



DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release On Receipt (Issued September 23, 1981) Megan Durham 202/343-5634

NEWS BRIEFS FROM THE FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Dallas/Fort Worth Designated as a Customs Port of Entry for Wildlife.

Dallas/Fort Worth, Texas, has been designated as a Customs port of entry for wildlife and wildlife products, G. Ray Arnett, Interior Department Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, announced today. The designation took effect September 1, 1981.

The new "designated port" status will enable wildlife importers and exporters to use direct international air service to and from Dallas/Fort Worth to move shipments of wildlife. This will relieve businesses in the Southwest of expenses and delays previously caused by having to ship wildlife through designated ports in distant parts of the country.

With limited exceptions, the Endangered Species Act requires that wildlife and wildlife products be imported and exported to and from designated ports. In addition to Dallas/Fort Worth, designated ports for wildlife shipments are New York, Miami, Chicago, San Francisco, Los Angeles, New Orleans, Seattle, and Honolulu.

* * *

Applications Invited for Studies on National Wildlife Refuges in Alaska.

The Interior Department's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service today invited industry and the public to submit applications for permits to conduct geophysical and environmental studies on national wildlife refuge lands in Alaska. The studies will be used in establishing an oil and gas leasing program for Alaskan refuge lands, as provided for under the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of 1980.

Applications will be accepted through December 14, 1981, for permits to study oil and gas potential and to assess environmental and wildlife resources that could be affected by oil and gas exploration and development. Applications will be considered for all Alaska lands administered by the Fish and Wildlife Service except the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge; designated wilderness areas; and certain other lands withdrawn from mineral leasing, generally identified as cemetery or historic sites, or where title is otherwise encumbered by outstanding rights.

Applications should include the location of the work proposed; the periods during which the work would be performed; a description of the methods to be used; a description of the camp configurations and moving procedures; land or air operations necessary; equipment to be used; operating configuration and procedures; noise levels (if possible); and a description of the support requirements for study, including the number of personnel involved.

over

The Fish and Wildlife Service will decide whether to issue study permits based on the compatibility of activities proposed in the applications with refuge operations and objectives.

A notice of the invitation was published in the September 14, 1981, Federal Register. For more information, contact the Fish and Wildlife Service at (907) 276-3800 in Alaska or at (202) 343-4047 in Washington. Applications should be submitted to the Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1011 East Tudor Road, Anchorage, Alaska 99503.

* * *

National Waterfowl Management Plan. The Fish and Wildlife Service has revised its draft National Waterfowl Management Plan and will accept additional comments on it through October 5, 1981. The comment period on the original draft plan ended May 1. Copies of the revision are available from the Director, (MBMO), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C. 20240.

The purpose of the waterfowl management plan is to guide the efforts of State and Federal agencies who share a public interest in the welfare of waterfowl. The document sets forth national goals, objectives, policies, and strategies for the cooperative management of waterfowl in the United States, and provides a basis for developing detailed management plans for each of the four waterfowl flyways. It will also contribute to the eventual development of a North American waterfowl management plan.

* * *

Annual Report Updates Information on Marine Mammals. Current information on polar bears, walruses, sea and marine otters, manatees, and dugongs is now available in the "Annual Report of the Marine Mammal Protection Act."

The 29-page report, which covers the period of April 1, 1980 to December 30, 1980, describes the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service management activities related to marine mammal species under its direct jurisdiction. The report also discusses financial grants to help States develop and implement protection, management, and educational plans, and to conduct research on these mammals.

The report is made to Congress each year by the Department of the Interior's Fish and Wildlife Service, as required under the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972. As announced in the August 24, 1981, Federal Register, single copies may be obtained from the Director (PUB), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.

X X X