



3510-08

## **DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

### **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

#### **Evaluation of National Estuarine Research Reserve**

**AGENCY:** Office for Coastal Management (OCM), National Ocean Service (NOS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce (DOC).

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Office for Coastal Management will hold a public meeting to solicit comments for the performance evaluation of the Padilla Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve.

**DATES:** *Padilla Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve Evaluation:* The public meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 28, 2018, and written comments must be received on or before Friday, March 9, 2018.

For the specific date, time, and location of the public meetings, see

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION.**

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments on the reserves and coastal program NOAA intends to evaluate by any of the following methods:

*Public Meeting and Oral Comments:* A public meeting will be held in Mt. Vernon, Washington for the Padilla Bay Reserve. For the specific location, see **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION.**

*Written Comments:* Please direct written comments to Ralph Cantral, Senior Advisor,

NOAA Office for Coastal Management, 1305 East West Highway N/OCM1, Silver Spring, MD 20910, or via email to *Ralph.Cantral@noaa.gov*.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ralph Cantral, Senior Advisor, Policy, NOAA Office for Coastal Management, (240) 543-0729, 2234 South Hobson Avenue, Charleston, South Carolina 29405-2413, or via email to *Ralph.Cantral@noaa.gov*. Copies of the previous evaluation findings, Management Plan, and Site Profile may be viewed and downloaded on the Internet at <http://coast.noaa.gov/czm/evaluations>. A copy of the evaluation notification letter and most recent performance report may be obtained upon request by contacting Ralph Cantral.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Sections 312 and 315 of the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) require NOAA to conduct periodic evaluations of federally-approved National Estuarine Research Reserves. The process includes a public meeting, consideration of written public comments and consultations with interested Federal, state, and local agencies and members of the public. For the evaluation of National Estuarine Research Reserves, NOAA will consider the extent to which the state has met the national objectives, adhered to its management plan approved by the Secretary of Commerce, and adhered to the terms of financial assistance under the Coastal Zone Management Act. When the evaluation is completed, NOAA's Office for Coastal Management will place a notice in the **Federal Register** announcing the availability of the Final Evaluation Findings.

Specific information on the periodic evaluation of reserves that are the subject of this notice are detailed below as follows:

### **Padilla Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve Evaluation**

You may participate or submit oral comments at the public meeting scheduled as follows:

*Date:* Wednesday, February 28, 2018

*Time:* 7:00 p.m., local time

*Location:* Padilla Bay Reserve Interpretive Center, 10441 Bayview-Edison Road, Mt. Vernon, WA 98273

Written comments must be received on or before March 9, 2018.

Dated: December 18, 2017.

Keelin Kuipers,  
Acting Deputy Director, Office for Coastal Management,  
National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and  
Atmospheric Administration.

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