



**U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE**  
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**News**

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## **Comments Sought on Project to Construct Geodetic Monitoring Stations on Refuge Lands**

The Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge is seeking public comments on an Environmental Assessment and draft Compatibility Determination for a project that would put geodetic monitoring stations on four sites within the Refuge, Chernabura Island in the Shumagins, Sutwik Island off the Alaska Peninsula, Chirikof Island south of Kodiak and Ushagat Island in the Barren Islands. These stations would monitor earthquakes and volcanic eruptions.

Comments on the Environmental Assessment and draft Compatibility Determination will be accepted through March 21 by e-mail to [alaskamaritime@fws.gov](mailto:alaskamaritime@fws.gov), fax to (907) 235-6546 or mail to Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge, 95 Sterling Hwy., Suite 1, Homer, AK 99603. These documents can be found on-line at <http://alaska.fws.gov/nwr/planning/completed.htm>. Paper copies can be requested by calling (907) 235-6546 or e-mailing [alaskamaritime@fws.gov](mailto:alaskamaritime@fws.gov) or sending a written request to the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge, 95 Sterling Hwy., Suite 1, Homer, AK.

The project is proposed by the University NAVSTAR Consortium, Inc., a non-profit funded by the National Science Foundation. The project is part of a larger monitoring network known as the Plate Boundary Observatory which consists of about 1,000 Global Positioning System (GPS) stations that will monitor shifts in the earth's surface due to the physical processes that control earthquake and volcanic eruptions. Equipment to be installed on each island consists of a GPS monument, equipment enclosure and solar panels. On Chirikof Island only, two seismometers in a vault will be co-located with the GPS equipment. Details can be found in the Environmental Assessment.

After the public comment period closes, the Refuge will evaluate comments and make a determination as to whether the project is compatible with refuge purposes. If the project is found to be compatible, a right-of-way permit will be issued to the NAVSTAR Consortium for the project.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit [www.fws.gov](http://www.fws.gov).

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