

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration****National Sea Grant Advisory Board**

AGENCY: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice sets forth the schedule and proposed agenda of a forthcoming meeting of the National Sea Grant Advisory Board. Board members will discuss and provide advice on the National Sea Grant College Program in the areas of program evaluation, strategic planning, education and extension, science and technology programs, and other matters as described in the Agenda below.

DATES: The announced meeting is scheduled for: Monday, August 6 2012.

ADDRESSES: Conference Call. Public access is available at SSMC Bldg. 3, ROOM # 10836, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Elizabeth Ban, Designated Federal Officer, National Sea Grant College Program, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 11843, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910, or Elizabeth.Ban@noaa.gov or (301) 734-1082.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Board, which consists of a balanced representation from academia, industry, state government and citizens groups, was established in 1976 by Section 209 of the Sea Grant Improvement Act (Pub. L. 94-461, 33 U.S.C. 1128). The Board advises the Secretary of Commerce and the Director of the National Sea Grant College Program with respect to operations under the Act, and such other matters as the Secretary refers to them for review and advice. The agenda for the meeting is as follows:

Monday, August 6, 2012—2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Agenda

- 2:00 Welcome and roll call
- 2:10 Discussion and approval of draft Advisory Board report to Congress on the state of Sea Grant.
- 3:45 Public Comments
- 4:00 Adjourn

Status: The meeting will be open to public participation with a 15-minute public comment period on Monday, August 6 at 3:45 p.m. EDT. The Board expects that public statements presented at its meetings will not be repetitive of previously submitted verbal or written

statements. In general, each individual or group making a verbal presentation will be limited to a total time of three (3) minutes. Written comments should be received by the Designated Federal Officer by July 30, 2012 to provide sufficient time for Board review. Written comments received after July 30, 2012, will be distributed to the Board, but may not be reviewed prior to the meeting date. Seats will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Special Accommodations: These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Elizabeth Ban, Designated Federal Officer at 301-734-1082 or Elizabeth.Ban@noaa.gov by July 27, 2012.

Dated: July 6, 2012.

Andy Baldus,

Acting Chief Financial Officer/Acting Administrative Officer, Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

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

RIN 0648-XC100

Marine Mammals; File No. 17115

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

ACTION: Notice; receipt of application.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that James Lloyd-Smith, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of California, Los Angeles, 610 Charles E. Young Dr. South, Box 723905, Los Angeles, California 90095-7239, has applied in due form for a permit to conduct research on California sea lions (*Zalophus californianus*).

DATES: Written, telefaxed, or email comments must be received on or before August 13, 2012.

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 (APPS) home page, <https://apps.nmfs.noaa.gov>, and then selecting File No. 17115 from the list of available applications.

These documents are also available upon written request or by appointment in the following offices:

Permits and Conservation Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910; phone (301) 427-8401; fax (301) 713-0376; and Southwest Region, NMFS, 501 West Ocean Blvd., Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802-4213; phone (562) 980-4001; fax (562) 980-4018.

Written comments on this application should be submitted to the Chief, Permits and Conservation Division, at the address listed above. Comments may also be submitted by facsimile to (301) 713-0376, or by 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 to the Chief, Permits and Conservation Division at the address listed above. The request should set forth the specific reasons why a hearing on this application would be appropriate.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Amy Sloan or Joselyd Garcia-Reyes, (301) 427-8401.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The subject permit is 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).

To better understand the dynamics of leptospirosis in the California sea lions, the applicant requests a scientific research permit to investigate exposure to and shedding of leptospirosis in this species, with the long-term goal of understanding the mechanisms underlying recurrent and deadly epizootics of leptospirosis in California sea lions. By analyzing data collected from wild caught, free-ranging sea lions and comparing it to data from stranded sea lions, the applicant aims to establish how seroprevalence and incidence data gathered from stranded animals can be scaled up to reflect the patterns occurring in the entire wild population of sea lions. Up to 5,100 California sea lions may be taken annually from Año Nuevo Island including 20 by capture and release, 80 by capture/sample/release and 5,000 by incidental disturbance. Procedures include: Capture (stalking, hoop net); restraint (board, cage, hand, net); anesthesia (gas); mark (flipper tag); measure; and sample (blood, urine, vibrissae). Up to 3,000 northern elephant seals (*Mirounga angustirostris*) and up to 60 Pacific harbor seals (*Phoca vitulina*) may be taken annually due to incidental disturbance. In addition, up to four