

Shore Protection Act of 1988

Agencies: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and U.S. Coast Guard

Citation: [33 U.S.C. §§ 2601 et seq.](#)

Enacted as: the “Shore Protection Act of 1988”, on November 18, 1988 as Title IV of Public Law 100-688 (amending the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act of 1972)

Summary:

Title IV of Public Law 100-688, which amended the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act of 1972, created the [Shore Protection Act of 1988 \(SPA\)](#). The SPA prohibits the transportation of municipal or commercial waste within coastal waters by a vessel without a permit and number or other marking. Permits are not to run beyond renewable five-year terms and will terminate when the vessel is sold.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), in consultation with the U.S. Coast Guard, is responsible for developing regulations governing the loading, securing, offloading, and cleaning up of such wastes from waste sources, reception facilities, and vessels. The goals of the regulations are to minimize the release of waste into coastal waters during vessel loading, transport, and unloading, and to ensure that any released waste is reported and cleaned up.

Source: <http://www.epa.gov/lawsregs/laws/spa.html>

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