

Zone Management Program and the North Carolina National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR).

The Coastal Zone Management Program evaluation will be conducted pursuant to section 312 of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (CZMA), as amended and regulations at 15 CFR part 923.

The NERR evaluation will be conducted pursuant to section 315 of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (CZMA), as amended and regulations at 15 CFR part 921, subpart E and part 923, subpart L.

The CZMA requires a continuing review of the performance of states with respect to coastal program and research reserve program implementation. Evaluation of Coastal Zone Management Programs and National Estuarine Research Reserves require findings concerning the extent to which a state has met the national objectives, adhered to its coastal program document or the Reserve's final management plan approved by the Secretary of Commerce, and adhered to the terms of financial assistance awards funded under the CZMA.

The evaluations will include a site visit, consideration of public comments, and consultations with interested Federal, State, and local agencies and members of the public. Public meetings are held as part of the site visits.

Notice is hereby given of the dates of the site visits for the listed evaluations, and the dates, local times, and locations of public meetings during the site visits.

The Ohio Coastal Zone Management Program evaluation site visit will be from June 26–30, 2000. The public meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 28, 2000, at 7:30 P.M., in the Visitor's Center at the Old Woman Creek National Estuarine Research Reserve, 2514 Cleveland Road, Huron, Ohio.

The North Carolina National Estuarine Research site visit will be from May 22–26, 2000. Public meetings will be held on Tuesday, May 23, 2000, at 7:00 P.M., in the Currituck County Satellite Office, Corolla, North Carolina; Wednesday, May 24, 2000, at 7:00 P.M., in the Marine Laboratory Auditorium, Duke University, Beaufort, North Carolina; and Thursday, May 25, 2000, at 7:00 P.M., at the Bryan Auditorium in Morton Hall, University of North Carolina at Wilmington, Wilmington, North Carolina.

Copies of the State's most recent performance reports, as well as OCRM's notifications and supplemental request letters to the States, are available upon request from OCRM. Written comments from interested parties regarding these Programs are encouraged and will be

accepted until 15 days after the public meeting. Please direct written comments to Margo E. Jackson, Deputy Director, Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, NOS/NOAA, 1305 East-West Highway, 10th Floor, Silver Spring, Maryland, 20910. When the evaluation is completed, OCRM will place a notice in the **Federal Register** announcing the availability of the Final Evaluation Findings.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Margo E. Jackson, Deputy Director, Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, NOS/NOAA, 1305 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, Maryland, 20910, (301) 713–3155, Extension 114.

(Federal Domestic Assistance Catalog 11.419, Coastal Zone Management Program Administration)

Dated: May 2, 2000.

John Oliver,

Chief Financial Officer, Chief Administrative Officer, National Ocean Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 041900C]

Incidental Take of Marine Mammals; Bottlenose Dolphins and Spotted Dolphins

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

ACTION: Notice of issuance of letters of authorization.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), as amended, and implementing regulations, notification is hereby given that letters of authorization (LOAs) to take bottlenose and spotted dolphins incidental to oil and gas structure removal activities were issued on February 4, 2000, to Taylor Energy Company of New Orleans, LA, and to Unocal Corporation of Lafayette, LA, on February 13, 2000, to Chevron U.S.A. of New Orleans, LA, on March 6, 2000 to Energy Resource Technology, Inc, on March 22, 2000, to Torch Operating Company, on April 21, 2000 to PennzEnergy, Newfield Exploration Company, and The Houston Exploration Company, all from Houston, TX, and to CNG Producing Company from New Orleans, Louisiana.

ADDRESSES: The applications and letters are available for review in the following

offices: Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910, and the Southeast Region, NMFS, 9721 Executive Center Drive N, St. Petersburg, FL 33702.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Kenneth R. Hollingshead, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, (301) 713–2055, ext 128.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Section 101(a)(5)(A) of the MMPA (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) directs NMFS to allow, on request, the incidental, but not intentional, taking of small numbers of marine mammals by U.S. citizens who engage in a specified activity (other than commercial fishing) within a specified geographical region, if certain findings are made and regulations are issued. Under the MMPA, the term “taking” means to harass, hunt, capture, or kill or to attempt to harass, hunt, capture or kill marine mammals.

Permission may be granted for periods up to 5 years if NMFS finds, after notification and opportunity for public comment, that the taking will have a negligible impact on the species or stock(s) of marine mammals and will not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of the species or stock(s) for subsistence uses. In addition, NMFS must prescribe regulations that include permissible methods of taking and other means effecting the least practicable adverse impact on the species and its habitat, and on the availability of the species for subsistence uses, paying particular attention to rookeries, mating grounds, and areas of similar significance. The regulations must include requirements pertaining to the monitoring and reporting of such taking. Regulations governing the taking of bottlenose and spotted dolphins incidental to oil and gas structure removal activities in the Gulf of Mexico were published on October 12, 1995 (60 FR 53139), and remain in effect until November 13, 2000. However, because these regulations will expire on November 13, 2000, that is the expiration date for all LOAs issued under these regulations.

Dated: May 2, 2000.

Art Jeffers,

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

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