

mentioned previously in this document, the proposed seismic survey will not destroy marine mammal habitat.

Of the 26 marine mammal species likely to occur in the proposed survey area, six are listed as endangered under the ESA: The humpback, sei, fin, blue, and sperm whale and the Hawaiian monk seal. These species are also considered depleted under the MMPA. However, no take of endangered humpback, sei, or fin, whales was requested because of the low likelihood of encountering these species during the cruise.

For the 20 species for which take was requested, the requested take numbers are small (each, less than two and one-half percent) relative to the population size. The population estimates for the species that may potentially be taken as a result of L-DEO's proposed seismic survey were presented earlier in this document. For reasons described earlier in this document, the maximum calculated number of individual marine mammals for each species that could potentially be taken by harassment is small relative to the overall population sizes (0.06 percent for Bryde's whales, less than 0.01 percent for the endangered blue whale, 0.17 percent for the endangered sperm whale, and less than 2.5 percent of the other 15 mammal populations or stocks).

Based on the analysis contained herein of the likely effects of the specified activity on marine mammals and their habitat, and taking into consideration the implementation of the mitigation and monitoring measures, NMFS preliminarily finds that L-DEO's planned research activities, will result in the incidental take of small numbers of marine mammals, by Level B harassment only, and that the total taking from the marine geophysical survey will have a negligible impact on the affected species or stocks.

Impact on Availability of Affected Species or Stock for Taking for Subsistence Uses

There are no relevant subsistence uses of marine mammals implicated by this action.

Endangered Species Act

Of the species of marine mammals that may occur in the proposed survey area, six are listed as endangered under the ESA, including the humpback, sei, fin, blue, and sperm whales and the Hawaiian monk seal. However, L-DEO is only requested Level B incidental harassment of two species: The humpback and sperm whales. L-DEO did not request take of endangered humpback, sei, or fin, whales because of

the low likelihood of encountering these species during the cruise. Under section 7 of the ESA, NSF has initiated formal consultation with the NMFS, Office of Protected Resources, Endangered Species Division, on this proposed seismic survey. NMFS' Office of Protected Resources, Permits, Conservation and Education Division, has initiated formal consultation under section 7 of the ESA with NMFS' Office of Protected Resources, Endangered Species Division, to obtain a Biological Opinion evaluating the effects of issuing the IHA on threatened and endangered marine mammals and, if appropriate, authorizing incidental take. NMFS will conclude formal section 7 consultation prior to making a determination on whether or not to issue the IHA. If the IHA is issued, L-DEO, in addition to the mitigation and monitoring requirements included in the IHA, will be required to comply with the Terms and Conditions of the Incidental Take Statement corresponding to NMFS' Biological Opinion issued to both NSF and NMFS' Office of Protected Resources.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

To meet NMFS' National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA; 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*) requirements for the issuance of an IHA to L-DEO, NMFS will prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) titled "Issuance of an Incidental Harassment Authorization to the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory to Take Marine Mammals by Harassment Incidental to a Marine Geophysical Survey in the Central Pacific Ocean, November, 2011 through January, 2012." This EA will incorporate the NSF's Environmental Analysis Pursuant To Executive Order 12114 (NSF, 2010) and an associated report (Report) prepared by LGL Limited Environmental Research Associates (LGL) for NSF, titled, "Environmental Assessment of a Marine Geophysical Survey by the R/V *Marcus G. Langseth* in the Central Pacific Ocean, November—December 2011," by reference pursuant to 40 CFR 1502.21 and NOAA Administrative Order (NAO) 216-6 § 5.09(d). Prior to making a final decision on the IHA application, NMFS will make a decision of whether or not to issue a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

Proposed Authorization

As a result of these preliminary determinations, NMFS proposes to authorize the take of marine mammals incidental to L-DEO's proposed marine seismic survey in the central Pacific Ocean, provided the previously

mentioned mitigation, monitoring, and reporting requirements are incorporated.

Dated: September 14, 2011.

James H. Lecky,

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

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BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

Meeting of the Department of Defense Wage Committee

AGENCY: Department of Defense.

ACTION: Notice of closed meetings.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the provisions of section 10 of Public Law 92-463, the Federal Advisory Committee Act, notice is hereby given that a closed meeting of the Department of Defense Wage Committee will be held on Tuesday, October 4, 2011, at 10 a.m. at 1400 Key Boulevard, Level A, Room A101, Rosslyn, Virginia 22209.

Under the provisions of section 10(d) of Public Law 92-463, the Department of Defense has determined that the meetings meet the criteria to close meetings to the public because the matters to be considered are related to internal rules and practices of the Department of Defense and the detailed wage data to be considered were obtained from officials of private establishments with a guarantee that the data will be held in confidence.

However, members of the public who may wish to do so are invited to submit material in writing to the chairman concerning matters believed to be deserving of the Committee's attention.

Additional information concerning the meetings may be obtained by writing to the Chairman, Department of Defense Wage Committee, 4000 Defense Pentagon, Washington, DC 20301-4000.

Dated: September 13, 2011.

Patricia L. Toppings,

*OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer,
Department of Defense.*

[FR Doc. 2011-23919 Filed 9-16-11; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 5001-06-P

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

Meeting of the Department of Defense Wage Committee

AGENCY: Department of Defense.

