

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration****15 CFR Part 922****Designation of Papahānaumokuākea National Marine Sanctuary**

**AGENCY:** Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS), National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notification of review and effective date of final rule.

**SUMMARY:** The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is reviewing, for consistency with the Administration's policies and Executive Orders, the final rule that published on January 16, 2025 to designate Papahānaumokuākea National Marine Sanctuary (PNMS). The designation and regulations for PNMS became effective on March 3, 2025.

**DATES:** The final rule to designate PNMS, which was published at 90 FR 4856 on January 16, 2025, became effective March 3, 2025.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Eric Roberts, Papahānaumokuākea National Marine Sanctaury Superintendent, at [Eric.Roberts@noaa.gov](mailto:Eric.Roberts@noaa.gov) or 808-294-7470.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Pursuant to Section 304(b) of the National Marine Sanctuaries Act (NMSA) (16 U.S.C. 1434(b)(1)), a sanctuary designation and its regulations become effective following the close of a review period of 45 days of continuous session of Congress beginning on the date of publication of the final rule. For PNMS, the final rule published on January 16, 2025, and by operation of NMSA Section 304(b), the designation and regulations became effective as of March 3, 2025.

NOAA is reviewing the final rule for this designation for consistency with the Administration's policies and Executive Orders, including Executive Order 14219, Ensuring Lawful Governance and Implementing the President's "Department of Government Efficiency" Deregulatory Initiative.

**List of Subjects in 15 CFR Part 922**

Administrative practice and procedure; Coastal zone; Cultural resources; Environmental; Protection; Fishing; Historic preservation; Marine protected areas; Marine resources; Natural resources; National marine sanctuaries; Penalties; Recreation and recreation areas; Reporting and

recordkeeping requirements; Shipwrecks; Wildlife.

**John Armor,**

*Director, Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.*

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**DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE****Drug Enforcement Administration****21 CFR Part 1306**

[Docket No. DEA-948; DEA-407VA]

**RIN 1117-AB78; 1117-AB40; 1117-AB88**

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES****42 CFR Part 12****Expansion of Buprenorphine Treatment via Telemedicine Encounter and Continuity of Care via Telemedicine for Veterans Affairs Patients**

**AGENCY:** Drug Enforcement Administration, Department of Justice; Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Department of Health and Human Services.

**ACTION:** Final rule.

**SUMMARY:** In the January 17, 2025, issue of the **Federal Register**, the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Department of Health and Human Services published two final rules related to the practice of telemedicine, titled "Expansion of Buprenorphine Treatment via Telemedicine Encounter" and "Continuity of Care via Telemedicine for Veterans Affairs Patients." These final rules were originally scheduled to become final on February 18, 2025. In accordance with the Presidential Memorandum of January 20, 2025, titled "Regulatory Freeze Pending Review," the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Department of Health and Human Services delayed the effective dates of these two final rules to March 21, 2025, by issuing a final rule; delay of effective dates and request for comments in the February 19, 2025, issue of the **Federal Register**. The Drug Enforcement Administration received 32 comments in response to the request for public comments regarding the delayed effective date. Considering these comments, the Department of Justice wishes to further postpone the effective dates for the purpose of further

reviewing any questions of fact, law, and policy that the rules may raise. Therefore, the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Department of Health and Human Services will delay the effective date of the two final rules titled "Expansion of Buprenorphine Treatment via Telemedicine Encounter" and "Continuity of Care via Telemedicine for Veterans Affairs Patients" to December 31, 2025.

**DATES:** As of March 20, 2025, the effective dates of the final rules amending 21 CFR part 1306 and 42 CFR part 12 published in the **Federal Register** on January 17, 2025, at 90 FR 6504 and 90 FR 6523, respectively, are effective December 31, 2025.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Heather Achbach, Regulatory Drafting and Policy Support Section, Diversion Control Division, Drug Enforcement Administration; Telephone: (571) 776-3882.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:****Discussion**

On January 17, 2025, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) published two final rules titled "Expansion of Buprenorphine Treatment via Telemedicine Encounter" (90 FR 6504) and "Continuity of Care via Telemedicine for Veterans Affairs Patients" (90 FR 6523). These rules, respectively, amended their regulations to expand the circumstances under which: (1) practitioners registered by DEA are authorized to prescribe schedule III-V controlled substances approved by the Food and Drug Administration for the treatment of opioid use disorder via a telemedicine encounter, including an audio-only telemedicine encounter<sup>1</sup> and (2) Department of Veterans Affairs practitioners acting within the scope of their Veterans Affairs employment are authorized to prescribe schedule II-V controlled substances via telemedicine to a Veterans Affairs patient with whom they have not conducted an in-person medical evaluation, if another Veterans Affairs practitioner has, at any time, previously conducted an in-person medical evaluation of the Veterans Affairs patient, subject to certain conditions.<sup>2</sup>

On January 20, 2025, the President of the United States issued a memorandum to all executive departments and agencies titled "Regulatory Freeze

<sup>1</sup> 90 FR 6504 (Jan. 17, 2025).

<sup>2</sup> 90 FR 6523 (Jan. 17, 2025).