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Dated: July 17, 2018.

Carl C. Gouldman,

Director, U.S. IOOS Program, National Ocean Service.

[FR Doc. 2018–16286 Filed 7–30–18; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Notice of 30-Day Public Comment Period on the Injury Assessment Plan for the Lower Duwamish River (“Lower Duwamish River Natural Resource Damage Assessment: Injury Assessment Plan”)

AGENCY: National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of public comment period.

SUMMARY: NOAA, on behalf of its co-members of the Elliott Bay Trustee Council (Trustee Council), announce the release of the Lower Duwamish River Injury Assessment Plan, which sets forward the Trustee Council’s approach for assessing natural resource damages at the Lower Duwamish River. The Injury Assessment Plan is one of the first steps in the natural resources damages assessment process, and is being released to the public in accordance with the applicable regulations.

Through today’s notice, NOAA is announcing: (1) The Trustees’ plan to begin the assessment of natural resource damages for lost ecological and human use services resulting from releases of hazardous substances and oil to the Lower Duwamish River in Seattle, Washington; and (2) a provision of a 30-day period for public comment on the plan.

ADDRESSES: Comments are sought on the draft injury assessment plan and should be emailed to Rebecca.Hoff@noaa.gov with the subject line: “Comments on Lower Duwamish River Natural Resource Damage Assessment: Injury Assessment Plan.” Comments may also be mailed to: Rebecca Hoff of NOAA Western Region Center, 7600 Sand Point Way Building 1, Seattle, WA 98118.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The increasingly industrial uses of the Lower Duwamish River led to contamination of natural resources through multiple pathways from releases of hazardous substances upland

and adjacent to the river. As a result of this contamination, EPA designated Harbor Island, Lockheed West Seattle, and the Lower Duwamish Waterway (collectively, the Site) as Superfund sites on the National Priority List. Examples of contaminants of concern released to the Lower Duwamish River include polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), metals, and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs). Natural resources such as benthic invertebrates, migratory fish (such as juvenile Chinook salmon), resident fish (such as sculpin and English sole), birds, and fish eating mammals exposed to these compounds can potentially be harmed as a result. In addition, hazardous substances released to the Lower Duwamish River have potentially reduced the human use services (e.g., recreational fishing, recreational boating, tribal uses) provided by the River. In addition, fish consumption advisories related to hazardous substances have been issued to the public warning of the risks associated with consumption of various fish species commonly targeted by anglers. The Injury Assessment Plan sets forth the approach the Trustee Council will apply to completing the damage assessment process to resolve natural resource damages liability with non-settling parties.

The Elliott Bay Trustee Council is comprised of Federal, state and tribal natural resource trustees. Members of the Trustee Council include the U.S. Department of the Interior; the U.S. Department of Commerce, acting through NOAA; the State of Washington; the Suquamish Tribe; and the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe. The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), 42 U.S.C. §§ 9601 *et seq.*; the Oil Pollution Act (OPA) of 1990, 33 U.S.C. §§ 2701 *et seq.*; the Clean Water Act (CWA), 33 U.S.C. § 1251; the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan [National Contingency Plan (NCP)], 40 CFR 300, Subpart G; Executive Orders 12580 and 12777; and other applicable federal and state laws and regulations, provide a legal framework for the Trustee Council’s actions.

Under the federal regulations, the Trustee Council can elect to perform a Type A or Type B injury assessment. Type A assessment procedures use simplified model assumptions to address injuries that result from a single event or short-term exposure. Releases of hazardous substances from the Site have occurred from multiple sources over many decades, resulting in complex exposure conditions impacting aquatic and upland media and

associated complex food webs. Therefore, the Elliott Bay Trustee Council previously elected to perform a Type B assessment, the procedures for which require “more extensive field observation than the Type A procedures.” 43 CFR § 11.33(b). This assessment method includes injury determination, quantification, and damage determination. Because substantial Site-specific data already exist to support the assessment, a Type B assessment can be conducted for the Site at a reasonable cost. The federal regulations for a Type B assessment outline methods for determining (1) pathways through which hazardous substances released by potentially responsible parties expose natural resources, (2) injuries to natural resources, (3) the extent of those injuries and resultant public losses, (4) baseline conditions and time required for the resources to recover to baseline, and (5) the cost or value of restoring injured resources. These methods facilitate calculation of natural resource damages. 43 CFR §§ 11.60–11.84.

Dated: July 19, 2018.

David Westerholm,

Director, Office of Response and Restoration.

[FR Doc. 2018–16287 Filed 7–30–18; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Evaluation of State Coastal Management Programs

AGENCY: Office for Coastal Management (OCM), National Ocean Service (NOS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce (DOC).

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Office for Coastal Management will hold a public meeting to solicit comments on the performance evaluation of the Mississippi Coastal Management Program.

DATES: *Mississippi Coastal Management Program Evaluation:* The public meeting will be held on September 25, 2018, and written comments must be received on or before October 5, 2018.

