

**Proposed Estuarine Sanctuary,
Hudson River, New York; Intent To
Conduct Scoping Meeting and Prepare
Environmental Impact Statement**

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

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Office of Coastal Zone Management (OCZM), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), intends to conduct a scoping meeting on March 18, 1982, and prepare a draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) on a proposed estuarine sanctuary on the Hudson River in New York, in accordance with the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and section 315 of the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA). Designation of the sanctuary would protect and manage approximately 3,080 acres of important estuarine habitat at four sites along the Hudson River from southern most Piermont March (290 acres), Iona Island (240 acres), Tivoli Bay (675 acres) to the northernmost site of Stockport Marshes (1,855 acres). The distances between sites range from 20 miles to 50 miles.

Discussion

The estuarine sanctuary proposal is currently being developed in consultation with the State of New York, Federal agencies, and affected public groups. The proposal, as a federally assisted action, has been reviewed by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Office of Natural Resources, in accordance with OMB Circular A-66.

The Office of Coastal Zone Management will hold a scoping meeting on March 18, 1982, at 10:00 a.m. in the Navy Conference Room at Page Building #1, Office of Coastal Zone Management, 2001 Wisconsin Avenue, NW., Washington, D.C. 20235. Interested parties who wish to submit suggestions, comments, or substantive information concerning the scope or content of this proposed environmental impact statement are invited to attend. Parties who wish to respond in writing should do so by March 29, 1982. The DEIS will be prepared in compliance with the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations (FR. Vol. 43 November 29, 1982).

Comments may be submitted in writing or by telephone to Dr. Nancy Foster, Deputy Director, Sanctuary Programs Office, Office of Coastal Zone Management, NOAA; 3300 Whitehaven

Street, NW., Washington, D.C. 20235, (202)634-4236.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Richard J. Podgorny, Regional Sanctuaries Projects Manager, Sanctuary Programs Office, Office of Coastal Zone Management, (202) 634-4236.

(Federal Domestic Assistance Catalog No. 11.420 Coastal Zone Management Program Estuarine Sanctuary)

Dated: March 2, 1982.

William Matuszeski,

Acting Assistant Administrator for Coastal Zone Management.

[FR Doc. 82-6360 Filed 3-9-82; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-06-M

**St. Thomas, Virgin Islands;
Announcement of Removal of the
Southeastern St. Thomas Site From
the List of Active Candidates**

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

SUMMARY: On October 31, 1979 (44 FR 62552), NOAA placed an area off southeastern St. Thomas on its List of Active Candidates (LAC) for further evaluation as a potential national marine sanctuary. In April 1981 a draft environmental impact statement was distributed and a public hearing was held on June 3, 1981. Draft regulations were published June 30, 1981 (FR Vol. 43, No. 125). The proposed St. Thomas marine sanctuary is not being removed from the LAC. The sanctuary anticipated cooperative management between the Virgin Islands and NOAA and delays in the promulgation of regulations by the Virgin Islands for activities within the proposed area have prevented NOAA from committing funds for designation and management in FY 1982. Funding levels for fiscal year 1983 are not sufficient to provide for designation and management of the site. A final environmental impact statement will not be prepared.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Edward Lindelof, Sanctuary Project Manager, (202) 634-4236.

ADDRESS: Sanctuary Programs Office, Office of Coastal Zone Management, 3300 Whitehaven Street, NW., Washington, D.C. 20235.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Title III of the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act of 1972, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 1431-1434 (the Act), authorizes the Secretary of Commerce, with Presidential approval, to designate ocean waters as marine sanctuaries to protect their distinctive conservation,

recreational, ecological, or esthetic values.

Placement on the List of Active Candidates is a procedural step in the evaluation of any area as a potential marine sanctuary. The southeastern St. Thomas site was made an active candidate on October 31, 1979 (44 FR 62552). A draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) on the proposal was distributed in April 1981 and a public hearing on the DEIS was held June 3, 1981.

The St. Thomas site is now being removed from the LAC. This project always has been considered a cooperative one between the Virgin Islands and NOAA with NOAA relying upon local regulations to control activities within the area of the proposed sanctuary. Delays in the promulgation of these regulations and the uncertainty of their eventual implementation have precluded timely progress on the project.

The decision to remove the St. Thomas site from active candidate status will not preclude reconsideration of this or other Virgin Islands sites in the future. NOAA is initiating a new process for evaluating potential marine sanctuaries by establishing a Site Evaluation List (SEL). Eight regional resource evaluation teams (including a Caribbean team) will identify, analyze, and recommend sites suitable for sanctuary consideration. Information on the St. Thomas site will be given to the regional team. If the area receives a high ranking relative to other sites within the Caribbean region, the team can recommend in essence that southeastern St. Thomas be reconsidered. Under these circumstances and if the Virgin Islands is interested and funding allows, the site can be reactivated.

(Federal Domestic Assistance Catalog No. 11.419 Coastal Zone Management Program Administration)

Dated: March 2, 1982.

William Matuszeski,

Acting Assistant Administrator for Coastal Zone Management.

[FR Doc. 82-6361 Filed 3-9-82; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-06-M

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Air Force

**USAF Scientific Advisory Board;
Meeting**

February 26, 1982.

The USAF Scientific Advisory Board will hold its Spring General Meeting at Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado