

attached as an Appendix to the Report to Congress.

The two issues on pinniped impacts on salmonids and west coast ecosystems described in the Report are as follows:

1. California sea lion and Pacific harbor seal populations on the West Coast are increasing while many salmonid populations are decreasing. Salmonid populations that are depressed and declining, especially those that are listed or proposed to be listed under the ESA, can be negatively impacted by expanding pinniped populations and attendant predation.

2. Increasing California sea lion and Pacific harbor seal populations and their expanding distribution are impacting negatively commercial fisheries, affecting recreational fishing and private property, and posing threats to public safety.

The Report to Congress has four recommendations:

1. *Implement site-specific management for California sea lions and Pacific harbor seals.* Congress should consider a new framework that would allow state and Federal resource management agencies to immediately address conflicts involving California sea lions and Pacific harbor seals. This framework should provide a streamlined approach for Federal and state resource management agencies to take necessary and appropriate action with pinnipeds, including lethal taking when necessary, that are involved in resource conflicts. Any lethal takings would have to be within the Potential Biological Removal levels established by NMFS for all human causes of mortality.

The three components of the framework are as follows: (1) In situations where California sea lions or Pacific harbor seals are preying on salmonids that are listed as or proposed to be, candidates for listing under the ESA, immediate use of lethal removal by state or Federal resource agency officials would be authorized; (2) in situations where California sea lions or Pacific harbor seals are preying on salmonid populations of concern or are impeding passage of these populations during migration as adults or smolts, lethal takes by state or federal resource agency officials would be authorized if (a) non-lethal deterrence methods are underway and are not fully effective, or (b) non-lethal methods are not feasible in the particular situation or have proven ineffective in the past; and (c) in situations where California sea lions or Pacific harbor seals conflict with human activities, such as at fishery sites and marinas, lethal removal by state or Federal resource agency officials would be authorized after non-lethal deterrence has been ineffective.

2. *Develop safe, effective non-lethal deterrents.* In order to provide an array of options broader than lethal removal to resolve West Coast pinniped problems, there is a pressing need for research on the development and evaluation of deterrent devices and further exploration of other non-lethal removal measures. Potential options need to be evaluated in a concerted, adequately funded effort to address this issue. Research and development of pinniped deterrence methods should be a research priority for addressing expanding pinniped populations on the West Coast.

3. *Selectively reinstate authority for the intentional lethal taking of California sea lions and Pacific harbor seals by commercial fishers to protect gear and catch.* Prior to the 1994 Amendments to the MMPA, commercial fishers were allowed to kill certain pinnipeds, as a last resort, in order to protect their gear or catch. Although the 1992 NMFS legislative proposal contained provisions to continue such authority, it was not included in the 1994 Amendments to the MMPA. Congress should reconsider providing a limited authorization, based on demonstrated need, to certain commercial fishermen at specified sites to use lethal means, as a last resort, to protect their gear and catch from depredation by California sea lions and Pacific harbor seals until such time that effective non-lethal methods are developed for their specific situation.

4. *Information needs.* An array of additional information is needed to better evaluate and monitor California sea lion and Pacific harbor seal impacts on salmonids and other components of the West Coast ecosystems. Details of such studies are described in the Report to Congress.

The Report to Congress was submitted on February 10, 1999 to the House of Representatives Committee on Resources and to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation in accordance with the MMPA. Congress will consider the report in the reauthorization of the MMPA. Copies of the Report to Congress are available to the public on request (see ADDRESSES).

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1389(f).

Dated: February 22, 1999.

Hilda Diaz-Soltero,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

Proposed Collection; Comment Request

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, Defense Finance and Accounting Service, DOD.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In compliance with section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Defense Finance and Accounting Service announces the proposed public information collection and seeks public comment on the provisions thereof. Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed information collection; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the information collection on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

DATES: Consideration will be given to all comments received by April 30, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Written comments and recommendations on the proposed information collection should be sent to the Denver Center, Defense Finance and Accounting Service, DFAS-DE/FYSA, ATTN: Vicki Holifield, 6760 East Irvington Place, Denver, CO 80279-3000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To request more information on this proposed information collection or to obtain a copy of the proposal and associated collection instruments, please write to the above address, or call Vicki Holifield, 303-676-4743.

Title, Associated Form, and OMB Number: Request for Information Regarding Deceased Debtor.

Needs and Uses: This form is used to obtain information on deceased debtors from probate courts. Probate courts review their records to see if an estate was established. They provide the name and address of the executor or lawyer handling the estate. From the information obtained, we submit a claim against the estate for the amount due the United States.

Affected Public: Clerks of Probate Courts.

Annual Burden Hours: 833 hours.

Number of Respondents: 10,000.

Responses Per Respondent: 1.

Average Burden Per Response: 5 minutes.

