

which the United States asserts exclusive fishery management authority; the seabed and subsoil of the Outer Continental Shelf of the United States, the resources thereof and the waters superjacent thereto; and the recreational, economic, and scenic values of such waters and resources.

(2) “Secretary” means the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating, except that “Secretary” means the Secretary of Transportation with respect to the application of this chapter to the Saint Lawrence Seaway.

(3) “State” includes each of the several States of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Canal Zone, Guam, American Samoa, the United States Virgin Islands, the Trust Territories of the Pacific Islands, the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, and any other commonwealth, territory, or possession of the United States.

(4) “United States”, when used in geographical context, means all the States thereof.

(5) “Navigable waters of the United States” includes all waters of the territorial sea of the United States as described in Presidential Proclamation No. 5928 of December 27, 1988.

(Pub. L. 92-340, § 3, formerly title I, § 102, July 10, 1972, 86 Stat. 425; renumbered and amended Pub. L. 95-474, § 2, Oct. 17, 1978, 92 Stat. 1471; Pub. L. 105-383, title III, § 301(a), Nov. 13, 1998, 112 Stat. 3417; Pub. L. 108-293, title III, § 304, Aug. 9, 2004, 118 Stat. 1042.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

For definition of Canal Zone, referred to in par. (3), see section 3602(b) of Title 22, Foreign Relations and Intercourse.

Presidential Proclamation No. 5928, referred to in par. (5), is set out under section 1331 of Title 43, Public Lands.

AMENDMENTS

2004—Par. (2). Pub. L. 108-293 inserted “, except that ‘Secretary’ means the Secretary of Transportation with respect to the application of this chapter to the Saint Lawrence Seaway” after “in which the Coast Guard is operating”.

1998—Par. (5). Pub. L. 105-383, which directed the amendment of section 102 of the Ports and Waterways Safety Act by adding par. (5), was executed to this section, which is section 3 of that act, to reflect the probable intent of Congress and the renumbering of section 102 as section 3 by Pub. L. 95-474.

1978—Pub. L. 95-474 substituted provision relating to definitions for provision defining “United States”, permitting higher State or local safety standards, and providing for consultation with appropriate agencies, the inapplicability of this chapter to the Panama Canal, delegation of powers with respect to the Saint Lawrence Seaway, and factors to be considered in issuance of regulations.

TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

For transfer of authorities, functions, personnel, and assets of the Coast Guard, including the authorities and functions of the Secretary of Transportation relating thereto, to the Department of Homeland Security, and for treatment of related references, see sections 468(b), 551(d), 552(d), and 557 of Title 6, Domestic Security, and the Department of Homeland Security Reorganization Plan of November 25, 2002, as modified, set out as a note under section 542 of Title 6.

TERMINATION OF TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

For termination of Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, see note set out preceding section 1681 of Title 48, Territories and Insular Possessions.

§ 1223. Vessel operating requirements

(a) In general

Subject to the requirements of section 1224 of this title, the Secretary—

(1) in any port or place under the jurisdiction of the United States, in the navigable waters of the United States, or in any area covered by an international agreement negotiated pursuant to section 1230 of this title, may construct, operate, maintain, improve, or expand vessel traffic services, consisting of measures for controlling or supervising vessel traffic or for protecting navigation and the marine environment and may include, but need not be limited to one or more of the following: reporting and operating requirements, surveillance and communications systems, routing systems, and fairways;

(2) shall require appropriate vessels which operate in an area of a vessel traffic service to utilize or comply with that service;

(3) may require vessels to install and use specified navigation equipment, communications equipment, electronic relative motion analyzer equipment, or any electronic or other device necessary to comply with a vessel traffic service or which is necessary in the interests of vessel safety: *Provided*, That the Secretary shall not require fishing vessels under 300 gross tons as measured under section 14502 of title 46, or an alternate tonnage measured under section 14302 of that title as prescribed by the Secretary under section 14104 of that title or recreational vessels 65 feet or less to possess or use the equipment or devices required by this subsection solely under the authority of this chapter;

(4) may control vessel traffic in areas subject to the jurisdiction of the United States which the Secretary determines to be hazardous, or under conditions of reduced visibility, adverse weather, vessel congestion, or other hazardous circumstances by—

