

Committee (RAC) for Fresno County will meet on June 18, 2002, 6:30–9:30 p.m. The Fresno County Resource Advisory Committee will meet at the Districts Ranger's office Prather, CA. The purpose of the meeting is for the Resource Advisory Committee to receive project proposals for recommendations to the Forest Supervisor for expenditure of Fresno County Title II funds.

**DATES:** The Fresno RAC meeting will be held on June 18, 2002. The meeting will be held from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The Fresno County RAC meeting will be held at the Sierra National Forest, Pineridge/Kings River Districts Ranger office, 29688 Auberry Road, Prather, CA.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Sue Exline, USDA, Sierra National Forest, 1600 Tollhouse Road, Clovis, CA 93611 (559) 297-0706 ext. 4804; E-MAIL [skexline@fs.fed.us](mailto:skexline@fs.fed.us).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Agenda items to be covered include: (1) Review and approve the May 14, 2002 meeting notes; (2) Discuss new business of the RAC if applicable; (3) Consideration of Title II Project proposals from the public and/or the RAC members; (4) Determine the date and location of the next meeting; (5) Public comment. The meeting is open to the public. Public input opportunity will be provided and individuals will have the opportunity to address the Committee at that time.

Dated: May 6, 2002.

**Ray Porter,**

*District Ranger.*

[FR Doc. 02-12049 Filed 5-14-02; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410-11-M**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### Southwest Oregon Province Interagency Executive Committee (PIEC) Advisory Committee

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Southwest Oregon PIEC Advisory Committee will meet on June 4, 2002 in Prospect, Oregon at the Prospect Ranger District Office at 47201, Hwy. 62. The meeting will begin at 9 a.m. and continue until 5 p.m. Agenda items to be covered include: Provincial Advisory Committee Implementation Monitoring Schedule; Regional Interagency Executive Committee/Interagency Advisory Committee Update; Provincial Advisory Committee Re-Charter Update; Rogue Basin

Technical Team Update; Public Comment.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Direct questions regarding this meeting to Debra Gray, Province Advisory Committee Staff Member, USDA, Forest Service, Umpqua National Forest, 2900 NW Stewart Parkway, Roseburg, Oregon 97470, phone (541) 957-3405.

Dated: May 9, 2002.

**Lyle Burmeister,**

*Acting Designated Federal Official.*

[FR Doc. 02-12083 Filed 5-14-02; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

#### Notice of Availability of a Draft Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment for the Oil Spill at Pepco's Chalk Point Generating Facility, Request for Comments

**AGENCY:** National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

**SUMMARY:** The Natural Resource Trustee agencies (Trustees) have written a draft Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment (Draft RP/EA) that describes alternatives for restoring natural resource injuries and compensating for recreational losses resulting from the April 7, 2000 oil spill at the Potomac Electric Power Company (Pepco) generating facility. This plan was developed cooperatively among the Trustees and the responsible parties, Pepco and ST Services (respectively, the owner and operator of the pipeline) pursuant to the Natural Resource Damage Assessment Regulations, 15 CFR Part 990. See specifically 15 CFR 990.54 and 990.55. The purpose of this notice is to inform the public of the availability of the Draft RP/EA and the opportunity to submit written comments on the proposed restoration alternatives.

**DATES:** Comments on the Draft RP/EA must be submitted in writing on or before July 8, 2002.

**ADDRESSES:** Copies of the Draft RP/EA are available at: (1) Lighthouse Point Center, 30383 Three Notch Road, Charlotte Hall, MD (301) 290-0946, 1-800-685-1266, fax (301) 290-0943, Mon.-Fri. 9 am to 5 pm; (2) Information Resource Center, MD Department of Natural Resources, 580 Taylor Avenue, B-3, Annapolis, MD 21401, (410) 260-8830, fax (410) 260-8951, Mon.-Fri. 8 am to 4 pm, and (3)

[www.darp.noaa.gov/neregion/chalkpt.htm](http://www.darp.noaa.gov/neregion/chalkpt.htm).

