



DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

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PACIFIC COAST ECOLOGICAL INVENTORY COMPLETES INTERIOR'S
SECOND MAJOR EFFORT TO CATALOGUE COASTAL RESOURCES

The Interior Department's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has published a major new planning tool showing the important fish and wildlife species of the Pacific coastal zone. As the first comprehensive series of natural resource maps of the West Coast depicting fish and wildlife and their habitats and major land use designations, the "Pacific Coast Ecological Inventory" is designed for use by local and State governments and industries that contemplate major developments in the coastal zone.

"We have stressed the need for government to catalogue and inventory our natural resources," said Interior Secretary James Watt. "The availability of this resource information should help ensure more informed decision making and help avoid resource conflicts."

The Pacific guide follows last year's "Atlantic Coast Ecological Inventory," which has been cited for its usefulness in providing resource information to developers before irretrievable commitments of time and money are made during the planning stages of coastal zone projects. Development planners have applied the Service's map series in designating areas of special concern for fish and wildlife during projects' siting and design stages. In addition, the Federal Government's national response team for spills of oil and hazardous substances has used the Atlantic Coast map series to plan cleanup activities in areas where

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important fish and wildlife species have been pinpointed.

"With the increase in onshore development projects associated with expanded oil and natural gas production on the Outer Continental Shelf, the Fish and Wildlife Service's map series will help planners select the most appropriate areas for such sites," Watt said.

The 30-map "Pacific Coast Ecological Inventory" depicts the entire 40,150-square-mile Pacific coastal zone from Mexico to Canada, including Puget Sound. It is now possible, at a glance, to select any site from California to Washington State and locate on a 1:250,000 scale map (1 inch equals about 4 miles) any of 356 important fish and wildlife species that use the area (such as endangered species, migratory waterfowl, and commercially important fish populations). The different land use designations nearby (national wildlife refuges, State waterfowl management areas, and national and State parks) are also included.

The Interior Department's U.S. Geological Survey provided technical assistance in producing the map series. Species data, along with the special land use designations, are plotted on topographic base maps and formatted on 1 x 2 degree sheets. These ecological resource maps carry the same individual section names as the Geological Survey's standard topographic map series (Crescent City, San Clemente Island, San Diego, Santa Ana, Long Beach, Santa Rosa Island, Los Angeles, Santa Maria, San Luis Obispo, Monterey, San Jose, San Francisco, Sacramento, Santa Rosa, Ukiah, Redding, Weed, Eureka, Medford, Cape Blanco, Roseburg, Coos Bay, Salem, Vancouver, Hoquiam, Cape Disappointment, Seattle, Copalis Beach, Victoria, and Cape Flattery). They are lithographically reproduced in five colors and prepared in a convenient 4 x 8 inch pocket-fold format.

In addition to the maps, a 159-page narrative report, "Pacific Coast Ecological Inventory -- User's Guide and Information Base," is also now available. This report is designed as a companion to the map series, providing detailed explanations and additional technical information about the ecological data displayed on each map.

"Pacific Coast Ecological Inventory" maps are available individually, or in 30-map sets, at \$3.25 per map. They can be ordered from the U.S. Geological Survey, Branch of Distribution, Box 25286, Federal Center, Denver, Colorado 80225. Orders must include a check or money order payable to the "U.S. Geological Survey" and should specify the "National Ecological Map Series -- Pacific Coast Ecological Inventory." The particular map sections that are desired must also be specified.

The accompanying narrative report, "Pacific Coast Ecological Inventory -- User's Guide and Information Base," can be ordered from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402, for \$5.50 (specify stock # 024-010-00596-3). Orders for the report must also be prepaid.

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A contract has recently been awarded by the Fish and Wildlife Service for a Gulf of Mexico ecological resource inventory and map series. Completion is scheduled for August 1982 and ordering information will be available at that time.

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