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(Federal Domestic Assistance Catalog 11.419 Coastal Zone Management Program Administration)

Dated: October 28, 1997.

Nancy Foster,

Assistant Administrator for Ocean Services and Coastal Zone Management, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Robert H. Wayland, III,

Director, Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds, Environmental Protection Agency.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program: Conditional Approvals, Findings Documents, Responses to Comments, and Records of Decision

AGENCY: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

ACTION: Notice of conditional approval of Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Programs and availability of Findings Documents, Responses to Comments, and Records of Decision for American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, Delaware, Maryland, and Pennsylvania.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given of the conditional approval of the Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Programs (coastal nonpoint programs) and of the availability of the Findings Documents, Responses to Comments, and Records of Decision for American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, Delaware, Maryland, and Pennsylvania. Section 6217 of the Coastal Zone Act Reauthorization Amendments (CZARA), 16 U.S.C. section 1455b, requires states and territories with coastal zone management programs that have received approval under section 306 of the Coastal Zone Management Act to develop and implement coastal nonpoint programs. Coastal states and territories were required to submit their coastal nonpoint programs to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric

Administration (NOAA) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for approval in July 1995.

NOAA and EPA have approved, with conditions, the coastal nonpoint programs submitted by American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, Delaware, Maryland, and Pennsylvania.

NOAA and EPA have prepared a Findings Document for each 6217 program submitted for approval. The Findings Documents were prepared by NOAA and EPA to provide the rationale for the agencies' decision to approve each state and territory coastal nonpoint program. Proposed Findings Documents, Environmental Assessments, and Findings of No Significant Impact prepared for the coastal nonpoint programs submitted by American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, Delaware, Maryland, and Pennsylvania were made available for public comment in the **Federal Register**. Public comments were received and responses prepared on the programs submitted by Delaware, Maryland, and Pennsylvania. No public comments were received on the programs submitted by American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and Guam.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), NOAA has also prepared a Record of Decision on each program. The requirements of 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508 (Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations to implement the National Environmental Policy Act) apply to the preparation of a Record of Decision. Specifically, 40 CFR section 1505.2 requires an agency to prepare a concise public record of decision at the time of its decision on the action proposed in an environmental impact statement. The Record of Decision shall: (1) State what the decision was; (2) identify all alternatives considered, specifying the alternative considered to be environmentally preferable; and (3) state whether all practicable means to avoid or minimize environmental harm from the alternative selected have been adopted.

In March 1996, NOAA published a programmatic environmental impact statement (PEIS) that assessed the environmental impacts associated with the approval of state and territory coastal nonpoint programs. The PEIS forms the basis for the environmental assessment NOAA has prepared for each state and territorial coastal nonpoint program submitted to NOAA and EPA for approval. In the PEIS, NOAA determined that the approval and conditional approval of coastal

nonpoint programs will not result in any significant adverse environmental impacts and that these actions will have an overall beneficial effect on the environment. Because the PEIS served only as a "framework for decision" on individual state and territorial coastal nonpoint programs, and no actual decision was made following its publication, NOAA has prepared a NEPA Record of Decision on each individual state and territorial program submitted for review.

Copies of the Findings Documents, Responses to Comments, and Records of Decision may be obtained upon request from: Joseph A. Uravitch, Chief, Coastal Programs Division (N/ORM3), Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, NOS, NOAA, 1305 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, Maryland, 20910, tel. (301) 713-3155, x195.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 102297B]

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's Coastal Pelagic Species Plan Development Team will hold a series of public meetings.

DATES: The meetings will be held Thursday, November 13, 1997; Thursday, December 11, 1997; Friday, January 16, 1998; Thursday, February 19, 1998. All sessions will begin at 10 a.m. and may go into the evening until business for the day is completed. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for the schedule of meetings.

ADDRESSES: Meetings in La Jolla will be in the large conference room at NMFS Southwest Fisheries Science Center,