

proposed action of continuing treaty right subsistence ENP whale hunting (i.e., request for a waiver of the MMPA take moratorium), and alternatives to the waiver request.

Alternatives

Pursuant to NEPA, which requires Federal agencies to conduct an environmental analysis of proposed actions to determine if the actions may affect the human environment, and in recognition of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals ruling in *Anderson v. Evans*, we intend to conduct public scoping meetings and to prepare an EIS. Under NEPA, a reasonable range of alternatives to a proposed action must be developed and considered in our environmental review. Alternatives considered for analysis in this EIS may include: variations in the scope of the hunting activities, variations in the hunting location, or a combination of these elements. In addition, the EIS will identify potentially significant direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts on geology and soils, air quality, water quality, other fish and wildlife species and their habitat, vegetation, socioeconomics/tourism, treaty rights and Federal trust responsibilities, environmental justice, cultural resources, noise, aesthetics, transportation, public services, and human health and safety, and other environmental issues that could occur with the implementation of the Makah's proposed action and alternatives. For all potentially significant impacts, the EIS will identify avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures to reduce these impacts, where feasible, to a level below significance.

We have identified the following preliminary alternatives for public comment during the public scoping period, and encourage information on additional alternatives to consider:

Alternative 1: No Action - Under the No Action Alternative, we would not approve the requested whale hunting, would not grant the waiver of the moratorium on take under the MMPA, nor issue the necessary regulations and permits.

Alternative 2: The Proposed Action - Under the proposed action, the Makah Tribe would be allowed to continue treaty right subsistence hunting of gray whales imposing time and area restrictions designed to target migrating whales and to avoid any intentional harvest of whales from the PCFA. We would grant the waiver of the moratorium on take under the MMPA and issue the necessary regulations and permits.

Alternative 3: The proposed action would be modified to allow limited take of gray whales from the PCFA during hunts.

Alternative 4: The proposed action would be modified to remove time and area restrictions from the hunts.

Alternative 5: The proposed action would be modified to allow hunting to target migrating whales, imposing time and area restrictions different than those contained in the proposed action that would maximize the likelihood of taking a migrating whale (and minimize the likelihood of taking a PCFA whale).

Request for Comments

We provide this notice to advise the public of an additional meetings scheduled following public requests received after our initial announcement of scoping meetings. Comments and suggestions received during the prior public comment period for the 2003 through 2007 quota allocation (March 6 through April 21, 2003), will be considered in developing the current EIS. Other comments and suggestions are invited from all interested parties to ensure that the full range of issues related to the Makah's waiver request and all significant issues are identified. We request that comments be as specific as possible. We seek public input on the scope of the required NEPA analysis, including the range of reasonable alternatives; associated impacts of any alternatives on the human environment, including geology and soils, air quality, water quality, other fish and wildlife species and their habitat, vegetation, socioeconomics/tourism, treaty rights and Federal trust responsibilities, environmental justice, cultural resources, noise, aesthetics, transportation, public services, and human health and safety; and suitable mitigation measures.

Comments concerning this environmental review process should be directed to NMFS (see **ADDRESSES**). See **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** for questions. All comments and material received, including names and addresses, will become part of the administrative record and may be released to the public.

Authority

The environmental review of continuation of the Makah subsistence gray whale hunting will be conducted under the authority and in accordance with the requirements of NEPA, Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 CFR 1500-1508), other applicable Federal laws and regulations, and policies and procedures of NMFS for compliance with those regulations. This

notice is being furnished in accordance with 40 CFR 1501.7 to obtain suggestions and information from other agencies and the public on the scope of issues and alternatives to be addressed in the EIS.

Security

For access to a government building, the Department of Commerce Office of Security at NOAA has advised that all attendees must register for the hearing and must have a valid identification with a photograph. Prospective attendees may register by sending their first and last names by telephone or email to Tom Eagle (See **ADDRESSES**) by 4 pm EDT October 14, 2005.

Reasonable Accommodation

Persons needing reasonable accommodations to attend and participate in the public meetings should contact Tom Eagle (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**). To allow sufficient time to process requests, please call at least 10 business days prior to the meeting. Information regarding the Makah's request is available in alternative formats upon request.

Dated: September 29, 2005.

Thomas C. Eagle,

Acting Chief, Marine Mammal and Sea Turtle Conservation Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[Docket No. 030602141-5251-25; I.D. 061505A]

RIN 0648-ZB55

Availability of Grants Funds for Fiscal Year 2006; Extension of Application Deadline

AGENCY: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: NOAA publishes this notice to extend the solicitation period on the "FY 2006 Coastal Services Center Environmental Characterization of a U.S. Coastal Region," which was originally announced in the **Federal Register** on June 30, 2005. The solicitation period is being extended from October 3, 2005 to October 24, 2005 to provide the public more time to submit proposals.

DATES: Applications must be received no later than 5:00 PM EST on October 24, 2005.

