

a proposed groundfish fishery management plan amendment, and to draft reports to be presented to the Pacific Fishery Management Council during its April 8-11, 1986 meeting in Eureka, CA. For further information contact Joseph C. Greenley, Executive Director, Pacific Fishery Management Council, Metro Center, Suite 420, 2000 S.W. First Avenue, Portland, Or 97201; telephone (503) 221-6352.

Dated: February 20, 1986.

Richard B. Roe,

Director, Office of Fisheries Management,
National Marine Fisheries Service.

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Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA, Commerce.

The Pacific Fishery Management Council and its advisory bodies will convene public meetings, March 10-13, 1986, at the Holiday Inn Portland-Airport, 8439 NE Columbia Boulevard, Portland, OR, as follows:

On March 10, the Council meeting will convene at 1 p.m. with a closed session (not open to the public), to discuss litigation and personnel matters. The open session will begin at 2 p.m. with administrative matters, including appointment of a new member to the Groundfish Management Team and the status of the FY 86 budget. The Council will review the 1985 salmon fisheries and the status of the stocks, as well as hear recommendations from the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC), the Salmon Advisory Subpanel (SAS), the public, the states, and the National Marine Fisheries Service on the 1985 fisheries and the 1986 stock abundance.

On March 11, the Council will tentatively adopt 1986 salmon management options for analysis by the Salmon Plan Development Team (SPDT), and receive a summary of 1987 salmon plan amendment issues. The Council will also review groundfish management issues and take action on experimental fishing permit applications, drafts of the groundfish plan amendment package, and foreign fishing applications. There will be a public comment period at 4:30 p.m.

On March 12, the Council will continue consideration of administrative matters including the FY 87 data collection needs for Council-related activities and the Council/National Oceanic and Atmospheric

Administration Task Group evaluation of the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act implementation. The Council will also hear a report of its Habitat Committee and public comments on a habitat policy prior to final adoption.

On March 13, the Council will hear the analysis and comments of the SPDT, SSC, SAS, public, and states on the provisional 1986 salmon management options before final adoption of management options for public hearings.

Meetings of the Council's SSC, SAS, SPDT, habitat, foreign fishing, and budget committees will be held in the same location commencing the afternoon of March 9 through the evening of March 13. Detailed agendas of all meetings will be available for the public on February 21. For further information contact Joseph C. Greenley, Executive Director, Pacific Fishery Management Council, Metro Center, 2000 SW First Avenue, Portland, OR 97201; telephone: (503) 221-6352.

Dated: February 20, 1986.

Richard B. Roe,

Director, Office of Fisheries Management,
National Marine Fisheries Service.

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Intent To Prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Management Plan for a Possible National Marine Sanctuary of Norfolk Canyon; Announcement of Norfolk Canyon as an Active Candidate and Suspension of Ten Fathom Ledge/Big Rock From Consideration as a National Marine Sanctuary

AGENCY: National Ocean Service (NOS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: NOAA is announcing Norfolk Canyon (60 miles off the coast of Virginia) as an Active Candidate for designation as a National Marine Sanctuary, and its intent to prepare an environmental impact statement on the proposal to designate. A notice scheduling a scoping meeting will be published at a later date.

On September 17, 1985, NOAA initiated preliminary consultation on two sites as potential national marine sanctuaries. (Preliminary Consultation is the first step toward designation of a national marine sanctuary.) The sites were Norfolk Canyon and Ten Fathom Ledge/Big Rock. On November 18, 1985 the period for public comment ended. NOAA has reviewed and considered

public comments on both sites and is continuing the process for designating Norfolk Canyon. A draft management plan and draft environmental impact statement will be prepared. NOAA is also announcing that due to a backlog of Active Candidates it will not proceed with further evaluation of Ten Fathom Ledge/Big Rock at this time. The site will remain on the Site Evaluation List for future consideration.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Mr. Edward Lindelof, Senior Policy Analyst, Sanctuary Programs Division, Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, 3300 Whitehaven Street NW, Washington, DC 20235 (202) 634-4236.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

Title III of the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 as amended, 16 U.S.C. 1431 *et seq.* (the Act), authorizes the Secretary of Commerce to designate ocean waters, as far seaward as the outer edge of the continental shelf and over which the United States exercises jurisdiction, consistent with international law, as national marine sanctuaries. The purpose of designating national marine sanctuaries is to protect and manage distinctive areas of the marine environment for those conservation, recreational, ecological, historical, research, educational or aesthetic values which give these areas special national significance. The Act is administered by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) through the Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (OOCR), Sanctuary Program Division (SPD).

The 1984 amendments to the Act (Title I of Pub. L. 98-498, codified to 16 U.S.C. 1431-1439), made several changes in the process for designating National Marine Sanctuaries. NOAA is currently modifying its program operating regulations at 15 CFR Part 922 to reflect these changes. In the interim, where there is a conflict between the current regulations and the 1984 amendments, NOAA will rely on the statutory amendments. Since the 1984 amendments do not require the Preliminary Consultation or Active Candidate stages in the marine sanctuary designation process, NOAA will no longer conduct a formal Preliminary Consultation or Active Candidate review. Instead, NOAA will issue a notice informing the public of its

intent to prepare an EIS on a proposed designation of an Active Candidate selected from the Site Evaluation List (SEL).

NOAA began its consideration of Norfolk Canyon and Ten Fathom Ledge/Big Rock under its current operating regulations at 15 CFR 922.39(1). On September 17, 1985, NOAA published a notice (50 FR 37760) announcing preliminary consultation and seeking public comment for these two sites. The public comment period closed on November 18, 1985.

II. Selection of Norfolk Canyon as an Active Candidate

Norfolk Canyon is located approximately 60 miles off the coast of Virginia. The center of the Canyon head is approximately latitude 37°03.3' W, longitude 74°38.4' W. The Canyon head is about 16 to 19 km long and 6 km wide near the shelf break.

Natural Resources

Norfolk Canyon is the southern-most submarine canyon in a series of the prominent deep water features along the eastern continental margin of the United States. It is an excellent biogeographic representation of this habitat and has two distinguishing features which other East Coast canyon sites lack: (1) The physiographic location is in a non-glaciated area that is influenced by a major drainage system (Chesapeake Bay), and (2) the site is the habitat of several alcyonariid and scleractinid corals, including *Primnoe reseda*.

The geology of the Canyon is characterized by deep V-shaped valleys and steep, rocky and often unstable walls and swift current. Despite these physical features, Norfolk Canyon supports an abundance of marine life, of which its huge Alcyonarian tree corals and "pueblo villages" (i.e., areas along the canyon wall where large invertebrates and some finfish dig extensive depressions, caves and burrows for their lodging) are especially prominent. For a more detailed discussion of the site's natural resources, please see 50 FR 37760 announcing Preliminary Consultation.

Human Uses

Major human activities pursued on the eastern continental margin include commercial and recreational fisheries, mineral resources development, ocean dumping and military operations. Norfolk Canyon is not heavily fished for commercial purposes but the area is used by recreational fishermen who fish for white marlin (*Teptrapturus albidus*).

No mineral resources are currently mined in the vicinity of Norfolk Canyon.

Those resources with the greatest near-term potential for development are oil and gas. Upcoming lease sale number 111 in the Mid-Atlantic area is tentatively scheduled for November 1986.

Although no ocean disposal of wastes is occurring at present in Norfolk Canyon, the area has been used previously for the dumping of radioactive wastes. There are two former dumpsites, one located at about the 1000-meter isobath, the other, more extensive, lying at depths between about 2000 and 2500 meters. Both occur on or near the axis of the Canyon.

Summary of Comments

A total of eight comments were received on the September 12, 1985 notice. Reviewers included Federal and state agencies, representatives of the oil and gas industry, representatives of the fishing industry, environmental and public interest groups, and members of the public. All comments received are on file at the Sanctuary Programs Division, Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, 2001 Wisconsin Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20235. The comments are available for review at that office.

All reviewers supported listing the Norfolk Canyon as an Active Candidate and proceeding with our evaluation. Amoco Corporation and the Offshore Operators Committee noted that until a boundary has been determined it was difficult to determine the significance of the proposal and that this information should be provided prior to selection as an active candidate. The Department of the Interior questioned how Norfolk Canyon was selected when it is not on NOAA's Site Evaluation List.

NOAA's Response.

In response to the boundary comment, at this early stage in reviewing a site as a potential national marine sanctuary, NOAA does not have sufficient information to formulate specific boundary alternatives. As part of developing a draft environmental impact statement and management plan, NOAA will identify several boundary alternatives, including its preferred alternative, for public review and comment.

In response to the Department of the Interior comment, as explained in the original notice for comment, Norfolk Canyon is eligible for consideration because it had already been under consideration for designation by NOAA at the time of development of the SEL, and therefore was grandfathered into the SEL process. At the time of development of the SEL the following sites were under consideration for

designation by NOAA: Cordell Bank (California); Norfolk Canyon (South Atlantic); La Parguera (Puerto Rico); Monterey Bay (California); Hawaiian waters; and Fagatele Bay (American Samoa). The scientific teams responsible for making SEL Recommendations were instructed not to consider these sites for SEL listing since they had already been selected by NOAA for further evaluation. At that time a contract had been awarded to synthesize information on the physical and biological features of Norfolk Canyon. This site is therefore the last of the pre-SEL Candidates to be actively considered.

Subsequent Actions

NOAA intends to prepare a draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) including a resource assessment report and draft management plan on the designation of the area as a National Marine Sanctuary. A scoping meeting will be held prior to preparation of the draft management plan and DEIS and a notice of its date, time and location will be published in the **Federal Register**. A public hearing on the DEIS will be conducted. A final environmental impact statement and management plan will be prepared. In undertaking the analysis for the DEIS, NOAA will consider the factors required in determining if a site meets the Designation Standards outlined in section 303(a) of the 1984 amendments to the Act and will consult with Congress, other affected agencies and the appropriate Regional Fishery Management Council(s).

After the final environmental impact statement, subsequent steps include a determination by the Secretary of Commerce that the site meets the Designation Standards, and designation by the Secretary. Congress then has the opportunity to disapprove the designation. Opportunities for public comment exist throughout this process and will be advertised in the local media, and other appropriate channels.

III. Suspension of Ten Fathom Ledge/Big Rock From Further Consideration as a Potential National Marine Sanctuary.

The September 17, 1985 notice of Preliminary Consultation included the Ten Fathom Ledge/Big Rock site. NOAA received ten letters and petitions. Reviewers included Federal and state agencies, representatives of the fishing industry, environmental and public interest groups, dive groups and members of the public. All comments received are on file at the Sanctuary Programs Division, Office of Ocean and

Coastal Resource Management, 2001 Wisconsin Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20036. The comments are available for review at that office. Only representatives of the commercial fishing industry who use the area objected to proceeding to evaluate the site for designation. The commercial fishing interests expressed concern that there might be restrictions on fishing activities. The Department of the Interior suggested that the site may be needed for military strategic non-nuclear operations and that more information should be provided to evaluate the site.

NOAA has decided not to proceed with designation of Ten Fathom Ledge/Big Rock at this time. The Sanctuary Programs Division currently has two active candidates, Flower Garden Banks in the Gulf of Mexico and Cordell Bank off the coast of California. The level of staff time and costs involved in marine sanctuary designation preclude the processing of more than two or three Active Candidates simultaneously. Given these constraints, it is not reasonable or likely that NOAA can process both Ten Fathom Ledge/Big Rock and Norfolk Canyon in the 3 year time span required by 15 CFR 922.31(a). Accordingly, NOAA has decided to continue the process it began several years ago for designating Norfolk Canyon and to leave Ten Fathom Ledge/Big Rock on the SEL for future consideration.

Federal Domestic Assistance Catalog No. 11.429.

Dated: February 24, 1986

Peter L. Tweedt,

Director, Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management.

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National Technical Information Service

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Technical and licensing information on specific inventions may be obtained by writing to: Office of Federal Patent Licensing, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1423, Springfield,

Virginia 22151.

Please cite the number and title of inventions of interest.

Douglas J. Campion,

Office of Federal Patent Licensing, National Technical Information Service, U.S. Department of Commerce.

