

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration****ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY****Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program: Proposed Findings Documents, Environmental Assessments, and Findings of No Significant Impact**

AGENCY: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

ACTION: Notice of Availability of Proposed Findings Documents, Environmental Assessments, and Findings of No Significant Impact on Approval of Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Programs for Louisiana and Puerto Rico.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given of the availability of the Proposed Findings Documents, Environmental Assessments (EA's), and Findings of No Significant Impact for Louisiana and Puerto Rico. Coastal states and territories were required to submit their coastal nonpoint programs to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for approval in July 1995. The Findings documents were prepared by NOAA and EPA to provide the rationale for the agencies' decision to approve each state and territory coastal nonpoint pollution control program. Section 6217 of the Coastal Zone Act Reauthorization Amendments (CZARA), 16 U.S.C. section 1455b, requires states and territories with coastal zone management programs that have received approval under section 306 of the Coastal Zone Management Act to develop and implement coastal nonpoint pollution control programs. The EA's were prepared by NOAA, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), 42 U.S.C. sections 4321 *et seq.*, to assess the environmental impacts associated with the approval of the coastal nonpoint pollution control programs submitted to NOAA and EPA by Louisiana and Puerto Rico.

NOAA and EPA have proposed to approve, with conditions, the coastal nonpoint pollution control programs submitted by Louisiana and Puerto Rico. The requirements of 40 CFR Parts 1500–1508 (Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations to implement the National Environmental Policy Act) apply to the preparation of the Environmental Assessments.

Specifically, 40 CFR section 1506.6 requires agencies to provide public notice of the availability of environmental documents. This notice is part of NOAA's action to comply with this requirement.

Copies of the Proposed Findings Documents, Environmental Assessments, and Findings of No Significant Impact may be obtained upon request from: Joseph P. Flanagan, Coastal Programs Division (N/ORM3), Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, NOS, NOAA, 1305 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, Maryland, 20910, tel. (301) 713–3121, ext. 201.

DATES: Individuals or organizations wishing to submit comments on the proposed Findings or Environmental Assessments should do so by August 18, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be made to: Joseph A. Uravitch, Coastal Programs Division (N/ORM3), Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, NOS, NOAA, 1305 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, Maryland, 20910, tel. (301) 713–3155, ext. 195.

(Federal Domestic Assistance Catalog 11.419 Coastal Zone Management Program Administration)

Dated: Dated July 15, 1997.

Nancy Foster,

Assistant Administrator for Ocean Services and Coastal Zone Management, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Robert H. Wayland, III,

Director, Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds, Environmental Protection Agency.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration****National Estuarine Research Reserve System**

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

ACTION: Notice of Public Meeting and Intent to Prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act and with section 315 of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended, the State of Mississippi and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) intend to

conduct a public scoping meeting on the proposed Mississippi National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR) to solicit comments on significant issues related to the preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and Draft Management Plan (DMP). The DEIS and DMP will address research, monitoring, education and resource protection needs for the reserve.

DATE AND TIME: Wednesday, August 6, 1997 at 6:00 p.m.

ADDRESS: East Jackson County Community Center, 9313 Old Stage Road, Pascagoula, Mississippi 39581.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jerry Mitchell, Coastal Ecology Division, Mississippi Department of Marine Resources, at (601) 385–5860; Mark W. LaSalle, Mississippi State University Coastal Research and Extension Center (601) 388–4710; or Nathalie Peter, Sanctuaries and Reserves Division, Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, NOAA, at (301) 713–3132, ext. 119.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In June 1997, NOAA approved the nomination of Grand Bay/Bangs Lake estuary complex as a proposed National Estuarine Research Reserve. Research reserves provide natural coastal habitats as field laboratories for baseline ecological studies and education programs. Research and monitoring programs are designed to enhance scientific understanding of the coastal environment and aid in resource management decision making.

The proposed Mississippi NERR is the Grand Bay/Bangs Lake estuary complex located in southeast Jackson County Mississippi. It encompasses approximately 15,000 acres of estuarine tidal marsh, shallow-water open bay, wet pine savanna, and coastal swamp habitats. Approximately 9,600 acres are state-owned estuarine marsh and shallow-bay bottoms that are currently recognized as the Grand Bay Estuarine Preserve. The remaining 5,400 acres are largely wet pine savanna that are part of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Grand Bay Savanna National Wildlife Refuge.

The Department of Marine Resources (DMR) and the Mississippi State University Coastal Research and Extension Center (MSU) have developed a preliminary draft management plan outline for the NERR which will identify specific needs and priorities related to research, monitoring, education, and resource protection at the proposed site. It also outlines an administrative plan, volunteer program and facilities development needs, public access, and visitor use policies.

