

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

RIN 0648-XA662

**Stock Assessment Reports for Dusky, Sandbar, and Blacknose Sharks in the U.S. Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of availability.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS announces the availability of final stock assessment reports for dusky, sandbar, and blacknose sharks in the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico. The reports summarize the consensus of an independent Review Panel, describe methodologies used to determine stock statuses, and detail relevant working documents, including copies of Data and Assessment workshop reports.

**ADDRESSES:** Electronic copies of the stock assessments and all supporting documents may also be obtained on the internet at: <http://www.sefsc.noaa.gov/sedar/>. A limited number of hard copies are available. Requests for these hard copies of the final stock assessment reports for dusky, sandbar, and blacknose sharks should be sent to Peter Cooper, Highly Migratory Species Management Division (F/SF1), National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910, or may be sent via facsimile (fax) to (301) 713-1917 or phone (301) 427-8503.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For information on the stock assessments, contact Peter Cooper by phone at (301) 427-8503 or by fax at (301) 713-1917.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The assessments for dusky, sandbar, and blacknose sharks were conducted as part of the Southeast Data, Assessment, and Review (SEDAR) process to ensure the best available data and techniques were used. SEDAR is a cooperative process initiated in 2002 to improve the quality and reliability of fishery stock assessments in the South Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico, and U.S. Caribbean. The SEDAR process emphasizes constituent and stakeholder participation in assessment development, transparency in the assessment process, and a rigorous and independent scientific review of completed stock assessments.

SEDAR 21, which conducted the stock assessments for dusky, sandbar, and blacknose sharks, was organized around a series of face-to-face

workshops and webinars. The first Data Workshop was held in Charleston, SC, June 21-25, 2010 (May 4, 2010, 75 FR 23676), and participants evaluated all available data and selected appropriate sources for providing information on life history characteristics, catch statistics, discard estimates, length and age composition, and fishery dependent and fishery independent measures of stock abundance.

The Assessment Process was conducted via a series of webinars between September 2010 and January 2011 (August 26, 2010, 75 FR 52510; October 12, 2010, 75 FR 62506; November 17, 2010, 75 FR 70216; December 16, 2010, 75 FR 78679). During the assessment process, the assessment models were developed and population parameters were estimated using the information provided from the Data Workshop.

The Review Workshop was the final workshop, in which a panel of independent experts met in Annapolis, MD, April 18-22, 2011 (March 15, 2011, 76 FR 13985), and reviewed the data and assessments developed during the Data Workshop and Assessment Webinars. All workshops and webinars were open to the public. More information on the SEDAR process can be found at <http://www.sefsc.noaa.gov/sedar/>. Additionally, the final stock assessment reports and all supporting documents can be found at that Web site under the heading "SEDAR 21—HMS Sandbar, Dusky, and Blacknose Sharks."

Sandbar and dusky sharks were each assessed as one stock whereas, for the first time, blacknose sharks were assessed as two separate stocks: an Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico stock. The stock assessments provide information on the status of the stocks and project their future abundance under a variety of catch levels in the U.S. Atlantic Ocean, Gulf of Mexico, and Caribbean Sea. The 2010 assessments include updated catch estimates, new biological data, and a number of fishery-independent and fishery-dependent catch rate series for each species.

The Review Panel for the Review Workshop of SEDAR 21 found that the data and methods used were appropriate and the best available for the dusky, sandbar, and Atlantic blacknose shark assessments. However, because the assessment model for the Gulf of Mexico blacknose stock was unable to fit the apparent trends in some of the abundance indices, and because there was a fundamental lack of fit of the model to some of the input data, the Review Panel did not accept the stock assessment for the Gulf of Mexico blacknose stock. Based on these

assessments, NMFS will be making stock status determinations in an upcoming **Federal Register** notice for four separate stocks: (1) Dusky Sharks, (2) sandbar sharks, (3) Gulf of Mexico blacknose sharks, and (4) Atlantic blacknose sharks. NMFS is also considering amending the 2006 Consolidated Highly Migratory Species Fishery Management Plan, as necessary.

