINALITY OF ORDER.—An order assessing a class II civil penalty under this paragraph shall become final 30 days after its issuance unless a petition for judicial review is filed under subparagraph (G) or a hearing is requested under subparagraph (C)(iii). If such a hearing is denied, such order shall become final 30 days after such denial.

"(E) EFFECT OF ORDER.—Action taken by the Administrator or Secretary, as the case may be, under this paragraph shall not affect or limit the Administrator's or Secretary's authority to enforce any provision of this Act; except that any violation

"(i) with respect to which the Administrator or Secretary has commenced and is diligently prosecuting an action to assess a class II civil penalty under this paragraph, or

"(ii) for which the Administrator or Secretary has issued a final order assessing a class II civil penalty not subject to further judicial review and the violator has paid a penalty assessed under this paragraph, shall not be the subject of a civil penalty action under section 309(d), 309(g), or 505 of this Act or under paragraph (7).

"(F) EFFECT OF ACTION ON COMPLIANCE.—No action by the Administrator or Secretary under this paragraph shall affect any person's obligation to comply with any section of this Act.

"(G) JUDICIAL REVIEW.—Any person against whom a civil penalty is assessed under this paragraph or who commented on the proposed assessment of such penalty in accordance with subparagraph (C) may obtain review of such assessment

"(i) in the case of assessment of a class I civil penalty, in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia or in the district in which the violation is alleged to have occurred, or

"(ii) in the case of assessment of a class II civil penalty, in United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit or for any other circuit in which such person resides or transacts business, by filing a notice of appeal in such court within the 30-day period beginning on the date the civil penalty order is issued and by simultaneously sending a copy of such notice by certified mail to the Administrator or Secretary, as the case may be, and the Attorney General. The Administrator or Secretary shall promptly file in such court a certified copy of the record on which the order was issued. Such court shall not set aside or remand such order unless there is not substantial evidence in the record, taken as a whole, to support the finding of a violation or unless the Administrator's or Secretary's assessment of the penalty constitutes an abuse of discretion and shall not impose additional civil [**536] penalties for the same violation unless the Administrator's or Secretary's assessment of the penalty constitutes an abuse of discretion.

"(H) COLLECTION.—If any person fails to pay an assessment of a civil penalty

"(i) after the assessment has become final, or

"(ii) after a court in an action brought under subparagraph (G) has entered a final judgment in favor of the Administrator or Secretary, as the case may be, the Administrator or Secretary shall request the Attorney General to bring a civil action in an appropriate district court to recover the amount assessed (plus interest at currently prevailing rates from the date of the final order or the date of the final judgment, as the case may be). In such an action, the validity, amount, and appropriateness of such penalty shall not be subject to review. Any person who fails to pay on a timely basis the amount of an assessment of a civil penalty as described in the first sentence of this subparagraph shall be required to pay, in addition to such amount and interest, attorneys fees and costs for collection proceedings and a quarterly nonpayment penalty for each quarter during which such failure to pay persists. Such nonpayment penalty shall be in an amount equal to 20 percent of the aggregate amount of such person's penalties and nonpayment penalties which are unpaid as of the beginning of such quarter.

"(I) SUBPOENAS.—The Administrator or Secretary, as the case may be, may issue subpoenas for the attendance and testimony of witnesses and the production of relevant papers, books, or documents in connection with hearings under this paragraph. In case of contumacy or refusal to obey a subpoena issued pursuant to this subparagraph and served upon any person, the district court of the United States for any district in which such person is found, resides, or transacts business, upon application by the United States and after notice to such person, shall have jurisdiction to issue an order requiring such person to appear and give testimony before the administrative law judge or to appear and produce documents before the administrative law judge, or both, and any failure to obey such order of the court may be punished by such court as a contempt thereof.

"(7) CIVIL PENALTY ACTION.

"(A) DISCHARGE, GENERALLY.—Any person who is the owner, operator, or person in charge of any vessel, onshore facility, or offshore facility from which oil or a hazardous substance is discharged in violation of paragraph (3), shall be subject to a civil penalty in an amount up to $25,000 per day of violation or an amount up to $1,000 per barrel of oil or unit of reportable quantity of hazardous substances discharged.

