DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[F.D. 082597A]
Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Surf Clam and Ocean Quahog Fisheries; Notice That Vendor Will Provide 1998 Cage Tags

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

ACTION: Notice of vendor to provide 1998 cage tags.

SUMMARY: NMFS informs surf clam and ocean quahog allocation owners that they will be required to purchase their 1998 cage tags from a vendor.

ADDRESSES: Written inquiries may be sent to Mr. Richard Pearson at: National Marine Fisheries Service, Northeast Regional Office, One Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930-3799.


SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Federal Atlantic Surf Clam and Ocean Quahog Fisheries regulations at 50 CFR 648.75(b) authorize the Regional Administrator of the Northeast Region to specify in the Federal Register a vendor from whom cage tags, required under the management plan, shall be purchased. Implementation of this program will make the surf clam/ocean quahog tag program consistent with other regional tag programs, and set the stage for future tag programs that may be considered. Notice is hereby given that the authorized vendor of cage tags required for the 1998 Federal surf clam and ocean quahog fisheries. Detailed instructions for purchasing these cage tags will be provided in a letter to allocation owners within the next several weeks.

Dated: August 26, 1997.


DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Small Takes of Marine Mammals Incidental to Specified Activities; Seismic Retrofit of the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge, San Francisco Bay, CA

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

ACTION: Notice of receipt of application and proposed authorization for a small take exemption; request for comments.

SUMMARY: NMFS has received a request from the California Department of Transportation (CALTRANS) for an authorization to take small numbers of Pacific harbor seals and possibly California sea lions by harassment incidental to seismic retrofit construction of the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge, San Francisco Bay, CA (the Bridge). Under the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), NMFS is requesting comments on its proposal to authorize CALTRANS to incidentally take, by harassment, small numbers of marine mammals in the above mentioned area for a 1-year period beginning in December 1997.

DATES: Comments and information must be received no later than October 3, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Comments on the application should be addressed to Michael Payne, Chief, Marine Mammal Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910-3225. A copy of the application, a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and a list of references cited in this document may be obtained by writing to this address or by telephoning one of the contacts listed below.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kenneth R. Hollingshead, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, (301) 713-2055, or Irma Lagomarsino, Southwest Regional Office, NMFS, (310) 980-4016.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Background

Section 101(a)(5) (A) and (D) of the MMPA (16 U.S.C. 1361 et seq.) directs the Secretary of Commerce to allow, upon request, the incidental, but not intentional, taking 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