

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jennifer Skidmore and Carrie Hubard, (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).

The applicant proposes to import up to 20 samples annually from each of the following species: ringed seal (*Pusa hispida*), harbor seal (*Phoca vitulina*) and gray seal (*Halichoerus grypus*); and up to 40 samples annually from killer whales (*Orcinus orca*) from the Swedish Natural History Museums' collections (*i.e.*, collection of beached or accidentally killed animals). The applicant proposes to use stable isotope analysis of bone collagen to investigate the dietary ecology of grey wolves (*Canis lupus*) and killer whales over the past 100 years. By quantifying the contribution of seals to the diet of the predators, the research will study the energy flow between marine and terrestrial ecosystems and pressure on seal populations in Sweden. The permit would be valid for 3 years from the date of issuance.

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 activity proposed is categorically excluded from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement.

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: August 30, 2023.

Julia M. Harrison,

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

[FR Doc. 2023-19056 Filed 9-1-23; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XD293]

Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of public online meeting.

SUMMARY: The Coastal Pelagic Species (CPS) Subcommittee of the Pacific Fishery Management Council's (Pacific Council's) Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) will hold an online meeting to update the Accepted Practices Guidelines for CPS Stock Assessments document. The meeting is open to the public.

DATES: The SSC CPS Subcommittee's online meeting will be held Friday, September 22, 2023 beginning at 8 a.m. and continuing until 12 p.m. Pacific Daylight Time or until business for the day has been completed.

ADDRESSES: The SSC CPS Subcommittee's meeting will be an online meeting. 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.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Jessi Doerpinghaus, Staff Officer, Pacific Fishery Management Council; telephone: (503) 820-2415.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of the SSC CPS Subcommittee's meeting is to update best practices for conducting CPS stock assessments. Recommendations of SSC CPS Subcommittee members will inform the Accepted Practices Guidelines for Stock Assessments in 2024, which is a compilation of guidelines for CPS stock assessment scientists. The full SSC and the Pacific Council will review the Accepted Practices Guidelines for Stock Assessments as recommended by the SSC CPS Subcommittee at the November Pacific Council meeting. The updated version of the Accepted Practices Guidelines for Stock Assessments will be posted on the Pacific Council's website shortly after the meeting.

No management actions will be decided by the SSC CPS Subcommittee. The SSC CPS Subcommittee members' role will be the development of recommendations for consideration by West Coast CPS stock assessment scientists.

Although nonemergency issues not contained in the meeting agendas 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 notice and any issues arising after publication of this notice 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 of the SSC CPS Subcommittee 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: August 30, 2023.

Rey Israel Marquez,

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

[FR Doc. 2023-19084 Filed 9-1-23; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XD307]

North Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings

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

ACTION: Notice of hybrid meetings.

SUMMARY: The North Pacific Fishery Management Council's (Council) Groundfish Plan Teams will hold a meeting. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for agenda.

DATES: The meetings will be held on Tuesday, September 19, 2023 through Friday, September 22, 2023, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., PDT.

ADDRESSES: The meetings will be hybrid meetings. The in-person component of the meetings will be held at the Alaska Fishery Science Center in the Traynor Room (2076) and Room 2079, 7600 Sand Point Way NE, Building 4, Seattle, WA 98115. If you plan to attend in-person you need to notify Sara Cleaver (sara.cleaver@noaa.gov) or Diana Stram (diana.stram@noaa.gov) at least two days prior to the meeting (or two weeks prior if you are a foreign national). You will also need a valid U.S. Identification Card. If you are attending virtually, join the meeting online through the link at

<https://meetings.npfmc.org/Meeting/Details/3006>.

Council address: North Pacific Fishery Management Council, 1007 W 3rd Ave, Suite 400, Anchorage, AK 99501-2252; telephone: (907) 271-2809. Instructions for attending the meeting are given under **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**, below.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sara Cleaver, Council staff; telephone: (907) 271-2809; email: sara.cleaver@noaa.gov or Diana Stram, Council staff; email diana.stram@noaa.gov. For technical support, please contact our administrative staff; email: npfmc.admin@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Agenda

Tuesday, September 19, 2023 Through Friday, September 22, 2023

The Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI) and Gulf of Alaska (GOA) Groundfish Plan Teams will meet to review and discuss issues of importance to both Plan Teams, including but not limited to: Economic and Socioeconomic Profile update, Ecosystem Status Report climate update, ecosystem surveys, bottom trawl surveys (BTS), longline survey, updates on model progress for stock assessments to be presented in November, and proposed harvest specifications. The agenda is subject to change, and the latest version will be posted at <https://meetings.npfmc.org/Meeting/Details/3006> prior to the meeting, along with meeting materials.

Connection Information

You can attend the meeting online using a computer, tablet, or smartphone; or by phone only. Connection information will be posted online at: <https://meetings.npfmc.org/Meeting/Details/3006>.

Public Comment

Public comment letters should be submitted electronically via the electronic agenda at <https://meetings.npfmc.org/Meeting/Details/3006>.

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

Dated: August 30, 2023.

Rey Israel Marquez,

Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. 2023-19083 Filed 9-1-23; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XD165]

Takes of Marine Mammals Incidental to Specified Activities; Taking Marine Mammals Incidental to the Skagway Ore Terminal Redevelopment Project in Skagway, Alaska

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

ACTION: Notice; issuance of an incidental harassment authorization.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the regulations implementing the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) as amended, notification is hereby given that NMFS has issued an Incidental Harassment Authorization (IHA) to Municipality of Skagway (MOS) to incidentally harass marine mammals during construction associated with the Ore Terminal redevelopment project in Skagway, Alaska.

DATES: This authorization is effective from October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2024.

ADDRESSES: Electronic copies of the application and supporting documents, as well as a list of the references cited in this document, may be obtained online at: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/action/incidental-take-authorization-municipality-skagways-skagway-ore-terminal-redevelopment>. In case of problems accessing these documents, please call the contact listed below.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jenna Harlacher, 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 IHA 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 mitigation, monitoring and reporting of the takings are set forth. The definitions of all applicable MMPA statutory terms cited above are included in the relevant sections below.

Summary of Request

On August 9, 2022, NMFS received a request from MOS for an IHA to take marine mammals incidental to Ore Terminal redevelopment in Skagway, Alaska. Following NMFS’ review of the application and subsequent revised versions, MOS submitted a final application that was deemed adequate and complete on February 23, 2023. The proposed IHA published for public comment on April 18, 2023 (88 FR 23627). MOS’s request is for take of 7 species (including 11 stocks) by Level B and Level A harassment. Neither MOS nor NMFS expect serious injury or mortality to result from this activity and, therefore, an IHA is appropriate.

Description of Activity

MOS plans to redevelop the Skagway Ore Terminal in Skagway, Alaska. The project will cover construction from fall 2023 through spring 2024 to avoid construction during cruise ship season with a maximum of 196 days of pile installation and removal. While the total number of estimated pile driving days is 213, some days will include both impact and vibratory pile driving, reducing the maximum number of workdays to 196 (Table 1). This project involves installation and removal of 36 temporary steel pile guides, removal of 692 piles, and installation of 244 permanent steel piles. The IHA would be effective from October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2024. MOS will conduct a total of 142 days of vibratory pile installation and removal and 71 days of impact pile driving, which was updated to reflect a more accurate number of days from the proposed notice of IHA. Sounds resulting from pile installation and removal may result in the incidental take of marine