

an authorization is limited to small numbers of marine mammals. Additionally, other qualitative factors may be considered in the analysis, such as the temporal or spatial scale of the activities.

Table 6 demonstrates the number of animals that could be exposed to received noise levels that could cause Level A harassment and Level B harassment for the planned activities in the WP&YR project area. With the exception of the Northern Resident and West Coast Transient killer whale stocks and harbor seals, our analysis shows that less than 25 percent of each affected stock could be taken by harassment. The numbers of animals anticipated to be taken for these stocks would be considered small relative to the relevant stock's abundances even if each estimated taking occurred to a new individual—an extremely unlikely scenario.

Calculated takes do not assume multiple harassments of the same individual(s), resulting in larger estimates of take as a percentage of stock abundance than are likely given resident individuals. This is the case with the resident stocks of killer whale (Alaska and Northern Resident stocks and harbor seal (Lynn Canal/Stephens Passage stock).

When assuming the total take authorized would occur to a single stock and that these numbers represent individuals taken, rather than instances of take, the total authorized take for killer whales as compared to each potentially affected stock ranges from 4.3 percent to 41.2 percent of each stock abundance. In reality, it is highly unlikely that 100 individuals of any one killer whale stock will be harassed. Instead, as pods remain in the area over a period of days, it is assumed that take will occur on a smaller number of the same individuals from any stock, (20 individuals, or the estimated group size from one stock, or 40 individuals, if different pods from the same stock are taken in both March and April), which would result in smaller takes as a percentages of stocks (ranging from 0.9 percent to 8.2 percent if takes are from 20 whales from the same stock, or 1.7 percent to 16.5 percent if takes are from 40 whales from the same stock).

As reported, a small number of harbor seals, most of which reside in Taiya Inlet year-round, will be exposed to construction activities for three months. The total population estimate in the Lynn Canal/Stephens Passage stock is 9,478 animals over 1.37 million acres (5,500 km<sup>2</sup>) of area in their range, which results in an estimated density of 36 animals within Taiya Inlet. The largest

Level B harassment zone within the inlet occupies 17.9 km<sup>2</sup>, which represents less than 0.4 percent of the total geographical area occupied by the stock. The great majority of these exposures will be to the same animals given their residency patterns.

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**

No relevant subsistence uses of the affected marine mammal stocks or species are implicated by this action in the project area. The planned project will occur near but not overlap with the subsistence area used by the villages of Hoonah and Angoon where harbor seals and Steller sea lions are available for subsistence harvest (Wolfe *et al.* 2013; N. Kovaces, Skagway Traditional Council, personal communication). Therefore, NMFS has determined that the total taking of affected species or stocks will 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 action with respect to environmental consequences on the human environment. This action is consistent with categories of activities identified in Categorical Exclusion B4 (incidental harassments authorizations with no anticipated serious injury or mortality) 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.

#### **Endangered Species Act**

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. To ensure ESA compliance for the issuance of IHAs, NMFS consults internally, in this case with the Alaska Regional Office, whenever we propose to authorize take for endangered or threatened species.

On February 11, 2019 NMFS Alaska Region issued a Biological Opinion to NMFS Office of Protected Resources on the issuance of this IHA. The Biological Opinion determined that the proposed action was not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of the humpback whale Mexico DPS and the Steller sea lion western DPS or adversely affect designated critical habitat.

#### **Authorization**

NMFS has issued an IHA to WP&YR for the incidental take of marine mammals due to in-water construction work associated with the Railroad Dock dolphin installation project in Skagway, Alaska from February 15, 2019 through February 14, 2020, provided the previously mentioned mitigation, monitoring, and reporting requirements are incorporated.

Dated: February 13, 2019.

**Donna S. Wieting,**

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

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## **DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

### **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

#### **Hydrographic Services Review Panel Meeting**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of open public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Hydrographic Services Review Panel (HSRP) will hold a meeting that will be open to the public and public comments are requested in advance and/or during the meeting. Information about the HSRP meeting, agenda, presentations, webinar registration, and other background documents will be posted online at: <https://www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/hsrp/hsrp.htm> and <https://www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/hsrp/meetings.htm>.

*Dated:* The meeting is planned for two and a half days during March 5–7, 2019. The dates, agenda, and times are subject

to change. For updates, please check online at: <https://www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/hsrp/hrsp.htm>.

**Location:** The meeting venue will be in downtown Washington, DC, and the venue will be posted online in February at: <https://www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/hsrp/hrsp.htm>.

Please email your name, organization and email address by February 25, 2019, to inform the guest list to: [Virginia.Dentler@noaa.gov](mailto:Virginia.Dentler@noaa.gov) and [Lynne.Mersfelder@noaa.gov](mailto:Lynne.Mersfelder@noaa.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Lynne Mersfelder-Lewis, HSRP program manager, National Ocean Service, Office of Coast Survey, NOAA (N/CS), 1315 East-West Highway, SSMC3 #6413, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910; telephone: 240-533-0064; email: [Lynne.Mersfelder@noaa.gov](mailto:Lynne.Mersfelder@noaa.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** While the meeting is open to the public, please email your name, organization and email address by February 25, 2019, to be added to inform the guest list to: [Virginia.Dentler@noaa.gov](mailto:Virginia.Dentler@noaa.gov) and [Lynne.Mersfelder@noaa.gov](mailto:Lynne.Mersfelder@noaa.gov).

