

(*Pagophilus groenlandicus*). A description of the methods and inputs used to estimate take anticipated to occur and, ultimately, the take that was authorized is found in the previous documents referenced above. The data inputs and methods of estimating take are identical to those used in the initial IHA. NMFS has reviewed recent Stock Assessment Reports, information on relevant Unusual Mortality Events, and recent scientific literature, and determined that no new information affects our original analysis of impacts or take estimate under the initial IHA.

We refer to the documents related to the previously issued IHA, which include the **Federal Register** notice of the issuance of the initial 2019 IHA for the Navy's construction work (84 FR 24476), the Navy's application, the **Federal Register** notice of the proposed IHA (84 FR 13252), and all associated references and documents.

Determinations

The Navy will conduct activities as analyzed in the initial 2019 IHA. As described above, the number of authorized takes of the same species and stocks of marine mammals are identical to the numbers that were found to meet the negligible impact and small numbers standards and authorized under the initial IHA and no new information has emerged that would change those findings. The re-issued 2020 IHA includes identical required mitigation, monitoring, and reporting measures as the initial IHA, and there is no new information suggesting that our analysis or findings should change.

Based on the information contained here and in the referenced documents, NMFS has determined the following: (1) The required mitigation measures will effect the least practicable impact on marine mammal species or stocks and their habitat; (2) the authorized takes will have a negligible impact on the affected marine mammal species or stocks; (3) the authorized takes represent small numbers of marine mammals relative to the affected stock abundances; and (4) the Navy's activities will not have an unmitigable adverse impact on taking for subsistence purposes as no relevant subsistence uses of marine mammals are implicated by this action.

National Environmental Policy Act

To comply with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA; 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*) and NOAA Administrative Order (NAO) 216-6A, NMFS must review our

proposed action with respect to environmental consequences on the human environment.

Accordingly, NMFS has determined that the issuance of the IHA qualifies to be categorically excluded from further NEPA review. This action is consistent with categories of activities identified in CE B4 of the Companion Manual for NOAA Administrative Order 216-6A, which do not individually or cumulatively have the potential for significant impacts on the quality of the human environment and for which we have not identified any extraordinary circumstances that would preclude this categorical exclusion.

Endangered Species Act (ESA)

Section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA: 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) requires that each Federal agency insure that any action it authorizes, funds, or carries out is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any endangered or threatened species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of designated critical habitat. To ensure ESA compliance for the issuance of IHAs, NMFS consults internally whenever we propose to authorize take for endangered or threatened species.

However, no incidental take of ESA-listed species is authorized or expected to result from this activity. Therefore, NMFS has determined that formal consultation under section 7 of the ESA is not required for this action.

Authorization

NMFS has issued an IHA to the Navy for in-water construction activities associated with the specified activity from March 1, 2020, through February 28, 2021. All previously described mitigation, monitoring, and reporting requirements from the initial 2019 IHA are incorporated.

Dated: December 3, 2019.

Donna S. Wieting,

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

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ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

Technical Guidelines Development Committee; Meeting

AGENCY: U.S. Election Assistance Commission.

ACTION: Notice of conference call meeting.

DATES: Wednesday, December 18, 2019, 2:00–4:00 p.m. (EDT).

ADDRESSES: EAC Technical Guidelines Development Committee Conference Call.

To Listen and Monitor the Event as an Attendee

1. Go to: <https://zoom.us/j/917491464>.
2. Enter Meeting ID: 917 491 464, Password: TGDC1219.

One tap mobile

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888 788 0099 US Toll-free

Meeting ID: 917 491 464.

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/j/917491464>. For assistance: Contact the host, Steve Uyak at suyak@eac.gov.

Purpose: In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), Public Law 92-463, as amended (5 U.S.C. Appendix 2), the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) Technical Guidelines Development Committee will conduct a conference call to discuss NIST recommendations and feedback.

Agenda: The Technical Guidelines Development Committee (TGDC) will discuss NIST recommendations and feedback from November meeting.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bert Benavides, Telephone: (301) 563-3937.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Members of the public may submit relevant written statements to the Technical Guidelines Development Committee with respect to the meeting no later than 10:00 a.m. EDT on Wednesday, December 18, 2019. Statements may be sent via email to facaboards@eac.gov, via standard mail addressed to the U.S. Election Assistance Commission, 1335 East West Highway, Suite 4300, Silver Spring, MD 20910, or by fax at 301-734-3108.

This conference call will be open to the public.

Nichelle S. Williams,

Director of Research, U.S. Election Assistance Commission.

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