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**Subject:** Monument review Update  
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We are on the home stretch for public comment review. There are a few comments from previous rounds still under review, and I have urged the comment review team to finish those in the next few days. There have been unexpected delays in processing the final round of comments. Over 100,000 - comments were submitted on July 10, many with extensive attachments, so many that [regs.gov](#) malfunctioned, and it took the staff there 2 weeks to get the submitted comments in shape to be transferred to us. The large number of attachments has also slowed down the process of uploading the comments to DiscoverText far beyond what was anticipated, and it will likely be early next week before they are ready for coding. I will have another message next week when we know how many of these are form letters and how many need to be individually reviewed.

Additionally, although it does not affect us, NOAA has extended their comment period, notice below:

#### **UPDATE: July 27, 2017**

### **NOAA to reopen public comment period on review of national marine sanctuaries and marine national monuments**

NOAA will formally reopen the public comment period on a Department of Commerce review of 11 designations and expansions of national marine sanctuaries and marine national monuments that began June 26, 2017. Due to public interest and requests for additional time, NOAA will formally accept comments for **an additional 15 days, starting Monday, July 31.**

Additionally, NOAA will continue to accept comments between the first formal comment period closing July 26 and the formal reopening to ensure the public has maximum opportunity to participate in this review process. Comments submitted during the original comment period will be considered and do not need to be resubmitted.

**Comments will continue to be accepted through Monday, August 14.**

Thanks to all for your help so far. We will need one last push starting next week.