

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[I.D. 030102D]

Fisheries off West Coast States and in the Western Pacific; Western Pacific Crustacean Fisheries; 2002 Bank-specific Harvest Guidelines

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notification of no harvest guideline for crustaceans.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces that annual harvest guidelines for the commercial lobster fishery in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands (NWHI) will not be issued for the year 2002.

ADDRESSES: Copies of background material pertaining to this action, which is identical to the action taken in 2001, may be obtained from Dr. Charles Karnella, Administrator, NMFS, Pacific Islands Area Office, 1601 Kapiolani Blvd., Suite 1110, Honolulu, HI 96814.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Alvin Katekaru at 808-973-2937.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the Fishery Management Plan for the Crustacean Fisheries of the Western Pacific Region, 50 CFR 660.50(b)(2), NMFS is required to publish the harvest guidelines for lobster Permit Area 1 around the NWHI. Although the lobster stock is not overfished, the NWHI lobster fishery has been closed since 2000: (a) as a precautionary measure to prevent overfishing of the lobster resources; (b) in compliance with an order of the U.S. District Court for the District of Hawaii to keep the crustacean fisheries closed until an environmental impact statement and a biological opinion have been prepared for the crustacean fisheries in the western Pacific region; and (c) consistent with Executive Orders 13178 and 13196, issued in December 2000 and January 2001, respectively, that appear to close indefinitely the NWHI crustacean fishery.

NMFS announces that it will not be publishing any harvest guideline for this fishery for the year 2002 and no harvest of NWHI lobster resources will be allowed. NMFS intends to conduct biological research on the status of NWHI lobster resources and to examine the resulting data for indications as to the appropriate direction for future fishery management actions.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: March 7, 2002.

Bruce C. Morehead,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**Office of the Secretary****Notice of Availability Missile Defense Agency Ground-Based Midcourse Defense Validation Of Operational Concept Environmental Assessment**

AGENCY: Missile Defense Agency

ACTION: Notice of availability

SUMMARY: The Missile Defense Agency (MDA) (formerly the Ballistic Missile Defense Organization) announces the availability of the Ground-Based Midcourse Defense (GMD) Validation of Operational Concept (VOC) Environmental Assessment (EA). The EA assesses the potential impacts of construction and test activities at GMD VOC test sites. The proposed action includes construction and operational testing of six ground-based interceptor (GBI) silos and support facilities, In-Flight Interceptor Communication System Data Terminals (IDTs), and Defense Satellite Communication System (DSCS) earth terminals in central Alaska; an IDT and DSCS earth terminal at Eareckson Air Station (AS), Alaska; construction of a missile transfer facility at Eielson Air Force Base (AFB), Alaska; use of the existing COBRA DANE Radar, with upgraded hardware and software and interior modifications, at Eareckson AS; interior modifications and hardware and software upgrades to the Early Warning Radar at Beale AFB, California; and Battle Management, Command and Control [BMC2] nodes at one or more of Peterson AFB, Cheyenne Mountain Complex and Shriever AFB in Colorado, Eareckson AS, Alaska, Beale AFB California, and contractor facilities in Alabama and California.

Fort Greely, Alaska was considered as the preferred alternative for the six GBI silos and support facilities and associated BMC3 including one IDT, one DSCS earth terminal, a BMC2 execution node and installation of terrestrial fiber optic cable. Clear Air Force Station, Alaska is being considered as an alternative location to Fort Greely, Alaska as the GBI silo and support facilities location.

The no-action alternative was also considered. Under the no-action alternative, MDA would not proceed

with construction and testing to support validation of the GMD operational concept through ground-based testing. Selection of the no-action alternative would not allow the operationally realistic testing needed to further develop the GMD element of the Midcourse Defense Segment.

Comments: Public comments on the EA must be received by April 13, 2002. Written comments or a request for a copy of the EA should be directed to: U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command, ATTN: Mr. David Hasley, SMDC-EN-V, P.O. Box 1500, Huntsville, AL 35807-3801.

As the proposed action includes multiple locations, some of which are under the administrative control of the United States Army and some of which are under the administrative control of the United States Air Force, the MDA has used both Army Regulation 200-2 and Air Force Instruction 32-7061 in preparing the EA and Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI). An unsigned FNSI will be distributed with the final EA. The FNSI will be signed after a 30-day public review period, and the proposed action could be implemented unless the MDA determines that information presented during the 30-day public review period reveals an unassessed potential for significant impacts on the environment. Interested parties can also review the unsigned FNSI, EA, and referenced NMD Deployment EIS on the internet at: www.acq.osd.mil/bmdo/bmdolink/html/newrel.html#envir.ANC or at the following locations:

University of Alaska, Anchorage Consortium Library
3211 Providence Drive
Anchorage, AK 99508

Alaska Resources Library & Information Services

3150 C Street, Suite 100
Anchorage, AK 99503

Delta Junction Library
2288 Deborah Street
Delta Junction, AK 99737

Anderson School Library
1st Avenue
Anderson, AK 99744

Alaska State Library 344 W. 3rd. Avenue, Suite 125
Anchorage, AK 99501

Fairbanks North Star Borough Public Library
Noel Wien Library
1215 Cowles Street
Fairbanks, AK 99701-4313

University of Alaska, Fairbanks Elmer E. Rasmuson Library
PO Box 756800

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10321 Live Oak Blvd.
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