

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act and the California Environmental Quality Act, the National Ocean Service (NOS), in cooperation with California State Parks, has completed the preparation of a joint Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) addressing the potential effects on the human and natural environment that may result from construction of sedimentation, flood control and other facilities within and adjacent to Goat Canyon, and the elevation and/or realignment of Monument Road through Border Field State Park lands. The purpose of these proposed facilities is to enhance the existing Goat Canyon Creek and its natural habitat communities, including the Tijuana River Estuary, through the management of sediment within the canyon and on the adjacent alluvial fan.

The proposed project is in conformance with the Final Goat Canyon/*Cañon de los Laureles* Enhancement Plan prepared by the Southwest Wetlands Interpretive Association (SWIA). As a result of the construction of sedimentation basins, it is anticipated that Goat Canyon Creek, its watershed, and the Tijuana River Estuary will be enhanced.

The draft EIS/EIR is available for public review and comment. All comments received, including names and addresses, will become part of the administrative record and be made available to the public.

NOS will hold a public hearing from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. on November 7, 2001, at the City of Imperial Beach City Hall Community Room, 825 Imperial Beach Boulevard, Imperial Beach, California 91932. The views of interested persons and organizations on the adequacy of the joint Draft EIS/EIR are solicited, and may be expressed orally and/or in written statements. Presentations by the public will be scheduled on a first-come, first-heard basis, and may be limited to a maximum of five (5) minutes. The time allotment may be extended before the hearing after the number of speakers has been determined. All comments received at the hearing will be considered in the preparation of the Final EIS/EIR.

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Mayda Winter, Goat Canyon Enhancement Project, Southwest Wetlands Interpretive Association, 925 Seacoast Drive, Imperial Beach, California, 91932, tel. 619-575-0550.

DATES: The comment period for the draft joint EIS/EIR will end on Monday, November 26, 2001. All written comments received by this deadline will be considered in the preparation of the FEIS/FEIR.

ADDRESSES: Written comments on the joint Draft EIS/EIR should be sent to Nina Garfield, NOAA, Estuarine Reserves Division, SSMC-4, 11th Floor, 1305 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, Maryland, 20910-3281.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mayda Winter, Goat Canyon Enhancement Project, Southwest Wetlands Interpretive Association, 925 Seacoast Drive, Imperial Beach, California, 91932, tel. (619) 575-0550.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Goat Canyon Creek is located in the far western portion of the greater Tijuana River Watershed. The watershed is characterized by steep slopes, sandy soils with cobbles, pockets of native coastal sage scrub, riparian vegetation, and a high level of human-induced disturbance, especially during the last 20 to 30 years. A prominent result of changes in the watershed has been a significant increase in sediment yield in response to higher volumes of runoff and an increased sediment supply throughout the watershed. Increased sedimentation has adversely affected the local habitat communities of Goat Canyon and downstream within the Tijuana River Estuary. By the mid-1980s, it was estimated that erosion and sedimentation had resulted in the loss of 30 acres of intertidal wetland area in the Tijuana River Estuary. The composition and distribution of native habitat communities along the creek and on the alluvial fan have been altered, as has the morphology of the creek. Further, during storm events, sediment is deposited on Monument Road, which in turn blocks public access to Border Field State Park and impedes the U.S. Border Patrol.

On August 10, 2000, the National Ocean Service published in the **Federal Register** a Notice of Intent to prepare a joint Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report [Vol. 65 No. 155, 48971-48972]. The stated intent of the proposed project was to enhance the existing Goat Canyon Creek and its natural habitat communities, including the Tijuana River Estuary, through the management of sediment within the canyon and on the adjacent alluvial fan.

The draft EIS/EIR examines the potential effects of the No Project Alternative and four project alternatives for construction of a sedimentation retention system within Goat Canyon

and the alluvial fan. NOS has identified Alternative D as the Preferred Alternative based on an evaluation of the impacts and comparison between the alternatives. Alternative D features an in-canyon diversion structure and sedimentation basin system consisting of two basins in series to capture the flow in Goat Canyon Creek. The system has been designed to contain the full 100-year flood event. The Preferred Alternative also involves construction of access roads around the basins, staging areas adjacent to the basins, a visual berm located between the basins and Monument Road, options for improvements to Monument Road and a multi-purpose trail, and creation of wetland habitat. The preferred option for the road and trail has not been determined at this time. The Preferred Alternative would be the most efficient at capturing sediment and would result in the least impacts to sensitive wetland habitats and endangered species.

Document Availability

Copies of the draft EIS/EIR are available for review at the California State Parks, San Diego Coast District Office, 9609 Waples, Suite 200, San Diego, California, 92108, (858) 642-4200, the Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve at 301 Caspian Way, Imperial Beach, California 91932, (619) 575-3613, and at the Imperial Beach Public Library, 810 Imperial Beach Boulevard, Imperial Beach, 91932, (619) 424-6981.

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

Dated: October 5, 2001.

