

Delaware Recovery Unit; (2) determining that these 185 populations are stable or increasing over a 25-year period; (3) eliminating or significantly curbing illicit collection and trade in this species; and (4) gaining a sufficient understanding of long-term habitat dynamics.

The Actions needed to accomplish recovery objectives will include a combination of protecting known extant populations and their habitat using existing regulations; securing long-term protection of bog turtle sites; conducting surveys of known, historic, and potential bog turtle habitat; investigating the genetic variability of the bog turtle throughout its range; reintroducing bog turtles into areas from which they have been extirpated or removed; managing and maintaining bog turtle habitat to ensure its continuing suitability for bog turtles; managing bog turtle populations at extant sites, where necessary; creating an effective law enforcement program to halt illicit take and commercialization of bog turtles; and developing and implementing an effective outreach and education program about bog turtles.

The draft Recovery Plan is being submitted for agency review. After consideration of comments received during the review period, the Plan will be submitted for final approval.

#### Public Comments Solicited

The Service solicits written comments on the Recovery Plan described. All comments received by the date specified above will be considered prior to approval of the Plan.

**Authority:** The authority for this action is Section 4(f) of the Endangered Species Act, 16 U.S.C. 1533(f).

Dated: September 21, 2000.

**Mamie A. Parker,**

*Acting Regional Director, Hadley, MA.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

#### The Secretary of the Interior Adopts National Framework for Survey of Boat Access Needs

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Secretary of the Interior has adopted the National Boating Infrastructure Grant Program's survey approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under control number 1018-0106 as the national framework for boating access needs required in 16 U.S.C. 777g-1 Sec. 7404(b).

**ADDRESSES:** For copies of the national framework survey, contact Mr. Steve Farrell, Boating Infrastructure Grants Project Officer, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Federal Aid, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Suite 140, Arlington, Virginia, 22203, (703) 358-2156 or [Steve\\_Farrell@fws.gov](mailto:Steve_Farrell@fws.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Steve Farrell (703) 358-2156.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Public Law 105-178, Transportation Equity Act of the 21st Century (TEA-21), June 9, 1998, requires that the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the States, shall adopt a national framework for a public boat access needs assessment that may be used by the States to determine the adequacy, number, location, and quality of facilities providing access to recreational waters for all sizes of recreational boats. The Secretary has delegated the responsibility for developing the national framework to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service). The Service has received OMB approval for a survey that will serve as the national framework. State officials may obtain the survey by contacting the person listed under **ADDRESSES**.

Each State that conducts a public boat access needs survey shall report its findings to the Secretary for use in the development of a comprehensive national assessment of recreational boat

access needs and currently available facilities. This report is expected to be presented to Congress at the end of 2003. States may fund the cost of conducting this assessment out of Sport Fish Restoration funds dedicated to motorboat access to recreational waters under 16 U.S.C. 777g-1 Sec. 7404, subsection (b)(1).

States, using data gained through these surveys, may develop plans for the construction, renovation, and maintenance of facilities for transient nontrailerable recreational vessels, and access to those facilities, to meet the needs of nontrailerable recreational vessels operating on navigable waters in the State.

The comprehensive national assessment of recreational boat access needs and facilities presented to Congress at the end of 2003 may be used to help determine future legislative action related to recreational boating access needs.

Dated: September 15, 2000.

**Jamie Rappaport Clark,**

*Director, Fish and Wildlife Service.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

#### Letters of Authorization To Take Marine Mammals

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of issuance of a Letter of Authorization to take marine mammals incidental to oil and gas industry activities.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with section 101(a)(5)(A) of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service implementing regulations [50 CFR 18.27(f)(3)], notice is hereby given that a Letter of Authorization to take polar bears incidental to oil and gas industry development remediation activities has been issued to the following company:

Company	Activity	Date issued
ExxonMobil Production .....	Development .....	August 18, 2000.

Exxon Company CONTACT: Mr. John W. Bridges at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Marine Mammals Management Office, 1011 East Tudor Road, Anchorage, Alaska 99503, (800) 362-5148 or (907) 786-3810.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Letters of Authorization were issued in accordance with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Federal Rules and Regulations "Marine Mammals; Incidental Take

During Specified Activities (65 FR 16828; March 30, 2000)."