

Based on the Navy's 2017 acoustic monitoring report (found at https://www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/files/4814/9089/8563/Pile-driving_Noise_Measurements_Final_Report_12Jan2017.pdf), the Navy assumed the source level during vibratory driving of king piles would be 149 decibel root mean square (dB rms). During impact driving (proofing only), the Navy estimated a 180 dB sound exposure level (SEL) source level (Caltrans, 2015). These source levels are less than or equal to sheet pile installation with a vibratory and impact hammer (156 dB rms and 180 dB SEL, respectively) analyzed in the initial IHA request. The Navy indicated sheet pile driving would occur the same days as king pile driving. The previously analyzed sheet pile driving remains an appropriate representation of the modified work that will be conducted under this IHA. The Navy indicated the number of days of pile driving would not change from the initial IHA despite the design modification. Further, the re-issued IHA contains the identical mitigation, monitoring and reporting measures as the initial IHA.

The only species of marine mammal expected to be taken by the planned activity is the bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*). The data inputs and methods of estimating take are identical to those used in the initial IHA. As such, the manner and amount of authorized take in the reissued IHA is identical to that in the initial IHA. NMFS has reviewed recent Stock Assessment Reports, information on relevant Unusual Mortality Events, and recent scientific literature, and determined that no new information affects our initial analysis of impacts or take estimate under the initial IHA.

We refer to the documents related to the previously issued IHA, which include the **Federal Register** notice of the issuance of the initial IHA for the Navy's construction work (84 FR 37841, August 2, 2019), the Navy's application, the **Federal Register** notice of the proposed IHA (84 FR 23024, May 21, 2019), and all associated references and documents.

Determinations

The Navy will conduct activities that have impacts less than or equal to those analyzed in the initial IHA. As described above, the number of authorized takes of the same species and stocks of marine mammals is identical to the number that we found met the small numbers standard for issuance of the initial IHA. There are no changes to the status of the stock or the conditions under which the taking would occur.

Further, the re-issued IHA includes identical required mitigation, monitoring, and reporting measures as the initial IHA. For the initial IHA, NMFS found the authorized take would result in a negligible impact to the affected stocks of bottlenose dolphins. No new information has emerged that would suggest we should change or analysis or findings.

Based on the information contained here and in the referenced documents, NMFS has determined the following: (1) The required mitigation measures will effect the least practicable impact on marine mammal species or stocks and their habitat; (2) the authorized takes will have a negligible impact on the affected marine mammal species or stocks; (3) the authorized takes represent small numbers of marine mammals relative to the affected stock abundances; and (4) the Navy's activities will not have an unmitigable adverse impact on taking for subsistence purposes as no relevant subsistence uses of marine mammals are implicated by this action.

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 with respect to environmental consequences on the human environment.

Accordingly, NMFS has determined that the issuance of the IHA qualifies to be categorically excluded from further NEPA review. 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. Because the only change to the IHA are effective dates, the CE on record for issuance of the initial IHA applies to this action.

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. To ensure ESA compliance for the issuance of IHAs, NMFS consults internally

whenever we propose to authorize take for endangered or threatened species. No incidental take of ESA-listed species is anticipated or authorized in the IHA as none occur in the action area. 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 in-water construction activities associated with the specified activity from July 1, 2020, through June 30, 2021. All previously described mitigation, monitoring, and reporting requirements from the initial IHA are incorporated.

Dated: February 18, 2020.

Donna S. Wieting,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

The Department of Commerce will submit to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for clearance the following proposal for collection of information under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. chapter 35).

Agency: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Title: Educational Partnership Program with Minority Serving Institutions (EPP/MSI), Undergraduate Scholarship Program (USP), Cooperative Science Centers (CSCs), and Ernest F. Hollings Undergraduate Scholar.

OMB Control Number: 0648-0568.

Form Number(s): None.

Type of Request: Regular (request for a revision and extension of a currently information collection).

Number of Respondents: 2,304.

Average Hours per Response:
Undergraduate Scholarship Program (USP) application: 12 hours;
Undergraduate Scholarship Program references: 1 hour; Alumni Update form: 6 minutes; Student & Performance Measures Tracking System (SPMTS) form: 28 hours; Student Training Record form: 0.5 hours.

Burden Hours: 11,129.