Jamison S. Hawkins,

Deputy Assistant Administrator for Ocean Services and Coastal Zone Management.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

National Sea Grant Review Panel

AGENCY: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice sets forth the schedule and proposed agenda of a forthcoming meeting of the Sea Grant Review Panel. The meeting will have several purposes. Panel members will discuss and provide advice on the National Sea Grant College Program in the areas of program evaluation, education and extension, science and technology programs, and other matters as described below:

DATES: The announced meeting is scheduled during two days: Thursday, November 8, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; Friday, November 9, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 noon.

ADDRESSES: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Silver Spring Metro Center III, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 4527, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Ronald C. Baird, Director, National Sea Grant College Program, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 11716, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910, (301) 713-2448.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Panel, which consists of a balanced representation from academia, industry, state government and citizens groups, was established in 1976 by Section 209 of the Sea Grant Improvement Act (P.L. 94-461, 33 U.S.C. 1128). The Panel advises the Secretary of Commerce and the Director of the National Sea Grant College Program with respect to operations under the Act, and such other matters as the Secretary refers to them for review and advice. The agenda for the meeting is as follows:

Thursday, November 8, 2001

8:30 a.m.—Welcoming and Opening Formalities
8:45 a.m.—Executive Committee Report
9:00 a.m.—State of Sea Grant Presentation
9:20 a.m.—Sea Grant Association Presentation
10:15 a.m.—Break
10:30 a.m.—Program Evaluation Committee Report
12:00 p.m.—Lunch
1:00 p.m.—Program Evaluation Committee Report (continued)
3:00 p.m.—Break
3:15 p.m.—Review of the National Sea Grant Office Status Report
3:45 p.m.—National Extension Review Update
4:00 p.m.—National Sea Grant Panel Procedures Manual
5:00 p.m.—Maine and New Hampshire Sea Grant Programs
5:40 p.m.—Adjourn

Friday, November 9, 2001

8:30 a.m.—Panel Business; Election of Officers, Committee Assignments, Panel Meeting Dates
9:00 a.m.—Congressional Update
9:45 a.m.—Commission on Ocean Policy Report
10:30 a.m.—Break
10:45 a.m.—NOAA Update
11:30 a.m.—National Sea Grant Office Update

12:15 p.m.—Wrap-up

12:30 p.m.—Adjourn

This meeting will be open to the public.

Louisa Koch,

Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 100101D]

Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings

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

ACTION: Notice of public meetings.

SUMMARY: The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) and its advisory bodies will hold public meetings.

DATES: The Council and its advisory bodies will meet October 28, 2001–November 2, 2001. The Council meeting will begin on Monday, October 29, 2001, at 3 p.m., reconvening each day at 8 a.m. through Friday. All meetings are open to the public, except a closed session will be held at 4 p.m. on Monday, October 29, 2001, to address litigation and personnel matters. The Council will meet as late as necessary each day to complete its scheduled business.

ADDRESSES: The meetings will be held at the Clarion Hotel San Francisco Airport, 401 East Millbrae Avenue, Millbrae, CA 94030; telephone: 650-692-6363.

Council address: Pacific Fishery Management Council, 7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 200, Portland, OR 97220.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Donald O. McIsaac, Executive Director; telephone: 503-326-6352.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The following items are on the Council agenda, but not necessarily in this order. All items listed are subject to potential Council action.

A. Call to Order

1. Opening Remarks, Introductions
2. Council Member Appointments
3. Roll Call
4. Executive Director's Report
5. Approve Agenda
6. Approve September 2001 Minutes

B. Pacific Halibut Management

Proposed Changes to the Recreational Catch Sharing Plan and Annual Regulations for 2002

C. Groundfish Management

1. NMFS Report
2. Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey Update
3. Final Harvest Levels for 2002
4. Management Measures for 2002 and Environmental Assessment
5. Groundfish Strategic Plan Implementation
6. Rebuilding Plans
7. Groundfish Fishery Management Plan Environmental Impact Statement
8. Exempted Fishing Permits (EFP)
9. Status of Fisheries and Inseason Adjustments

D. Salmon Management

1. NMFS Report
2. Update of Ongoing Fisheries
3. Salmon Option Hearing Sites
4. Sacramento Winter Run Chinook Management
5. Results of Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) Methodology Review
6. Queets River Coho Status Review

E. Habitat Issues

Essential Fish Habitat Issues

F. Marine Reserves

1. Status of Marine Reserves Proposals for Channel Island National Marine Sanctuary

G. Highly Migratory Species Management

1. NMFS Report
2. Draft Highly Migratory Species Fishery Management Plan (FMP)
3. Draft FMP Public Hearing Schedule and Sites

H. Coastal Pelagic Species Management

1. NMFS Report
2. Amendment 10 to the Coastal Pelagic Species FMP
3. Pacific Sardine Harvest Guideline for 2002

I. Administrative and Other Matters

1. Status of Legislation
2. Elections and Appointments
3. Report of the Budget Committee
4. Council Staff Work Load Priorities
5. March 2002 Council Meeting Draft Agenda

Schedule of Ancillary Meetings

The following ancillary meetings are scheduled in addition to the Council general sessions.

Sunday, October 28, 2001

Groundfish Management Team, 2 p.m.