

submitted either electronically to [meetings.npfmc.org](http://meetings.npfmc.org) or through the mail: North Pacific Fishery Management Council, 605 W 4th Ave., Suite 306, Anchorage, AK 99501–2252.

### Special Accommodations

The meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Shannon Gleason at (907) 271–2809 at least 7 working days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: February 6, 2019.

**Tracey L. Thompson,**

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

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**BILLING CODE 3510–22–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

**RIN 0648–XG780**

#### North Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

**ACTION:** Notice of public meetings.

**SUMMARY:** The North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) and its advisory committees will meet April 1, 2019 through April 9, 2019.

**DATES:** The meetings will be held April 1, 2019 through April 9, 2019. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific dates and times.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the Anchorage Hilton Hotel, 500 W 3rd Ave, Anchorage, AK 99501.

*Council address:* North Pacific Fishery Management Council, 605 W 4th Ave., Suite 306, Anchorage, AK 99501–2252; telephone (907) 271–2809.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Diana Evans, Council staff; telephone: (907) 271–2809.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Council will begin its plenary session at 8 a.m. in the Aleutian Room on Wednesday, April 3, 2019 continuing through Tuesday, April 9, 2019. The Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) will begin at 8 a.m. in the King Salmon/Iliamna Room on Monday, April 1, 2019 and continue through Wednesday, April 3, 2019. The Council's Advisory Panel (AP) will begin at 8 a.m. in the Dillingham/Katmai Room on Tuesday, April 2, 2019 and

continue through Saturday, April 6, 2019. The IFQ Committee will meet on Monday, April 1, 2019, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (room TBD). The Ecosystem Committee will meet on Monday, April 1, 2019, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (room TBD). The Fishery Monitoring Advisory Committee (FMAC) will meet on Tuesday, April 2, 2019 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (room TBD). The Enforcement Committee will meet on Tuesday, April 2, 2019 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. (room TBD). The Cook Inlet Salmon Committee will meet on Tuesday, April 2, 2019 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (room TBD).

### Agenda

*Monday, April 1, 2019 Through Tuesday, April 9, 2019*

*Council Plenary Session:* The agenda for the Council's plenary session will include the following issues. The Council may take appropriate action on any of the issues identified.

- (1) Executive Director's Report (including report on Northern Edge 2019, Alaska Ocean Acidification Network report, Council Coordination Committee update)
- (2) NMFS Management Report (including GOA Chinook salmon bycatch status, decksorting update, and 2018 cost recovery)
- (3) ADF&G Report
- (4) NOAA GC Report
- (5) NIOSH Report
- (6) USCG Report
- (7) USFWS Report (seabird bycatch)
- (8) Habitat Report (including annual EFH consultation)
- (9) Protected Species Report
- (10) Fixed Gear CV Rockfish Retention—Final Action
- (11) IFQ Medical Lease—Final Action
- (12) Cooperative Reports—AFA, AM 80, GOA Rockfish, BSAI Crab
- (13) CQE Fishup in 3A—Initial Review
- (14) IFQ Eligibility Criteria—Discussion Paper
- (15) Cook Inlet Salmon—Committee Report
- (16) BSAI Halibut Abundance-Based Management PSC limits—Review Operating Model
- (17) Sablefish Discards—Expanded Discussion Paper
- (18) Observer Fee Analysis—Initial Review
- (19) Observer partial coverage cost efficiencies—Report
- (20) Bering Sea Snow Crab Bycatch—Initial Review
- (21) Sculpins to ecosystem component—Discussion Paper
- (22) Economic Data Reports—Discussion Paper
- (23) Scallop SAFE—Final Specifications

- (24) GOA Pollock, Cod seasons/allocations—Final Action
- (25) Ecosystem Committee—Report
- (26) Enforcement Committee—Report
- (27) Bering Sea Fishery Ecosystem Plan—Action module workplans and report
- (28) Whale depredations in the Sablefish fishery—Report

The Advisory Panel will address Council agenda items (12) through (28).

The SSC agenda will include the following issues:

- (1) Cook Inlet Salmon—Review status determination criteria
- (2) Review Economic SAFE—Action as necessary
- (3) Marine Mammal Conservation Status—Action as necessary
- (4) CQE Fishup in 3A—Initial Review
- (5) BSAI Halibut Abundance-Based Management PSC limits—Review Operating Model
- (6) Sablefish Discards—Expanded Discussion Paper
- (7) Observer Fee Analysis—Initial Review
- (8) Observer partial coverage cost efficiencies—Report
- (9) Bering Sea Snow Crab Bycatch—Initial Review
- (10) Sculpins to ecosystem component—Discussion Paper
- (11) Economic Data Reports—Discussion Paper
- (12) Scallop SAFE—Final Specifications
- (13) Bering Sea Fishery Ecosystem Plan—Action module workplans and report
- (14) Whale depredations in the Sablefish fishery—Report

In addition to providing ongoing scientific advice for fishery management decisions, the SSC functions as the Council's primary peer review panel for scientific information, as described by the Magnuson-Stevens Act section 302(g)(1)(e), and the National Standard 2 guidelines (78 FR 43066). The peer review process is also deemed to satisfy the requirements of the Information Quality Act, including the OMB Peer Review Bulletin guidelines.

The Fishery Monitoring Advisory Committee will meet to discuss the Fee Analysis Initial Review document, partial coverage cost savings, and other business. The Enforcement Committee will discuss Sablefish discards and the progress on the trawl EM cooperative research plan, and other business. The Ecosystem Committee will discuss habitat issues, a report on the Alaska Ocean Acidification Network and other status updates, a workplan for upcoming items for committee consideration, and other business. The IFQ committee will review discussion

papers on eligibility criteria, global examples, sablefish discards, fish up in 3A, prioritization of IFQ program tasks, and other business. The Cook Inlet Salmon Committee will finalize recommendations for the Council on the upcoming FMP amendment, and discuss other business.

