

less than the PBR level. The long-term goal of the plan is to reduce, within 5 years of its implementation, the incidental mortality or serious injury of marine mammals taken in the course of commercial fishing operations to insignificant levels approaching a zero mortality and serious injury rate, taking into account the economics of the fishery, the availability of existing technology, and existing state or regional fishery management plans.

The Secretary of Commerce (Secretary) may establish a take reduction team to address mortality or serious injury of strategic stocks of marine mammals interacting with Category I or II fisheries. Not later than 6 months after the date of establishment of a take reduction team, the team is required to submit a draft take reduction plan for such stock to the Secretary, consistent with the other provisions of section 118 of the MMPA. The Secretary is required to take the draft take reduction plan submitted by the team into consideration and publish in the Federal Register a summary of the draft plan submitted by the team, any changes proposed by the Secretary with an explanation of the reasons therefore, and proposed regulations to implement such plan, for public review and comment.

Public Scoping Process

The Bottlenose Dolphin Take Reduction Team (Team) was established on November 7, 2001. A **Federal Register** notification announcing the convening of the Team and their first meeting was published on October 24, 2001 (66 FR 53782). The Team met a total of five times before delivering consensus recommendations for the BDTRP to NMFS on May 7, 2002. The dates of the five meetings were: November 7–8, 2001, January 23–25, 2002, February 27–March 1, 2002, March 27–28, 2002, and April 23–25, 2002. Team meetings were open to the public and a public comment period was held following each day of meetings. Additionally, NMFS held three public meetings with potential Team members and other interested members of the public on May 15–16, 2001, July 11–12, 2001, and November 6, 2001. No additional scoping meetings are scheduled. This document provides additional opportunity for public involvement in the scope of the issues to be addressed in the EIS.

NMFS hired a commercial fisheries liaison to involve potentially affected sectors of the commercial fishing industry in the Team process by providing information about the purpose of the Team, meeting dates and

locations, and discussion topics for upcoming meetings. The liaison used dockside visits, commercial fishing publications, and a commercial fishing expo to disseminate the information. NMFS generated and distributed a fact sheet about the Team and upcoming Team meetings and used mail and electronic mail to distribute information about meeting logistics and summaries to over 200 interested persons.

Analysis of Alternatives

NMFS will be analyzing alternatives that are reasonably expected to reduce mortality and serious injury of Atlantic coastal bottlenose dolphins to less than the PBR level within 6 months of implementation of the BDTRP. NMFS will be analyzing all reasonable alternatives, which include a status quo alternative and the recommendations submitted by the Team. The Team's recommendations can be obtained by contacting Katie Moore or Emily Menashes (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**).

Dated: July 15, 2002.

Wanda L. Cain,

*Acting Director, Office of Protected Resources,
National Marine Fisheries Service.*

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Notice of Area the Public Is Requested To Temporarily Avoid During Coral Reef Restoration Activities in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary

AGENCY: National Marine Sanctuaries Program (NMSP), Office of Ocean and Coastal Resources Management (OCRM), National Ocean Service (NOS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce (DOC).

ACTION: Notice of area to be temporarily avoided.

SUMMARY: NOAA requests that users of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary (FKNMS) avoid, from June 28, 2002 through August 15, 2002, an area of approximately 0.58 acres marked by construction buoys in the vicinity of 25° 0.67' N, 80° 22.37' W, which is at "Molkasses Reef" and is located 6 nautical miles (11.1 km) off the southeastern portion of Key Largo, Florida. Avoidance was previously requested for the same region from May 15, 2002 through June 28, 2002. Due to

unusual weather conditions, the work was not able to be completed. During the time of avoidance, NOAA and authorized contractors will be conducting physical restoration activities of a coral reef where the M/V Wellwood grounded in August 1984. The public is requested to avoid the area during this period due to the presence of heavy construction materials and equipment (*e.g.*, barges and cranes), avoid the area during this period due to the presence of heavy construction materials and equipment (*e.g.*, barges and cranes), moorings, surface air supply hoses of divers and increased localized boat traffic. The intent of this notice is to ensure the timely and successful completion of the restoration and the protection of life and property during these complex activities.

DATES: The public is requested to avoid the area from June 28, 2002 through August 15, 2002. If less or more time is needed, NOAA will so inform the public. Public notice of this request also will be provided through local news media, a Notice to Mariners, and posting of placards or bulletin boards in public areas in Key Largo.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Harriet Sopher, Program Manager, Resource Protection Team, National Marine Sanctuaries Program, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, 1305 East West Highway, SSMC4, 11th Floor, Silver Spring, Maryland, 20910. Telephone number: 301–713–3125, ext. 109.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

On August 4, 1984, the M/V Wellwood, a 122-meter Cypriot-registered freighter, ran aground on the upper forereef of Molasses Reef within the FKNMS. The grounding site is a bank reef located 6 nautical miles (11.1 km) off the southeast portion of Key Largo, Florida (centered at approximately 25°0.67' N, 80°22.37' W). The impact of the grounding and the shifting of the vessel created large scars on the Molasses Reef forereef. Significant injuries were inflicted to the coral reef colonies, substrate, and other resident marine organisms such as sponges and sea fans. The unconsolidated coral rubble and ship debris have been removed. Storm events, including Hurricane Georges in the autumn of 1998, have caused additional damage to the grounding site.

