

Notice of Availability for Public Review and Comment:

Draft Compatibility Determination and Draft Environmental Action Statement for the Proposed Extension of Commercial Fishing (Seafood Harvesting) on Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge to September 30, 2028

DEADLINE FOR COMMENTS

To ensure consideration of your comments in the development of the final decision and the final compatibility determination, comments need to be received by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service by **March 30, 2018**.

PROPOSAL

Commercial fishing (seafood harvesting) is currently scheduled to be phased out on Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge on September 30, 2018. However, during the 10-year phase-out period, permit holders were not adequately notified of the sunset date and the phase-out was not fully implemented. To address the shortcomings related to the 2018 phase-out, the Service has evaluated options and is recommending an extension of the phase-out of commercial fishing (seafood harvesting) for an additional 10-year period. The proposal would extend commercial fishing (seafood harvesting) on Merritt Island NWR to September 30, 2028.

HOW TO SUBMIT COMMENTS?

Comments may be delivered in writing by:

- Emailing Merritt Island NWR, Commercial Harvesting Proposal at MerrittIsland@fws.gov;
- Mailing Merritt Island NWR, Commercial Harvesting Proposal at PO Box 2683, Titusville, FL 32781-2683;
- Faxing Merritt Island NWR, Commercial Harvesting Proposal at 321-861-1276; or
- Delivering by hand to Merritt Island NWR Headquarters, Commercial Harvesting Proposal, [1963 Refuge HQ Road, Titusville, FL 32780](#) (5 miles east of Titusville on SR 402).

Please include your name with your comments. Please note that all comments become part of the official public record. Requests for such comments will be handled in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act and Service and Department of the Interior policies and procedures.