

management template that public housing agencies (PHAs) use to annually submit electronically financial information to HUD. HUD uses the financial information it collects from each PHA to assist in the evaluation and assessment of the PHAs' overall condition. Requiring PHAs to report electronically has enabled HUD to provide a comprehensive financial assessment of the PHAs receiving federal funds from HUD.

*Agency form number, if applicable:* N/A.

*Members of affected public:* Public housing agencies.

*Estimation of the total number of hours needed to prepare the information collection including number of respondents:* The estimated number of respondents is 4,106 PHAs that submit one unaudited financial management template annually and 3,657 PHAs that submit one audited financial management template annually; for a total of 7,763 respondents. The average number of hours for each PHA response is 5.5 hours, for a total reporting burden of 42,620 hours.

*Status of the proposed information collection:* Extension, without change, of a currently approved collection.

**Authority:** Section 3506 of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, 44 U.S.C. Chapter 35, as amended.

Dated: March 24, 2011.

**Merrie Nichols-Dixon,**

*Deputy Director for Office of Policy, Program and Legislative Initiatives.*

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**BILLING CODE 4210-67-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

[FWS-R1-R-2010-N009; 1265-000-10137-S3]

#### **Marianas Trench Marine National Monument, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, et al.; Monument Management Plan, Comprehensive Conservation Plans, and Environmental Assessment**

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior; National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of intent; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and the National Atmospheric and Oceanic

Administration (NOAA), intend to prepare the monument management plan (MMP) for the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument (Monument) established by Presidential Proclamation 8335. The MMP will satisfy FWS comprehensive conservation plan (CCP) requirements for two units of the National Wildlife Refuge System (NWRS) contained therein. When the draft MMP is complete, we will advertise its availability and again seek public comment.

We furnish this notice to advise the public and other Federal and local agencies of our intentions, and to obtain suggestions and information on the scope of issues to consider during the planning process.

An environmental assessment (EA) to evaluate the potential effects of various management alternatives will also be prepared. The EA will provide resource managers with the information needed to determine if the potential effects may be significant and warrant preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), or if the potential impacts lead to a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

**DATES:** To ensure consideration, we must receive your written comments by May 5, 2011.

**ADDRESSES:** Additional information about the Monument and its two refuge units is available at <http://www.fws.gov/marianastrenchmarinemonument/> and [http://www.fpir.noaa.gov/MNM/mnm\\_index.html](http://www.fpir.noaa.gov/MNM/mnm_index.html). Please send your written comments or requests for more information by any of the following methods.

*E-mail:* [Heidi.Hirsh@noaa.gov](mailto:Heidi.Hirsh@noaa.gov).

*Fax:* (808) 973-2941.

*U.S. Mail:* Heidi Hirsh, Natural Resource Management Specialist, NOAA, National Marine Fisheries Service, 1601 Kapiolani Blvd #1110, Honolulu, HI 96814.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Heidi Hirsh, Natural Resource Management Specialist, (808) 944-2223.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Background**

*Monument Establishment and Management Responsibilities*

On January 6, 2009, President George W. Bush issued Proclamation No. 8335 (Proclamation), establishing the Monument under the authority of the Antiquities Act of 1906. The Monument consists of three units: The Islands Unit encompasses the waters and submerged lands of the three northernmost Mariana Islands from the mean low water line

out approximately 50 nautical miles (nmi); the Volcanic Unit encompasses each designated volcanic feature and the surrounding submerged lands out to 1 nmi; and the Trench Unit encompasses the submerged lands within the Mariana Trench.

The Monument encompasses approximately 61 million acres of submerged lands and certain waters of the Mariana Archipelago. The Trench Unit contains approximately 50.5 million acres of submerged lands, the Volcanic Unit includes approximately 55,912 acres of submerged lands, and the Islands Unit encompasses approximately 10.5 million acres of submerged lands and waters.

The Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Secretary of Commerce, has responsibility for management of the Monument; except that the Secretary of Commerce, in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior, has primary responsibility for management with respect to fishery-related activities regulated pursuant to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act) (16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*), the Proclamation, and other applicable legal authorities.

The Proclamation requires the Secretaries of the Interior and Commerce to prepare management plans within their respective authorities for the Monument, and promulgate implementing regulations that address specific actions necessary for the proper care and management of the Monument. With this notice, the Department of the Interior and the Department of Commerce (Departments) are commencing development of the MMP. The Departments will work cooperatively under Fish and Wildlife Service's lead in this process. The Commerce Department, in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior, is working with the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council pursuant to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act and the Proclamation to develop a fisheries ecosystem plan amendment and related regulations. To the extent they relate to waters within the Monument, the plan amendment and implementing regulations will be one component of the MMP. The Departments intend to cooperate and coordinate in the development and timing of these planning and management processes.

