

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Institute of Standards and Technology****NIST Consortium for Advancement of Genome Editing**

AGENCY: National Institute of Standards and Technology, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of Research Consortium; Extension of Research Consortium.

SUMMARY: The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) extends the duration of the NIST Consortium for Advancement of Genome Editing (Genome Editing Consortium or Consortium). The Consortium duration was previously through December 1, 2025. NIST is taking this action to provide additional time for interested parties to join the Consortium to further pursue the implementation and achievement of outcomes of the current Consortium activities, as well as to address additional standards needs as defined by the Consortium in qualification of off-target assays and quality of genome editing components. Beginning January 1, 2026 participation fees will increase to \$25,000 annually or in-kind contributions of equivalent value. Participants will be required to sign a Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (CRADA).

DATES: The Consortium's activities will continue as needed to complete the updated research plan. NIST will accept letters of interest to participate in this Consortium on an ongoing basis. Acceptance of participants into the Consortium will depend on the availability of resources.

ADDRESSES: Information in response to this notice, including completed letters of interest or requests for additional information about the Consortium, can be directed via mail to the Consortium Manager, Dr. Samantha Maragh, Biosystems and Biomaterials Division of NIST's Material Measurement Laboratory, 100 Bureau Drive, Mail Stop 8312, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899 or via electronic mail to samantha@nist.gov, or by telephone at (301) 975-4947.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On January 11, 2018, NIST published a notice in the **Federal Register** (83 FR 1335), establishing the Consortium, and on February 2, 2021, NIST published a notice in the **Federal Register** (86 FR 7859) extending the duration of the Consortium until December 1, 2025. To provide additional time for interested parties to join the Consortium to further

pursue the implementation and achievement of the Consortium objectives, NIST extends the term to continue as needed to complete the updated research plan and will accept letters of interest on an ongoing basis. Previously submitted letters of interest do not need to be resubmitted.

The Consortium's current activities (as described in the original notice, 83 FR 1335) will continue, and the Consortium research plan is amended to include the following new activities:

Qualification of Off-Target Assays: Identify sources of variability and develop consensus approaches to qualifying off-target assays (including potential interlaboratory studies or control materials).

Quality of Genome Editing Components: Identify concepts/information, approaches/assays, and potential controls for assessing quality of genome editing components.

Alicia Chambers,
NIST Executive Secretariat.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[RTID 0648-XE356]

Takes of Marine Mammals Incidental to Specified Activities; Taking Marine Mammals Incidental to Pile Driving Training Exercises at Naval Base Ventura County, Port Hueneme

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

ACTION: Notice; proposed issuance of an incidental harassment authorization; request for comments on proposed authorization and possible renewal.

SUMMARY: NMFS has received a request from the United States Navy (Navy) for authorization to take marine mammals, by Level B harassment only, incidental to pile driving training exercises at Naval Base Ventura County, Port Hueneme (NBVC).

NMFS previously issued an incidental harassment authorization IHA to the Navy for similar activities on April 28, 2023 (hereinafter referred to as the initial IHA); however, during the initial authorization period, only one of four planned training exercise was performed. The Navy is requesting, and NMFS is proposing to issue an IHA authorizing incidental take for an

additional four training exercises. Pursuant to the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), NMFS is requesting comments on its proposal to issue an IHA to incidentally take marine mammals during the specified activities. NMFS is also requesting comments on a possible 1-year Renewal IHA that could be issued under certain circumstances and if all requirements are met, as described in Request for Public Comments at the end of this notice. NMFS will consider public comments prior to making any final decision on the issuance of the requested MMPA authorizations and agency responses will be summarized in the final notice of our decision. The Navy's activities are considered military readiness activities pursuant to the MMPA, as amended by the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2004 (NDAA).

DATES: Comments and information must be received no later than November 7, 2024.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be addressed to Jolie Harrison, Chief, Permits and Conservation Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service, and should be submitted via email to ITP.tyson.moore@noaa.gov. Electronic copies of the application and supporting documents, as well as a list of the references cited in this document, may be obtained online at: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/permit/incidental-take-authorizations-under-marine-mammal-protection-act>. In case of problems accessing these documents, please call the contact listed below.

Instructions: NMFS is not responsible for comments sent by any other method, to any other address or individual, or received after the end of the comment period. Comments, including all attachments, must not exceed a 25-megabyte file size. All comments received are a part of the public record and will generally be posted online at <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/permit/incidental-take-authorizations-under-marine-mammal-protection-act> without change. All personal identifying information (e.g., name, address) voluntarily submitted by the commenter may be publicly accessible. Do not submit confidential business information or otherwise sensitive or protected information.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Reny Tyson Moore, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, (301) 427-8401.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: