National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA, Commerce.

The Pacific Fishery Management Council and its advisory bodies will convene public meetings, March 10–13, 1986, at the Holiday Inn Portland-Airport, 8439 NE Columbia Boulevard, Portland, OR, as follows:

On March 10, the Council meeting will convene at 1 p.m. with a closed session (not open to the public), to discuss litigation and personnel matters. The open session will begin at 2 p.m. with administrative matters, including reappointment of a new member to the Groundfish Management Team and the status of the FY 86 budget. The Council will review the 1985 salmon fisheries and the status of the stocks, as well as hear recommendations from the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC), the Salmon Advisory Subpanel (SAS), the public, the states, and the National Marine Fisheries Service on the 1985 fisheries and the 1986 stock abundance.

On March 11, the Council will tentatively adopt 1986 salmon management options for analysis by the Salmon Plan Development Team (SPDT), and receive a summary of 1985 salmon plan amendment issues. The Council will also review groundfish management issues and take action on experimental fishing permit applications, drafts of the groundfish plan amendment package, and foreign fishing applications. There will be a public comment period at 4:30 p.m. on March 12. The Council will continue consideration of administrative matters including the FY 87 data collection needs for Council-related activities and the Council/National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Task Group evaluation of the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act implementation. The Council will also hear a report of its Habitat Committee and public comments on a habitat policy prior to final adoption.

On March 13, the Council will hear the analysis and comments of the SPDT, SSC, SAS, public and states on the proposed 1986 salmon management options before final adoption of management options for public hearings.

Meetings of the Council's SSC, SAS, SPDT, habitat, foreign fishing, and budget committees will be held in the same location commencing the afternoon of March 9 through the evening of March 13. Detailed agendas of all meetings will be available for the public on February 21. For further information contact Joseph C. Greeney, Executive Director, Pacific Fishery Management Council, Metro Center, 2000 SW First Avenue, Portland, OR 97201; telephone: (503) 221-6352.


Richard B. Rue.
Director, Office of Fishery Management, National Marine Fisheries Service.

BILLING CODE 3510-22-M

Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings


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Richard B. Rue.
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BILLING CODE 3510-22-M

Intent To Prepare a Draft
Environmental Impact Statement and Management Plan for a Possible National Marine Sanctuary of Norfolk Canyon; Announcement of Norfolk Canyon as an Active Candidate and Suspension of Ten Fathom Ledge/Big Rock From Consideration as a National Marine Sanctuary

AGENCY: National Ocean Service (NOS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: NOAA is announcing Norfolk Canyon (60 miles off the coast of Virginia) as an Active Candidate for designation as a National Marine Sanctuary, and its intent to prepare an environmental impact statement on the proposal to designate. A notice scheduling a scoping meeting will be published at a later date.

On September 17, 1985, NOAA initiated preliminary consultation on two sites as potential national marine sanctuaries. (Preliminary Consultation is the first step toward designation of a national marine sanctuary.) The sites were Norfolk Canyon and Ten Fathom Ledge/Big Rock. On November 18, 1985 the period for public comment ended. NOAA has reviewed and considered public comments on both sites and is continuing the process for designating Norfolk Canyon. A draft management plan and draft environmental impact statement will be prepared. NOAA is also announcing that due to a backlog of Active Candidates it will not proceed with further evaluation of Ten Fathom Ledge/Big Rock at this time. The site will remain on the Site Evaluation List for future consideration.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Mr. Edward Lindfield, Senior Policy Analyst, Sanctuary Programs Division, Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, 3300 Whitehaven Street NW., Washington, DC 20256 (202) 634-5226.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

1. Background

The 1984 amendments to the Act (Title I of Pub. L. 98-439, codified to 16 U.S.C. 1431-1439) made several changes in the process for designating National Marine Sanctuaries. NOAA is currently modifying its program operating regulations at 15 CFR Part 922 to reflect these changes. In the interim, where there is a conflict between the current regulations and the 1984 amendments, NOAA will rely on the statutory amendments. Since the 1984 amendments do not require the Preliminary Consultation or Active Candidate stages in the marine sanctuary designation process, NOAA will no longer conduct a formal Preliminary Consultation or Active Candidate review. Instead, NOAA will issue a notice informing the public of its
intent to prepare an EIS on a proposed
designation of an Active Candidate
selected from the Site Evaluation List
(SEL).

