

United States ratify the Convention and enact implementing legislation (notice published October 19, 2005, at 70 FR 60795). With the enactment of implementing legislation in the form of the WCPFCIA in January 2007, and, following action by the President, the need to fulfill the immediate obligations of the United States under the Convention, NMFS seeks to build on the earlier scoping process and is accepting additional comments on the scope of issues to be included in this EA.

**Authority:** 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*; 16 U.S.C. 5501 *et seq.*; 16 U.S.C. 973 *et seq.*; Pub. L. 109–479, 120 Stat. 3575.

Dated: February 20, 2007.

**James P. Burgess,**

*Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.*  
[FR Doc. E7–3240 Filed 2–23–07; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510–22–S**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 011107D]

#### **Incidental Take of Marine Mammals; Taking of Marine Mammals Incidental to Conducting Precision Strike Weapons Testing and Training by Eglin Air Force Base in the Gulf of Mexico**

**AGENCY:** National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of issuance of a letter of authorization.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with provisions of the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), as amended, notification is hereby given that a letter of authorization (LOA) to take four species of marine mammals, by harassment, incidental to testing and training during Precision Strike Weapons (PSW) tests in the Gulf of Mexico (GOM), a military readiness activity, has been issued to Eglin Air Force Base (AFB).

**DATES:** This authorization is effective from February 20, 2007, through February 19, 2008.

**ADDRESSES:** The application and LOA are available for review in the Permits, Conservation, and Education Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910 or by contacting one of the individuals mentioned below (See **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Kenneth Hollingshead or Candace Nachman, NMFS, (301) 713–2289.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Section 101(a)(5)(A) of the MMPA (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) directs NMFS to allow, upon request, the incidental, but not intentional, taking of small numbers of marine mammals by U.S. citizens who engage in a specified activity (other than commercial fishing) within a specified geographical region, if certain findings are made by NMFS and regulations are issued. Under the MMPA, the term “taking” means to harass, hunt, capture, or kill or to attempt to harass, hunt, capture or kill marine mammals.

Authorization, in the form of annual LOAs, may be granted for periods up to five years if NMFS finds, after notification and opportunity for public comment, that the taking will have a negligible impact on the species or stock(s) of marine mammals and will not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of the species or stock(s) for subsistence uses. In addition, NMFS must prescribe regulations that include permissible methods of taking and other means effecting the least practicable adverse impact on the species and its habitat, and on the availability of the species for subsistence uses, paying particular attention to rookeries, mating grounds, and areas of similar significance. The regulations must include requirements pertaining to the monitoring and reporting of such taking. Regulations governing the taking of marine mammals incidental to PSW testing and training within the Eglin Gulf Test and Training Range in the GOM, were published on November 24, 2006 (71 FR 67810) and remain in effect from December 26, 2006 through December 27, 2011. The four species that Eglin AFB may take in small numbers during PSW testing and training are Atlantic bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*), Atlantic spotted dolphins (*Stenella frontalis*), dwarf sperm whales (*Kogia simus*), and pygmy sperm whales (*Kogia breviceps*).

Issuance of the annual LOA to Eglin AFB is based on findings made in the preamble to the final rule that the total takings by this project would result in no more than a negligible impact on the affected marine mammal stocks or habitats and would not have an unmitigable adverse impact on subsistence uses of marine mammals. NMFS also finds that the applicant will meet the requirements contained in the implementing regulations and LOA, including monitoring and reporting requirements. Without any mitigation

measures, a small possibility exists for one bottlenose dolphin and one spotted dolphin to be exposed to blast levels from the PSW testing sufficient to cause mortality. Additionally, less than two cetaceans might be exposed to noise levels sufficient to induce Level A harassment (injury) annually, and as few as 31 or as many as 52 cetaceans (depending on the season and water depth) could potentially be exposed (annually) to noise levels sufficient to induce Level B harassment in the form of temporary (auditory) threshold shift (TTS).

While none of these impact estimates consider the proposed mitigation measures that will be employed by Eglin AFB to minimize potential impacts to protected species, NMFS has authorized Eglin AFB to lethally take one marine mammal, two marine mammals by Level A harassment, and up to 53 marine mammals by Level B harassment (TTS) annually. However, the proposed mitigation measures described in the final rule (71 FR 67810, November 24, 2006) and the LOA are anticipated to reduce potential impacts to marine mammals in both numbers and degree of severity. These measures include a conservative safety range for marine mammal exclusion; incorporation of aerial and shipboard survey monitoring efforts in the program both prior to and after detonation of explosives; and a prohibition on detonations whenever marine mammals are detected within the safety zone, may enter the safety zone at the time of detonation, or if weather and sea conditions preclude adequate aerial surveillance. This LOA will be renewed annually based on a review of the activity, completion of monitoring requirements, and receipt of reports required by the LOA.

Dated: February 20, 2007.

**James H. Lecky,**

*Director, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. E7–3242 Filed 2–23–07; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510–22–S**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

#### **Science Advisory Board (SAB); Meeting**

**AGENCY:** Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of Open Meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Science Advisory Board (SAB) was established by a Decision Memorandum dated September 25, 1997, and is the only Federal Advisory Committee with responsibility to advise the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere on strategies for research, education, and application of science to operations and information services. SAB activities and advice provide necessary input to ensure that National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) science programs are of the highest quality and provide optimal support to resource management.

