

pursuit, torment, or annoyance which has the potential to injure a marine mammal or marine mammal stock in the wild (16 U.S.C. 1362(18); 50 CFR 216.3). Level B harassment is defined as any act of pursuit, torment, or annoyance which has the potential to disturb a marine mammal or marine mammal stock in the wild by causing disruption of behavioral patterns, including, but not limited to, migration, breathing, nursing, breeding, feeding, or sheltering (16 U.S.C. 1362(18); 50 CFR 216.3). Section 101(a)(5)(A) of the MMPA and the implementing regulations at 50 CFR part 216, subpart I authorize NMFS to propose and, if appropriate, promulgate regulations and issue associated LOA(s). NMFS promulgated regulations on October 23, 2024 (89 FR 84676) for the taking of marine mammals incidental to the construction of the Maryland Offshore Wind Project offshore of Maryland. The LOA authorizes US Wind, and those persons it authorizes or funds to conduct activities on its behalf, to take marine mammals incidental to specified activities during the construction of the Project and requires them to implement mitigation, monitoring, and reporting requirements.

Summary of Request

On October 23, 2024, NMFS promulgated a final rule (89 FR 84674) responding to a request from US Wind for authorization to take marine mammals (19 species comprising 20 stocks) by Level B harassment (all 20 stocks) and by Level A harassment (5 stocks of the 20 stocks) incidental to construction activities occurring in Federal and State waters off of Maryland, specifically within and around the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) Commercial Lease of Submerged Lands for Renewable Energy Development on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Lease Area OCS-A 0490 (collectively, "Lease Area") and along two export cable routes to sea-to-shore transition points (collectively referred to as the "Project Area"), over the course of 5 years (January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2029). The final rule included the following specified activities: the installation of up to 114 wind turbine generators (WTGs) on monopile foundations using impact pile driving; the installation of 4 offshore substations (OSSs) on jacket foundations consisting of post-piled pin piles using impact pile driving; the installation of one meteorological tower (Met Tower) on pin piles using impact pile driving; installation and subsequent removal of gravity cells to connect the offshore export cables to onshore facilities

within Delaware Seashore State Park; high-resolution geophysical (HRG) marine site characterization surveys using active acoustic sources; fishery and ecological monitoring surveys; the placement of scour protection; the installation of the export cable routes from OSSs to shore-based converter stations and inter-array cables between turbines by trenching, laying, and burial activities; vessel transit within the specified geographical region to transport crew, supplies, and materials; and WTG operation.

Marine mammals exposed to elevated noise levels during foundation impact pile driving may be taken by Level A harassment, and marine mammals exposed to elevated noise levels during impact pile driving and HRG site characterization surveys may be taken by Level B harassment. No mortality or serious injury of any marine mammal is anticipated or authorized. The number of takes, by species, authorized may be found in table 1 in the LOA, which is available at <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/permit/incidental-take-authorizations-under-marine-mammal-protection-act>.

Authorization

In accordance with the final rule (89 FR 84674, October 23, 2024; see 50 CFR 217.306), NMFS has issued a LOA to US Wind authorizing the take, by harassment, of marine mammals incidental to specified activities within the specified geographical region. As previously stated, no mortality or serious injury of any marine mammal species is anticipated or authorized. The incidental takes authorized herein are the same as those analyzed and authorized in the final rule (89 FR 84674, October 23, 2024). Takes of marine mammals will be minimized through the following planned mitigation and monitoring measures, as applicable for each specified activity: (1) implementation of seasonal pile driving work restrictions; (2) use of multiple NMFS-approved Protected Species Observers (PSOs) to visually observe for marine mammals (with any detection within specifically designated zones triggering a delay or shutdown, as applicable); (3) use of NMFS-approved passive acoustic monitoring (PAM) operators to acoustically detect marine mammals, with a focus on detecting baleen whales (with any detection within designated zones triggering a delay or shutdown, as applicable); (4) implementation of clearance and shutdown zones; (5) use of soft-start upon commencement of impact pile driving and ramp-up of acoustic sources during HRG surveys; (6) use of noise

attenuation technology during foundation pile driving; (7) use of situational awareness monitoring for marine mammal presence; (8) use of sound field verification monitoring; (9) use of PAM within the vessel transit corridor for Project vessels to travel over 10 knots (11.5 miles per hour); and (10) implementation of several vessel strike avoidance measures to avoid vessel strikes, including but not limited to, vessel separation zones between marine mammals and project vessels. Additionally, NMFS may modify the LOA's mitigation, monitoring, or reporting measures, based on new information. US Wind is also required to submit reports, as specified in the final rule.

Based on the findings discussed in the preamble of the final rule, NMFS has determined that the take authorized in the LOA is of small numbers, will have a negligible impact on marine mammal stocks, will not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of the affected marine mammal stock for subsistence uses, and the mitigation measures provide a means of affecting the least practicable adverse impact on the affected stocks and their habitat.

