

Island, Pine Knoll Shores, and Fort Fisher, NC, intends to collect 18 dusky sharks (6 sharks per facility), 18 lemon sharks (6 sharks per facility), 18 sandbar sharks (6 sharks per facility), and 6 sand tiger sharks (2 sharks per facility) for public display and education by hook and line and trawl, fyke, or pound nets. Fishing will occur in the Atlantic Ocean off North Carolina and Florida. Issuance of an EFP is necessary because possession of sand tiger sharks is prohibited and because the commercial fishery for large coastal sharks is closed for extended periods. The applicant also requested that the EFP authorize collection of bonnethead sharks, managed under the small coastal shark management unit; however, as the commercial season for small coastal sharks has not closed to date, this species may be possessed legally by obtaining a Federal commercial shark permit, and an EFP is not required.

The Atlantis Holding Corporation, in Holtsville, NY, intends to collect a maximum of 20 sand tiger sharks for public display and education by rod and reel. Fishing will occur in the Atlantic Ocean along the south shore of Long Island. Issuance of an EFP is necessary because the possession of sand tiger sharks is prohibited.

The proposed collections for public display involve activities otherwise prohibited by regulations implementing the Fishery Management Plan for Sharks of the Atlantic Ocean. The applicants require authorization to fish for and to possess large coastal sharks outside the Federal commercial seasons and to fish for and to possess prohibited species.

Based on a preliminary review, NMFS finds that these applications warrant further consideration. A final decision on issuance of EFPs will depend on the submission of all required information, NMFS' review of public comments received on the applications, conclusions of any environmental analyses conducted pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act, and on any consultations with any appropriate Regional Fishery Management Councils, states, or Federal agencies.

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

Dated: July 17, 1998.

**Gary C. Matlock,**

*Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries,  
National Marine Fisheries Service.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 033198C]

#### Marine Mammals; Stock Assessment Reports; Notice of Availability

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

**ACTION:** Notice of availability; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS has revised marine mammal stock assessment reports in accordance with the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA). Draft revised 1998 reports are available for public review and comment.

**DATES:** Comments must be received by October 22, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** Send comments and requests for copies of reports to Chief, Marine Mammal Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910-3226, Attn: Stock Assessments. Copies of the reports may also be requested from Douglas DeMaster, Alaska Fisheries Science Center (F/AKC), NMFS, 7600 Sand Point Way, NE, BIN 15700, Seattle, WA 98115-0070; Irma Lagomarsino, Southwest Regional Office (F/SWO3), NMFS, 501 West Ocean Boulevard, Long Beach, CA 90802-4213; or Richard Merrick, Northeast Fisheries Science Center, 166 Waters Street, Woods Hole, MA 02543.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Thomas Eagle, (301) 713-2322; Douglas DeMaster, (206) 526-4045, regarding Alaska regional stock assessments; Irma Lagomarsino, (310) 980-4020, regarding Pacific regional stock assessments; or Richard Merrick, (508) 495-2291, or Steven Swartz, (305) 361-4487, regarding Atlantic regional stock assessments.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Section 117 of the MMPA (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) requires NMFS and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to prepare stock assessments reports for each stock of marine mammals that occurs in waters under the jurisdiction of the United States. These reports contain information regarding the distribution and abundance of the stock, population growth rates and trends, estimates of annual human-caused mortality from all sources, descriptions of the fisheries with which the stock interacts, and the status of the stock.

The MMPA also requires NMFS and FWS to review these reports annually for strategic stocks of marine mammals and, at least, every 3 years for stocks determined to be non-strategic. NMFS, in conjunction with the regional Scientific Review Groups, has reviewed the MMPA status of the Alaska, Pacific, and Atlantic stocks and has revised those reports for which significant new information was available. Table 1 contains a summary of the information included in the reports and also indicates which reports have been revised since the publication of the 1996 stock assessment reports. NMFS solicits public comments on these draft revised marine mammal stock assessment reports.

As required by the MMPA, NMFS has reviewed, and will continue to review, reports for strategic stocks of marine mammals and new information annually. The reports are not necessarily revised annually because revisions are required only when there is significant new information.

