

NMFS is investigating additional means of obtaining this data.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Russell Dunn, 727-824-5399; fax: 727-824-5398; or Chris Rilling, 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 Highly Migratory Species.

The Blue Water Fishermen's Association requested exemptions from certain regulations applicable to the harvest and landing of Atlantic HMS in order to collect data on the performance of mandatory circle hooks with regard to target catch and bycatch rates, hooking location, and mortality of fish at haul back. The proposal included data collection in the existing Charleston Bump and Florida East Coast pelagic longline closed areas. After considering public comment received, as requested in the **Federal Register** (72 FR 11327, March 13, 2007); (72 FR 18208, April 11, 2007); (72 FR 25748, May, 7, 2007), the Agency has decided not to issue a permit as requested by the current application. Specifically, the proposal did not discuss anticipated effort levels or the spatio-temporal distribution of effort, did not identify "control" fishing locations, and did not justify the number of vessels proposed to participate in the fishery. Absence of this information limits the ability of the Agency to evaluate the potential effectiveness of the data collection program and to analyze its impacts.

NMFS supports collecting such data under controlled circumstances and as part of a program with a scientifically rigorous study design. These data are critical to evaluating the efficacy of bycatch mitigation efforts, including required bycatch reduction gears and time/area closures in the Atlantic pelagic longline fishery. As such, NMFS is actively considering under what circumstances and how best to conduct scientific research that is necessary to evaluate the effectiveness of current bycatch reduction measures.

Dated: August 3, 2007.

Alan Risenhoover,

Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. E7-15511 Filed 8-8-07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

Strategic Environmental Research and Development Program, Scientific Advisory Board

AGENCY: Department of Defense.

ACTION: Notice of open meeting.

SUMMARY: This Notice is published in accordance with Section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463). The topic of the meeting on September 11-13, 2007 are to review new start and continuing research and development projects requesting Strategic Environmental Research and Development Program funds in excess of \$1M. This meeting is open to the public. Any interested person may attend, appear before, or file statements with the Scientific Advisory Board at the time and in the manner permitted by the Board.

DATES: September 11-12, 2007 from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and September 13 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

ADDRESSES: SERDP Program Office Conference Center, 901 North Stuart Street, Suite 804, Arlington, VA 22203.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Sharee Malcolm, SERDP Program Office, 901 North Stuart Street, Suite 303, Arlington, VA or by telephone at (703) 696-2119.

Dated: August 3, 2007.

C.R. Choate,

Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army; Corps of Engineers

Intent To Modify a Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Water Conservation Area 3 Decompartamentalization and Sheet-flow Enhancement in Broward County, FL

AGENCY: Department of the Army, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, DOD.

ACTION: Notice of intent; modification.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), Jacksonville District, previously published a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an integrated Project Implementation Report/Environmental Impact Statement (PIR/EIS) for the Water Conservation Area 3 Decompartamentalization and Sheet-flow

Enhancement Project (DECOMP), Part 1 on December 4, 2003 (68 FR 67841). Following publication of the NOI, the scope of this initial part of DECOMP was altered to focus specifically on the alternatives to reduce barriers to sheet-flow within WCA 3A. Modification of eastern Tamiami Trail, south of WCA 3, will be considered in future efforts. The project's collaborator, intent, authorization, plan formulation process, and issues to be addressed remain as described in the original NOI.

DATES: The meeting dates are:

1. August 21, 2007, 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., West Palm Beach, FL.

2. August 23, 2007, 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., Pembroke Pines, FL.

ADDRESSES: The meeting locations are:

1. South Florida Water Management District, 3301 Gun Club Road, West Palm Beach, FL 33406.

2. Southwest Regional Library, 16835 Sheridan Street, Pembroke Pines, FL 33331.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Planning Division, Environmental Branch, P.O. Box 4970, Jacksonville, FL 32232-0019; Attn: Mr. Ernest Clarke or by telephone at 904-232-1199 or e-mail at ernest.clarke@saj02.usace.army.mil.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

a. *Authorization:* Section 601 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2000 (Pub. L. 106-541) authorized the implementation of the DECOMP Project.

b. *Study Area:* The study area includes the WCA 3 and the northeast section of Everglades National Park, in Broward and Miami-Dade Counties.

While the project area and area of anticipated benefits is located almost entirely within WCA 3A, the potential area of impacts is broader. Therefore, the study area considered in the report will extend from the southern end of Lake Okeechobee to the north through WCA 3A and 3B to just south of the Tamiami Trail (US 41).

c. *Project Scope:* The scope includes conducting an assessment of the study area and continuing plans for restoring sheet flow through WCA 3A. The evaluation of the alternatives and selection of a recommended plan will be documented in the PIR/DEIS. The alternative plans will be reviewed under provisions of appropriate laws and regulations, including the Endangered Species Act, Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, Clean Water Act, and Farmland Protection Policy Act.

d. *Preliminary Alternatives:* The study includes two components of the Central & South Florida Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan: Backfilling