(A) specifying times of entry, movement, or departure;

(B) establishing vessel traffic routing schemes;

(C) establishing vessel size, speed, draft limitations and vessel operating conditions; and

(D) restricting operation, in any hazardous area or under hazardous conditions, to vessels which have particular operating characteristics or capabilities which he considers necessary for safe operation under the circumstances;

(5) may require the receipt of prearrival messages from any vessel, destined for a port or place subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, in sufficient time to permit advance vessel traffic planning prior to port entry, which shall include any information which is not already a matter of record and which the Secretary determines necessary for

the control of the vessel and the safety of the port or the marine environment; and

(6) may prohibit the use on vessels of electronic or other devices that interfere with communication and navigation equipment, except that such authority shall not apply to electronic or other devices certified to transmit in the maritime services by the Federal Communications Commission and used within the frequency bands 157.1875–157.4375 MHz and 161.7875–162.0375 MHz.

(b) Special powers

The Secretary may order any vessel, in a port or place subject to the jurisdiction of the United States or in the navigable waters of the United States, to operate or anchor in a manner he directs if—

(1) he has reasonable cause to believe such vessel does not comply with any regulation issued under this chapter or any other applicable law or treaty;

(2) he determines that such vessel does not satisfy the conditions for port entry set forth in section 1228 of this title; or

(3) by reason of weather, visibility, sea conditions, port congestion, other hazardous circumstances, or the condition of such vessel, he is satisfied that such directive is justified in the interest of safety.

(c) Port access routes

(1) In order to provide safe access routes for the movement of vessel traffic proceeding to or from ports or places subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, and subject to the requirements of paragraph (3) hereof, the Secretary shall designate necessary fairways and traffic separation schemes for vessels operating in the territorial sea of the United States and in high seas approaches, outside the territorial sea, to such ports or places. Such a designation shall recognize, within the designated area, the paramount right of navigation over all other uses.

(2) No designation may be made by the Secretary pursuant to this subsection, if such a designation, as implemented, would deprive any person of the effective exercise of a right granted by a lease or permit executed or issued under other applicable provisions of law: *Provided*, That such right has become vested prior to the time of publication of the notice required by clause (A) of paragraph (3) hereof: *Provided further*, That the determination as to whether the designation would so deprive any such person shall be made by the Secretary, after consultation with the responsible official under whose authority the lease was executed or the permit issued.

(3) Prior to making a designation pursuant to paragraph (1) hereof, and in accordance with the requirements of section 1224 of this title, the Secretary shall—

(A) within six months after date of enactment of this Act (and may, from time to time thereafter), undertake a study of the potential traffic density and the need for safe access routes for vessels in any area for which fairways or traffic separation schemes are proposed or which may otherwise be considered and shall publish notice of such undertaking in the Federal Register;

(B) in consultation with the Secretary of State, the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of the Army, and the Governors of affected States, as their responsibilities may require, take into account all other uses of the area under consideration (including, as appropriate, the exploration for, or exploitation of, oil, gas, or other mineral resources, the construction or operation of deepwater ports or other structures on or above the seabed or subsoil of the submerged lands or the Outer Continental Shelf of the United States, the establishment or operation of marine or estuarine sanctuaries, and activities involving recreational or commercial fishing); and

(C) to the extent practicable, reconcile the need for safe access routes with the needs of all other reasonable uses of the area involved.

(4) In carrying out his responsibilities under paragraph (3), the Secretary shall proceed expeditiously to complete any study undertaken. Thereafter, he shall promptly issue a notice of proposed rule-making for the designation contemplated or shall have published in the Federal Register a notice that no designation is contemplated as a result of the study and the reason for such determination.

