

A range of alternatives will be considered, including a No Action alternative. Other alternatives will be developed in response to issues received during scoping. Preliminary issues that have been identified include the potential effects of structures and developments on—streams and riparian areas, wildlife habitats, and heritage resources.

Comments received in response to this notice, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on this proposed revised master plan will be available for public inspection. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, those who submit anonymous comments will not have standing to appeal the subsequent decision under 36 CFR part 215. Additionally, pursuant to 7 CFR 1.27(d), any person may request the agency to withhold a submission from the public record by showing how the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) permits such confidentiality. Persons requesting such confidentiality should be aware that under the FOIA, confidentiality may be granted in only very limited circumstances, such as to protect trade secrets. The Forest Service will inform the requester of the agency's decision regarding the request for confidentiality, and where the request is denied, the agency will return the submission and notify the requester that the comments may be resubmitted with or without name and address within a specified number of days.

The draft EIS is expected to be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and to be available for review in July 2002. The EPA will publish a notice of availability of the draft EIS in the **Federal Register**. The comment period of the draft EIS will be 45 days from the date the EPA notice appears in the **Federal Register**. At that time, copies of the draft EIS will be distributed to interested and affected agencies, organizations, Tribes, and members of the public for their review and comment. It is very important that those interested in the management of the Colville National Forest participate at that time.

The Forest Service believes it is important, at this early stage, to give reviewers notice of several court rulings related to public participation in the environmental review process. First, reviewers of a draft EIS must structure their participation in the environmental review of the proposal so that it is meaningful and alerts an agency to the reviewer's position and connections. *Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corp. v.*

*NRDC*, 435 U.S. 519,553 (1978). Also, environmental objections that could be raised at the draft EIS stage, but that are not raised until after completion of the final EIS may be waived or dismissed by the courts. *City of Angoon v. Hodel*, 803 F. 2d 1016, 1022 (9th Cir. 1986) and *Wisconsin Heritages, Inc. v. Harris*, 490 F Supp. 1334, 1338 (E.D. Wis. 1980). Because of these court rulings, it is very important that those interested in this proposed action participate by the close of the comment period so that substantive comments and objections are made available to the Forest Service at a time when it can meaningfully consider them and respond to them in the final EIS.

The final EIS is scheduled to be completed October 2002. In the final EIS, the Forest Service is required to respond to comments and responses received during the comment period that pertain to the environmental consequences discussed in the draft EIS and applicable laws, regulations and policies considered in making the decision regarding this proposal.

Nora B. Rasure, Forest Supervisor, Colville National Forest is the responsible official. As the responsible official, she will document the decision and reasons for the decision in the record of decision. That decision will be subject to Forest Service Appeal Regulation (36 CFR Part 215).

Dated: March 25, 2002.

**Nora B. Rasure**,  
Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 02-8771 Filed 4-10-02; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Natural Resources Conservation Service

#### Notice of Proposed Change to the Natural Resources Conservation Service's National Handbook of Conservation Practices

**AGENCY:** Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Department of Agriculture.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability of proposed changes in the NRCS National Handbook of Conservation Practices, Section IV of the Maine State NRCS Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG) located at [www.me.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.me.nrcs.usda.gov) under "Draft Standards for Comments" for review and comment.

**SUMMARY:** It is the intention of NRCS to issue revised conservation practice standards in its National Handbook of Conservation Practices. These revised

standards are the following: 317 Composting Facility; 449 Irrigation Water Management; 595 Pest Management; 614 Watering Facility; 560 Access Road; 362 Diversion; 399 Fishpond Management; 512 Pasture and Hay Planting; 521C Pond Sealing or Lining—Bentonite Sealant; 521B Pond Sealing or Lining—Soil Dispersant; 558 Roof Runoff Structure; 633 Waste Utilization; 645 Upland Wildlife Habitat Management.

**DATES:** Comments will be received on or before May 13, 2000.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Inquire in writing to Christopher R. Jones, Assistant State Conservationist for Technology/Planning, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), 967 Illinois Avenue, Suite #3; Bangor, Maine 04401.

A copy of this standard is available from the above individual.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Section 343 of the Federal Agricultural Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 states that revisions made after enactment of the law to NRCS State Technical Guides used to carry out highly erodible land and wetland provisions of the law shall be made available for public review and comment. For the next 30 days the NRCS will receive comments relative to the proposed changes. Following that period a determination will be made by the NRCS regarding disposition of those comments and a final determination of change will be made.

Dated: March 25, 2002.

**Christopher R. Jones**,

Assistant State Conservationist for  
Technology/Planning.

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

#### Addition of Public Review Meetings for the Draft Revised Management Plan for the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary

**AGENCY:** National Marine Sanctuary Program (NMSP), National Ocean Service (NOS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce (DOC).

**ACTION:** Addition of public review meetings.

**SUMMARY:** The Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary was Congressionally

designated by the Hawaiian Islands National Marine Sanctuary Act (HINMSA) on November 4, 1992 (Subtitle C of Public Law 102-587, the Oceans Act of 1992). On Friday, March 28, 1997, the final regulations were published in the **Federal Register** (62 FR 14799), and became effective on June 6, 1997.

