

Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, and the District of Columbia for the purpose of scientific research and enhancement of survival of the species, to include the recently listed Gulf of Maine distinct population segment of Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*).

DATES: Written comments on this request for a permit amendment must be received on or before February 7, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Written data or comments should be submitted to the Regional Endangered Species Permits Coordinator, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 300 Westgate Center Drive, Hadley, Massachusetts 01035; facsimile: 413-253-8482.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Documents and other information submitted with this request for an amendment 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 20 days of the date of publication of this notice to the address above; telephone: 413-253-8628.

Dated: December 19, 2000.

Dr. Mamie A. Parker,
Acting Regional Director.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management; Alaska

[AK-921-1410-BK-P]

Notice for Publication; Filing of Plat of Survey; Alaska

The plat of survey of the following described land was officially filed in the Alaska State Office, Anchorage, Alaska, on the date indicated.

A plat representing the dependent resurvey of Tract A, U.S. Survey No. 465, Alaska, situated near the westerly shore of Shelikof Strait, in Alaska, was accepted November 1, 2000, and was officially filed November 8, 2000.

This plat was prepared at the request of the National Park Service to delineate the surrounding public lands.

This plat will immediately become the basic record for describing the land for all authorized purposes. This survey has been placed in the open files in the Alaska State Office and is available to the public as a matter of information.

All inquiries relating to these lands should be sent to the Alaska State Office, Bureau of Land Management, 222 West Seventh Avenue, #13,

Anchorage, Alaska 99513-7599; 907-267-1403.

Daniel L. Johnson,

Chief, Branch of Field Surveys.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Minerals Management Service (MMS)

Outer Continental Shelf (OCS), Alaska Region, Beaufort Sea, Proposed Liberty Development and Production Plan (DPP)

AGENCY: Minerals Management Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Locations and Dates of Public Hearings for British Petroleum Exploration (Alaska) (BPXA) Inc.'s Proposed Liberty DPP Offshore Alaska.

SUMMARY: The MMS is issuing a draft EIS for the BPXA Inc.'s proposed Liberty Development Project DPP in the Beaufort Sea, Alaska. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) were cooperating agencies, with the MMS, in preparing the EIS. Information on the availability of the EIS and dates and locations for public hearings and submission of comments are presented in this notice.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For matters pertaining to this notice, contact Mr. Fred King (Alaska OCS Region, Anchorage) at (907) 271-6696 or toll free at 1-800-764-2627.

DATES: Comments on the draft EIS will be accepted until March 13, 2001.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The MMS, in cooperation with the COE and EPA, prepared a draft EIS on BPXA Inc.'s proposed Liberty Development Project DPP. This EIS additionally serves as the environmental analysis for the BPXA's Oil Discharge Prevention and Contingency Plan (ODPCP) and the construction and operation of a pipeline that would be associated with any Right-of-Way (ROW) for the OCS portion of the proposed Liberty pipeline. The public review for the DPP, ODPCP, and ROW will be announced separately by the MMS Alaska OCS Region.

This EIS is also intended to meet NEPA compliance and public notice requirements for EPA's issuance of a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit, pursuant to Section 402 of the Clean Water Act. By this notice, the EPA is

seeking public review and comment of the NPDES permit and explanatory fact sheet which are included as Appendix I in the draft EIS.

The Liberty prospect is located on the OCS in the Beaufort Sea northeast of the Prudhoe Bay oil field. The MMS is the lead agency which developed the EIS, in cooperation with the COE and the EPA, as required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4371 *et seq.*). In February 1998, BPXA submitted a DPP, subsequently revised in November 1998 (Revision 1) and July 2000 (Revision 2), describing how they proposed to produce, develop, and transport oil from the Liberty Prospect using a manmade gravel island constructed on the Federal OCS and located in 22 feet of water about 6.1 miles offshore in Foggy Island Bay and 1.5 miles west of the abandoned Tern Island. The Liberty Island facility would be a self-contained offshore drilling operation with processing facilities. Oil would be transported to shore in a common carrier pipeline which connects with the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System. A new gravel mine site and offshore and onshore ice roads are part of the proposed project. The MMS based the EIS analyses on estimates of the kinds and amounts of activity onshore and offshore that could result from transporting personnel and equipment offshore, constructing the self-contained manmade gravel island and structures, installing structures and equipment on the island, drilling wells, and constructing a common carrier oil pipeline buried in an undersea trench to an onshore landfall and then elevated onshore by vertical support members to a tie-in with the existing onshore Badami oil pipeline, then to the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System.

The EIS addresses a range of potentially applicable technologies and construction options. The EIS evaluates the BPXA Proposal, a No-Action alternative, and a variety of alternatives that were developed in light of the most significant issues raised from scoping. The alternatives examine three island locations and pipeline routes, four pipeline designs, two types of upper slope protection for the production island, two gravel mine sites, and two pipeline burial depths. The EIS also evaluates the effects of oil spill response activities described in the ODPCP.

EIS Availability: You may obtain single copies of the draft EIS, "OCS EIS, MMS 2001-001" (three volumes), from the MMS, Alaska OCS Region, Attention: Mr. Fred R. King, (MS 8303), 949 E. 36th Avenue, Room 308, Anchorage, Alaska 99508-4363, or by