The Agendas are subject to change, and the latest versions will be posted at <http://www.npfmc.org/>.

#### Public Comment

Public comment letters will be accepted and should be submitted either electronically at [meetings.npfmc.org](http://meetings.npfmc.org) through the mail: North Pacific Fishery Management Council, 605 W. 4th Ave., Suite 306, Anchorage, AK 99501-2252. Deadline for comments is March 29, 2019, at 12 p.m.

#### Special Accommodations

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Dated: February 6, 2019.

**Tracey L. Thompson,**

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

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## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

### Department of the Army

#### Environmental Impact Statement for the Development of a Heavy Off-Road Mounted Maneuver Training Area at Fort Benning, Georgia

**AGENCY:** Department of the Army, DOD.

**ACTION:** Notice of Intent.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of the Army intends to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to analyze potential environmental and socioeconomic impacts, and identify related mitigation measures, associated with the Army's proposal to develop, operate, and maintain a Heavy Off Road Mounted Maneuver Training Area (HOMMTA) of at least 2,400 contiguous acres at Fort Benning, Georgia to support off-road armor vehicle movement and maneuver.

**DATES:** The public comment period will end 30 days after publication of the Notice of Intent in the **Federal Register** by the Department of the Army.

**ADDRESSES:** Please send written comments to Fort Benning

Environmental Management Division, Attn: NEPA Program Manager, 6650 Meloy Drive, Building 6, Room 309, Fort Benning, GA 31905-5122 or email to [john.e.brown12.civ@mail.mil](mailto:john.e.brown12.civ@mail.mil).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. John Brown, Fort Benning Environmental Management Division, at (706) 545-7549 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. EST. Information updates and background on the HOMMTA EIS can also be accessed at <https://www.benning.army.mil/garrison/dpw/EMD/Legal.html>.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Fort Benning's Maneuver Center of Excellence (MCoE), which includes the Army's Armor and Infantry Schools, supports training of Infantry and Armor Soldiers and leaders for a wide variety of situations that they can expect to encounter on the modern battlefield. Fort Benning is also home to several deployable units that conduct heavy off-road maneuver training, including the 1st Security Force Assistance Brigade, Task Force 1-28 Infantry, and elements of the 75th Ranger Regiment. Fort Benning must be able to train and develop highly skilled and cohesive units capable of conducting operations across the full spectrum of conflict. Inherent in and vital to this training is the requirement to provide sufficient heavy off-road mounted maneuver training area. Currently, the Good Hope Maneuver Training Area (GHMTA) is the only training area at Fort Benning suitable for this training. GHMTA maneuver boxes do not provide enough contiguous off-road maneuver space. Of the available 11,154 acres of the GHMTA, only 1,952 non-contiguous acres, with no more than 371 acres of open and maneuverable terrain in any section, can be used for heavy off-road mounted maneuver.

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to provide Fort Benning with a HOMMTA consistent with the current training requirements of the MCoE and Fort Benning's tenant units. The Proposed Action is needed to address the lack of sufficient contiguous off-road maneuver area to meet training requirements for heavy armor vehicle (tracked and wheeled) off-road maneuver training at Fort Benning. This lack of maneuver space has recently become more problematic since the Army's training strategy has changed and requires a more dispersed approach to movement and maneuver. The GHMTA does not have available area and time for both the required MCoE courses and deployable tenant units. Managing demand for the training area

through scheduling is no longer a viable option.

In concert with the EIS, the Army will prepare studies, analyses, and permit applications to meet other Federal requirements, such as Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, Sections 401 and 404 of the Clean Water Act, and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. Mitigation through avoidance and low-impact design would be used to avoid adverse impacts to sensitive environmental resources to the maximum extent practicable.

The EIS will analyze the No Action Alternative and three distinct location alternatives on Fort Benning. The following alternatives proposed for analysis have been initially determined to be feasible and to meet the purpose of and need for the Proposed Action. Some alternatives are larger than the minimum 2,400 acres to ensure they include enough contiguous areas suitable for heavy off-road mounted maneuver training.

**Northern Mounted Maneuver Training Area (NMMTA) Alternative:** This alternative includes approximately 4,723 acres and is located adjacent to and east of the current Northern Maneuver Training Area (NMTA) and west of the nearby Digital Multi-Purpose Range Complex (DMPRC).

**Red Diamond Alternative:** This alternative includes approximately 3,743 acres and is located south of the Southern Maneuver Training Area (SMTA) on the Installation's southern boundary.

**Eastern Boundary Alternative:** This alternative includes approximately 2,405 acres and is located between the Kilo duded impact area and the Installation's eastern boundary.

Resource areas that will be analyzed in the EIS include: Land use, aesthetics, air quality, noise, geology and soils, water resources, biological resources, cultural resources, socioeconomic and environmental justice, traffic and transportation, utilities, and hazardous and toxic materials/waste. The EIS will also analyze potential cumulative environmental effects. Based on initial review by the Army, potentially significant adverse impacts to water, biological, and/or cultural resources could occur if no mitigation were included. Mitigation measures will be presented in the EIS to reduce potential adverse effects.

The public is invited to participate in the scoping process. The scoping process begins with the publication of this Notice of Intent in the **Federal Register** and will last for 30 days. The scoping process will include a public scoping meeting, which is an