

Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Copies of the implementation schedule are available upon request from Gloria Thompson, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service, 1335 East West Highway, Room 8303, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Gloria Thompson at 301/427-2332.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The 1988 amendments to the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) require " * * * estimates of the time required and the cost to carry out those measures needed to achieve the plan's goal and to achieve intermediate steps toward that goal." The recovery team has prepared these estimates and NMFS is requesting reviewers to provide comments on them.

Dated: July 16, 1990.

Nancy Foster,

Director, Office of Protected Resources.

[FR Doc. 90-16961 Filed 7-19-90; 8:45 am]

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Development of a Proposal to Govern the Taking of Marine Mammals Incidental to Commercial Fishing Operations

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), NOAA, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of extension of comment period.

SUMMARY: On May 10, 1990, (55 FR 19642) NMFS published a notice of intent to prepare an EIS and hold a scoping meeting in Silver Spring, Maryland on May 31, 1990, regarding the development of a proposal to govern the incidental take of marine mammals in commercial fisheries operations. A second notice was published on May 31, 1990, (55 FR 22058) regarding additional scoping meetings in other areas of the country. This notice extends the comment period until August 6, 1990.

DATES: Comments and suggestions regarding the development of the proposal to govern the taking of marine mammals incidental to commercial fishing operations should be submitted so that they arrive at the Office of Protected Resources no later than August 6, 1990.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be sent to Dr. Nancy Foster, Director, Office of Protected Resources, 1335 East West Highway, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Scoping materials can be obtained from

the following: Northeast Region, Mr. Douglas Beach (508-281-9254); Southeast Region, Mr. Charles Oravetz (813-893-3368); Southwest Region, Mr. James Lecky (213-514-8664) or Mr. Eugene Nitta (806-955-8631); Northwest Region, Mr. Joe Scordino (206-526-6140); Alaska Region, Mr. John Sease (907-586-7235).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Interim Exemption for Commercial Fisheries implemented by the 1988 amendments to the Marine Mammal Protection Act governs the taking of marine mammals during commercial fishing operations until October 1, 1993. The 1988 amendments require the Secretary of Commerce (Secretary) to publish in the Federal Register by February 1, 1991, for public comment, the suggested regime that the Secretary believes should govern the incidental takings of marine mammals after October 1, 1993. In developing this regime, the Secretary is required to consult with the Marine Mammal Commission, Regional Fishery Management Councils, and other interested governmental and non-governmental organizations. The amendments also require the Secretary to make recommendations to Congress pertaining to the incidental taking of marine mammals by January 1, 1992. These recommendations will include: (a) The suggested regime as modified after comments and consultations; (b) a proposed schedule for implementing the regime; and (c) such recommendations for additional legislation considered necessary or desirable to implement the suggested regime.

In conjunction with the development of a proposed regime, NMFS is preparing a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). This DEIS will present alternative regimes and discuss the environmental impacts of each alternative.

The public scoping meetings were held to ensure full opportunity for interested members of the public and government agencies to advise NMFS on the issues, alternatives and impacts that should be addressed in the DEIS. All comments and suggestions presented at the scoping meetings should be provided in writing no later than August 6, 1990.

Dated: July 16, 1990.

Nancy Foster,

Director, Office of Protected Resources.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Recovery Plans

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), NOAA, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of availability and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Draft Humpback Whale National Recovery Plan developed by the U.S. Humpback Whale Recovery Team for the humpback whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) in United States waters was distributed for comment on October 18, 1989 (54 FR 42319) for review and comment by interested parties prior to final approval and adoption by NMFS. At the time of distribution, the plan did not include an implementation schedule specifying priority research, lead/cooperating agencies, estimated costs and the time period for each recommended action.

DATES: Comments on the draft implementation schedule must be received on or before August 20, 1990.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be addressed to Director, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service, 1335 East West

Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants: Recovery Plans for Draft Humpback Whales

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of availability and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Draft Humpback Whale National Recovery Plan is available for review and comments by interested parties prior to final approval and adoption by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). The plan was developed by the U.S. Humpback Whale National Recovery Team which was appointed in 1987 by the Assistant Administrator for NMFS to develop a Recovery Plan for the humpback whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) found in United States waters. Membership included biologists and resource managers from NMFS, the Marine Mammal Commission, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, Center for Whale Studies, New England Aquarium, National Cancer Institute and College of the Atlantic.

DATE: Comments on the draft recovery plan must be received on or before November 30, 1989.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be addressed to Director, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service, 1335 East West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Copies of the Draft Humpback Whale National Recovery Plan are available upon request from Gloria Thompson, Office of Protected Resources and Habitat Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, 1335 East West Highway, Room 8275, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Gloria Thompson at 301/427-2319.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) requires that the agencies responsible for listed species develop and implement recovery plans for the conservation and survival of threatened and endangered species, unless it is determined that such plans will not promote the conservation of the species. Accordingly, NMFS appointed a Humpback Whale Recovery Team to assist in the development of a Draft Humpback Whale National Recovery Plan. The Recovery Plan discusses the natural history, current status of the North Atlantic and North Pacific populations, and the known and potential impacts on the species. Actions that would promote the recovery of humpback whales are

identified and discussed in the draft plan. The Recovery Plan will be used to direct U.S. activities to promote the recovery of the endangered humpback whale.

The 1988 amendments to the ESA require " * * * estimates of the time required and the cost to carry out those measures needed to achieve the plan's goal and to achieve intermediate steps toward that goal." NMFS is preparing these estimates and requests commenters to provide any such information available to them. In the meantime, the draft plan is being released for review and comment to expedite adoption and implementation of the final plan.

Dated: October 8, 1989.

Nancy Foster,

Director, Office of Protected Resources and Habitat Programs.

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