FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information on a particular national marine sanctuary advisory council, please contact the individual identified in the Addresses section of this notice.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: ONMS serves as the trustee for 14 marine protected areas encompassing more than 170,000 square miles of ocean and Great Lakes waters from the Hawaiian Islands to the Florida Keys, and from Lake Huron to American Samoa. National marine sanctuaries protect our Nation’s most vital coastal and marine natural and cultural resources, and through active research, management, and public engagement, sustain healthy environments that are the foundation for thriving communities and stable economies. One of the many ways ONMS ensures public participation in the designation and management of national marine sanctuaries is through the formation of advisory councils. National marine sanctuary advisory councils are community-based advisory groups established to provide advice and recommendations to the superintendents of the national marine sanctuaries and the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument on issues including management, science, service, and stewardship; and to serve as liaisons between their constituents in the community and the sanctuary.

Additional information on ONMS and its 14 advisory councils can be found at http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov. Information related to the purpose, policies and operational requirements for advisory councils can be found in the charter for a particular advisory council (http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/management/ac/council_charters.html) and the National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council Implementation Handbook (http://www.sanctuaries.noaa.gov/management/ac/acref.html).

The following is a list of the vacant seats, including positions (i.e., primary member or alternate), for each of the national marine sanctuary advisory councils currently seeking applications for primary members and alternates:

- Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council: Fishing (primary member); Fishing (alternate); and Education (alternate).
- Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council: Boating Industry (primary member); Citizen at Large—Upper Keys (primary member); Citizen at Large—Upper Keys (alternate); Diving—Upper Keys (primary member); Diving—Upper Keys (alternate); Fishing—Charter Sports Fishing (primary member); Fishing—Charter Sports Fishing (alternate); Fishing—Recreational (primary member); Fishing—Recreational (alternate); Research and Monitoring (primary member); Research and Monitoring (alternate); Tourism—Lower Keys (primary member); and Tourism—Lower Keys (alternate).
- Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council: Education (primary member); and Education (alternate).
- Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council: Commercial Shipping (primary member); Commercial Shipping (alternate); Whale Watching (primary member); Whale Watching (alternate); Ocean Recreation (primary member); Ocean Recreation (alternate); Business/Commerce (primary member); Business/Commerce (alternate); Citizen-at-Large (primary member); Citizen-at-Large (alternate); Conservation (primary member); Conservation (alternate); Tourism (primary member); Tourism (alternate); Lānai’i Island (primary member); Lānai’i Island (alternate); Moloka’i Island (primary member); Moloka’i Island (alternate); Youth (primary member); Youth (alternate); Native Hawaiian (alternate); Research (alternate); Honolulu County (alternate); and Hawai’i County (alternate).
- Monitor National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council: Recreational Diving (primary member); Heritage Tourism (primary member); and Citizen-At-Large (primary member).
- National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa Advisory Council: Community-At-Large: Tutuila East Area (primary member); Community-At-Large: Manu’a Area (primary member); Education (primary member); Commercial Fishing (primary member); and Ocean Recreation/Ocean-Centered Eco-Tourism (primary member).
- Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve Advisory Council: Native Hawaiian, Elder (alternate); and Native Hawaiian (alternate).
- Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council: Conservation (primary member); and Tourism/Economic Development (primary member).
- Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council: Research (2 primary members); Conservation (primary member); Education (alternate); Marine Transportation (primary member); Marine Transportation (alternate); Recreational Fishing (primary member); Recreational Fishing (alternate); Mobile Gear Commercial Fishing (primary member); Business Industry (alternate); At Large (primary member); At Large (alternate); Youth (primary member); and Youth (alternate).

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1431, et seq. (Federal Domestic Assistance Catalog Number 11.429 Marine Sanctuary Program)

Dated: July 23, 2013.

Daniel J. Basta,

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648–XC781

Takes of Marine Mammals Incidental to Specified Activities; U.S. Air Force Launches, Aircraft and Helicopter Operations, and Harbor Activities Related to Launch Vehicles From Vandenberg Air Force Base (VAFB), California

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

ACTION: Notice; receipt of application for letter of authorization; request for comments and information.

SUMMARY: NMFS has received a request from the U.S. Air Force (USAF) for authorization to take marine mammals incidental to launches, aircraft and helicopter operations, and harbor activities related to the Delta IV/Evolved Expendable Launch Vehicle (EELV) at VAFB, CA, from February 2014 through February 2019. Pursuant to the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), NMFS is announcing our receipt of the USAF’s request for the development and implementation of regulations governing the incidental taking of marine mammals and inviting information, suggestions, and comments on the USAF’s application and request.

DATES: Comments and information must be received no later than September 16, 2013.

ADDRESSES: Comments on the application should be addressed to Michael Payne, Chief, Permits and
With respect to military readiness activities, the MMPA defines “harassment” as: “(i) any act that injures or has the significant potential to injure a marine mammal stock in the wild [Level A Harassment]; or (ii) any act that disturbs or is likely to disturb a marine mammal or marine mammal stock in the wild by causing disruption of normal behavioral patterns, including, but not limited to, migration, surfacing, nursing, breeding, feeding, or sheltering, to a point where such behavioral patterns are abandoned or significantly altered [Level B Harassment].”

Summary of Request
On June 24, 2013, NMFS received an application from the USAF requesting a letter of authorization (LOA) for the take of five species of pinnipeds incidental to USAF launch, aircraft, and helicopter operations from VABF launch complexes and Delta Mariner operations, cargo unloading activities, and harbor maintenance dredging in support of the Delta IV/EELV launch activity on south VABF. The USAF is requesting a 5-year LOA for these activities. These activities are classified as military readiness activities. The USAF states that these activities may result in take of marine mammals from noise or visual disturbance from rocket and missile launches, as well as from the use of heavy equipment during the Delta Mariner off-loading operations, cargo movement activities, increased presence of personnel, and harbor maintenance dredging. The USAF requests to take five pinniped species by Level B harassment.

Description of the Specified Activity
There are currently six active space launch vehicle facilities at VABF used to launch satellites into polar orbit. These facilities support launch programs for the Atlas V, Delta II, Delta IV, Falcon 9, Minotaur, and Taurus. There are also a variety of small missiles launched from various facilities on north VABF, including the Minuteman III and several types of interceptor and target vehicles for the Missile Defense Agency. The VAFB airfield, located on north VABF, supports various aircraft operations. A full description of the activities to be conducted by the USAF at VAFB, including descriptions of the different space vehicles and missiles, are described in the USAF’s application. Additionally, United Launch Alliance, on behalf of the USAF, proposes to conduct Delta IV/EELV activities (transport, IOTV operations, harbor maintenance dredging, and cargo movement activities). These activities are described in Appendix A of the USAF’s application.

Information Solicited
Interested persons may submit information, suggestions, and comments concerning the USAF’s request (see ADDRESSES). All input related to the USAF’s request and NMFS’ role in governing the incidental taking of marine mammals will be considered by NMFS when developing, if appropriate, the most effective regulations governing the issuance of an LOA.

Dated: August 9, 2013.

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