

Request for comments on the revisions to NOAA's Policy for the Assessment of Civil Administrative Penalties and Permit Sanctions (NOAA Penalty Policy)

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) announces the availability of draft revisions to NOAA's Policy for the Assessment of Civil Administrative Penalties and Permit Sanctions (Penalty Policy) for public review and comment.

The draft revisions to the Penalty Policy are intended to provide updated guidance for the assessment of civil administrative penalties and permit sanctions under the statutes and regulations enforced by NOAA. As explained more fully in the text of the Penalty Policy, the purpose of the Policy is to ensure that: (1) Civil administrative penalties and permit sanctions are assessed in accordance with the laws that NOAA enforces in a fair and consistent manner; (2) penalties and permit sanctions are appropriate for the gravity of the violation; (3) penalties and permit sanctions are sufficient to deter both particular violators and the regulated community from committing violations; (4) economic incentives for noncompliance are eliminated; and (5) compliance is expeditiously achieved and maintained to protect natural resources.

[A complete PDF copy of the draft revisions to the NOAA Penalty Policy is available here.](#)

[The Federal Register Notice requesting comments on the NOAA Penalty Policy is available here.](#)

The draft revisions to the Penalty Policy will remain available for public review until April 28, 2014. To ensure that comments will be considered, NOAA must receive written comments by April 28, 2014.

Comments may be submitted by any of the following methods:

- Electronic Submissions: Submit electronic public comments to penaltypolicy@noaa.gov;
- Fax: 301 427-2211; Attn: Robert Hogan;
- Mail: Enforcement Section, Office of the General Counsel, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, 1315 East West Highway, SSMC-3-15424, Silver Spring, MD 20910, Attn: Robert Hogan.