SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Amy Sloan or Joselyn Garcia-Reyes, (301) 427–8401.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On July 12, 2012, notice was published in the Federal Register [77 FR 41171] that a request for a permit to conduct research on the species identified above had been submitted by the above-named applicant. The requested permit has been issued under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 et seq.), and the regulations governing the taking and importing of marine mammals (50 CFR part 216).

The permit holder is authorized to study the prevalence of leptospirosis in wild California sea lions. Up to 5,100 California sea lions may be taken annually from Año Nuevo Island including 20 by capture and release, 80 by capture/sampling/release and 5,000 by incidental disturbance. Procedures include: capture (stalking, hoop net); restraint (board, cage, hand, net); anesthesia (gas); mark (flipper tag); measure; and sample (blood, urine, vibrissa). Up to 3,000 northern elephant seals (Mirounga angustirostris) and up to 60 Pacific harbor seals (Phoca vitulina) may be taken annually due to incidental disturbance. Up to 20 elephant seals may die incidental to the permitted activities. The permit expires September 30, 2017.

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), a final determination has been made that the activity proposed is categorically excluded from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement.

Dated: October 10, 2012.


[FR Doc. 2012–25480 Filed 10–15–12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–P