

Ocean Dumping Act

Agencies: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and U.S. Coast Guard

Citation: [33 U.S.C. §§ 1401 et seq.](#)

Enacted as: Title I & II of the “Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act of 1972”, on October 23, 1972

Summary:

Title I of the [Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act \(the Act\)](#), also referred to as the Ocean Dumping Act, provides for the regulation of dumping and transportation for dumping of material, into the territorial sea of the United States, or into a zone contiguous to the territorial sea of the U.S., extending to a line twelve nautical miles seaward from the base line from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured (33 U.S.C. § 1411). The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) shares responsibility for administration with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which regulates dumping of dredged material, and the U.S. Coast Guard, which has responsibility for surveillance and other enforcement activities to prevent unlawful dumping (33 U.S.C. §§ 1413, 1417).

Title II of the Act establishes a comprehensive and continuing monitoring and research program, required to be undertaken by the Secretary of Commerce, in coordination with the EPA and the Coast Guard, on the effects of dumping into ocean waters, coastal waters or waters of the Great Lakes and their connecting waters (33 U.S.C. § 1441). The Secretary is required to initiate this program in close consultation with appropriate Federal agencies. Responsibilities of the research program include the long-range effects of pollution, overfishing, and man-induced changes in the environment. The program takes into account such factors as international policies, economic considerations, alternatives to existing programs, and ways in which the health of the ocean may be preserved (33 U.S.C. § 1442). The Secretary of Commerce is required to report in March of each year on his activities under this subtitle during the previous fiscal year (33 U.S.C. § 1444).

Source: http://www.gc.noaa.gov/documents/gcil_crs_oda.pdf and <http://www.epa.gov/lawsregs/laws/mprsa.html>

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