

the Long Island Sound, Fishers Island Sound, Connecticut River, and Thames River as the Connecticut National Estuarine Research Reserve (Connecticut Reserve). On January 11, 2022, the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere, Dr. Richard W. Spinrad, signed a Record of Decision pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act and the findings of designation for the Connecticut Reserve pursuant to Section 315 of the CZMA and its implementing regulations. A copy of the Record of Decision and the findings of designation are available for public review from NOAA's Office for Coastal Management at coast.noaa.gov/czm/compliance. Additionally, NOAA hereby provides notice of the results of the consistency determination for the designation of the Connecticut Reserve.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Erica Seiden, Office for Coastal Management, National Ocean Service, NOAA, 1305 East-West Highway, N/OCM, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910; Phone: (202) 607-5232; or Email: erica.seiden@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The National Estuarine Research Reserve System (reserve system) is a federal-state partnership administered by NOAA. The reserve system protects more than 1.3 million acres of estuarine habitat for long-term research, monitoring, education, and stewardship throughout the coastal United States. Established by the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1451 *et seq.*), each reserve is managed by a lead state agency or university, with input from local partners. NOAA provides funding and national programmatic guidance to the reserve system.

NOAA received the State of Connecticut's nomination of the proposed Connecticut Reserve site on January 3, 2019. NOAA evaluated the nomination package and found that the proposed site met the reserve system requirements for designation. (See 16 U.S.C. 1461(b).) Accordingly, NOAA informed the State of Connecticut on September 27, 2019, that it was accepting the nomination and that the next step would be to prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Draft Management Plan. (See 15 CFR 921.13.) On June 1, 2020, NOAA issued a notice of intent to prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Draft Management Plan for the proposed Connecticut Reserve (85 FR 33123). On July 17, 2020, NOAA issued a notice of a public scoping meeting to solicit input on the Draft Environmental Impact statement (85 FR 43543). On September

3, 2021, NOAA issued notice of public hearings and a 45-day public comment period for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Draft Management Plan for the proposed designation of the Connecticut Reserve (86 FR 49519). NOAA has included responses to the relevant written and oral comments it received on the adequacy of the draft environmental impact statement and draft management plan in Appendix B of the Final Environmental Impact Statement. The Final Environmental Impact Statement and Final Management Plan for the proposed Connecticut Reserve were published on December 3, 2021 (86 FR 68661). For more information about the Connecticut Reserve, including the reserve's Final Management Plan, see the reserve's web page: coast.noaa.gov/ners/reserves/connecticut.html.

The implementing regulations (40 CFR parts 1500-1508) for the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), require agencies to publish a public Record of Decision identifying alternatives considered by the agencies in reaching their decision and specifying the environmentally preferable alternative (40 CFR 1505.2). Furthermore, pursuant to the CZMA's implementing regulations for the reserve system, NOAA is required to provide notice in the **Federal Register** of the results of the consistency determination for the proposed designation of a National Estuarine Research Reserve in states with federally-approved coastal zone management programs (15 CFR 921.30).

Pursuant to these requirements, NOAA has published a Record of Decision in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, which can be found at coast.noaa.gov/czm/compliance. Furthermore, NOAA hereby provides notice of the results of the consistency determination for the Connecticut Reserve: NOAA submitted the consistency determination to the State of Connecticut on September 8, 2021, in accordance with the requirements of Section 307 of the Coastal Zone Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1456), and the State of Connecticut concurred on October 27, 2021.

For more detailed information on the designation process, see the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's Connecticut National Estuarine Research Reserve website: portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Coastal-Resources/NERR/NERR-Home-Page.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1451 *et seq.*; 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*

Jeffrey L. Payne,

Director, Office for Coastal Management, National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XB708]

Whaling Provisions; Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling Quotas

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

ACTION: Notice; notification of quota for bowhead whales.

SUMMARY: NMFS notifies the public of the aboriginal subsistence whaling quota for bowhead whales that it has assigned to the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission (AEWC), and of limitations on the use of the quota deriving from regulations of the International Whaling Commission (IWC). For 2022, the quota is 93 bowhead whales struck. This quota and other applicable limitations govern the harvest of bowhead whales by members of the AEWC.

DATES: Applicable January 14, 2022.

ADDRESSES: Office of International Affairs and Seafood Inspection, National Marine Fisheries Service, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mi Ae Kim, (301) 427-8365.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Aboriginal subsistence whaling in the United States is governed by the Whaling Convention Act (WCA) (16 U.S.C. 916 *et seq.*). Under the WCA, IWC regulations shall generally become effective with respect to all persons and vessels subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, within 90 days of notification from the IWC Secretariat of an amendment to the IWC Schedule (16 U.S.C. 916k). Regulations that implement the WCA, found at 50 CFR 230.6, require the Secretary of Commerce (Secretary) to publish, at least annually, aboriginal subsistence whaling quotas and any other limitations on aboriginal subsistence whaling deriving from regulations of the IWC.

