

While the number of potential incidental harassment takes will depend on the distribution and abundance of marine mammals in the area of site clearance operations, the number of potential harassment takings is estimated to be relatively small in light of the population size. NMFS anticipates the actual take of individuals to be lower than the numbers presented in the analysis because those numbers do not reflect either the implementation of the mitigation measures or the fact that some animals will avoid the sound at levels lower than those expected to result in harassment.

In addition, no take by death and/or injury is anticipated, and the potential for temporary or permanent hearing impairment will be avoided through the incorporation of the required mitigation measures described in this document. This determination is supported by (1) the likelihood that, given sufficient notice through slow ship speed and ramp-up of the acoustic equipment, marine mammals are expected to move away from a noise source that it is annoying prior to its becoming potentially injurious; (2) TTS is unlikely to occur, especially in odontocetes, until levels above 180 dB re 1 microPa (rms) are reached; and (3) the fact that injurious levels of sound are only likely very close to the vessel.

Proposed Authorization

NMFS proposes to issue an IHA to AES for shallow hazard and site clearance surveys in Chukchi Sea between July and November 2008, provided the previously mentioned mitigation, monitoring, and reporting requirements are incorporated.

Dated: April 22, 2008.

James H. Lecky

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

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XD61

Marine Mammals; File No. 10080

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

ACTION: Notice; issuance of permit amendment.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Dr. Kathryn A. Ono, Department of

Biological Sciences, University of New England, Biddeford, ME, has been issued an amendment to scientific research Permit No. 10080.

ADDRESSES: The amendment and related documents are available for review upon written request or by appointment in the following office(s):

Permits, Conservation and Education Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910; phone (301)713-2289; fax (301)427-2521; and

Northeast Region, NMFS, One Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930-2298; phone (978)281-9300; fax (978)281-9394.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tammy Adams or Jaclyn Daly, (301)713-2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On February 11, 2008, notice was published in the **Federal Register** (73 FR 7715) that an amendment to Permit No. 10080, issued December 18, 2007 (72 FR 72996), had been requested by the above-named individual. The requested amendment has been granted under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) and the regulations governing the taking and importing of marine mammals (50 CFR part 216).

The amendment allows researchers to harass an additional 1000 gray seals (*Halichoerus grypus*) annually incidental to boat approaches to target seals on ledges and other haul outs. No other aspect of the permit or authorized research has been changed. The purpose of increasing the numbers of gray seals that may be harassed during boat approaches is to account for the increasing size of the gray seal population in the area.

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), a final determination has been made that the activity proposed is categorically excluded from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement.

Dated: April 22, 2008.

P. Michael Payne,

*Chief, Permits, Conservation and Education Division, Office of Protected Resources,
National Marine Fisheries Service.*

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN: 0648-XH47

Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings

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

ACTION: Notice of public meetings.

SUMMARY: The Pacific Fishery Management Council's (Council) Groundfish Allocation Committee (GAC) and Ad Hoc Groundfish Trawl Individual Quota Committee (TIQC) will hold working meetings, which are open to the public.

DATES: The GAC will meet Tuesday, May 13, 2008, from 1 p.m. until business for the day is completed, and reconvene on Wednesday, May 14 and Thursday, May 15 at 8:30 a.m. each day until business for each day is completed. The TIQC will attend the GAC meeting and convene its meeting Thursday, May 15 upon adjournment of the GAC meeting. The TIQC will reconvene on Friday, May 16, 2008 at 8:30 a.m. and continue until their business is completed.

ADDRESSES: The GAC meeting will be held at the Embassy Suites Portland Airport, 7900 NE 82nd, Avenue Portland, OR 97220; telephone: (503) 460-3000. The TIQC meeting will be held at the Pacific Fishery Management Council, Large Conference Room, 7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101, Portland, OR 97220-1384; telephone: (503) 820-2280.

Council address: Pacific Fishery Management Council, 7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101, Portland, OR 97220-1384.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Jim Seger, Staff Officer; telephone: (503) 820-2280.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of the GAC and TIQC meetings is to develop recommendations to the Council on a preferred trawl rationalization alternative scheduled to be sent out for public review after the Council's June 2008 meeting.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in the meeting agenda may come before the Groundfish Management Team (GMT) or the Committee for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal GMT or Committee action during these meetings. GMT or Committee action will be restricted to those issues