NMFS, in conjunction with the Alaska Scientific Review Group, reviewed new information available for all strategic stocks of Alaska marine mammals under its authority, as well as for several other stocks. A total of 15 of the 33 Alaska stock assessment reports were revised for 1998. Most proposed changes to the stock assessment reports incorporate new information into abundance or mortality estimates. The revised stock assessments include all 10 of the strategic stocks: western U.S. Steller sea lion, eastern U.S. Steller sea lion, northern fur seal, Cook Inlet beluga whale, North Pacific sperm whale, western North Pacific humpback whale, central North Pacific humpback whale, northeast Pacific fin whale, North Pacific right whale, and western Arctic bowhead whale. Additionally, five reports of non-strategic stocks were revised: Gulf of Alaska harbor seals, Bering Sea harbor seals, Southeast Alaska harbor seals, Eastern North Pacific transient killer whales, and Northern Pacific resident killer whales (eastern North Pacific transient and Northern resident stocks). The new information on abundance and mortality did not change the status (strategic or not) of any of these 15 Alaska stocks relative to the 1996 reports.

Fishery mortality sections in the revised Alaska reports have been updated to include data from observer programs, fisher self-reporting, and stranding reports through 1996, where possible. Similarly, subsistence harvest information through 1996 has been included for those stocks that are taken by Alaska Natives for subsistence

purposes. New abundance estimates are available and have been included in the revised assessments for nine stocks: western U.S. Steller sea lions, eastern U.S. Steller sea lions, northern fur seals, Cook Inlet beluga whales, western North Pacific humpback whales, central North Pacific humpback whales, Gulf of Alaska harbor seals, and both killer whale stocks. Revised Potential Biological Removal (PBR) levels have been calculated for all Alaska stocks having new abundance estimates. Additionally, habitat concerns have been addressed for all strategic stocks.

NMFS, in conjunction with the Pacific Scientific Review Group, reviewed new information on the MMPA status of all 50 stocks of marine mammals in the Pacific region (predominantly stocks along the coast of California, Oregon, Washington, and Hawaii) that are under its authority. NMFS found that the MMPA status of the California/Oregon/Washington stock of minke whales and the California/Oregon/Washington stock of mesoplodont beaked whales should be changed from "strategic" to "non-strategic", and these draft reports were revised accordingly. This change was prompted by the greater abundance of these species estimated from a 1996 ship survey that covered California and (for the first time) Oregon and Washington. The review of all other stocks did not indicate any significant new information that would change their status.

An additional five Pacific stock assessment reports were revised for 1998 to incorporate new information, including Oregon/Washington coastal waters harbor seal, Washington inland waters harbor seal, San Miguel Island northern fur seal, Oregon/Washington coast harbor porpoise, and Inland Washington harbor porpoise.

Fishery mortality sections in the revised Pacific reports have been updated to include data from observer programs, fisher self-reporting, and stranding reports through 1996, where possible. New abundance estimates are

available and have been included in the revised assessments for the California/Oregon/Washington minke whale, the California/Oregon/Washington mesoplodont beaked whale, the Oregon/Washington coastal waters harbor seal, the Washington inland waters harbor seal, San Miguel Island northern fur seal, and the Inland Washington harbor porpoise stocks. New PBR estimates have been calculated for each stock having a revised abundance estimate.

NMFS, in conjunction with the Atlantic Scientific Review Group, reviewed new information available for all strategic stocks of Atlantic marine mammals under their authority, as well as for several other stocks. A total of 26 of the 57 Atlantic stock assessment reports were revised for 1998. Most proposed changes to the stock assessment reports incorporate new information into abundance or mortality estimates. The revised stock assessments include 14 of the strategic stocks: Gulf of Maine/Bay of Fundy harbor porpoise, Western North Atlantic common dolphin, Western North Atlantic spotted dolphin, Western North Atlantic pantropical spotted dolphin, Western North Atlantic dwarf sperm whale, Western North Atlantic pygmy sperm whale, Western North Atlantic Cuvier's beaked whale, Western North Atlantic Mesoplodon beaked whale, Western North Atlantic short-finned pilot whale, Western North Atlantic sperm whale, North Atlantic humpback whale, Western North Atlantic right whale, Western North Atlantic fin whale, and Western North Atlantic blue whale. Additionally, 12 reports of non-strategic stocks were revised: Western North Atlantic harbor seals, Western North Atlantic gray seals, Western North Atlantic harp seals, Western North Atlantic hooded seals, Western North Atlantic Risso's dolphin, Western North Atlantic Atlantic white-sided dolphin, Western North Atlantic striped dolphin, Western North Atlantic spinner dolphin, Western North Atlantic Bottlenose dolphin (offshore), Western North Atlantic Northern bottlenose

whale, Western North Atlantic long-finned pilot whale, and Canadian east coast minke whale.

The new information on abundance and mortality changed the status (strategic or non-strategic) of three Atlantic stocks relative to the 1996 reports. NMFS found that the status of Atlantic white-sided dolphins and Atlantic long-finned pilot whales should be changed from non-strategic to strategic, and these draft reports were revised accordingly. This change was prompted by the (1992-1996) average annual mortality estimates. The review of all other stocks and advice from the Atlantic Scientific Review Group indicated that the Western North Atlantic pygmy sperm whale stock should be changed from strategic to non-strategic.