At the 67th Meeting of the IWC, the Commission set catch limits for aboriginal subsistence use of bowhead

whales from the Bering-Chukchi-Beaufort Seas stock. The bowhead and other aboriginal subsistence whaling catch limits were based on a joint request by Denmark on behalf of Greenland, the Russian Federation, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and the United States, accompanied by documentation concerning the needs of the Native groups.

The IWC set a seven-year block catch limit of 392 bowhead whales landed. For each of the years 2019 through 2025, the number of bowhead whales struck may not exceed 67, with unused strikes from the three prior quota blocks carried forward and added to the annual strike quota of subsequent years, provided that no more than 50 percent of the annual strike limit is added to the strike quota for any one year. At the end of the 2021 harvest, there were 33 unused strikes available for carry-forward, so the combined strike quota set by the IWC for 2022 is 100 (67 + 33).

An arrangement between the United States and the Russian Federation ensures that the total quota of bowhead whales landed and struck in 2022 will not exceed the limits set by the IWC. Under this arrangement, the Russian natives may use no more than seven strikes, and the Alaska natives may use no more than 93 strikes.

Through its cooperative agreement with the AEW, NOAA has assigned 93 strikes to the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission. The AEW will in turn allocate these strikes among the 11 villages whose cultural and subsistence needs have been documented, and will ensure that its hunters use no more than 93 strikes.

At its 67th Meeting, the IWC also provided for automatic renewal of aboriginal subsistence whaling catch limits under certain circumstances. Commencing in 2026, bowhead whale catch limits shall be extended every six years provided: (a) The IWC Scientific Committee advises in 2024, and every six years thereafter, that such limits will not harm the stock; (b) the Commission does not receive a request from the United States or the Russian Federation for a change in the bowhead whale catch limits based on need; and (c) the Commission determines that the United States and the Russian Federation have complied with the IWC's approved timeline and that the information provided represents a status quo continuation of the hunts.

Other Limitations

The IWC regulations, as well as the NOAA regulation at 50 CFR 230.4(c), forbid the taking of calves or any whale accompanied by a calf.

NOAA regulations (at 50 CFR 230.4) contain a number of other prohibitions relating to aboriginal subsistence whaling, some of which are summarized here:

- Only licensed whaling captains or crew under the control of those captains may engage in whaling.
- Captains and crew must follow the provisions of the relevant cooperative agreement between NOAA and a Native American whaling organization.
- The aboriginal hunters must have adequate crew, supplies, and equipment to engage in an efficient operation.
- Crew may not receive money for participating in the hunt.
- No person may sell or offer for sale whale products from whales taken in the hunt, except for authentic articles of Native American handicrafts.
- Captains may not continue to whale after the relevant quota is taken, after the season has been closed, or if their licenses have been suspended. They may not engage in whaling in a wasteful manner.

Dated: January 10, 2022.

Alexa Cole,

Director, Office of International Affairs and Seafood Inspection, National Marine Fisheries Service.

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COMMITTEE FOR PURCHASE FROM PEOPLE WHO ARE BLIND OR SEVERELY DISABLED

Procurement List; Additions and Deletions

AGENCY: Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled.

ACTION: Additions to and deletions from the Procurement List.

SUMMARY: This action adds service(s) to the Procurement List that will be furnished by nonprofit agencies employing persons who are blind or have other severe disabilities, and deletes products(s) from the Procurement List previously furnished by such agencies.

DATES: *Date added to and deleted from the Procurement List:* February 13, 2022.

ADDRESSES: Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled, 1401 S Clark Street, Suite 715, Arlington, Virginia 22202-4149.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michael R. Jurkowski, Telephone: (703) 785-6404, or email CMTEFedReg@AbilityOne.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Additions

On 8/6/2021, the Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled published notice of proposed additions to the Procurement List. This notice is published pursuant to 41 U.S.C. 8503 (a)(2) and 41 CFR 51-2.3.

After consideration of the material presented to it concerning capability of qualified nonprofit agencies to provide the product(s) and service(s) and impact of the additions on the current or most recent contractors, the Committee has determined that the product(s) and service(s) listed below are suitable for procurement by the Federal Government under 41 U.S.C. 8501-8506 and 41 CFR 51-2.4.

Regulatory Flexibility Act Certification

I certify that the following action will not have a significant impact on a substantial number of small entities. The major factors considered for this certification were:

1. The action will not result in any additional reporting, recordkeeping or other compliance requirements for small entities other than the small organizations that will furnish the product(s) and service(s) to the Government.

2. The action will result in authorizing small entities to furnish the product(s) and service(s) to the Government.

3. There are no known regulatory alternatives which would accomplish the objectives of the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Act (41 U.S.C. 8501-8506) in connection with the product(s) and service(s) proposed for addition to the Procurement List.

End of Certification

Accordingly, the following product(s) and service(s) are added to the Procurement List:

Service(s)

Service Type: Secure document destruction
Mandatory for: Department of Health and Human Services, Albuquerque Indian Health Service, Santa Fe Service Unit, Santa Fe, NM

Designated Source of Supply: Adelante Development Center, Inc., Albuquerque, NM

Contracting Activity: INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE, ALBUQUERQUE AREA INDIAN HEALTH SVC

Deletions

On 9/24/2021, the Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled published notice of proposed deletions from the Procurement List. This notice is