

Response: NMFS has included a summary of Fowler's work evaluating ecosystem carrying capacity. Fritz et al. (in review) continues to develop and, in its draft stage, is not appropriate to include at this time.

Comment 35: Oil spill simulation models should be updated with the recent satellite and radio tracking data.

Response: NMFS will consider such revisions and their implementation as appropriate. NMFS has and will continue to meet with other federal agencies to determine the state of oil spill risk assessment and oil spill trajectory simulations in northern fur seal marine habitat.

Comment 36: NMFS should add the following section: Determine the importance of social interactions to lifetime reproductive success (e.g., mother-offspring relocation behavior, non-random associations such as between kin, observational learning). Determine how these interactions may be affected by changes in population size, climate, and whether there could be additive or positive feedback effects on a decreasing population (i.e., exacerbate a decline).

Response: NMFS did not add the suggested section regarding social interactions among northern fur seals. NMFS is not aware of any published or unpublished reports on the topic.

Comment 37: The plan needs a clear vision of the specific tasks that can be accomplished in the next 5 years: e.g., COFFS (Consequences of Female Foraging Strategies); population models; diet research.

Response: NMFS has prioritized various conservation actions and research. NMFS will follow the mandates under the relevant legislation to continue to collect basic population data and investigate critical management priorities. The completion of these priorities is funding-dependent.

Comment 38: NMFS should develop criteria for recovery and listing as threatened or endangered under the ESA.

Response: This plan addresses a depleted species as required by the MMPA. An evaluation for listing or recovery criteria for a population listed under the ESA is not appropriate for this document.

Threats Table

Comment 39: The threats table is difficult to understand, is inconsistent, and has arbitrary and non-quantitative scales.

Response: NMFS re-evaluated and revised the threats table to resolve inconsistencies and increase understanding for the reader.

Research Priorities

Comment 40: In section 3.1.5, trends in age structure and age-specific reproductive rates should be separated from the diet studies also recommended in this section. Longitudinal studies of marked females (e.g., Gentry, 1998) or cross-sectional studies of female vibrissae color (Scheffer, 1962; Baba et al., 1991) should be designed to develop stage-based structural models (e.g., Holmes and York, 2003).

Response: NMFS separated and consolidated diet and foraging into sections 2.7.1 and 2.7.2. In addition NMFS discussed numerous factors related to vital rates during a workshop convened in September 2005. A longitudinal and cross-sectional study was discussed at length and deemed the most time and cost-effective approach to obtaining accurate estimates for key vital rates. See response to comment 21.

Comment 41: In section 3.1.5, alternative methods including live-capture at sea should be investigated as a replacement for lethal collections. Japanese scientists have used live captures at sea and in combination with lavage (diet), tooth extraction (age-structure), and ultra-sound or hormone assay (repro) as suitable alternatives for lethal sampling.

Response: NMFS discussed all these factors related to vital rates during a workshop convened in September 2005. See response to comment 21. Also see G.P. Adams, J.W. Testa, C.E.C. Goertz, R.R. Ream, and J.T. Sterling. 2006. Ultrasonographic characterization of reproductive anatomy and early embryonic detection in the northern fur seal (*Callorhinus ursinus*) in the field. Marine Mammal Science 23(2): 445–452.

Comment 42: NMFS should initiate a survey of late season (Sept/Oct) pup mortality surveys at selected study sites to assess the level of pup mortality following the regular August pup mortality surveys.

Response: NMFS discussed factors related to vital rates during a workshop convened in September 2005. See response to comment 21. Reliable estimates of pup mortality at any time of the year can only be obtained by substantial disturbance and additional mother-pup separations associated with clearing an entire nursery area. Therefore, the recommended surveys are not warranted at this time.

Comment 43: NMFS should use guidance from Bowen et al. (2001) regarding experimental design to measure the success of management actions.

Response: Evaluating fur seal response to conservation actions in this

plan is consistent with the guidance of Bowen et al. (2001).

Dated: December 20, 2007.

James H. Lecky,

*Director, Office of Protected Resources,
National Marine Fisheries Service.*

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BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN: 0648-XE68

North Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of a public committee meeting.

SUMMARY: The North Pacific Fishery Management Council's (Council) Crab Committee will meet January 9–10, 2008, in Anchorage, AK.

DATES: The meeting will be held on January 9–10, 2008. The meeting will be held on January 9th, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on January 10th, from 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Hawthorne Suites, 1110 West 8th Avenue, Ballroom B, Anchorage, AK.

Council address: North Pacific Fishery Management Council, 605 W. 4th Ave., Suite 306, Anchorage, AK 99501-2252.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mark Fina, North Pacific Fishery Management Council; telephone: (907) 271-2809.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Committee will have discussions on the following items: purpose and need statement; potential elements and options; crew proposal and alternatives to those proposals; data issues; Community protections; possible emergency relief from regionalization; Arbitration issues.

Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Gail Bendixen, (907) 271-2809, at least 5 working days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: December 21, 2007.

Tracey L. Thompson,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. E7-25177 Filed 12-27-07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Publication of North American Datum of 1983 State Plane Coordinates in feet in Nebraska

AGENCY: National Geodetic Survey (NGS), National Ocean Service (NOS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The National Geodetic Survey (NGS) will publish North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83) State Plane Coordinate (SPC) grid values in both meters and U.S. Survey Feet (1 ft = 1200/3937 m) in Nebraska, for all well defined geodetic survey control monuments maintained by NGS in the National Spatial Reference System (NSRS) and computed from various geodetic positioning utilities. The adoption of this standard is implemented in accordance with NGS policy and a request from the Nebraska State Surveyor, Nebraska Department of Roads, the Professional Surveyors Association of Nebraska.

DATES: Individuals or organizations wishing to submit comments on the Publication of North American Datum of 1983 State Plane Coordinates in feet in Nebraska, should do by January 28, 2008.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be sent to the attention of David Doyle, Chief Geodetic Surveyor, Office of the National Geodetic Survey, National Ocean Service (N/NGS2), 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, Maryland, 20910, fax 301-713-4324, or via e-mail Dave.Doyle@noaa.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information should be directed to David Doyle, Chief Geodetic Surveyor, National Geodetic Survey (N/NGS2), 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD, 20910; Phone: (301) 713-3178.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Abstract

In 1991, NGS adopted a policy that defines the conditions under which NAD 83 State Plane Coordinates (SPCs) would be published in feet in addition to meters. As outlined in that policy,

each state or territory must adopt NAD 83 legislation (typically referenced as Codes, Laws or Statutes), which specifically defines a conversion to either U.S. Survey or International Feet as defined by the U.S. Bureau of Standards in Federal Register Notice 59-5442. To date, 48 states have adopted the NAD 83 legislation however, for various reasons, only 33 included a specific definition of the relationship between meters and feet. This lack of uniformity has led to confusion and misuse of SPCs as provided in various NGS products, services and tools, and created errors in mapping, charting and surveying programs in numerous states due to inconsistent coordinate conversions.

Dated: December 20, 2007.

David B. Zilkoski,

Director, Office of National Geodetic Survey, National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[FR Doc. 07-6233 Filed 12-27-07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-JE-M

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XE67

U.S. Climate Change Science Program Revised Research Plan Summary

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

ACTION: Notice of Publication of U.S. Climate Change Science Program (CCSP) Revised Research Plan Summary and request for public comments.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to Section 104(f) the Global Change Research Act of 1990 (GCRA), the U.S. Climate Change Science Program Revised Research Plan Summary is being published in the **Federal Register** for a 60-day public comment period. The public comments received on the Revised Research Plan Summary will be considered during the preparation of the final Revised Research Plan as well as the Scientific Assessment document required by Section 106 of the GCRA. The final version of the full Revised Research Plan will be published on the CCSP web site. Public comments received on the Revised Research Plan Summary will be made available upon request.

DATES: Comments must be received by February 26, 2008.

ADDRESSES: A formatted version of The U.S. Climate Change Science Program

Revised Research Plan Summary is available on the CCSP Web site at: <http://www.climatechange.gov/Library/stratplan2008/summary/default.htm> Comments should be sent to Dr. Fabien Laurier, Climate Change Science Program Office at: research-plan-summary@usgcrp.gov

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Patricia Jellison, Climate Change Science Program Office, 1717 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 250, Washington, DC 20006, Telephone: (202) 223-6262

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Summary of Revised Research Plan for the US Climate Change Science Program (CCSP)

I. Introduction

About the Revised Research Plan

This Revised Research Plan is an update to the 2003 Strategic Plan of the US Climate Change Science Program (CCSP) (<http://www.climatechange.gov/Library/stratplan2003/final/default.htm>), a document which was developed via a thorough, open and transparent multi-year process involving a wide range of scientists and managers. A significant part of this process was the review of both the draft and final plan by the National Academy of Sciences (http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=11565 for the draft plan; http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=10635 for the final plan). These reviews played an important role in influencing the 2003 Strategic Plan's development.

The Strategic Plan has long-term value to CCSP, but like any strategic plan, it must be supplemented by shorter-term revisions that take into account both advances in the science and changes in societal needs, and CCSP has an ongoing long-range strategic planning process to ensure that these needs are met. The Revised Research Plan (hereinafter referred to as the Research Plan) draws on CCSP's long-range planning process and provides this update, in compliance with the terms of the Global Change Research Act (GCRA) of 1990.

In the Research Plan, the reader will find several things: (1) an updated statement of vision, goals and capabilities consistent with CCSP's current Strategic Plan but reflecting both scientific progress and the evolution of the Program based on accomplishments and evolving societal and environmental needs; (2) a description of the relationship of the Research Plan to the current Scientific Assessment; (3) highlights of ways in which the program