Fishery mortality sections in the revised Atlantic reports have been updated to include data from observer programs and stranding reports through 1996, where possible. New abundance estimates are available and have been included in the revised assessments for four stocks (Western North Atlantic harbor seals, Western North Atlantic gray seals (earlier value revised), Western North Atlantic common dolphins, North Atlantic humpback whales, and Canadian east coast minke whales). PBR levels have been calculated for all Atlantic stocks having new abundance estimates and for Western North Atlantic striped dolphins, for which the recovery factor was revised.

New information may become available during the comment period for these stock assessment reports. This new information may be incorporated into final stock assessment reports without additional public review and comment if incorporation of the new information does not change the status of the affected stock (e.g., strategic to non-strategic).

Dated: July 20, 1998.

**Hilda Diaz-Soltero,**

*Director, Office of Protected Resources, MFS.*

TABLE 1.—SUMMARY OF ALASKA AND PACIFIC (INCLUDING HAWAII) MARINE MAMMAL STOCK ASSESSMENT REPORTS FOR STOCKS OF MARINE MAMMALS UNDER NMFS AUTHORITY THAT OCCUPY WATERS UNDER U.S. JURISDICTION. A "Y" UNDER THE HEADING "SAR REVISED?" INDICATES THAT THE 1998 STOCK ASSESSMENT REPORT HAS BEEN REVISED RELATIVE TO THE 1996 REPORT

Species	Stock area	SRG region	NMFS center	Nmin	Rmax	Fr	PBR	Total annual mort.	Annual fish. mort.	Strategic status	SAR revised ?
Steller sea lion.	Western U.S	AKA	AKC	38,893	0.12	0.15	350	443	31	Y	Y
Steller sea lion.	Eastern U.S ..	AKA	AKC	30,403	0.12	0.75	1,368	18	14	Y	Y

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Species	Stock area	SRG region	NMFS center	Nmin	Rmax	Fr	PBR	Total annual mort.	Annual fish. mort.	Strategic status	SAR revised?
Northern fur seal.	Eastern Pacific.	AKA	AKC	848,539	0.086	0.5	18,244	1,722	14	Y	Y
Harbor seal ...	Southeast Alaska.	AKA	AKC	35,226	0.12	1.0	2,114	1,778	29	N	Y
Harbor seal ...	Gulf of Alaska	AKA	AKC	28,917	0.12	0.5	868	824	33	N	Y
Harbor seal ...	Bering Sea ...	AKA	AKC	12,648	0.12	0.5	379	187	26	N	Y
Spotted seal	Alaska .....	AKA	AKC	<sup>1</sup> N/A	0.12	0.5	N/A	N/A	2	N	
Bearded seal	Alaska .....	AKA	AKC	N/A	0.12	0.5	N/A	N/A	2	N	
Ringed seal ..	Alaska .....	AKA	AKC	N/A	0.12	0.5	N/A	N/A	1	N	
Ribbon seal ..	Alaska .....	AKA	AKC	N/A	0.12	0.5	N/A	N/A	1	N	
Beluga .....	Beaufort Sea	AKA	AKC	32,453	0.04	1.0	649	160	0	N	
Beluga .....	Eastern Chukchi Sea.	AKA	AKC	3,710	0.04	1.0	74	54	0	N	
Beluga .....	Eastern Bering Sea.	AKA	AKC	6,439	0.04	1.0	129	127	0	N	
Beluga .....	Bristol Bay ...	AKA	AKC	1,316	0.04	1.0	26	20	1	N	
Beluga .....	Cook Inlet ....	AKA	AKC	712	0.04	1.0	14	71	0	Y	Y
Killer whale ...	Eastern North Pacific, Northern Resident.	AKA	AKC	642	0.04	0.5	6.4	0.8	0.8	N	Y
Killer whale ...	Eastern North Pacific, Transient.	AKA	AKC	197	0.04	0.5	2.0	0.8	0.8	N	Y
Pacific white-sided dolphin.	Central North Pacific.	AKA	AKC	486,719	0.04	0.5	4,867	4	4	N	
Harbor porpoise.	Southeast Alaska.	AKA	AKC	8,156	0.04	0.5	82	4	4	N	
Harbor porpoise.	Gulf of Alaska	AKA	AKC	7,085	0.04	0.5	71	25	25	N	
Harbor porpoise.	Bering Sea ...	AKA	AKC	8,549	0.04	0.5	86	2	2	N	
Dall's porpoise.	Alaska .....	AKA	AKC	76,874	0.04	1.0	1,537	42	42	N	
Sperm whale	North Pacific	AKA	AKC	N/A	0.04	0.1	N/A	0.0	0.0	Y	Y
Baird's beaked whale.	Alaska .....	AKA	AKC	N/A	0.04	0.5	N/A	0.0	0.0	N	
Cuvier's beaked whale.	Alaska .....	AKA	AKC	N/A	0.04	0.5	N/A	0.0	0.0	N	
Stejneger's beaked whale.	Alaska .....	AKA	AKC	N/A	0.04	0.5	N/A	0.0	0.0	N	
Gray whale ...	Eastern North Pacific.	AKA	AKC	21,597	0.04	1.0	432	48	4	N	
Humpback whale.	Western North Pacific.	AKA	AKC	367	0.04	0.1	0.7	0.0	0.0	Y	Y
Humpback whale.	Central North Pacific.	AKA	AKC	3,698	0.04	0.1	7.4	1.2	1.0	Y	Y
Fin whale .....	Northeast Pacific.	AKA	AKC	N/A	0.04	0.1	N/A	0.0	0.0	Y	Y
Minke whale	Alaska .....	AKA	AKC	N/A	0.04	0.5	N/A	0.0	0.0	N	
Northern right whale.	North Pacific	AKA	AKC	N/A	0.04	0.1	N/A	0.0	0.0	Y	Y
Bowhead whale.	Western Arctic.	AKA	AKC	7,738	0.04	0.5	<sup>2</sup> 77	49	0.00	Y	Y
Harbor seal ...	Western North Atlantic.	ATL	NEC	30,990	0.12	1.0	1,859	893	893	N	Y
Gray seal .....	Northwest North Atlantic.	ATL	NEC	2,010	0.12	1.0	120	35	35	N	Y