Written comments on the draft RP/EA should be submitted to: Jim Hoff, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Damage Assessment Center, 1305 East-West Highway, Bldg. 4 Rm. 10218, Silver Spring, Maryland 22044. Alternatively, comments may be submitted electronically to the following E-mail address: [James.Hoff@NOAA.GOV](mailto:James.Hoff@NOAA.GOV). All comments received, including names and addresses, will become part of the public record.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Jim Hoff, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Damage Assessment Center, 1305 East-West Highway, Bldg. 4 Rm. 10218, Silver Spring, Maryland 22044.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Background

On April 7, 2000, a pipeline ruptured at Pepco's Chalk Point generating facility near Benedict, Maryland, spilling roughly 126,000 gallons of oil into Swanson Creek and the Patuxent River. About 40 miles of environmentally sensitive downstream creeks and shorelines along the Patuxent River were oiled.

Four government agencies—the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, and Maryland Department of Environment—are responsible for restoring natural resources injured by the spill. These agencies act as Trustees on the public's behalf to conduct a natural resource damage assessment, a process for determining the nature and extent of injuries to natural resources and the restoration actions needed to reverse these losses (Oil Pollution Act, 33 U.S.C. 2706(b)).

The Trustees have reviewed the results of numerous studies and consulted with a wide variety of experts in relevant scientific and technical disciplines to determine potential injuries resulting from the spill. Based on this work, the Trustees have estimated losses to: wetlands, fish and shellfish, benthic communities, birds, terrapins and recreational uses.

The Trustees considered numerous restoration alternatives to compensate the public for spill-related injuries and restore similar types of resources, and the services provided by the resources, that were injured by the oil spill (15 CFR 990.54 and 990.55). The Preferred Alternatives include:

(1) *Creating tidal marsh and enhancing shoreline beach to address*

*injury to wetlands, beach shoreline, and diamondback terrapins.* Trustees propose to create five to six acres of intertidal marsh wetland adjacent to Washington Creek, a tributary of the Patuxent River, located south of Chalk Point. This wetland would be similar to those impacted by the spill and provide habitat for juvenile fish, shellfish, birds, and mammals; improve water quality by filtering sediments and other pollutants from the water column; and provide storm surge and flood protection. This project also includes creating roughly one acre of beach habitat to benefit diamondback terrapins and other organisms.

(2) *Acquiring and restoring ruddy duck nesting habitat to address injury to ruddy ducks.* Trustees propose to restore ruddy duck nesting habitat and acquire perpetual protective easements in areas of the Prairie Pothole Region of the Midwest. Ruddy ducks breed in wetlands located in the Midwest and southern Canada and migrate to the Chesapeake Bay to spend the winter. Restoration and protection of their nesting habitats would enhance ruddy duck populations in the vicinity of the spill.

(3) *Creating an oyster reef sanctuary to address injuries to fish, shellfish, benthic communities, and birds and waterfowl.* Trustees propose to create about five acres of oyster reef sanctuary in the Patuxent River to address injuries to fish, shellfish, non-ruddy duck birds, and benthic communities. The reef would enhance benthic communities, increase aquatic food for fish, birds, and waterfowl, and improve water quality by filtering out sediments and pollutants from the water column.

(4) *Addressing impacts to recreational opportunities.* Trustees propose the following alternatives to address the estimated 125,000 river trips that were affected by the spill: (a) Creating two canoe/kayak paddle-in campsites on the Patuxent River, one north of Golden Beach and one at Milltown Landing; (b) establishing a disabled-accessible kayak/canoe launch at Greenwell State Park; (c) improving recreational opportunities at Maxwell Hall Natural Resource Management Area; (d) rebuilding the King's Landing boardwalk and providing canoes for a river education program; and (e) building a fishing pier at Cedar Haven Park.

