

114–113, div. H, § 507(d), 129 Stat. 2242, 2649 (Dec. 18, 2015).

Congress has also been particularly solicitous of the religious freedom of American Indians. In 1978, Congress declared it the “policy of the United States to protect and preserve for American Indians their inherent right of freedom to believe, express, and exercise the traditional religions of the American Indian, Eskimo, Aleut, and Native Hawaiians, including but not limited to access to sites, use and possession of sacred objects, and the freedom to worship through ceremonials and traditional rites.” 42 U.S.C. 1996. Consistent with that policy, it has passed numerous statutes to protect American Indians’ right of access for religious purposes to national park lands, Scenic Area lands, and lands held in trust by the United States. *See, e.g.*, 16 U.S.C. 228i(b), 410aaa–75(a), 460uu–47, 543f, 698v–11(b)(11). It has specifically sought to preserve lands of religious significance and has required notification to American Indians of any possible harm to or destruction of such lands. *Id.* § 470cc. Finally, it has provided statutory exemptions for American Indians’ use of otherwise regulated articles such as bald eagle feathers and peyote as part of traditional religious practice. *Id.* §§ 668a, 4305(d); 42 U.S.C. 1996a.

The depth and breadth of constitutional and statutory protections for religious observance and practice in America confirm the enduring importance of religious freedom to the United States. They also provide clear guidance for all those charged with enforcing federal law: The free exercise of religion is not limited to a right to hold personal religious beliefs or even to worship in a sacred place. It encompasses all aspects of religious observance and practice. To the greatest extent practicable and permitted by law, such religious observance and practice should be reasonably accommodated in all government activity, including employment, contracting, and programming. *See Zorach v. Clauson*, 343 U.S. 306, 314 (1952) (“[Government] follows the best of our traditions . . . [when it] respects the religious nature of our people and accommodates the public service to their spiritual needs.”).

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**DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**

**Notice of Lodging of Proposed Consent Decree Under the Oil Pollution Act**

On October 19, 2017, the Department of Justice lodged a proposed Consent Decree (“Consent Decree”) with the United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts in the lawsuit entitled *United States, et al. v. Bouchard Transportation Company, Inc., et al.*, Civil Action No. 1:17–cv–12046–NMG.

The proposed Consent Decree will settle claims of the United States (on behalf of the Department of Commerce/ National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Department of the Interior/Fish and Wildlife Service), the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and the State of Rhode Island for injuries to birds (other than piping plover) under the Oil Pollution Act, 33 U.S.C. 2701, *et seq.*, (“Trustees”) against Bouchard Transportation Company, Inc., and related companies (“Defendants”), caused by an oil spill from the tank barge *Bouchard No. 120* which occurred in April 2003 in Buzzards Bay. Under the proposed Consent Decree, the Defendants will pay \$13,300,000 to the Trustees as damages for injuries to wildlife resources, as defined in the Consent Decree. The payment will be used to plan for and implement the restoration, rehabilitation, replacement, or acquisition of the equivalent of the damaged resources. In addition, the Defendants acknowledge payment of almost \$3,500,000 to the Trustees for reimbursement of their assessment costs. The proposed Consent Decree is the second settlement between the Trustees and the Defendants for injuries to natural resources caused by the oil spill. Under the first settlement, entered by the District Court in 2011, the Defendants paid the Trustees \$6,076,393 for injuries to other natural resources caused by the oil spill.

The publication of this notice opens a period for public comment on the proposed Consent Decree. Comments should be addressed to the Assistant Attorney General, Environment and Natural Resources Division, and should refer to *United States, et al. v. Bouchard Transportation Company, Inc., et al.*, D.J. Ref. No. 90–5–1–1–08159/1. All comments must be submitted no later than thirty (30) days after the publication date of this notice. Comments may be submitted either by email or by mail:

To submit comments:	Send them to:
By email .....	<i>pubcomment-ees.enrd@usdoj.gov.</i>
By mail .....	Assistant Attorney General, U.S. DOJ—ENRD, P.O. Box 7611, Washington, DC 20044–7611.

During the public comment period, the proposed Consent Decree may be examined and downloaded at this Justice Department Web site: <https://www.justice.gov/enrd/consent-decrees>. We will provide a paper copy of the proposed Consent Decree upon written request and payment of reproduction costs. Please mail your request and payment to: Consent Decree Library, U.S. DOJ—ENRD, P.O. Box 7611, Washington, DC 20044–7611.

Please enclose a check or money order for \$22.75 (25 cents per page reproduction cost), payable to the United States Treasury.

**Robert E. Maher, Jr.**,  
*Assistant Section Chief, Environmental Enforcement Section, Environment and Natural Resources Division.*

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**DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**

**Office of Justice Programs**

[OMB Number 1121–0197]

**Agency Information Collection Activities; Proposed eCollection eComments Requested; Extension of Currently Approved Collection**

**AGENCY:** Office of Justice Programs, Department of Justice.

**ACTION:** 60 day notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance, is submitting the following information collection request to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

**DATES:** The Department of Justice encourages public comment and will accept input until December 26, 2017.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** If you have additional comments especially on the estimated public burden or associated response time, suggestions, or need a copy of the proposed information collection instrument with instructions or additional information, please contact Michelle Martin, Senior Management Analyst, Bureau of Justice Assistance,