Section 312 of the National Marine Sanctuaries Act (NMSA; 16 U.S.C. 1443) authorizes NOAA to pursue claims for response costs and damages when sanctuary resources are destroyed, lost

or injured. Funds recovered under 312 are used to restore, replace or acquire equivalent sanctuary resources. As part of the restoration process at the site of the M/V Wellwood grounding, NOAA and its authorized contractor will be placing reef modules and tremie concrete to rebuild the physical structure of the damaged coral reef. This activity will occur from April 15, 2002 through August 15, 2002.

Because divers, moorings, heavy construction materials and equipment (e.g., barges and cranes) and increased localized boat traffic will be present during the restoration activity, NOAA requests the public to avoid an area of approximately 0.58 acres where the restoration activity will occur. Five to seven, recreational mooring buoys will be removed from the work area and the nearby vicinity. The work area will be marked by construction buoys. The buoys will be set about 30 feet beyond the barge tie down locations, and create an area approximately 200 feet by 150 feet, with the longer axis oriented in a NE-SW direction, around the grounding site (25°0.67' N, 80°22.37' W). The intent is to provide an area for the conduct of these important restoration activities; protect the life and property of construction crews and Sanctuary users while heavy construction materials and equipment (e.g., barges and cranes) are in the area; protect moorings which will be used at the site of stabilize the barges; protect the surface air supply hoses of the divers and SCUBA crew who will be conducting the restoration activities; and ensure timely and successful completion of the restoration. The area that the public is requested to avoid is the minimum area necessary to moor the barges and includes buffer zones to moor support vessels and provide an extra margin for public safety during the restoration activities. The time period for which the public is requested to avoid the restoration site is the expected time necessary to complete the construction activities. If less or more time is needed, NOAA will so notify the public. During the spring of 2002, one-on-one contact was made with local dive operators, a public meeting was held to explain the restoration project and make the public aware of the area it would be requested to temporarily avoid. Additionally, NOAA issued press releases to the local newspapers and radio stations which have covered the restoration planning process and which have provided notice of NOAA's request for the public to avoid the restoration area.

Locations and Boundaries of the Area the Public Is Requested To Avoid

The area which the public is requested to avoid is located approximately 6 nautical miles offshore the southeast portion of the Key Largo, Florida (centered near 25° 0.67' N, 80° 22.37' W). The total area is approximately 0.58 acres. The boundary of this area will be marked by construction buoys.

The area is bounded by the following coordinates:

Latitude	Longitude
A: 25°00' 37.96364"N	80°22' 14.60425"W
B: 25°00' 31.20173"N	80°22' 22.54159"W
C: 25°00' 45.20646"N	80°22' 22.02476"W
D: 25°00' 38.44445"N	80°22' 29.96212"W

Dated: July 16, 2002.

Jamison S. Hawkins,

Deputy Assistant Administrator for Ocean Services and Coastal Zone Management.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Public Scoping Period for the Proposed Designation of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands National Marine Sanctuary; Reopening of Comment Period

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

ACTION: Notice; request for comment; reopening of comment period.

SUMMARY: The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is re-opening, until August 6, 2002, the period for submission of public comments on the proposed designation of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands National Marine Sanctuary.

DATES: Comments on the proposed designation must be received by close of business August 6, 2002.

ADDRESSES: Written comments may be sent to NWHI Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve, 6700 Kalaniana'ole Highway, #215, Honolulu, Hawaii 96825; faxed to (808) 3972662; or emailed to nwhi@noaa.gov. Comments will be available for public review at the office address above.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Aulani Wilhelm, (808) 397-2657, nwhi@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: 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 a closing date of May 3, 2002. The close of the public scoping period was extended to May 17, 2002 (67 FR 17673). Because of continuing public interest as indicated by the number of comments received during and after the comment period, NOAA is re-opening the comment period until August 6, 2002. Any comments that may have been received between May 17, 2002 and July 22, 2002, will be considered timely filed.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1431 *et seq.*, Pub. L. 106-513, (Federal Domestic Assistance Catalog Number 11.429 Marine Sanctuary Program).

Dated: July 16, 2002.

Jamison S. Hawkins,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 071602A]

Marine Mammals; File No. 1034-1685 and Permit No. 751-1614

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

ACTION: Receipt of application for a permit and application to amend a permit.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given of the following actions regarding permits for takes of marine mammals for purposes of scientific research: NMFS has received a permit application from Dr. Markus Horning, Department of Marine Biology, Texas A&M University, Galveston, TX 77551, to take California sea lions (*Zalophus californianus*); and an application to amend Permit No. 751-1614 issued to the Ocean Alliance/Whale Conservation Institute, 191