

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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IMPACT STATEMENT TO BE PREPARED ON FISH AND WILDLIFE COORDINATION ACT REGULATIONS

The environmental effects of planned regulations to implement the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act will be examined in an environmental impact statement (EIS) by the Departments of Interior and Commerce. In response to public comment, the agencies also will redraft their May 18 proposed regulations and publish them again in conjunction with the EIS.

As a preliminary step in preparing the environmental document, the two Federal agencies will hold an open meeting November 19 to identify the significant issues, alternatives, and scope that the statement should cover. The meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. in Room 8069, Department of the Interior. Written comments on the scope of the EIS will be accepted through December 6, 1979.

The earlier proposed regulations outlined uniform procedures and criteria for Federal agency compliance with the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act. The Act requires Federal agencies to give full consideration to fish and wildlife conservation when planning or funding water-related projects such as wetlands dredging and filling, hydroelectric power generation, and flood control.

Additional information may be obtained from Thomas Bond or Richard Robinson, Department of the Interior, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (ES), Washington, D.C. 20240; telephone 202/343-7292.

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