

its programs and activities. Further, the DARRP is authorized by law to recover reasonable costs of damage assessment and restoration activities under CERCLA, OPA, and the NMSA. Within the constraints of these legal provisions and their regulatory applications, the DARRP has the discretion to develop indirect cost rates for its component organizations and formulate policies on the recovery of indirect cost rates subject to its requirements.

**The DARRP's Indirect Cost Effort**

In December 1998, the DARRP hired the public accounting firm Rubino & McGeehin, Chartered (R&M) to: evaluate the DARRP cost accounting system and allocation practices; recommend the appropriate indirect cost allocation methodology; and determine the indirect cost rates for the three organizations that comprise the DARRP. A **Federal Register** notice on R&M's effort, their assessment of the DARRP's cost accounting system and practice, and their determination regarding the most appropriate indirect cost methodology and rates for FYs 1993 through 1999 was published on December 7, 2000 (65 FR 76611). The notice and report by R&M can also be found on the DARRP Web site at [www.darrp.noaa.gov](http://www.darrp.noaa.gov).

R&M continued its assessment of DARRP's indirect cost rate system and structure for FYs 2000 and 2001. A second federal notice specifying the DARRP indirect rates for FYs 2000 and 2001 was published on December 2, 2002 (67 FR 71537).

In October 2002, DARRP hired the accounting firm of Cotton and Company LLP (Cotton) to review and certify DARRP costs incurred on cases for purposes of cost recovery and to develop indirect rates for FY 2002 and subsequent years. As in the prior years, Cotton concluded that the cost accounting system and allocation practices of the DARRP component organizations are consistent with federal accounting requirements. Consistent with R&M's previous analyses, Cotton also determined that the most appropriate indirect allocation method continues to be the Direct Labor Cost Base for all three DARRP component organizations. The Direct Labor Cost Base is computed by allocating total indirect cost over the sum of direct labor dollars, plus the application of NOAA's leave surcharge and benefits rates to direct labor. Direct labor costs for contractors from I.M. Systems Group (IMSG) were included in the direct labor base because Cotton determined that these costs have the same relationship to the indirect cost pool as NOAA direct

labor costs. IMSG provided on-site support to the DARRP in the areas of injury assessment, natural resource economics, restoration planning and implementation, and policy analysis. IMSG continues to provide on-site support to the DARRP. Starting in FY 2010, contractors from Genwest provide on-site support for cost documentation. Subsequent federal notices have been published in the **Federal Register** as follows:

- FY 2002, published on October 6, 2003 (68 FR 57672)
- FY 2003, published on May 20, 2005 (70 FR 29280)
- FY 2004, published on March 16, 2006 (71 Fed Reg. 13356)
- FY 2005, published on February 9, 2007 (72 FR 6221)
- FY 2006, published on June 3, 2008 (73 FR 31679)
- FY 2007 and FY 2008, published on November 16, 2009 (74 FR 58948)
- FY 2009 and FY 2010, published on October 20, 2011 (76 FR 65182)
- FY 2011, published on September 17, 2012 (77 FR 57074)
- FY 2012, published on August 29, 2013 (78 FR 53425)

Cotton's reports on these indirect rates can also be found on the DARRP Web site at [www.darrp.noaa.gov](http://www.darrp.noaa.gov).

Cotton reaffirmed that the Direct Labor Cost Base is the most appropriate indirect allocation method for the development of the FY 2013 indirect cost rates.

**The DARRP's Indirect Cost Rates and Policies**

The DARRP will apply the indirect cost rates for FY 2013 as recommended by Cotton for each of the DARRP component organizations as provided in the following table:

DARRP component organization	FY 2013 indirect rate (percent)
Office of Response and Restoration (ORR) .....	131.43
Restoration Center (RC) .....	79.94
General Counsel .....	
Natural Resources Section (GCNRS) .....	29.01

These rates are based on the Direct Labor Cost Base allocation methodology.

The FY 2013 rates will be applied to all damage assessment and restoration case costs incurred between October 1, 2012 and September 30, 2013. DARRP will use the FY 2013 indirect cost rates for future fiscal years, beginning with FY 2014, until subsequent year-specific rates can be developed.

For cases that have settled and for cost claims paid prior to the effective

date of the fiscal year in question, the DARRP will not re-open any resolved matters for the purpose of applying the revised rates in this policy for these fiscal years. For cases not settled and cost claims not paid prior to the effective date of the fiscal year in question, costs will be recalculated using the revised rates in this policy for these fiscal years. Where a responsible party has agreed to pay costs using previous year's indirect rates, but has not yet made the payment because the settlement documents are not finalized, the costs will not be recalculated.

Dated: September 22, 2014.

**David Westerholm,**

*Director, Office of Response and Restoration.*

[FR Doc. 2014-24112 Filed 10-10-14; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-JE-P

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

**RIN 0648-XC100**

**Marine Mammals; File No. 17115**

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

**ACTION:** Notice; issuance of permit amendment.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that a major amendment to Permit No. 17115-02 has been issued to James Lloyd-Smith, Ph.D., Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of California, Los Angeles, 610 Charles E. Young Dr. South, Box 723905, Los Angeles, CA 90095-7239.