ADDRESSES: Applications should be submitted electronically to <http://www.grants.gov/>. Electronic submission is strongly encouraged. Applicants without Internet access may send applications to 2234 South Hobson Avenue, Charleston, South Carolina 29405-2413; these applications must be received by the Coastal Services Center no later than 5:00 PM EST on October 24, 2005.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jeffery Adkins by telephone at 843-740-1244 or by email at Jeffery.Adkins@noaa.gov or Ginger Hinchcliff by telephone at 843-740-1184 or by e-mail at Ginger.Hinchcliff@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: NOAA publishes this notice to extend the solicitation period on the following initiative originally announced in the **Federal Register** on June 30, 2005 (70 FR 37766). NOAA extends the solicitation period for the FY 2006 Coastal Services Center Environmental Characterization of a U.S. Coastal Region from October 3, 2005 to October 24, 2005 to provide the public more time to submit proposals. All other requirements for this solicitation remain the same.

Limitation of Liability

Funding for programs listed in this notice is contingent upon the availability of Fiscal Year 2006 appropriations. Applicants are hereby given notice that funds have not yet been appropriated for the programs listed in this notice. In no event will NOAA or the Department of Commerce be responsible for proposal preparation costs if these programs fail to receive funding or are cancelled because of other agency priorities. Publication of this announcement does not oblige NOAA to award any specific project or to obligate any available funds.

Universal Identifier

Applicants should be aware that they are required to provide a Dun and Bradstreet Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number during the application process. See the October 30, 2002 **Federal Register**, Vol. 67, No. 210, pp. 66177B66178, for additional information. Organizations can receive a DUNS number at no cost by calling the dedicated toll-free DUNS Number request line at 1-866-705-5711 or via the internet (<http://www.dunandbradstreet.com>).

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

NOAA must analyze the potential environmental impacts, as required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), for applicant projects or proposals which are seeking NOAA federal funding opportunities. Detailed information on NOAA compliance with NEPA can be found at the following NOAA NEPA website: <http://www.nepa.noaa.gov/>, including our NOAA Administrative Order 216-6 for NEPA, http://www.nepa.noaa.gov/NAO216_6_TOC.pdf, and the Council on Environmental Quality implementation regulations, http://ceq.eh.doe.gov/nepa/regs/ceq/toc_ceq.htm Consequently, as part of an applicant's package, and under their description of their program activities, applicants are required to provide detailed information on the activities to be conducted, locations, sites, species and habitat to be affected, possible construction activities, and any environmental concerns that may exist (e.g., the use and disposal of hazardous or toxic chemicals, introduction of non-indigenous species, impacts to endangered and threatened species, aquaculture projects, and impacts to coral reef systems). In addition to providing specific information that will serve as the basis for any required impact analyses, applicants may also be requested to assist NOAA in drafting of an environmental assessment, if NOAA determines an assessment is required. Applicants will also be required to cooperate with NOAA in identifying feasible measures to reduce or avoid any identified adverse environmental impacts of their proposal. The failure to do so shall be grounds for not selecting an application. In some cases if additional information is required after an application is selected, funds can be withheld by the Grants Officer under a special award condition requiring the recipient to submit additional environmental compliance information sufficient to enable NOAA to make an assessment on any impacts that a project may have on the environment.

The Department of Commerce Pre-Award Notification Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements contained in the **Federal Register** notice of December 30, 2004 (69 FR 78389), are applicable to this solicitation.

Paperwork Reduction Act

This document contains collection-of-information requirements subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA). The use of Standard Forms 424, 424A, 424B, SF-LLL, and CD-346 has been approved

by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under the respective control numbers 0348-0043, 0348-0044, 0348-0040, 0348-0046, and 0605-0001. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with, a collection of information subject to the requirements of the PRA unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Executive Order 12866

This notice has been determined to be not significant for purposes of Executive Order 12866.

Executive Order 13132 (Federalism)

It has been determined that this notice does not contain policies with Federalism implications as that term is defined in Executive Order 13132.

Administrative Procedure Act/Regulatory Flexibility Act

Prior notice and an opportunity for public comment are not required by the Administrative Procedure Act or any other law for rules concerning public property, loans, grants, benefits, and contracts (5 U.S.C. 553(a)(2)). Because notice and opportunity for comment are not required pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553 or any other law, the analytical requirements of the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*) are inapplicable. Therefore, a regulatory flexibility analysis has not been prepared.

Dated: September 29, 2005.

Helen Hurcombe

*Director Acquisition and Grants Office,
National Oceanic and Atmospheric
Administration.*

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Marine Protected Areas Federal Advisory Committee; Public Meeting

AGENCY: National Ocean Service, NOAA, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of open meeting.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given of the next meeting of the Marine Protected Areas Federal Advisory Committee (MPA FAC) in Corpus Christi, Texas.

DATES: The meeting will be held Tuesday, November 1, 2005 from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Wednesday, November 2, 2005 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and