

areas of Lake Champlain and reduce sea lamprey population levels and associated impacts there.

(c) Employ an integrated approach to continuing sea lamprey control using lampricides and nonchemical means.

(2) What mitigation and monitoring measures are required for sound resource management?

(3) Is sea lamprey control in the best interest for the resource and citizens of the states of New York and Vermont?

The Final Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision is expected to be released by April, 2001. The Responsible Officials will make a decision regarding this proposal after considering public comments, and the environmental consequences displayed in the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement, applicable laws, regulations, and policies. The decision and supporting reason will be documented in the Record of Decision.

Dated November 3, 1999.

Ronald E. Lambertson,

Regional Director.

[FR Doc. 99-29790 Filed 11-15-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force Meeting

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice announces a meeting of the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force. The meeting topics are identified in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

DATES: The Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force will meet from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Wednesday, December 1, 1999 and 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m., Thursday, December 2, 1999.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service office, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Room 200 AB, Arlington, Virginia.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sharon Gross, Executive Secretary, Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force at 703-358-2308 or by e-mail at: sharon_gross@fws.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App. I), this notice announces a meeting of the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force. The Task Force was established

by the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990.

Topics to be addressed during the meeting include briefings about regional nonindigenous species problems and initiatives, a discussion on the establishment of additional regional panels, action on the approval of the Iowa State Management Plan, updates from several ANS Task Force committees including the regional panels, and other issues.

Minutes of the meeting will be maintained by the Executive Secretary, Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force, Suite 851, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Arlington, Virginia 22203-1622, and will be available for public inspection during regular business hours, Monday through Friday.

Dated: November 9, 1999.

Cathleen I. Short,

Co-Chair, Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force, Assistant Director—Fisheries.

[FR Doc. 99-29795 Filed 11-15-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

United States Coral Reef Task Force: Options for the United States To Consider To Promote the Conservation of Coral Reefs; Public Meeting

AGENCY: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: On behalf of the United States Coral Reef Task Force, we, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, announce a public meeting to discuss the trade in non-food fish coral reef species, the effects of this trade on coral reefs, and measures which the United States should consider to minimize these effects and promote coral reef conservation. Representatives of other agencies involved in the Trade Subgroup will participate in the meeting to answer questions and receive public comments on potential conservation actions.

DATES: The public meeting will be held on Monday, December 6 from 2:00 to 5:00 pm.

ADDRESSES: The public meeting will be held in Room 7000A and B, Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street, N.W., Washington, DC.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sheila Einsweiler, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Law Enforcement, telephone (703) 358-1949, fax (703) 358-2271, E-mail: Sheila_Einsweiler@fws.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

We request that anyone that wishes to speak at this public meeting contact us using the contact information above so that we can ensure that everyone is given enough time to express their opinions. We request that everyone who speaks at this meeting also give us their comments in writing. If you are unable to attend the meeting but still wish to comment, you may submit your comments by any one of several methods. You may mail comments to the following address: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of the Assistant Director for International Affairs, 1849 C Street, Room 3245, Washington, DC 20240. You may comment via the Internet to r9oma_cites@fws.gov. Please submit Internet comments as an ASCII file, avoiding the use of special characters and any form of encryption. Please also include "Attn: Public Meeting on U.S. Coral Reef Task Force", and your name and return address in your Internet message. If you do not receive a confirmation from the system that we have received your Internet message, contact us directly at the telephone number listed above. Finally, you may hand-deliver comments to the above address. We will consider comments and information received by December 10, 1999.

Coral reefs are recognized as being among the most diverse and valuable ecosystems on earth. Reef systems are storehouses of immense biological wealth and provide economic and ecosystem services to millions of people as shoreline protection, areas of natural beauty and recreation, and sources of food, pharmaceuticals, jobs, and revenues. According to one estimate, reef habitats provide humans with services worth about \$375 billion each year, despite the fact that they cover less than one percent of the earth's surface.

Unfortunately, coral reefs are also recognized as being among the most threatened marine ecosystems on the planet. Coral reefs are being seriously degraded by human activities, especially overexploitation of resources, destructive fishing practices, coastal development, and runoff from improper land-use practices. The international trade in coral, reef fish, live rock, and other coral reef organisms contributes to the decline and degradation of reefs. Coral reef resources traded internationally supply a wide number of markets and industries, including the seafood industry, live food fish markets, the aquarium trade, the curio and jewelry trade, and the pharmaceutical and research industries. As a major consumer of coral reef organisms and a

leader in coral reef conservation efforts, the United States has a critical responsibility to address coral reef trade issues.

Since 1994, the United States has worked actively to address the coral reef crisis through the United States Coral Reef Initiative and the International Coral Reef Initiative. Federal agencies, State, local, territorial, commonwealth, and local governments, nongovernmental organizations, and commercial interests have worked together to design and implement management, education, monitoring, research, and restoration efforts to conserve and sustainably use coral reef ecosystems. During the 1997 Year of the Reef, the U.S. joined many other nations in activities to raise public awareness about the importance of conserving coral reefs and to facilitate actions to protect coral reef ecosystems. On October 21, 1997, the 105th Congress passed House Concurrent Resolution 8, recognizing the significance of maintaining the health and stability of coral reef ecosystems. The United Nations declared 1998 as the International Year of the Ocean to raise public awareness and increase actions to conserve and use in a sustainable manner the broader ocean environment, including coral reefs.

On June 11, 1998, as part of the National Ocean Conference, President Clinton issued Executive Order 13089, Coral Reef Protection (64 FR 323701). E.O. 13089 established a national policy directing all Federal agencies whose actions may affect U.S. coral reef ecosystems to identify actions which may affect these ecosystems, utilize their authorities to protect and enhance these ecosystems, and to the extent permitted by law, ensure that their actions will not degrade these ecosystems. E.O. 13089 also established a United States Coral Reef Task Force (USCRTF), co-chaired by the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Commerce and also including the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, the Attorney General, the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Transportation, the Director of the National Science Foundation, the Administrator of the Agency for International Development, and the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

The duties of the USCRTF include: (a) Coordination of a comprehensive program of coral reef mapping and monitoring; (b) development and implementation of scientific research; (c) conservation, mitigation, and restoration of coral reef damage or

degradation; and (d) international cooperation and collaboration. Included in these duties are specific directions to the USCRTF to develop solutions to problems of over-fishing, over-use, and collection of coral reef species, and to assess the U.S. role in international trade and protection of coral reef species.

At its first meeting in October, 1998, at Biscayne National Park, Florida, the USCRTF established a series of Working Groups to develop immediate actions and longer-term strategies, including an International Working Group under the leadership of the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Agency for International Development. At the second meeting of the USCRTF, held in Hawaii in March, 1999, the International Working Group reported on its review of the effects of international trade, destructive fishing practices, and other issues, which showed that the United States is by far the largest consumer of live coral and marine fishes for the aquarium trade and dead coral skeletons and precious corals for curios and jewelry. The United States also was found to be a major consumer of sea horses, queen conch, and giant clams.

As a result, at its March meeting the USCRTF adopted a resolution requesting an accelerated interagency review of the advisability of pursuing legislation that addresses the trade in coral and coral reef species, led by the Council on Environmental Quality and in close consultation with members of the marine aquarium trade industry that are promoting certification and sustainability in the trade in coral reef species. The USCRTF also supported resolutions adopted by working groups of the Asian Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum regarding destructive fishing practices. In addition, a Trade Subgroup was established to further examine the nature and extent of threats to reefs related to trade in coral reef resources, evaluate current U.S. activities, and recommend further actions.

We are committed to working in cooperation with State, Territorial, Commonwealth, and local government agencies, nongovernmental organizations, the scientific community, and commercial interests and any other stakeholders in pursuing the objectives of E.O. 13089. With this public meeting, we are seeking comment on the relationship between trade and conservation of non-food fish coral reef species, and what actions the United States should consider, internationally and domestically, to reduce harmful effects of human activity and encourage

beneficial measures. There are a number of international and domestic activities which could assist in reducing harmful impacts to coral reefs from overharvest, destructive harvest, and trade. These coral reef conservation activities may include:

(1) Working within existing international frameworks such as the Convention on International Trade In Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI), and other multilateral, regional, and bilateral forums;

(2) Raising international awareness among governments, NGOs, industry, scientists, and consumers, and gathering better information regarding impacts of international trade;

(3) Building capacity in source countries to address overexploitation of resources, implementation of CITES and national controls, and destructive fishing practices;

(4) Improving law enforcement efforts against illegal coral trade and smuggling into the United States, development of cyanide detection tests for live fish, and committing additional resources to enforcement;

(5) Raising domestic consumer awareness through educational materials and encouraging alternatives to wild collection, such as sustainable captive-breeding or artificial culture or captive breeding;

(6) Analyzing and improving data collection and monitoring for imports of coral reef species into the United States;

(7) And, if necessary, developing new regulatory measures which would create additional authority to restrict commerce and address the role of U.S. consumer demand in causing unsustainable harvest or destructive harvests.

With this public meeting, we are particularly seeking comments about whether actions (1) through (6) can be expected to be sufficient to address the harmful effects of trade in coral reef species, if actively pursued, or whether there is a need for additional regulatory authority now to restrict commerce, in addition to the other actions included in this list. If such new authority were to be developed, we would like to receive comments about whether and how we should consider:

(a) The scope of species and activities which could be subject to additional regulatory authority;

(b) International issues, such as destructive fishing practices, unsustainable harvests, and international trade;

(c) Domestic issues, such as interstate commerce and domestic harvest,

including commercial, subsistence, and recreational uses, and applicability to Federal vs. State waters;

(d) Ways in which such new authority could be used to encourage voluntary measures prior to, or lieu of, the actual imposition of new regulations on harvest and trade; and

(e) Any other issues pertinent to assessing the need for, and effects of, additional regulatory authorities or non-regulatory measures designed to promote coral reef conservation.

You may obtain additional information about the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force and its conservation activities from the internet at <http://coralreef.gov> or by contacting us at one of the addresses above.

Dated: November 10, 1999.

Marshall P. Jones,

*Assistant Director for International Affairs,
Fish and Wildlife Service.*

[FR Doc. 99-29878 Filed 11-15-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Extension of Comment Period: Draft Compatibility Policy Pursuant to the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice; extension of comment period.

SUMMARY: We are extending the comment period on the **Federal Register** notice dated September 9, 1999 (64 FR 49067) that invites the public to comment on our draft compatibility policy. We are also extending the comment period on the **Federal Register** proposed rule dated September 9, 1999 (64 FR 49056) that invites the public to comment on our proposed compatibility regulations.

DATES: Submit comments on or before December 8, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Send comments concerning this draft compatibility policy via mail, fax or email to: Chief, Division of Refuges, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Room 670, Arlington, Virginia 22203; fax (703)358-2248; e-mail Compatibility_Policy_Comments@fws.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jim Kurth, Chief, Division of Refuges, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Telephone (703)358-1744.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In a **Federal Register** notice dated

September 9, 1999, we published our draft compatibility policy describing the process for determining whether or not a use of a national wildlife refuge is a compatible use. We also published in a **Federal Register** proposed rule dated September 9, 1999, our proposed compatibility regulations describing the process for determining whether or not a use of a national wildlife refuge is a compatible use. We received several requests to extend the public comment period beyond the November 8, 1999 due date. In order to ensure that the public has an adequate opportunity to review and comment on our draft policy and proposed regulations we are extending the comment period to December 8, 1999.

Primary Author: J. Kenneth Edwards, Refuge Program Specialist, Division of Refuges, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, is the primary author of this notice.

Dated: November 9, 1999.

Jamie Rappaport Clark,

Director, Fish and Wildlife Service.

[FR Doc. 99-29852 Filed 11-15-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Submission of Paperwork Reduction Act Request to Office of Management and Budget

AGENCY: Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice announces that the Information Collection Request for the Application for Training or Employment Assistance Form, OMB No. 1076-0062, has been submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for approval under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 25).

DATES: Submit your comments and suggestions on or before December 16, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be sent directly to the Office of Management and Budget, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attention: Desk Officer for the Department of the Interior, Room 10102, 725 17th Street NW, Washington, DC 20503. Send a copy of your comments to Lynn Forcia, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Office of Economic Development, 1849 C Street NW, Mail Stop 4640 MIB, Washington, DC 20240.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Copies of the information collection

may be obtained by contacting Lynn Forcia, 202-219-5270.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Abstract

Pub. L. 84-959 and Pub. L. 88-230 authorize the Department through the Bureau of Indian Affairs to help adult Indians who reside on or near Indian reservations to obtain reasonable and satisfactory employment. The Department is authorized to undertake a program of vocational training that provides vocational counseling, guidance, and training in any recognized vocation, apprenticeship, trade, or on-the-job training. The program is available to Indians who are not less than 18 years old and not more than 35 years old who reside on or near an Indian reservation. The Act authorizes the BIA to enter into contracts or agreements with Federal, State, local government agencies or associations with apprenticeship programs or on-the-job training that leads to skilled employment. The same application is used for both 25 CFR parts 26 and 27. The information collection is necessary to assess the need for Adult Vocational Training. A request for comments on this information collection was published in the **Federal Register** on July 8, 1999 (64 FR 36916). One individual submitted comments. The individual recommended the following changes: (1) Include an application number; (2) Collect additional identifying information of each applicant, such as maiden name, sex and education; (3) Rearrange certain data on the form; (4) Clarify that identification of number of dependents means "minor" children; and (5) Collect additional information regarding previous repeat services.

The application form already has an OMB identifying number and we have determined additional numbers are not necessary. In order to reduce the burden on the public, we have decided not to collect additional identifying information for each applicant. Rearranging data on the form would be of limited use and many case workers are already familiar with the existing format. Dependents may not necessarily be minors to be considered in determining eligibility. Therefore, no change is necessary. We are in the process of changing the regulations to reflect the need to provide services more than twice to clients, where appropriate. Therefore, additional information will not be collected.

Request for Comments

Comments are invited on (a) whether the information collection is necessary