

Digest of Federal Resource Laws of Interest to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Fish and Wildlife Improvement Act of 1978

Fish and Wildlife Improvement Act of 1978 ([16 U.S.C. 742i](#); 92 Stat. 3110) -- Public Law 95-616, approved November 8, 1978, authorizes the Secretaries of the Interior and Commerce to establish, conduct, and assist with national training programs for State fish and wildlife law enforcement personnel. It also authorized funding for research and development of new or improved methods to support fish and wildlife law enforcement.

The law provides authority to the Secretaries to enter into law enforcement cooperative agreements with State or other Federal agencies, and authorizes the disposal of abandoned or forfeited items under the fish, wildlife, and plant jurisdictions of these Secretaries.

It strengthens the law enforcement operational capability of the Service by authorizing the disbursement and use of funds to facilitate various types of investigative efforts.

Public Law 105-328, signed October 30, 1998, amended the Act to allow the Fish and Wildlife Service to use the proceeds from the disposal of abandoned items derived from fish, wildlife and plants to cover the costs of shipping, storing and disposing of those items. Expanded the use of fines, penalties and forfeiture funds received under ESA and Lacey Act to include the costs of shipping, storing and disposing of items. Specifically prohibits the selling of items whose sale is banned under other laws.

The original statute (P.L. 95-616) also contained amendments to:

- Bald Eagle Protection Act ([16 U.S.C. 668-668d](#))
- Central Valley Project, California, Reauthorization Act of August 27, 1954 ([16 U.S.C. 695d-695j](#))
- Cooperative Research and Training Units Act ([16 U.S.C. 753a-753h](#))
- Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 ([16 U.S.C. 742a-742j](#))
- Migratory Bird Conservation Act ([16 U.S.C. 715 et seq.](#))
- Migratory Bird Treaty Act ([16 U.S.C. 703 et seq.](#))
- National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966 ([16 U.S.C. 668dd-668ee](#))
- Refuge Recreation Act (16 USC 460k-460k-4); the Act of August 5, 1947, ([16 U.S.C. 666g](#)) establishing Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge; the Act of April 23, 1928, ([16 U.S.C. 690e](#)) establishing the Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge
- the Coastal Barrier Resources Act ([16 U.S.C. 3503](#))

Please see those entries for further information.

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