

hours at NMFS' Southwest Region Office.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*

Dated: March 30, 2010.

Eric C. Schwaab,

*Assistant Administrator for Fisheries,
National Marine Fisheries Service.*

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XU93

Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Assessment for a Proposed Rule to Revise Marine Mammal Special Exception Permit Requirements

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

ACTION: Notice of Intent to prepare Environmental Assessment; extension of comment period.

SUMMARY: On March 10, 2010, NMFS announced its intent to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) to analyze the potential environmental impacts of a proposed rule to revise federal regulations implementing the Section 104 permit provisions of the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) with written comments due by May 10, 2010. NMFS has decided to allow additional time for submission of public comments on this action.

DATES: The public comment period for this action has been extended by 30 days. Written comments must be received or postmarked by June 10, 2010.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be mailed to: P. Michael Payne, Chief, Permits, Conservation and Education Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910-3226. Comments may also be submitted by facsimile to (301) 713-0376 and confirmed by hard copy, or by email to mmpermitregs.comments@noaa.gov. Please include "Permit Regulations NOI" in the subject line of the email.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Amy Sloan or Jennifer Skidmore, (301) 713-2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: NMFS has developed proposed revisions, additions, and restructuring of NMFS

marine mammal permit application procedures and permit requirements to form the basis of one or more alternatives to be evaluated in an EA for a Proposed Rule. The internal scoping summary document for public review is available at: http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/permits/mmpa_regulations.htm.

NMFS will consider all comments received during the comment period. All hardcopy submissions must be unbound, on paper no larger than 8½ by 11 inches (216 by 279 mm), and suitable for copying and electronic scanning. NMFS requests that you include in your comments: (1) Your name and address; and (2) Any background documents to support your comments, as you feel necessary. A draft EA will be made available for public review concurrent with publication of a notice of proposed rulemaking.

Dated: March 29, 2010.

P. Michael Payne,

Chief, Permits, Conservation and Education Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

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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 Louisiana Coastal Management Program and the Great Bay (New Hampshire) National Estuarine Research Reserve. 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 CZMA requires continuing review of the performance of states with respect to coastal program implementation. Evaluation of a Coastal Management Program requires findings concerning the extent to which a state has met the national objectives, adhered to its Coastal Management Program document approved by the Secretary of

Commerce, and adhered to the terms of financial assistance awards funded under the CZMA.

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 F and part 923, subpart L. Evaluation of a National Estuarine Research Reserve requires findings concerning the extent to which a state has met the national objectives, adhered to its 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. When the evaluation is completed, OCRM will place a notice in the **Federal Register** announcing the availability of the Final Evaluation Findings. Notice is hereby given of the date of the site visits for the listed evaluations, and the date, local time, and location of the public meetings during the site visits.

Dates and Times: The Louisiana Coastal Management Program evaluation site visit will be held May 10-14, 2010. One public meeting will be held during the week. The public meeting will be held on Monday, May 10, 2010, at 6:30 p.m. at the LaSalle Building (Capitol Complex), Griffon Room, 1st Floor, 617 North 3rd Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

The Great Bay (New Hampshire) National Estuarine Research Reserve evaluation site visit will be held May 17-21, 2010. One public meeting will be held during the week. The public meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 19, 2010, at 7 p.m. at the Great Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, Hugh Gregg Coastal Conservation Center, 89 Depot Road, Greenland, New Hampshire.

ADDRESSES: Copies of states' most recent performance reports, as well as OCRM's evaluation notification and supplemental information request letters to the state, are available upon request from OCRM. Written comments from interested parties regarding this Program are encouraged and will be accepted until 15 days after the public meeting. 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.