

## II. Method of Collection

Respondents reporting BFT, Atlantic blue or white marlin, West Atlantic sailfish, or North Atlantic swordfish catch in states (and the United States Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico) other than Maryland may use either an internet website, mobile smartphone app, or a toll-free telephone number. In Maryland, a paper reporting system is used for all of the aforementioned species. Under state law, respondents in Maryland must submit a landing card at a state-operated reporting station. States that participate in a landing card program must submit weekly reports and one annual report to NMFS to summarize landings and results to date. The State of North Carolina previously maintained a paper-based landings reporting system for these species, but discontinued their program effective April 1, 2025, at which time fishermen within the state shifted to reporting via one of the reporting systems listed above provided by NMFS.

## III. Data

*OMB Control Number:* 0648–0328.

*Form Number(s):* None.

*Type of Review:* Regular submission [extension of a current information collection].

*Affected Public:* Businesses or other for-profit organizations; individuals or households; and State, Local, or Tribal government.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 13,709.

*Estimated Time per Response:* 5 minutes for an initial call-in, internet, or smartphone app report; 5 minutes for confirmation call; 10 minutes for a landing card; 1 hour for a weekly state report; and 4 hours for an annual state report.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 1,504.

*Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public:* \$0.

*Respondent's Obligation:* Mandatory.

*Legal Authority:* Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*), and the Atlantic Tunas Convention Act of 1975 (16 U.S.C. 971 *et seq.*)

## IV. Request for Comments

We are soliciting public comments to permit the Department/Bureau to: (a) Evaluate whether the proposed information collection is necessary for the proper functions of the Department, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) Evaluate the accuracy of our estimate of the time and cost burden for this proposed collection, including the validity of the

methodology and assumptions used; (c) Evaluate ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) Minimize the reporting burden on those who are to respond, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments that you submit in response to this notice are a matter of public record. We will include or summarize each comment in our request to OMB to approve this Information Collection Review (ICR). Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you may ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

**Sheleen Dumas,**

*Departmental PRA Compliance Officer, Office of the Under Secretary for Economic Affairs, Commerce Department.*

[FR Doc. 2025–12991 Filed 7–10–25; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510–22–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648–XE848]

#### Taking and Importing Marine Mammals; Taking Marine Mammals Incidental to U.S. Navy Operations of Surveillance Towed Array Sensor System Low Frequency Active Sonar in the Western and Central North Pacific Ocean and Eastern Indian Ocean

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

**ACTION:** Notice; receipt of application for regulations and letter of authorization; request for comments and information.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS has received a request from the U.S. Department of the Navy (Navy) for authorization to take marine mammals incidental to training and testing activities using Surveillance Towed Array Sensor System (SURTASS) Low Frequency Active (LFA) sonar systems in the western and central North Pacific and eastern Indian oceans over the course of 7 years from August 2026 through August 2033. Pursuant to regulations implementing

the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), NMFS is announcing receipt of the Navy's request for the development and implementation of regulations governing the incidental taking of marine mammals and issuance of a 7-year Letter of Authorization (LOA). NMFS invites the public to provide information, suggestions, and comments on the Navy's application and request.

**DATES:** Comments and information must be received no later than August 11, 2025.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments should be addressed to Ben Laws, Incidental Take Program Supervisor, Permits and Conservation Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service, and should be sent to [ITP.clevenstine@noaa.gov](mailto:ITP.clevenstine@noaa.gov). An electronic copy of the Navy's application may be obtained online at: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/marine-mammal-protection/incidental-take-authorizations-military-readiness-activities>. In case of problems accessing the document, 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 be generally posted online at: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/marine-mammal-protection/incidental-take-authorizations-military-readiness-activities> 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:** Alyssa Clevenstine, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, (301) 427–8401.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

#### Background

The MMPA prohibits the “take” of marine mammals, with certain exceptions. Sections 101(a)(5)(A) and (D) of the MMPA (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) direct the Secretary of Commerce (as delegated to 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 and either regulations are proposed or, if the taking is limited to

harassment, a notice of a proposed authorization is provided to the public for review.