"(B) FAILURE TO REMOVE OR COMPLY.—Any person described in subparagraph (A) who, without sufficient cause

"(i) fails to properly carry out removal of the discharge under an order of the President pursuant to subsection (c): or

"(ii) fails to comply with an order pursuant to subsection (e)(1)(B);

[**537] shall be subject to a civil penalty in an amount up to $25,000 per day of violation or an amount up to 3 times the costs incurred by the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund as a result of such failure.

"(C) FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH REGULATION.—Any person who fails or refuses to comply with any regulation issued under subsection (j) shall be subject to a civil penalty in an amount up to $25,000 per day of violation.

"(D) GROSS NEGLIGENCE.—In any case in which a violation of paragraph (3) was the result of gross negligence or willful misconduct of a person described in subparagraph (A), the person shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than $100,000, and not more than $3,000 per barrel of oil or unit of reportable quantity of hazardous substance discharged.

"(E) JURISDICTION.—An action to impose a civil penalty under this paragraph may be brought in the district court of the United States for the district in which the defendant is located, resides, or is doing business, and such court shall have jurisdiction to assess such penalty.

"(F) LIMITATION.—A person is not liable for a civil penalty under this paragraph for a discharge if the person has been assessed a civil penalty under paragraph (6) for the discharge.

"(8) DETERMINATION OF AMOUNT.—In determining the amount of a civil penalty under paragraphs (6) and (7), the Administrator, Secretary, or the court, as the case may be, shall consider the seriousness of the violation or violations, the economic benefit to the violator, if any, resulting from the violation, the degree of culpability involved, any other penalty for the same incident, any history of prior violations, the nature, extent, and degree of success of any efforts of the violator to minimize or mitigate the effects of the discharge, the economic impact of the penalty on the violator, and any other matters as justice may require.

"(9) MITIGATION OF DAMAGE.—In addition to establishing a penalty for the discharge of oil or a hazardous substance, the Administrator or the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating may act to mitigate the damage to the public health or welfare caused by such discharge. The cost of such mitigation shall be deemed a cost incurred under subsection (c) of this section for the removal of such substance by the United States Government.

"(10) RECOVERY OF REMOVAL COSTS.—Any costs of removal incurred in connection with a discharge excluded by subsection (a)(2)(C) of this section shall be recoverable from the owner or operator of the source of the discharge in an action brought under section 309(b) of this Act.

"(11) LIMITATION.—Civil penalties shall not be assessed under both this section and section 309 for the same discharge."

(c) CRIMINAL PENALTIES.—Section 309(c) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (*33 USC 1319*(c)) is amended by inserting after "308," each place it appears the following: "311(b)(3)"

[*4302]
SEC. 4302. OTHER PENALTIES.

(a) NEGLIGENT OPERATIONS.—Section 2302 of title 46. United States Code, is amended

[**538] (1) in subsection (b) by striking "shall be fined not more than $5,000, imprisoned for not more than one year, or both.", and inserting "commits a class A misdemeanor"; and

(2) in subsection (c)

(A) by striking ", shall be" in the matter preceding paragraph (1);

(B) by inserting "is" before "liable" in paragraph (1); and

(C) by amending paragraph (2) to read as follows:

"(2) commits a class A misdemeanor."

(b) INSPECTIONS.—Section 3318 of title 46, United States Code, is amended

(1) in subsection (b) by striking "shall be fined not more than $10,000, imprisoned for not more than 5 years, or both." and inserting "commits a class D felony.";

(2) in subsection (c) by striking "shall be fined not more than $5,000, imprisoned for not more than 5 years, or both." and inserting "commits a class D felony.";

(3) in subsection (d) by striking "shall be fined not more than $5,000, imprisoned for not more than 5 years, or both." and inserting "commits a class D felony.";

(4) in subsection (e) by striking "shall be fined not more than $10,000, imprisoned for not more than 2 years, or both." and inserting "commits a class A misdemeanor."; and

(5) in the matter preceding paragraph (1) of subsection (f) by striking "shall be fined not less than $1,000 but not more than $10,000, and imprisoned for not less than 2 years but not more than 5 years," and inserting "commits a class D felony."

(c) CARRIAGE OF LIQUID BULK DANGEROUS CARGOES.—Section 3718 of title 46, United States Code, is amended

(1) in subsection (b) by striking "shall be fined not more than $50,000, imprisoned for not more than 5 years, or both." and inserting "commits a class D felony."; and

(2) in subsection (c) by striking "shall be fined not more than $100,000, imprisoned for not more than 10 years, or both." and inserting "commits a class C felony."