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Species	Stock area	SRG region	NMFS center	Nmin	Rmax	Fr	PBR	Total annual mort.	Annual fish. mort.	Strategic status	SAR revised ?
Harp seal .....	Northwest North Atlantic.	ATL	NEC	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	325.00	325.00	N	Y
Hooded seal	Northwest North Atlantic.	ATL	NEC	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	5.60	5.60	N	Y
Harbor porpoise.	Gulf of Maine/ Bay of Fundy.	ATL	NEC	48,289	0.04	0.5	483	1,667	1,667	Y	Y
Risso's dolphin.	Western North Atlantic.	ATL	NEC	11,140	0.04	0.5	111	18	18	N	Y
Atlantic white-sided dolphin.	Western North Atlantic.	ATL	NEC	19,196	0.04	0.5	192	217	217	Y	Y
White-beaked dolphin.	Western North Atlantic.	ATL	NEC	N/A	0.04	N/A	N/A	0.0	0.0	N	N
Common dolphin.	Western North Atlantic.	ATL	NEC	15,470	0.04	0.5	155	<sup>3</sup> 221	<sup>3</sup> 221	Y	Y
Atlantic spotted dolphin.	Western North Atlantic.	ATL	NEC	<sup>4</sup> 1,617	0.04	0.5	16	<sup>4</sup> 20	<sup>4</sup> 20	Y	Y
Pantropical spotted dolphin.	Western North Atlantic.	ATL	NEC	<sup>4</sup> 1,617	0.04	0.5	16	<sup>4</sup> 20	<sup>4</sup> 20	Y	Y
Striped dolphin.	Western North Atlantic.	ATL	NEC	18,220	0.04	0.5	182	11	11	N	Y
Spinner dolphin.	Western North Atlantic.	ATL	NEC	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.31	0.31	N	Y
Bottlenose dolphin.	Western North Atlantic, offshore.	ATL	NEC	<sup>5</sup> 8,794	0.04	0.5	88	58	58	N	Y
Bottlenose dolphin.	Western North Atlantic, coastal.	ATL	SEC	2,482	0.04	0.5	25	29	<sup>6</sup> 29	Y	
Dwarf sperm whale.	Western North Atlantic.	ATL	NEC	N/A	0.04	N/A	N/A	0.2	0.2	Y	Y
Pygmy sperm whale.	Western North Atlantic.	ATL	NEC	N/A	0.04	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N	Y
Killer whale ...	Western North Atlantic.	ATL	NEC	N/A	0.04	N/A	N/A	0.0	0.0	N	
Pygmy killer whale.	Western North Atlantic.	ATL	SEC	6	0.04	0.5	0.1	0.0	0.0	N	
Northern bottlenose whale.	Western North Atlantic.	ATL	NEC	N/A	0.04	N/A	N/A	0.0	0.0	N	Y
Cuvier's beaked whale.	Western North Atlantic.	ATL	NEC	<sup>7</sup> 895	0.04	0.5	8.9	9.7	<sup>8</sup> 9.7	Y	Y
Mesoplodon beaked whale.	Western North Atlantic.	ATL	NEC	<sup>7</sup> 895	0.04	0.5	8.9	9.7	<sup>8</sup> 9.7	Y	Y
Pilot whale, long-finned ( <i>Globicephala</i> spp.).	Western North Atlantic.	ATL	NEC	<sup>9</sup> 49,685	0.04	0.5	50	32	<sup>9</sup> 32	<sup>10</sup> Y	Y

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Species	Stock area	SRG region	NMFS center	Nmin	Rmax	Fr	PBR	Total annual mort.	Annual fish. mort.	Strategic status	SAR revised ?
Pilot whale, short-finned.	Western North Atlantic.	ATL	NEC	457	0.04	0.5	4.6	32	<sup>9</sup> 32	Y	Y
Sperm whale	Western North Atlantic.	ATL	NEC	1,617	0.04	0.1	3.2	0.0	0.0	N	Y
North Atlantic right whale.	Western North Atlantic.	ATL	NEC	295	0.025	0.1	0.4	2.3	<sup>11</sup> 1.0	Y	Y
Humpback whale.	Western North Atlantic.	ATL	NEC	10,019	0.065	0.1	32.6	5.8	<sup>12</sup> 4.5	Y	Y
Fin whale .....	Western North Atlantic.	ATL	NEC	1,704	0.04	0.1	3.4	0.0	0.0	Y	Y
Sei whale .....	Western North Atlantic.	ATL	NEC	N/A	0.04	0.1	N/A	0.0	0.0	Y	
Minke whale	Canadian east coast.	ATL	NEC	2,145	0.04	0.45	17	0.8	0.8	N	Y
Blue whale ....	Western North Atlantic.	ATL	NEC	N/A	0.04	0.1	N/A	0.0	0.0	Y	Y
Bottlenose dolphin.	Gulf of Mexico, outer continental shelf.	ATL	SEC	43,233	0.04	0.5	432	2.8	<sup>13</sup> 2.8	N	
Bottlenose dolphin.	Gulf of Mexico, continental shelf edge and slope.	ATL	SEC	4,530	0.04	0.5	45	2.8	<sup>13</sup> 2.8	N	
Bottlenose dolphin.	Western Gulf of Mexico coastal.	ATL	SEC	2,938	0.04	0.5	29	13	<sup>14,15</sup> 13	N	
Bottlenose dolphin.	Northern Gulf of Mexico coastal.	ATL	SEC	3,518	0.04	0.5	35	10	<sup>15</sup> 10	N	
Bottlenose dolphin.	Eastern Gulf of Mexico coastal.	ATL	SEC	8,963	0.04	0.5	90	8	<sup>15</sup> 8	N	
Bottlenose dolphin.	Gulf of Mexico bay, sound, and estuarine <sup>10</sup> .	ATL	SEC	3,933	0.04	0.5	39.7	30	<sup>15</sup> 30	Y	
Atlantic spotted dolphi.	Northern Gulf of Mexico.	ATL	SEC	2,255	0.04	0.5	23	<sup>4</sup> 1.5	<sup>4</sup> 1.5	N	
Pantropical spotted dolphin.	Northern Gulf of Mexico.	ATL	SEC	26,510	0.04	0.5	265	<sup>4</sup> 1.5	<sup>4</sup> 1.5	N	
Striped dolphin.	Northern Gulf of Mexico.	ATL	SEC	3,409	0.04	0.5	34	0.0	0.0	N	
Spinner dolphin.	Northern Gulf of Mexico.	ATL	SEC	4,465	0.04	0.5	45	0.0	0.0	N	
Rough-toothed dolphin.	Northern Gulf of Mexico.	ATL	SEC	660	0.04	0.5	6.6	0.0	0.0	N	
Clymene dolphin.	Northern Gulf of Mexico.	ATL	SEC	4,120	0.04	0.5	41	0.0	0.0	N	
Fraser's dolphin.	Northern Gulf of Mexico.	ATL	SEC	66	0.04	0.5	0.7	0.0	0.0	N	
Killer whale ...	Northern Gulf of Mexico.	ATL	SEC	197	0.04	0.5	2.0	0.0	0.0	N	
False killer whale.	Northern Gulf of Mexico.	ATL	SEC	236	0.04	0.5	2.4	0.0	0.0	N	