For specific dates, times, and locations of the public meetings, see **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION.**

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments on the program or reserve NOAA intends to evaluate by any of the following methods:

Public Meeting and Oral Comments: A public meeting will be held in Biloxi, Mississippi. For the specific location, see **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

Written Comments: Please direct written comments to Dr. Maria Honeycutt, Program Evaluator, NOAA Office for Coastal Management, 1305 East-West Highway N/OCM1, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910, or via email to Maria.Honeycutt@noaa.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Maria Honeycutt, Ph.D., CFM, NOAA Office for Coastal Management, 1305 East-West Highway N/OCM1, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910, by phone at (240) 533-0726, or via email to Maria.Honeycutt@noaa.gov. Copies of the previous evaluation findings and 2016–2020 Assessment and Strategy may be viewed and downloaded on the internet at <http://coast.noaa.gov/czm/evaluations>. A copy of the evaluation notification letter and most recent progress report may be obtained upon request by contacting the person identified under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 312 of the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) requires NOAA to conduct periodic evaluations of federally approved state and territorial coastal programs. The process includes one or more public meetings, consideration of written public comments, and consultations with interested Federal, state, and local agencies and members of the public. During the evaluation, NOAA will consider the extent to which the state has met the national objectives, adhered to the management program approved by the Secretary of Commerce, and adhered to the terms of financial assistance under the CZMA. When the evaluation is completed, NOAA's Office for Coastal Management will place a notice in the **Federal Register** announcing the availability of the Final Evaluation Findings.

You may participate or submit oral comments at the public meeting scheduled as follows:

Date: September 25, 2018

Time: 6:00 p.m., local time

Location: Bolton State Building,
Public Meeting Room, 1141
Bayview Avenue, Biloxi,
Mississippi 39530

Written public comments must be received on or before October 5, 2018.

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

Dated: July 17, 2018.

Keelin Kuipers,

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

[FR Doc. 2018-16284 Filed 7-30-18; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Hydrographic Services Review Panel Meeting

AGENCY: National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of open public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Hydrographic Services Review Panel (HSRP) will hold a meeting that will be open to the public and public comments are requested in advance and/or during the meeting. Information about the HSRP meeting, agenda, presentations, webinar registration, and other background documents will be posted online at: <https://www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/hsrp/hsrp.htm>.

DATES: The meeting is planned for two and a half days during August 28–30, 2018. The dates, agenda, and times are subject to change. For updates, please check online at: <https://www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/hsrp/hsrp.htm>.

Location: Juneau, Alaska. The meeting venue will be announced online at: <https://www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/hsrp/hsrp.htm>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Lynne Mersfelder-Lewis, HSRP program manager, National Ocean Service, Office of Coast Survey, NOAA (N/NSD), 1315 East-West Highway, SSMC3 #6305, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910; telephone: 301-533-0064; email: Lynne.Mersfelder@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The meeting is open to the public, seating will be available on a first-come, first-served basis, and public comment is encouraged. There are public comment periods scheduled each day and noted in the agenda. Each individual or group making verbal comments will be limited to a total time of five (5) minutes and will be recorded. For those not onsite, comments can be submitted via the webinar chat function or via email in writing. Individuals who would like to submit written statements in advance, during or after the meeting should email their comments to Lynne.Mersfelder@noaa.gov.

noaa.gov. The HSRP will provide webinar capability. Pre-registration is required to access the webinar: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3898703691780313857>.

The Hydrographic Services Review Panel (HSRP) is a Federal Advisory Committee established to advise the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere, the NOAA Administrator, on matters related to the responsibilities and authorities set forth in section 303 of the Hydrographic Services Improvement Act of 1998, as amended, and such other appropriate matters that the Under Secretary refers to the Panel for review and advice. The charter and other information are located online at: <https://www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/hsrp/CharterBylawsHSIAStatute.htm>.

Past recommendations and issue papers are at: <https://www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/hsrp/recommendations.htm>.

Past HSRP public meeting summary reports, agendas, presentations, transcripts, webinars, and other information is available online at: <https://www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/hsrp/meetings.htm>.

Matters To Be Considered: The panel is convening to hear federal, state, regional and local partners and stakeholders on issues relevant to NOAA's navigation services, focusing on Alaska and the U.S. Arctic region as well as national issues. The HSRP will have a joint session with NOAA's Integrated Ocean Observation System Advisory Committee on water level partnerships. Navigation services include the data, products, and services provided by the NOAA programs and activities that undertake geodetic observations, gravity modeling, shoreline mapping, bathymetric mapping, hydrographic surveying, nautical charting, tide and water level observations, current observations, and marine modeling. This suite of NOAA products and services support safe and efficient navigation, resilient coasts and communities, and the nationwide positioning information infrastructure to support America's commerce. The Panel will hear from state and federal agencies, non-federal organizations, stakeholders and partners about their missions and use of NOAA's navigation services, the value these services bring, and what improvements could be made. Other administrative matters may be considered. The agenda and speakers are subject to change.

Special Accommodations: This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Please direct requests for sign language interpretation