Authorization for incidental takings shall be granted if NMFS finds that the taking will have a negligible impact on the species or stock(s), and will not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of the species or stock(s) for taking for subsistence uses (where relevant). Further, NMFS must prescribe the permissible methods of taking and other “means of effecting the least practicable adverse impact” on the affected species or stocks and their habitat, paying particular attention to rookeries, mating grounds, and areas of similar significance, and on the availability of the species or stocks for taking for certain subsistence uses (referred to in shorthand as “mitigation”); and requirements pertaining to the monitoring and reporting of the takings.

NMFS has defined “negligible impact” in 50 CFR 216.103 as an impact resulting from the specified activity that cannot be reasonably expected to, and is not reasonably likely to, adversely affect the species or stock through effects on annual rates of recruitment or survival.

The MMPA states that the term “take” means to harass, hunt, capture, kill or attempt to harass, hunt, capture, or kill any marine mammal.

The National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2004 (Pub. L. 108–136) amended section 101(a)(5) of the MMPA to remove the “small numbers” and “specified geographical region” provisions and amended the definition of “harassment” as applied to a “military readiness activity” to read as follows (section 3(18)(B) of the MMPA): (i) Any act that injures or has the significant potential to injure a marine mammal or marine mammal stock in the wild (Level A Harassment); or (ii) Any act that disturbs or is likely to disturb a marine mammal or marine mammal stock in the wild by causing disruption of natural behavioral patterns, including, but not limited to, migration, surfacing, nursing, breeding, feeding, or sheltering, to a point where such behavioral patterns are abandoned or significantly altered (Level B Harassment). On August 13, 2018, the NDAA for Fiscal Year 2019 (Pub. L. 115–232) amended the MMPA to allow incidental take regulations for military readiness activities to be issued for up to 7 years.

#### Summary of Request

On April 6, 2025, NMFS received an application from the Navy requesting authorization to take marine mammals, by Level A and Level B harassment,

incidental to training and testing (characterized as military readiness activities) using SURTASS LFA sonar in the in the western and central North Pacific Ocean and eastern Indian Ocean. In response to our comments and following information exchange, the Navy submitted a final revised application that we determined was adequate and complete on July 1, 2025. The Navy requested the regulations and subsequent LOA be valid for 7 years beginning in August 2026.

This will be the fifth time NMFS has promulgated incidental take regulations pursuant to the MMPA relating to similar military readiness activities using SURTASS LFA, following those effective from August 15, 2002 through August 15, 2007 (67 FR 46712, July 16, 2002), from August 16, 2007 through August 15, 2012 (72 FR 46846, August 21, 2007), from August 15, 2012 through August 15, 2017 (77 FR 50290, August 20, 2012), and from August 12, 2019 through August 11, 2026 (84 FR 40132, August 13, 2019). Of note, on August 10, 2017, the Secretary of Defense, after conferring with the Secretary of Commerce, determined that it was necessary for the national defense to exempt all military readiness activities that use SURTASS LFA sonar from compliance with the requirements of the MMPA for 2 years from August 13, 2017 through August 12, 2019, or until such time when NMFS issues regulations and a LOA under Title 16, Section 1371 for military readiness activities associated with the use of SURTASS LFA sonar, whichever is earlier.

#### Description of the Specified Activity

The Navy proposes to continue utilizing SURTASS LFA sonar systems onboard Ocean Surveillance Ships (hereafter T-AGOS) for training and testing conducted under the authority of the Secretary of the Navy in the western and central North Pacific and eastern Indian oceans. Please refer to figure 2–1 of the application for a map of the Study Area. The Navy currently has four T-AGOS surveillance ships equipped with SURTASS LFA sonar systems and may develop and field additional SURTASS LFA sonar equipped vessels, either to replace or complement the Navy’s current SURTASS LFA sonar capable fleet.

