

Notification to Interested Parties

We are issuing and publishing these preliminary results in accordance with sections 751(a)(1) and 777(i) of the Act, and 19 CFR 351.213(h) and 351.221(b)(4).

Dated: April 26, 2024.

Ryan Majerus,

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy and Negotiations, performing the non-exclusive functions and duties of the Assistant Secretary for Enforcement and Compliance.

Appendix**List of Topics Discussed in the Preliminary Decision Memorandum**

- I. Summary
- II. Background
- III. Scope of the Order
- IV. Affiliation
- V. Companies Not Selected for Individual Examination
- VI. Discussion of the Methodology
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- VIII. Recommendation

[FR Doc. 2024–09621 Filed 5–2–24; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–DS–P

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

[RTID 0648–XD925]

Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Pacific Fishery Management Council's (Pacific Council) Ecosystem Advisory Subpanel (EAS) is holding an online meeting, which is open to the public.

DATES: The online meeting will be held Tuesday, May 21, 2024, from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. or until business for the day is completed.

ADDRESSES: This meeting will be held online. Specific meeting information, including directions on how to join the meeting and system requirements will be provided in the meeting announcement on the Pacific Council's website (see www.pcouncil.org). You may send an email to Mr. Kris Kleinschmidt (kris.kleinschmidt@noaa.gov) or contact him at (503) 820–2412 for technical assistance.

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

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kit Dahl, Staff Officer, Pacific Council; telephone: (503) 820–2422.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of this EAS online meeting is to develop recommendations on Pacific Council operations and priorities, which the Pacific Council will discuss at its June 7–13, 2024, meeting. The EAS may also discuss recommendations for other items on the Pacific Council's June meeting agenda relevant to ecosystem management and the business of the EAS.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in the meeting agenda may be discussed, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Action will be restricted to those issues specifically listed in this document and any issues arising after publication of this document that require emergency action under section 305(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, provided the public has been notified of the intent to take final action to address the emergency.

Special Accommodations

Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Mr. Kris Kleinschmidt (kris.kleinschmidt@noaa.gov; (503) 820–2412) at least 10 days prior to the meeting date.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: April 29, 2024.

Rey Israel Marquez,

Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 2024–09625 Filed 5–2–24; 8:45 am]

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

[RTID 0648–XD928]

Marine Mammals; File No. 27597

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

ACTION: Notice; receipt of application.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the NOAA Alaska Fisheries Science Center's Marine Mammal Laboratory (MML), 7600 Sand Point Way NE, Seattle, WA 98115 (Responsible Party: John Bengston, Ph.D.) has applied in due form for a permit to conduct research on Steller sea lions (*Eumetopias jubatus*).

DATES: Written comments must be received on or before June 3, 2024.

ADDRESSES: The application and related documents are available for review by selecting "Records Open for Public Comment" from the "Features" box on the Applications and Permits for Protected Species home page, <https://apps.nmfs.noaa.gov>, and then selecting the File No. 27597 from the list of available applications. These documents are also available upon written request via email to NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov.

Written comments on this application should be submitted via email to NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov. Please include the File No. in the subject line of the email comment.

Those individuals requesting a public hearing should submit a written request via email to NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov. The request should set forth the specific reasons why a hearing on this application would be appropriate.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sara Young or Courtney Smith, Ph.D., at (301) 427–8401.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The subject permits are requested under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (MMPA; 16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) and the regulations governing the taking and importing of marine mammals (50 CFR part 216).

MML proposes to conduct research to measure population status, vital rates, foraging ecology, habitat requirements, and effects of natural and anthropogenic factors impacting the eastern distinct population segment (eDPS) of Steller sea lion populations pursuant to fulfilling the NMFS legal requirements under the MMPA, and to test hypotheses of mechanisms underlying population trends. Proposed activities include surveys (aerial, vessel, and land) including use of unmanned aircraft systems (UAS), capture and handling, marking, hot branding, sampling (including but not limited to blood, blubber, swabs of all mucus membranes and lesions, skin samples, vibrissae, and hair), tagging, and unintentional disturbance. Animals may be disturbed by surveys, captured, sampled and released for vital rates, foraging ecology and/or health studies multiple times per year. MML requests four unintentional mortalities from the eDPS of Steller sea lions annually, not to exceed eight over the duration of the permit. Non-target species that may be disturbed unintentionally during these studies include northern elephant seals (*Mirounga angustirostris*), harbor seals (*Phoca vitulina*), and California sea

lions (*Zalophus californianus*). Collected biological samples may be exported for analysis. See the application for complete numbers of animals requested by species and procedure. The requested duration of this permit is 5 years.

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), an initial determination has been made that the activities proposed are consistent with the Preferred Alternative in the Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for Steller Sea Lion and Northern Fur Seal Research (NMFS 2007) and a supplemental environmental assessment (NMFS 2014) prepared for the addition of unmanned aerial surveys to the suite of Steller sea lion research activities analyzed under the EIS that concluded that issuance of the permits would not have a significant adverse impact on the human environment. An environmental review memo is being prepared to summarize these findings.

Concurrent with the publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, NMFS is forwarding copies of the application to the Marine Mammal Commission and its Committee of Scientific Advisors.

