

will not be permitted and scientific research and other educational activities consistent with the management of this zone would require advance permits from the National Park Service. No fishing will be allowed in the Research Natural Area in order to protect and build up important fish nursery and spawning areas that will produce greater abundance and diversity of fish in other important recreational and commercial fisheries. This will also meet the park's legislative mandate to protect a pristine sub-tropical marine ecosystem and unique and outstanding cultural resources. Wildlife viewing, snorkeling, diving, boating and sightseeing would primarily be done using commercial tour guides. Special Protection zones will be established in areas requiring protection from human impact, such as sea turtle and bird nesting areas, shallow or sensitive corals and significant submerged cultural resources. Boundaries of the Special Protection zones could be adjusted to protect areas at certain critical periods of the year.

Commercial transportation operators will continue to transport visitors to the park by self-contained ferry and seaplane operations. One concession contract will be issued for a single seaplane operator who will be authorized to carry up to 60 people per day. A second concession contract will be for a ferry operator who will be authorized to carry up to 150 people per day. The role of the ferry operator will be expanded to provide water-based transportation from Garden Key to other park locations, thereby increasing the range of opportunities for visitors throughout the park. Other appropriate commercial services in the park, such as guided fishing, sailing and diving trips will be authorized by Commercial Use Authorizations.

An initial visitor carrying capacity for Garden Key (Ft. Jefferson) will allow for a maximum total of 330 people per day. Twenty-four people per day will be permitted to visit Loggerhead Key. Monitoring will determine if these numbers are achieving desired visitor experience and resource conditions; if not the numbers may be adjusted. A park entrance fee will be instituted and private boaters will be required to obtain a permit to navigate park waters. Fifty-four percent of the park will remain open for recreational fishing. Commercial fishing activities, spear fishing and the harvest of lobster and conch are banned in park waters.

Implementation of this plan will be coordinated with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Tortugas Ecological Reserve in the

Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary adjoining the park. The combined action will result in comprehensive protection for nationally significant coral reef habitats and communities extending from shallow park waters into the sanctuary's deep waters.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Superintendent, Dry Tortugas National Park, (305) 242-7800.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: A copy of the Record of Decision on the Final General Management Plan Amendment for Dry Tortugas National Park can be obtained via the Internet by visiting the National Park Service web site at <http://www.nps.gov/planning> or by calling (305) 242-7700.

Dated: August 16, 2001.

Val Knight,

Acting Regional Director, Southeast Region.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Fort Frederica National Monument, St. Simons Island, GA

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability for public review of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the General Management Plan (GMP) for Fort Frederica National Monument, Saint Simons Island, Georgia.

SUMMARY: The National Park Service (NPS) has prepared a draft Environmental Impact Statement on the General Management Plan for Fort Frederica National Monument. The statement evaluates potential environmental impacts associated with various types and levels of visitor use and resources management within the National Monument. This GMP and EIS have been prepared in response to the requirements of the National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978, Public Law 95-625, and in accord with Director's Order Number 2, the planning guidance for National Park Service units that became effective May 27, 1998. The NPS has conducted public scoping meetings in the local area to receive input from interested parties on issues, concerns, and suggestions pertinent to the management of Fort Frederica. The comment period for the Draft GMP/EIS will be 60 days and will end on November 30, 2001.

DATES: All written comments on the draft GMP/EIS should be received by NPS on or before November 30, 2001.

Additionally, the NPS will hold public meetings on the draft EIS for the GMP. These public meetings will be conducted during the week of November 12-16, 2001 on Saint Simons Island, Georgia and Brunswick, Georgia at times and locations to be published in local newspapers.

ADDRESSES: Comments on the EIS should be submitted to the following address to ensure adequate consideration by the Service: Superintendent, Fort Frederica National Monument, Route 9, Box 286C, St. Simons Island, Georgia 31522.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Superintendent, Fort Frederica National Monument, St. Simons Island, Georgia, telephone 912-638-3639.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Draft and Final General Management Plan Amendment and Environmental Impact Statement will be made available to all known interested parties and appropriate agencies. Full public participation by federal, state, and local agencies as well as other concerned organizations and private citizens is invited throughout the preparation process of this document.

Please note that due to public disclosure requirements, the National Park Service, if requested, is required to make the names and addresses of those who submit written comments public. Anonymous comments will not be considered. However, individual respondents may request that we withhold their names and addresses from the public record. If you wish to withhold your name and/or address, you must state that request prominently at the beginning of your comment. We will make all submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public inspection in their entirety.

The responsible official for this Environmental Impact Statement is Jerry Belson, Regional Director, Southeast Region, National Park Service, 100 Alabama Street SW, 1924 Building, Atlanta, Georgia 30303.

Dated: August 9, 2001.

W. Thomas Brown,

Acting Regional Director, Southeast Region.

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