NOAA began its consideration of
Norfolk Canyon and Ten Fathom Ledge/
Big Rock under its current operating
regulations at 15 CFR 822.39(1). On
September 17, 1985, NOAA published a
notice (50 FR 37760) announcing
preliminary consultation and seeking
public comment for these two sites. The
public comment period closed on
November 18, 1985.

II. Selection of Norfolk Canyon as an
Active Candidate

Norfolk Canyon is located
approximately 60 miles off the coast of
Virginia. The center of the Canyon head
is approximately latitude 37°03′3″ W,
longitude 74°38′4″ W. The Canyon head is
about 16 to 19 km long and 6 km wide
near the shelf break.

Natural Resources

Norfolk Canyon is the southern-most
submarine canyon is a series of the
prominent deep water features along the
eastern continental margin of the United
States. It is an excellent biogeographic
representation of this habitat and has
two distinguishing features which other
East Coast canyon sites lack: (1) The
physiographic location is in a non-
glaciated area that is influenced by a
major drainage system (Chesapeake
Bay), and (2) the site is the habitat of
several alcyonarian and scleractinid
corals, including Primnoa resedae.

The geology of the Canyon is
characterized by deep V-shaped valleys
and steep, rocky and often unstable
walls and swift current. Despite these
physical features, Norfolk Canyon
supports an abundance of marine life, of
which its huge Alcyonarian tree corals
and "pueblo villages" (i.e., areas along
the canyon wall where large
invertebrates and some finfish dig
extensive depressions, caves and
burrows for their lodging) are especially
prominent. For a more detailed
discussion of the site's natural
resources, please see 50 FR 37760
announcing Preliminary Consultation.

Human Uses

Major human activities pursued on the
eastern continental margin include
commercial and recreational fisheries,
mineral resources development, ocean
dumping and military operations.

Norfolk Canyon is not heavily fished for
commercial purposes but the area is
used by recreational fishermen who fish
for white marlin (Tetrapturus albidus).

No mineral resources are currently
mined in the vicinity of Norfolk Canyon.

Those resources with the greatest near-
term potential for development are oil
and gas. Upcoming lease sale number
111 in the Mid-Atlantic area is
tentatively scheduled for November
1986.

Although no ocean disposal of wastes
is occurring at present in Norfolk
Canyon, the area has been used
previously for the dumping of
radioactive wastes. There are two
former dumpsites, one located at about
the 1000-meter isobath, the other, more
extensive, lying at depths between
about 2000 and 2500 meters. Both occur
on or near the axis of the Canyon.

Summary of Comments

A total of eight comments were
received on the September 12, 1985
notice. Reviewers included Federal and
state agencies, representatives of the oil
gas industry, representatives of the
fishing industry, environmental and
public interest groups, and members of
the public. All comments received are
on file at the Sanctuary Programs
Division, Office of Ocean and Coastal
Resource Management, 2001 Wisconsin
Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20235.

The comments are available for review
at that office.

All reviewers supported listing the
Norfolk Canyon as an Active Candidate
and proceeding with our evaluation.
Amoco Corporation and the Offshore
Operators Committee noted that until a
boundary has been determined it was
difficult to determine the significance of
the proposal and that this information
should be provided prior to selection as
an active candidate. The Department of
the Interior questioned how Norfolk
Canyon was selected when it is not on
NOAA's Site Evaluation List.

NOAA's Response

In response to the boundary comment,
at this early stage in reviewing a site as a
potential national marine sanctuary,
NOAA does not have sufficient
information to formulate specific
boundary alternatives. As part of
developing a draft environmental impact
statement and management plan, NOAA
will identify several boundary
alternatives, including its preferred
alternative, for public review and
comment.

In response to the Department of the
Interior comment, as explained in the
original notice for comment, Norfolk
Canyon is eligible for consideration
because it had already been under
consideration for designation by NOAA
at the time of development of the SMI,
and therefore was grandfathered into
the SEL process. At the time of
development of the SEL, the following
sites were under consideration for
designation by NOAA: Cordell Bank
(California); Norfolk Canyon (South
Atlantic); La Parguera (Puerto Rico);
Monterey Bay (California); Hawaiian
waters; and Fagatutu Bay (American
Samoa). The scientific teams
responsible for making SEL
Recommendations were instructed not
to consider these sites for SEL listing
since they had already been selected by
NOAA for further evaluation. At that
time a contract had been awarded to
synthesize information on the physical
and biological features of Norfolk
Canyon. This site is therefore the last of
the pre-SEL Candidates to be actively
considered.

Subsequent Actions

NOAA intends to prepare a draft
environmental impact statement (DEIS)
including a resource assessment report
and draft management plan on the
designation of the area as a National
Marine Sanctuary. A scoping meeting
will be held prior to preparation of the
draft management plan and DEIS and a
notice of its date, time and location will
be published in the Federal Register. A
public hearing on the DEIS will be
carried out. A final environmental
impact statement and management plan
will be prepared. In undertaking the
analysis for the DEIS, NOAA will
consider the factors required in
determining if a site meets the
Designation Standards outlined in
section 303(a) of the 1984 amendments
to the Act and will consult with
Congress, other affected agencies and
the appropriate Regional Fishery
Management Council(s).

After the final environmental impact
statement, subsequent steps include a
determination by the Secretary of
Commerce that the site meets the
Designation Standards, and designation
by the Secretary. Congress then has the
opportunity to disapprove the
designation. Opportunities for public
comment exist throughout this process
and will be advertised in the local
media, and other appropriate
channels.

III. Suspension of Ten Fathom Ledge/
Big Rock From Further Consideration as
A Potential National Marine Sanctuary.

The September 17, 1985 notice of
Preliminary Consultation included the
Ten Fathom Ledge/Big Rock site. NOAA
received ten letters and petitions.
Reviewers included Federal and state
agencies, representatives of the fishing
industry, environmental and public
interest groups, dive groups and
members of the public. All comments
received are on file at the Sanctuary
Programs Division, Office of Ocean and
Coastal Resource Management, 2001
Washington, D.C. 20503. The contents are available for review at this office. Only
information that is available for public release is made available.

A number of the commercial

fishing industry, who use the area

also use the boats to provide various

services. The fishing interests and fish

sales activities. The Department of the

Interior has suggested that the site is

fishing industry. The level of

activity in marine

sanitary designation preclude the

processing of more than one or two

active candidates simultaneously.

Given these constraints, it is not

reasonable or likely that NOAA can

process both Ten Fathom Ledge/Big

Rock and Norfolk Canyon in the 3 year

time span required by 15 CFR 923.314(a).

Accordingly, NOAA has decided to

proceed with Big Rock and Norfolk

Canyon in the 3 year time span required

by 15 CFR 923.314(a). Accordingly,

NOAA has decided to

proceed with Big Rock and Norfolk

Canyon in the 3 year time span required

by 15 CFR 923.314(a).