To carry out his responsibilities from the President under the Proclamation, by Secretary's Order 3284 (Order) dated January 16, 2009, the Secretary of the Interior delegated all of his management responsibility for the Monument to the

FWS Director. The Order directs the FWS to manage the Volcanic Unit and the Trench Unit as units of the NWRs. The Order also directs the FWS to exercise all management responsibility given to the Secretary for the Islands Unit, but specifies that no part of it is included as a unit of the NWRs. In carrying out this delegation with respect to the two units added to the NWRs, and to facilitate public awareness that their status is slightly different than that of the Islands Unit, the FWS named the Trench Unit the Mariana Trench National Wildlife Refuge, and the Volcanic Unit the Mariana Arc of Fire National Wildlife Refuge.

#### *The Monument's Natural Resources*

The Volcanic Unit contains unique geological features found nowhere else in the world, including the largest active mud volcanoes, vents expelling almost pure liquid carbon dioxide, a pool of liquid sulfur, and one of only a few places in the world where photosynthetic and chemosynthetic communities of life coexist. The Trench Unit, where the Pacific Plate plunges into the Earth's mantle, contains the deepest point on Earth. The Islands Unit encompasses the waters of the archipelago's three northern islands, which are among the most biologically diverse in the western Pacific Ocean, and includes the greatest diversity of seamount and hydrothermal vent life yet discovered.

#### **The MMP Planning Process**

The MMP's format will include elements similar to a NWRs CCP, and the planning process for those elements will be conducted in a manner similar to the CCP planning and public involvement process. The MMP will be updated every 15 years.

The National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966, as amended by the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 (16 U.S.C. 668dd–668ee) (Refuge System Administration Act), requires FWS to develop a CCP for each national wildlife refuge or planning unit. The purpose for developing a CCP is to provide refuge managers with a 15-year plan for achieving refuge purposes and contributing toward the mission of the NWRs, consistent with sound principles of fish and wildlife management and natural resource conservation, legal mandates, and applicable policies. In addition to outlining broad management direction for conserving wildlife and their habitats, CCPs identify wildlife-dependent recreational opportunities available to the public, including

opportunities for hunting, fishing, wildlife observation and photography, and environmental education and interpretation.

We will conduct environmental reviews of various management alternatives and develop an EA in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*); NEPA Regulations (40 CFR parts 1500–1508); other Federal laws and regulations; and our policies and procedures for compliance with those laws and regulations.

The Fish and Wildlife Service, as lead agency for NEPA purposes, will also designate and involve as cooperating agencies the Department of Commerce, through NOAA; the Department of Defense; the Department of State; and the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), in accordance with NEPA and Executive Order 13352 of August 26, 2004, titled Facilitation of Cooperative Conservation.

The MMP is to provide for the following activities, to the extent appropriate to Department of the Interior and Department of Commerce authorities and the Proclamation:

- Management of the Islands Unit, in consultation with the Government of the CNMI, including designating specific roles and responsibilities, and identifying the means of consultation on management decisions as appropriate and consistent with the respective authorities and jurisdictions of the CNMI and the Secretaries of the Interior and Commerce.
- Public education programs and public outreach regarding the Monument's coral reef ecosystem, related marine resources and species, and conservation efforts.
- Traditional access to the Monument by indigenous persons, as identified by the Secretaries of the Interior and Commerce in consultation with the Government of the CNMI, for culturally significant subsistence and other cultural and religious uses.
- A program to assess and promote Monument-related scientific exploration and research, tourism, and recreational and economic activities and opportunities in the CNMI.
- A process to consider requests for recreational fishing permits in certain areas of the Islands Unit.
- Programs for monitoring and enforcement necessary to ensure that scientific exploration and research, tourism, and recreational and commercial activities do not degrade the Monument's coral reef ecosystem or related marine resources or species, or

diminish the Monument's natural character.

#### *Public Involvement*

The FWS and NOAA will conduct the planning process in a manner that will provide participation opportunities for the public, Federal and local government agencies, and other interested parties. At this time, we encourage input in the form of issues, concerns, ideas, and suggestions for the future management of the Monument. Opportunities for additional public input will be announced throughout the planning process. We may hold public meetings to help share information and obtain comments.

#### *Preliminary Issues, Concerns, and Opportunities*

We identified the following preliminary issues and opportunities that we may address in the MMP. We expect to identify additional issues during public scoping.

- Climate change impacts and adaptation.
- Marine debris impacts and removal.
- Invasive species prevention and control.
- Other potential threats to the ecosystem (e.g., trespass; illegal fishing; and shipwrecks, groundings, and spills).
- Emergency response to natural and manmade disasters and natural resources damage assessments.
- Operational capabilities for effective ecosystem monitoring, surveillance, and enforcement.
- Habitat conservation and restoration.
- Biological and abiotic inventory and monitoring.
- Protected resources and their habitats, including coral reefs, marine clams, apex predators, marine mammals, sea turtles, seabirds, and fishes.
- Historic and cultural resources, including maritime heritage.
- Public education and outreach.
- International programs and collaboration.
- Scientific exploration and research opportunities.
- Developing an appropriate permitting regime for activities within the Monument.
- Determining if bioprospecting is appropriate and compatible.

#### *Next Steps*

The FWS and NOAA, in consultation with the Mariana Monument Advisory Council, and the Government of the CNMI, will be considering your comments during development of the Draft MMP/CCPs/EA.

**Public Availability of Comments**

Before including your address, phone number, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comments to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

**Robyn Thorson,**

*Regional Director, Region 1, Portland, Oregon.*

**Emily H. Menashes,**

*Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.*

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**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR****Fish and Wildlife Service**

[FWS-R1-R-2009-N265; 1265-0000-10137-S3]

**Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument; Monument Management Plan, Comprehensive Conservation Plans, and Environmental Assessment**

**AGENCIES:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior; National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of intent; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), intend to prepare the monument management plan (MMP) for the Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument (Monument), established by Presidential Proclamation 8336. Additionally, the FWS also intends to prepare new or revised comprehensive conservation plans (CCPs) for the following national wildlife refuges (Refuges) contained therein: Baker Island, Howland Island, Jarvis Island, Johnston Atoll, Kingman Reef, Palmyra Atoll, and Wake Atoll. When the draft MMP is complete, we will advertise its availability and again seek public comment. We furnish this notice to advise the public and other Federal agencies of our intentions, and to obtain suggestions and information on the scope of issues to consider during the planning process.

An environmental assessment (EA) to evaluate the potential effects of various

management alternatives will also be prepared. The EA will provide resource managers with the information needed to determine if the potential effects may be significant and warrant preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), or if the potential impacts lead to a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

**DATES:** To ensure consideration, we must receive your comments by May 5, 2011.

**ADDRESSES:** Additional information about the Monument and its seven Refuge units is available at <http://www.fws.gov/pacificremotaislandsmarinemonument/> and [http://www.fpir.noaa.gov/MNM/mnm\\_index.html](http://www.fpir.noaa.gov/MNM/mnm_index.html). Please send your written comments or requests for more information by any of the following methods:

*E-mail:* [Pacific\\_Reefs@fws.gov](mailto:Pacific_Reefs@fws.gov).

*Fax:* (808) 792-9586.

*U.S. Mail:* Susan White, Project Leader, Pacific Reefs National Wildlife Refuge Complex, 300 Ala Moana Blvd. Room 5-231, Honolulu, HI 96850.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Susan White, Project Leader, (808) 792-9550.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:****Background***Monument Establishment and Management Responsibilities*

On January 6, 2009, President George W. Bush issued Proclamation No. 8336 (Proclamation), establishing the Monument under the authority of the Antiquities Act of 1906. The Monument incorporates approximately 86,888 square miles within its boundaries, which extend 50 nautical miles (nmi) from the mean low water lines of Baker, Howland, and Jarvis Islands; Johnston, Palmyra, and Wake Atolls; and Kingman Reef. The Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Secretary of Commerce, has responsibility for management of the Monument, including out to 12 nmi from the mean low water lines of Baker, Howland, and Jarvis Islands; Johnston, Palmyra, and Wake Atolls; and Kingman Reef, pursuant to applicable legal authorities. The Secretary of Commerce, through NOAA, and in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior, has primary responsibility for management of the Monument seaward from 12 to 50 nmi with respect to fishery-related activities regulated pursuant to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act) (16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*), the Proclamation, and other applicable legal authorities.

The Proclamation requires the Secretaries of the Interior and Commerce to prepare management plans within their respective authorities for the Monument, and promulgate implementing regulations that address specific actions necessary for the proper care and management of the Monument. With this notice, the Department of the Interior and Department of Commerce (Departments) are commencing development of the MMP. The Departments will work cooperatively under the Fish and Wildlife Service's lead in this process. The Commerce Department, in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior, is working with the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council pursuant to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act and Proclamation to develop a fisheries ecosystem plan amendment and related regulations. To the extent they relate to waters within the Monument, the plan amendment and implementing regulations will be one component of the MMP. The Departments intend to cooperate and coordinate in the development and timing of these planning and management processes.

To carry out his responsibilities from the President under the Proclamation, on January 16, 2009, the Secretary of the Interior delegated his authority for Monument management to the FWS Director, and extended the boundaries of the Baker Island, Howland Island, and Jarvis Island Refuges from 3 nmi to 12 nmi from the mean low water lines of the emergent land. The Secretary also extended the Johnston Atoll Refuge boundary to 12 nmi from the mean low water line of the emergent land, and added the emergent and submerged lands and waters of Wake Island out to 12 nmi as a unit of the National Wildlife Refuge System (NWRS). In accordance with the Proclamation, the Director will not commence management of emergent lands at Wake Island unless and until a use agreement between the Secretary of the Air Force and the Secretary of the Interior is terminated. The Secretary of Defense also continues to manage those portions of the emergent lands of Johnston Atoll under the administrative jurisdiction of the Defense Department until such administrative jurisdiction is terminated, at which time those emergent lands shall be administered as part of the Johnston Atoll Refuge.

Within the boundaries of the Monument, the FWS also continues to administer pre-existing refuges at Baker, Howland, and Jarvis Islands; Johnston and Palmyra Atolls; and Kingman Reef, in accordance with the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration