

Department of Physics, 1150 University Avenue, Madison, WI 53706.

*Instrument:* Diagnostic Neutral Beam System. *Manufacturer:* Budker Institute of Nuclear Physics, Russia, CIS.

*Intended Use:* The instrument is intended to be used for studies of plasma with emphasis on fluctuation and confinement studies. The instrument will also be used by graduate students to learn plasma diagnostic techniques, and collect and analyze scientific data which will be used in the course of their doctoral studies. Application accepted by Commissioner of Customs: May 13, 1999.

**Frank W. Creel,**

*Director, Statutory Import Programs Staff.*

[FR Doc. 99-14899 Filed 6-10-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-DS-P

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

#### National Estuarine Research Reserve System

**AGENCY:** Estuarine Reserves Division, Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of approval and availability of revision to the final revised management plan for the Sapelo Island National Estuarine Research Reserve, 1999-2004.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that the Estuarine Reserves Division, Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, has approved the revised Management Plan for the Sapelo Island National Estuarine Research Reserve (SINERR). The SINERR was designated in 1976 and has been operating under a Management Plan approved on December 18, 1990. Pursuant to Section 315 of the Coastal Zone Management Act, 16 U.S.C. Section 1461, and Section 921.33(c) of the implementing regulations, a state must revise its management plan at least every five years, or more often if necessary. This revision is Georgia's effort to comply with this requirement.

The revisions to the SINERR Management Plan include the items listed below,

1. The plan adds three full-time state positions to the SINERR staff; one each in research, education and management.

2. With Georgia General Assembly approved state funds, the SINERR has constructed a mainland interpretive

center at the Meridian ferry dock. This 3,000 square foot elevated building is the primary public outreach facility for the SINERR. The center has a large exhibit hall, a 50-seat audio visual room, handicap-accessible facilities and a boardwalk.

3. Under a NOAA matching grant, an existing building on Sapelo Island has been converted into an education/research laboratory. The facility has an audio visual room, office and storage space, an educational laboratory and a wet laboratory to support SINERR education and research/monitoring programs.

4. The revised management plan includes the establishment of education and research task forces from a reorganized SINERR Advisory Committee. The Education Task Force is comprised of representatives from local education institutions, such as colleges, secondary schools, marine sciences programs and state agencies. The Research Task Force is comprised of representatives from the scientific and academic communities.

5. The revised management plan includes the printing and distribution of the SINERR Ecological Site Characterization. This document presents a history of human activity on Sapelo Island and describes the physical, biological and chemical parameters of the SINERR's various habitats.

The impacts of the SINERR Management Plan have not changed and the initial Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) prepared at the time of designation is still valid. NOAA has made the determination that the proposed project will not have a significant effect on the human environment and therefore qualifies for a categorical exclusion under NOAA Administrative Order 216-6. An environmental assessment will not be prepared.

Copies of the document can be obtained from the Sapelo Island National Estuarine Research Reserve, Department of Natural Resources, PO Box 15, Sapelo Island, GA 31327. (912) 485-2251.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Laurie McGilvray, OCRM, Estuarine Reserves Division, 1305 East-West Highway, 11th Floor (N/ORM5), Silver Spring, Maryland 20910, (301) 713-3155, Extension 158.

(Federal Domestic Assistance Catalog Number 11.420 (Coastal Zone Management) Research Reserves)

Dated: June 3, 1999.

**Ted Lillestolen,**

*Deputy Assistant Administrator for Ocean Services and Coastal Zone Management.*

[FR Doc. 99-14907 Filed 6-10-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-08-P

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

#### National Estuarine Research Reserve System

**AGENCY:** Estuarine Reserves Division, Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of approval and availability of revision to the final revised management plan for the Weeks Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, 1998-2003.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that the Estuarine Reserves Division (ERD), Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, has approved the revised Management Plan for the Weeks Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (WBNERR). WBNERR was designated in 1986 and has been operating under a Management Plan approved in 1985. Pursuant to Section 315 of the Coastal Zone Management Act, 16 U.S.C., Section 1461, and Section 921.33(c) of the implementing regulations, a state must revise its management plan at least every five years, or more often if necessary. This revision is Alabama's effort to comply with this requirement.

The revisions to the WBNERR Management Plan provide a more complete and updated articulation of reserve goals, objectives, and activities in the areas of administration, research/monitoring, stewardship, education/interpretation, boundaries/acquisition/facilities construction, and the volunteer program for a five year period from 1998 to 2003. The plan will increase community awareness and understanding of the Weeks Bay estuary through Reserve programs and partnerships. Highlights include:

1. Staffing. The revised Management Plan increases Reserve staff, including the addition of a full-time Research Coordinator to manage the System-wide Monitoring Program, initiate research and secure research funds, and support third party research activities in the Reserve boundaries.

2. Future Boundary Expansion and Land Acquisition. The revised Management Plan identifies the five

tracts of land (191 acres) currently held by the Weeks Bay Reserve Foundation as areas to be incorporated into the Reserve boundaries in the future. It initiates a land acquisition plan that identifies and prioritizes key ecological areas for future acquisition and/or protection.

