

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration****DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR****Fish and Wildlife Service**

RIN 0648–XI12

Endangered and Threatened Species; Recovery Plans; Recovery Plan for the Northwest Atlantic Population of the Loggerhead Sea Turtle

AGENCIES: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce; Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: We, NMFS and USFWS, announce the availability of the revised Recovery Plan for the Northwest Atlantic Population of the Loggerhead Sea Turtle (*Caretta caretta*). The revised recovery plan includes specific recovery objectives and criteria to be met in order to delist this species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act).

ADDRESSES: The Recovery Plan for the Northwest Atlantic Population of the Loggerhead Sea Turtle is available on the Internet at <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/recovery/plans.htm#turtles> or <http://www.fws.gov/northflorida>. Copies also may be obtained by contacting NMFS Office of Protected Resources, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13657, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (telephone 301–713–1401) or USFWS North Florida Field Office, 7915 Baymeadows Way, Suite 200, Jacksonville, FL 32256 (telephone 904–731–3336).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Barbara Schroeder (ph. 301–713–1401, fax 301–713–0376, e-mail barbara.schroeder@noaa.gov) or Sandy MacPherson (ph. 904–731–3328, fax 904–731–3045, e-mail sandy_macpherson@fws.gov).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Endangered Species Act of 1973 (15 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) requires that NMFS and USFWS develop and implement recovery plans for the conservation and survival of threatened and endangered species under their jurisdiction, unless it is determined that such plans would not promote the conservation of the species. Section 4(f) of the Act requires us to provide a public notice and an opportunity for public review and comment during recovery plan development. We made the draft

revision of the Recovery Plan for the Northwest Atlantic Population of the Loggerhead Sea Turtle available for public comment from May 30, 2008, through July 29, 2008 (73 FR 31066, May 30, 2008). We considered information we received during the public comment period and information from peer reviewers in our preparation of this final revised recovery plan.

The plan discusses the natural history, current status, and the known and potential threats to the loggerhead turtle in the Northwest Atlantic. The plan lays out a recovery strategy to address the potential threats based on the best available science and includes recovery goals and criteria. The plan is not a regulatory action, but presents guidance for use by agencies and interested parties to assist in the recovery of loggerhead turtles. The plan identifies substantive actions needed to achieve recovery by addressing the threats to the species. Recovery of loggerhead turtles in the Northwest Atlantic is a long-term effort and will require cooperation and coordination of Federal, state, and local government agencies, and the community, as well as international cooperation.

Dated: January 9, 2009.

James H. Lecky,

Director, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

Dated: January 6, 2009.

Jeffrey M. Flemming,

Acting Regional Director, Southeast Region, Fish and Wildlife Service.

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BILLING CODES 3510–22–S, 4310–55–S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

RIN 0648–XL89

Incidental Takes of Marine Mammals During Specified Activities; Marine Geophysical Survey in Southeast Asia, March–July 2009

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice; proposed incidental take authorization; extension of comment period.

SUMMARY: On December 22, 2008, the NMFS announced notice of its proposed issuance of an Incidental Harassment Authorization (IHA) to Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory (L-DEO), a part of Columbia University, to take small

numbers of marine mammals, by harassment incidental to conducting a marine seismic survey in Southeast Asia during March–July 2009. Written comments were due by January 21, 2009. Under the unique circumstances of the timing of the publication of the **Federal Register** notice relative to several Federal holidays, NMFS has decided to extend the public comment period by 15 days, to February 5, 2009.

DATES: The public comment period for this action has been extended from January 21 to February 5, 2009. Written comments and information must be received no later than February 5, 2009.

ADDRESSES: Comments on the application should be addressed to P. Michael Payne, Chief, Permits, Conservation, and Education Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910–3225. The mailbox address for providing email comments is PR1.0648-XL89@noaa.gov. Comments sent via email, including all attachments, must not exceed 10–megabyte file size.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Howard Goldstein, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 301–713–2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On December 22, 2008 (73 FR 78294), the NMFS announced notice of its proposed issuance of an Incidental Harassment Authorization (IHA) to L-DEO, a part of Columbia University, to take small numbers of marine mammals by harassment incidental to conducting a marine seismic survey in Southeast Asia during March–July 2009. Under the unique circumstances of the timing of the publication of the **Federal Register** notice relative to several Federal holidays, NMFS had decided to extend the public comment period by 15 days, to February 5, 2009. The **Federal Register** notice published three days before the Christmas holiday, which fell on Thursday, December 25, 2008. The following day, Friday, December 26, 2008 was declared a Federal holiday for executive branch departments and agencies. New Year's Day, a Federal holiday, was the following Thursday, January 1, 2009. In recognition of the fact that the timing of these three holidays led many workers to be away for much of the two-week period and some non-government organizations closed their offices during that period, NMFS' public comment period for this proposed action is hereby extended to February 5, 2009. NMFS is also aware that the proposed action is for a new geographical area rather than a renewal of a prior action, where the associated