

primary lease term would extend the lease term to 10 years). Please address any comments or questions related to this matter to Dr. Marshall Rose, MMS, Chief, Economics Division, at (703) 787-1536 or marshall.rose@mms.gov within 30 days.

Dated: October 30, 2009.

S. Elizabeth Birnbaum,

Director, Minerals Management Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Minerals Management Service

Gulf of Mexico, Outer Continental Shelf, Central Planning Area, Oil and Gas Lease Sale 213 (2010) Environmental Assessment

AGENCY: Minerals Management Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability of an environmental assessment.

SUMMARY: The Minerals Management Service (MMS) is issuing this notice to advise the public, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended, 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*, that MMS has prepared an environmental assessment (EA) for proposed Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) oil and gas Lease Sale 213 in the Central Gulf of Mexico (GOM) Planning Area (Lease Sale 213) scheduled for March 2010. The preparation of this EA is an important step in the decision process for Lease Sale 213. The proposal for Lease Sale 213 was identified by the Call for Information and Nominations published in the **Federal Register** on October 9, 2008, and was analyzed in the *Gulf of Mexico OCS Oil and Gas Lease Sales: 2007-2012; Western Planning Area Sales 204, 207, 210, 215, and 218; Central Planning Area Sales 205, 206, 208, 213, 216, and 222—Final Environmental Impact Statement; Volumes I and II* (Multisale EIS, OCS EIS/EA MMS 2007-018), and in the *Gulf of Mexico OCS Oil and Gas Lease Sales: 2009-2012; Central Planning Area Sales 208, 213, 216, and 222; Western Planning Area Sales 210, 215, and 218—Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement* (Supplemental EIS, OCS EIS/EA MMS 2008-041).

This EA for proposed Lease Sale 213 analyzed the potential environmental effects of the proposed lease sale and its alternatives (excluding the unleased blocks near biologically sensitive topographic features; excluding the unleased blocks within 15 miles of the

Baldwin County, Alabama, coast; and no action) based on any new information regarding potential impacts and issues that were not available at the time the Supplemental EIS was prepared. This EA for proposed Lease Sale 213 also examined the potential environmental effects of the addition of two small areas within the Central Planning Area (CPA), located greater than 100 miles from the coasts of Alabama and Florida, that were not previously examined by the Supplemental EIS (OCS EIS/EA MMS 2008-041) or Multisale EIS (OCS EIS/EA MMS 2007-018) but that were included in the *OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program: 2007-2012* (5-Year Program).

No new significant impacts were identified for proposed Lease Sale 213 that were not already assessed in the Multisale EIS or Supplemental EIS. As a result, MMS determined that an additional Supplemental EIS is not required and prepared a Finding of No New Significant Impact (FONNSI).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Bruce Baird, Minerals Management Service, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region, 1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard, MS 5410, New Orleans, Louisiana 70123-2394. You may also contact Mr. Baird by telephone at (504) 731-1489.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In April 2007, MMS published a Multisale EIS that addressed 11 proposed Federal actions that would offer for lease areas on the GOM OCS that may contain economically recoverable oil and gas resources. Federal regulations allow for several related or similar proposals to be analyzed in one EIS (40 CFR 1502.4). Since each proposed lease sale and its projected activities are very similar each year for each planning area, a single EIS was prepared for the 11 Western Planning Area (WPA) and CPA lease sales scheduled in the proposed 5-Year Program. The Multisale EIS (OCS EIS/EA MMS 2007-018) addressed WPA Sale 204 in 2007, Sale 207 in 2008, Sale 210 in 2009, Sale 215 in 2010, and Sale 218 in 2011; and CPA Sale 205 in 2007, Sale 206 in 2008, Sale 208 in 2009, Sale 213 in 2010, Sale 216 in 2011, and Sale 222 in 2012. However, the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006 repealed the Congressional moratorium on approximately 5.8 million acres located in the southeastern part of the CPA. Therefore, it was necessary to prepare additional NEPA documentation to address the MMS proposal to expand the CPA by the 5.8 million acre area. A Supplemental EIS was prepared for the remaining seven CPA and WPA lease sales scheduled in

the 5-Year Program. In September 2008, MMS published a Supplemental EIS (OCS EIS/EA MMS 2008-041) that addressed seven proposed Federal actions that would offer for lease areas on the GOM OCS that may contain economically recoverable oil and gas resources. An additional NEPA review (an EA) was conducted for proposed Lease Sale 213 to address any new information relevant to the proposed lease sale. Additional NEPA reviews will also be conducted prior to decisions on each of the four subsequent proposed lease sales. The purpose of these EAs is to determine whether to prepare a FONNSI or a Supplemental EIS. For each proposed lease sale, MMS prepares a Consistency Determination (CD) to determine whether the lease sale is consistent with each affected state's federally approved, coastal zone management program. Finally, MMS solicits comments via the Proposed Notice of Sale (NOS) from the governors of the affected states on the size, timing, and location of the lease sale. The tentative schedule for the prelease decision process for Lease Sale 213 is as follows: CDs sent to affected states, October 2009; Proposed NOS sent to governors of the affected states, November 2009; Final NOS published in the **Federal Register**, February 2010; and Lease Sale 213, March 2010.

Public Comments: Within 30 days of this Notice's publication, interested parties are requested to send comments on this EA/FONNSI. Comments may be submitted in one of the following two ways:

1. In written form enclosed in an envelope labeled "Comments on CPA Lease Sale 213 EA" and mailed (or hand carried) to the Regional Supervisor, Leasing and Environment (MS 5410), Minerals Management Service, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region, 1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard, New Orleans, Louisiana 70123-2394.