(5) In connection with a designation made pursuant to this subsection, the Secretary—

(A) shall issue reasonable rules and regulations governing the use of such designated areas, including the applicability of rules 9 and 10 of the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, 1972, relating to narrow channels and traffic separation schemes, respectively, in waters where such regulations apply;

(B) to the extent that he finds reasonable and necessary to effectuate the purposes of the designation, make the use of designated fairways and traffic separation schemes mandatory for specific types and sizes of vessels, foreign and domestic, operating in the territorial sea of the United States and for specific types and sizes of vessels of the United States operating on the high seas beyond the territorial sea of the United States;

(C) may, from time to time, as necessary, adjust the location or limits of designated fairways or traffic separation schemes, in order to accommodate the needs of other uses which cannot be reasonably accommodated otherwise: *Provided*, That such an adjustment will not, in the judgement of the Secretary, unacceptably adversely affect the purpose for which the existing designation was made and the need for which continues; and

(D) shall, through appropriate channels, (i) notify cognizant international organizations of any designation, or adjustment thereof, and (ii) take action to seek the cooperation of foreign States in making it mandatory for vessels under their control to use any fairway or traffic separation scheme designated pursuant to this subsection in any area of the high seas, to the same extent as required by the Secretary for vessels of the United States.

(d) Exception

Except pursuant to international treaty, convention, or agreement, to which the United

States is a party, this chapter shall not apply to any foreign vessel that is not destined for, or departing from, a port or place subject to the jurisdiction of the United States and that is in—

- (1) innocent passage through the territorial sea of the United States, or
- (2) transit through the navigable waters of the United States which form a part of an international strait.

(e) Cooperative agreements

(1) The Secretary may enter into cooperative agreements with public or private agencies, authorities, associations, institutions, corporations, organizations, or other persons to carry out the functions under subsection (a)(1) of this section.

(2) A nongovernmental entity may not under this subsection carry out an inherently governmental function.

(3) As used in this paragraph, the term “inherently governmental function” means any activity that is so intimately related to the public interest as to mandate performance by an officer or employee of the Federal Government, including an activity that requires either the exercise of discretion in applying the authority of the Government or the use of judgment in making a decision for the Government.

(Pub. L. 92-340, § 4, formerly title I, § 103, July 10, 1972, 86 Stat. 426; renumbered and amended Pub. L. 95-474, § 2, Oct. 17, 1978, 92 Stat. 1472; Pub. L. 101-380, title IV, § 4107(a), Aug. 18, 1990, 104 Stat. 514; Pub. L. 104-324, title VII, § 705, Oct. 19, 1996, 110 Stat. 3934; Pub. L. 108-293, title III, § 302, Aug. 9, 2004, 118 Stat. 1041; Pub. L. 109-241, title IX, § 901(d), July 11, 2006, 120 Stat. 564.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The date of enactment of this Act, referred to in subsec. (c)(3)(A), probably means the date of enactment of Pub. L. 95-474, which was approved Oct. 17, 1978.

The International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, 1972, referred to in subsec. (c)(5)(A), came into effect pursuant to the Convention on the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, 1972. See International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, 1972 note under section 1602 of this title.

AMENDMENTS

2006—Subsecs. (a)(6), (e). Pub. L. 109-241 amended directory language of Pub. L. 108-293, § 302. See 2004 Amendment note below.

2004—Subsec. (a)(6). Pub. L. 108-293, § 302(1), as amended by Pub. L. 109-241, added par. (6).

Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 108-293, § 302(2), as amended by Pub. L. 109-241, which directed the addition of subsec. (e) at the end of subsec. (a) of this section, was executed by adding subsec. (e) at the end of this section.

1996—Subsec. (a)(3). Pub. L. 104-324 inserted “as measured under section 14502 of title 46, or an alternate tonnage measured under section 14302 of that title as prescribed by the Secretary under section 14104 of that title” after “300 gross tons”.

1990—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 101-380, § 4107(a)(1), substituted “Secretary—” for “Secretary may—”.

Subsec. (a)(1). Pub. L. 101-380, § 4107(a)(2), substituted “may construct, operate, maintain, improve, or expand” for “establish, operate, and maintain”.

Subsec. (a)(2). Pub. L. 101-380, § 4107(a)(3), substituted “shall require appropriate” for “require”.

Subsec. (a)(3). Pub. L. 101-380, § 4107(a)(4), inserted “may” before “require”, which was executed by making the insertion before “require” the first place it appeared to reflect the probable intent of Congress.

Subsec. (a)(4). Pub. L. 101-380, § 4107(a)(5), inserted “may” before “control”.

