

DATES: Public meetings will be held on: August 27, 1979 at 9:30 a.m., in Anchorage, Alaska; August 29, 1979, at 9:30 a.m., on St. Paul Island, Alaska; and September 6, 1979, at 9:30 a.m., in Washington, D.C.

ADDRESSES: Public meetings will be held at the following locations: 333 West 4th Avenue, Suite 32, Anchorage, Alaska, Town Hall, St. Paul Island, Alaska; and National Marine Fisheries Service Headquarters, Page Building No. 1, Penthouse, 2001 Wisconsin Avenue, NW., Washington, D.C.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Douglas W. McCaleb, Office of International Fisheries Affairs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, Washington, D.C. 20235, telephone (202) 634-7257.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On July 27, 1979, the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) on the Interim Convention on Conservation of North Pacific Fur Seals became publicly available. The purpose of the meetings hereby announced is to receive oral comments on the DEIS pursuant to preparation of a final environmental impact statement (FEIS). Written comments or questions should be submitted by September 10, 1979, to: Dr. William Aron, Director, Office of Marine Mammals and Endangered Species, National Marine Fisheries Service, 3300 Whitehaven Street, NW., Washington, D.C. 20235. One copy of these comments or questions should be sent to: Dr. Sidney R. Galler, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Environmental Affairs, Room 3425, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, D.C. 20230. The present Convention expires in October 1980. The FEIS will be used by the United States Government in determining an appropriate course of action for future conservation of North Pacific fur seals.

Dated: August 8, 1979.

Winfred H. Meibohm,

Executive Director, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 79-24623 Filed 8-9-79; 8:45 am]

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Announcement of Preliminary List of Active Candidates for Marine Sanctuary Designation

AGENCY: Office of Coastal Zone Management (OCZM), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: On July 31, 1979, NOAA published regulations revising its procedures for nominating and designating marine sanctuaries (15 CFR Part 922, 44 FR 44831, Tuesday, July 31, 1979). These revised procedures call for NOAA to select, following specified procedures and criteria, Active Candidates for marine sanctuary designation from a List of Recommended Areas which contains those areas with at least some potential for designation. An initial list of Recommended Areas must be published within 3 months of the effective date of the regulation.

Section 922.23(d) of these regulations provides that sites under review prior to the effective date shall be considered Active Candidates if a Public Workshop has been held or scheduled to be held in the area or areas most affected to solicit the views of interested persons on whether the site should be further considered for designation and whether modification may be appropriate.

Accordingly the following sites are hereby named Active Candidates:

1. Flower Garden Banks (off Louisiana and Texas).
2. The Northern Channel Islands and Santa Barbara Island (off California).
3. Monterey Bay (off California).
4. Point Reyes/Farallon Islands (off California).
5. Looe Key (off Florida).
6. Georges Bank (off New England).
7. St. Thomas, Virgin Islands.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT:

For information and copies of the documents available on any site, contact, JoAnn Chandler, Director, Sanctuary Programs Office, Office of Coastal Zone Management, NOAA, Page Building 1, 3300 Whitehaven Street, NW., Washington, D.C. 20235.

Robert L. Carnahan,
Deputy Assistant Administrator for Administration.

August 3, 1979.

[FR Doc. 79-24706 Filed 8-9-79; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-06-M

Evaluation of a Possible Marine Sanctuary Site in the Georges Bank Area—Notice of the Availability of an Issue Paper and the Conduct of a Public Workshop

AGENCY: Office of Coastal Zone Management (OCZM), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: A nomination of a marine sanctuary encompassing the entire Georges Bank area was submitted to the

Secretary of Commerce on May 10, 1979, by the Gloucester Fishermen's Wives Association, Boat Owners United, Seafood Producers Association, New Bedford Fishermen's Union, Chatham Seafood Cooperative, Old Harbor Fish Company, National Coalition for Marine Conservation, and the Conservation Law Foundation of New England, Inc. Additionally, certain discrete areas within the larger area have been recommended for consideration.

Pursuant to Title III of the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act of 1972, 16 U.S.C. 1431-1434, OCZM is evaluating the possibility of designating a marine sanctuary in the Georges Bank area and has declared it an Active Candidate. (See elsewhere in this issue.) As part of the evaluation, an Issue Paper has been prepared describing the distinctive resources of the potential site, the present and prospective uses, existing government programs aimed at protecting those resources, and alternative boundaries and regulations that might be utilized for a marine sanctuary.

The Issue Paper is being distributed to inform interested agencies and persons of the evaluation of the site and to gather comment and further information on the area. In order to facilitate such comment and to answer questions concerning the Issue Paper and the Marine Sanctuary Program, OCZM will conduct three public workshops the third week of August as described below.

Written and oral comments and information received in response to the Issue Paper and information gathered at the workshop will provide guidance on OCZM's decision whether to proceed to prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement on a specific proposal for a Marine Sanctuary at this site. To be fully considered in this decision, comments should be received by September 1, 1979.

DATES: The following *Public Workshops* have been scheduled:

August 22, 1979, The Ramada Inn, 1230 Congress St., Portland, Maine 04102, 8:00-10:30 p.m.

August 23, 1979, Gloucester City Hall, Dale Avenue, Gloucester, Mass. 01930, 8:00-10:30 p.m.

August 24, 1979, The Holiday Inn, 500 Hathaway Road, New Bedford, Mass. 02740, 8:00-10:30 p.m.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT: JoAnn Chandler, Director, or Dr. Richard J. Podgorny, Project Manager, Sanctuary Programs Office, Office of Coastal Zone Management, NOAA, 3300 Whitehaven Street, NW., Washington, D.C. 20235; (202) 634-4236.