

including the distance of animals to the pile and description of specific actions that ensued and resulting behavior of the animal, if any. In addition, Chevron shall attempt to distinguish between the number of individual animals taken and the number of incidents of take. At a minimum, the following information shall be collected on the sighting forms:

- a. Date and time that monitored activity begins or ends;
- b. Weather parameters (*e.g.*, percent cloud cover, percent glare, visibility) and Beaufort sea state.
- c. Species, numbers, and, if possible, sex and age class of observed marine mammals;
- d. Construction activities occurring during each sighting;
- e. Marine mammal behavior patterns observed, including bearing and direction of travel;
- f. Specific focus should be paid to behavioral reactions just prior to, or during, soft-start and shutdown procedures;
- g. Location of marine mammal, distance from observer to the marine mammal, and distance from pile driving activities to marine mammals;
- h. Record of whether an observation required the implementation of mitigation measures, including shutdown procedures and the duration of each shutdown; and
- i. Other human activity in the area.

(c) Reporting Measures.

(i) In the unanticipated event that the specified activity clearly causes the take of a marine mammal in a manner prohibited by the IHA, such as an injury (Level A harassment), serious injury or mortality (*e.g.*, ship-strike, gear interaction, and/or entanglement), Chevron would immediately cease the specified activities and immediately report the incident to the Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, and the West Coast Regional Stranding Coordinator. The report would include the following information:

- a. Time, date, and location (latitude/longitude) of the incident;
- b. Name and type of vessel involved;
- c. Vessel's speed during and leading up to the incident;
- d. Description of the incident;
- e. Status of all sound source use in the 24 hours preceding the incident;
- f. Water depth;
- g. Environmental conditions (*e.g.*, wind speed and direction, Beaufort sea state, cloud cover, and visibility);
- h. Description of all marine mammal observations in the 24 hours preceding the incident;
- i. Species identification or description of the animal(s) involved;
- j. Fate of the animal(s); and

k. Photographs or video footage of the animal(s) (if equipment is available).

Activities would not resume until NMFS is able to review the circumstances of the prohibited take. NMFS would work with Chevron to determine what is necessary to minimize the likelihood of further prohibited take and ensure MMPA compliance. Chevron would not be able to resume their activities until notified by NMFS via letter, email, or telephone.

(ii) In the event that Chevron discovers an injured or dead marine mammal, and the lead MMO determines that the cause of the injury or death is unknown and the death is relatively recent (*i.e.*, in less than a moderate state of decomposition as described in the next paragraph), Chevron would immediately report the incident to the Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, and the West Coast Regional Stranding Coordinator. The report would include the same information identified in the paragraph above. Activities would be able to continue while NMFS reviews the circumstances of the incident. NMFS would work with Chevron to determine whether modifications in the activities are appropriate.

(iii) In the event that Chevron discovers an injured or dead marine mammal, and the lead MMO determines that the injury or death is not associated with or related to the activities authorized in the IHA (*e.g.*, previously wounded animal, carcass with moderate to advanced decomposition, or scavenger damage), Chevron would report the incident to the Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, and the West Coast Regional Coordinator, within 24 hours of the discovery. Chevron would provide photographs or video footage (if available) or other documentation of the stranded animal sighting to NMFS and the Marine Mammal Stranding Network.

6. This Authorization may be modified, suspended or withdrawn if the holder fails to abide by the conditions prescribed herein, or if NMFS determines the authorized taking is having more than a negligible impact on the species or stock of affected marine mammals.

Request for Public Comments

NMFS requests comment on our analysis, the draft authorization, and any other aspect of the Notice of Proposed IHA for impact pile driving associated with Chevron's Long Wharf Maintenance and Efficiency Project from January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018. Please include with your comments any supporting data or literature citations to help inform our

final decision on Chevron's request for an MMPA authorization.

Dated: March 17, 2017.

Donna S. Wieting,

*Director, Office of Protected Resources,
National Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. 2017-05843 Filed 3-23-17; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Membership Solicitation for Hydrographic Services Review Panel

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

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Hydrographic Service Improvements Act Amendments of 2002, the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is required to solicit nominations for membership at least once a year for the Hydrographic Services Review Panel (HSRP). The NOAA Administrator seeks and encourages individuals with expertise in marine navigation and technology, port administration, marine shipping or other intermodal transportation industries, cartography and geographic information systems, geodesy, physical oceanography, coastal resource management, including coastal preparedness and emergency response, and other related fields.

DATES: Nominations are sought to fill five vacancies that occur on January 1, 2018. Nominations should be submitted by no later than May 30, 2017. Nominations will be accepted and kept on file on an ongoing basis regardless of date submitted for use with current and future vacancies. HSRP maintains a pool of candidates and advertises once a year to fulfill the HSRP requirements on membership solicitation. Current members who may be eligible for a second term must reapply.

