

released for public review and comment along with the application and the proposed IHA. During the 30-day public comment period NMFS received comments from the CBD on the draft EA. All comments are addressed in full in the Comments and Responses section. Subsequently, NMFS finalized the draft EA and issued a Finding of No Significant Impact on the proposed project on September 8, 2006.

Endangered Species Act (ESA)

Based on a review conducted by NMFS biologists, no ESA-listed species are expected to be affected by the seismic surveys in south SFB during the proposed project period in summer/fall. Therefore, NMFS has determined that this action will have no effect on listed species, and a section 7 consultation is not necessary.

Determinations

For the reasons discussed in this document and in the identified supporting documents, NMFS has determined that the impact of seismic surveys and other activities associated in the south SFB would result, at worst, in the Level B harassment of small numbers of California sea lions, Pacific harbor seals, harbor porpoises, and potentially gray whales that inhabit or visit south SFB. While behavioral modifications, including possibly temporarily vacating the area during the survey period of 8 - 10 days, may be made by these species to avoid the resultant visual and acoustic disturbance, the availability of alternate areas within SFB and haul-out sites (including pupping sites) and feeding areas within the Bay has led NMFS to determine that this action will have a negligible impact on California sea lions, Pacific harbor seals, harbor porpoises, and gray whale populations along the California coast.

In addition, no take by Level A harassment (injury) or death is anticipated and harassment takes should be at the lowest level practicable due to incorporation of the mitigation measures described in this document.

Authorization

NMFS has issued an IHA to Fugro for the potential harassment of small numbers of harbor seals, California sea lions, harbor porpoises, and gray whales incidental to conducting of seismic surveys in south San Francisco Bay in California, provided the previously mentioned mitigation, monitoring, and reporting requirements are incorporated.

Dated: September 25, 2006.

P. Michael Payne,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 092106F]

Advisory Committee to the U.S. Section to the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas; Fall Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: In preparation for the 2006 ICCAT meeting, the Advisory Committee to the U.S. Section to International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) will meet in October 2006.

DATES: An open session will be held on October 15, 2006, from 2 to 5 p.m. Closed sessions will be held from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. October 16-17, 2006. Oral and written comments can be presented during the public comment session on October 15, 2006. Mailed written comments on issues being considered at the meeting should be received no later than October 10, 2006.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Hilton Hotel, 8727 Colesville Road, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Written comments should be sent to Kelly Denit at NOAA Fisheries Office of International Affairs, Room 13114, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kelly Denit (301) 713-2276.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Advisory Committee to the U.S. Section to ICCAT will meet in open session on October 15. The Advisory Committee will receive information on the stock status of highly migratory species and management recommendations of ICCAT's Standing Committee on Research and Statistics. There will be an opportunity for oral public comment during the October 15, 2006, open session. Written comments may also be submitted at the October 15 open session or by mail. If mailed, written comments should be received by October 10, 2006 (see **ADDRESSES**).

During its fall meeting, the Advisory Committee will also hold two executive sessions that are closed to the public. The first executive session will be held on October 16, 2006, and a second executive session will be held on October 17, 2006. The purpose of these sessions is to discuss sensitive information relating to upcoming international negotiations.

NMFS expects members of the public to conduct themselves appropriately for the duration of the meeting. At the beginning of the public comment session, an explanation of the ground rules will be provided (e.g., alcohol in the meeting room is prohibited, speakers will be called to give their comments in the order in which they registered to speak, each speaker will have an equal amount of time to speak, and speakers should not interrupt one another). The session will be structured so that all attending members of the public are able to comment, if they so choose, regardless of the degree of controversy of the subject(s). Those not respecting the ground rules will be asked to leave the meeting.

Special Accommodations

The meeting location is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Kelly Denit at (301) 713-2276 at least five days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: September 26, 2006.

William T. Hogarth,

*Assistant Administrator for Fisheries,
National Marine Fisheries Service.*

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

Defense Science Board

AGENCY: Department of Defense.

ACTION: Notice of Advisory Committee Meetings.

SUMMARY: The Defense Science Board Task Force on Biometrics will meet in closed session on *September 28-29, 2006*, at Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC), 4001 N. Fairfax Drive, Arlington, VA. This meeting will define the role of biometrics technologies and capabilities within DoD's Space. It will also recommend best organizational fit within DoD to implement the biometric and identify dominance missions. The briefings will contain proprietary