

approach of a boat, plane, human, or potential predator, they will move rapidly to the relative safety of the water. Depending upon the severity of the disturbance, seals may return to the original haulout site immediately, stay in the water for some length of time before hauling out, or haul out in a different area. When disturbances occur late in the day, harbor seals may not haul out again until the next day.

#### Mitigation

Because access to Tatoosh Island is limited to small boats and foot traffic, use of helicopters is the only identified means to remove the UST/ASTs. The USCG has scheduled the work to avoid the pupping and molting season for harbor seals.

To further protect seals and sea lions, NMFS will require helicopters to remain at the greatest altitude practicable prior to landing on Tatoosh Island, to attain the greatest altitude practicable at time of takeoff, and to avoid direct overflights of the haulouts.

#### Monitoring and Reporting

During any time that helicopter activities are undertaken, monitoring will be conducted by a minimum of one trained biologist who is approved in advance by NMFS. Observations will be made at the haulout site nearest the planned flight path of the helicopter. If neither seals nor sea lions are ashore at the time of the flight, observations will be made at the next nearest haulout site. The USCG will provide a report to NMFS within 120 days of the completion of the project. This report will provide dates and locations of operations, details of marine mammal sightings, including the number of pinipeds, by species and haulout location, that fled from the beach because of helicopter activities, the number returning subsequent to the disruption, and estimates of the amount and nature of all takes by harassment.

#### Consultation

Under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, NMFS has completed consultation on the issuance of an incidental harassment authorization. NMFS has determined that the proposed activity and the issuance of an incidental harassment authorization to the USCG to incidentally harass Pacific harbor seals, California sea lions, and Steller sea lions is not likely to adversely affect any listed species under the jurisdiction of NMFS except the Steller sea lion which while it may be adversely affected, would not result in jeopardizing the continued existence of the stock.

#### Conclusions

NMFS has determined that the short-term impact of 4 days of helicopter flights over Tatoosh Island is expected to result at worst in a temporary reduction in utilization of the impacted haulout(s) as seals and sea lions leave the beach for the safety of the water. Helicopter activity is not expected to result in any reduction in the number of harbor seals, California sea lions, or Steller sea lions, and these species are expected to continue to occupy the same area. This behavioral change is expected to have no more than a negligible impact on the animals. Additionally, there will not be any impact on the habitat itself. Since NMFS is assured that the taking would not result in more than the incidental harassment (as defined by the MMPA Amendments of 1994) of small numbers of marine mammals, would have only a negligible impact on these stocks, would not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of these stocks for subsistence uses, and would result in the least practicable impact on the stocks, NMFS has determined that the requirements of section 101(a)(5)(D) of the MMPA have been met and the authorization can be issued.

#### Authorization

Accordingly, NMFS has issued an IHA to the USCG for possible harassment of small numbers of California sea lions, Pacific harbor seals, and Steller sea lions, provided the mitigation, monitoring, and reporting requirements described in the authorization are undertaken.

Dated: August 17, 1998.

#### Patricia A. Montanio,

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

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#### DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

##### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 081198E]

##### Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting; Correction

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

**ACTION:** Notice of a public meeting; correction.

**SUMMARY:** The location for the teleconference public meeting of the

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, which is scheduled for August 27, 1998, was published in the **Federal Register** on August 14, 1998. This document lists an addition to that public meeting notice.

**DATES:** The teleconference will be held Thursday, August 27, 1998. It will begin at 2:00 p.m. eastern standard time (EST) and continue until approximately 5:00 p.m.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Kitty M. Simonds, Executive Director; telephone: (808) 522-8220.

#### Correction

In the **Federal Register** issue of August 14, 1998, in FR Doc. 98-22028, on page 43678, in the second column, under **ADDRESSES**, in the fourth line, after "TX", add "; and New Orleans, LA", and in the third column, under **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**, at the end of the first paragraph, the following station is added to the list to read as follows:

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, 1600 Canal Street, Room 301, New Orleans, LA; telephone: (504) 568-5614.

All other previously published information remains unchanged.

Dated: August 18, 1998.

#### Gary C. Matlock,

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

[FR Doc. 98-22629 Filed 8-19-98; 3:57 pm]

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#### DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

##### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 080798A]

##### Endangered Species; Permits

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

**ACTION:** Issuance of scientific research permit 1159.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that on July 27, 1998, NMFS issued scientific research permit 1159 to Robert L. Brownell, NMFS Southwest Fisheries Science Center, to take listed sea turtles for the purpose of scientific research subject to certain conditions set forth therein.

**ADDRESSES:** The application, permit, and related documents are available for review by appointment in the following offices:

Office of Protected Resources, F/PR3, NMFS, 1315 East-West Hwy., Room