Seating will be available on a first-come, first-served basis, and public comment is encouraged. There are public comment periods scheduled each day and noted in the agenda. Each individual or group making verbal comments will be limited to a total time of five (5) minutes and will be recorded. For those not onsite, comments can be submitted in writing via the webinar chat function or via email in writing. Individuals who would like to submit written statements in advance, during or after the meeting should email their comments to [Lynne.Mersfelder@noaa.gov](mailto:Lynne.Mersfelder@noaa.gov). The HSRP will provide webinar capability. Pre-registration is required to access the webinar: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2994768801559733251>.

The Hydrographic Services Review Panel (HSRP) is a Federal Advisory Committee established to advise the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere, the NOAA Administrator, on matters related to the responsibilities and authorities set forth in section 303 of the Hydrographic Services Improvement Act of 1998, as amended, and such other appropriate matters that the Under Secretary refers to the Panel for review and advice. The charter and other information are located online at: <https://www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/hsrp/CharterBylawsHSIAStatute.htm>. Past recommendations and issue papers are at: <https://www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/hsrp/>

*recommendations.htm*. Past HSRP public meeting summary reports, agendas, presentations, transcripts, webinars, and other information is available online at: <https://www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/hsrp/meetings.htm>.

**Matters To Be Considered:** The panel is convening on issues relevant to NOAA's navigation services, focusing on national issues such as stakeholder use of navigation services data, sea level rise and inundation, and legislative priorities. Navigation services include the data, products, and services provided by the NOAA programs and activities that undertake geodetic observations, gravity modeling, shoreline mapping, bathymetric mapping, hydrographic surveying, nautical charting, tide and water level observations, current observations, and marine modeling. This suite of NOAA products and services support safe and efficient navigation, resilient coasts and communities, and the nationwide positioning information infrastructure to support America's commerce. The Panel will hear from state and federal agencies, non-federal organizations and associations, regional and national stakeholders and partners about their missions and use of NOAA's navigation services, the value these services bring, and what improvements could be made. Other administrative matters may be considered. The agenda and speakers are subject to change.

**Special Accommodations:** This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Please direct requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids to [Lynne.Mersfelder@noaa.gov](mailto:Lynne.Mersfelder@noaa.gov) by February 11, 2019.

**Shepherd M. Smith,**

Rear Admiral, Director, Office of Coast Survey, National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

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**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

**RIN 0648-XG748**

**Endangered and Threatened Species; Take of Anadromous Fish**

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

**ACTION:** Applications for 10 permit renewals and five new permits.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that NMFS has received 15 scientific research permit application requests relating to Pacific salmon and steelhead, rockfish, eulachon, and green sturgeon. The proposed research is intended to increase knowledge of species listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and to help guide management and conservation efforts. The applications may be viewed online at: [https://apps.nmfs.noaa.gov/preview/preview\\_open\\_for\\_comment.cfm](https://apps.nmfs.noaa.gov/preview/preview_open_for_comment.cfm).

**DATES:** Comments or requests for a public hearing on the applications must be received at the appropriate address or fax number (see **ADDRESSES**) no later than 5 p.m. Pacific standard time on March 21, 2019.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments on the applications should be sent to the Protected Resources Division, NMFS, 1201 NE Lloyd Blvd., Suite 1100, Portland, OR 97232-1274. Comments may also be sent via fax to 503-230-5441 or by email [tonmfs.wcr-apps@noaa.gov](mailto:tonmfs.wcr-apps@noaa.gov) (include the permit number in the subject line of the fax or email).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Rob Clapp, Portland, OR (ph.: 503-231-2314), Fax: 503-230-5441, email: [Robert.Clapp@noaa.gov](mailto:Robert.Clapp@noaa.gov). Permit application instructions are available from the address above, or online at <https://apps.nmfs.noaa.gov>.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Species Covered in This Notice**

The following listed species are covered in this notice:

Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*): Threatened Lower Columbia River (LCR); threatened Puget Sound (PS); threatened Snake River (SR) spring/summer-run; threatened Snake River (SR) fall-run; endangered Upper Columbia River (UCR) spring-run; threatened Upper Willamette River (UWR); threatened Central Valley (CV) spring-run; endangered Sacramento River (SacR) winter-run; threatened California Coastal (CC).

Steelhead (*O. mykiss*): Threatened LCR; threatened Middle Columbia River (MCR); threatened PS; threatened SR basin; threatened UCR; threatened UWR.

Chum salmon (*O. keta*): Threatened Hood Canal Summer-run (HCS); threatened Columbia River (CR).

Coho salmon (*O. kisutch*): Threatened LCR; threatened Oregon Coast (OC) coho; threatened Southern Oregon/Northern California Coast (SONCC); endangered Central California Coast (CCC).