

# Addendums

## *Fisheries and Habitat Conservation Program*

- *Conserving Marine Mammals*
- *Working with the Department of Defense to Conserve Fish and Wildlife Resources on Military Bases*
- *Harnessing Market Forces to Conserve America's Coasts and Save Taxpayers' Money*



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For more information about the Fisheries and Habitat Conservation Program, contact:  
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## U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

# Conserving Marine Mammals

## *Fisheries and Habitat Conservation Program*



*Above: Cooperative relationships with industry minimize impacts of energy development activities on polar bears.*



*Above: Manatees are a favorite attraction for visitors to the Florida coast and intracoastal waterways.*



*Above: Marine mammals in Alaska, such as the walrus, play an important traditional role in the culture and livelihood of Native Alaskans.*



*Above: Sea otters play an extremely important role in the California coastal ecosystem.*

The Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), enacted in 1972, prohibits the taking (i.e., hunting, killing, capture, and/or harassment) of marine mammals and enacted a moratorium on the import, export, sale and possession of marine mammals parts and products. There are exceptions to the prohibitions notably for Alaska Natives, who may hunt marine mammals for subsistence purposes, and may possess, transport and sell marine mammal parts and products, as well as for entities that apply for and are granted incidental take authorization.

The Fish and Wildlife Service is responsible for the conservation and management of sea and marine otters, polar bear, walrus, manatee, and dugong. The MMPA requires that marine mammals be maintained at, or returned to, their optimum sustainable populations. Management of marine mammals requires coordination among a variety of interests, including Federal and State agencies, commercial industries, Native Alaskans, and international governments.

### **What does this program do?**

- Ensures conservation and management of sea and marine otters, polar bear, walrus, manatee, and dugong.
- Enables coordination and facilitation of information and data exchange among interested parties.

### **How do we do it?**

- Create partnerships to monitor the status of marine mammal and provide information to the public on population trends of marine mammals.
- Facilitate international conservation efforts for transboundary stocks.

### **What have we done already?**

- Provided stock assessment reports for marine mammal species.
- Worked with Alaska Natives to develop cooperative agreements to conserve marine mammals.
- Assisted in development of an international agreement to conserve the Bering/Chukchi Sea polar bear population.
- Worked with the oil and gas industry to develop regulations to minimize the impacts of their activities on polar bear and walrus.

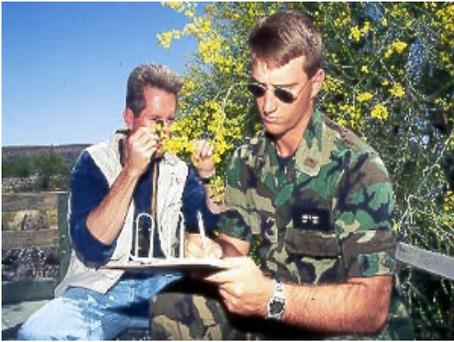
### **How does the public benefit?**

- Marine mammal populations are maintained for public enjoyment.

### **What more can we do?**

- Improve our capacity to assist our partners with marine mammal stranding and rescue response.
- Increase our capacity to monitor the status and health of marine mammal populations that occupy remote areas.
- Work more closely with our partners to recover threatened and endangered stocks of marine mammals.

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*Above: INRMPS reflect the mutual agreement of the Military, the States and the Fish and Wildlife Service.*



*Above: The Sikes Act ensures that Military bases maintain habitat for realistic training.*



*Above: INRMPS cannot compromise the Military mission.*



*Above: Military bases comprise 25 million acres of land.*

## U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

# Working with the Department of Defense to Conserve Fish and Wildlife Resources on Military Bases

## *Fisheries and Habitat Conservation Program*

The biggest land management challenge for the Department of Defense (DOD) may be the need to use its air, land, and water resources for military training and testing while conserving natural resources for future generations. The Fish and Wildlife Service and State fish and wildlife agencies help DOD meet this challenge under the Sikes Act.

The Sikes Act requires the development and implementation of Integrated Natural Resource Management Plans (INRMPS) for military installations. INRMPS, prepared in cooperation with the Service and State fish and wildlife agencies, integrate natural resource programs with operations and training and do not compromise the capability of DOD lands to support the military mission.

### What does this program do?

- Coordinates with the military services and the States, to maximize the conservation of natural resources on military installations.

### How do we do it?

- Create effective partnerships at the field office/installation/State office level to develop effective INRMPS, implement the plans, and monitor implementation.

### What have we done already?

- Worked with our partners in the military and States to complete over 350 INRMPS.

### How does the public benefit?

- INRMPS seek to maximize opportunities for appropriate public access to military installations for recreational purposes (hiking, hunting, fishing, bird watching, etc.).
- INRMPS contribute to efforts to preserve the Nation's biodiversity for future generations.

### What more can we do?

- Increase the Service's early involvement in development and revision of INRMPS, to improve the effectiveness of the plans with regards to conservation.
- Find more ways to assist the Military services in implementing INRMPS.

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## U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

# Harnessing the Power of Market Forces to Conserve America's Coasts and Save Taxpayers' Money

## *Fisheries and Habitat Conservation Program*



Above: Millions of people flock to coastal barriers each year—a boon to the economy. Photo by South Florida Water Management District.



Above: Coastal barriers are important for migratory birds and many at-risk plants and animals. Photo by Corel.



Above: Coastal barriers are attractive—but risky—places to build. Photo by South Florida Water Management District.



Above: Hurricanes menace coastal barriers almost every year. Photo by NOAA.

Coastal barriers provide many free services that are foundations of a strong economy and healthy environment. They create the back-bay water quality needed to support productive and lucrative fisheries, offer habitat for migratory birds and many at-risk plants and animals, and are also popular vacation destinations and a boon to local economies. Developing coastal barriers, however, is risky business. They are the first land forms storms strike; coastal barriers must bear the full force of storm surges and hurricane winds. Aware of their risk and value, Congress adopted the Coastal Barrier Resources Act in 1982. CBRA is the essence of free-market natural resource conservation; it in no way regulates how people can develop their land, but transfers the full cost from federal taxpayers to the individuals who choose to build.

### What does this program do?

- Saves taxpayers' money.
- Keeps people out of the deadly path of storm surge.
- Protects valuable habitat for fish and wildlife.

### How do we do it?

- Communicate with the public and local and state governments to help them understand how CBRA works and affects them.
- Consult with federal agencies that propose spending funds in CBRA areas.
- Cooperate with landowners to identify properties affected by CBRA.

### What have we done already?

- Saved hundreds of millions of taxpayers' dollars.
- Worked with landowners, local governments, and Congress to adjust boundaries.
- Consulted with our partners to understand how we can better serve their needs.

### How does the public benefit?

- Taxpayers across the country do not pay to develop—and rebuild again and again—risky and biologically rich places.
- Valuable coastal barrier habitat remains intact, helping migratory birds and at-risk plants and animals.
- The natural amenities that attract economic growth endure.

### What more can we do? **Electronic Governance is the future.**

- Give our customers user-friendly, digital maps that can be fully integrated into local and state management tools.
- Increase government efficiency by placing CBRA information on the Internet, making it easy for our customers to access information quickly.
- Reach out to more and more partners. CBRA is one item in the conservation toolbox that works best when complemented by other programs.

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