Needs and Uses: The Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is authorized by section 4002 of the America

COMPETES Act, Public Law 110–69, to establish and administer a Graduate Sciences Program and two undergraduate scholarship programs to enhance understanding of ocean, coastal, Great Lakes, and atmospheric science and stewardship by the general public and other coastal stakeholders, including underrepresented groups in ocean and atmospheric science and policy careers. In addition, NOAA's Administrator is authorized by section 214 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2005, Public Law 108–447, to establish and administer the Ernest F. Hollings Undergraduate Scholarship Program to support undergraduate studies in oceanic and atmospheric science, research, technology, and education that support NOAA's mission and programs.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Office of Education (OEd) collects, evaluates, and assesses student data and information for the purpose of selecting successful candidates, generating internal NOAA reports, and articles to demonstrate the success of its program.

The purpose of the OEd Educational Partnership Program (EPP) with Minority Serving Institutions is to educate, train and graduate students in NOAA-mission sciences. OEd EPP is strongly committed to broadening the participation of Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs) such as Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic Serving Institutions, Indian Tribally Controlled Colleges and Universities, Alaska Native-Serving Institutions, and Native Hawaiian-Serving Institutions. NOAA's OEd EPP/MSI partnership is comprised of four program components: The Undergraduate Scholarship Program (USP); the Graduate Sciences Program (GSP); the Environmental Entrepreneurship Program (EEP); and the Cooperative Science Center (CSC).

The OEd requires applicants to NOAA's Undergraduate Scholarship Programs to complete an application in order to be considered. The application package requires two faculty and/or academic advisors to complete a NOAA student scholar reference form in support of the scholarship application. The Dr. Nancy Foster Scholarship Program and the NMFS Recruiting, Training and Research Program also collect student data for their programs and are also covered by this notice. Undergraduate scholarship recipients are required to complete a Student Scholarship Training Record to track their time, attendance, and accomplishments during their internships. NOAA OEd student scholar

alumni are also requested to provide information to NOAA for internal tracking purposes. This information informs NOAA whether NOAA-funded students pursue and complete post-graduate NOAA-related science degrees, are employed by NOAA or a NOAA contractor, or in fields related to NOAA's mission. NOAA OEd grant recipients are required to update the student tracker database with the required student information in order to assess compliance with NOAA OEd's performance measures.

The collected data supports NOAA OEd's program performance measures. To measure the impact of OEd programs, the data collected are compared to the available data in the national education databases (e.g., National Science Foundation and National Center for Education Statistics) and NOAA workforce management database. Furthermore, the student data collection identifies degree pipeline areas (BS, MS, or Ph.D.) and where OEd and its academic partners may target recruitment for its' NOAA-related science educational and training programs. NOAA scholarship programs produce a pool of qualified candidates that may be hired by NOAA and help to sustain a world-class NOAA organization.

Affected Public: Individuals or households; Business or other for-profit; Not-for-Profit institutions; and State, Local or Tribal Government.

Frequency: Annually: USP application and references; On occasion: Alumni Update form; Semi-annually: SPMTS form; Bi-weekly during the summer: Student Training Record form.

Respondent's Obligation: Voluntary: USP application and references, and Alumni Update form; Mandatory: SPMTS form and Student Training Record form.

This information collection request may be viewed at reginfo.gov. Follow the instructions to view Department of Commerce collections currently under review by OMB.

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to OIRA_Submission@omb.eop.gov or fax to (202) 395–5806.

Sheleen Dumas,

Department PRA Clearance Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer, Commerce Department.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648–XA052]

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC); Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice; public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council's (Council) Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish (MSB) Advisory Panel will hold two meetings.

DATES: The meetings will be held on Tuesday, March 3, 2020 and Tuesday March 17, 2020. Both will begin at 3 p.m. and conclude by 5 p.m. For agenda details, see **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

ADDRESSES: The meetings will be held via webinar with a telephone-only audio connection: <http://mafmc.adobeconnect.com/illex-wg/>. Telephone instructions are provided upon connecting, or the public can call direct: 800–832–0736, Rm: *7833942#.

Council address: Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 800 N State Street, Suite 201, Dover, DE 19901; telephone: (302) 674–2331 or on their website at www.mafmc.org.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Christopher M. Moore, Ph.D., Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, telephone: (302) 526–5255.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of the meetings is to gather Advisory Panel input on analysis related to possible changes to the *Illex* squid quota. An agenda and background documents will be posted at the Council's website (www.mafmc.org) prior to the meeting.

Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aid should be directed to M. Jan Saunders, (302) 526–5251, at least 5 days prior to any meeting date.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: February 14, 2020.

Tracey L. Thompson,

Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

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