**ADDRESSES:** The permit amendment and related documents are available for review upon written request or by appointment in the following office:

Permits and Conservation Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910; phone: (301) 427-8401; fax: (301)713-0376.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Amy Sloan, (301) 427-8401.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On July 16, 2014, notice was published in the **Federal Register** (79 FR 41538) that a request for an amendment Permit No. 17115-02 to conduct research on California sea lions (*Zalophus californianus*) had been submitted by the above-named applicant. The requested permit amendment 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).

Permit No. 17115-03 authorizes the permit holder to study the prevalence of leptospirosis in wild California sea lions in California. The amendment authorizes the permit holder to expand the sampling season to any time of year excluding peak pupping season on rookeries, change the project location from Año Nuevo Island and Monterey Bay as separate locations to a combined coastal California area including offshore islands, increase the number of sea lions sampled, add captures of pups, add water captures and use of injectable drugs, increase incidental disturbance of California sea lions and add incidental disturbance of eastern Steller sea lions (*Eumetopias jubatus*) and northern fur seals (*Callorhinus ursinus*), and take additional samples in the event of an unusual mortality event or disease outbreak. 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 8, 2014.

**Julia Harrison,**

*Chief, Permits and Conservation Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. 2014-24332 Filed 10-10-14; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**

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**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

**RIN 0648-XC136**

**Marine Mammals; File No. 17152**

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

**ACTION:** Notice; receipt of application for permit amendment.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that Point Blue Conservation Science, formerly PRBO Conservation Science, 3820 Cypress Drive, #11, Petaluma, CA 94954 (Responsible Party: Russ Bradley), has applied for an amendment to Scientific Research Permit No. 17152.

**DATES:** Written, telefaxed, or email comments must be received on or before November 13, 2014.

**ADDRESSES:** The application and related documents are available for review by selecting "Records Open for Public Comment" from the *Features* box on the Applications and Permits for Protected Species home page, <https://apps.nmfs.noaa.gov>, and then selecting File No. 17152 from the list of available applications.

These documents are also available upon written request or by appointment in the Permits and Conservation Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910; phone: (301) 427-8401; fax: (301) 713-0376.

Written comments on this application should be submitted to the Chief, Permits and Conservation Division, at the address listed above. Comments may also be submitted by facsimile to (301) 713-0376, or by email to [NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov](mailto:NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov). Please include the File No. in the subject line of the email comment.

Those individuals requesting a public hearing should submit a written request to the Chief, Permits and Conservation Division at the address listed above. The request should set forth the specific reasons why a hearing on this application would be appropriate.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Brendan Hurley or Amy Sloan, (301) 427-8401.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The subject amendment to Permit No. 17152 is requested under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), the regulations governing the taking and importing of marine mammals (50 CFR part 216).

Permit No. 17152, issued on November 28, 2012 (77 FR 73988), authorizes the permit holder to monitor population trends, health, and ecology of pinnipeds in California over a 5-year period. To accomplish this, researchers are authorized to capture, sedate, sample, mark, instrument, photo-identify and incidentally harass harbor seals (*Phoca vitulina richardii*). Ten mortalities of harbor seals over the duration of the permit are authorized. Researchers are authorized to capture, mark, weigh, and sample (swabs and blood) northern elephant seals (*Mirounga angustirostris*); and incidentally harass elephant seals during captures and ground monitoring/photo-identification. Researchers are authorized to harass California sea lions (*Zalophus californianus*) and northern fur seals (*Callorhinus ursinus*) during ground surveys and photo-identification. The permit holder is requesting the permit be amended to

include authorization for increased incidental disturbance takes for California sea lions at the South Farallon Islands (SFI) from the current level of 1,500 animals to 2,500 animals per year; increased incidental disturbance takes for Northern fur seals at SFI from the current level of 75 animals, with 2 takes per individual, to 250 animals, with one take per animal; add incidental disturbance takes for Steller sea lions (*Eumetopias jubatus*) at SFI of 250 takes annually; and to add a new project to assess diet of California sea lions at SFI via scat collection. The amendment would be valid for the duration of the permit, which expires on November 30, 2017.

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

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.

Dated: October 8, 2014.

**Julia Harrison,**

*Chief, Permits and Conservation Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. 2014-24331 Filed 10-10-14; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**

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**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

**RIN 0648-XD247**

**Marine Mammals; File No. 18691**

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

**ACTION:** Notice; issuance of permit.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that a permit has been issued to Terrie M. Williams, Ph.D., Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Center for Ocean Health, Long Marine Laboratory, University of California Santa Cruz, 100 Shaffer Road, Santa Cruz, CA 95060, to conduct research on Weddell seals (*Leptonychotes weddellii*).

**ADDRESSES:** The permit and related documents are available for review upon written request or by appointment in the Permits and Conservation