The Navy is proposing to use 1,100 hours of SURTASS LFA sonar per year. The analysis for the current SURTASS LFA incidental take regulations (84 FR 40132, August 13, 2019) analyzed the use of 592 hours. The change from 592 to 1,100 hours does not reflect new or additional training requirements. Instead, it is the result of a change in

how the Navy counts an “hour” of transmission. Previously, SURTASS LFA sonar hours were calculated by adding the portions of time a sonar emits sound during its duty cycle (ratio of time the signal is on compared to off), whereas other Navy sonar systems, such as mid-frequency and high-frequency active sonar, report hours based on “duration” time (total time the source is active, including silent periods between pings). To bring SURTASS LFA sonar in line with these other systems, the Navy developed a conversion method that considers various factors including LFA sonar pings, wave trains, and other classified considerations. As a result, the 1,100 hours of annual SURTASS LFA training proposed are equivalent to the 592 hours under the previous counting method. The SURTASS LFA sonar transmission hours, which are classified as military readiness activities pursuant to the section 315(f) of Public Law 101–314 (16 U.S.C. 703), represent a distribution across three activities that include:

- Training (*i.e.*, contractor crew proficiency training, military crew proficiency training, active training);
- Maintenance and upgrades (*i.e.*, equipment maintenance checks and performance evaluations); and
- Exercises (*e.g.*, Valiant Shield, Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC)).

The application includes proposed mitigation measures for marine mammals that would be implemented during SURTASS LFA sonar training and testing activities (see section 11 of the application). Proposed activity-based mitigation would generally involve: the use of one or more trained Lookouts, as well as passive acoustics and active acoustics, to detect specific biological resources within a mitigation zone, as well as requirements to implement mitigation (*e.g.*, halt an activity). Mitigation measures are also proposed for specific geographic mitigation areas and consist of a variety of measures including: limiting received levels of sound within a fixed distance from any emergent land (12 nautical miles (nmi); 22 kilometer (km)) and offshore biologically important areas (OBIA; 0.54 nmi (1 km)), and restricting the amount of SURTASS LFA sonar activities conducted within or near OBIA in a given year.

The Navy also proposes to undertake monitoring and reporting efforts to better understand the impacts of their activities on marine mammals and their habitat.

#### Information Solicited

Interested persons may submit information, suggestions, and comments

concerning the Navy's request (see **ADDRESSES**). NMFS will consider all information, suggestions, and comments related to the request during the development of proposed regulations governing the incidental taking of marine mammals by the Navy, if appropriate.

Dated: July 9, 2025.

**Kimberly Damon-Randall,**

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

[FR Doc. 2025-13000 Filed 7-10-25; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XE930]

#### Takes of Marine Mammals Incidental to Specified Activities; Taking Marine Mammals Incidental to the City of Ketchikan's Berth III Mooring Dolphins Project in Ketchikan, Alaska

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

**ACTION:** Notice; issuance of incidental harassment authorization.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with regulations implementing the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) as amended, notification is hereby given that NMFS has issued an incidental harassment authorization (IHA) to the City of Ketchikan (COK) for authorization to take marine mammals incidental to the Berth III Mooring Dolphins Project in the Port of Ketchikan in the Tongass Narrows, Alaska.

**DATES:** This IHA is effective for one year from the date of effectiveness.

**ADDRESSES:** Electronic copies of the application and supporting documents, as well as a list of the references cited in this document, can be obtained online at: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/action/incidental-take-authorization-city-ketchikans-berth-iii-mooring-dolphins-project-port>. For any issues accessing these documents, please contact the person listed below.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Krista Graham, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, (301) 427-8401.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

#### MMPA Background and Determinations

The MMPA prohibits the "take" of marine mammals, with certain

exceptions. Among the exceptions is section 101(a)(5)(D) of the MMPA (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), which directs the Secretary of Commerce (as delegated to NMFS) to allow, upon request, the incidental, but not intentional, taking by harassment 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, and the public has an opportunity to comment on the proposed IHA.

Specifically, NMFS will issue an IHA if it determines that the taking will have a negligible impact on the species or stock(s) and will not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of the species or stock(s) for taking for subsistence uses (where applicable). Further, NMFS must prescribe the permissible methods of taking and other "means of effecting the least [practicable] adverse impact" on the affected species or stocks and their habitat, paying particular attention to rookeries, mating grounds, and areas of similar significance, and on the availability of such species or stocks for taking for certain subsistence uses (referred to here as "mitigation"). NMFS must also prescribe requirements for monitoring and reporting of such takings. The definitions of key terms, such as "take," "harassment," and "negligible impact," can be found in the MMPA and the NMFS' implementing regulations (see 16 U.S.C. 1362; 50 CFR 216.103).

On April 16, 2025, a notice of NMFS' proposal to issue an IHA to the COK for take of marine mammals incidental to the Berth III Mooring Dolphins Project in the Port of Ketchikan in the Tongass Narrows, Alaska, was published in the **Federal Register** (90 FR 15957). In that notice, NMFS provided the estimated numbers, type, and methods of incidental take proposed for each species or stock, as well as the mitigation, monitoring, and reporting measures that would be required should the IHA be issued. The **Federal Register** notice also included analysis to support NMFS' preliminary conclusions and determinations that the IHA, if issued, would satisfy the requirements of section 101(a)(5)(D) of the MMPA for issuance of the IHA. The **Federal Register** notice included web links to a draft IHA for review, as well as other supporting documents.

No substantive comments were received during the public comment period. Except for the relatively minor changes described below, and upon which we provide a comparison table that includes the original proposed

authorized take compared to the updated final authorized take (table 1), an updated authorized take by Level A and Level B harassment and as a percentage of stock abundance table (table 2), and a table with the updated shutdown and monitoring zones (table 3), there are no changes to the specified activity, the species taken, the type or methods of take, or the mitigation, monitoring, or reporting measures in the proposed IHA notice. No new information has become available that would substantively change any of the preliminary analyses, conclusions, or determinations in the proposed IHA. Therefore, the preliminary analyses, conclusions, and determinations included in the proposed IHA are considered final.

#### Changes From the Proposed IHA to the Final IHA

Upon close inspection of the proposed **Federal Register** notice, we identified either relatively minor numerical errors that were carried over from the application (e.g., numbers were transposed in a table) or systematic calculation errors. Numerical errors carried over from the application included the following:

(a) In table 5 (Proxy Sound Source Levels for Pile Sizes and Driving Methods) of the proposed IHA (90 FR 15957, April 16, 2025), the cumulative sound source level at 10 meters (m) for impact installation of 48-inch piles (1.22 m) used 179 decibels (dB) sound exposure level (SEL) (referenced to 1 micropascal squared per second (re 1 $\mu$ Pa<sup>2</sup>sec) instead of 180 dB SEL re 1 $\mu$ Pa<sup>2</sup>sec. Additionally, the sound source level at 10 m for the installation of down-the-hole (DTH) anchors (12-inch (0.30 m)) was specified as 146 dB re 1 $\mu$ Pa peak and 172 dB re 1 $\mu$ Pa<sup>2</sup>sec SEL, instead of the inverse (172 dB re 1 $\mu$ Pa peak and 146 dB re 1 $\mu$ Pa<sup>2</sup>sec SEL).

(b) In table 6 (User Spreadsheet Input Parameters Used for Calculating Level A Harassment Isopleths) of the proposed IHA (90 FR 15957, April 16, 2025), a strike per second or strike rate of 5.8 was used instead of 8.5 for DTH sockets (30-inch (0.76 m), 36-inch (0.91 m), and 48-inch). For DTH anchors (12-inch), a strike rate of 5.8 was used instead of 19.2. Additionally, a weighting factor adjustment of 2.5 kilohertz (kHz) was used instead of 2 kHz for DTH anchors (12-inch).

(c) Once we corrected the numerical errors described above, the calculated Level A harassment isopleths for DTH sockets (30-, 36-, and 48-inch) and DTH anchors (12-inch) (table 7 of the proposed IHA (90 FR 15957, April 16, 2025)) were adjusted slightly upwards,