**Authority:** 16 U.S.C. 971 *et seq.*, and 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: September 28, 2011.

**Steven Thur,**

*Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. 2011-25429 Filed 9-30-11; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE****Department of the Navy****Notice of Intent To Prepare a Supplement to the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the TRIDENT Support Facilities Explosives Handling Wharf, Naval Base Kitsap at Bangor, Silverdale, Kitsap County, WA**

**AGENCY:** Department of the Navy, DoD.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to section 102 of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, and the regulations implemented by the Council on Environmental Quality (40 CFR parts 1500-1508), the Department of the Navy (DoN) announces its intent to prepare a Supplement to the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the proposed second Explosives Handling Wharf (EHW-2) at Naval Base Kitsap at Bangor, Silverdale, WA. The Supplement to the DEIS will focus on the methodology used to assess the potential for injurious impacts to the marbled murrelet from impact pile driving, the construction and operation of new facilities and associated infrastructure, and compensatory mitigation options under consideration.

**Dates and Addresses:** Written comments must be submitted within 45 days of the **Federal Register** publication date for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Notice of Availability (NOA) of this Supplement to the DEIS, and should be addressed to: Naval Facilities Engineering Command Northwest, 1101 Tautog Circle, Silverdale, WA 98315-1101, Attn: Christine Stevenson, EHW-2 EIS Project Manager. Written comments may also be submitted online at <http://ehw.nbkeis.com> during the comment period.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Naval Facilities Engineering Command Northwest, 1101 Tautog Circle, Silverdale, WA 98315-1101, Attn: Christine Stevenson, EHW-2 EIS Project Manager, 360-396-0080; or <http://ehw.nbkeis.com>.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On May 15, 2009, the DoN provided notice in the **Federal Register** (74 FR 22900) of its intent to prepare an EIS for TRIDENT Support Facilities EHW-2, Naval Base Kitsap at Bangor, Silverdale, Kitsap County, WA and to announce public scoping meetings. The DoN held public scoping meetings in Poulsbo, Port Ludlow, and Seattle, WA during June 2009. The DoN prepared and filed a DEIS with the EPA to evaluate the potential environmental effects of constructing and operating an EHW-2 at Naval Base Kitsap Bangor. A NOA was published in the **Federal Register** by the EPA on March 18, 2011 (76 FR 14968) for the DoN's DEIS, announcing availability of the DEIS and commencing the 45 day public comment period. The DoN extended the public comment period to 60 days and published a notice of extension of the comment period for the DEIS in the **Federal Register** on May 3, 2011 (76 FR 24868). The EPA published a NOA revision on May 13, 2011 (76 FR 28029) announcing the comment period extension. The DoN's Notice of Public Hearing for the DEIS was published in the **Federal Register** on March 21, 2011 (76 FR 15302). Public hearings were held in Poulsbo, Chimacum, and Seattle, WA to receive oral and written comments on the Draft EIS.

This Supplement to the DEIS will include analysis of new information that has become available since release of the DEIS. The DEIS analysis of noise impacts to the marbled murrelet, a species listed as federally threatened under the Endangered Species Act, was based on an underwater physical injury threshold of 180 dBpeak re: 1μPa for any single impact hammer strike. Concurrent with publication of the DEIS, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) proposed an interim criterion of 183 dB Sound Exposure Level (SEL) re: 1μPa<sup>2</sup>-sec. The USFWS and the DoN collaborated to form the Marbled Murrelet Science Panel to assist in development of a scientifically-based injury criterion. The USFWS accepted the panel's recommendation and notified the DoN on August 5, 2011 that the Endangered Species Act section 7 consultation on EHW-2 would be based on this new criterion. This Supplement analyzes the impacts to the marbled murrelet for all alternatives, based on

the new underwater noise injury criterion of 202 dB SEL re: 1μPa<sup>2</sup>-sec cumulative of all impact hammer strikes in a 24-hour period.

