

Estimated Number of Respondents: NPS estimates that there are 600 respondents. This is the gross number of respondents for all of the elements included in this information collection.

The net number of applicants in this information collection annually are 600 applicants. Applicants complete the application each time a vacancy announcement is published.

Estimated average number of Applicant responses: 600 annually.

Estimated average burden hours per Applicant response: 8 hours.

Estimated Annual Burden on Respondents: 4,800 Hours.

NPS is soliciting comments regarding:

(1) Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of NPS, including whether the information will have practical utility;

(2) The accuracy of the burden estimate including the validity of the method and assumptions used;

(3) Ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected;

(4) Ways to minimize the burden of collecting the information, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other forms of information technology; or,

(5) Any other aspect of this collection of information.

NPS will summarize and include in the request for OMB approval all responses to this notice. All comments will also become a matter of public record. You can obtain copies of the information collection from Lieutenant Charles A. Orton, Assistant Commander Human Resources Office, United States Park Police, 1100 Ohio Drive, SW., Washington, DC 20024.

Dated: December 10, 2003.

Leonard E. Stowe,

Acting Information Collection Clearance Officer, National Park Service, WAPC.

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Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve, Alaska.

The record of decision documents the NPS decision to modify quotas and operating requirements for four types of motorized watercraft—cruise ships, tour, charter, and private vessels—in Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve. The decision addresses the continuing demand for motorized watercraft access into Glacier Bay in a manner that protects park resources and values while also providing a range of opportunities for visitors consistent with park purposes and values. It was based on consideration of the park's purposes and mission, resources and values, NPS policies, comments received throughout the EIS process, and information and analysis in the EIS.

The ROD briefly discusses the background for the planning effort, describes the six alternatives considered during the EIS process, states the decision and discusses the basis for it, specifies and describes the environmentally preferable alternative, identifies measures to minimize potential environmental harm, identifies ongoing and future studies and monitoring, and summarizes the results of public involvement during the planning process.

The NPS has selected alternative 6, as described in the FEIS, with the following modifications:

- The July 1 through August 21 timeframe during which a 0.25-nautical-mile vessel approach distance to a seal hauled out on ice in Johns Hopkins Inlet waters will be retained as in current regulations and will not be extended to year-round.

- A 13-knot speed limit for vessels greater than or equal to 262 feet (80 meters) will be in effect in Glacier Bay as needed, rather than a year-round basis.

- Existing conditions do not support immediate implementation of motor vessel limits in Dundas Bay. Studies and monitoring are insufficient to support the need for limits at this time. The Park Service will impose limits when a clearer need is established. The Park Service will undertake study and monitoring of use and resource conditions in Dundas Bay.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the ROD are available on request from: Nancy Swanton, EIS Project Manager, National Park Service, Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve, c/o 240 West 5th Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska 99501. Telephone: (907) 644-3696.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Nancy Swanton, EIS Project Manager,

National Park Service, Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve, c/o 240 West 5th Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska 99501. Telephone: (907) 644-3696.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The NPS prepared an EIS, as required, under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 and Council of Environmental Quality regulations (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 1500).

A Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS, published in the **Federal Register** (FR) in May 6, 2002 (67 FR 8313), formally initiated the National Park Service planning and EIS effort. The draft EIS (DEIS) was issued in March 2003. A **Federal Register** notice announcing the availability of the final EIS (FEIS) was published by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on October 10, 2003, commencing the required 30-day no-action period (68 FR 58668). The final EIS describes and analyzes the environmental impacts of five action alternatives and a no-action alternative. The NPS has selected alternative 6, as described in the FEIS, with the three modifications listed above. The selected alternative is described below.

Vessel Quotas

The current daily vessel quotas in Glacier Bay will not change. They will continue as follows: two cruise ships, three tour vessels, six charter vessels, and 25 private vessels. Daily quotas for cruise ships and tour vessels will continue to apply year-round. Daily quotas for charter and private vessels will continue to apply from June 1 through August 31.

Seasonal entry quotas will be eliminated. Seasonal-use day quotas will continue to apply. For cruise ships, the seasonal-use day quota will be 139 from June 1 through August 31, with potential for increases to a maximum of 184. In May and September, the seasonal-use day quota for cruise ships will be 92, with potential for increases up to 122 (see table 1). Any increases will be incremental and based on scientific and other information and applicable authorities. The seasonal-use day quota for tour, charter, and private vessels is the allowable daily vessel quota multiplied by the number of days in the season. The season during which seasonal-use days will apply for these three types of vessels is June 1 through August 31 (92 days). Thus, the seasonal-use day quotas for tour, charter, and private vessels are:

- 276 for tour vessels (three per day multiplied by 92 days).
- 552 for charter vessels (six per day multiplied by 92 days).

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Notice of Availability of the Record of Decision for the Vessel Quotas and Operating Requirements Environmental Impact Statement, Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve, AK

SUMMARY: The National Park Service (NPS) announces the availability of the Record of Decision (ROD) for the Vessel Quotas and Operating Requirements