

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

RIN 0648–XD877

**Taking and Importing of Marine Mammals**

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

**ACTION:** Notice; affirmative finding 2-year renewal.

**SUMMARY:** The Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NMFS, (Assistant Administrator) has issued an affirmative finding 2-year renewal for the Government of Ecuador under the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA). This affirmative finding 2-year renewal will allow yellowfin tuna and yellowfin tuna products harvested in the eastern tropical Pacific Ocean (ETP) in compliance with the International Dolphin Conservation Program (IDCP) by Ecuadorian-flag purse seine vessels or purse seine vessels operating under Ecuadorian jurisdiction to be imported into the United States. The affirmative finding 2-year renewal was based on review of documentary evidence submitted by the Government of Ecuador and obtained from the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC).

**DATES:** The affirmative finding 2-year renewal is effective for the 2-year period of April 1, 2013 (retroactive) through March 31, 2015.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Justin Greenman, West Coast Region, National Marine Fisheries Service, 501 W. Ocean Blvd., Long Beach, CA 90802. Phone: 562–980–3264 Email: [justin.greenman@noaa.gov](mailto:justin.greenman@noaa.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The MMPA, 16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*, allows for importation into the United States of yellowfin tuna harvested by purse seine vessels in the ETP under certain conditions. If requested by the harvesting nation, the Assistant Administrator will determine whether to make an affirmative finding based upon documentary evidence provided by the government of the harvesting nation, the IATTC, or the Department of State.

The affirmative finding process requires that the harvesting nation is meeting its obligations under the IDCP and obligations of membership in the IATTC. Every 5 years, the government of the harvesting nation must request a new affirmative finding and submit the

required documentary evidence directly to the Assistant Administrator. On an annual basis, NMFS reviews the affirmative finding and determines whether the harvesting nation continues to meet the requirements. A nation may provide information related to compliance with IDCP and IATTC measures directly to NMFS on an annual basis or may authorize the IATTC to release the information to NMFS to annually renew an affirmative finding determination without an application from the harvesting nation.

An affirmative finding will be terminated, in consultation with the Secretary of State, if the Assistant Administrator determines that the requirements of 50 CFR 216.24(f) are no longer being met or that a nation is consistently failing to take enforcement actions on violations, thereby diminishing the effectiveness of the IDCP.

As a part of the affirmative finding process set forth in 50 CFR 216.24(f), the Assistant Administrator considered documentary evidence submitted by the Government of Ecuador and obtained from the IATTC and has determined that Ecuador has met the MMPA's requirements to receive an affirmative finding 2-year renewal.

After consultation with the Department of State, the Assistant Administrator issued an affirmative finding 2-year renewal to Ecuador, allowing the continued importation into the United States of yellowfin tuna and products derived from yellowfin tuna harvested in the ETP by Ecuadorian-flag purse seine vessels or purse seine vessels operating under Ecuadorian jurisdiction for the 2-year period of April 1, 2013 (retroactive) through March 31, 2015. Ecuador's 5-year affirmative finding will remain valid through March 31, 2015.

Dated: April 24, 2015.

**Eileen Sobeck,**

*Assistant Administrator for Fisheries,  
National Marine Fisheries Service.*

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**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE****Department of the Air Force****Addendum to the 26 June 2014 Record of Decision for the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement F–35 Beddown at Eglin Air Force Base, Florida**

**ACTION:** Notice of Availability (NOA) of Addendum to 26 June 2014 Record of Decision (ROD).

**SUMMARY:** On April 23, 2015, the United States Air Force signed an Addendum to the 26 June 2014 ROD for the Final F–35 Beddown Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS). The Addendum to the 26 June 2014 Record of Decision (AROD) documents the Air Force's decisions to: (1) Temporarily shift the primary runway to Runway 01/19 (RW 01/19) and allow a temporary increase in previously limited F–35 operations for construction-related closure of Runway 12/30 (RW 12/30), and (2) approve the Department of the Navy's (DoN's) request to add fifteen (15) Backup Aircraft Inventory (BAI) F–35C aircraft at Eglin AFB.

The AROD augments the 26 June 2014 ROD by allowing a one-time, temporary increase in certain F–35 operations on Runway 01/19 (RW 01/19) due to required construction-related closure of Runway 12/30 (RW 12/30) for up to four months from approximately 1 May 2015 through 31 August 2015. During this up to four-month period of construction partially closing RW 12/30, but only after all mitigations measures have first been implemented and/or exhausted, limited additional F–35 operations up to the number and type of average daily operations analyzed in Alternative 1A (predominantly departures/take-offs on RW 01 and approaches/landings on RW 19) of the SEIS and published in Table E–16 at pages E–84 and E–85 in Appendix E, will be allowed on RW 01/19. The additional Navy F–35C BAI will not alter the number or type of F–35C operations analyzed in the SEIS and approved in the 26 June 2014 ROD.

The Final SEIS was made available to the public on February 28, 2014 through a NOA in the **Federal Register** (Volume 79, Number 40, Page 11428) with a wait period that ended on March 31, 2014. The 26 June 2014 SEIS ROD was made available to the public, through a NOA in the **Federal Register** (Volume 79, Number 131, Page 38857), on July 9, 2014.

*Authority:* This NOA is published pursuant to the relevant subsection of the regulations (40 CFR part 1506.6(b)2)