

the State Director. The notice will state EPA's intent to terminate under the rules and will include a brief statement of EPA's reasons for its action. The termination will take effect 60 days from the date of the notice, unless the EPA Regional Administrator for Region 4 issues a written notice rescinding the termination.

(9) Compliance Requirements in the Event of Termination or Withdrawal. The Buncombe County Solid Waste Management Facility will be subject to all regulatory provisions applicable to MSWLFs upon termination of authority under this section. In the event of early termination of this section, the EPA Regional Administrator for Region 4 may provide an interim period of compliance to allow Buncombe County a reasonable period of time for transition following cessation of liquids addition.

(b) [Reserved]

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BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

43 CFR Parts 3000, 3100, 3200, 3400, 3500, 3600, and 3800

[WO-610-4111-02-24-IA]

RIN 1004-AC64

Oil and Gas Leasing; Geothermal Resources Leasing; Coal Management; Management of Solid Minerals Other Than Coal; Mineral Materials Disposal; and Mining Claims Under the General Mining Laws

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Proposed rule; notice of extension of public comment period.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is extending the public comment period on a Notice of Proposed Rule, published in the **Federal Register** on December 15, 2000 (65 FR 78440). The proposed rule would amend BLM mineral resources regulations to increase fees and to impose new fees to cover BLM's costs of processing certain documents relating to its minerals programs. The primary purpose of this rule is to charge those who benefit from these minerals programs, rather than the general public, the costs of BLM minerals documents processing. In response to public requests for additional time, BLM had extended the comment period 60 days from the original comment period

closing date of February 13, 2001, to the extended comment period's closing date of April 16, 2001. BLM is now extending the comment period by an additional 75 days to a closing date of July 2, 2001, so all segments of the affected public have enough time to respond to the proposed rule. BLM is especially interested in receiving comments related to the impact of recovering these processing costs, particularly those assessed on a case-by-case basis, on small, independent oil, gas, and minerals operations. We encourage comments and suggestions on possible mechanisms to control administrative costs and reduce the uncertainty of processing costs.

DATES: Send your comments to BLM on or before July 2, 2001, to assure BLM will consider them in preparing the final rule.

ADDRESSES: Send your comments to the Bureau of Land Management, Administrative Record, Room 401 LS, 1849 C Street, NW., Washington, DC 20240, or hand deliver comments to the Bureau of Land Management Administrative Record, Room 401, 1620 L Street, NW., Washington, DC. For information about filing comments electronically, see the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section under "Electronic access and filing address."

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For questions about fluid minerals (oil, gas, geothermal resources) call Kermit Witherbee at (202) 452-0335. For questions about solid minerals, including coal, Durga Rimal at (202) 452-0372. If you require a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD), you may call the Federal Information Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339 between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Eastern time, Monday through Friday, excluding Federal holidays.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Electronic Access and Filing Address

You can view an electronic version of this proposed rule at BLM's Internet home page: www.blm.gov. You can also comment via the Internet to: WOCComment@blm.gov. Please include "Attention: AC64" and your name and return address in your Internet message. If you do not receive a confirmation from our system that we have received your Internet message, contact us directly at (202) 452-5030.

Written Comments

Written comments on the proposed rule should:

- A. Be specific;
- B. Be confined to issues pertinent to the proposed rule;

- C. Explain the reason for any recommended change; and
- D. Reference the specific section or paragraph of the proposal you are addressing.

The BLM may not necessarily consider or include in the Administrative Record for the final rule comments which BLM receives after the close of the comment period (See **DATES**) or comments delivered to an address other than those listed above (See **ADDRESSES**).

You can review comments, including names, street addresses, and other contact information of respondents at this address during regular business hours (7:45 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.), Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. If you are an individual respondent you may request confidentiality. If you request that BLM consider withholding your name, street address, and other contact information (such as: Internet address, FAX or phone number) from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comment. BLM will honor requests for confidentiality on a case-by-case basis to the extent allowed by law. BLM will make available for public inspection in their entirety all submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses.

Dated: April 10, 2001.

Piet deWitt,

Acting Assistant Secretary, Land and Minerals Management.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 216

[Docket No. 990927266-0240-02; I.D. 072699A]

RIN 0648-AM62

Taking and Importing Marine Mammals; Taking Marine Mammals Incidental to Navy Operations of Surveillance Towed Array Sensor System Low Frequency Active Sonar

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

ACTION: Notice of public hearings and extension of comment deadline.