ACTION: Notice of closed meetings.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the provisions of section 10 of Public Law 92–463, the Federal Advisory Committee Act, notice is hereby given that a closed meeting of the Department of Defense Wage Committee will be held on Tuesday, October 18, 2011, at 10 a.m. at 1400 Key Boulevard, Level A, Room A101, Rosslyn, Virginia 22209.

Under the provisions of section 10(d) of Public Law 92–463, the Department of Defense has determined that the meetings meet the criteria to close meetings to the public because the matters to be considered are related to internal rules and practices of the Department of Defense and the detailed wage data to be considered were obtained from officials of private establishments with a guarantee that the data will be held in confidence.

However, members of the public who may wish to do so are invited to submit material in writing to the chairman concerning matters believed to be deserving of the Committee's attention.

Additional information concerning the meetings may be obtained by writing to the Chairman, Department of Defense Wage Committee, 4000 Defense Pentagon, Washington, DC 20301–4000.

Dated: September 13, 2011.

Patricia L. Toppings,

*OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer,
Department of Defense.*

[FR Doc. 2011–23920 Filed 9–16–11; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 5001–06–P

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Air Force

Air University Board of Visitors Meeting

ACTION: Notice of Meeting of the Air University Board of Visitors.

SUMMARY: Under the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972 (5 U.S.C., Appendix, as amended), the Government in the Sunshine Act of 1976 (5 U.S.C. 552b, as amended), and 41 CFR 102–3.150, the Department of Defense announces that the Air University Board of Visitors' meeting will take place on Tuesday, 4 October 2011, from 1:30 p.m. to approximately 2:30 p.m. The meeting will be a conference call meeting. Please contact Mrs. Diana Bunch, Designated Federal Officer, at (334) 953–4547, for further information to access the conference call. The purpose and agenda of this meeting is to provide independent advice and recommendations on matters pertaining to the strategic positioning of Air University's educational mission.

Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552b, as amended, and 41 CFR 102–3.155 all sessions of the Air University Board of Visitors' meeting will be open to the public. Any member of the public wishing to provide input to the Air University Board of Visitors should submit a written statement in accordance with 41 CFR 102–3.140(c) and section 10(a)(3) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act and the procedures described in this paragraph. Written statements can be submitted to the Designated Federal Officer at the address detailed below at any time. Statements being submitted in response to the agenda mentioned in this notice must be received by the Designated Federal Officer at the address listed below at least five calendar days prior to the meeting which is the subject of this notice. Written statements received after this date may not be provided to or considered by the Air University Board of Visitors until its next meeting. The Designated Federal Officer will review all timely submissions with the Air University Board of Visitors' Board Chairperson and ensure they are provided to members of the Board before the meeting that is the subject of this notice. Additionally, any member of the public wishing to attend this meeting should contact either person listed below at least five calendar days prior to the meeting for information on base entry passes.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mrs. Diana Bunch, Designated Federal Officer, Air University Headquarters, 55 LeMay Plaza South, Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama 36112–6335, telephone (334) 953–4547.

Bao-Anh Trinh,

DAF, Air Force Federal Register Liaison Officer.

[FR Doc. 2011–23925 Filed 9–16–11; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 5001–10–P

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers

Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for a Permit Application for Widening of Bayou Casotte and Lower Sound Channels of the Pascagoula Harbor Channel, in the Port of Pascagoula, Jackson County, Mississippi

AGENCY: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, DOD.

ACTION: Notice of Intent.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) Mobile District

Regulatory Division announces its intent to prepare an EIS to assess the potential environmental impacts associated with widening the existing Pascagoula Lower Sound/Bayou Casotte Federal Channel segment of Pascagoula Harbor (the Project). The proposed Project is a 100-foot-widening of the Lower Sound and Bayou Casotte Legs of the Pascagoula Harbor Channel, as well as limited widening of the northern portion of the Horn Island Pass Channel to facilitate the transition between the two channel segments. The Corps is considering the Jackson County Port Authority/Port of Pascagoula (Port) application for a Department of the Army permit under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899, and Section 103 of the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act. A joint public notice for the Section 10 permit (SAM–2011–00389–PAH) was issued by the Corps on April 15, 2011.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Questions about the proposed action and Draft EIS can be answered by Mr. Philip A. Hegji, Corps Project Manager, at (251) 690–3222. Comments shall be addressed to: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District, Regulatory Division, ATTN: File Number SAM–2011–00389–PAH, at P.O. Box 2288, Mobile, Alabama 36628–0001, or street address, 109 St. Joseph Street, Mobile, Alabama 36602.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

1. *Background.* The EIS will assess the impacts associated with dredging approximately 38,137 feet (7.22 miles) of the existing Pascagoula Lower Sound/Bayou Casotte Federal Channel segment to widen the channel 100 feet parallel to the existing channel centerline, to the existing depth of –42 feet mean lower low water, as well as the beneficial use and placement of the dredged material. The proposed project would be developed over approximately the next 2 to 3 years.

The EIS discussed in this notice would support the regulatory process for this specific permit application and Project. The Corps Planning Division is also preparing a separate EIS and Feasibility Study under the Corps Planning Process to evaluate whether there is a Federal interest in modifying the existing federally authorized navigation channel (Federal Navigation Channel) leading to Bayou Casotte (*i.e.*, Pascagoula channel widening from the Horn Island Pass to the entrance of the Bayou Casotte Harbor) and maintenance of the channel.

The primary Federal involvement in this EIS for the Regulatory Division is an