

in order to meet its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act, NOAA published the Georgia Coastal Management Program and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (P/DEIS) for public review on September 5, 1997. NOAA published the P/FEIS including public comments on the P/DEIS and responses to those comments on December 5, 1997. NOAA has also fulfilled the responsibilities under the Endangered Species Act through consultations with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service.

The GCMP is the culmination of several years of development by the State of Georgia, in consultation with interest groups, the general public, Federal agencies, and NOAA. The GCMP consists of numerous state policies on diverse coastal management issues which are prescribed by statute and other legal mechanisms and made enforceable under state law. The GCMP will improve the decision making process for determining appropriate coastal land and water uses in light of resource consideration and increase public awareness of coastal resources and processes. The GCMP will increase long term protection of the state's coastal resources, while providing for sustainable economic development.

NOAA approval of the GCMP makes the state eligible for federal financial assistance for program administration and enhancement under sections 306, 306A, 308 and 309 of the CZMA (16 U.S.C. Secs. 1455, 1455a, 1456a, and 1456b). Georgia has submitted an application for \$731,250 in FY 1997 Federal CZMA funds which are available for Georgia. These funds will generally be used to assist the state in administering the various state authorities included in the GCMP, as well as be used to fund local management efforts.

NOAA approval of the GCMP also makes operational, as of the date of this Federal Register Notice, the CZMA federal consistency requirement with respect to the GCMP (16 U.S.C. 1456; 15 CFR Part 930). Therefore, as of today, direct federal activities occurring within or outside the Georgia coastal zone that are reasonably likely to affect any land or water use or natural resources of the Georgia coastal zone must be consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the enforceable policies of the GCMP. In addition, activities within or outside the Georgia coastal zone requiring a federal license or permit listed in the P/FEIS, and federal financial assistance to state agencies and local governments, that are reasonably likely to affect any land or water use or natural resource of the

Georgia coastal zone must be consistent with the enforceable policies of the GCMP.

Chapter 5 of the P/FEIS identifies the enforceable policies of the Georgia program. Chapter 8 of the P/FEIS identifies federally licensed or permitted activities subject to the federal consistency requirements. Chapters 4 and 8 of the P/FEIS, as well as the CZMA regulations at 15 CFR Part 930, provide specific procedures to be used in the Federal/State coordination process.

ADDRESSES: For further information please contact Joshua Lott at (301) 713-3117, ext. 178; or via fax at (301) 713-4367; or via the Internet at josh.lott@noaa.gov.

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

Dated: February 6, 1998.

Nancy Foster,

Assistant Administrator for Ocean Services and Coastal Zone Management, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.
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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 093097G]

Strategic Plan for Fisheries Research

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

ACTION: Notice of Availability.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces the availability of the Strategic Plan for Fisheries Research. Section 404(a) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act) requires the Secretary of Commerce to develop, triennially, a strategic plan for fisheries research for the subsequent 5 years.

ADDRESSES: Requests for copies of the Plan should be directed to Mark Chandler, Research, Analysis, and Coordination Division, Office of Science and Technology, NMFS, NOAA, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Phone (301) 713-2363. FAX: (301) 713-1875

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mark Chandler or Carolyn Brown at (301) 713-2363.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 404(a) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act requires the Secretary of Commerce to

publish in the **Federal Register** a strategic plan for fisheries research for the 5 years immediately following the plan's publication. Pursuant to Magnuson-Stevens Act requirements, the Plan addresses 4 major areas: (1) Research to support fishery conservation and management; (2) conservation engineering research; (3) research on the fisheries; and (4) information management research. Additionally, the Plan contains a limited number of priority objectives for each of these areas; indicates goals and timetables; provides a role for commercial fishermen in such research; and provides for collection and dissemination of complete and accurate information concerning fishing activities.

In 1997, NMFS published a *Strategic Plan for NOAA Fisheries*. The Plan was developed in a comprehensive manner, with substantial public involvement, including 16 public meetings. The present Strategic Plan for Fisheries Research is based upon and entirely consistent with the NMFS Strategic Plan. It is a subset of the all-encompassing NMFS Strategic Plan, focusing on science research activities. The objectives found under the *Major Fishery Research Goals and Objectives* section of the subject document can be matched with strategies in the NMFS Strategic Plan. In addition, the strategies, goals, and objectives of the Strategic Plan for Fisheries Research are wholly consistent with the 1993 *NOAA Strategic Plan: A Vision for 2005*.

The scope of the present document is solely fisheries research to support the Act. It does not include the regulatory or enforcement components of the NMFS mission. The document covers current fisheries research and how NMFS aims to improve its research under current and projected NMFS budgets.

Dated: January 23, 1998.

William W. Fox, Jr.

Director, Office of Science and Technology.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 021098A]

Notice of Public Hearing on Individual Fishing Quotas

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