

on groundwater quality and quantity, potential impacts on surface water quality and quantity, potential influence on channel migration, and potential access to gravel ponds by anadromous salmonids.

(2) Gravel processing.

(3) Site reclamation activities including, but not limited to, the creation of emergent and open water wetland habitat and riparian and valley-bottom forest restoration; habitat rehabilitation, riparian irrigation, and low flow augmentation to Dean Creek; and construction of facilities (such as trails and parking lots) to support future incorporation of the site into the open space and greenbelt reserve.

(4) Monitoring and maintenance of conservation measures.

The duration of the proposed Permits and Plan is 25 years, though some aspects of the conservation measures associated with the proposed Plan would continue in perpetuity.

The Services formally initiated an environmental review of the project through publication of a Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement in the **Federal Register** on December 27, 1999 (64 FR 72318). That notice also announced a 30-day public scoping period during which interested parties were invited to provide written comments expressing their issues or concerns relating to the proposal. A second **Federal Register** notice was published on November 22, 2002 (67 FR 70408), announcing a 60-day public comment period for a draft Statement, draft Plan with appendices, and a draft Implementing Agreement. The comment period was extended an additional 30 days in direct response to requests from the public. This resulted in a total comment period of 90 days. Comments received on the draft documents and responses to those comments are included in the final Statement.

The final Statement compares Storedahl's proposal against two no-action alternatives. Differences between the no-action alternatives and the proposed action are considered to be the effects that would occur if the proposed action were implemented. One alternative to Storedahl's proposal is also analyzed against the two no-action alternatives. The analysis comparing these alternatives is contained in the final Statement.

Alternatives considered in the analysis include the following:

(1) Alternative A-1: Partition the property into 20-acre (8.1 ha) parcels and sell as rural residential/agricultural tracts - No Action.

(2) Alternative A-2: Mine the property without an ITP and avoid take - No Action.

(3) Alternative B: Mine and undertake habitat enhancement and reclamation activity at the Daybreak property implementing the May 2001 Public Review Draft HCP - Preferred Alternative.

(4) Alternative C: Mine and undertake habitat enhancement and reclamation activity at the Daybreak property following design and conservation measures presented to the Services in July, 2000.

One alternative was considered during scoping but not analyzed in detail. That alternative is essentially a combination of the two no-action alternatives listed above, Alternatives A-1 and A-2. That alternative would have involved mining on the portion of the property currently zoned for mining, with subsequent partitioning and sale of the mined and unmined property for low-density rural residential development. This was dismissed from detailed analysis because the vast majority of marketable sand and gravel on the portion of the property currently zoned for mining has already been extracted, rendering the alternative not feasible.

This notice is provided pursuant to section 10(a) of the ESA, and NEPA regulations. The Services will evaluate the application, associated documents, and comments submitted thereon to determine whether the application meets the requirements of the ESA and NEPA. If it is determined that the requirements are met, Permits will be issued for the incidental take of listed species. The final permit decision will be made no sooner than 30 days from the date of this notice.

Dated: October 30, 2003.

David J. Wesley,

Deputy Regional Director, Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 1, Portland Oregon.

November 10, 2003.

Phil Williams,

Chief, Endangered Species Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 112403B]

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Council) will convene a joint public meeting via conference call of the Standing and Special Reef Fish Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC).

DATES: The meeting will be via conference call on December 12, 2003 beginning at 10 a.m. EDT.

ADDRESSES: Listening stations will be available at the following locations:

NMFS Southeast Regional Office, 9721 Executive Center Drive, North, St. Petersburg, FL 33702; Contact: Peter Hood at 727-570-5305;

NMFS Panama City Laboratory, 3500 Delwood Beach Road, Panama City, FL; Contact: Gary Fitzhugh at 850-234-6541, extension 214.

Council address: Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, 3018 U.S. Highway 301 North, Suite 1000, Tampa, FL 33619.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Steven Atran, Population Dynamics Statistician, Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; telephone: 813-228-2815.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The SSC will be convened to evaluate the socioeconomic information contained in Reef Fish Secretarial Amendment 1, red grouper rebuilding plan and deep-water grouper quotas. The SSC will be asked specifically to provide the Council with guidance on the economic impacts of trip limits vs. closed seasons.

Red grouper were declared overfished by NMFS in October 2000. Following additional analyses and a subsequent stock assessment in 2002, the Council, in May 2003, submitted Reef Fish Secretarial Amendment 1 to NMFS. This amendment contained a rebuilding plan that called for approximately a 10 percent reduction in harvest, to be achieved through a reduction in the commercial shallow-water grouper quota, replacing the February 15 to March 15 commercial closed season on gag, red and black grouper with a shallow-water grouper trip limit, and a recreational bag limit of no more than