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Species	Stock area	SRG region	NMFS center	Nmin	Rmax	Fr	PBR	Total annual mort.	Annual fish. mort.	Strategic status	SAR revised ?
Pygmy killer whale.	Northern Gulf of Mexico.	ATL	NEC	285	0.04	0.05	2.8	0.0	0.0	N	
Dwarf sperm whale.	Northern Gulf of Mexico.	ATL	SEC	N/A	0.04	N/A	N/A	0.0	0.0	Y	
Pygmy sperm whale.	Northern Gulf of Mexico.	ATL	SEC	N/A	0.04	N/A	N/A	0.0	0.0	Y	
Melon-headed whale.	Northern Gulf of Mexico.	ATL	SEC	2,888	0.04	0.5	29	0.0	0.0	N	
Risso's dolphin.	Northern Gulf of Mexico.	ATL	SEC	2,199	0.04	0.5	22	19	19	N	
Cuvier's beaked whale.	Northern Gulf of Mexico.	ATL	SEC	20	0.04	0.5	0.2	0.0	0.0	N	
Blainville's beaked whale.	Northern Gulf of Mexico.	ATL	SEC	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.0	0.0	N	
Gervais' beaked whale.	Northern Gulf of Mexico.	ATL	SEC	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.0	0.0	N	
Pilot whale, short-finned.	Northern Gulf of Mexico.	ATL	SEC	186	0.04	0.5	1.9	0.3	0.3	Y	
Sperm whale	Northern Gulf of Mexico.	ATL	SEC	411	0.04	0.1	0.8	0.0	0.0	Y	
Bryde's whale	Northern Gulf of Mexico.	ATL	SEC	17	0.04	0.5	0.2	0.0	0.0	N	
California sea lion.	U.S. ....	PAC	SWC	111,339	0.12	1.0	6,680	974	915	N	
Harbor seal ...	California .....	PAC	SWC	27,962	0.12	1.0	1,678	243	234	N	
Harbor seal ...	Oregon/ Washington coast.	PAC	AKC	24,733	0.12	1.0	1,484	18	16	N	Y
Harbor seal ...	Washington inland waters.	PAC	AKC	16,104	0.12	1.0	966	41	36	N	Y
Northern elephant seal.	California breeding.	PAC	SWC	51,625	0.083	1.0	2,142	145	145	N	
Guadalupe fur seal.	Mexico to California.	PAC	SWC	3,028	0.137	0.5	104	0.0	0.0	Y	
Northern fur seal.	San Miguel Island.	PAC	AKC	6,720	0.086	1.0	270	0.0	0.0	N	Y
Hawaiian monk seal.	Hawaii .....	PAC	SWC	1,366	0.07	0.1	<sup>17</sup> 4.8	N/A	N/A	Y	
Harbor porpoise.	Central California.	PAC	SWC	3,431	0.04	0.48	33	14	14	N	
Harbor porpoise.	Northern California.	PAC	SWC	7,640	0.04	0.5	76	0.0	0.0	N	
Harbor porpoise.	Oregon/ Washington coast.	PAC	AKC	22,046	0.04	0.5	220	17	17	N	Y
Harbor porpoise.	Inland Washington	AKC	2,545	0.04	0.4	20	16	16	N	Y	
Dall's porpoise.	California/Oregon/ Washington.	PAC	SWC	34,393	0.04	0.48	330	22	22	N	
Pacific white-sided dolphin.	California/Oregon/ Washington.	PAC	SWC	82,939	0.04	0.48	796	22	22	N	
Risso's dolphin.	California/Oregon/ Washington.	PAC	SWC	22,388	0.04	0.5	224	37	37	N	
Bottlenose dolphin.	California coastal.	PAC	SWC	134	0.04	0.5	1.3	0.0	0.0	N	
Bottlenose dolphin.	California/Oregon/ Washington offshore.	PAC	SWC	1,904	0.04	0.4	15	4.4	4.4	N	

TABLE 1.—SUMMARY OF ALASKA AND PACIFIC (INCLUDING HAWAII) MARINE MAMMAL STOCK ASSESSMENT REPORTS FOR STOCKS OF MARINE MAMMALS UNDER NMFS AUTHORITY THAT OCCUPY WATERS UNDER U.S. JURISDICTION. A “Y” UNDER THE HEADING “SAR REVISED?” INDICATES THAT THE 1998 STOCK ASSESSMENT REPORT HAS BEEN REVISED RELATIVE TO THE 1996 REPORT—Continued

