dredging. In addition, the FWS noted that VAFB has committed to a southern sea otter monitoring program designed to detect the presence and possible disturbance at the VAFB harbor area during dredging activities.

NEPA

In accordance with section 6.01 of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Administrative Order 216–6 (Environmental Review Procedures for Implementing the National Environmental Policy Act, May 20, 1999), NMFS has analyzed both the context and intensity of this action and determined based on a programmatic NEPA assessment conducted on the impact of NMFS' rulemaking for the issuance of IHAs (61 FR 15884; April 10, 1996), the content and analysis of Boeing's request for an IHA, and the Final EA for Harbor Activities Associated with the Delta IV Program at VAFB (ENSRI 2001) that the proposed issuance of this IHA to Boeing by NMFS will not individually or cumulatively result in a significant impact on the quality of the human environment as defined in 40 CFR 1508.27. Therefore, based on analysis of all relevant environmental documents, this action is exempted from further environmental review and meets the definition of a ''Categorical Exclusion'' as defined under NOAA Administrative Order 216–6.

Determinations

NMFS has determined that the impact of harbor activities related to the Delta IV/EELV at VAFB, including: wharf modification, transport vessel operations, cargo movement activities, and harbor maintenance dredging, will result, at worst, in a temporary modification in behavior by Pacific harbor seals. California sea lions, northern elephant seals, and northern fur seals, while not likely to occur in the project area, may potentially experience the same temporary modification in behavior if they wander into the project area. While behavioral modifications may be made by these species to avoid the resultant acoustic and visual stimuli, there is no potential for large-scale movements, such as stampedes, since pinniped species haul out in such small numbers near the site (maximum number of Pacific harbor seals hauled out in one day estimated at 30 seals). The effects of the harbor activities are expected to be limited to short-term and localized behavioral changes. Therefore, NMFS concludes that the effects of the planned activities will have no more than a negligible impact on marine mammals.

Due to the localized nature of these activities, the number of potential takings by harassment are estimated to be small. In addition, no take by injury and/or death is anticipated, and the potential for temporary or permanent hearing impairment is unlikely given the low noise levels and will be entirely avoided through the incorporation of appropriate mitigation measures. No rookeries, mating grounds, areas of concentrated feeding, or other areas of special significance for marine mammals occur within or near south VAFB harbor.

In summary, NMFS has determined that the proposed activity would result in the harassment of only small numbers of harbor seals, California sea lions, northern elephant seals, and northern fur seals; would have no more than a negligible impact on these marine mammal stocks; and would not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of marine mammal stocks for subsistence uses.

Authorization

NMFS has issued an IHA to Boeing for harbor activities related to the Delta IV/EELV to take place at south Vandenberg Air Force Base, CA, (VAFB) over a 1–year period. The issuance of this IHA is contingent upon adherence to the previously mentioned mitigation, monitoring, and reporting requirements.

Dated: May 15, 2002.

David Cottingham,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 051602E]

Endangered Species; File No. 1346

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

ACTION: Issuance of permit.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Thomas McCormick (Principal Investigator), Channel Islands Marine Resource Institute (CIMRI), P.O. Box 1627, Port Hueneme, California 93044, has been issued a permit to take white abalone (*Haliotis sorenseni*) for purposes of scientific research and enhancement.

ADDRESSES: The permit and related documents are available for review upon written request or by appointment in the following office(s):

Permits, Conservation and Education Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910; phone (301)713–2289; fax (301)713–0376.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lillian Becker or Jennifer Skidmore (301)713–2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On August 31, 2001, notice was published in the **Federal Register** (66 FR 45971) that a request for a scientific research permit to take species listed above had been submitted by the above-named individual. The requested permit has been issued under the authority of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered and threatened species (50 CFR parts 222–226).

The Holder was issued five-year permit to maintain captively bred white abalone for scientific research and enhancement at the CIMRI Hatchery. Research Activities include feeding studies, propagation studies and studies identified as goals for the long term recovery of the white abalone. The action only covers the propagation of animals collected before June 28, 2001.

Issuance of this permit, as required by the ESA, was based on a finding that such permit (1) was applied for in good faith, (2) will not operate to the disadvantage of the endangered species which is the subject of this permit, and (3) is consistent with the purposes and policies set forth in section 2 of the ESA.

Dated: May 17, 2002.

Eugene T. Nitta,

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

[FR Doc. 02–13019 Filed 5–22–02; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Telecommunications and Information Administration

[Docket No. 020515123–2123–01]

RIN 0660–XX15

Notice, Public Safety Communications Interoperability Summit

AGENCY: National Telecommunications and Information Administration, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.