

requirements, and Longfin possession limits for the Illex fishery; Illex control date, Amendment 15 update, and the squid port meeting results. The SC/OQ Committee will review and develop recommendations for the 2014–2016 specifications and review and advise on the Data Collection Protocol document prepared by the Fishery Management Action Team. The Council will review and approve the Draft Strategic Plan. During the Listening Session John Bullard will give a review of the NMFS Listening Sessions.

On Wednesday, June 12—The Council will review and approve the Omnibus Recreational Amendment for submission to NMFS. NERO will provide an Update on Atlantic Sturgeon Biological Opinion. The Council will review MSB Committee actions, approve annual specifications and related management measures (see above list for MSB Committee), approve Illex control date, and receive an Amendment 15 update. The Council will review SC/OQ Committee actions, approve 2014–16 specifications for surfclams and ocean quahogs and approve the Data Collection Protocol document prepared by the FMAT.

On Thursday, June 13—The Executive Committee will receive an update on the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management document and discuss wind energy, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, and the next steps. The Council will hold its regular Business Session to approve the December 2012 and April 2013 minutes, receive Organizational Reports, the New England and South Atlantic Liaison Report, the Executive Director's Report, Science Report, Committee Reports, and conduct any continuing and/or new business.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before these groups for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during these meetings. Action will be restricted to those issues specifically listed in this notice and any issues arising after publication of this notice that require emergency action under section 305(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, provided the public has been notified of the Council's intent to take final action to address the emergency.

Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aid should be directed to M. Jan Saunders,

(302) 526–5251, at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: May 20, 2013.

Tracey L. Thompson,

Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Nomination of Existing Marine Protected Areas to the National System of Marine Protected Areas

AGENCY: National Marine Protected Areas Center (MPA Center), Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS), National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce (DOC).

ACTION: Notice; request for public comments.

SUMMARY: In January 2013, NOAA and the Department of the Interior (DOI) invited federal, state, commonwealth, and territorial marine protected area (MPA) programs with potentially eligible existing MPAs to nominate their sites to the National System of MPAs (national system). The national system and the nomination process are described in the *Framework for the National System of Marine Protected Areas of the United States* (Framework), developed in response to Executive Order 13158 on Marine Protected Areas and published on November 19, 2008 (73 FR 69608). The Framework provides guidance for collaborative efforts among federal, state, commonwealth, territorial, tribal and local governments and stakeholders to develop an effective and well-coordinated national system of MPAs.

DATES: Comments on the nominations to the national system are due July 22, 2013.

ADDRESSES: Lauren Wenzel, National Marine Protected Areas Center, Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, 1305 East-West Highway, N/NMS, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Comments sent by any other method, to any other address or individual, or received after the end of the comment period, will not be considered by NOAA.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lauren Wenzel, NOAA, at 301–713–7265 or via email at lauren.wenzel@noaa.gov. A detailed electronic copy of the List of National

System MPAs is available for download at <http://www.mpa.gov>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background on National System

The national system of MPAs is made up of member MPA sites, networks and systems established and managed by federal, state, commonwealth, territorial, tribal or local governments that collectively enhance conservation of the nation's natural and cultural marine heritage and represent its diverse ecosystems and resources.

Benefits of joining the national system, include a facilitated means to work with other MPA managers in the region, and nationally on issues of common conservation concern; fostering greater public and international recognition of U.S. MPAs and the resources they protect; priority in the receipt of available technical and other support for cross-cutting needs; and additional opportunities to participate in and influence federal and regional ocean conservation and management initiatives (such as integrated ocean observing systems, systematic monitoring and evaluation, targeted outreach to key user groups, and helping to identify and address MPA research needs). In addition, the national system provides a forum for coordinated regional planning about place-based conservation priorities that does not otherwise exist.

A site must have existing protections of natural and/or cultural resources in place in order to be eligible to join the national system, as well as meet other criteria described in the Framework. Joining the national system does not establish new regulatory authority or change existing regulations in any way, require changes affecting the designation process or management of member MPAs, or bring state, territorial, tribal or local sites under federal authority.

II. Nomination Process

This current round of nominations began on January 28, 2013 and the deadline for nominations was March 29, 2013.

There are four entry criteria for existing MPAs to join the national system.

1. Meets the definition of an MPA as defined in the Framework.

2. Has a management plan (can be site-specific or part of a broader programmatic management plan; must have goals and objectives and call for monitoring or evaluation of those goals and objectives).

3. Contributes to at least one priority conservation objective as listed in the Framework.

4. Cultural heritage MPAs must also conform to criteria for the National Register for Historic Places.

Additional sites not currently meeting the management plan criterion can be evaluated for eligibility to be nominated to the national system on a case-by-case basis based on their ability to fill gaps in the national system coverage of the priority conservation objectives and design principles described in the Framework.