2. Electronically to the MMS e-mail address: environment@mms.gov.

All comments received will be considered in the decisionmaking process for proposed Lease Sale 213.

EA Availability: To obtain a copy of this EA, you may contact the Minerals Management Service, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region, Attention: Public Information Office (MS 5034), 1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard, Room 114, New Orleans, Louisiana 70123-2394 (1-800-200-GULF). You may also view this EA on the MMS Web site at <http://www.gomr.mms.gov/homepg/regulate/environ/nepa/nepaprocess.html>.

Dated: October 30, 2009.

Chris C. Oynes,

Associate Director for Offshore Energy and Minerals Management.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

[FWS-R9-IA-2009-N247]

[96300-1671-0000-P5]

Receipt of Applications for Permit

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of receipt of applications for permit.

SUMMARY: We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, invite the public to comment on the following applications for permits to conduct certain activities with endangered species and/or marine mammals. Both the Endangered Species Act and the Marine Mammal Protection Act require that we invite public comment on these permit applications.

DATES: Written data, comments or requests must be received by December 16, 2009.

ADDRESSES: Documents and other information submitted with these applications are available for review, subject to the requirements of the Privacy Act and Freedom of Information Act, by any party who submits a written request for a copy of such documents within 30 days of the date of publication of this notice to: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Management Authority, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Room 212, Arlington, Virginia 22203; fax 703/358-2281.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Division of Management Authority, telephone 703/358-2104.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Endangered Species

The public is invited to comment on the following applications for a permit to conduct certain activities with endangered species. This notice is provided pursuant to Section 10(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*). Submit your written data, comments, or requests for copies of the complete applications to the address shown in **ADDRESSES**.

Applicant: Ricardo E. Longoria, Encinal, TX, PRT-192403

The applicant request renewal and amendment of his permit authorizing

take, interstate and foreign commerce to include Elds deer (*Recurvus eldii*), red lechwe (*Kobus leche*) and Arabian oryx (*Oryx leucoryx*) from his captive herd for the purpose of enhancement of the survival of the species. This notification covers activities conducted by the applicant over a 5-year period.

Applicant: Pauline L. Kamath, University of California at Berkeley, Berkeley, CA, PRT-218825

The applicant requests a permit to import biological samples from Black rhinoceros (*Diceros bicornis*) from Etosha Ecological Institute, Okaukuejo, Namibia, for the purpose of scientific research. This notification covers activities conducted by the applicant over a 5-year period.

Applicant: Molly M. Hedgecock, High Point, NC, PRT-220671

The applicant requests a permit to import the sport-hunted trophy of one leopard (*Panthera pardus*) taken from the wild in the Central African Republic, for the purpose of enhancement of the survival of the species.

Applicant: Brooks J. Puckett, Plano, TX, PRT-226347

The applicant requests a permit to import the sport-hunted trophy of one male black-footed cat (*Felis nigripes*) taken from the wild in the Republic of South Africa, for the purpose of enhancement of the survival of the species.

Applicant: David K. Reinke, Crawford, CO, PRT-229051

The applicant requests a permit to import the sport-hunted trophy of one male black Rhinoceros (*Diceros bicornis*) taken from the wild in Namibia, for the purpose of enhancement of the survival of the species.

Applicant: National Zoological Park, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C., PRT-231152

The applicant requests a permit to export one male and one female captive-born Clouded leopard (*Neofelis nebulosa*) to Howletts Wild Animal Park, United Kingdom, for the purpose of enhancement of the survival of the species.

Applicant: Seneca Park Zoo, Rochester, NY, PRT-231594

The applicant requests a permit to export one male bred-in-captivity Brazilian ocelot (*Leopardus pardalis mitis*) to the Granby Zoo, Quebec,

Canada, for the purpose of enhancement of the survival of the species.

The following applicants each request a permit to import the sport-hunted trophy of one male scimitar-horned oryx (*Oryx dammah*) culled from a captive herd in the Republic of South Africa, for the purpose of enhancement of the survival of the species.

Applicant: Wilson W. Crook III, Kingwood, TX, PRT-223349

Applicant: Jorge L. Medina, Hawthorne, CA, PRT-228690

The following applicants each request a permit to import the sport-hunted trophy of one male bontebok (*Damaliscus pygargus pygargus*) culled from a captive herd maintained under the management program of the Republic of South Africa, for the purpose of enhancement of the survival of the species.

Applicant: Edward D. Pylman, Byron Center, MI, PRT-230602

Applicant: Robert B. Spencer, Gilmer, TX, PRT-231522

Marine Mammals

The public is invited to comment on the following application for a permit to conduct certain activities with marine mammals. The application was submitted to satisfy requirements of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), and the regulations governing marine mammals (50 CFR Part 18). Submit your written data, comments, or requests for copies of the complete applications or requests for a public hearing on these applications to the address shown in **ADDRESSES**. If you request a hearing, give specific reasons why a hearing would be appropriate. The holding of such a hearing is at the discretion of the Director.

Applicant: David E. Clapham, M.D., Ph.D, Department of Cardiology, Children's Hospital Boston, MA, PRT-227386

The applicant requests a permit to import tissue samples and biological specimens created from tissue samples collected from wild polar bears (*Ursus maritimus*) for the purpose of scientific research.

Concurrent with publishing this notice in the **Federal Register**, we are forwarding copies of the above applications to the Marine Mammal Commission and the Committee of Scientific Advisors for their review.