SN 6-593,568 (4,548,342) Date Filed: 03/14/84

Viscous-Obligate Habitual Mimic for

Assessment of Fruit Fly Response to

Behavior-Modifying Chemicals

SN 6-602,815 (4,545,256) Date Filed: 06/15/84

Device for Simulating Stress on

Packages During Coupling of

Balloons

SN 6-625,272 (4,550,905) Date Filed: 06/27/84

Hinge Transfer Apparatus

SN 6-409,827 (4,539,003) Date Filed: 08/08/84

Agents to Produce Durable Press Low

Formaldehyde Release Cellulosic Textiles: Ethersulfonated N,N-

Bis(hydroxyethyl) Carbamates

SN 6-614,554 (4,554,442) Date Filed: 01/24/84

Aliquot Port Locator

SN 6-765,639 Date Filed: 10/08/85

Sex Pheromone Composition for

Southwestern Corn Borer

SN 6-709,212 Date Filed: 10/18/85

Process for Dyeing Smooth-Dry

Cellulosic Fabrics

SN 6-789,298 Date Filed: 10/18/85

Method for Insulin Coloring

Crosslinked Cellulosic Materials

Department of Commerce

SN 6-590,769 (4,559,214) Date Filed: 08/01/84

Heat Pipe Oven Molecular Beam Source

Department of Health and Human

Services

SN 6-500,918 (4,544,234) Date Filed: 06/20/84

Method of Joining Plastic Optical

Fibers and Connections Obtained

SN 6-540,989 (4,548,007) Date Filed: 11/01/83

Saponin Based Polyether Polyelectrolytes.

Pharmaceutical Composition, and a

Method of Using Same

SN 6-591,309 (4,547,367) Date Filed: 12/28/83

Hemolytic B. Core Antigen Vaccine

SN 6-522,093 (4,547,099) Date Filed: 06/21/84

Interfering Agents Spreading

Nucleotides

SN 6-517,189 (4,547,363) Date Filed: 08/03/84

Hemolytic B. Core Antigen Vaccine

Made by Recombinant DNA

SN 6-520,199 Date Filed: 04/20/84

Method of Forming a Metal Cylindrical

Particle Conductor

SN 6-577,481 Date Filed: 10/15/84

Reducing or Counteracting the

Development of Measures of Brain

Age

SN 6-401,965 Date Filed: 11/20/84

Method and Device for Quantitative

Endpoint Determination in

Immunoassay Using

Microferrihematoptometry

Department of the Air Force

SN 6-366,739 (4,547,884) Date Filed: 04/08/82

Sonic Flow Plate

SN 6-375,640 (4,548,661) Date Filed: 05/08/82

Method for Assembling a

Multiconductor Flat Cable

SN 6-393,267 (4,539,064) Date Filed: 06/29/82

Adjustable Balance Weight for

Rotating Shaft

SN 6-427,736 (4,540,978) Date Filed: 12/03/82

Biostatic Pulse-Overlap Doppler Radar

Intravenous Detection Apparatus

SN 6-491,106 (4,540,904) Date Filed: 08/03/83

Tri-State Type Driver Circuit

SN 6-497,447 (4,546,326) Date Filed: 05/24/83

PLL Swept Frequency Generator With

Programmable Sweep Rate

SN 6-511,000 (4,550,251) Date Filed: 06/05/83

Vial Detection and Composition

Measurement in Composite Wires

SN 6-512,692 (4,550,927) Date Filed: 07/05/83

Liquor Distillery

SN 6-524,964 (4,557,267) Date Filed: 07/09/83

Semi-Conductor Signal Detection by HM

Resonance Type of Detection

SN 6-530,060 (4,553,172) Date Filed: 08/18/84

Electronic Noise Detection

SN 6-510,954 (4,541,063) Date Filed: 07/15/83

Door Beam Dust Detector

SN 6-505,988 (4,541,063) Date Filed: 07/15/83

Door Beam Dust Pressure Controller

System


National Technical Information Service

Government-Owned Inventions:

Availability for Licensing

The inventions listed below are owned by one or more Federal agencies.

Invention Number:

Title:

Invention Description:

Inventor:

Employment:

Date Filed:

Invention Number:

Title:

Invention Description:

Inventor:

Employment:

Date Filed:

Invention Number:

Title:

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Invention Description:

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Employment:

Date Filed: