

or other forms of information technology.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection; they also will become a matter of public record.

Dated: August 7, 2008.

Gwellnar Banks,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. E8-27297 Filed 11-17-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-NK-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Notice of Intent

AGENCY: National Estuarine Research Reserve System, Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (OCRM), National Ocean Service (NOS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), U.S. Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare a draft environmental impact statement on the proposed St. Louis River National Estuarine Research Reserve (reserve) in Superior, Wisconsin. Notice of a public scoping meeting in Superior, Wisconsin, to solicit comments on significant issues related to the preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Draft Management Plan (DEIS/DMP) for the proposed reserve. The DEIS/DMP will address the research, education, and stewardship needs of the proposed reserve.

DATES: Monday, December 1, 2008 at 7 p.m.

ADDRESSES: University of Wisconsin—Superior Multicultural Center, Old Main—Rm 232, Superior, WI 54880.

SUMMARY: In accordance with section 315 of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended, the State of Wisconsin and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration intend to conduct a public scoping meeting on December 1, 2008, in Superior, Wisconsin, as part of NOAA's Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Draft Management Plan (DEIS/DMP) process to solicit comments for the preparation of a DEIS/DMP.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The decision to be made by NOAA is whether or not to designate the proposed St. Louis River National Estuarine Research Reserve. University of Wisconsin-Extension (UW-EX), Wisconsin Department of

Administration (WI DOA), and NOAA are working to determine what the boundaries of the reserve will be, how the reserve will be managed, and the policies of the proposed reserve. These decisions will be made through an analysis process and spelled out in the reserve management plan.

The St. Louis River freshwater estuary constitutes a relatively intact and wetland rich area, and is an excellent representative area in the Great Lakes biogeographic region with a diversity of coastal habitat types. The unique physical and hydrological features of the proposed site is expected to attract a broad range of research interests from multiple scientific disciplines.

Beginning in 2004, the WI DOA and UW-EX organized a number of partners and stakeholders to explore the feasibility of a reserve on the Lake Superior coast. In 2006, the State of Wisconsin undertook a site selection process to determine appropriate areas of Wisconsin's Lake Superior coast that might be nominated for inclusion in the Reserve System. This process and a parallel public participation process generated advice from public and private experts in estuarine science and input from the public.

On June 1, 2008, the Governor of the State of Wisconsin nominated the St. Louis River Freshwater Estuary for consideration as a Lake Superior Reserve. In October of 2008, NOAA approved the site nomination document for the proposed Lake Superior reserve and began working with UW-EX and WI DOA to develop a management plan and environmental impact statement for the proposed reserve.

The St. Louis River reserve is proposed to be administered by the UW-EX in cooperation with partner landholders including the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the City of Superior. WI DOA and UW-EX are jointly developing an outline of a preliminary draft management plan. The outline is intended to identify specific needs and priorities related to research, education and stewardship. At the public meeting, WI DOA, UW-EX, and NOAA will provide a synopsis of the process for developing a DEIS/DMP and will solicit comments on significant environmental issues that will be incorporated into a DEIS.

Interested parties who wish to submit suggestions or comments regarding the scope or content of the proposed DEIS/DMP are invited to attend the above meeting.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Travis Olsen, Wisconsin Department of Administration at (608) 266-3687 or

travis.olson@wisconsin.gov or Laurie McGilvray, Chief, Estuarine Reserves Division, Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, National Ocean Service, NOAA, 1305 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910, (301) 713-3155 ext 158 or *Laurie.McGilvray@noaa.gov*.

Federal Domestic Assistance Catalog Number 11.420. (Coastal Zone Management) Research Reserves.

Dated: November 11, 2008.

David M. Kennedy,

Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management.

[FR Doc. E8-27273 Filed 11-17-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Evaluation of State Coastal Management Programs and National Estuarine Research Reserves

AGENCY: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, National Ocean Service, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of intent to evaluate and notice of availability of final findings.

SUMMARY: The NOAA Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (OCRM) announces its intent to evaluate the performance of the Hudson River (New York) National Estuarine Research Reserve and the California Coastal Commission Coastal Management Program.

The Coastal Zone Management Program evaluation will be conducted pursuant to section 312 of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended (CZMA) and regulations at 15 CFR part 923, Subpart L. The National Estuarine Research Reserve evaluation will be conducted pursuant to sections 312 and 315 of the CZMA and regulations at 15 CFR Part 921, Subpart E and Part 923, Subpart L. The CZMA requires continuing review of the performance of states with respect to coastal program implementation. Evaluation of Coastal Management Programs and National Estuarine Research Reserves requires findings concerning the extent to which a state has met the national objectives, adhered to its Coastal Management Program document or Reserve final management plan approved by the Secretary of Commerce, and adhered to the terms of financial assistance awards funded under the CZMA.

Each evaluation will include a site visit, consideration of public comments, and consultations with interested Federal, state, and local agencies and members of the public. A public meeting will be held as part of the site visit. Notice is hereby given of the dates of the site visits for the listed evaluations, and the dates, local times, and locations of the public meetings during the site visits.

