

Public meetings are held as part of the site visits.

Notice is hereby given of the dates of the site visits for the listed evaluations, and the dates, local times, and locations of public meetings during the site visits.

The Jobos Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve in Puerto Rico site visit will be from February 27 to March 3, 1995. A public meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 28, 1995, at 1:30 p.m., at the Department of Natural and Environmental Resources Auditorium, Tropical Medicine Building, Puerta de Tierra, Puerto Rico.

The New York Coastal Management Program evaluation site visit will be from March 20 to March 24, 1995. A public meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 22, 1995 at 7:30 p.m. in the State Office Building, Happpauge, Long Island, New York.

The States will issue notice of the public meeting(s) in a local newspaper(s) at least 45 days prior to the public meeting(s), and will issue other timely notices as appropriate.

Copies of the State's most recent performance reports, as well as OCRM's notifications and supplemental request letters to the States, are available upon request from OCRM. Written comments from interested parties regarding these Programs are encouraged and will be accepted until 15 days after the site visit. Please direct written comments to Vickie A. Allin, Chief, Policy Coordination Division, Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, NOS/NOAA, 1305 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910. When the evaluation is completed, OCRM will place a notice in the Federal Register announcing the availability of the Final Evaluation Findings.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Vickie A. Allin, Chief, Policy Coordination Division, Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, NOS/NOAA, 1305 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910, (301) 713-3090, ext. 126.

(Federal Domestic Assistance Catalog 11.419 Coastal Zone Management Program Administration)

Dated: January 12, 1995.

W. Stanley Wilson,

Assistant Administrator for Ocean Services and Coastal Zone.

[FR Doc. 95-1257 Filed 1-18-95; 8:45 am]

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[Docket No. 950113015-5015-01]

RIN 0648-2A12

Global Learning and Observations To Benefit the Environment (GLOBE)

AGENCY: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, COMMERCE (DOC).

ACTION: NOTICE, Competitive Solicitation for a GLOBE Joint Project Agreement.

SUMMARY: GLOBE is an international environmental education and science program involving students in kindergarten through twelfth grade (or equivalent) throughout the world. The goals of the GLOBE Program are to enhance the environmental awareness of individuals worldwide, to increase scientific understanding of the Earth by collecting data for use by the international community of environmental scientists and others, and to help all students reach higher standards in science and mathematics education. The goals will be accomplished through a number of activities, including having students making environmental observations at or near their schools. The data resulting from these observations will be transmitted through the Internet and satellite communications for processing. As these data are processed, global environmental visualizations will be created based on the students' observations and other environmental information and relayed back to the students. The data acquired by the students will also be available through the Internet to environmental scientists throughout the world to support their research.

These goals will be accomplished in the United States through a partnership between the Federal Government and the private sector, and internationally through partnerships between the United States and other countries.

This notice solicits proposals for the private sector partner ("GLOBE Private Sector Partner") for the GLOBE Program, which must be a non-profit organization, from private sector non-profit organizations and from other respondents that are willing to form non-profit organizations to enter into a Joint Project Agreement ("JPA") to solicit and manage private resources to assist many schools in the U.S. and overseas to participate in the GLOBE Program, and to encourage and coordinate private sector participation in the GLOBE Program in other ways. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the lead agency of the public sector GLOBE

Program ("GLOBE Program"), which is a U.S. Government interagency activity that plans and implements the national and international GLOBE Program, has determined that a JPA is the most effective mechanism to engage in a partnership with the U.S. Globe Private Sector Partner, since program goals and program implementation will be of mutual interest, and the parties to the JPA will agree to bear equitable portions of the costs of the overall program consistent with their responsibilities.

DATES: Proposals for the GLOBE Joint Project Agreement to be selected as a result of this solicitation should be received by February 21, 1995. Proposals received after that date may be considered if a qualified respondent has not yet been selected when a proposal is received.