(d) LOAD LINES.—Section 5116 of title 46, United States Code, is amended

(1) in subsection (d) by striking "shall be fined not more than $10,000, imprisoned for not more than one year, or both." and inserting "commits a class A misdemeanor."; and

(2) in subsection (e) by striking "shall be fined not more than $10,000, imprisoned for not more than 2 years, or both." and inserting "commits a class A misdemeanor."

(e) COMPLEMENT OF INSPECTED VESSELS.—Section 8101 of title 46, United States Code, is amended

(1) in subsection (e) by striking "$50" and inserting "$1,000";

(2) in subsection (f) by striking "$100, or, for a deficiency of a licensed individual, a penalty of $500." and inserting "$10,000."; and

(3) in subsection (g) by striking "$500." and inserting "$10,000."

(f) WATCHES.—Section 8104 of title 46, United States Code, is amended

(1) in subsection (i) by striking "$100." and inserting "$10,000."; and

(2) in subsection (j) by striking "$500." and inserting "$10,000."

[**539] (g) COASTWISE PILOTAGE.—Section 8502 of title 46, United States Code, is amended

(1) in subsection (e) by striking "$500." and inserting "$10,000."; and

(2) in subsection (f) by striking "$500." and inserting "$10,000."

(h) FOREIGN COMMERCE PILOTAGE.—Section 8503(e) of title 46, United States Code, is amended by striking "shall be fined not more than $50,000, imprisoned for not more than five years, or both." and inserting "commits a class D felony."

(i) CREW REQUIREMENTS.—Section 8702(e) of title 46, United States Code, is amended by striking "$500." and inserting "$10,000."

(j) PORTS AND WATERWAYS SAFETY ACT.—Section 13(b) of the Port and Waterways Safety Act (*33 USC 1232*(b)) is amended

(1) in paragraph (1) by striking "shall be fined not more than $50,000 for each violation or imprisoned for not more than five years, or both." and inserting "commits a class D felony."; and

(2) in paragraph (2) by striking "shall, in lieu of the penalties prescribed in paragraph (1), be fined not more than $100,000, or imprisoned for not more than 10 years, or both." and inserting "commits a class C felony."

(k) VESSEL NAVIGATION.—Section 4 of the Act of April 28, 1908 (*33 USC 1236*) is amended

(1) in subsection 6) by striking "$500." and inserting "$5,000.";

(2) in subsection (c) by striking "$500," and inserting "$5,000"; and

(3) in subsection (d) by striking "$250." and inserting "$2,500."

(l) INTERVENTION ON THE HIGH SEAS ACT.—section 12(a) of the Intervention of the High Seas Act (33 *USC 1481*(a)) is amended

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1) by striking "Any person who" and inserting "A person commits a class A misdemeanor if that person"; and

(2) in paragraph (3) by striking ", shall be fined not more than $10,000 or imprisoned not more than one year, or both".

(m) DEEPWATER PORT ACT OF 1974.—Section 15(a) of the Deepwater Port Act of 1974 (*33 USC 1514*(a)) is amended by striking "shall on conviction be fined not more than $25,000 for each day of violation or imprisoned for not more than 1 year, or both." and inserting "commits a class A misdemeanor for each day of violation."

(n) ACT TO PREVENT POLLUTION FROM SHIPS.—Section 9(a) of the Act to Prevent Pollution from Ships (*33 USC 1908*(a)) is amended by striking "shall, for each violation, be fined not more than $50,000 or be imprisoned for not more than 5 years, or both." and inserting "commits a class D felony."

[*4303]
SEC. 4303. <*33 USC 2716a*> FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY CIVIL PENALTIES.

(a) ADMINISTRATIVE.—Any person who, after notice and an opportunity for a hearing, is found to have failed to comply with the requirements of section 1016 or the regulations issued under that section, or with a denial or detention order issued under subsection (c)(2) of that section, shall be liable to the United States for a civil penalty, not to exceed $25,000 per day of violation. The amount of the civil penalty shall be assessed by the President by written notice. In determining the amount of the penalty, the President [**540] shall take into account the nature, circumstances, extent, and gravity of the violation, the degree of culpability, any history of prior violation, ability to pay, and such other matters as justice may require. The President may compromise, modify, or remit, with or without conditions, any civil penalty which is subject to imposition or which had been imposed under this paragraph. If any person fails to pay an assessed civil penalty after it has become final, the President may refer the matter to the Attorney General for collection.

(b) JUDICIAL.—In addition to, or in lieu of, assessing a penalty under subsection (a), the President may request the Attorney General to secure such relief as necessary to compel compliance with this section 1016, including a judicial order terminating operations. The district courts of the United States shall have jurisdiction to grant any relief as the public interest and the equities of the case may require.

[*4304]
SEC. 4304. <*26 USC 9509* note> DEPOSIT OF CERTAIN PENALTIES INTO OIL SPILL LIABILITY TRUST FUND.

Penalties paid pursuant to section 311 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, section 309(c) of that Act, as a result of violations of section 311 of that Act, and the Deepwater Port Act of 1974, shall be deposited in the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund created under section 9509 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (*26 USC 9509*).

[*4305]
SEC. 4305. INSPECTION AND ENTRY.

Section 311(m) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (*33 USC 1321*(m)) is amended to read as follows:

"(m) ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

"(1) FOR VESSELS.—Anyone authorized by the President to enforce the provisions of this section with respect to any vessel may, except as to public vessels

"(A) board and inspect any vessel upon the navigable waters of the United States or the waters of the contiguous zone,

"(B) with or without a warrant, arrest any person who in the presence or view of the authorized person violates the provisions of this section or any regulation issued thereunder, and

"(C) execute any warrant or other process issued by an officer or court of competent jurisdiction.

"(2) FOR FACILITIES.

"(A) RECORDKEEPING.—Whenever required to carry out the purposes of this section, the Administrator or the Secretary of the Department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall require the owner or operator of a facility to which this section applies to establish and maintain such records, make such reports, install, use, and maintain such monitoring equipment and methods, and provide such other information as the Administrator or Secretary, as the case may be, may require to carry out the objectives of this section.

"(B) ENTRY AND INSPECTION.—Whenever required to carry out the purposes of this section, the Administrator or the Secretary of the Department in which the Coast Guard is operating or an authorized representative of the Administrator [**541] or Secretary, upon presentation of appropriate credentials, may

"(i) enter and inspect any facility to which this section applies, including any facility at which any records are required to be maintained under subparagraph (A); and

"(ii) at reasonable times, have access to and copy any records, take samples, and inspect any monitoring equipment or methods required under subparagraph (A).

"(C) ARRESTS AND EXECUTION OF WARRANTS.—Anyone authorized by the Administrator or the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating to enforce the provisions of this section with respect to any facility may

"(i) with or without a warrant, arrest any person who violates the provisions of this section or any regulation issued thereunder in the presence or view of the person so authorized; and

"(ii) execute any warrant or process issued by an officer or court of competent jurisdiction.

"(D) PUBLIC ACCESS.—Any records, reports, or information obtained under this paragraph shall be subject to the same public access and disclosure requirements which are applicable to records, reports, and information obtained pursuant to section 308."

[*4306]
SEC. 4306. CIVIL ENFORCEMENT UNDER FEDERAL WATER POLLUTION CONTROL ACT.

Section 311(e) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (*33 USC 1321*) is amended to read as follows:

"(e) CIVIL ENFORCEMENT.

"(1) ORDERS PROTECTING PUBLIC HEALTH.—In addition to any action taken by a State or local government, when the President determines that there may be an imminent and substantial threat to the public health or welfare of the United States, including fish, shellfish, and wildlife, public and private property, shorelines, beaches, habitat, and other living and nonliving natural resources under the jurisdiction or control of the United States, because of an actual or threatened discharge of oil or a hazardous substance from a vessel or facility in violation of subsection (b), the President may

"(A) require the Attorney General to secure any relief from any person, including the owner or operator of the vessel or facility, as may be necessary to abate such endangerment; or

"(B) after notice to the affected State, take any other action under this section, including issuing administrative orders, that may be necessary to protect the public health and welfare.

"(2) JURISDICTION OF DISTRICT COURTS.—The district courts of the United States shall have jurisdiction to grant any relief under this subsection that the public interest and the equities of the case may require."

TITLE IX—AMENDMENTS TO OIL SPILL LIABILITY TRUST FUND, ETC.

[*9001]
SEC. 9001. AMENDMENTS TO OIL SPILL LIABILITY TRUST FUND.

