

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration****United States Integrated Ocean Observing System Advisory Committee; Member Solicitation**

**AGENCY:** National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of Member Solicitation for the United States Integrated Ocean Observing System Advisory Committee.

**SUMMARY:** The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is soliciting applications for membership on the United States Integrated Ocean Observing System Advisory Committee (the Committee), a Federal advisory committee. The Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System (ICOOS) Act of 2009 establishes a national integrated System of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes observing systems, comprised of Federal and non-Federal components including in situ, remote, and other coastal and ocean observation, technologies, and data management and communication systems. The System is designed to address regional and national needs for ocean information; to gather specific data on key coastal, ocean, and Great Lakes variables; and to ensure timely and sustained dissemination and availability of these data to support a variety of societal benefits. These benefits include supporting national defense; marine commerce; navigation safety; weather, climate, and marine forecasting; energy siting and production; economic development; ecosystem-based management of marine and coastal areas; conservation of ocean and coastal resources; and public safety. The System is also designed to promote research to develop, test, and deploy innovations and improvements in coastal and ocean observation technologies and modeling systems.

The ICOOS Act also requires the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere to establish a System advisory committee to provide advice to the Under Secretary and to the Interagency Ocean Observation Committee, which is responsible for planning for the integrated design, operation, maintenance, enhancement, and expansion of the System.

NOAA will hereby accept applications for membership on the Committee through November 24, 2014. The ICOOS Act of 2009 states: "Members shall be qualified by

education, training, and experience to evaluate scientific and technical information related to the design, operation, maintenance, or use of the [Integrated Ocean Observing] System, or use of data products provided through the System." NOAA encourages individuals with expertise in oceanographic data, products, and services; coastal management; fisheries management; coastal and marine spatial planning; geodesy; water levels; and other science-related fields to submit applications for Committee membership. To apply for membership on the Committee, applicants should submit a resume as indicated in the **ADDRESSES** section. NOAA is an equal-opportunity employer.

**DATES:** Application materials should be sent to the address, email address, or fax number specified and must be received by November 24, 2014.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit an application for Committee membership, in the form of a resume, to Jessica Snowden via mail, fax, or email. Mail: 1100 Wayne Avenue, Suite 1225, Silver Spring, MD 20910; Fax: 301-427-2073; Email: [jessica.snowden@noaa.gov](mailto:jessica.snowden@noaa.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Jessica Snowden, 1100 Wayne Avenue, Suite 1225, Silver Spring, MD 20910; Telephone: 301-427-2453, Fax: 301-427-2073; Email: [jessica.snowden@noaa.gov](mailto:jessica.snowden@noaa.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This notice responds to the ICOOS Act of 2009 (Pub. L. 111-11, section 12304), which requires the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere to solicit nominations for Committee membership. The Committee will advise the NOAA Administrator or Interagency Ocean Observation Committee on matters related to the responsibilities and authorities set forth in section 12302 of the ICOOS Act of 2009 and other appropriate matters as the Under Secretary refers to the Committee for review and advice.

The United States Integrated Ocean Observing System Advisory Committee will provide advice on:

- (a) Administration, operation, management, and maintenance of the System;
- (b) Expansion and periodic modernization and upgrade of technology components of the System;
- (c) Identification of end-user communities, their needs for information provided by the System, and the System's effectiveness in dissemination information to end-user communities and to the general public; and

(d) Any other purpose identified by the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere or the Interagency Ocean Observation Committee.

The Committee's voting members will be appointed by the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere. Members shall be qualified by education, training, and experience to evaluate scientific and technical information related to the design, operation, maintenance, or use of the System, or the use of data products provided through the System. Members are selected on a standardized basis, in accordance with applicable Department of Commerce guidance. Members will be appointed for three-year terms, renewable once. One Committee member will be designated by the Under Secretary as chairperson. Full-time officers or employees of the United States may not be appointed as a voting member. Members will be appointed as special Government employees (SGEs) for purposes of section 202(a) of title 18, United States Code. Members serve at the discretion of the Under Secretary and are subject to government ethics standards. Members of the Committee will not be compensated for service on the Committee, but they may be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, in accordance with subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code.

The Committee will meet at least once each year, and at other times at the call of the Under Secretary, the Interagency Ocean Observation Committee, or the Committee Chairperson. The Committee has approximately thirteen voting members. This solicitation is to obtain candidate applications for up to thirteen full voting member vacancies. Be advised that some voting members whose terms expire August 28, 2015 may be reappointed for another full term if eligible.

If an applicant submitted a resume application for the 2011 **Federal Register** Notice for IOOS Advisory Committee membership solicitation, and is still interested in being considered for membership on the Committee, the applicant needs to confirm his or her interest by contacting the Jessica Snowden as indicated in the **ADDRESSES** section. An applicant who is still interested, may either request this his or her 2011 resume application be resubmitted, or he or she may choose to submit a current resume application for the 2015 selection process.