At the public meetings, DMR, MSU, and NOAA will provide a synopsis of the process for developing a DMP and will solicit comments on significant environmental issues that will be incorporated into a DEIS.

The public meeting will be held in Pascagoula, Mississippi, at the East Jackson County Community Center, 9313 Old Stage Road, on August 6, 1997, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Interested parties who wish to submit suggestions, comments or substantive information regarding the scope or content of the proposed DEIS/DMP are invited to attend the above meeting. Parties who wish to respond in writing should do so by August 21, 1997, to Jerry Mitchell, Coastal Ecology Division, Mississippi Department of Marine Resources, 192 Gateway Drive, Biloxi, MS 39531, or Nathalie Peter, NOAA Sanctuaries and Reserves Division, 1305 East-West Highway N/ORM2, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

Dated: July 11, 1997.

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

Jeffrey R. Benoît,

*Director, Office of Ocean and Coastal
Resource Management.*

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 071497B]

Marine Mammals; Scientific Research Permit (PHF# 872-1397)

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

ACTION: Receipt of application.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Ann E. Bowles, Ph.D., Senior Research Biologist, Hubbs-Sea World Research Institute, 2595 Ingraham Street, San Diego, California 92109, has applied in due form for a permit to take northern elephant seals (*Mirounga angustirostris*) Pacific harbor seals (*Phoca vitulina richardsi*), and California sea lions (*Zalophus californianus*) for purposes of scientific research.

DATES: Written comments must be received on or before August 18, 1997.

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

Permits Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13130, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (301/713-2289); and

Regional Administrator, Southwest Region, 501 West Ocean Boulevard, Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802-4213 (310/980-4001).

Written data or views, or requests for a public hearing on this request, should be submitted to the Director, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13130, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Those individuals requesting a hearing should set forth the specific reasons why a hearing on this application would be appropriate.

Concurrent with the publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, NMFS is forwarding copies of this application to the Marine Mammal Commission and its Committee of Scientific Advisors.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The subject permit 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).

The purpose of the proposed research is to study the effects of sonic boom simulation tests on pinniped hearing and physiological response. Up to 10 beached rehabilitated animals of each of the above species will be taken annually (i.e., physically and/or chemically restrained, instrumented with electrodes for physiological measurements, and exposed to sonic boom noise and other brief transients). Of these numbers, up to 3 of each species will be trained to respond behaviorally to low-intensity tone bursts, and up to 2 of each species will be exposed to brief startling stimuli to determine the threshold for startle. The proposed research will be conducted over a five year period.

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), an initial determination has been made that the activity proposed is categorically excluded from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement.

Dated: July 11, 1997.

Ann D. Terbush,

*Chief, Permits and Documentation Division,
Office of Protected Resources, National
Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. 97-18914 Filed 7-17-97; 8:45 am]

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COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION

Chicago Mercantile Exchange Proposed Futures and Option Contracts on Cheddar Cheese Blocks

AGENCY: Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

ACTION: Notice of availability of the terms and conditions of proposed commodity futures and option contracts.

SUMMARY: The Chicago Mercantile Exchange (CME or Exchange) has applied for designation as a contract market in futures and futures options on cheddar cheese blocks. The Acting Director of the Division of Economic Analysis (Division) of the Commission, acting pursuant to the authority delegated by Commission Regulation 140.96, has determined that publication of the proposal for comment is in the public interest, will assist the Commission in considering the views of interested persons, and is consistent with the purposes of the Commodity Exchange Act.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before August 4, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons should submit their views and comments to Jean A. Webb, Secretary, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, Three Lafayette Centre, 1155 21st St., NW, Washington, DC 20581. In addition, comments may be sent by facsimile transmission to (202) 418-5521 or by electronic mail to secretary@cftc.gov. Reference should be made to the Chicago Mercantile Exchange cheddar cheese blocks futures and option contracts.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Please contact Fred Linse of the Division of Economic Analysis, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, Three Lafayette Centre, 1155 21st St., NW, Washington, DC 20581, telephone 202-418-5273. Facsimile number (202) 418-5527. Electronic mail flinse@cftc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The contracts were submitted pursuant to the Commission's Fast Track procedures for streamlining the review of applications for contract market designation (62 FR 10434). Under those procedures, the contracts, absent any contrary action by the Commission, may be deemed approved on August 25, 1997, 45 days after receipt of the applications. In view of the limited review period provided under the Fast Track procedures, the Commission has determined to publish for public