

behavioral changes falling within the MMPA definition of Level B harassment.

In light of the type of take expected and the relatively small numbers of affected pinnipeds, the action is expected to have no more than a negligible impact on the affected species or stocks of marine mammals. In addition, mitigation measures such as controlled vessel speed, course alteration, look-outs, ramp-ups, and power-downs when marine mammals are seen within defined ranges (see Mitigation) should further reduce short-term reactions to disturbance, and minimize any effects on hearing sensitivity.

ESA

NMFS issued a biological opinion regarding the effects of this action on ESA-listed species and critical habitat. That biological opinion concluded that this action is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of listed species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of critical habitat. A copy of the Biological Opinion is available upon request (see ADDRESSES).

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

The NSF made a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) determination on October 2, 2003, based on information contained within its EA, that implementation of the subject action is not a major Federal action having significant effects on the environment within the meaning of Executive Order 12114. NSF determined therefore, that an environmental impact statement would not be prepared. On March 18, 2004 (69 FR 12832), NMFS noted that the NSF had prepared an EA for the Gulf of California surveys and made this EA available upon request. In accordance with NOAA Administrative Order 216-6 (Environmental Review Procedures for Implementing the National Environmental Policy Act, May 20, 1999), NMFS has reviewed the information contained in NSF's EA and determined that the NSF EA accurately and completely describes the proposed action alternative, reasonable additional alternatives, and the potential impacts on marine mammals, endangered species, and other marine life that could be impacted by the preferred alternative and the other alternatives. Therefore, it is not necessary to issue a new EA, supplemental EA or an environmental impact statement for the issuance of an IHA to Scripps for this activity. Based on this review and analysis, NMFS is adopting the NSF EA under 40 CFR 1506.3 and has made its own FONSI. A

copy of the NSF EA and the NMFS FONSI for this activity is available upon request (see ADDRESSES).

Authorization

NMFS has issued an IHA to take marine mammals, by harassment, incidental to conducting seismic surveys in the Gulf of California to Scripps for a 1-year period, provided the mitigation, monitoring, and reporting requirements are undertaken.

Dated: May 28, 2004.

Laurie K. Allen,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

ACTION: Notice.

The Department of Defense has submitted to OMB for clearance, the following proposal for collection of information under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. chapter 35).

DATES: Consideration will be given to all comments received by July 7, 2004.

Title and OMB Number: Post-Election Survey of Overseas Citizens, Post-Election Survey of Local Election Officials; OMB Number 0704-0125.

Type of Request: Extension.

Number of Respondents: 2,343.

Responses per Respondent: 1.

Annual Responses: 2,343.

Average Burden per Response: 10 minutes.

Average Burden Hours: 391 hours.

Needs and Uses: The information collection requirement is necessary to meet a requirement of the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA) of 1986 (42 U.S.C. 19073ff). UOCAVA requires a report to the President and Congress on the effectiveness of assistance under the Act, a statistical analysis of voter participation, and a description of State-Federal cooperation. UOCAVA requires the states to allow Uniformed Services personnel, their family members, and overseas citizens to use absentee registration procedures, and to vote by absentee ballot in general, special, primary, and runoff elections for Federal offices. The Act covers members of the Uniformed Services and the merchant marine to include the commissioned corps of the National

Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and Public Health Service, and their eligible dependents, Federal civilian employees overseas, and overseas U.S. citizens not affiliated with the Federal government. The Federal Voting Assistance Program conducts the post-election survey on a statistically random basis to determine participation rates that are representative of all citizens covered by the Act, measure State-Federal cooperation, and evaluate the effectiveness of the overall absentee voting program. The information collected is used for overall program evaluation, management and improvement, and to compile the congressionally mandated report to the President and Congress.

Affected Public: Individuals or households; state, local or tribal government.

Frequency: Quadrennially.

Respondents Obligation: Voluntary.

OMB Desk Officer: Ms. Jacqueline Zeiher. Written comments and recommendations on the proposed information collection should be sent to Ms. Zeiher at the Office of Management and Budget, Desk Officer for DoD, Room 10236, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503.

DOD Clearance Officer: Mr. Robert Cushing. Written requests for copies of the information collection proposal should be sent to Mr. Cushing, WHS/ESCD/Information Management Division, 1225 South Clark Street, Suite 504, Arlington, VA 22202-4326.

Dated: May 28, 2004.

L.M. Bynum,

Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary of Defense; Establishment of U.S. Army Amputee Patient Care Program Board

AGENCY: Department of Defense.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Army Amputee Patient Care Program Board is being established in the public interest, and in accordance with the provisions of the "Federal Advisory Committee Act," title 5 U.S.C., appendix II.

The Board shall serve in an advisory capacity to broaden the scope of vision for the U.S. Army Amputee Patient Care Program. The Board will make such suggestions for the improvement of the program as it deems necessary. The Board will consist of nine members