TITLE 16 - CONSERVATION
CHAPTER 33 - COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT

§ 1452. Congressional declaration of policy

The Congress finds and declares that it is the national policy—

(1) to preserve, protect, develop, and where possible, to restore or enhance, the resources of the Nation’s coastal zone for this and succeeding generations;

(2) to encourage and assist the states to exercise effectively their responsibilities in the coastal zone through the development and implementation of management programs to achieve wise use of the land and water resources of the coastal zone, giving full consideration to ecological, cultural, historic, and esthetic values as well as the needs for compatible economic development, which programs should at least provide for—

(A) the protection of natural resources, including wetlands, flood plains, estuaries, beaches, dunes, barrier islands, coral reefs, and fish and wildlife and their habitat, within the coastal zone,

(B) the management of coastal development to minimize the loss of life and property caused by improper development in flood-prone, storm surge, geological hazard, and erosion-prone areas and in areas likely to be affected by or vulnerable to sea level rise, land subsidence, and saltwater intrusion, and by the destruction of natural protective features such as beaches, dunes, wetlands, and barrier islands.

(C) the management of coastal development to improve, safeguard, and restore the quality of coastal waters, and to protect natural resources and existing uses of those waters,

(D) priority consideration being given to coastal-dependent uses and orderly processes for siting major facilities related to national defense, energy, fisheries development, recreation, ports and transportation, and the location, to the maximum extent practicable, of new commercial and industrial developments in or adjacent to areas where such development already exists,

(E) public access to the coasts for recreation purposes,

(F) assistance in the redevelopment of deteriorating urban waterfronts and ports, and sensitive preservation and restoration of historic, cultural, and esthetic coastal features,

(G) the coordination and simplification of procedures in order to ensure expedited governmental decisionmaking for the management of coastal resources,

(H) continued consultation and coordination with, and the giving of adequate consideration to the views of, affected Federal agencies,

(I) the giving of timely and effective notification of, and opportunities for public and local government participation in, coastal management decisionmaking,

(J) assistance to support comprehensive planning, conservation, and management for living marine resources, including planning for the siting of pollution control and aquaculture facilities within the coastal zone, and improved coordination between State and Federal coastal zone management agencies and State and wildlife agencies, and

(K) the study and development, in any case in which the Secretary considers it to be appropriate, of plans for addressing the adverse effects upon the coastal zone of land subsidence and of sea level rise; and

(3) to encourage the preparation of special area management plans which provide for increased specificity in protecting significant natural resources, reasonable coastal-dependent economic growth, improved protection of life and property in hazardous areas, including those areas likely to be affected by land subsidence, sea level rise, or fluctuating water levels of the Great Lakes, and improved predictability in governmental decisionmaking;
(4) to encourage the participation and cooperation of the public, state and local governments, and
interstate and other regional agencies, as well as of the Federal agencies having programs affecting the
coastal zone, in carrying out the purposes of this chapter;
(5) to encourage coordination and cooperation with and among the appropriate Federal, State, and
local agencies, and international organizations where appropriate, in collection, analysis, synthesis,
and dissemination of coastal management information, research results, and technical assistance, to
support State and Federal regulation of land use practices affecting the coastal and ocean resources of
the United States; and
(6) to respond to changing circumstances affecting the coastal environment and coastal resource
management by encouraging States to consider such issues as ocean uses potentially affecting the
coastal zone.

Footnotes

1 So in original. The period probably should be a comma.


Amendments

See 1990 Amendment note below.

compatible” for “as well as to needs for”.
Par. (2)(B). Pub. L. 101–508, § 6203(b)(2), substituted “likely to be affected by or vulnerable to sea level rise, land
subsidence,” for “of subsidence”.
Par. (2)(C) to (J). Pub. L. 101–508, § 6203(b)(3), redesignated subpars. (C) to (I) as (D) to (J), respectively, and added
subpar. (C).
Par. (3). Pub. L. 101–508, § 6203(b)(5), inserted “including those areas likely to be affected by land subsidence, sea
level rise, or fluctuating water levels of the Great Lakes,” after “hazardous areas,”.
Par. (5), (6). Pub. L. 101–508, § 6203(b)(6), added pars. (5) and (6).

1980—Pub. L. 96–464, in amending section generally, expanded declaration of policy to provide for higher level of
protection for significant natural coastal resources and inserted provisions for special area management planning to
increase predictability for necessary coastal-dependent economic growth, improve hazard mitigation, and improve
predictability in government decisionmaking.