



National Sea Grant Law Center
Regulatory Development Announcement
January 2005



The Oceans and Human Health Act of 2004

Background

On December 8, 2004, Congress passed the Oceans and Human Health Act, 33 U.S.C. § 3101-3104. The Act calls for the coordination of a national research plan by the National Science and Technology Council to study the relationship between human health and the oceans. The Task Force on Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia will aid in designing the ten-year plan, which will:

- ❖ Create priorities and goals for federal research into the connections between human health and the oceans,
- ❖ Develop specific actions to achieve those priorities and goals,
- ❖ Identify Federal agency and department programs, reports, and studies that can contribute to the plan,
- ❖ Avoid duplication of Federal efforts, and
- ❖ Calculate the funding needed for research.

Specific Provisions Related to NOAA's Role

- ✍ Authorizes the Secretary of Commerce (Secretary) to develop an Oceans and Human Health Initiative to “coordinate and implement research and activities of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration related to the role of the oceans, the coasts, and the Great Lakes in human health”;
- ✍ Authorizes the Secretary to establish an advisory panel and national centers of excellence;
- ✍ Authorizes the Secretary to establish a “program to provide traineeships, training, and experience to pre-doctoral and post-doctoral students and to scientists at the beginning of their careers” interested in oceans and human health research;
- ✍ Requires the Secretary to design and implement a public information and outreach program in consultation with other federal agencies and ***in cooperation with the National Sea Grant Program.***

Fact Sheet Provided by:

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