Frequency: When we are notified a debtor is deceased.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Summary of Information Collection

Defense Finance and Accounting Service maintains updated debt accounts and initiates debt collection action for separated military members, out-of-service civilian employees, and other individuals not on an active federal government payroll system. When notice is received that an individual debtor is deceased, an effort is made to ascertain whether the decedent left an estate by contracting clerks of probate courts. If it's determined that an estate was established, attempts are made to collect the debt from the estate. If no estate appears to have been established, the debt is written off as uncollectible.

Dated: February 24, 1999.

Patricia L. Toppings,

Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.

[FR Doc. 99-4941 Filed 2-26-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 5000-04-M

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

ACTION: Notice.

The Department of Defense has submitted to OMB for clearance, the following proposal for collection of information under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35).

Title and OMB Number: Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement (DFARS) Part 229, Taxes, and Related Clauses at 252.229; OMB Number 0704-0390.

Type of Request: Extension.

Number of Respondents: 17.

Responses Per Respondent: 1.

Annual Responses: 17.

Average Burden Per Response: 4 hours.

Annual Burden Hours: 68.

Needs and Uses: The information collection is used by DoD to determine if DoD contractors in the United Kingdom have attempted to obtain relief from customs duty on vehicle fuels in accordance with contract requirements. The clause at DFARS 252.229-7010, Relief from Customs Duty on Fuel (United Kingdom), is prescribed at DFAR 229-402-70(j), for use in solicitations issued and contracts awarded in the United Kingdom that

require the use of fuels (gasoline or diesel) and lubricants in taxis or vehicles other than passenger vehicles. The clause requires the contractor to submit to the contracting officer evidence that an attempt to obtain relief from customs duty on fuels and lubricants has been initiated.

Affected Public: Business or Other For-Profit.

Frequency: On occasion.

Respondent's Obligation: Required to obtain or retain benefits.

OMB Desk Officer: Mr. Peter N. Weiss.

Written comments and

recommendations on the proposed information collection should be sent to Mr. Weiss at the Office of Management and Budget, Desk Officer for DoD, Room 10236, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503.

DoD Clearance Officer: Mr. Robert Cushing.

Written requests for copies of the information collection proposal should be sent to Mr. Cushing, WHS/DIOR, 1215 Jefferson Davis Highway, Suite 1204, Arlington, VA 22202-4302.

Dated: February 24, 1999.

Patricia L. Toppings,

Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.

[FR Doc. 99-4942 Filed 2-26-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

Defense Intelligence Agency, Science and Technology Advisory Board Closed Panel Meeting

AGENCY: Defense Intelligence Agency, Department of Defense.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the provisions of subsection (d) of section 10 of Public Law 92-463, as amended Section 5 of Public Law 94-409, notice is hereby given that a closed meeting of the DIA Science and Technology Advisory Board has been scheduled as follows:

DATES: 16 March 1999 (900am to 1600pm).

ADDRESSES: The Defense Intelligence Agency, 200 MacDill Blvd, Washington, DC 20340-5100.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Maj Donald R. Culp, Jr., USAF, Executive Secretary, DIA Science and Technology Advisory Board, Washington, DC 20340-1328 (202) 231-4930.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The entire meeting is devoted to the discussion of classified information as defined in

section 552b(c)(1), Title 5 of the U.S. Code, and therefore will be closed to the public. The Board will receive briefings on and discuss several current critical intelligence issues and advise the Director, DIA, on related scientific and technical matters.

Dated: February 24, 1999.

Patricia L. Toppings,

Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.

[FR Doc. 99-4940 Filed 2-26-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

Notice of Meeting

AGENCY: Special Oversight Board for Department of Defense Investigations of Gulf War Chemical and Biological Incidents, Department of Defense.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Board will conduct a four-hour public meeting to discuss its activities since November; to solicit recommendations from veterans service organizations; to receive a presentation on government-sponsored research dealing with neurological damage; and to receive first-hand accounts from Gulf War veterans about potential environmental exposures such as pesticides and tent heaters encountered during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

DATES: April 22, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Buena Vista Theater, Buena Vista Street Building, University of Texas at San Antonio, 501 West Durango Boulevard, San Antonio, TX 78207.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Contact Mr. Roger Kaplan, Deputy Executive Director, Special Oversight Board, 1401 Wilson Blvd, Suite 401, Arlington, VA 22209, phone (703) 696-9470, fax (703) 696-4062, or via Email at Gulsyn@osd.pentagon.mil. Requests for oral comments must be sent in writing to Mr. Kaplan and be received no later than noon Eastern Time on Thursday April 15, 1999. Written comments must be received no later than Friday April 9, 1999. Copies of the draft meeting agenda can be obtained by contacting Ms. Sandra Simpson at (703) 696-9464 or at the above fax number or above Email.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The hearing is scheduled for 6-10 p.m. CDT. Seating at the Buena Vista Theater is limited, and spaces will be reserved only for scheduled speakers. The