The DEIS analyzed the impacts of modifying or demolishing approximately 20 existing facilities and/or structures in proximity to the EHW-2 to comply with Department of Defense Explosives Safety Board and Naval Ordnance Safety and Security Activity requirements to protect buildings located in the vicinity of explosives handling operations. Since release of the DEIS, the DoN has determined that four new buildings and associated infrastructure would be constructed to replace the functions of five buildings to be demolished. This Supplement will analyze the impacts from construction and operation of the four new buildings and associated infrastructure. Three buildings would be constructed on a 2.6 acre upland site located northwest of Service Pier and 2.2 miles south of the existing EHW. These buildings would house the functions of an Administrative/Construction Field Office, an Inert Storage building, a Rigging Shop, and a Refit Support Facility and would include paved and fenced storage areas, associated roads, parking, and sidewalks. The fourth building, a pure water facility, would be constructed along the Bangor waterfront at the end of Delta Pier on a 0.5 acre site located approximately 1.0 miles south of the existing EHW. This facility would house the function of the existing Pure Water Facility to be demolished and would consist of a treatment building, an auxiliary water storage tank, liquid nitrogen storage tank, sewage tank and pump, loading aprons, parking areas, and new water lines between the facility and Delta Pier.

The DEIS presented compensatory mitigation the DoN is considering and identified the In Lieu Fee (ILF) Program as the preferred compensatory mitigation for the unavoidable impacts to aquatic resources from the proposed action as described in the Mitigation Action Plan in the DEIS. Since the public release of the DEIS, further development of the ILF Program has occurred. In addition to the preferred ILF compensatory mitigation strategy, the DoN is also considering other compensatory mitigation alternatives. The DoN continues to review the feasibility, habitat values, and potential benefits of all mitigation alternatives. This Supplement discusses compensatory mitigation alternatives in regard to Dabob Bay Conservation and Washington State Parks Mitigation.

The DoN is soliciting comments on the Supplement to the DEIS. Federal,

state, and local agencies, American Indian tribes, and interested persons are encouraged to provide written comments. All written comments will become part of the public record and will be responded to in the Final EIS. Written comments must be postmarked within 45 days of the **Federal Register** publication date for the EPA's NOA of this Supplement to the DEIS. Written comments should be submitted to: Naval Facilities Engineering Command Northwest, 1101 Tautog Circle, Silverdale, WA 98315-1101, Attn: Christine Stevenson, EHW-2 EIS Project Manager. Written Comments may also be submitted online at <http://ehw.nbkeis.com> during the comment period.

All public comments previously received during the March through May 2011 DEIS public comment period are still valid and will be considered and addressed in the Final EIS for this action. Previously submitted comments need not be resubmitted. A NOA of the Supplement to the DEIS will be published by the EPA in the **Federal Register**. No decision will be made to implement the proposed action until the EIS process is completed and a Record of Decision is signed by the DoN.

Dated: September 28, 2011.

**J. M. Beal,**

*Lieutenant Commander, Office of the Judge Advocate General, U.S. Navy, Federal Register Liaison Officer.*

[FR Doc. 2011-25421 Filed 9-30-11; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3810-FF-P**

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

#### Combined Notice of Filings #2

Take notice that the Commission received the following electric rate filings:

*Docket Numbers:* ER11-4595-000.

*Applicants:* Palmco Power OH, LLC.

*Description:* Palmco Power OH, LLC submits tariff filing per 35.1: Palmco Power OH FERC Electric Tariff to be effective 9/22/2011.

*Filed Date:* 09/22/2011.

*Accession Number:* 20110922-5030.

*Comment Date:* 5 p.m. Eastern Time on Thursday, October 13, 2011.

*Docket Numbers:* ER11-4596-000.

*Applicants:* South Carolina Electric & Gas Company.

*Description:* South Carolina Electric & Gas Company submits tariff filing per 35.13(a)(2)(iii): Attachment C—Revision for Clarification to be effective 9/22/2011.