I. Abstract

Under Section 101(b) of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 (MMPA), as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361–1407), Alaska Natives residing in Alaska and dwelling on the coast of the North Pacific or Arctic Ocean may harvest polar bears, northern sea otters, and Pacific walrus for subsistence or handicraft purposes. Section 109(i) of the MMPA authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to prescribe marking, tagging, and reporting regulations applicable to the Alaska Native subsistence and handicraft take.

On behalf of the Secretary, we implemented regulations at 50 CFR 18.23(f) for Alaska Natives harvesting polar bear, northern sea otter, and Pacific walrus. These regulations enable us to gather data on the Alaska Native subsistence and handicraft harvest and on the biology of polar bear, northern sea otter, and Pacific walrus in Alaska to determine what effect such take may be having on these populations. The regulations also provide us with a means of monitoring the disposition of the harvest to ensure that any commercial use of products created from these species meets the criteria set forth in Section 101(b) of the MMPA.

The information we collect includes, but is not limited to:

(1) Date of kill.
(2) Sex of the animal.
(3) Kill location.
(4) Form of transportation used to make the kill of polar bears.
(5) Amount of time (i.e., hours/days hunted) spent hunting polar bears.
(6) Type of take (live killed or beach found) for walrus.
(7) Number of otters present in and number of otters harvested from pod.
(8) Condition of the bear and whether or not polar bear cubs were present.
(9) Name of the hunter or possessor of the specified parts at the time of marking, tagging, and reporting.

II. Data

OMB Control Number: 1018–0066. Title: Marine Mammal Tagging, Marking, and Reporting. Service Form Number(s): R7–50, R7–51, R7–52.

Type of Request: Revision of currently approved collection.
Affected Public: Individuals and households.

Respondent’s Obligation: Required to obtain or retain a benefit.

Frequency of Collection: On occasion.
III. Request for Comments

We invite comments concerning this IC on:

(1) whether or not the collection of information is necessary, including whether or not the information will have practical utility;

(2) the accuracy of our estimate of the burden for this collection of information;

(3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

(4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents.

Comments that you submit in response to this notice are a matter of public record. We will include and/or summarize each comment in our request to OMB to approve this IC. Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment, including your personal identifying information, may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Dated: June 25, 2007
Hope Grey,
Information Collection Clearance Officer,
Fish and Wildlife Service.
FR Doc. E7–13469 Filed 7–11–07; 08:45 am
Billing Code 4310–55–S

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Fish and Wildlife Service


AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: We, the Fish and Wildlife Service, announce that a Draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Environmental Assessment (Draft CCP/E) for Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge is available for distribution. The National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966, as amended by the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997, requires that we develop a comprehensive conservation plan for each national wildlife refuge. This Draft CCP, when final, will describe how we intend to manage Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge over the next 15 years.

DATES: Written comments must be received at the postal address listed below no later than August 13, 2007.

ADDRESSES: To provide written comments or to obtain a copy of the Draft CCP/EA, please write to: Howard Phillips, Refuge Manager, Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge, P.O. Box 329, Columbia, North Carolina 27925; or telephone: 252/796–3004, Extension 226. The Draft CCP/EA may also be accessed and downloaded from the Service’s Internet Site: http://southeast.fws.gov/planning/.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:
Public Availability of Comments: Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment, including your personal identifying information, may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Background: Congress established the 12,000-acre Pungo National Wildlife Refuge in 1963, by the authority of the Migratory Bird Conservation Act of 1929 and the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956. Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1990. At that time, Pungo Refuge was made a unit of Pocosin Lakes Refuge. The refuge, in northeast North Carolina, consists of 110,106 acres in fee simple ownership, and is made up of the following habitats: 63,896 acres of pocosin wetlands; 4,280 acres of bay forest; 3,124 acres of peatland Atlantic white cedar; 13,544 acres of shrub pines; 14,045 acres of hardwood swamp forest; 970 acres of cypress-gum swamp; 987 acres of marsh; 276 acres of xeric sandhill scrub; 1,250 acres of cropland; 443 acres of moist-soil areas; 446 acres of natural shoreline; and 6,740 acres of open water. These habitats support a variety of wildlife species, including red wolves, red-cockaded woodpeckers, waterfowl, shorebirds, wading birds, marsh birds, and neotropical migratory songbirds.

The refuge hosts approximately 80,000 visitors annually who participate in hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, wildlife photography, and environmental education and interpretation. Because of the estimated number of people stopping at the Tyrrell County Visitor Center (460,000), which is located immediately adjacent to the refuge’s visitor center and Scuppernong River Interpretive Boardwalk, actual refuge visitation is likely much higher; perhaps exceeding 200,000.

Significant issues addressed in the Draft CCP/EA include: managing impoundments to create optimum habitat for migrating waterfowl, shorebirds, wading birds, and aquatic organisms; managing and providing optimum habitat for threatened and endangered species; managing marshes and pine forests with prescribed fire; monitoring, managing, and eradicating invasive pest plants and animals; restoring natural hydrology on the refuge; surveying for waterfowl, shorebirds, wading birds, and neotropical migratory songbirds; providing adequate law enforcement; providing outreach and interpretive opportunities to the public; providing quality hunting and fishing opportunities; and managing access for public use activities.

Also addressed in the Draft CCP/EA are compatibility determinations for the following uses: (1) Hunting; (2) Fishing; (3) Wildlife Observation and Photography; (4) Environmental Education and Interpretation; (5) Refuge Access for Public Uses; (6) Trapping of Selected Furbearers for Management; (7) Collecting Reptiles and Amphibians; (8) Refuge Resource Research Studies; (9) Cooperative Farming; (10) Commercial Photography; (11) Commercial Tours and Guiding; (12) Wood and Reed Gathering; (13) Meetings of Non-Service Agencies and Organizations on the