Species	Stock area	SRG region	NMFS center	Nmin	Rmax	Fr	PBR	Total annual mort.	Annual fish. mort.	Strategic status	SAR revised ?
Striped dolphin.	California/Oregon/Washington.	PAC	SWC	19,248	0.04	0.4	154	1.2	1.2	N	
Common dolphin, short-beaked.	California/Oregon/Washington.	PAC	SWC	309,717	0.04	0.5	3,097	272	272	N	
Common dolphin, long-beaked.	California .....	PAC	SWC	5,504	0.04	0.48	53	14	14	N	
Northern right whale dolphin.	California/Oregon/Washington.	PAC	SWC	15,080	0.04	0.5	151	47	47	N	
Killer whale ...	California/Oregon/Washington.	PAC	SWC	436	0.04	0.4	3.5	1.2	1.2	N	
Killer whale ...	Southern Resident Stock.	PAC	AKC	96	0.04	1.0	1.9	0.0	0.0	N	
Pilot whale, short-finned.	California/Oregon/Washington.	PAC	SWC	741	0.04	0.4	5.9	13	13	Y	
Baird's beaked whale.	California/Oregon/Washington.	PAC	SWC	252	0.04	0.4	2.0	1.2	1.2	N	
Mesoplodont beaked whales.	California/Oregon/Washington.	PAC	SWC	<sup>18</sup> 2,840	0.04	0.45	<sup>19</sup> 26	9.2–13	9.2–13	N	Y
Cuvier's beaked whale.	California/Oregon/Washington.	PAC	SWC	6,070	0.04	0.5	61	28	28	N	
Pygmy sperm whale.	California/Oregon/Washington.	PAC	SWC	2,059	0.04	0.45	19	2.8	2.8	N	
Dwarf sperm whale.	California/Oregon/Washington.	PAC	SWC	N/A	0.04	0.5	N/A	0.0	0.0	N	
Sperm whale	California to Washington.	PAC	SWC	896	0.04	0.1	1.8	4.5	4.5	Y	
Humpback whale.	California/Mexico.	PAC	SWC	563	0.04	0.1	0.5	1.8	1.2	Y	
Blue whale ....	California/Mexico.	PAC	SWC	1,463	0.04	0.1	1.5	0.2	0.0	Y	
Fin whale .....	California to Washington.	PAC	SWC	747	0.04	0.1	1.5	<1	0.0	Y	
Bryde's whale	Eastern Tropical pacific.	PAC	SWC	11,163	0.04	0.5	<sup>20</sup> 0.2	0.0	0.0	N	
Sei whale .....	Eastern North Pacific.	PAC	SWC	N/A	0.04	0.1	N/A	N/A	0.0	Y	
Minke whale	California/Oregon/Washington.	PAC	SWC	440	0.04	0.45	4.0	3.6	3.6	N	Y
Rough-Toothed dolphin.	Hawaii .....	PAC	SWC	N/A	0.04	0.5	N/A	N/A	N/A	N	
Risso's dolphin.	Hawaii .....	PAC	SWC	N/A	0.04	0.5	N/A	N/A	N/A	N	
Bottlenose dolphin.	Hawaii .....	PAC	SWC	N/A	0.04	0.5	N/A	N/A	N/A	N	
Pantropical spotted dolphin.	Hawaii .....	PAC	SWC	N/A	0.04	0.5	N/A	N/A	N/A	N	
Spinner dolphin.	Hawaii .....	PAC	SWC	677	0.04	0.5	6.8	N/A	N/A	N	
Striped dolphin.	Hawaii .....	PAC	SWC	N/A	0.04	0.5	N/A	N/A	N/A	N	

TABLE 1.—SUMMARY OF ALASKA AND PACIFIC (INCLUDING HAWAII) MARINE MAMMAL STOCK ASSESSMENT REPORTS FOR STOCKS OF MARINE MAMMALS UNDER NMFS AUTHORITY THAT OCCUPY WATERS UNDER U.S. JURISDICTION. A "Y" UNDER THE HEADING "SAR REVISED?" INDICATES THAT THE 1998 STOCK ASSESSMENT REPORT HAS BEEN REVISED RELATIVE TO THE 1996 REPORT—Continued