DATES AND TIMES: The Hudson River (New York) National Estuarine Research Reserve evaluation site visit will be held December 1–4, 2008. One public meeting will be held during the week. The public meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 2, 2008, at 7 p.m. at the Hudson River National Estuarine Research Reserve, Norrie Point Environmental Center, 256 Norrie Point Way, Staatsburg, New York.

The California Coastal Commission evaluation site visit will be held December 8–12, 2008. Two public meetings will be held during the week. The first public meeting will be held on Monday, December 8, 2008, at 7 p.m. at the Ventura County Board of Supervisors Chambers, 800 South Victoria Avenue, Ventura, California. The second public meeting will be held on Friday, December 12, 2008, at 9 a.m. at San Francisco City Hall, Legislative Chamber Room 250, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, San Francisco, California.

ADDRESSES: Copies of states' most recent performance reports, as well as OCRM's evaluation notification and supplemental information request letters to the states, are available upon request from OCRM. Written comments from interested parties regarding these Programs are encouraged and will be accepted until 15 days after the last public meeting held for a Program. Please direct written comments to Kate Barba, Chief, National Policy and Evaluation Division, Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, NOS/NOAA, 1305 East-West Highway, 10th Floor, N/ORM7, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910. When the evaluation is completed, OCRM will place a notice in the **Federal Register** announcing the availability of the Final Evaluation Findings.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Notice is hereby given of the availability of the final evaluation findings for the Florida, Alaska, and Alabama Coastal Management Programs (CMP) and the San Francisco Bay (CA) National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR). Sections 312 and 315 of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (CZMA), as amended, require a continuing

review of the performance of coastal states with respect to approval of CMPs and the operation and management of NERRs.

The states of Florida, Alaska, and Alabama were found to be implementing and enforcing their federally approved coastal management programs, addressing the national coastal management objectives identified in CZMA Section 303(2)(A)–(K), and adhering to the programmatic terms of their financial assistance awards. The San Francisco Bay NERR was found to be adhering to programmatic requirements of the NERR System.

Copies of these final evaluation findings may be obtained upon written request from: Kate Barba, Chief, National Policy and Evaluation Division, Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, NOS/NOAA, 1305 East-West Highway, 10th Floor, N/ORM7, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910, or Kate.Barba@noaa.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kate Barba, Chief, National Policy and Evaluation Division, Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, NOS/NOAA, 1305 East-West Highway, 10th Floor, N/ORM7, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910, (301) 563–1182.

Federal Domestic Assistance Catalog 11.419 Coastal Zone Management Program Administration.

Dated: November 4, 2008.

Christopher C. Cartwright,
CFO/CAO, NOAA's National Ocean Service.
[FR Doc. E8–27256 Filed 11–17–08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648–XL79

Marine Mammals; File No. 87–1851

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

ACTION: Notice; receipt of application for amendment.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Dr. Daniel P. Costa, Department of Biology and Institute of Marine Sciences, University of California Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz, CA, has applied for an amendment to Scientific Research Permit No. 87–1851–00.

DATES: Written, telefaxed, or e-mail comments must be received on or before December 18, 2008.

ADDRESSES: The application and related documents are available upon written request or by appointment in the following office(s):

Permits, Conservation and Education Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910; phone (301)713–2289; fax (301)427–2521; and Southwest Region, NMFS, 501 West Ocean Blvd., Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802–4213; phone (562)980–4001; fax (562)980–4018.

Written comments or requests for a public hearing on this request should be submitted to the Chief, Permits, Conservation and Education Division, F/PR1, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Those individuals requesting a hearing should set forth the specific reasons why a hearing on this particular amendment request would be appropriate.

Comments may also be submitted by facsimile at (301)427–2521, provided the facsimile is confirmed by hard copy submitted by mail and postmarked no later than the closing date of the comment period.

Comments may also be submitted by e-mail. The mailbox address for providing e-mail comments is NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov. Include in the subject line of the e-mail comment the following document identifier: File No. 87–1851.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Amy Sloan or Tammy Adams,
(301)713–2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The subject amendment is requested under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), and the regulations governing the taking and importing of marine mammals (50 CFR part 216).

Permit No. 87–1851–00, issued on January 29, 2007 (72 FR 5680), authorizes tagging studies and physiological research on seals in Antarctica, including crabeater seals (*Lobodon carcinophagus*), southern elephant seals (*Mirounga leonina*), leopard seals (*Hydrurga leptonyx*), Weddell seals (*Leptonychotes weddellii*), and Ross seals (*Ommatophoca rossii*). The permit also authorizes research on California sea lions (*Zalophus californianus*) to investigate foraging, diving, energetics, food habits, and at-sea distribution along the California coast. Incidental harassment of California sea lions, harbor seals (*Phoca vitulina*), northern elephant seals (*Mirounga augustirostris*), and northern fur seals (*Callorhinus ursinus*) is authorized. The permit expires on January 31, 2012.