

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[Docket No. 150114039–5245–02]

RIN 0648–XD719

Higher Initial Maximum Uniform Allowance Rate; Uniform Allowances

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

ACTION: Final notice.

SUMMARY: The NMFS Office of Law Enforcement (OLE) publishes this notice to announce that it is establishing a higher initial maximum uniform allowance to procure and issue uniform items for its uniformed enforcement officers (EOs). Current OPM regulations allow an agency to establish one or more initial maximum uniform allowance rates greater than the government-wide maximum uniform allowance rate. OLE increases the current annual limit for NMFS EOs in order to maintain the uniform standards and professional image expected of its EOs under its new uniform standards.

DATES: The new uniform allowance is implemented as of April 1, 2015.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Everett Baxter, 301–427–8272.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: NMFS is implementing a higher initial maximum uniform allowance to procure and furnish uniform items for its enforcement officers (EOs). The current \$800.00 annual limit is inadequate to maintain the uniform standards and professional image expected of NMFS EOs under its new uniform standards. In addition, OLE now has a new uniform policy requiring five classes of uniforms. In the past, EOs only had two classes of uniforms. As a result of these two factors, OLE increases the initial maximum uniform allowance for EOs from \$800 to \$2,000.

OLE published a notice with a request for comments in the **Federal Register** on January 30, 2015 (80 FR 5091) inviting public comments on this planned action. The comment period ended on March 2, 2015. No comments were received. Therefore, NMFS is proceeding with establishing the higher initial maximum uniform allowance rate for its EOs. The effective date of this new uniform allowance is April 1, 2015.

Authority: 5 U.S.C. 5903; E.O. 12748, 56 FR 4521, 3 CFR 1991 Comp., p. 316.

Dated: March 17, 2015.

Logan Gregory,

Acting Director, Office of Law Enforcement, National Marine Fisheries Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

RIN 0648–XC021

Public Meetings and Request for Comments on a Draft Environmental Impact Statement Regarding the Makah Tribe's Request To Hunt Eastern North Pacific Gray Whales

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

ACTION: Notice; request for comments.

SUMMARY: We are issuing this notice to advise the public that NMFS has prepared a new Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) in response to the Makah Tribe's request that NMFS waive the take moratorium of the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) to allow for treaty right hunting of eastern North Pacific (ENP) gray whales in usual and accustomed grounds off the coast of Washington State. We are requesting written comments on the DEIS and announcing the dates and locations of two public meetings regarding the DEIS.

DATES: Two public meetings will be held as follows:

- (1) April 27, 2015, Seattle, Washington; and
- (2) April 29, 2015, Port Angeles, Washington.

Specific times and locations for each of these meetings are included in **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

Written or electronic comments on the DEIS from all interested parties are encouraged and must be received no later than 5 p.m. PDT on June 11, 2015. All comments and material received, including names and addresses, will become part of the administrative record and may be released to the public.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments, identified by NOAA–NMFS–2012–0104, by any of the following methods:

Electronic Submissions: Submit all electronic public comments via the Federal eRulemaking Portal <http://www.regulations.gov>.

—OR—

Email: Submit electronic public comments via the following NMFS

email site: makah2015deis.wcr@noaa.gov.

—OR—

Mail: Submit written comments to: Steve Stone, NMFS West Coast Region, 1201 NE Lloyd Blvd., Suite 1100, Portland, OR 97232.

Instructions: All comments received are a part of the public record and will generally be posted to <http://www.regulations.gov> without change. All Personal Identifying Information (for example, name, address, etc.) voluntarily submitted by the commenter may be publicly accessible. Do not submit Confidential Business Information or otherwise sensitive or protected information.

NMFS will accept anonymous comments (enter N/A in the required fields, if you wish to remain anonymous). You may submit attachments to electronic comments in Microsoft Word, Excel, WordPerfect, or Adobe PDF file formats only.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Steve Stone, NMFS Northwest Region, (503) 231–2317 or Shannon Bettridge, NMFS Office of Protected Resources, (301) 427–8402.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The DEIS is available in electronic form on the Internet at the following address: http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/protected_species/marine_mammals/cetaceans/whale_hunt.html. The DEIS also may be viewed at various libraries identified at this Internet address or at the following NMFS offices:

(1) NMFS Protected Resources Division, 1201 NE Lloyd Blvd., Suite 1100, Portland, OR 97232. Contact Steve Stone at 503–231–2317; and

(2) NMFS, Protected Resources Division, 7600 Sand Point Way NE., Building 1, Seattle, WA 98115–6349. Contact Leah Mattox at 206–526–6150.

In addition, copies of the DEIS are available on CD by contacting Steve Stone (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**).

Meeting Information

The public will have the opportunity to provide written and oral comments on the DEIS at two public meetings. Dates, times, and addresses for the public meetings are as follows:

(1) April 27, 2015, 6:30 p.m.–9:30 p.m., NOAA Western Regional Center, Building 9 (Kelly C. Sandy III Auditorium), 7600 Sand Point Way NE., Seattle, WA 98115; and

(2) April 29, 2015, 6:30 p.m.–9:30 p.m., Vern Burton Memorial Community Center, 308 East 4th Street, Port Angeles, WA.