ADDRESSES: Proposals must be sent by mail to Thomas N. Pyke, Jr., Director, The GLOBE Program, 744 Jackson Place, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20503 or delivered to Director, The GLOBE Program, The White House, New Executive Office Building, 725 17th Street, N.W., Room G-1, Washington, D.C. 20006. FACSIMILE COPIES ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Interested respondents should contact Thomas N. Pyke, Jr., Director, The GLOBE Program, at (202) 395-7600.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Description of The GLOBE Program and U.S. Government Involvement

GLOBE is an international environmental education and science program involving students in kindergarten through twelfth grade (or equivalent) throughout the world, which will enhance the environmental awareness of individuals worldwide, increase scientific understanding of the Earth by collecting data for use by the international community of environmental scientists and others, and help all students reach higher standards in science and mathematics education.

In the United States, the public sector GLOBE program is an interagency effort led by NOAA, which is an agency of the U.S. Department of Commerce. The other Federal agencies involved are the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the National Science Foundation (NSF), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Departments of Education and State; and the Council on Environmental Quality and the Office of Science and Technology Policy at the White House. Over 100 other nations have expressed an interest in the GLOBE Program. The first bilateral

international GLOBE agreement was signed with the Russian Federation on December 16, 1994.

Working with its international partner nations and with the GLOBE Private Sector Partner, the GLOBE Program will encourage participation in the program and the use of GLOBE student measurement data by providing upon request information on its plans and activities to individuals and organizations throughout the world through a wide range of publications, press releases, and media events. It will design a global information network, develop prototype school computer system hardware and software, and specify scientific instruments and develop scientific and educational materials for use by teachers and students. It will plan and conduct a worldwide training effort for teachers in GLOBE schools and will develop and operate a GLOBE central data processing and visualization system.

U.S. Government funding to support the GLOBE Program is contained in the budgets of NOAA, NASA, NSF, and EPA. It is anticipated that a very significant portion of the resources for the overall GLOBE Program will be provided over the long term by non-U.S. Government sources, including resources from the private sector and other nations.

The purpose of soliciting a GLOBE Private Sector Partner, to be recognized through this JPA, is to provide a mechanism by which the GLOBE Program and the GLOBE Private Sector Partner can collaborate in supporting the implementation of GLOBE in schools. A three-year, renewable Joint Project Agreement is planned, under which the GLOBE Private Sector Partner will be responsible for coordinating and encouraging private sector participation in GLOBE.

The GLOBE Program, through its participating Federal agencies, may enter any necessary and appropriate agreements with governmental entities other than the U.S. Government and with other authorities having responsibility for the schools participating in the GLOBE Program as to the acceptable use of equipment and other materials provided by the U.S. Government and by the GLOBE Private Sector Partner through this JPA in support of the GLOBE Program.

NOAA initially published a Federal Register notice on August 24, 1994, soliciting overall interest from non-profit, research or public organizations to participate in JPA's supporting the GLOBE Program (59 FR 43555). On November 23, 1994, NOAA published a second Federal Register notice,

announcing registration procedures for U.S. schools to be designated as GLOBE schools, and soliciting applications for Federal assistance in the form of computers and other resources to enable schools to become GLOBE schools (59 FR 60351).

II. GLOBE Private Sector Partner Responsibilities

The GLOBE Private Sector Partner, a non-profit organization, will solicit and manage private resources to assist many schools in the U.S. and in other countries to participate in the GLOBE Program, and it will otherwise encourage and coordinate private sector participation in the GLOBE Program. In doing so, it will promote improved scientific understanding of the environment and environmental awareness through environmental education and other appropriate means.

The GLOBE Private Sector Partner will solicit, accept and expend substantial amounts of private funding and other private resources to implement a significant part of the GLOBE Program in such a way as to build on, complement, and complete the information systems, scientific and educational support, and other capabilities initiated or created with funding from the U.S. Government, as quickly as possible, so as to meet the goals of the GLOBE Program, as stated above. The GLOBE Private Sector Partner will facilitate support of participation of schools in the GLOBE Program in such a way as to be inclusive in the opportunity for the Nation's and the world's young people to participate in the program.

The GLOBE Private Sector Partner will purchase, or accept as donations, computers and other equipment necessary for schools to participate in the GLOBE Program, based on prototypes and specifications developed by the public sector GLOBE Program. In consultation with the public sector GLOBE Program, the GLOBE Private Sector Partner will distribute computer hardware, software, and scientific instruments to schools to enable them to participate in the GLOBE Program. It will support equipment installation, systems support, training, and educational support services. The GLOBE Private Sector Partner will also support, as needed and to the extent possible, terrestrial or satellite-based communications links between schools and Internet access points.

The GLOBE Private Sector Partner will solicit, receive, manage, and maintain control over private funding and other private resources necessary to participate as a partner with the public

sector GLOBE Program. In soliciting and accepting donations of resources, the GLOBE Private Sector Partner will avoid preferential treatment, the appearance of preferential treatment, or endorsement and other appearances of impropriety consistent with guidelines developed by the Private Sector Partner and approved by the GLOBE Program. NOAA and other agencies of the U.S. Government may report, advertise, or otherwise publicize the existence, source, and nature of donations to the Private Sector Partner. The use by the GLOBE Private Sector Partner of the term "GLOBE" or any other reference to its association with The GLOBE Program in performing all activities through which it carries out its responsibilities under the JPA shall be as a result of a revocable license to do so granted to the GLOBE Private Sector Partner by the U.S. Government through the Joint Project Agreement established as a result of this solicitation.

The Private Sector Partner will seek to involve a broad range of other private sector participants, including foundations and for-profit business organizations, in collaborative support of the GLOBE Program. The Private Sector Partner may work with similar private organizations in other nations to accomplish its responsibilities to support the worldwide implementation of the GLOBE Program.

The GLOBE Private Sector Partner is strongly encouraged to establish or support the establishment of a highly visible public environmental learning center to support the goals of the GLOBE Program. It will include appropriate exhibit space that features vivid, imaginative displays based on data acquired at GLOBE schools combined with real-time and historical satellite imagery and other environmental data and information. It is expected that such a center will employ advanced virtual reality technology so as to provide an authentic and stimulating experience for large numbers of visitors.

Any private funds or other resources received as charitable contributions by the GLOBE Private Sector Partner intended to implement its responsibilities under this JPA shall be employed only to support activities as permitted under the GLOBE Private Sector Partner's charter as a non-profit organization, and must be consistent with GLOBE Program goals and priorities.

The Federal Government will not assume liability for the acts of the GLOBE Private Sector Partner or any third persons arising out of its involvement with the GLOBE Program

or its actions under the JPA, nor will the Federal Government reimburse or indemnify the GLOBE Private Sector Partner for its liability due to any losses resulting in any way from its actions arising out of its involvement in the GLOBE Program or its actions under the JPA.

III. Authority

NOAA is authorized to enter into Joint Project Agreements in accordance with the U.S. Department of Commerce Joint Project Authority, 15 U.S.C. 1525, which authorizes the Secretary to engage in joint efforts of mutual interest with non-profit, research, or public organizations upon an equitable distribution of the costs of the project. This Agreement is undertaken by NOAA in accordance with 15 U.S.C. 1540, which authorizes the Secretary of Commerce, through the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere, to enter into cooperative agreements and other financial agreements to aid and promote scientific and educational activities to foster public understanding of NOAA or its programs and to solicit private donations in support of such activities; 15 U.S.C. 2938, which authorizes NOAA to provide global change research findings to other Federal agencies; and, 49 U.S.C. App. 1463, which authorizes NOAA to engage in activities that support weather and other related environmental forecasting.

IV. Eligibility Criteria

Each respondent must itself be a non-profit private entity or be a person or private entity that proposes to form a suitable non-profit private entity to become the GLOBE Private Sector Partner. The entity proposed to be the GLOBE Private Sector Partner must be chartered and organized to operate exclusively for charitable and educational purposes and to support and promote increased scientific understanding of the environment and education of the people of the world about the environment through its active involvement in support of the GLOBE Program. Respondents will be required to raise funding and provide private support for non-governmental activities related to the GLOBE Program.

V. Proposal Submission Guidelines

The guidelines for proposals provided below are mandatory. Failure to adhere to these guidelines may result in proposals being returned without review.

(a) *Proposals*: (1) Respondents must submit one original and two copies of their proposals. (2) Proposals must be

limited to 40 single-space typewritten pages (numbered), including vitae, and all appendices. (3) Proposals must be sent or delivered to The GLOBE Director at the above address. (4) Facsimile transmissions or electronic mail submissions will not be accepted.

(b) *Required Elements*: All Proposals must include the following elements: (1) A Statement of Eligibility relative to the Eligibility Criteria in Section IV above. (2) A Statement of proposed activities and how the respondent will organize to carry out these activities, specifically addressing all evaluation factors set forth below and the GLOBE Private Sector Partner responsibilities as described in Section II above.

VI. Evaluation of JPA Proposals

Proposals will be evaluated based on three selection factors and additional credit factor, which are derived from the U.S. GLOBE Private Sector Partner responsibilities specified above, and in the context of the GLOBE Program goals. These goals are to enhance environmental awareness of individuals worldwide, to increase scientific understanding of the Earth, and to help all students reach higher standards in science and mathematics education. The selection factors will be given approximately equal value in the evaluation of proposals.

—The estimated amount of private monetary and in-kind resources that would be made available within the first year after the JPA is signed by the proposed Private Sector Partner to support the widespread implementation of the GLOBE Program, both domestically and internationally, including a willingness to commit to specific funding goals and schedules. It is expected that the GLOBE Private Sector Partner will provide support during the first year for at least 1,000 GLOBE schools, with a nominal value of such support of \$5,000 per school, and that support of well over 10,000 schools be planned over the long term.

—The ability of the proposed GLOBE Private Sector Partner to promote and coordinate the involvement of a broad range of other private sector participants, including foundations and for-profit business organizations, in collaborative support of the GLOBE Program. The GLOBE Private Sector Partner will be expected to raise private funding and support to achieve the goal of providing a very significant amount of total GLOBE funding from private sector resources over the long term.

—The ability of the Private Sector Partner to facilitate support of participation by thousands of schools in the GLOBE Program in a way so as to involve diverse groups of schools and to be inclusive in the opportunity to participate for the Nation's and the world's young people.

As an additional credit factor, proposals will be given additional credit in the evaluation process if they propose that the GLOBE Private Sector Partner establish or support the establishment of a highly visible public environmental learning center and appropriate exhibit space that features vivid, imaginative displays based on data acquired at GLOBE schools combined with real-time and historical satellite imagery and other environmental data and information. It is expected that such a center would utilize advanced virtual reality technology so as to provide an authentic and stimulating experience for large numbers of visitors.

VII. Selection Procedures

NOAA will convene an interagency review panel to evaluate the proposals received in accordance with the factors stated above, and to make recommendations to the GLOBE Director, who is an official of and is acting on behalf of NOAA. If there are more than five proposals received prior to the final selection being made by the GLOBE Director, the panel shall specifically designate no more than five of the proposals as those the panel has rated most highly. The review panel's recommendations, along with overall program goals and the evaluation factors stated above, will be considered by the GLOBE Director in the final selection of the GLOBE Private Sector Partner.

VIII. Other Information

Intergovernmental Review: This action has been determined not to require intergovernmental review.

Classification: This action has been determined to be not significant for purposes of E.O. 12866.

PRA: This action has been determined not to be subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act.

Thomas N. Pyke, Jr.,

Director, *The GLOBE Program*.

[FR Doc. 95-1423 Filed 1-17-95; 12:46 pm]

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[I.D. No. 010495A]

Marine Mammals; Pinniped Removal Authority

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and