3. Core and Buffer Areas. The revised Management Plan establishes the water bottoms within the Reserve boundaries up to mean high tide as the core area of the Reserve and the Reserve land areas as buffer to protect the core and provide additional protection for estuarine-dependent species.

4. Facilities. Under the revised Management Plan, the Reserve administration will improve existing facilities and develop buildings and boardwalks adjacent to the Interpretive Center to optimize the stewardship function of the Reserve with respect to resource protection, research, and education while maintaining a low impact on the immediate resources in that area.

5. Education. The revised Management Plan calls for the design and implementation of comprehensive programs of education and interpretation for all audiences to strengthen understanding, appreciation and stewardship of estuaries, coastal habitats and associated watersheds.

6. Research, Monitoring, and Coastal Decision Making. The revised Management Plan provides for the use of the System-wide Monitoring Program information and other research to provide a basis within the watershed for better informed decisions on the part of public and private users of the watershed.

7. Resource Protection. The revised Management Plan incorporates portions of the Weeks Bay Watershed Management Plan which has been developed to improve the water quality in Weeks Bay and the Weeks Bay watershed.

8. Habitat Restoration. The revised Management Plan describes current restoration of Reserve habitats (e.g. the pitcher plant bog, the southwest Weeks Bay shoreline). It establishes a process to identify and prioritize other habitats that have been degraded by human impact or have been disturbed leading to decreased productivity/biodiversity within the Reserve ecosystem.

The impacts of the WBNERR Management Plan have not changed and the initial Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) prepared at the time of designation remains valid. NOAA has made the determination that the proposed project will not have a significant effect on the human

environment and therefore qualifies for a categorical exclusion under NOAA Administrative Order 216-6. An environmental assessment will not be prepared.

Copies of the document can be obtained from the Weeks National Estuarine Research Reserve, 11300 US Highway 98, Fairhope, Alabama 36532. (334) 928-9792.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Nathalie Peter, OCRM, Estuarine Reserves Division, 1305 East-West Highway, 11th Floor (N/ORM5), Silver Spring, Maryland 20910. (301) 713-3132, extension 119.

Federal Domestic Assistance Catalog Number 11.420 (Coastal Zone Management) Research Reserves

Dated: June 3, 1999.

**Ted Lillestolen,**

*Deputy Assistant Administrator for Ocean Services and Coastal Zone Management.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[Docket No. 990520139-9139-01; I.D. 050799A]

RIN 0648-AM68

### Disaster Assistance for Northeast Multispecies Fishery Failure

**AGENCY:** National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

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

**SUMMARY:** NMFS requests comments on a proposed plan for disbursing funds to assist persons who have incurred losses from a commercial fishery failure due to the declining stocks of groundfish which has caused harm to the Northeast multispecies fishery. This proposed plan contains criteria for eligibility, limitations and conditions for receiving disaster assistance.

**DATES:** Comments must be received by June 28, 1999.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments should be sent to: Kevin Chu, NMFS, 166 Water St., Woods Hole, MA 02543. Direct all written comments regarding Paperwork Reduction Act and collection of information burden estimates to Linda Engelmeier, Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 5327, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230, and to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) at the Office of Information and Regulatory

Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503 (Attention: NOAA Desk Officer).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Kevin Chu, NMFS, Northeast Region ((508) 495-2367).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** In the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations section of the FY 1999 Appropriations Act (Public Law No. 105-277), Congress appropriated \$5,000,000 to NOAA to provide emergency disaster assistance to persons or entities in the Northeast multispecies fishery who have incurred economic losses from a commercial fishing failure under a fishery resource disaster declaration made in 1994 pursuant to section 308(b) of the Interjurisdictional Fisheries Act (IFA) of 1986. Although the funds are available until used, NMFS is not obligated to compensate every individual affected by the Northeast multispecies collapse or to expend all the funding on assistance.

Pursuant to his authority under this section of the IFA, former Secretary of Commerce Ron Brown declared a fishery resource disaster on March 18, 1994, for the Northeast multispecies fishery. This disaster has extended through this year and is expected to continue, causing a number of additional fishery closures in New England and economic hardship in the fishery.

The Gulf of Maine stocks of groundfish have declined drastically over the past three decades. Since the first declaration of a fishery disaster in 1994, recovery measures for Northeastern groundfish have improved the prospects for commercially important cod, haddock, and yellowtail flounder stocks on Georges Bank, but measures intended to protect Gulf of Maine cod have not been as successful. Gulf of Maine stocks of cod, white hake, American plaice, and yellowtail flounder remain overfished. The spawning biomass continues to decline, reducing the probability that sizable groups of new fish will be produced. As a result of the continued crisis in the Northeast multispecies fishery, a number of areas in the Gulf of Maine have been closed to many types of fishing gear for up to 3 months during the period of February through June 1999, resulting in lost fishing opportunities.

There have been many meetings of fishermen discussing the best use of these disaster assistance funds, including a number of meetings of a group called the Tri-state Conference, composed of fishermen from Massachusetts, New Hampshire and