

levels that could cause Level B behavioral harassment from the proposed construction work at the USCG Station Monterey. These numbers represent approximately 0.03%–5.16% of the stocks and populations of these species that could be affected by Level B behavioral harassment.

Based on the analysis contained herein of the likely effects of the specified activity on marine mammals and their habitat, and taking into consideration the implementation of the mitigation and monitoring measures, NMFS finds that small numbers of marine mammals will be taken relative to the populations of the affected species or stocks.

Impact on Availability of Affected Species for Taking for Subsistence Uses

There are no relevant subsistence uses of marine mammals implicated by this action. Therefore, NMFS has determined that the total taking of affected species or stocks would not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of such species or stocks for taking for subsistence purposes.

Endangered Species Act (ESA)

No species listed under the ESA are expected to be affected by these activities. Therefore, NMFS has determined that a section 7 consultation under the ESA is not required.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

In January 2014, the USCG prepared a Final Environmental Assessment for Waterfront Repairs at United States Coast Guard Station Monterey, Monterey, California (EA) and provided supplement information on July 30, 2014. NMFS has reviewed the EA and concluded that the environmental consequences analyzed are reflect NMFS' action of issuance of an IHA to USCG. Therefore, NMFS determined to adopt the USCG EA and will not prepare its own EA or EIS for this action.

Authorization

NMFS has issued an IHA to USCG for the potential harassment of small numbers of marine mammal species incidental to its waterfront repair project at Station Monterey in California, provided the previously mentioned mitigation, monitoring, and reporting requirements are incorporated.

Dated: September 18, 2014.

Perry F. Gayaldo,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648–XC645

Taking of Threatened or Endangered Marine Mammals Incidental to Commercial Fishing Operations

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

ACTION: Notice of extension of public comment period.

SUMMARY: NMFS is announcing an extension to the public comment period for the amended permit to authorize the incidental, but not intentional, take of two stocks of marine mammals listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), under the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), by the California (CA) thresher shark/swordfish drift gillnet fishery (>14 in mesh) and the Washington (WA)/Oregon (OR)/CA sablefish pot fishery. On August 25, 2014, NMFS solicited comments from the public on the draft negligible impact determination and on the proposal to issue a permit to vessels that operate in these fisheries for the taking of affected endangered stocks of marine mammals.

NMFS is extending the comment period for 30 days.

DATES: Information and comments must be received by close of business on October 24, 2014.

ADDRESSES: The draft amended Negligible Impact Determination and list of references contained in this notice are available in electronic form via the Internet at: http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/protected_species/marine_mammals/marine_mammals.html. The petition and a list of references contained in this notice are available in electronic form via the Internet at <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/>.

You may submit comments, identified by NOAA–NMFS–2013–0073, by any of the following methods:

- **Electronic Submissions:** Submit all electronic public comments via the Federal eRulemaking Portal. Go to www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=NOAA-NMFS-2013-0073, click the “Comment Now!” icon, complete the required fields, and enter or attach your comments.

- **Mail:** Send comments or requests to: Chris Yates, Assistant Regional Administrator, Protected Resources Division, West Coast Region, 501 W.

Ocean Blvd., Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802. Comments may also be faxed to (562) 980–4027.

Instructions: Comments sent by any other method, to any other address or individual, or received after the end of the comment period, may not be considered by NMFS. All comments received are a part of the public record and will generally be posted for public viewing on <http://www.regulations.gov> without change. All personal identifying information (e.g., name, address, etc.), confidential business information, or otherwise sensitive information submitted voluntarily by the sender will be publicly accessible. NMFS will accept anonymous comments (enter N/A in the required fields if you wish to remain anonymous). Attachments to electronic comments will be accepted in Microsoft Word, Excel, or Adobe PDF file formats only.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Monica DeAngelis, NMFS West Coast Region, (562) 980–3232, or Shannon Bettridge, NMFS Office of Protected Resources, (301) 427–8402.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Section 101(a)(5)(E) of the MMPA, 16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*, states that NMFS, as delegated by the Secretary of Commerce, shall for a period of up to three years allow the incidental taking of marine mammal species listed under the ESA, 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*, by persons using vessels of the United States and those vessels which have valid fishing permits issued by the Secretary in accordance with section 204(b) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, 16 U.S.C. 1824(b), while engaging in commercial fishing operations, if NMFS makes certain determinations. NMFS must determine, after notice and opportunity for public comment, that: (1) Incidental mortality and serious injury will have a negligible impact on the affected species or stock; (2) a recovery plan has been developed or is being developed for such species or stock under the ESA; and (3) where required under section 118 of the MMPA, a monitoring program has been established, vessels engaged in such fisheries are registered in accordance with section 118 of the MMPA, and a take reduction plan has been developed or is being developed for such species or stock.

NMFS proposes to issue an amended permit under MMPA section 101(a)(5)(E) to vessels registered in the CA thresher shark/swordfish drift gillnet fishery (>14 in mesh) to incidentally take individuals from two

stocks of threatened or endangered marine mammals: The CA/OR/WA stock of humpback whales (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) and the CA/OR/WA stock of sperm whales (*Physeter macrocephalus*); and to vessels registered in WA/OR/CA sablefish pot fishery to incidentally take individuals from the CA/OR/WA stock of humpback whales.