Dated: April 29, 2024.

Julia M. Harrison,

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

[FR Doc. 2024–09615 Filed 5–2–24; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648–XD212]

Draft Updated Guidance for Assessing the Effects of Anthropogenic Sound on Marine Mammal Hearing—Underwater and In-Air Criteria for Onset of Auditory Injury and Temporary Threshold Shifts (Version 3.0)

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

ACTION: Notice; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The National Marine
Fisheries Service (NMFS), announces
the availability of our draft *Update to:
Technical Guidance for Assessing the
Effects of Anthropogenic Sound on
Marine Mammal Hearing (Version 3.0):
Underwater and In-Air Criteria for
Onset of Auditory Injury and Temporary*

Threshold Shifts (draft Updated
Technical Guidance) for public
comment. The draft Updated Technical
Guidance assesses the effects of
anthropogenic sound on marine
mammal species under NMFS's
jurisdiction. The draft Updated
Technical Guidance provides updated
received levels and auditory weighting
functions, or acoustic criteria, above
which individual marine mammals, in-
air and underwater, are predicted to
experience changes in their hearing
sensitivity (auditory injury or temporary
threshold shift) for all anthropogenic
sound sources. Once finalized, the
Updated Technical Guidance will
replace NMFS's current *2018 Revisions
to: Technical Guidance for Assessing
the Effects of Anthropogenic Sound on
Marine Mammal Hearing (Version 2.0):
Underwater Thresholds for Onset of
Permanent and Temporary Threshold
Shifts* (2018 Revised Technical
Guidance).

DATES: Comments must be received by
June 17, 2024.

ADDRESSES: The draft Updated
Technical Guidance is available in
electronic form via the internet [https://
www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/
marine-mammal-protection/marine-
mammal-acoustic-technical-guidance](https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/marine-mammal-protection/marine-mammal-acoustic-technical-guidance).
You may submit comments by including
NOAA–NMFS–2024–0026, by either of
the following methods:

Federal e-Rulemaking Portal: Go to
[https://www.regulations.gov/
#!docketDetail;D=NOAA-NMFS-2024-
0026](https://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=NOAA-NMFS-2024-0026), click the “Comment Now!” icon,
complete the required fields, and enter
or attach your comments.

Mail: Send comments to: Chief,
Permits and Conservation Division,
Office of Protected Resources, National
Marine Fisheries Service, 1315 East-
West Highway, Silver Spring, MD
20910–3226, Attn: Updated Acoustic
Technical Guidance.

Instructions: NMFS may not consider
comments if they are sent by any other
method, to any other address or
individual, or received after the
comment period ends. All comments
received are a part of the public record
and NMFS will generally post for public
viewing on <https://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).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Amy R. Scholik-Schlomer, Office of

Protected Resources, 301–427–8449,
Amy.Scholik@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The
National Marine Fisheries Service has
developed a draft Updated Technical
Guidance document for assessing the
effects of anthropogenic sound on the
hearing of marine mammal species, in-
air and underwater, under NMFS's
jurisdiction. Specifically, the draft
Updated Technical Guidance identifies
the received levels and auditory
weighting functions, or acoustic criteria,
above which individual marine
mammals are predicted to experience
changes in their hearing sensitivity
(auditory injury (AUD INJ) or temporary
threshold shift (TTS)) for all
anthropogenic sound sources. This
document is intended for use by NMFS
analysts and managers and other
relevant user groups and stakeholders,
including other Federal agencies, when
seeking to determine whether and how
their activities are expected to result in
particular types of impacts to marine
mammals via acoustic exposure in-air
and underwater. The draft Updated
Technical Guidance outlines NMFS's
updated acoustic criteria and describes
in detail how they were developed and
how they will be updated in the future.

As with our current 2018 Revised
Technical Guidance ([https://
www.fisheries.noaa.gov/s3/2023-05/
TECHMEMOGuidance508.pdf](https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/s3/2023-05/TECHMEMOGuidance508.pdf)), NMFS
worked with the U.S. Navy, which
updated their marine mammal acoustic
criteria. Upon evaluation, NMFS has
determined that the Navy's proposed
criteria reflects the best available
science and incorporated it into our
draft Updated Technical Guidance.

NMFS conducted an independent
peer review in October/November 2022
in association with the draft Updated
Technical Guidance. Details of the peer
reviews are available at the following
website: [https://www.noaa.gov/
information-technology/update-to-
20162018-technical-guidance-for-
assessing-effects-of-anthropogenic-
sound-on-marine-mammal](https://www.noaa.gov/information-technology/update-to-20162018-technical-guidance-for-assessing-effects-of-anthropogenic-sound-on-marine-mammal).
Additionally, in May and June of 2023,
NMFS solicited input from other
relevant Federal agencies on the draft
Updated Technical Guidance. Federal
agency comments and NMFS responses
to those comments are available at the
following website: [https://
www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/
marine-mammal-protection/marine-
mammal-acoustic-technical-guidance](https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/marine-mammal-protection/marine-mammal-acoustic-technical-guidance).
To complete the review process, NMFS
is now soliciting additional stakeholder
feedback via public comment on the
draft Updated Technical Guidance.