Species	Stock area	SRG region	NMFS center	Nmin	Rmax	Fr	PBR	Total annual mort.	Annual fish. mort.	Strategic status	SAR revised ?
Melon-headed whale.	Hawaii .....	PAC	SWC	N/A	0.04	0.5	N/A	N/A	N/A	N	
Pygmy killer whale.	Hawaii .....	PAC	SWC	N/A	0.04	0.5	N/A	N/A	N/A	N	
False killer whale.	Hawaii .....	PAC	SWC	N/A	0.04	0.5	N/A	N/A	N/A	N	
Killer whale ...	Hawaii .....	PAC	SWC	N/A	0.04	0.5	N/A	N/A	N/A	N	
Pilot whale, short-finned.	Hawaii .....	PAC	SWC	N/A	0.04	0.5	N/A	N/A	N/A	N	
Blainville's beaked whale.	Hawaii .....	PAC	SWC	N/A	0.04	0.5	N/A	N/A	N/A	N	
Cuvier's beaked whale.	Hawaii .....	PAC	SWC	N/A	0.04	0.5	N/A	N/A	N/A	N	
Pygmy sperm whale.	Hawaii .....	PAC	SWC	N/A	0.04	0.5	N/A	N/A	N/A	N	
Dwarf sperm whale.	Hawaii .....	PAC	SWC	N/A	0.04	0.5	N/A	N/A	N/A	N	
Sperm whale	Hawaii .....	PAC	SWC	N/A	0.04	0.1	N/A	N/A	N/A	Y	
Blue whale ....	Hawaii .....	PAC	SWC	N/A	0.04	0.1	N/A	N/A	N/A	Y	
Fin whale .....	Hawaii .....	PAC	SWC	N/A	0.04	0.1	N/A	N/A	N/A	Y	
Bryde's whale	Hawaii .....	PAC	SWC	N/A	0.04	0.5	N/A	N/A	N/A	N	

<sup>1</sup> N/A means that an estimate for the affected value is not available.

<sup>2</sup> The IWC subsistence quota is not affected by the calculation of PBR using the formula specified in the MMPA.

<sup>3</sup> Effort data for the 1995–1996 mid-Atlantic coastal sink gillnet and 1996 Atlantic squid, mackerel, butterfish trawl fisheries are currently under review. The estimated mortalities attributed to these fisheries will be included in the final 1998 SAR.

<sup>4</sup> This value includes either or both of *Stenella frontalis* or *Stenella attenuata*.

<sup>5</sup> Estimates may include sightings of the coastal form.

<sup>6</sup> Effort data for the 1995–1996 mid-Atlantic coastal sink gillnet fishery is currently under review. The estimated mortalities will be available in the final 1998 SAR.

<sup>7</sup> This estimate includes Cuvier's beaked whales and mesoplodon beaked whales.

<sup>8</sup> This is the average mortality of beaked whales (*Mesoplodon* sp.) based on 5 years of observer data. This annual mortality rate includes an unknown number of Cuvier's beaked whales.

<sup>9</sup> This estimate includes both long-finned and short-finned pilot whales.

<sup>10</sup> Effort data for the Atlantic squid, mackerel, butterfish trawl fishery are currently under review; it is likely that the additional estimated mortality from this fishery will cause the 1992–1996 average total mortality to exceed PBR.

<sup>11</sup> This is the average mortality of right whales based on 5 years of observer data (0.0) and additional fishery impact records (1.0).

<sup>12</sup> This is the average mortality of humpback whales based on 5 years of observer data (0.7) and additional fishery impact records (3.8).

<sup>13</sup> This value may include either or both of the Gulf of Mexico, continental shelf edge and slope and the outer continental shelf stocks of bottlenose dolphins.

<sup>14</sup> Low levels of bottlenose dolphin mortality (0–4 per year) incidental to commercial fisheries have been reported. It is unknown to which stock this mortality can be attributed.

<sup>15</sup> Estimates derived from stranded animals with signs of fishery interactions, and these could be either coastal or estuary stocks.

<sup>16</sup> This entry encompasses 33 stocks of bottlenose dolphins. All stocks are considered strategic; see the full report for information on individual stocks. The listed estimates for abundance, PBR and mortality are sums across all bays, sounds, and estuaries.

<sup>17</sup> Although the calculated PBR is 4.8, the allowable take is zero due to findings under the ESA.

<sup>18</sup> This value includes a species-specific minimum abundance estimate of 123 Blainville's beaked whales, *Mesoplodon densirostris*.

<sup>19</sup> This PBR includes 2.2 Blainville's beaked whales.

<sup>20</sup> This PBR has been adjusted because only 0.2 percent of this stock is estimated to be in U.S. waters.

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### Patent and Trademark Office

### Public Search Room

**ACTION:** Proposed collection; comment request.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Commerce (DOC), as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent

burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to comment on the continuing and proposed information collection, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104–13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)).

**DATES:** Written comments must be submitted on or before September 22, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** Direct all written comments to Linda Engelmeier, Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 5327, 14th and

Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Requests for additional information should be directed to the attention of Catherine Hollan, Acting Manager, at the Public Search Services Division, Information Dissemination Organizations, Crystal Plaza 3 Rm2C04, 2021 South Clark Place, Arlington, Va. 22202, by telephone at (703) 306–2608 or by facsimile transmission to (703) 308–0876.