

PUBLIC INPUT

NMFS needs your participation in scoping for the EIS

What is Scoping?

NEPA requires that NMFS include scoping as part of the EIS process. Scoping is defined as "an early and open process for determining the scope of issues to be addressed and for identifying the significant issues related to a proposed action."

Your involvement and input are essential to the EIS process. Many opportunities exist to be involved in the EIS on Northern Right Whale Research in the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.

- Participate in a scoping meeting
- Identify specific issues
- Submit comments
- Make sure that you are on the mailing list
- Review the Draft EIS
- Participate in a public hearing
- Comment on the Draft EIS
- Review the Final EIS



Photo: IFAW T. Samson

Photo: PCCS



NMFS would like you to answer or provide information, beyond what has been identified in the Northern Right Whale Recovery Plan, on the following:

- What are the research needs? How will they benefit the species?
- What are the most appropriate methods to conduct studies or to gain information?
- How much of a specific research activity is enough for management? Can there be too much? How should NMFS set limits?
- Should more restrictions be placed on research conducted for certain segments of the population? What are the sensitive classes/stages and what should those limitations be?
- How should research be coordinated to maximize information and reduce adverse impacts?
- Should NMFS consider limiting the number of permits to increase coordination and cooperation? How should this be accomplished?
- Should researchers be required to coordinate with other permit holders to ensure that NMFS can use all data to recover the species? If so, what methods are most appropriate for each research category? If not, how should NMFS compare or use the data from various permit holders in its management decisions?
- How much prior experience should research participants, including the applicant and principal investigator, have for the specific methods identified in the permit?
- Provide references for possible effects of the various research methods.
- Provide recommendations for study designs that could detect or predict the effects of research on right whales.

Photo: M. Moore, WHOI



Photo: MMC

Information Repository Sites:

NOAA Central Library
1315 East-West Highway
2nd Floor, SSMC3
Silver Spring, MD 20910

New Bedford Library
613 Pleasant Street
New Bedford, MA 02740

La Jolla/Riford
Branch Library
7555 Draper Avenue
San Diego, CA 92037

Tentative Schedule:

Scoping Meetings:
November 2005 -
January 2006

Draft EIS Issued:
October 2006

Public Hearings:
January 2007

Final EIS:
July 2007

Record of Decision:
August 2007

Contacts:

Carrie Hubbard or Tammy Adams
Permits, Conservation and Education Division
Office of Protected Resources
NMFS 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705
Silver Spring, MD 20910
Phone: 301-713-2289

Address your comments by January 31, 2006 to:

Stephen L. Leathery, Chief
Permits, Conservation, and Education Division
Office of Protected Resources
NMFS 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705
Silver Spring, MD 20910
rweis.comments@noaa.gov
Fax: 301-427-2582

For More Information:

<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/rightwhale/>

Scoping Meeting Dates and Locations:

PLACE	DATE
New Bedford, MA The Annual Meeting of the North Atlantic Right Whale Consortium New Bedford Whaling Museum, Auditorium, 18 Johnny Cake Hill	Thursday November 3, 2005 3:00 to 6:00 pm
San Diego, CA 16 th Biennial Conference of the Society for Marine Mammalogy Manchester Grand Hyatt San Diego, Elizabeth A. One Market Place	Saturday December 10, 2005 6:30 to 9:30 pm
Silver Spring, MD Silver Spring Metro Center, Building IV, Science Center, 1301 East-West Highway	Thursday January 19, 2006 1:00 to 4:00 pm

