

# NOAA Report

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OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS  
HCHB Room 5222  
14TH & CONSTITUTION AVE., N.W.  
WASHINGTON, DC 20230



April 9, 1990

## COMING UP

Selling Seafood to Europe: Economic Community '92  
and Beyond, Seattle, Wash., Apr. 16-17  
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National Hurricane Conference, Houston, Tx., Apr. 20  
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Joint Meeting of the Gulf and Atlantic Fishery  
Management Councils, Tampa, Fla., Apr. 23-27  
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European Geophysical General Conference, Copenhagen,  
Denmark, Apr. 23-27  
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National Weather Service Spring Directors Conference,  
Camp Springs, Md., Apr. 24-26  
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**Steller Sea Lion Threatened:**--In an emergency rule published last week, NOAA listed the Steller or northern sea lion as threatened under the Endangered Species Act and ordered immediate protective measures.

Dr. William W. Fox, Jr., NOAA Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, cited the sea lion's population loss at about 75 percent over the past 10 years in placing the eight-month interim rule into effect. More than 66,000 of the golden-brown marine mammals live in the North Pacific Ocean with the major populations in the Aleutian Islands and the Gulf of Alaska.

A study by NOAA's Marine Mammal laboratory in Seattle verified the decline of the steller sea lion population, the cause of which is not known.

Fox said beefed-up teams of agents will begin strict enforcement of the new regulations immediately. The regulations forbid shooting at or near sea lions and require vessels to remain outside a three-mile buffer zone around rookeries unless navigation forces closer passage. In addition, the regulation reduces the incidental killing during commercial fishing operations from 1350 to 675 animals in central and western Alaska.

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In designating the Stellers as threatened, the Fisheries Service believes that the mammals are likely to become endangered in the foreseeable future. An endangered species is a species that is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

**Researchers to Study Brine Pool, Marine Life:**--NOAA-sponsored university scientists this month will dive in the Gulf of Mexico to make the first direct observations of the world's largest known subsea brine pool and to explore exotic chemosynthetic marine life in an area of hydrocarbon seepage.

Both NOAA studies will help scientists understand better the potential impact of any future oil and gas development on the northern Gulf's ecosystem in waters deeper than 3,300 feet, the current depth limit for oil and gas drilling in the Gulf.

The hydrocarbon seep research will also help gauge the methane and other carbon-based gasses seeping into the sea and air, and their impact on global climate change. It continues in deeper waters studies previously carried out by the NOAA-National Undersea Research Center at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington.

In the first NOAA-sponsored leg of the cruise, scientists will make six dives on the Orca Basin brine pool, an L-shaped blanket of hypersaline waters south of New Orleans, La., covering nearly 100 acres of sea floor at water depths of about 7,500 feet. With a salinity of 262 parts per thousand, the brine pool waters are almost 8 times saltier than the surrounding Gulf waters. In some areas the near-bottom pool extends 500 to 650 feet above the sea floor, with a total volume estimated to be over 3,800 cubic yards.

The scientists will use the research submersible Alvin to measure temperature, salinity, and suspended particles and make the first direct visual observations of the ocean-brine pool interface. A Sea Beam mapping system will also be used aboard Atlantis II, its support vessel, to make a seafloor map of the Orca Basin.

In the second NOAA leg, scientists will make four dives on an area of known hydrocarbon seepage in deeper waters in the Green and Alaminos Canyon areas on the Texas continental slope, east of Galveston, Tex. In water depths to nearly 11,500 feet, scientists will use Alvin to describe the distribution and abundance of giant tube worms and other chemosynthetic animal life around the seeps, as well as the sediment, water, and hydrocarbon chemistry of the seep ecosystem, and document the role of chemosynthesis in the life of these organisms.

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MASC - Boulder, CO  
CASC - Kansas City, MO  
EASC - Norfolk, VA  
NCASC - Rockville, MD  
ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT CENTERS

Letter 208-103  
Number

March 20, 1990  
Date

TO: Distribution A and D

SUBJECT: INSTRUCTIONS FOR OBTAINING UTILITY SERVICES

REFERENCE: Commerce Warrant Program  
Acquisition Letter 44, Procurement of Utility Services  
Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) 8.3  
ASC Letter 208-2

SECTION 1. PURPOSE.

This Letter provides guidance for obtaining utility services.

SECTION 2. DEFINITIONS/PROCEDURES.

01. Utility services means a service such as the furnishing of electricity, gas, water, steam and sewerage that is available to the general public and performed by governmental entities or private companies. Regulated utilities are those where rates or conditions of service are fixed or adjusted by a Federal, State or other public regulatory body. For the purposes of this Letter, utility services do not include telephone or other telecommunications services. Telecommunication services will be covered in ASC Letter 208-104, which will be issued later.

02. Requests for utilities shall be submitted on a Procurement Request, CD-435, to the servicing ASC Procurement Division. This division will forward requests for regulated utilities to the servicing ASC Facilities and Logistics Division.

03. In accordance with the guidelines provided in Acquisition Letter 44, regulated utilities which do not require competition will be processed by the servicing ASC Facilities and Logistics Division under a delegation of authority from the servicing ASC Procurement Division. (Utilities acquired under the scope of a facilities lease are processed under the authority of the Department of Commerce Real Property Warrant Program and are not subject to this Letter.) When field offices have a delegation of

procurement authority, they will process those utility actions within their procurement authority. A copy of such actions will be furnished to the ASC Facilities and Logistics Division.

04. All other utility services will be processed by the ASC Procurement Division or field offices with delegated procurement authority.

05. The following minimum information must be included in the requisition.

- a. The name and address of the utility company;
- b. Any secondary agreements which the agency may have with the utility company;
- c. Meter or account number, if available;
- d. A description of the service, including location, above or below ground service, electrical voltages, phasing, site plans showing meter location(s), final grade, etc.;
- e. Installation or construction requirements;
- f. The date the service is to start and the estimated duration of the service;
- g. The estimated annual usage/cost of the service;
- h. Copy of tariff or rate schedule (if available); and
- i. Any other information specific to the service.

06. The requisitioner will receive a copy of the completed CD-404 order form when the action is completed.

SECTION 3. EFFECT ON OTHER ISSUANCES.

None

  
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Director of Administration

Offices of Primary Interest:  
Lead ASC Procurement Division  
Lead ASC Facilities and Logistics Division

# **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

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July 23, 2010