

conservation and survival of federally listed species, *i.e.*, recovery plans.

DATES: To allow NMFS adequate time to conduct the reviews, all information must be received no later than May 17, 2012.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments on these documents, identified by NOAA–NMFS–2012–0091, by any of the following methods:

- **Electronic Submission:** Submit all electronic public comments via the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal www.regulations.gov. To submit comments via the e-Rulemaking Portal, first click the “submit a comment” icon, then enter NOAA–NMFS–2012–0091 in the keyword search. Locate the document you wish to comment on from the resulting list and click on the “Submit a Comment” icon on the right of that line.

- **Mail:** Submit written comments to Chief, Endangered Species Division, National Marine Fisheries Service, Office of Protected Resources, 1315 East West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910, Attn: Recovery Plans.

Instructions: Comments must be submitted by one of the above methods to ensure that the comments are received, documented, and considered by NMFS. Comments sent by any other method, to any other address or individual, or received after the end of the comment period, may not be considered. All comments received are a part of the public record and will generally be posted for public viewing on www.regulations.gov without change. All personal identifying information (*e.g.*, name, address, etc.) submitted voluntarily by the sender will be publicly accessible. Do not submit confidential business information, or otherwise sensitive or protected information. NMFS will accept anonymous comments (enter “N/A” in the required fields if you wish to remain anonymous). Attachments to electronic comments will be accepted in Microsoft Word or Excel, WordPerfect, or Adobe PDF file formats only.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Larissa Plants, Office of Protected Resources, 301–427–8471, or Shannon Bettridge, Office of Protected Resources, 301–427–8437.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Management responsibility for blue whales and North Pacific right whales lies with the Secretary of Commerce and has been delegated to NMFS. As such, NMFS is charged with the recovery of blue and North Pacific right whales, which are listed as endangered under the ESA. The recovery planning process is guided by the statutory language of

Section 4(f) of the ESA and NMFS policies. Recovery planning identifies all methods and procedures that are necessary to recover any endangered species or threatened species. Section 4(f)(1)(B) of the ESA specifies that recovery plans must incorporate in each plan (i) a description of such site-specific management actions as may be necessary to achieve the plan’s goal for the conservation and survival of the species; (ii) objective, measurable criteria which when met, would result in a determination, that the species be removed from the list; and (iii) estimates of the time required and cost to carry out those measures needed to achieve the plan’s goal and to achieve intermediate steps toward that goal.

Section 4(f)(4) of the ESA requires that public notice and an opportunity for public review and comment be provided during recovery plan development. NMFS requests relevant information from the public during preparation of the draft Recovery Plans. Such information should address: (a) criteria for removing the these whales from the list of threatened and endangered species; (b) factors that are presently limiting, or threaten to limit, the survival of the blue and North Pacific right whales; (c) actions to address limiting factors and threats; (d) estimates of time and cost to implement recovery actions; and (e) research, monitoring and evaluation needs. Upon completion, the draft Recovery Plans will be available for public review and comment through the publication of a **Federal Register Notice**.

Authority: 6 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*

Dated: April 10, 2012.

Marta Nammack,

*Acting Chief, Endangered Species Division,
Office of Protected Resources, National
Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. 2012–9239 Filed 4–16–12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Draft Management Plan and Environmental Assessment for Monitor National Marine Sanctuary: Notice of Public Availability and Meetings

AGENCY: Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS), National Ocean Service (NOS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce (DOC).

ACTION: Notice of public availability and meetings.

SUMMARY: In accordance with section 304(e) of the National Marine Sanctuaries Act (NMSA), as amended, NOAA is soliciting public comment on the draft management plan and draft environmental assessment for Monitor National Marine Sanctuary.

DATES: *Comments:* Comments on the draft management plan and draft environmental assessment will be considered if received on or before June 22, 2012.

Public meetings: See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section below for the dates and locations for the public meetings.

ADDRESSES: To obtain a copy: For a copy of the draft management plan and draft environmental assessment, contact the Management Plan Review Coordinator, Monitor National Marine Sanctuary, 100 Museum Drive, Newport News, VA 23606. Copies can also be downloaded from the Monitor National Marine Sanctuary Web site at <http://monitor.noaa.gov>.

To submit comments: Comments on the draft management plan and draft environmental assessment may be submitted by one of the following methods:

1. **Federal eRulemaking Portal:** <http://www.regulations.gov>. Submit electronic comments via the Federal eRulemaking Portal with Docket Number NOAA–NOS–2012–0076.
2. By email to monitor@noaa.gov;
3. By providing comments (oral or written) at one of the public meetings (see public meetings section below); or
4. In writing to the Monitor NMS Management Plan Review Coordinator at 100 Museum Drive, Newport News, VA 23606.

Instructions: All comments received are a part of the public record and will be generally posted to <http://www.regulations.gov> without change. All Personal Identifying Information (for example, name, address, etc.) voluntarily submitted by the commenter may be publicly accessible. Do not submit confidential business information or otherwise sensitive or protected information. NOAA will accept anonymous comments (enter N/A in the required fields if you wish to remain anonymous). Attachments to electronic comments will be accepted in Microsoft Word, Excel, WordPerfect, or Adobe PDF file formats only.