ADDRESSES: Nominations will be accepted by email and should be sent to: Hydroservices.panel@noaa.gov and Lynne.Mersfelder@noaa.gov. You will receive a confirmation response.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lynne Mersfelder-Lewis, NOAA Telephone: 301-713-2750 x166.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The HSRP, a Federal advisory committee, advises the Administrator on matters related to the responsibilities and

authorities set forth in section 303 of the Hydrographic Services Improvement Act and such other appropriate matters as the Administrator refers to the Panel for review and advice. Those responsibilities and authorities include, but are not limited to: Acquiring and disseminating hydrographic data and providing hydrographic services, as those terms are defined in the Act; promulgating standards for hydrographic data and services; ensuring comprehensive geographic coverage of hydrographic services; and testing, developing, and operating vessels, equipment, and technologies necessary to ensure safe navigation and maintain operational expertise in hydrographic data acquisition and hydrographic services.

The Act states “the voting members of the Panel shall be individuals who, by reason of knowledge, experience, or training, are especially qualified in one or more of the disciplines and fields relating to hydrographic data and hydrographic services, marine transportation, port administration, vessel pilotage, coastal and fishery management, and other disciplines as determined appropriate by the Administrator.” The NOAA Administrator seeks and encourages individuals with expertise in marine navigation and technology, port administration, marine shipping or other intermodal transportation industries, cartography and geographic information systems, geodesy, physical oceanography, coastal resource management, including coastal preparedness and emergency response, and other related fields. To apply for membership on the Panel, applicants are requested to submit the following five items and respond to five questions. The entire package should be a maximum length of eight pages or fewer. NOAA is an equal opportunity employer.

(1) A cover letter that responds to the five questions listed below and serves as a statement of interest to serve on the panel. Please see “Short Response Questions” below.

(2) Highlight the nominee’s specific area(s) of expertise relevant to the purpose of the Panel from the list in the **Federal Register** Notice.

(3) A current resume.

(4) A short biography of 400 to 500 words.

(5) The nominee’s full name, title, institutional affiliation, mailing address, email, phone, fax and contact information.

Short Response Questions

(1) List the area(s) of expertise, as listed above, which you would best represent on this Panel.

(2) List the geographic region(s) of the country with which you primarily associate your expertise.

(3) Describe your leadership or professional experiences which you believe will contribute to the effectiveness of this panel.

(4) Describe your familiarity and experience with NOAA navigation data, products, and services.

(5) Generally describe the breadth and scope of stakeholders, users, or other groups whose views and input you believe you can share with the panel.

Under 33 U.S.C. 883a, *et seq.*, NOAA’s National Ocean Service (NOS) is responsible for providing nautical charts and related information for safe navigation. NOS collects and compiles hydrographic, tidal and current, geodetic, and a variety of other data in order to fulfill this responsibility. The HSRP provides advice on current and emerging oceanographic and marine science technologies relating to operations, research and development; and dissemination of data pertaining to:

- (a) Hydrographic surveying;
- (b) shoreline surveying;
- (c) nautical charting;
- (d) water level measurements;
- (e) current measurements;
- (f) geodetic measurements;
- (g) geospatial measurements;
- (h) geomagnetic measurements; and
- (i) other oceanographic/marine related sciences.

The Panel has fifteen voting members appointed by the NOAA Administrator in accordance with 33 U.S.C. 892c. Members are selected on a standardized basis, in accordance with applicable Department of Commerce guidance. The Co-Directors of the Center for Coastal and Ocean Mapping/Joint Hydrographic Center and two other NOAA employees serve as nonvoting members of the Panel. The Director, NOAA Office of Coast Survey, serves as the Designated Federal Official (DFO).

Voting members are individuals who, by reason of knowledge, experience, or training, are especially qualified in one or more disciplines relating to hydrographic surveying, tides, currents, geodetic and geospatial measurements, marine transportation, port administration, vessel pilotage, coastal or fishery management, and other oceanographic or marine science areas as deemed appropriate by the Administrator. Full-time officers or employees of the United States may not be appointed as a voting member. Any

voting member of the Panel who is an applicant for, or beneficiary of (as determined by the Administrator) any assistance under 33 U.S.C. 892c shall disclose to the Panel that relationship, and may not vote on any other matter pertaining to that assistance.

Voting members of the Panel serve a four-year term, except that vacancy appointments are for the remainder of the unexpired term of the vacancy. Members serve at the discretion of the Administrator and are subject to government ethics standards. Any individual appointed to a partial or full term may be reappointed for one additional full term. A voting member may serve until his or her successor has taken office. The Panel selects one voting member to serve as the Chair and another to serve as the Vice Chair. The Vice Chair acts as Chair in the absence or incapacity of the Chair but will not automatically become the Chair if the Chair resigns. Meetings occur at least twice a year, and at the call of the Chair or upon the request of a majority of the voting members or of the Administrator. Voting members receive compensation at a rate established by the Administrator, not to exceed the maximum daily rate payable under section 5376 of title 5, United States Code, when engaged in performing duties for the Panel. Members are reimbursed for actual and reasonable expenses incurred in performing such duties.