Department of Agriculture

SN 6-426,440 (4,539,648) Date Filed: 09/29/82

Detection of Agricultural Contraband in Baggage

SN 6-527,730 (4,534,656) Date Filed: 03/30/83

Electrodynamic Method for Separating Components

SN 6-579,919 (4,540,033) Date Filed: 02/14/84

Continuous Tree Harvester

SN 6-591,367 Date Filed: 09/20/85

Method for Controlling Yellow Nutsedge Using Puccinia Canaliculata

SN 6-593,058 (4,548,304) Date Filed: 03/26/84

Visual-Olfactory Habitat Mimic for Assessment of Fruit Fly Response to Behavior-Modifying Chemicals

SN 6-620,815 (4,545,236) Date Filed: 06/15/84

Device for Simulating Stress on Packages During Coupling of Railcars

SN 6-625,272 (4,550,905) Date Filed: 06/27/84

Hide Transfer Apparatus

SN 6-638,827 (4,539,065) Date Filed: 08/08/84

Agents to Produce Durable Press Low Formaldehyde Release Cellulosic Textiles: Etherified N,N-

BIS[Hydroxymethyl]-Carbamates
SN 6-694,554 (4,554,442) Date Filed: 01/24/85

Aliquot Part Locator

SN 6-785,639 Date Filed: 10/08/85

Sex Pheromone Composition for Southwestern Corn Borer

SN 6-789,212 Date Filed: 10/18/85

Process for Dyeing Smooth-Dry Cellulosic Fabric

SN 6-789,298 Date Filed: 10/18/85

Method for Insitu Coloring Crosslinked Cellulosic Materials

Department of Commerce

SN 6-636,769 (4,558,218) Date Filed: 08/01/84

Heat Pipe Oven Molecular Beam Source

Department of Health and Human Services

SN 6-509,819 (4,544,231) Date Filed: 06/29/83

Method of Joining Plastic Optical Fibers and Connections Obtained
SN 6-540,849 (4,546,097) Date Filed: 11/04/83

Saponin-Based Polyether Polyols, Pharmaceutical Compositions and a Method of Using Same

SN 6-563,369 (4,547,367) Date Filed: 12/20/83

Hepatitis B Core Antigen Vaccine
SN 6-620,801 (4,547,569) Date Filed: 06/14/84

Intercalating Agents Specifying Nucleotides

SN 6-637,880 (4,547,368) Date Filed: 08/05/84

Hepatitis B Core Antigen Vaccine Made by Recombinant DNA

SN 6-727,919 Date Filed: 04/20/85

Method of Forming a Metal Chelate Protein Conjugate

SN 6-787,131 Date Filed: 10/15/85

Reducing or Counteracting the Development of Measures of Brain Aging

SN 6-801,965 Date Filed: 11/26/85

Method and Device for Quantitative Endpoint Determination in Immunofluorescence Using Microfluorophotometry

Department of the Air Force

SN 6-366,743 (4,547,884) Date Filed: 04/08/82

Sonic Flow Plate

SN 6-375,640 (4,548,661) Date Filed: 05/06/82

Method for Assembling a Multiconductor Flat Cable

SN 6-393,267 (4,539,864) Date Filed: 06/29/82

Adjustable Balance Weight for Rotating Shaft

SN 6-447,736 (4,540,978) Date Filed: 12/07/82

Bistatic Pulse-Overlap Doppler Radar Intrusion Detection Apparatus

SN 6-491,108 (4,540,904) Date Filed: 05/03/83

Tri-State Type Driver Circuit

SN 6-497,447 (4,546,328) Date Filed: 05/23/83

PLL Swept Frequency Generator With Programmable Sweep Rate

SN 6-511,060 (4,550,255) Date Filed: 07/05/83

Void Detection and Composition Measurements in Composite Wires

SN 6-512,062 (4,538,792) Date Filed: 07/09/83

Loading Dolly

SN 6-512,064 (4,547,271) Date Filed: 07/09/83

Simultaneous Signal Detection for IIM Receivers by Triaxial Detection

SN 6-520,331 (4,539,427) Date Filed: 09/19/83

Electrode Nerve Agent Detector

SN 6-520,152 (4,539,605) Date Filed: 10/06/83

Laser Beam Duct Pressure Controller System