The data for considering these authorizations were reviewed coincident with the 2014 MMPA List of Fisheries (LOF; 79 FR 14418, March 14, 2014), final 2013 U.S. Pacific Marine Mammal Stock Assessment (SAR; Carretta *et al.* 2014), Carretta and Moore (2014), Moore and Barlow (in press), the Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for U.S. West Coast Fisheries for Highly Migratory Species (HMS), recovery plans for these species (available on the Internet at: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/recovery/plans.htm#mammals>), the best scientific information and available data, and other relevant sources.

Section 101(a)(5)(E)(i) of the MMPA requires NMFS to provide notice and opportunity for public comment on the proposed permit.

NMFS wants to provide adequate opportunity for review of all documents considered in making a negligible impact determination. Although NMFS believed all documents would be available to the public at the time we solicited comments on the draft negligible impact determination and on the proposal to issue the permit (79 FR 50626, August 25, 2014), the Moore and Barlow (in press) paper has not yet been published and made available for public review. Publication of the paper is imminent and NMFS has decided to extend the comment period to allow for publication of the paper and subsequent review of the paper for comments relevant to this proposed MMPA permit issuance. In this notice NMFS is extending the public comment period until October 24, 2014, to allow adequate time for the public to review the scientific information relevant to the amended permit under MMPA section 101(a)(5)(E) to vessels registered in the CA thresher shark/swordfish drift gillnet fishery ($\geq$ in mesh) and vessels registered in WA/OR/CA sablefish pot fishery.

Information Solicited

To ensure that the amended permit under MMPA section 101(a)(5)(E) is based on the best scientific information available, we are soliciting public comments on the proposed permit and the preliminary determinations supporting the permit. Specifically, we seek comments on:

- The use of the revised abundance estimates in Moore and Barlow (in press)
- The use of a 13-year time period for estimating expectedidental mortality of sperm whales in the gillnet fishery.

Dated: September 19, 2014.

Perry F. Gayaldo,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Telecommunications and Information Administration

[Docket Number: 140821696–4696–01]

RIN 0660–XC012

First Responder Network Authority Proposed Interpretations of Parts of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012

AGENCY: First Responder Network Authority, National Telecommunications and Information Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The First Responder Network Authority (“FirstNet”) publishes this Notice to request public comment on certain proposed interpretations of its enabling legislation that will inform, among other things, forthcoming requests for proposals, interpretive rules, and network policies. With the benefit of the comments received from this Notice, FirstNet may proceed to implement these or other interpretations with or without further administrative procedure.

DATES: Submit comments on or before October 24, 2014.

ADDRESSES: The public is invited to submit written comments to this Notice. Written comments may be submitted electronically through www.regulations.gov or by mail (to the address listed below). Comments received related to this Notice will be made a part of the public record and will be posted to www.regulations.gov without change. Comments should be machine readable and should not be copy-protected. Comments should include the name of the person or organization filing the comment as well as a page number on each page of the submission. All personally identifiable 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: Eli Veenendaal, First Responder Network Authority, National Telecommunications and Information Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, M/S 243, Reston, VA 20192; 703–648–4167; or elijah.veenendaal@firstnet.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Introduction and Background

The Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 (Pub. L. 112–96, Title VI, 126 Stat. 256 (codified at 47 U.S.C. 1401 *et seq.*)) (the “Act”) established the First Responder Network Authority (“FirstNet”) as an independent authority within the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (“NTIA”). The Act establishes FirstNet’s duty and responsibility to take all actions necessary to ensure the building, deployment, and operation of a nationwide public safety broadband network (“NPSBN”).¹

One of FirstNet’s principal first steps in carrying out this responsibility under the Act is the issuance of open, transparent, and competitive requests for proposals (“RFPs”) for the purposes of building, operating, and maintaining the network. We have and will continue to seek public comments on many technical and economic aspects of these RFPs through traditional procurement processes, including requests for information (“RFIs”) and potential draft RFPs, prior to issuance of final RFPs.²

As a newly created entity, however, we are also confronted with many complex legal issues of first impression under the Act that will have a material impact on the RFPs, responsive proposals, and our operations going forward. Generally, the Administrative Procedure Act (“APA”) ³ provides the basic framework of administrative law governing agency action, including the procedural steps that must precede the effective promulgation, amendment, or repeal of a rule by a federal agency.⁴

¹ 47 U.S.C. 1426(b).

² The pronouns “we” or “our” throughout this Notice refer to “FirstNet” alone and not FirstNet, NTIA, and the U.S. Department of Commerce as a collective group.

³ See 5 U.S.C. 551–59, 701–06, 1305, 3105, 3344, 5372, 7521.

⁴ See 5 U.S.C. 551–559. The APA defines a “rule” as “the whole or a part of an agency statement of general or particular applicability and future effect designed to implement, interpret, or prescribe law or policy or describing the organization, procedure, or practice requirements of an agency and includes the approval or prescription for the future of rates,