Individuals Selected for Panel Membership

Upon selection and agreement to serve on the HSRP Panel, you become a Special Government Employee (SGE) of the United States Government. 18 U.S.C. 202(a) an SGE(s) is an officer or employee of an agency who is retained, designated, appointed, or employed to perform temporary duties, with or without compensation, not to exceed 130 days during any period of 365 consecutive days, either on a fulltime or intermittent basis. After the selection process is complete, applicants selected to serve on the Panel must complete the following actions before they can be appointed as a Panel member:

(a) Security Clearance (on-line Background Security Check process and fingerprinting conducted through NOAA Workforce Management); and

(b) Confidential Financial Disclosure Report—As an SGE, you are required to file a Confidential Financial Disclosure Report to avoid involvement in a real or apparent conflict of interest. You may find the Confidential Financial Disclosure Report at the following Web

site. http://www.usoge.gov/forms/form_450.aspx.

Dated: March 10, 2017.

Shepard M. Smith,

*NOAA, Director, Office of Coast Survey,
National Ocean Service, National Oceanic
and Atmospheric Administration.*

[FR Doc. 2017-05639 Filed 3-23-17; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-JE-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XF299

Taking and Importing Marine Mammals; Taking Marine Mammals Incidental to Rehabilitation of the Jetty System at the Mouth of the Columbia River

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

ACTION: Notice of issuance of Letter of Authorization.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), as amended, and implementing regulations, notification is hereby given that a Letter of Authorization (LOA) has been issued to the US Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) for the take of marine mammals incidental to the rehabilitation of the Jetty System at the Mouth of the Columbia River (MCR).

DATES: Effective from May 1, 2017, through April 30, 2022.

ADDRESSES: The LOA and supporting documentation is available online at: www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/permits/incidental/construction.htm. In case of problems accessing these documents, please call the contact listed below.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Rob Pauline, 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 12, 2015, NMFS received an adequate and complete application from the Corps for the taking of marine mammals incidental to the rehabilitation of the Jetty System at the MCR in Washington and Oregon. On August 25, 2016 NMFS published a notice of proposed rulemaking in the **Federal Register**, requesting comments and information related to the Corps request for thirty days (81 FR 58443). A corrected notice and extension of the public comment period was published in the **Federal Register** on September 6, 2016 (81 FR 61160). The final rule was published in the **Federal Register** on February 10, 2017 (82 FR 10286). For detailed information on this action, please refer to those documents. The regulations include mitigation, monitoring, and reporting requirements for the incidental take of marine mammals during the rehabilitation of the Jetty System at the MCR in Washington and Oregon.

The purpose of the project is to rehabilitate the MCR jetty system, which has degraded over time. Rehabilitation of the jetty system will require vibratory pile driving for installation and subsequent removal of three off-loading facilities at the three MCR jetties. The

pile driving and removal portion of the project will require approximately 49 days of in-water pile driving and removal. Vibratory pile driving and removal activities will generate underwater noise levels that are anticipated to result in Level B harassment of marine mammals. Pedestrian surveys of the jetty system will also occur which are anticipated to result in disturbance of hauled out pinnipeds. The Corps is authorized to take individuals of seven species of marine mammals by Level B harassment.

Authorization

We have issued an LOA to the Corps authorizing the take of marine mammals incidental to construction activities and pedestrian surveys as described above. Take of marine mammals will be minimized through implementation of the following mitigation measures: (1) Establishment and visual monitoring of shutdown and disturbance zones; (2) vessel-based monitoring of offshore waters; (3) shut-down of all pile installation, removal, or maintenance activities if any killer whales are observed within the Zone of Influence (ZOI) between May 1 and July 1 to eliminate potential for take of southern resident killer whales; and (4) implementation of a hydroacoustic monitoring plan to ensure that shutdown zones and ZOIs have been delineated appropriately. The Corps will submit annual marine mammal monitoring reports as required.

Based on these findings and the information discussed in the preamble to the final rule, the activities described under these LOAs will have a negligible impact on marine mammal stocks and will not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of the affected marine mammal stock for subsistence uses.

Dated: March 17, 2017.

Donna S. Wieting,

*Director, Office of Protected Resources,
National Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. 2017-05842 Filed 3-23-17; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

COMMITTEE FOR PURCHASE FROM PEOPLE WHO ARE BLIND OR SEVERELY DISABLED

Procurement List Deletions

AGENCY: Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled.

ACTION: Deletions from the Procurement List.