

Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972 (FWPCA)

The purpose of this act also called the Clean Water Act is to "restore and maintain the chemical, physical and biological integrity of the Nation's waters". A system of permits is required to regulate the discharge of dredged or fill materials into navigable waters. The Corps of Engineers is the responsible agency to administer this program. Section 404 of this act provides for the states to assume responsibility for permitting dredge and fill activities and establishes requirements which these state programs must satisfy including procedures to ensure compliance with the program.

Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act of 1972

This statute is also referred to as the Ocean Dumping Act and requires a permit when any material is to be discharged into the territorial sea and contiguous zone of the United States. Regulatory responsibilities are shared by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for dredged material and the Environmental Protection Agency for other materials. Criteria for permitting dumping are that the project should not "... unreasonably degrade or endanger human health, welfare or amenities, or the marine environment, ecological systems, or economic potentialities."

Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (CZMA)

This act provides financial incentive to coastal states to develop and adopt approved coastal zone management programs. In 1976, the federal cost sharing of the program was increased from 66.6% to 80%. Requirement of the CZMA are that a state program must include a designation of the states' boundaries of the coastal zone, an inventory of the areas of particular concern, broad guidelines on priority of uses in those areas, lists of permissible land and water uses, etc. All states within the Southeast Region have approved programs with the exception of Georgia.

Section 307 of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 requires that federal agencies comply with federally-approved coastal zone management programs. This section, termed the "consistency provision", also requires that a state or local project which affects the coastal zone must be in accordance with the