

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Serv., Interior

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they are not inconsistent herewith, the provisions of subpart G of the Department Hearings and Appeals Procedures in 43 CFR part 4 shall apply to appeal proceedings under this subpart. The determination of the board to grant or deny an appeal, as well as its decision on the merits of an appeal, shall be in writing and become effective as the final administrative determination of the Secretary in the proceeding on the date it is rendered, unless otherwise specified therein.

§ 11.26 Reporting service.

Copies of decisions in civil penalty proceedings instituted under statutes referred to in subpart A of this part and rendered subsequent to June 3, 1970, may be obtained by letter of request addressed to the Director, Office of Hearings and Appeals, U.S. Department of the Interior, 801 North Quincy Street, Arlington, Virginia 22203. Fees for this service shall be as established by the Director of that Office.

PART 12—SEIZURE AND FORFEITURE PROCEDURES

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AUTHORITY: Act of September 6, 1966, 5 U.S.C. 301; Bald and Golden Eagles Protection Act, 16 U.S.C. 668-668b; National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act, 16 U.S.C. 668dd(e)-(f); Migratory Bird Treaty Act, 16 U.S.C. 704, 706-707, 712; Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp Act, 16 U.S.C. 718f-718g; Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 [Airborne Hunting Amendments], 16 U.S.C. 742j-1(d)-(f); Black Bass Act, 16 U.S.C. 852d-853; Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, 16 U.S.C. 1375-1377, 1382; Endangered Species Act of 1973, 16 U.S.C. 1540; Lacey Act, 18 U.S.C. 43, 44; Lacey Act Amendments of 1981, 95 Stat. 1073-1080, 16 U.S.C. 3371 *et seq.*; Tariff Act of 1930, 19 U.S.C. 1602-1624; Fish and Wildlife Improvement Act of 1978, 16 U.S.C. 742i; Exotic Organisms, E.O. 11987, 42 FR 26949; American Indian Religious Freedom Act, 42 U.S.C. 1996.

SOURCE: 45 FR 17864, Mar. 19, 1980, unless otherwise noted.

Subpart A—General Provisions

§ 12.1 Purpose of regulations.

The regulations of this part establish procedures relating to property seized or subject to forfeiture under various laws enforced by the Service.

§ 12.2 Scope of regulations.

Except as hereinafter provided, the regulations of this part apply to all property seized or subject to forfeiture under any of the following laws:

- (a) The Eagle Protection Act, 16 U.S.C. 668 *et seq.*;
- (b) The National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act, 16 U.S.C. 668dd *et seq.*;
- (c) The Migratory Bird Treaty Act, 16 U.S.C. 703 *et seq.*;
- (d) The Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp Act, 16 U.S.C. 718 *et seq.*;

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(e) The Airborne Hunting Act, 16 U.S.C. 742j-1;

(f) The Black Bass Act, 16 U.S.C. 851 *et seq.*;

(g) The Marine Mammal Protection Act, 16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*;

(h) The Endangered Species Act, 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*; and

(i) The Lacey Act, 18 U.S.C. 43-44.

(j) The Lacey Act Amendments of 1981, 16 U.S.C. 3371 *et seq.*

[45 FR 17864, Mar. 19, 1980; 45 FR 31725, May 14, 1980, as amended at 47 FR 56860, Dec. 21, 1982]

§ 12.3 Definitions.

(a) As used in this part:

(1) *Attorney General* means the Attorney General of the United States or an authorized representative;

(2) *Disposal* includes, but is not limited to, remission, return to the wild, use by the Service or transfer to another government agency for official use, donation or loan, sale, or destruction.

(3) *Domestic value* means the price at which the seized property or similar property is freely offered for sale at the time and place of appraisal, in the same quantity or quantities as seized, and in the ordinary course of trade. If there is no market for the seized property at the place of appraisal, such value in the principal market nearest to the place of appraisal shall be reported.

(4) *Solicitor* means the Solicitor of the Department of the Interior or an authorized representative.

(b) The definitions of paragraph (a) of this section are in addition to, and not in lieu of, those contained in §§1.1 through 1.8 and 10.12 of this title.

[45 FR 17864, Mar. 19, 1980, as amended at 47 FR 17525, Apr. 23, 1982]

§ 12.4 Filing of documents.

(a) Whenever any document is required by this part to be filed or served within a certain period of time, such document will be considered filed or served as of the date of receipt by the party with or upon whom filing or service is required. The time periods established by this part shall begin to run on the day following the date of filing or service.

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(b) If an oral or written application is made before the expiration of a time period established by this part, an extension of such period for a fixed number of days may be granted where there are reasonable grounds for the failure to file or serve the document within the period required. Any such extension shall be in writing. Except as provided in this paragraph, no other requests for an extension shall be granted.

§ 12.5 Seizure by other agencies.

Any authorized employee or officer of any other Federal agency who has seized any wildlife or other property under any of the laws listed in §12.2 will, if so requested, deliver such seizure to the appropriate Special Agent in Charge designated in §10.22 of this title, or to an authorized designee, who shall either hold such seized wildlife or other property or arrange for its proper handling and care.

§ 12.6 Bonded release.

(a) Subject to the conditions set forth in paragraphs (b) and (c) of this section, and to such additional conditions as may be appropriate, the Service, in its discretion, may accept an appearance bond or other security (including, but not limited to, payment of the value as determined under §12.12) in place of any property seized under the Endangered Species Act, 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*; Marine Mammal Protection Act, 16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*; Lacey Act, 18 U.S.C. 43; Lacey Act Amendments of 1981, 16 U.S.C. 3371 *et seq.*; Airborne Hunting Act, 16 U.S.C. 742j-1; or Eagle Protection Act, 16 U.S.C. 668 *et seq.*

(b) Property may be released under this section only to the owner or consignee.

(c) Property may be released under this section only if possession thereof will not violate or frustrate the purpose or policy of any applicable law or regulation.

[45 FR 17864, Mar. 19, 1980; 45 FR 31725, May 14, 1980, as amended at 47 FR 56860, Dec. 21, 1982]