

NMFS, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Kim S. Rivera, 907-586-7424.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Fishery Management Plan for Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska and the Fishery Management Plan for the Groundfish Fishery of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Area authorize the issuance of EFPs for fishing for groundfish in a manner that would otherwise be prohibited under existing regulations. The procedures for issuing EFPs are set out at 50 CFR 679.6 and 600.745(b).

On March 29, 1999, NMFS announced in the **Federal Register** the receipt of an application for an EFP from the WSGP (64 FR 14885). The application requested authorization for WSGP to test the effectiveness of seabird avoidance measures in two fisheries, (1) the Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) sablefish and Pacific halibut fisheries in the GOA and the BSAI and (2) the Pacific cod and Greenland turbot hook-and-line fisheries in the BSAI. WSGP will conduct the experiment as a part of its research project funded under the NMFS Saltonstall-Kennedy program (SK Project). WSGP will compare two seabird avoidance measures to a control (no measures) in each fishery. An EFP is necessary because the SK Project's experimental procedure calls for testing seabird avoidance measures relative to a control of no seabird avoidance measure, and possibly, the testing of new seabird bycatch avoidance technologies that are not included in the current NMFS regulations. The purpose of this research is to assess the effectiveness of alternative seabird avoidance measures for hook-and-line fisheries off Alaska. The objectives of the SK Project are to: (1) Work cooperatively with the fishing industry, NMFS, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to select and then test the effectiveness of seabird avoidance measures in hook-and-line fisheries off Alaska; (2) characterize the species-specific behavioral interactions of seabirds with hook-and-line gear on active fishing vessels, with and without seabird avoidance measures; (3) work cooperatively with the fishing industry, NMFS, and the USFWS to develop recommendations for revisions to existing seabird avoidance regulations and performance standards based on the results of this research; and (4) recommend future research, and research protocols. Issuance of this EFP will provide information not otherwise available through research or commercial fishing operations.

WSGP designed and NMFS reviewed the experimental protocol for testing on smaller-sized vessels [less than 124 ft (37.8 meters) length overall (LOA)]. The protocol will require a minimum of 640,000 to 1 million deployed hooks and 150 observer days over 2 years to address adequately the efficacy of seabird avoidance measures relative to a control of no measure. To achieve this sample size objective, three vessels per year in the IFQ and groundfish fisheries will be required, with seabird observer coverage for a total of 45 days per year (approximately three trips), assuming a total hook retrieval observation rate of 40 percent. WSGP has estimated that for testing on larger-sized vessels [longer than 124 ft LOA (37.8 meters)] in the BSAI, a minimum of 3 million deployed hooks and 150 observer days over 2 years will be needed to adequately address the efficacy of seabird avoidance measures relative to a control of no measure. To achieve this sample size objective two vessels per year in the Pacific cod fishery will be required, with seabird observer coverage for a total of 40 days per year (approximately 2 trips), assuming a total hook retrieval observation rate of 40 percent. The experiment is scheduled to take place in the GOA and BSAI for approximately 45 to 60 days during May 1999 through July 1999, and for approximately 45 to 60 days during April 2000 through July 2000, and in the BSAI for approximately 40 to 50 days during July 1999 through October 1999, and for approximately 40 to 50 days during July 2000 through October 2000. The effective period for the EFP may be revised for other months in 1999 and 2000, pending agreement between the permit holder and the Administrator, Alaska Region, NMFS (Regional Administrator).

WSGP established an industry advisory committee in consultation with NMFS and the USFWS. This committee will select the participating vessels and the seabird avoidance measures to be tested. The EFP authorizes three vessels per year in the GOA and BSAI groundfish fisheries and/or the Pacific halibut fishery, and two vessels per year in the BSAI groundfish fishery. The performance of seabird avoidance gear will be tested against a standard control gear. The control gear will be identical hook and-line gear, although configured without the seabird avoidance gear. Fishing with experimental and control gear will be conducted with procedures and sites similar to those used during the commercial fishery for sablefish and halibut in the GOA and for groundfish (Pacific cod and Greenland turbot) in the BSAI.

The Regional Administrator approved the EFP application and has issued EFP 99-01 to the WSGP. The EFP authorizes WSGP to conduct experimental operations without the use of otherwise required seabird avoidance measures during the course of the experiment during designated periods of 1999 and 2000. No additional harvest amounts of target or incidental catch are authorized.

Failure of the permit holder to comply with the terms and conditions of the EFP may be grounds for revocation, suspension, or modification of the EFP under 15 CFR part 904 with respect to any or all persons and vessels conducting activities under the EFP. Failure to comply with applicable laws also may result in sanctions imposed under those laws.

### Classification

The Regional Administrator determined that fishing activities conducted under this action would not affect endangered and threatened species or critical habitat in any manner not considered in prior consultations on the groundfish or IFQ fisheries. The USFWS has issued a section 10 permit to WSGP under the Endangered Species Act. Such a permit authorizes the incidental take of a short-tailed albatross in the unlikely event that one were taken during the course of the experiment.

This notice is exempt from review under E.O. 12866 and the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA) because prior notice and opportunity for public comment are not required for this notice. The analytical requirements of the RFA are inapplicable.

**Authority:** 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: May 6, 1999.

**Bruce C. Morehead,**  
*Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.*  
[FR Doc. 99-12030 Filed 5-11-99; 8:45 am]  
BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

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## COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

### Notice of Meeting

The Meeting of the Commission of the Fine Arts is scheduled for 20 May 1999 at 10:00 AM in the Commission's offices at the National Building Museum (Pension Building), Suite 312, Judiciary Square, 441 F Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., 20001. Items of discussion will include designs for projects affecting the appearance of Washington, D.C., including buildings and parks.

Inquiries regarding the agenda and requests to submit written or oral

statements should be addresses to Charles H. Atherton, Secretary, Commission of Fine Arts, at the above address or call 202-504-2220. Individuals requiring sign language interpretation for the hearing impaired should contact the Secretary at least 10 days before the meeting date.

Dated in Washington, D.C., 3 May 1999.

**Charles H. Atherton,**  
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 99-11909 Filed 5-11-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6330-01-M

## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

### Office of the Secretary

#### Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

**ACTION:** Notice.

The Department of Defense has submitted to OMB for clearance, the following proposal for collection of information under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35).

*Title, Form Number, and OMB Number:* Pre-Candidate Procedures; USMA Forms 375, 723, 450, 21-12, 21-27, 381; OMB Number 0702-0060.

*Type of Request:* Reinstatement.

*Number of Respondents:* 65,100.

*Responses Per Respondent:* 1.

*Annual Responses:* 65,100.

*Average Burden Per Response:* 8 minutes.

*Annual Burden Hours:* 8,258.

*Needs and Uses:* Student information is obtained through the use of business reply cards on posters and in publications, permitting potential candidates to request information on the U.S. Military Academy. This initial student information received is retained in a file until an additional response is received by potential candidates. The purpose of this activity is to obtain a group of applicants who eventually may be evaluated for admission to West Point.

*Affected Public:* Individuals or households.

*Frequency:* On occasion.

*Respondent's Obligation:* Required to obtain or retain benefits.

*OMB Desk Officer:* Mr. Edward C. Springer.

Written comments and recommendations on the proposed information collection should be sent to Mr. Springer at the Office of Management and Budget, Desk Officer for DoD, Room 10236, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503.

*DOD Clearance Officer:* Mr. Robert Cushing.

Written requests for copies of the information collection proposal should be sent to Mr. Cushing, WHS/DIOR, 1215 Jefferson Davis Highway, Suite 1204, Arlington, VA 22202-4302.

Dated: May 6, 1999.

**Patricia L. Toppings,**

*Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.*

[FR Doc. 99-11901 Filed 5-11-99; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

### Office of the Secretary of Defense

#### Department of Defense Wage Committee; Notice of Closed Meetings

Pursuant to the provisions of section 10 of Pub. L. 92-463, the Federal Advisory Committee Act, notice is hereby given that closed meetings of the Department of Defense Wage Committee will be held on June 1, 1999, June 8, 1999, June 15, 1999, June 22, 1999 and June 29, 1999 at 10:00 a.m. in Room A105, The Nash Building, 1400 Key Boulevard, Rosslyn, Virginia.

Under the provisions of section 10(d) of Pub. L. 92-463, the Department of Defense has determined that the meetings meet the criteria to close meetings to the public because the matters to be considered are related to internal rules and practices of the Department of Defense and the detailed wage data to be considered were obtained from officials of private establishments with a guarantee that the data will be held in confidence.

However, members of the public who may wish to do so are invited to submit material in writing to the chairman concerning matters believed to be deserving of the Committee's attention.

Additional information concerning the meetings may be obtained by writing to the Chairman, Department of Defense Wage Committee, 4000 Defense Pentagon, Washington, DC 20301-4000.

May 6, 1999.

**L.M. Bynum,**

*Alternate OSD Federal Register, Liaison Officer Department of Defense.*

[FR Doc. 99-11902 Filed 5-11-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 5001-10-M

## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

### Department of Navy

#### Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for a Deep Draft Power Intensive (DDPI) Ship Berthing, Logistics, and Maintenance Pier at Naval Station, San Diego, California

**AGENCY:** Department of Navy, DOD.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as implemented by the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), the Department of the Navy announces its intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to evaluate the effects of constructing and operating a Deep Draft Power Intensive (DDPI) ship berthing, logistics and maintenance pier at Naval Station (NAVSTA), San Diego, California.

The proposed action is to demolish two existing piers, Piers 10 and 11, at Naval Station San Diego and construct and operate a replacement berthing, logistics and maintenance pier for DDPI ships. To accommodate the DDPI ships, construction would include dredging to 37 feet below Mean Lower Low Water (MLLW) and removal of approximately 536,000 cubic yards of sediment (of which approximately 268,000 cubic yards is believed to be unsuitable for ocean disposal). The replacement pier would be approximately 120 feet wide and 1500 feet long with power intensive utilities (4000 amps or more). This pier would be similar to Pier 13, an existing pier constructed at Naval Station San Diego in 1989 to support DDPI ships.

The purpose of the proposed action is to provide for berthing, logistics, maintenance, and utility requirements of DDPI ships moored at the San Diego Naval Complex. The need for the proposed action is to address the current shortfall in pier infrastructure/capacity for DDPI ships in the San Diego Naval Complex. The range of alternatives to be considered include:

(1) The proposed action, demolition of Piers 10 and 11 at Naval Station San Diego and construction of a new DDPI pier with associated dredging; (2) demolition of Piers 11 and 12 at Naval Station San Diego and construction of a new DDPI pier with associated dredging; (3) demolition of Pier 14 at Naval Station San Diego and construction of a new DDPI pier with associated dredging; and, (4) construction of a new pier or utilization of other available piers with associated