Subsec. (a)(5). Pub. L. 101-380, § 4107(a)(6), inserted “may” before “require”.

1978—Pub. L. 95-474 substituted provision relating to vessel operating requirements for provision relating to the investigatory powers of the Secretary, production of witnesses and documents, and fees and allowances for witnesses.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2006 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 109-241, title IX, § 901(d), July 11, 2006, 120 Stat. 564, provided in part that the amendment made by section 901(d) is effective Aug. 9, 2004.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1990 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 101-380 applicable to incidents occurring after Aug. 18, 1990, see section 1020 of Pub. L. 101-380, set out as an Effective Date note under section 2701 of this title.

NOTICE OF ARRIVAL FOR FOREIGN VESSELS ON THE OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF

Pub. L. 109-347, title I, § 109, Oct. 13, 2006, 120 Stat. 1893, provided that:

“(a) NOTICE OF ARRIVAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act [Oct. 13, 2006], the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall update and finalize the rulemaking on notice of arrival for foreign vessels on the Outer Continental Shelf.

“(b) CONTENT OF REGULATIONS.—The regulations promulgated pursuant to subsection (a) shall be consistent with information required under the Notice of Arrival under section 160.206 of title 33, Code of Federal Regulations, as in effect on the date of the enactment of this Act [Oct. 13, 2006].”

DIRECTION OF VESSEL MOVEMENT STUDY; SUBMITTAL OF REPORT TO CONGRESS

Section 4107(b) of Pub. L. 101-380 provided that:

“(1) STUDY.—The Secretary shall conduct a study—

“(A) of whether the Secretary should be given additional authority to direct the movement of vessels on navigable waters and should exercise such authority; and

“(B) to determine and prioritize the United States ports and channels that are in need of new, expanded, or improved vessel traffic service systems, by evaluating—

“(i) the nature, volume, and frequency of vessel traffic;

“(ii) the risks of collisions, spills, and damages associated with that traffic;

“(iii) the impact of installation, expansion, or improvement of a vessel traffic service system; and

“(iv) all other relevant costs and data.

“(2) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act [Aug. 18, 1990], the Secretary shall submit to the Congress a report on the results of the study conducted under paragraph (1) and recommendations for implementing the results of that study.”

TERRITORIAL SEA OF UNITED STATES

For extension of territorial sea of United States, see Proc. No. 5928, set out as a note under section 1331 of Title 43, Public Lands.

§ 1223a. Electronic charts

(a) System requirements

(1) Requirements

Subject to paragraph (2), the following vessels, while operating on the navigable waters of the United States, shall be equipped with and operate electronic charts under regula-

tions prescribed by the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating:

(A) A self-propelled commercial vessel of at least 65 feet overall length.

(B) A vessel carrying more than a number of passengers for hire determined by the Secretary.

(C) A towing vessel of more than 26 feet in overall length and 600 horsepower.

(D) Any other vessel for which the Secretary decides that electronic charts are necessary for the safe navigation of the vessel.

(2) Exemptions and waivers

The Secretary may—

(A) exempt a vessel from paragraph (1), if the Secretary finds that electronic charts are not necessary for the safe navigation of the vessel on the waters on which the vessel operates; and

(B) waive the application of paragraph (1) with respect to operation of vessels on navigable waters of the United States specified by the Secretary, if the Secretary finds that electronic charts are not needed for safe navigation on those waters.

(b) Regulations

The Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall prescribe regulations implementing subsection (a) of this section before January 1, 2007, including requirements for the operation and maintenance of the electronic charts required under subsection (a) of this section.

(Pub. L. 92-340, § 4A, as added Pub. L. 108-293, title IV, § 410, Aug. 9, 2004, 118 Stat. 1045.)

§ 1224. Considerations by Secretary

In carrying out his duties and responsibilities under section 1223 of this title, the Secretary shall—

(a) take into account all relevant factors concerning navigation and vessel safety, protection of the marine environment, and the safety and security of United States ports and waterways, including but not limited to—

(1) the scope and degree of the risk or hazard involved;

(2) vessel traffic characteristics and trends, including traffic volume, the sizes and types of vessels involved, potential interference with the flow of commercial traffic, the presence of any unusual cargoes, and other similar factors;

(3) port and waterway configurations and variations in local conditions of geography, climate, and other similar factors;

(4) the need for granting exemptions for the installation and use of equipment or devices for use with vessel traffic services for certain classes of small vessels, such as self-propelled fishing vessels and recreational vessels;

(5) the proximity of fishing grounds, oil and gas drilling and production operations, or any other potential or actual conflicting activity;

(6) environmental factors;

(7) economic impact and effects;

(8) existing vessel traffic services; and

(9) local practices and customs, including voluntary arrangements and agreements within the maritime community; and

(b) at the earliest possible time, consult with and receive and consider the views of representatives of the maritime community, ports and harbor authorities or associations, environmental groups, and other parties who may be affected by the proposed actions.

(Pub. L. 92-340, § 5, formerly title I, § 104, July 10, 1972, 86 Stat. 427; renumbered and amended Pub. L. 95-474, § 2, Oct. 17, 1978, 92 Stat. 1474; Pub. L. 107-295, title IV, § 443(2), Nov. 25, 2002, 116 Stat. 2132.)

AMENDMENTS

2002—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 107-295 substituted “safety, protection of the marine environment, and the safety and security of United States ports and waterways,” for “safety and protection of the marine environment,” in introductory provisions.

1978—Pub. L. 95-474 substituted provision relating to factors to be considered by the Secretary and to consultation by the Secretary with affected groups for provision relating to the issuance of rules and regulations by the Secretary.

STUDY OF DESIRABILITY AND FEASIBILITY OF SHORE-STATION SYSTEMS FOR MONITORING VESSELS

Section 3 of Pub. L. 95-474 authorized the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Commerce and other appropriate departments or agencies of the Federal Government to study the desirability and feasibility of shore-station systems for monitoring vessels within the Fishery Conservation Zone as defined in former section 1802(8) of Title 16, Conservation, required the Secretary to report his findings to Congress, within two years after Oct. 17, 1978, and authorized appropriations for such study for fiscal years 1979 and 1980.

§ 1225. Waterfront safety

(a) In general

The Secretary may take such action as is necessary to—

(1) prevent damage to, or the destruction of, any bridge or other structure on or in the navigable waters of the United States, or any land structure or shore area immediately adjacent to such waters; and

(2) protect the navigable waters and the resources therein from harm resulting from vessel or structure damage, destruction, or loss. Such action may include, but need not be limited to—

(A) establishing procedures, measures, and standards for the handling, loading, unloading, storage, stowage, and movement on the structure (including the emergency removal, control, and disposition) of explosives or other dangerous articles and substances, including oil or hazardous material as those terms are defined in section 2101 of title 46;

(B) prescribing minimum safety equipment requirements for the structure to assure adequate protection from fire, explosion, natural disaster, and other serious accidents or casualties;

(C) establishing water or waterfront safety zones, or other measures for limited, con-

trolled, or conditional access and activity when necessary for the protection of any vessel, structure, waters, or shore area; and (D) establishing procedures for examination to assure compliance with the requirements prescribed under this section.

(b) State law

Nothing contained in this section, with respect to structures, prohibits a State or political subdivision thereof from prescribing higher safety equipment requirements or safety standards than those which may be prescribed by regulations hereunder.

(Pub. L. 92-340, § 6, formerly title I, § 105, July 10, 1972, 86 Stat. 427; renumbered and amended Pub. L. 95-474, § 2, Oct. 17, 1978, 92 Stat. 1475.)

CODIFICATION

In subsec. (a)(2)(A), “section 2101 of title 46” substituted for “section 4417a of the Revised Statutes [46 U.S.C. 391a]” on authority of Pub. L. 98-89, § 2(b), Aug. 26, 1983, 97 Stat. 598, section 1 of which enacted Title 46, Shipping.

AMENDMENTS

1978—Pub. L. 95-474 substituted provisions relating to waterfront safety for provision requiring the Secretary to report to Congress within one year his recommendations for legislation to achieve coordination between functions authorized under Pub. L. 92-340 and the functions of any other agencies and to eliminate duplication of these functions.

§ 1226. Port, harbor, and coastal facility security

(a) General authority

The Secretary may take actions described in subsection (b) of this section to prevent or respond to an act of terrorism against—

- (1) an individual, vessel, or public or commercial structure, that is—
 - (A) subject to the jurisdiction of the United States; and
 - (B) located within or adjacent to the marine environment; or
- (2) a vessel of the United States or an individual on board that vessel.

(b) Specific authority

Under subsection (a) of this section, the Secretary may—

- (1) carry out or require measures, including inspections, port and harbor patrols, the establishment of security and safety zones, and the development of contingency plans and procedures, to prevent or respond to acts of terrorism;
- (2) recruit members of the Regular Coast Guard and the Coast Guard Reserve and train members of the Regular Coast Guard and the Coast Guard Reserve in the techniques of preventing and responding to acts of terrorism; and
- (3) dispatch properly trained and qualified armed Coast Guard personnel on vessels and public or commercial structures on or adjacent to waters subject to United States jurisdiction to deter or respond to acts of terrorism or transportation security incidents, as defined in section 70101 of title 46.

(c) Nondisclosure of port security plans

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, information related to security plans, proce-

dures, or programs for passenger vessels or passenger terminals authorized under this chapter is not required to be disclosed to the public.

(Pub. L. 92-340, § 7, as added Pub. L. 99-399, title IX, § 906, Aug. 27, 1986, 100 Stat. 890; amended Pub. L. 104-324, title III, § 302, Oct. 19, 1996, 110 Stat. 3917; Pub. L. 107-295, title I, § 107(a), Nov. 25, 2002, 116 Stat. 2088.)

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 1226, Pub. L. 92-340, § 7, formerly title I, § 106, July 10, 1972, 86 Stat. 427; renumbered § 7 and amended Pub. L. 95-474, § 2, Oct. 17, 1978, 92 Stat. 1475, related to requirement respecting federally licensed pilots on any foreign or domestic self-propelled vessel engaged in the foreign trade when operating in the navigable waters of the United States in areas, etc., where a pilot is not otherwise required by State law, prior to repeal by Pub. L. 98-557, § 29(g), Oct. 30, 1984, 98 Stat. 2875.

AMENDMENTS

- 2002—Subsec. (b)(3). Pub. L. 107-295 added par. (3).
1996—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 104-324 added subsec. (c).

TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

For transfer of authorities, functions, personnel, and assets of the Coast Guard, including the authorities and functions of the Secretary of Transportation relating thereto, to the Department of Homeland Security, and for treatment of related references, see sections 468(b), 551(d), 552(d), and 557 of Title 6, Domestic Security, and the Department of Homeland Security Reorganization Plan of November 25, 2002, as modified, set out as a note under section 542 of Title 6.

REPORT ON USE OF NON-COAST GUARD PERSONNEL

Pub. L. 107-295, title I, § 107(b), Nov. 25, 2002, 116 Stat. 2088, provided that: “The Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall evaluate and report to the Congress on—

- “(1) the potential use of Federal, State, or local government personnel, and documented United States Merchant Marine personnel, to supplement Coast Guard personnel under section 7(b)(3) of the Ports and Waterways Safety Act (33 U.S.C. 1226(b)(3));
- “(2) the possibility of using personnel other than Coast Guard personnel to carry out Coast Guard personnel functions under that section and whether additional legal authority would be necessary to use such personnel for such functions; and
- “(3) the possibility of utilizing the United States Merchant Marine Academy, State maritime academies, or Coast Guard approved maritime industry schools in the United States, to provide training under that section.”

§ 1227. Investigatory powers

(a) Secretary

The Secretary may investigate any incident, accident, or act involving the loss or destruction of, or damage to any structure subject to this chapter, or which affects or may affect the safety or environmental quality of the ports, harbors, or navigable waters of the United States.

(b) Powers

In an investigation under this section, the Secretary may issue subpoenas to require the attendance of witnesses and the production of documents or other evidence relating to such incident, accident, or act. If any person refuses to obey a subpoena, the Secretary may request the Attorney General to invoke the aid of the appropriate district court of the United States to