(a) TRANSFERS TO TRUST FUND.—Subsection (b) of section 9509 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 *<26 USC 9509>* is amended by striking all that follows paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

"(2) amounts recovered under the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 for damages to natural resources which are required to be deposited in the Fund under section 1006(f) of such Act,

"(3) amounts recovered by such Trust Fund under section 1015 of such Act,

"(4) amounts required to be transferred by such Act from the revolving fund established under section 311(k) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act,

"(5) amounts required to be transferred by the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 from the Deepwater Port Liability Fund established under section 18(f) of the Deepwater Port Act of 1974,

"(6) amounts required to be transferred by the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 from the Offshore Oil Pollution Compensation Fund established under section 302 of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act Amendments of 1978,

"(7) amounts required to be transferred by the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 from the Trans-Alaska Pipeline Liability Fund established under section 204 of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline Authorization Act, and

"(8) any penalty paid pursuant to section 311 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, section 309(c) of such Act (as a result of violations of such section 311), the Deepwater Port Act of 1974, or section 207 of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline Authorization Act."

(b) EXPENDITURES FROM TRUST FUND.—Paragraph (1) of section 9509(c) of such Code is amended to read as follows:

(1) EXPENDITURE PURPOSES.—Amounts in the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund shall be available, as provided in appropriation [**574] Acts or section 6002(b) of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990, only for purposes of making expenditures

"(A) for the payment of removal costs and other costs, expenses, claims, and damages referred to in section 1012 of such Act,

"(B) to carry out sections 5 and 7 of the Intervention on the High Seas Act relating to oil pollution or the substantial threat of oil pollution,

"(C) for the payment of liabilities incurred by the revolving fund established by section 311(k) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act,

"(D) to carry out subsections (b), (c), (d), (j), and (l) of section 311 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act with respect to prevention, removal, and enforcement related to oil discharges (as defined in such section),

"(E) for the payment of liabilities incurred by the Deepwater Port Liability Fund, and

"(F) for the payment of liabilities incurred by the Offshore Oil Pollution Compensation Fund."

(c) INCREASE IN EXPENDITURES PERMITTED PER INCIDENT.—Subparagraph (A) of section 9509(c)(2) of such Code <*26 USC 9509*> is amended

(1) by striking "$500,000,000" each place it appears and inserting "$1,000,000,000", and

(2) by striking "$250,000,000" and inserting "$500,000,000".

(d) INCREASE IN BORROWING AUTHORITY.

(1) INCREASE IN BORROWING PERMITTED.—Paragraph (2) of section 9509(d) of such Code is amended by striking "$500,000,000" and inserting "$1,000,000,000".

(2) CHANGE IN FINAL REPAYMENT DATE.—Subparagraph (B) of section 9509(d)(3) of such Code is amended by striking "December 31, 1991" and inserting "December 31, 1994".

(e) OTHER CHANGES.

(1) Paragraph (2) of section 9509(e) of such Code is amended by striking "Comprehensive Oil Pollution Liability and Compensation Act" and inserting "Oil Pollution Act of 1990".

(2) Subparagraph (B) of section 9509(c)(2) of such Code is amended by striking "described in paragraph (1)(A)(i)" and inserting "of removal costs".

(3) Subsection (f) of section 9509 of such Code is amended to read as follows:

"(f) REFERENCES TO OIL POLLUTION ACT OF 1990.—Any reference in this section to the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 or any other Act referred to in a subparagraph of subsection (c)(1) shall be treated as a reference to such Act as in effect on the date of the enactment of this subsection."

[*9002]

SEC. 9002. CHANGES RELATING TO OTHER FUNDS.

(a) REPEAL OF PROVISION RELATING TO TRANSFERS TO OIL SPILL LIABILITY FUND.—Subsection (d) of section 4612 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 *<26 USC 4612>* is amended by striking the last sentence.

(b) CREDIT AGAINST OIL SPILL RATE ALLOWED ON AFFILIATED GROUP BASIS.—Subsection (d) of section 4612 of such Code is amended by adding at the end thereof the following new sentence: "For purposes of this subsection, all taxpayers which would be members of the same affiliated group (as defined in section 1504(a)) if section [**575] 1504(a)(2) were applied by substituting '100 percent' for '80 percent' shall be treated as 1 taxpayer."

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Vice President of the United States and President of the Senate.