Endangered Species Act (ESA)

There are no ESA-listed marine mammals expected to occur in the action area during the proposed action timeframe; therefore, no consultation under the ESA is required for such species.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), as implemented by the regulations published by the Council on Environmental Quality (40 CFR parts 1500–1508), the Navy prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) to consider the direct, indirect and cumulative effects to the human environment resulting from the barge mooring project. NMFS made the Navy’s EA available to the public for review and comment, in relation to its suitability for adoption by NMFS in order to assess the impacts to the human environment of issuance of an IHA to the Navy. Also in compliance with NEPA and the CEQ regulations, as well as NOAA Administrative Order 216–6, NMFS has reviewed the Navy’s EA, determined it to be sufficient, and adopted that EA and signed a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) on July 3, 2013. The Navy’s EA and NMFS’ FONSI for this action may be found at http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/permits/incidental.htm.

Authorization

As a result of these determinations, we have issued an IHA to the Navy to conduct the described activities in the Hood Canal from the period of July 16, 2013, through September 30, 2013, provided the previously described mitigation, monitoring, and reporting requirements are incorporated.

Dated: July 10, 2013.

Donna S. Wieting,
Director, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.