#### Administrative Record

Pursuant to the Natural Resource Damage Assessment regulations, the Trustees have developed an Administrative Record to support their restoration planning decisions and

inform the public of the basis of their decisions (15 CFR 990.45). Additional information and documents, including public comments received on the Draft RP/EA, the Final RP/EA, and other related restoration planning documents, will also become a part of the Administrative Record, and will be submitted to a public repository upon their completion.

The documents comprising the public record (Administrative Record) can be viewed at the following locations: (1) Lighthouse Point Center, 30383 Three Notch Road, Charlotte Hall, MD (301) 290-0946, 1-800-685-1266, fax (301) 290-0943, Mon.-Fri. 9 am to 5 pm; (2) Information Resource Center, MD Dept. of Natural Resources, 580 Taylor Avenue, B-3, Annapolis, MD 21401, (410) 260-8830, fax (410) 260-8951, Mon.-Fri. 8 am to 4 pm; and (3) and [www.darp.noaa.gov/neregion/chalkpt.htm](http://www.darp.noaa.gov/neregion/chalkpt.htm).

Dated: April 12, 2002.

**Jamison S. Hawkins,**

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

[FR Doc. 02-12075 Filed 5-14-02; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-JE-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 050102F]

#### Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Exempted Fishing Permits

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

**ACTION:** Issuance of Exempted Fishing Permits; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS announces the receipt of requests for Exempted Fishing Permits (EFPs) for the retention of undersize swordfish bycatch for distribution at a charitable food kitchen, and for tuna purse seine vessels to begin fishing prior to the traditional start date in order to assist with scientific research. In addition, NMFS announces its intent to issue an EFP for longline fishing to take place within a closed area of the North Atlantic in order to assist with research addressing sea turtle bycatch in the fishery. NMFS invites comments from interested parties on potential concerns should these EFPs be issued.

**DATES:** Comments must be received at the appropriate address or fax number

(see **ADDRESSES**) no later than 5 p.m. eastern standard time on May 29, 2002.

**ADDRESSES:** Send comments to Christopher Rogers, Chief, Highly Migratory Species Management Division (F/SF1), NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Comments also may be sent via facsimile (fax) to (301)713-1917. Comments will not be accepted if submitted via e-mail or Internet.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Sari Kiraly, 301-713-2347; fax: 301-713-1917.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** EFPs are requested and issued under the authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.) and/or the Atlantic Tunas Convention Act (16 U.S.C. 971 et seq.). Regulations at 50 CFR 600.745 and 50 CFR 635.32 govern scientific research activity, exempted fishing, and exempted educational activity with respect to Atlantic HMS.

NMFS has received a request from Amazing Grace Church of Whaleyville, MD for an EFP to land swordfish below the allowable minimum size from two longline vessels operating out of Ocean City, MD for charitable donation at the church food kitchen. The requesters seek to land only those juvenile swordfish brought to the boat as dead bycatch. In addition, the requesters intend to assist NMFS with data collection on the distribution of juvenile swordfish.

The East Coast Tuna Association has requested an EFP for five tuna purse seine vessels to begin fishing their giant Atlantic bluefin tuna allocation on July 15, rather than the traditional start date of August 15. Beginning July 1 the vessels will facilitate research conducted by the New England Aquarium involving pop-up satellite tagging of bluefin tuna. The Aquarium's costs of chartering the purse seine vessels can be reduced if the vessels are in a position to conduct commercial fishing for their bluefin allocation upon the completion of the research on July 15 rather than return to other fishing activity requiring either vessel fishing gear changes or vessel relocation.

In addition, NMFS intends to issue an EFP for contracted longline vessels fishing in the Northeast Distant Water closed area of the North Atlantic. Approximately eight to fifteen longline vessels, depending upon availability, will be fishing under an Endangered Species Act Section 10 permit in order to conduct an experiment to determine alternative fishing methods to reduce sea turtle bycatch in the fishery.