NOAA used existing information in the MPA Inventory to determine which MPAs meet the first and second criteria. The inventory is online at <http://www.mpa.gov/dataanalysis/mpainventory/> and information about potentially eligible sites is posted online at http://www.mpa.gov/pdf/helpful-resources/nomination_summary_jan2013.pdf. As part of the nomination process, the managing entity for each potentially eligible site is asked to provide information on the third and fourth criteria. Following this public comment period, NOAA and DOI will make a determination about the eligibility of nominated sites. All comments will be forwarded to the relevant MPA management agency, which will reaffirm or withdraw the nomination based on public comment received and any other factors deemed relevant.

III. List of MPAs Nominated to the National System MPAs

The following 82 MPAs have been nominated by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and the National Park Service. The complete list of National System MPAs, which now includes 355 members, is available at www.mpa.gov.

Federal Marine Protected Areas

Padre Island National Seashore (TX)
Redwood National Park (CA)

California

Abalone Cove State Marine
Conservation Area
Anacapa Island Special Closure (A)
Anacapa Island Special Closure (B)
Anacapa Island State Marine
Conservation Area
Anacapa Island State Marine Reserve
Arrow Point to Lion Head Point
(Catalina Island) State Marine
Conservation Area
Batiquitos Lagoon State Marine
Conservation Area
Begg Rock (San Nicolas Island Quad)
State Marine Reserve
Big Flat State Marine Conservation Area

Big River Estuary State Marine
Conservation Area
Bird Rock (Catalina Island) State Marine
Conservation Area
Blue Cavern (Catalina Island) State
Marine Conservation Area
Bolsa Bay State Marine Conservation
Area
Bolsa Chica Basin State Marine
Conservation Area
Cabrillo State Marine Reserve
Campus Point State Marine
Conservation Area
Carrington Point (Santa Rosa Island)
State Marine Reserve
Casino Point (Catalina Island) State
Marine Conservation Area
Castle Rock Special Closure
Cat Harbor (Catalina Island) State
Marine Conservation Area
Crystal Cove State Marine Conservation
Area
Dana Point State Marine Conservation
Area
Double Cone Rock State Marine
Conservation Area
False Klamath Rock Special Closure
Famosa Slough State Marine
Conservation Area
Farnsworth Offshore (Catalina Island)
State Marine Conservation Area
Farnsworth Onshore (Catalina Island)
State Marine Conservation Area
Footprint State Marine Reserve
Goleta Slough State Marine
Conservation Area
Gull Island (Santa Cruz Island) State
Marine Reserve
Harris Point (San Miguel Island) State
Marine Reserve
Judith Rock (San Miguel Island) State
Marine Reserve
Kashtayit State Marine Conservation
Area
Laguna Beach State Marine
Conservation Area
Laguna Beach State Marine Reserve
Long Point (Catalina Island) State
Marine Reserve
Lover's Cove (Catalina Island) State
Marine Conservation Area
MacKerricher State Marine
Conservation Area
Matlahuayl State Marine Reserve
Mattole Canyon State Marine Reserve
Naples State Marine Conservation Area
Navarro River Estuary State Marine
Conservation Area
Painted Cave (Santa Cruz Island) State
Marine Conservation Area
Point Cabrillo State Marine Reserve
Point Conception State Marine Reserve
Point Dume State Marine Conservation
Area
Point Dume State Marine Reserve
Point St. George Reef Offshore State
Marine Conservation Area
Point Vicente State Marine Conservation
Area

Pyramid Point State Marine
Conservation Area
Reading Rock State Marine
Conservation Area
Reading Rock State Marine Reserve
Richardson Rock (San Miguel Island)
State Marine Reserve
Rockport Rocks Special Closure
Russian Gulch State Marine
Conservation Area
Samoa State Marine Conservation Area
San Diego-Scripps Coastal State Marine
Conservation Area
San Dieguito Lagoon State Marine
Conservation Area
San Elijo Lagoon State Marine
Conservation Area
San Miguel Island Special Closure A-1
Santa Barbara Island State Marine
Reserve
Scorpion (Santa Cruz Island) State
Marine Reserve
Sea Lion Gulch State Marine Reserve
Skunk Point (Santa Rosa Island) State
Marine Reserve
South Cape Mendocino State Marine
Reserve
South Humboldt Bay State Marine
Recreational Management Area
South La Jolla State Marine
Conservation Area
South La Jolla State Marine Reserve
South Point (Santa Rosa Island) State
Marine Reserve
Southwest Seal Rock Special Closure
Steamboat Rock Special Closure
Sugarloaf Island Special Closure
Swami's State Marine Conservation
Area
Ten Mile Beach State Marine
Conservation Area
Ten Mile Estuary State Marine
Conservation Area
Ten Mile State Marine Reserve
Tijuana River Mouth State Marine
Conservation Area
Upper Newport Bay State Marine
Conservation Area
Van Damme State Marine Conservation
Area
Vizcaino Rock Special Closure

IV. Request for Comments

NOAA is requesting comments on degree to which the nominated MPAs meet the criteria for membership in the National System of Marine Protected Areas. Details on the criteria are found at http://www.mpa.gov/pdf/national-system/finalframework_full.pdf.

Dated: May 15, 2013.

Holly A. Bamford,

Assistant Administrator for Ocean Services and Coastal Zone Management.

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