

to evaluate by any of the following methods:

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

**Written Comments:** Please direct written comments to Carrie Hall, Evaluator, Planning and Performance Measurement Program, Office for Coastal Management, NOS/NOAA, 1305 East-West Highway, 11th Floor, N/OCM1, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910, or email comments [Carrie.Hall@noaa.gov](mailto:Carrie.Hall@noaa.gov). Comments that the Office for Coastal Management receives are considered part of the public record and may be publicly accessible. Any personal identifying information (e.g., name, address) submitted voluntarily by the sender may also be publicly accessible. NOAA will accept anonymous comments.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ralph Cantral, Evaluator, Planning and Performance Measurement Program, Office for Coastal Management, NOS/NOAA, 2234 South Hobson Avenue, Charleston, SC 29405, by phone at (843) 740-1143 or email comments [Ralph.Cantral@noaa.gov](mailto:Ralph.Cantral@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:* August 28, 2019.

*Time:* 5:30–6:30 p.m., local time.

*Location:* Susan Shipman

Environmental Learning Center, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, 1 Conservation Way, Brunswick, GA 31520.

Written public comments must be received on or before September 6, 2019.

Federal Domestic Assistance Catalog 11.419, Coastal Zone Management Program Administration.

Dated: July 5, 2019.

**Nkolika Ndubisi,**

*Management and Program Analyst, National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.*

[FR Doc. 2019-14710 Filed 7-9-19; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-08-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

#### Notice of Availability of a Draft Environmental Assessment of a Proposed Boundary Expansion of the Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve

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

**ACTION:** Notice of availability of a draft environmental assessment; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is soliciting comments from the public on a draft environmental assessment for a proposed boundary expansion of the Guana Tolomato Matanzas (GTM) National Estuarine Research Reserve.

**DATES:** Comments must be received no later than 30 days after publication of this notice.

**ADDRESSES:** The draft environmental assessment can be downloaded or viewed at <https://coast.noaa.gov/czm/compliance/>. You may submit comments via email to [steph.robinson@noaa.gov](mailto:steph.robinson@noaa.gov). You may also submit comments or request a copy of the draft environmental assessment by mail addressed to Stephanie Robinson, Office for Coastal Management, 2234 South Hobson Ave., Charleston, SC 29405. Comments submitted by any other method or after the comment period may not be considered. All comments are a part of the public record and may be publicly accessible. Any personal identifying information (e.g., name, address) submitted voluntarily by the

sender may also be accessible. NOAA will accept anonymous comments.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Stephanie Robinson at (843) 740-1174 and [steph.robinson@noaa.gov](mailto:steph.robinson@noaa.gov), or Erica Seiden at (240) 533-0781 and [erica.seiden@noaa.gov](mailto:erica.seiden@noaa.gov) of NOAA's Office for Coastal Management.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

### I. Background

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection, as lead agency for managing the GTM Reserve, has requested to modify the approved management boundary of the Reserve by adding three new parcels. Pursuant to 15 CFR 921.33(a), NOAA may require public notice, including notice in the **Federal Register** and an opportunity for public comment before approving a boundary or management plan change. In addition, changes in the boundary of a Reserve involving the acquisition of properties not listed in the management plan or final environmental impact statement (EIS) require public notice and the opportunity for comment. The Marsh View Preserve parcel was not evaluated in the Reserve's original EIS. Therefore, NOAA has developed an environmental assessment (EA) to analyze the effects of requested change to the Reserve boundary, which would result in a net increase in acreage of 3,346.44 acres, and is publishing notice of the EA's availability for public review and comment.

### II. NOAA Proposed Action and Alternatives

NOAA is releasing a draft EA prepared in accordance with section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(c), and the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA (40 CFR 1500-1508). NOAA's proposed action would be to approve a change in the management boundary of the GTM Reserve to add three parcels to the approved boundary.

The draft EA identifies and assesses potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed project, and identifies a preferred alternative and a no action alternative. The preferred alternative would add three parcels to the Reserve's boundary. Although the preferred alternative would add three parcels outside the boundary originally designated for the Reserve, the addition of these three parcels would allow and enhance the Reserve's ability to: (1) Educate the community; (2) protect and manage the estuaries and their watersheds; (3)

provide aquatic/upland management; and (4) research and monitor the area. The proposed boundary expansion is therefore preferred over the no action alternative.

Dated: July 5, 2019.

