

ACTION: Notice of issuance of Letters of Authorization to take marine mammals incidental to oil and gas industry activities.

SUMMARY: In accordance with section 101(a)(5)(A) of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service implementing regulations [50 CFR 18.27(f)(3)], notice is hereby given that

Letters of Authorization to take polar bears and Pacific walrus incidental to oil and gas industry exploration activities have been issued to the following company:

Company	Activity	Location	Date issued
BP Exploration (Alaska)	Exploration	Liberty	April 30, 2001.
WesternGeco	Exploration	Beaufort Sea	May 4, 2001.

Contact: Mr. John W. Bridges at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Marine Mammals Management Office, 1011 East Tudor Road, Anchorage, Alaska 99503, (800) 362-5148 or (907) 786-3810.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Letters of Authorization are issued in accordance with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Federal Rules and Regulations "Marine Mammals; Incidental Take During Specified Activities (65 FR 16828; March 30, 2000)."

Dated: May 16, 2001.

David B. Allen,

Regional Director.

[FR Doc. 01-13592 Filed 5-30-01; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Notice of Publication, Final Assessment Plan

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior.

ACTION: Notice of publication.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), on behalf of the Department of the Interior (DOI), as a natural resource trustee, announces the publication of the Final Assessment Plan (AP) for the Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration of the August 27, 1998, Clinch River Chemical Spill, Tazewell County, Virginia. The Final AP describes the DOI's proposal to assess natural resource injuries that resulted from this chemical spill.

ADDRESSES: Requests for copies of the Final AP may be made to: John Schmerfeld, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Virginia Field Office, 6669 Short Lane, Gloucester, Virginia 23061.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John Schmerfeld, Environmental Contaminants Branch, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Virginia Field Office, 6669 Short Lane, Gloucester, Virginia 23061. Interested parties may also call 804-693-6694. Ext. 107, or send e-mail

to john_schmerfeld@fws.gov for further information.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On August 27, 1998, a tanker truck overturned on U.S. Route 460 in Tazewell County, Virginia. The truck released approximately 1,350 gallons of Octocure 554-revised, a rubber accelerant, into an unnamed tributary about 530 feet from its confluence with the Clinch River. Upon entry of the spill into the river, the river turned a snowy-white color. After the spilled substance passed downstream, observers noted evidence of an extensive fish kill and the destruction of most aquatic organisms from the area of the spill extending to at least 6.6 miles downstream. The Clinch River ecosystem ranks among the top areas of freshwater biodiversity in the world, and, prior to the spill, the affected portion of the Clinch housed a unique and diverse freshwater mussel assemblage that included three species that are federally listed as endangered.

Under the authority of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980, as amended (CERCLA), "natural resource trustees may assess damages to natural resources resulting from a discharge of oil or a release of a hazardous substance * * * and may seek to recover those damages." Natural resource damage assessments are separate from the cleanup actions undertaken at a hazardous waste or spill site, and provide a process whereby the natural resource trustees can determine the proper compensation to the public for injury to natural resources. The natural resource damage assessment process seeks to: (1) Determine whether injury to, or loss of, trust resources has occurred; (2) ascertain the magnitude of the injury or loss; (3) calculate the appropriate compensation for the injury, including the cost of restoration; and (4) develop a restoration plan that will restore, rehabilitate, replace, and/or acquire equivalent resources for those resources that were injured or lost.

The Final AP presents the trustee's approaches for determining and quantifying natural resource injuries

and calculating the damages associated with those injuries. By developing an AP, the trustee can ensure that the natural resource damage assessment will be completed at a reasonable cost relative to the magnitude of damages. This AP presents proposed assessment methodologies to potentially responsible parties, other trustees, affected agencies, and to the public, so that these groups can productively participate in the assessment process. The Final AP is being released in accordance with the Natural Resource Damage Assessment Regulations found at title 43 of the Code of Federal Regulations part 11.

A notice of availability of the Draft AP was published in the **Federal Register** on June 1, 2000, (volume 65, number 106, page 35120). The notice of availability indicated that the 30-day public comment period would end on July 1, 2000; however, comments were received and considered past that date. Comments received concerning the Draft AP are documented in chapter 8 of the Final AP.

The Draft AP indicated that a caged mussel study would be conducted as part of the damage assessment phase. After some consideration, the trustee determined that a pared-down translocation study was more appropriate due to a cost reduction of approximately 50 percent, a decreased probability of vandalism in the populated area, and indications that the sediment contaminant load in the impacted river reach has lessened over time. This change is considered to be minor and not of sufficient magnitude to warrant another 30 day public comment period. Details of the translocation study can be found in chapter 5 of the Final AP.

Interested members of the public may request copies of the Final AP from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Virginia Field Office at 6669 Short Lane, Gloucester, Virginia 23061. Additionally, the Final AP is available for review at the Tazewell County Main Library, 310 East Main Street, Tazewell, Virginia 24651, and the Tazewell County Library, Richlands Branch, 102

Suffolk Avenue, Richlands, Virginia 24641.

Author: The primary author of this notice is John Schmerfeld, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Virginia Field Office at 6669 Short Lane, Gloucester, Virginia 23061.

Authority: The authority for this action is the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980, as amended ("CERCLA"), 42 U.S.C.

Dated: May 8, 2001.

Linda J. Repasky,

Acting Regional Director, Region 5, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

[FR Doc. 01-13652 Filed 5-30-01; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Marine Mammal Annual Report Availability, Calendar Years 1997 and 1998

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability of marine mammal annual reports for calendar years 1997 and 1998.

SUMMARY: We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Biological Resources Division of the U.S. Geological Survey, have issued our 1997 and 1998 annual reports on marine mammals under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Department of the Interior, as required by section 103(f) of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972. Our reports are for January 1 to December 31, 1997, and January 1 to December 31, 1998. We submitted the reports to Congress on May 2, 2001. By this notice, we are informing you, the public, that the reports are available and that copies may be obtained on request to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

ADDRESSES: You should submit written requests for copies to: Publications Unit, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Conservation Training Center, Route 1, Box 1666, Shepherd Grade Road, Shepherdstown, WV 25443. You may also contact that office by telephone at (304) 876-7203.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jeffrey L. Horwath, Division of Fish and Wildlife Management Assistance in Arlington, Virginia at telephone (703) 358-1718.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The U.S. Department of the Interior is responsible for eight species of marine mammals, as assigned by the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972. These species are polar bear, sea and marine otters,

walrus, three species of manatee, and dugong. Administrative actions discussed in our two reports include appropriations, marine mammals in Alaska, endangered and threatened marine mammal species, law enforcement activities, scientific research and public display permits, certificates of registration, research, Outer Continental Shelf environmental studies and international activities.

Dated: May 21, 2001.

Robert Batky,

Acting Assistant Director—Fisheries and Habitat Conservation.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

[CA-160-1220-PG]

Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Advisory Committee; Notice of Intent to Establish and Call for Nominations

AGENCIES: Bureau of Land Management, Interior; Forest Service, Agriculture.

ACTION: Notice of intent to establish and call for nominations for the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Advisory Committee under the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Act of 2000, Public Law 106-351 (16 U.S.C. 431 note).

SUMMARY: The Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Act of 2000 (Act) requires the Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture to establish a National Monument Advisory Committee (Committee) to advise them on resource management issues associated with the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument. This notice requests the public to submit nominations for membership on the Committee. The Committee will be managed under the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

DATES: Submit nominations to one of the addresses listed below no later than July 2, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Send nominations to: Advisory Committee Nominations, Mr. James G. Kenna, Bureau of Land Management, P.O. Box 581260, North Palm Springs, California 92258, 760-251-4800 or Mr. Fran Colwell, Forest

Service, 1824 S. Commercenter Circle, San Bernardino, California 92408, 909-884-6634 x 3144.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. James G. Kenna, Bureau of Land Management, 760-251-4800 or Mr. Fran Colwell, Forest Service, 909-884-6634 x 3144.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: As directed by the Act, the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture are jointly establishing an advisory committee for the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument (Monument). The Committee's purpose is to advise the Secretaries with respect to the preparation and implementation of a management plan for the Monument. The Committee will meet periodically at the request of the designated Federal officer, or his or her designee, to gather and analyze information, conduct studies and field examinations, hear public testimony, ascertain facts, and, in an advisory capacity only, develop recommendations concerning planning for the management and uses of the National Monument. The Committee will normally meet twice annually, but in no case less than once annually. Additional meetings may be called by the designated Federal officer or his or her designee in connection with special needs for advice. A Committee Chairperson and Vice Chairperson will be elected by the Committee from among its members annually.

Any individual or organization may nominate one or more persons to serve on the Committee. Individuals may nominate themselves for Committee membership. You may obtain nomination forms from the BLM or Forest Service by contacting the individuals listed in **ADDRESSES** above. To make a nomination, you must submit a completed nomination form, letters of reference from the represented interests or organizations, and any other information that speaks to the nominee's qualifications, to the offices listed above. You may make nominations for the following categories of interest, as specified in the Act: (1) A representative with expertise in natural science and research selected from a regional college or university; (2) a representative of the California Department of Fish and Game or the California Department of Parks and Recreation; (3) a representative of the County of Riverside, California; (4) a representative from each of the following cities: Palm Springs, Cathedral City, Rancho Mirage, La Quinta, Palm Desert, and Indian Wells; (5) a representative of the Agua Caliente