Dated: November 26, 2024.

Kimberly Damon-Randall,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Draft Revised Management Plan for the Narragansett Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve

AGENCY: Office for Coastal Management, National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Request for comments.

SUMMARY: The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is soliciting comments from the public regarding a proposed revision of the management plan for the Narragansett Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (NBNERR). A management plan provides a framework to guide a reserve's programs, track progress toward meeting its goals, and identify potential opportunities or changes in direction. It is also used to guide programmatic evaluations. Management plan revisions are required at least every

five years. This draft, revised management plan is intended to replace the NBNERR management plan approved in 2010.

DATES: Comments must be received at the appropriate address (see **ADDRESSES**) on or before January 2, 2025.

ADDRESSES: The draft revised management plan can be downloaded or viewed at: http://nbnerr.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/NBNERR_ManagementPlan_DRAFT_PublicComment.pdf. It is also available by sending a written request to the point of contact identified below (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**).

You may submit comments by email to claudia.mazur@noaa.gov. Include "Comments on draft Narragansett Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve Management Plan" in the subject line of the message. NOAA will accept anonymous comments; however, the written comments NOAA receives are considered part of the public record, and the entirety of the comment, including the name of the commenter, email address, attachments, and other supporting materials, will be publicly accessible. Sensitive, personally identifiable information, such as account numbers and Social Security numbers, should not be included. Comments that are not related to the management plan for NBNERR, or that contain profanity, vulgarity, threats, or other inappropriate language, will not be considered.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Claudia Mazur, claudia.mazur@noaa.gov, or Betsy Nicholson, betsy.nicholson@noaa.gov, (617-894-0197) of NOAA's Office for Coastal Management.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to 15 CFR 921.33(c), Rhode Island must revise the management plan for NBNERR at least every five years. If approved by NOAA, the revised management plan will replace the plan previously approved in 2010.

Management plans outline a reserve's strategic goals and objectives; administrative structure; programs for conducting research and monitoring, education, and training; resource protection, restoration, and manipulation plans; public access and visitor use plans; consideration for future land acquisition; and facility development to support reserve operations. In particular, this draft revised plan for NBNERR provides information on new staff positions and new staff hired, and describes the reserve's updated position within the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management.

Since the last management plan, NBNERR has secured a land acquisition and expanded its boundary. Additionally, the updated plan describes strategic goals and objectives and identifies topic areas where additional planning will be conducted to identify and develop new goals and objectives over the next five years. The revised management plan, once approved, would serve as the guiding document for the reserve for the next five years.

NOAA's Office for Coastal Management analyzes the environmental impacts of the proposed approval of this management plan in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended, 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*, and the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA (40 CFR 1500-1508 (2022)). The public is invited to comment on the draft revised management plan. NOAA will take these comments into consideration when deciding whether to approve the revised management plan in whole or in part.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1451 *et seq.*; 15 CFR 921.33.

Keelin S. Kuipers,

Deputy Director, Office for Coastal Management, National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[Docket No.: ED-2024-SCC-0111]

Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget for Review and Approval; Comment Request; Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act State Plan Guide

AGENCY: Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education (OCTAE), Department of Education (ED).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, the Department is proposing a revision of a currently approved information collection request (ICR).

DATES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before January 2, 2025.

ADDRESSES: Written comments and recommendations for proposed information collection requests should be submitted within 30 days of

publication of this notice. Click on this link www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain to access the site. Find this information collection request (ICR) by selecting "Department of Education" under "Currently Under Review," then check the "Only Show ICR for Public Comment" checkbox. Reginfo.gov provides two links to view documents related to this information collection request. Information collection forms and instructions may be found by clicking on the "View Information Collection (IC) List" link. Supporting statements and other supporting documentation may be found by clicking on the "View Supporting Statement and Other Documents" link.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For specific questions related to collection activities, please contact Braden Goetz, (202) 245-7405.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Department is especially interested in public comment addressing the following issues: (1) is this collection necessary to the proper functions of the Department; (2) will this information be processed and used in a timely manner; (3) is the estimate of burden accurate; (4) how might the Department enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (5) how might the Department minimize the burden of this collection on the respondents, including through the use of information technology. Please note that written comments received in response to this notice will be considered public records.

Title of Collection: Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act State Plan Guide.

OMB Control Number: 1830-0029.

Type of Review: Revision of a currently approved ICR.

Respondents/Affected Public: State, Local, and Tribal Governments.

Total Estimated Number of Annual Responses: 54.

Total Estimated Number of Annual Burden Hours: 1,026.

Abstract: This information collection is used by the Department to request State Plans and annual revisions under the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006. We are proposing to revise the ICR to provide data specifications for the numerators and denominators used to calculate the law's performance indicators so that they are measured in a manner that is consistent with the statute, reduce the collection of potentially duplicative information, give States more time to report education and employment outcomes to improve the accuracy and completeness of these data, and to