**Nkolika Ndubisi,**

*Management and Program Analyst, National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.*

[FR Doc. 2019-14713 Filed 7-9-19; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-08-P

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XR014

#### Takes of Marine Mammals Incidental to Specified Activities; Taking Marine Mammals Incidental to Bremerton Ferry Terminal Dolphin Relocation Project in Washington State

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

**ACTION:** Notice; incidental harassment authorization; request for comments on proposed renewal.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS received a request from the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) for the Renewal of their currently active incidental harassment authorization (IHA) to take marine mammals incidental to the dolphin (a man-made structure that protects other structures from being struck by boats) relocation project at the Bremerton Ferry Terminal in Washington State. These activities consist of activities that are covered by the current authorization but will not be completed prior to its expiration. Pursuant to the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), prior to issuing the currently active IHA, NMFS requested comments on both the proposed IHA and the potential for renewing the initial authorization if certain requirements were satisfied. The Renewal requirements have been satisfied, and NMFS is now providing an additional 15-day comment period to allow for any additional comments on the requested Renewal not previously provided during the initial 30-day comment period.

**DATES:** Comments and information must be received no later than July 25, 2019.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments should be addressed to Jolie Harrison, Chief, Permits and Conservation Division, Office of Protected Resources, National

Marine Fisheries Service. Physical comments should be sent to 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910 and electronic comments should be sent to [ITP.Fowler@noaa.gov](mailto:ITP.Fowler@noaa.gov).

**Instructions:** NMFS is not responsible for comments sent by any other method, to any other address or individual, or received after the end of the comment period. Comments received electronically, including all attachments, must not exceed a 25-megabyte file size. Attachments to electronic comments will be accepted in Microsoft Word or Excel or Adobe PDF file formats only. All comments received are a part of the public record and will generally be posted online at <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/permit/incidental-take-authorizations-under-marine-mammal-protection-act> without change. All personal identifying information (e.g., name, address) voluntarily submitted by the commenter may be publicly accessible. Do not submit confidential business information or otherwise sensitive or protected information.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Amy Fowler, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, (301) 427-8401. Electronic copies of the original application, Renewal request, and supporting documents (including NMFS **Federal Register** notices of the original proposed and final authorizations, and the previous IHA), as well as a list of the references cited in this document, may be obtained online at: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/permit/incidental-take-authorizations-under-marine-mammal-protection-act>. In case of problems accessing these documents, please call the contact listed above.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Background

The MMPA prohibits the “take” of marine mammals, with certain exceptions. Sections 101(a)(5)(A) and (D) of the MMPA (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) direct the Secretary of Commerce (as delegated to NMFS) to allow, upon request, the incidental, but not intentional, taking of small numbers of marine mammals by U.S. citizens who engage in a specified activity (other than commercial fishing) within a specified geographical region if certain findings are made and either regulations are issued or, if the taking is limited to harassment, a notice of a proposed incidental take authorization is provided to the public for review.

Authorization for incidental takings shall be granted if NMFS finds that the taking will have a negligible impact on the species or stock(s) and will not have

an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of the species or stock(s) for taking for subsistence uses (where relevant). Further, NMFS must prescribe the permissible methods of taking and other “means of effecting the least practicable adverse impact” on the affected species or stocks and their habitat, paying particular attention to rookeries, mating grounds, and areas of similar significance, and on the availability of such species or stocks for taking for certain subsistence uses (referred to here as “mitigation measures”). Monitoring and reporting of such takings are also required. The meaning of key terms such as “take,” “harassment,” and “negligible impact” can be found in section 3 of the MMPA (16 U.S.C. 1362) and the agency’s regulations at 50 CFR 216.103.

NMFS’ regulations implementing the MMPA at 50 CFR 216.107(e) indicate that IHAs may be renewed for additional periods of time not to exceed one year for each reauthorization. In the notice of proposed IHA for the initial authorization, NMFS described the circumstances under which we would consider issuing a Renewal for this activity, and requested public comment on a potential Renewal under those circumstances. Specifically, on a case-by-case basis, NMFS may issue a one-year IHA Renewal when (1) another year of identical or nearly identical activities as described in the Specified Activities section is planned or (2) the activities would not be completed by the time the IHA expires and a second IHA would allow for completion of the activities beyond that described in the Dates and Duration section of the initial IHA. All of the following conditions must be met in order to issue a Renewal:

- A request for Renewal is received no later than 60 days prior to expiration of the current IHA;

- The request for Renewal must include the following:

- (1) An explanation that the activities to be conducted beyond the initial dates either are identical to the previously analyzed activities or include changes so minor (e.g., reduction in pile size) that the changes do not affect the previous analyses, take estimates, or mitigation and monitoring requirements; and

- (2) A preliminary monitoring report showing the results of the required monitoring to date and an explanation showing that the monitoring results do not indicate impacts of a scale or nature not previously analyzed or authorized.

- Upon review of the request for Renewal, the status of the affected species or stocks, and any other pertinent information, NMFS