

activities are expected to comprise only a limited portion of individuals comprising the overall relevant stock abundance. Therefore, we find that small numbers of marine mammals will be taken relative to the population size of the Hood Canal stock of harbor seal.

Based on the analysis contained herein of the planned activity (including the planned mitigation and monitoring measures) and the anticipated take of marine mammals, NMFS finds that small numbers of marine mammals will be taken relative to the population size of the affected species or stocks.

#### Unmitigable Adverse Impact Analysis and Determination

There are no relevant subsistence uses of the affected marine mammal stocks or species implicated by this action. Therefore, NMFS has determined that the total taking of affected species or stocks would not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of such species or stocks for taking for subsistence purposes.

#### National Environmental Policy Act

To comply with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA; 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*) and NOAA Administrative Order (NAO) 216-6A, NMFS must review our proposed action (*i.e.*, the issuance of an incidental harassment authorization) with respect to potential impacts on the human environment.

This action is consistent with categories of activities identified in CE B4 of the Companion Manual for NOAA Administrative Order 216-6A, which do not individually or cumulatively have the potential for significant impacts on the quality of the human environment and for which we have not identified any extraordinary circumstances that would preclude this categorical exclusion. Accordingly, NMFS has determined that the issuance of the IHA qualifies to be categorically excluded from further NEPA review and signed a Categorical Exclusion memo in June 2018.

#### Endangered Species Act (ESA)

Section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) requires that each Federal agency insure that any action it authorizes, funds, or carries out is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any endangered or threatened species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of designated critical habitat.

No incidental take of ESA-listed species is planned for authorization or expected to result from this activity.

Therefore, NMFS has determined that formal consultation under section 7 of the ESA is not required for this action.

#### Authorization

NMFS has issued an IHA to the Navy for the potential harassment of small numbers of five marine mammal species incidental to the Service Pier Extension project at Naval Base Kitsap Bangor provided the previously mentioned mitigation, monitoring and reporting requirements are incorporated.

Dated: June 22, 2018.

**Elaine T. Saiz,**

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

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

#### Science and Technology for America's Oceans: A Decadal Vision

**AGENCY:** Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce (DOC).

**ACTION:** Notice of public comments.

**SUMMARY:** The Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research on behalf of the National Science and Technology Council; Committee on Environment; Subcommittee on Ocean Science and Technology (SOST) is requesting input on the content of a report, Science and Technology for America's Oceans: A Decadal Vision. The SOST is chartered under the National Science and Technology Council to advise and assist on national issues related to ocean science and technology. The SOST contributes to the goals for Federal ocean science and technology, including identifying priorities and developing coordinated interagency strategies. Science and Technology for America's Oceans: A Decadal Vision identifies pressing research needs and areas of opportunity within the ocean S&T enterprise for the coming decade, 2018-2028. The aim of this document is not to prescribe policies but to provide guidance for U.S. Federal agencies and non-federal sectors to align their resources and areas of expertise, and further build the scientific and technological foundation that will improve our knowledge and stewardship of the ocean, address issues of national and global importance, and inform decision-making for the coming decade. This notice solicits relevant

public input on the draft report. The public input provided in response to this notice will inform SOST as they develop the final report.

**DATES:** Comments must be submitted on or before August 27, 2018.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments by email to [oceandecadalvision@OSTP.eop.gov](mailto:oceandecadalvision@OSTP.eop.gov). Please include "Science and Technology for America's Oceans" in the subject line of the message.

**Instructions:** The report is available for download at: <http://www.noaa.gov/stories/advancing-vision-of-science-and-technology-for-americas-oceans>.

Response to this Notice of Public Comments is voluntary. Clearly indicate which section and page number, if applicable, submitted comments pertain to. All submissions must be in English. Please clearly label submissions as "Science and Technology for America's Oceans: A Decadal Vision." When the final report is issued, relevant comments and the commenters' names, along with the authors' responses, may become part of the public record and be made available to view online. NOAA therefore requests that no business proprietary information, copyrighted information, or personally identifiable information be submitted in response to this Notice of Public Comments. Please note that the U.S. Government will not pay for response preparation, or for the use of any information contained in the response.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Stacy Aguilera-Peterson, Office of Science and Technology Policy, (202) 456-6066, or [Stacy.E.Aguilera-Peterson@ostp.eop.gov](mailto:Stacy.E.Aguilera-Peterson@ostp.eop.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The report describes:

- Five high-priority goals to advance ocean science and technology (S&T) in the coming decade;
- S&T objectives, identified as key areas to advance the U.S. Ocean S&T enterprise;
- Specific research and development (R&D) priorities to achieve each objective; and
- Areas of immediate ocean research opportunities and cross-cutting topics relevant to each of the five goals.

Dated: June 22, 2018.

**David Holst,**

*Chief Financial/Administrative Officer, Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.*

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