### Individuals Selected for Committee Membership

Upon selection and agreement to serve on the United States Integrated Ocean Observing System Advisory Committee, one becomes a Special Government Employee (SGE) of the United States Government. An SGE is an officer or employee of an agency who is retained, designated, appointed, or employed to perform temporary duties, with or without compensation, for not to exceed 130 days during any period of 365 consecutive days, either on a full-time or intermittent basis. After the membership selection process is complete, applicants who are selected to serve on the Committee must complete the following actions before they can be appointed as a

#### Committee Member

(a) Background Security Check (online Background Security Check process and fingerprinting conducted through NOAA Workforce Management); and

(b) Confidential Financial Disclosure Report: As an SGE, one is required to file annually a Confidential Financial Disclosure Report to avoid involvement in a real or apparent conflict of interest. One may find the Confidential Financial Disclosure Report at the following Web site: [http://www.usoge.gov/forms/form\\_450.aspx](http://www.usoge.gov/forms/form_450.aspx).

Dated: September 8, 2014.

#### Zdenka Willis,

Director, U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing System.

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XD070

#### Takes of Marine Mammals Incidental to Specified Activities; Taking Marine Mammals Incidental to U.S. Coast Guard Station Monterey Waterfront Repairs in Monterey, California

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

**ACTION:** Notice; issuance of an incidental take authorization.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) regulations, notification is hereby given that NMFS has issued an Incidental Harassment Authorization (IHA) to the United States Coast Guard

(USCG) to take, by harassment, small numbers of seven species of marine mammals incidental to pile driving associated with the USCG's Station Monterey waterfront repair project in Monterey, California, between June 1, 2015, through September 1, 2015.

**DATES:** Effective October 1, 2014, through September 30, 2015.

**ADDRESSES:** A copy of the application containing a list of the references used in this document, USCG's Environmental Assessment (EA), Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), and the IHA may be obtained by telephoning the contact listed below (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**) or visiting the Internet at: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/permits/incidental.htm#applications>.

Documents cited in this notice may be viewed, by appointment, during regular business hours, at 1315 East West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Shane Guan, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, (301) 427-8401.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

#### Background

Sections 101(a)(5)(A) and (D) of the MMPA (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) direct the Secretary of Commerce to allow, upon request, the incidental, but not intentional, taking of small numbers of marine mammals by U.S. citizens who engage in a specified activity (other than commercial fishing) within a specified geographical region if certain findings are made and either regulations are issued or, if the taking is limited to harassment, a notice of a proposed authorization is provided to the public for review.

An authorization for incidental takings shall be granted if NMFS finds that the taking will have a negligible impact on the species or stock(s), will not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of the species or stock(s) for subsistence uses (where relevant), and if the permissible methods of taking and requirements pertaining to the mitigation, monitoring and reporting of such takings are set forth. NMFS has defined "negligible impact" in 50 CFR 216.103 as "an impact resulting from the specified activity that cannot be reasonably expected to, and is not reasonably likely to, adversely affect the species or stock through effects on annual rates of recruitment or survival."

Except with respect to certain activities not pertinent here, the MMPA defines "harassment" as: any act of pursuit, torment, or annoyance which (i) has the potential to injure a marine

mammal or marine mammal stock in the wild [Level A harassment]; or (ii) has the potential to disturb a marine mammal or marine mammal stock in the wild by causing disruption of behavioral patterns, including, but not limited to, migration, breathing, nursing, breeding, feeding, or sheltering [Level B harassment].

#### Summary of Request

On June 27, 2013, NMFS received an application from USCG for the taking of marine mammals incidental to its Station Monterey waterfront repairs project. The purpose of the proposed activity is to improve and maintain the structural integrity of the patrol boat pier (Pier) and potable waterline at USCG Station Monterey through the replacement of Pier piles and the water line. On March 12, 2014, NMFS published a **Federal Register** notice (FR 79 13991) for the proposed IHA. No changes was made for the proposed USCG's waterfront repair project as described in the proposed IHA except the project duration was changed to June 1 through September 1, 2015, from the original June 15 through October 15, 2014, due to funding and other constraints. Please refer to **Federal Register** notice for the proposed IHA for a detailed description of the project activities.

#### Comments and Responses

A notice of NMFS' proposal to issue an IHA to USCG was published in the **Federal Register** on March 12, 2014 (79 FR 13991). That notice described, in detail, USCG's activity, the marine mammal species that may be affected by the activity, and the anticipated effects on marine mammals. During the 30-day public comment period, NMFS received comments from the Marine Mammal Commission (Commission). The Commission recommends NMFS issue the IHA to USCG, subject to inclusion of the proposed mitigation and monitoring measures described in the proposed IHA. NMFS agrees with the Commission's recommendation and has issued the IHA with mitigation and monitoring measures described below. No other comment letters were received on the proposed action.

#### Description of Marine Mammals in the Area of the Specified Activity

The **Federal Register** notice (79 FR 13991) for the proposed IHA and in USCG's IHA application identified six marine mammal species under NMFS jurisdiction likely to occur in the construction area: Pacific harbor seal (*Phoca vitulina richardsi*), California sea lion (*Zalophus californianus*), Steller