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

Section 101(a)(5)(D) of the MMPA also requires NMFS to determine that the authorization will not have an unmitigable adverse effect on the availability of marine mammal species or stocks for subsistence use. There are no relevant subsistence uses of marine mammals in the study area (Shatsky Rise, northwestern Pacific Ocean) that implicate MMPA section 101(a)(5)(D).

Endangered Species Act

Of the species of marine mammals that may occur in the proposed survey area, several are listed as endangered under the ESA, including the blue, fin, humpback, north Pacific right, sei, and sperm whales. L–DEO did not request take of endangered western north Pacific gray 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 Act Interagency Cooperation Division, on this proposed seismic survey. NMFS’ Office of Protected Resources, Permits and Conservation Division, had initiated formal consultation under section 7 of the ESA with NMFS’ Office of Protected Resources, Endangered Species Act Interagency Cooperation Division, to obtain a Biological Opinion (BiOp) evaluating the effects of issuing an IHA for 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, NSF and 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’ BiOp 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 Tag Marine Mammals by Harassment Incidental to a Marine Geophysical Survey in the Northwest Pacific Ocean, March through April, 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 Northwest Pacific Ocean, March—April, 2012,” 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 northwest Pacific Ocean, provided the previously mentioned mitigation, monitoring, and reporting requirements are incorporated. The duration of the IHA would not exceed one year from the date of its issuance.

Information Sought

NMFS requests interested persons to submit comments and information concerning this proposed project and NMFS’s preliminary determination of issuing an IHA (see ADDRESSES). Concurrent with the publication of this notice in the Federal Register, NMFS is forwarding copies of this application to the Marine Mammal Commission and its Committee of Scientific Advisors.


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

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

Department of Defense Task Force on the Care, Management, and Transition of Recovering Wounded, Ill, and Injured Members of the Armed Forces; Amended Meeting Notice

AGENCY: Department of Defense, Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense.

ACTION: Amended meeting notice.

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 a change to the previously announced meeting of the Department of Defense Task Force on the Care, Management, and Transition of Recovering Wounded, Ill, and Injured Members of the Armed Forces. The meeting notice published in the January 24, 2012 edition of the Federal Register (77 FR 3454) is amended to reflect changes in the meeting times and agenda. All other text in the previously announced meeting remains the same.

DATES: Tuesday, February 21, 2012–Thursday, February 23, 2012, from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. EST, each day.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mail Delivery service through Recovering Warrior Task Force, Hoffman Building II, 200 Stovall St., Alexandria, VA 22332–0021 “Mark as Time Sensitive for February Meeting.” Emails to rwtf@wso.whs.mil. Denise F. Dailey, Designated Federal Officer; Telephone (703) 325–6640. Fax (703) 325–6710.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Purpose of the Meeting: The purpose of the meeting is for the Task Force Members to convene and gather data from panels and briefers on the Task Force’s topics of inquiry. Agenda: (Please refer to http://dtf.defense.gov/rwtf/meetings.html for the most up-to-date meeting information).

Day 1: Tuesday, February 21

8–9:30 a.m. Site Visit Review & Administration
9:30–9:45 a.m. Break
9:45–10:45 a.m. Continue Site Visit Review and Administration
10:45–11:45 a.m. WWCTP
11:45 a.m.–12:45 p.m. Lunch
12:45–2:15 p.m. Army WTC Briefing
2:15–2:30 p.m. Break
2:30–4 p.m. Air Force Programs for Wounded, Ill, and Injured Briefing
4–5 p.m. FRCP Update
5–5:30 p.m. Close

Day 2: Wednesday, February 22

8–8:30 a.m. Public Forum
8:30–9:30 a.m. TRICARE Management Activity Telephone Survey of Ill or Injured Service Members Post-Operational Deployment, Dr. Richard R. Bannick
9:30–9:45 a.m. Break
9:45–10:45 a.m. OSD Office of Military Community and Family Policy (MCPF)
10–11:45 a.m. SOCOM Care Coalition Update
11:45 a.m.–12:45 p.m. Lunch
12:45–2:15 p.m. Navy Safe Harbor Update
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

Revised Non-Foreign Overseas Per Diem Rates

AGENCY: DoD, Per Diem, Travel and Transportation Allowance Committee.

ACTION: Notice of Revised Non-Foreign Overseas Per Diem Rates.

SUMMARY: The Per Diem, Travel and Transportation Allowance Committee is publishing Civilian Personnel Per Diem Bulletin Number 279. This bulletin lists revisions in the per diem rates prescribed for U.S. Government employees for official travel in Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, the Northern Mariana Islands and Possessions of the United States. AEA changes announced in Bulletin Number 194 remain in effect. Bulletin Number 279 is being published in the Federal Register to assure that travelers are paid per diem at the most current rates.

DATES: Effective Date: February 1, 2012.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mrs. Sonia Malik, (571) 372–1276.