**Times and Dates:** The meeting will be held Tuesday March 6, 2007, from 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Wednesday March 7, 2007, from 7:45 a.m. to 4 p.m. These times and the agenda topics described below are subject to change. Please refer to the Web page <http://www.sab.noaa.gov/Meetings/meetings.html> for the most up-to-date meeting agenda.

**Place:** The meeting will be held both days tentatively at the Hilton Washington DC/Silver Spring, 8727 Colesville Road, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910, pending approval of a purchase order. Please check the SAB Web site <http://www.sab.noaa.gov> for confirmation of the venue.

**Status:** The meeting will be open to public participation with a 30-minute public comment period on March 6 (check Web site to confirm time). The SAB expects that public statements presented at its meetings will not be repetitive of previously submitted verbal or written statements. In general, each individual or group making a verbal presentation will be limited to a total time of five (5) minutes. Written comments (at least 35 copies) should be received in the SAB Executive Director's Office by March 2, 2007, to provide sufficient time for SAB review. Written comments received by the SAB Executive Director after March 2, 2007, will be distributed to the SAB, but may not be reviewed prior to the meeting date. Seats will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

**Matters to be Considered:** The meeting will include the following topics: (1) NOAA's Regional Collaboration Initiative; (2) NOAA's Role in Research on Ocean Acidification; (3) Monitoring the Performance of Research in NOAA; (4) update on the NOAA Response to the Reports of the Hurricane Intensity Research Working Group (HIRWG); (5) update on the NOAA Response to the Report of the External Ecosystem Task Team (EETT); (6) Report on the Review of the Cooperative Institute for Climate

Applications and Research (CICAR); and (7) Report on the Review of the Cooperative Institute for Oceanographic Satellite Studies (CIOSS). There will also be a joint meeting of the SAB and the NOAA Research Council.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dr. Cynthia Decker, Executive Director, Science Advisory Board, NOAA, Rm. 11230, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910 (Phone: 301-734-1156, Fax: 301-713-1459, E-mail: [Cynthia.Decker@noaa.gov](mailto:Cynthia.Decker@noaa.gov)); or visit the NOAA SAB Web site at <http://www.sab.noaa.gov>.

Dated: February 21, 2007.

**Mark E. Brown,**

*Chief Financial Officer and Chief Administrative Officer, Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.*

[FR Doc. 07-866 Filed 2-23-07; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-KD-P**

## PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

### Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) will submit to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for clearance the following proposal for collection of information under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35).

**Agency:** United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO).

**Title:** Initial Patent Applications.

**Form Number(s):** PTO/SB/01-01A, PTO/SB/02A-02B, PTO/SB/02LR, PTO/SB/03-03A, PTO/SB/04-07, PTO/SB/13PCT, PTO/SB/14, PTO/SB/16-19, PTO/SB/29-29A, PTO/SB/101-110, EFS-Web Original New Utility, Design, and Provisional Application Forms.

**Agency Approval Number:** 0651-0032.

**Type of Request:** Revision of a currently approved collection.

**Burden:** 10,677,624 hours annually.

**Number of Respondents:** 543,591 responses per year.

**Avg. Hours Per Response:** The USPTO estimates that it takes between 24 minutes to 30 hours to gather the information, prepare, and submit the various paper and electronic applications in this collection, depending on the situation and the amount of information that needs to be submitted. Since EFS-Web is still relatively new, the USPTO does not yet have a good indication of how much time is saved by filing applications or documents electronically via EFS-Web. Accordingly, the USPTO has estimated

the same time to complete the electronically-filed applications as it does to complete those submitted in paper form. As experience with EFS-Web grows, the USPTO will reevaluate the time required for electronically-filed versus paper-filed applications and documents. The USPTO estimates that it takes between 30 minutes to 1 hour to gather the information, prepare, and submit the petitions in this collection.

**Needs and Uses:** This collection of information is required by 35 U.S.C. 131 and 37 CFR 1.16 through 1.84. An applicant must provide sufficient information to allow the USPTO to properly examine the application or petition to determine whether it meets the requirements outlined in the patent statutes and regulations. The various fee and application transmittal forms, the declarations, the cover sheets, and the petitions permit applicants to supply all of the information necessary to process the application and enables the USPTO to ensure that all of the information has been provided in order to process the application.

**Affected Public:** Individuals or households; business or other for-profit; not-for-profit institutions, farms, the Federal Government, and State, Local, or Tribal Governments.

**Frequency:** On occasion.

**Respondent's Obligation:** Required to obtain or retain benefits.

**OMB Desk Officer:** David Rostker, (202) 395-3897.

Copies of the above information collection proposal can be obtained by any of the following methods:

- **E-mail:** [Susan.Fawcett@uspto.gov](mailto:Susan.Fawcett@uspto.gov). Include "0651-0032 copy request" in the subject line of the message.

- **Fax:** 571-273-0112, marked to the attention of Susan Brown.

- **Mail:** Susan K. Brown, Records Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer, Architecture, Engineering and Technical Services, Data Architecture and Services Division, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent on or before March 28, 2007 to David Rostker, OMB Desk Officer, Room 10202, New Executive Office Building, 725 17th Street NW., Washington, DC 20503.

Dated: February 20, 2007.

**Susan K. Brown,**

*Records Officer, USPTO, Office of the Chief Information Officer, Architecture, Engineering and Technical Services, Data Architecture and Services Division.*

[FR Doc. E7-3182 Filed 2-23-07; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-16-P**