SUMMARY: By this document, NMFS announces the times, dates, and locations for public hearings in order to receive comments from the general public on the U.S. Navy's application for a Letter of Authorization for the take of small numbers of marine mammals by harassment incidental to Navy operations of the Surveillance Towed Array Sensor System Low Frequency Active (SURTASS LFA) Sonar. NMFS also announces an extension of the comment deadline in order to allow the public sufficient time following the close of the public hearings to submit written comments.

DATES: Public hearings on the proposed rule are scheduled as follows:

1. April 26, 2001, 6 p.m. - 9 p.m., Los Angeles, CA.
2. April 28, 2001, 1 p.m. - 5 p.m., Honolulu, HI.
3. May 3, 2001 9 a.m. - 12 noon, Silver Spring, MD.

Comments must be postmarked no later than May 18, 2001. Comments will not be accepted if submitted via e-mail or the Internet.

ADDRESSES: The public meetings will be held at the following locations:

1. Los Angeles: Renaissance Hotel, 9620 Airport Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA.
2. Honolulu: Marriott Waikiki Beach Hotel, 2552 Kalakaua Avenue, Honolulu, HI.

3. Silver Spring: Silver Spring Metro Center Building 4, Auditorium, 1301 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD.

Comments should be addressed to Donna Wieting, Chief, Marine Mammal Conservation Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910-3226.

A copy of the Navy's application is available and may be obtained by writing to this address or by telephoning one of the contact listed here.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kenneth R. Hollingshead, NMFS (301) 713-2055, ext 128 or Christina Fahy, (562) 980-4023.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 101(a)(5)(A) of the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) directs the Secretary of Commerce to allow, upon 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. Permission may be granted for periods of 5 years or less if the Secretary finds that the taking will be small, have a negligible impact on the species or stock(s) of affected marine mammals, and will not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of the species or stock(s) for subsistence uses, and if regulations are prescribed setting forth the permissible methods of taking and the requirements pertaining to the monitoring and reporting of such taking.

Under section 101(a)(5)(A) of the MMPA, on March 19, 2001, NMFS published a proposed rule (66 FR 15375) to authorize the taking of marine mammals incidental to the world-wide deployment of the U.S. Navy's SURTASS LFA sonar. That document noted that public hearings would be held, if requested. On March 26, 2001, NMFS received the first of numerous requests for a hearing and has determined that public hearings are warranted. In addition, to allow the public sufficient time after the public hearing to submit written comments, NMFS has extended the deadline for public comment from May 3, 2001, to May 18, 2001.

At the public hearings, a brief presentation will precede a request for public information and comments. Those who intend to speak will be asked to submit a speaker card (available at the door). Although oral comments will be heard, all statements, including graphics, should be submitted in writing to assure an accurate public record. All statements and documents submitted will become part of the public record on this rulemaking. Questions limited to NMFS' responsibilities under the MMPA regarding the subject action must be made during the speaker's comment time.

Speakers will have the option to submit additional, supplemental, or replacement comments prior to the deadline for the public comment. If 20 or more speaker cards are received at either hearing, NMFS may request all speakers to limit their presentations to 3 to 5 minutes, in order to allow all potential speakers the opportunity to present their statements.

These hearings will be physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other aids should be directed to one of the contacts listed (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**) at least 10 days prior to the hearing date.

Dated: April 4, 2001.

Donald R. Knowles,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 224

[Docket No. 000303059-1019-02; I.D. No. 021700B]

RIN 0648-XA49

Endangered and Threatened Species; Proposed Endangered Status for a Distinct Population Segment of Smalltooth Sawfish (*Pristis pectinata*) in the United States

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

ACTION: Proposed rule, notice of availability; request for comments.

SUMMARY: NMFS has completed a comprehensive status review of smalltooth sawfish and has determined that a petitioned action to list North American populations of smalltooth sawfish as endangered is warranted. A distinct population segment (DPS) of smalltooth sawfish in the United States is in danger of extinction. NMFS has reviewed the status of the species and efforts being made to protect the species and is proposing to place the U.S. DPS of smalltooth sawfish on the list of endangered species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA). NMFS has determined that this DPS is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range from a combination of the following four listing factors: The present or threatened destruction, modification, or curtailment of habitat or range; overutilization for commercial, recreational, scientific, or educational purposes; inadequacy of existing regulatory mechanisms; and other natural or manmade factors affecting its continued existence. If this proposed listing is finalized, the protective measures of the ESA will be extended to the U.S. DPS of smalltooth sawfish, a recovery plan will be prepared and implemented, and critical habitat may be designated.

DATES: Comments on this proposal and on the December 2000 Smalltooth Sawfish Status Review must be received