Public meetings: See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section for the dates and locations for the public meetings.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Shannon Rides, Management Plan Review Coordinator, at (757) 591–7328.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background information

On January 30, 1975, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) designated Monitor National Marine Sanctuary (MNMS) as the nation's first national marine sanctuary (NMS). Managed by NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS), it protects the wreck of the famed Civil War ironclad, USS Monitor, best known for its battle with the Confederate ironclad, CSS Virginia in Hampton Roads, VA., on March 9, 1862. The sanctuary also promotes appreciation and responsible use of the ocean.

NOAA is undergoing a review of the Monitor NMS draft management plan pursuant to section 304(e) of the NMSA, and is now releasing the plan for public review and comment. The draft management plan (2012) was prepared by NOAA in cooperation with the Monitor NMS Sanctuary Advisory Council and with input from the public, local governments, state and federal agencies, and other stakeholders. The draft plan is comprised of eight action plans (education and outreach; research and monitoring; resource protection; visitor use; USS Monitor sailors; possible future sanctuary expansion; conservation; and operations and administration). It sets priorities to guide sanctuary programs and operations, and provides the public with a better understanding of the sanctuary's strategies to protect the USS Monitor.

The accompanying draft environmental assessment analyzes the environmental impacts of the draft management plan pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. In doing so, it analyzes two alternatives: the status quo (no change) and the preferred alternative (2012 management plan).

Public meetings

Public meetings will be held at the following locations and dates:

1. April 30, 6:30 p.m., Raleigh, NC, NC Museum of History, 5 East Edenton Street, Raleigh, NC 27601.
2. May 1, 6:30 p.m., Wilmington, NC, NC Maritime Museum, 204 E Moore Street, Southport, NC 28461.
3. May 2, 6:30 p.m., Beaufort, NC, NC Maritime Museum, 315 Front Street, Beaufort, NC 28516.
4. May 3, 6:30 p.m., Nags Head, NC, Jennette's Pier at Nags Head, 7223 South Virginia Dare Trail, Milepost 16.5, Nags Head, NC 27959.
5. May 4, 2 p.m., Newport News, VA, The Mariners' Museum, 100 Museum Drive, Newport News, VA 23606.

Dated: April 9, 2012.

Daniel J. Basta,

Director, Office of National Marine Sanctuaries.

[FR Doc. 2012-9031 Filed 4-16-12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-NK-M

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Telecommunications and Information Administration

Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; State Broadband Data and Development Grant Program Progress Report

AGENCY: National Telecommunications and Information Administration.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on the proposed revision and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before June 18, 2012.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Jennifer Jessup, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 6616, 14th and Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20230 (or via email to jjessup@doc.gov).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instruments and instructions should be directed to Anne Neville, Director, State Broadband Initiative, Department of Commerce, National Telecommunications and Information Administration, 14th and Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20230 (or via email at aneville@ntia.doc.gov).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

Section 6001 (l) of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act), Public Law 111-5 (2009), required the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information (Assistant Secretary) to develop and maintain a comprehensive, interactive, and searchable nationwide inventory map of existing broadband service capability and availability in the United States that depicts the geographic extent to which broadband service capability is deployed and available from a commercial or public provider throughout each state.

(Recovery Act section 6001(l), 123 Stat. at 516). The statute further provided that the Assistant Secretary would make the national broadband map accessible by the public on a National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Web site no later than February 17, 2011.

On July 8, 2009, NTIA issued the Notice of Funds Availability (NOFA) and Solicitation of Applications setting forth the requirements for the State Broadband Data and Development (SBDD) Grant Program (NOFA, 74 FR 32545, July 8, 2009), a competitive, merit-based matching grant program funding projects that collect comprehensive and accurate State-level broadband mapping data, develop State-level broadband maps, aid in the development and maintenance of a national broadband map, and fund statewide initiatives directed at broadband planning and capacity building.

The NOFA requires grantees to submit regular reports to NTIA. Specifically it states:

"All grantees under this Program will provide quarterly reports on:

(a) Achievement of project goals, objectives, and milestones (e.g., collection of a "substantially complete data set"; completion of data review or quality control process) as set forth by the applicant in their application timeline;

i. expenditure of grant funds and how much of the award remains;

ii. Amount of non-federal case or in-kind investment that is being added to complete the project; and

iii. whether the grantee is on schedule to provide broadband-related data in accordance with the mapping project timeline." See 74 FR 32556 (July 8, 2009).

NTIA requires these quarterly Performance Progress Reports (PPRs) in order to gauge the progress of grantees in meeting their project goals. Without such formal reporting, NTIA is unable to effectively monitor the expenditure of these Recovery Act funds. While grantees are also required to submit Recovery Act reports, these reports do not include vital details that NTIA needs in order to provide proper oversight of activities.

After reviewing recent PPRs, NTIA has identified a need to revise its existing PPR format by changing existing questions and adding new questions to improve clarity, reduce the frequency with which some information is reported, and delete certain items that are not necessary for effective performance monitoring. The revisions will improve the quality of recipients' responses and enable NTIA to better monitor and assess the extent to which the recipients are meeting program goals