

# DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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## AID PROGRAM FOR MARINE MAMMALS PROPOSED

Marine mammals would be afforded an added degree of protection under a recent proposal to establish a Federal grant-in-aid program for research on polar bears, walruses, sea otters, manatees, and dugongs by State and local governments, private institutions, and qualified private citizens.

The proposed regulations setting down procedures for grant applications were published recently in the Federal Register. Public comment is invited and all comments received through November 18, 1974, will be considered. Comments should be addressed to Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C. 20240.

The exact amount of Federal funds available to support such research has yet to be determined.

The application, review, and followup procedures for the grant-in-aid program are proposed to be as follows:

1. Preliminary proposals and project documentation would be submitted to the Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Cooperative Research, Washington, D.C. 20240, before September 1 of the year preceding the fiscal year the research is contemplated. Applications for the current and next fiscal year will be considered through January 1, 1975.
2. Proposals would be judged on the priority and significance of the marine mammal problem to be addressed, the capabilities of the applicant to fulfill the objectives, and the probability of using the results to benefit marine mammals.
3. No agreements would be made with a non-Federal interest other than a State unless the project has the approval of the State agency.
4. Projects could be suspended or terminated by the Fish and Wildlife Service if the objectives are not pursued expeditiously or timely and adequate reports are not submitted or that satisfactory progress has not been maintained. The Fish and Wildlife Service shall have the right to inspect and review work being done at any time.
5. Research work would be coordinated by the grantee with studies done by others to avoid unnecessary duplication.
6. All work would be performed in accordance with applicable State laws, except when in conflict with Federal laws or regulations, in which case Federal laws or regulations shall prevail.

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