At the time of designation, NOAA made a commitment to the State of Hawaii that five years after the management plan and regulations had become effective, NOAA, in consultation with the State of Hawaii, would evaluate the progress made toward implementing the management plan, regulations, and goals for the Sanctuary. NOAA also agreed that after the evaluation was complete, NOAA would then re-submit the management plan and regulations in their entirety, as far as they effect State waters, to the Governor for his approval. The draft revised management plan is the result of the five-year evaluation and will be submitted to the Governor. The draft revised management plan does not propose an regulatory or boundary changes.

The draft revised management plan has been completed and is now available for public review. NOAA will conduct public meetings to gather information and other comments from individuals, organizations, and government agencies on the scope, types, and significance of issues related to the Sanctuary's draft revised management plan. Written comments may also be sent to the address below or via email at [hihumpbackwhale@noaa.gov](mailto:hihumpbackwhale@noaa.gov). The public review period will run from March 19 until May 24, 2002. The public meetings are scheduled for May 1–May 9, 2002, and were announced in the **Federal Register** on Tuesday, March 19 (67 FR 12525). Two additional meetings have now been added for May 21 and May 22.

**DATES AND ADDRESSES:** Written Comments may be sent to the Naomi McIntosh, Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary (Management Plan Review), 6700 Kalanianaʻole Highway, Suite 104, Honolulu, Hawaii 96825. Comments will be available for public review at the same address. Written comments should be received on or before May 24, 2002. Public meetings already announced will be held on May 1 on Oahu, May 2 on Maui, May 3 on Kauai, and May 8 and 9 on the Big Island of Hawaii (Kona and Hilo respectively). The two new public meetings will be on May 21 on Lanai and May 22 on Molokai as follows:

(1) Tuesday, May 21, 6 to 9 p.m., Lanai Public Library, Frazier Avenue, Lanai City, Lanai, Hawaii.

(2) Wednesday, May 22, 6 to 9 p.m., Mitchell Pauole Center, 90 Ainoa Street, Kaunakakai, Molokai, Hawaii.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Anne Reisewitz, MPR Coordinator, by phone at (808) 397-2651 or via e-mail at [Annelore.Reisewitz@noaa.gov](mailto:Annelore.Reisewitz@noaa.gov).

**Authority:** 16 U.S.C. Section 1431 et seq., Pub. L. 106-513.

(Federal Domestic Assistance Catalog Number 11.429 Marine Sanctuary Program)

Dated: April 4, 2002.

**Margaret A. Davidson,**

*Acting Assistant Administrator for Ocean Services and Coastal Zone Management.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

#### Extension of Public Scoping Period for the Proposed Designation of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands National Marine Sanctuary

**AGENCY:** National Marine Sanctuary Program (NMSP), National Ocean Service (NOS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce (DOC).

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** On December 4, 2000, Executive Order 13178 established the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve, pursuant to the National Marine Sanctuaries Amendments Act of 2000. The Reserve extends approximately 1200 nautical miles long and 100 nautical miles wide. Pursuant to this Act and the Executive Order, NOAA initiated the process to designate the Reserve as a national marine sanctuary by issuing a notice of intent on January 19, 2001 (66 FR 5509). The public scoping period was announced on March 18, 2002 (67 FR 11996), with an closing date of May 3, 2002. In order to provide additional time for the public to provide written comments and to better coincide with the comment period on the Draft Reserve Operations Plan that was released on March 18, 2002 (67 FR 11997), the close of the public scoping meeting is extended to May 17, 2002.

**DATES AND ADDRESSES:** The public scoping process began on March 18, 2002, and ends on Friday, May 17, 2002. Written comments may be sent to NWHI Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve, 6700 Kalanianaʻole Highway, #215, Honolulu,

Hawaii 96825; faxed to (808) 397-2662; or emailed to [nwhi@noaa.gov](mailto:nwhi@noaa.gov). Comments will be available for public review at the office address above. Summaries of public comments from initial scoping meetings will be available at [hawaiireef.noaa.gov](http://hawaiireef.noaa.gov). Scoping meetings will be held in April.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Åulani Wilhelm, (808) 397-2657, [nwhi@noaa.gov](mailto:nwhi@noaa.gov).

**Authority:** 16 U.S.C. Section 1431 et seq., Pub. L. 106-513,

(Federal Domestic Assistance Catalog Number 11.429 Marine Sanctuary Program)

Dated: April 4, 2002.

**Margaret A. Davidson,**

*Acting Assistant Administrator for Ocean Services and Coastal Zone Management.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 040402C]

#### Coral, Golden Crab, Shrimp, Spiny Lobster, Red Drum, Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources, and Snapper-Grouper Fisheries of the South Atlantic

**AGENCY:** National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of receipt of an application for an exempted fishing permit; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS announces the receipt of an application for an exempted fishing permit (EFP) from Lindsey G. Parker, Captain R/V GEORGIA BULLDOG, on behalf of the University of Georgia's Marine Education Center and Aquarium (MECA). If granted, the EFP would authorize the applicant, with certain conditions, to collect up to 200 juvenile (undersized) individuals in the snapper-grouper and coastal pelagics complex annually. Less than 10 non egg-bearing spiny or slipper lobster would be collected on each cruise. Two cruises will be made annually in Federal waters off Georgia for public display purposes. Specimens will be displayed at MECA, which is located on Skidaway Island, near Savannah, Georgia.

**DATES:** Comments must be received no later than 5 p.m., eastern standard time, on May 13, 2002.