

NOTICE OF OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET ACTION

Date 11/21/2008

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
FOR CERTIFYING OFFICIAL: Suzanne Hilding
FOR CLEARANCE OFFICER: Diana Hynek

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act, OMB has taken action on your request received 08/12/2008

ACTION REQUESTED: New collection (Request for a new OMB Control Number)
TYPE OF REVIEW REQUESTED: Regular
ICR REFERENCE NUMBER: 200807-0648-012
AGENCY ICR TRACKING NUMBER:
TITLE: Marine Mammal Health and Stranding Response Program Survey for Stranding Network Participants
LIST OF INFORMATION COLLECTIONS: See next page

OMB ACTION: Approved without change

OMB CONTROL NUMBER: 0648-0581

The agency is required to display the OMB Control Number and inform respondents of its legal significance in accordance with 5 CFR 1320.5(b).

EXPIRATION DATE: 11/30/2011

DISCONTINUE DATE:

BURDEN:	RESPONSES	HOURS	COSTS
Previous	0	0	0
New	294	294	0
Difference			
Change due to New Statute	0	0	0
Change due to Agency Discretion	294	294	0
Change due to Agency Adjustment	0	0	0
Change Due to Potential Violation of the PRA	0	0	0

TERMS OF CLEARANCE: The agency should ensure that all compilations of the data gathered in this collection and all reports based on such data includes the total response rate and that any statement of the statistical significance of the results, including any statement of confidence intervals, be disclaimed if the response rate is below 80%.

OMB Authorizing Official:

Kevin F. Neyland
Deputy Administrator,
Office Of Information And Regulatory Affairs

List of ICs

IC Title	Form No.	Form Name	CFR Citation
Marine Mammal Health and Stranding Response Program Survey for Stranding Network Participants	NA	Marine Mammal Health and Stranding Response Participant Survey	

PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT SUBMISSION

Please read the instructions before completing this form. For additional forms or assistance in completing this form, contact your agency's Paperwork Clearance Officer. Send two copies of this form, the collection instrument to be reviewed, the supporting statement, and any additional documentation to: Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Docket Library, Room 10102, 725 17th Street NW, Washington, DC 20503.

1. Agency/Subagency originating request	2. OMB control number b. <input type="checkbox"/> None a. _____ - _____
3. Type of information collection (<i>check one</i>) a. <input type="checkbox"/> New Collection b. <input type="checkbox"/> Revision of a currently approved collection c. <input type="checkbox"/> Extension of a currently approved collection d. <input type="checkbox"/> Reinstatement, without change, of a previously approved collection for which approval has expired e. <input type="checkbox"/> Reinstatement, with change, of a previously approved collection for which approval has expired f. <input type="checkbox"/> Existing collection in use without an OMB control number For b-f, note Item A2 of Supporting Statement instructions	4. Type of review requested (<i>check one</i>) a. <input type="checkbox"/> Regular submission b. <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency - Approval requested by _____ / _____ / _____ c. <input type="checkbox"/> Delegated
7. Title	5. Small entities Will this information collection have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
8. Agency form number(s) (<i>if applicable</i>)	6. Requested expiration date a. <input type="checkbox"/> Three years from approval date b. <input type="checkbox"/> Other Specify: _____ / _____
9. Keywords	
10. Abstract	
11. Affected public (<i>Mark primary with "P" and all others that apply with "x"</i>) a. ___ Individuals or households d. ___ Farms b. ___ Business or other for-profit e. ___ Federal Government c. ___ Not-for-profit institutions f. ___ State, Local or Tribal Government	12. Obligation to respond (<i>check one</i>) a. <input type="checkbox"/> Voluntary b. <input type="checkbox"/> Required to obtain or retain benefits c. <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory
13. Annual recordkeeping and reporting burden a. Number of respondents _____ b. Total annual responses _____ 1. Percentage of these responses collected electronically _____ % c. Total annual hours requested _____ d. Current OMB inventory _____ e. Difference _____ f. Explanation of difference 1. Program change _____ 2. Adjustment _____	14. Annual reporting and recordkeeping cost burden (<i>in thousands of dollars</i>) a. Total annualized capital/startup costs _____ b. Total annual costs (O&M) _____ c. Total annualized cost requested _____ d. Current OMB inventory _____ e. Difference _____ f. Explanation of difference 1. Program change _____ 2. Adjustment _____
15. Purpose of information collection (<i>Mark primary with "P" and all others that apply with "X"</i>) a. ___ Application for benefits e. ___ Program planning or management b. ___ Program evaluation f. ___ Research c. ___ General purpose statistics g. ___ Regulatory or compliance d. ___ Audit	16. Frequency of recordkeeping or reporting (<i>check all that apply</i>) a. <input type="checkbox"/> Recordkeeping b. <input type="checkbox"/> Third party disclosure c. <input type="checkbox"/> Reporting 1. <input type="checkbox"/> On occasion 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Weekly 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Quarterly 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Semi-annually 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Annually 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Biennially 8. <input type="checkbox"/> Other (describe) _____
17. Statistical methods Does this information collection employ statistical methods <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	18. Agency Contact (person who can best answer questions regarding the content of this submission) Name: _____ Phone: _____

19. Certification for Paperwork Reduction Act Submissions

On behalf of this Federal Agency, I certify that the collection of information encompassed by this request complies with 5 CFR 1320.9

NOTE: The text of 5 CFR 1320.9, and the related provisions of 5 CFR 1320.8(b)(3), appear at the end of the instructions. *The certification is to be made with reference to those regulatory provisions as set forth in the instructions.*

The following is a summary of the topics, regarding the proposed collection of information, that the certification covers:

- (a) It is necessary for the proper performance of agency functions;
- (b) It avoids unnecessary duplication;
- (c) It reduces burden on small entities;
- (d) It used plain, coherent, and unambiguous terminology that is understandable to respondents;
- (e) Its implementation will be consistent and compatible with current reporting and recordkeeping practices;
- (f) It indicates the retention period for recordkeeping requirements;
- (g) It informs respondents of the information called for under 5 CFR 1320.8(b)(3):
 - (i) Why the information is being collected;
 - (ii) Use of information;
 - (iii) Burden estimate;
 - (iv) Nature of response (voluntary, required for a benefit, mandatory);
 - (v) Nature and extent of confidentiality; and
 - (vi) Need to display currently valid OMB control number;
- (h) It was developed by an office that has planned and allocated resources for the efficient and effective management and use of the information to be collected (see note in Item 19 of instructions);
- (i) It uses effective and efficient statistical survey methodology; and
- (j) It makes appropriate use of information technology.

If you are unable to certify compliance with any of the provisions, identify the item below and explain the reason in Item 18 of the Supporting Statement.

Signature of Senior Official or designee

Date

Agency Certification (signature of Assistant Administrator, Deputy Assistant Administrator, Line Office Chief Information Officer, head of MB staff for L.O.s, or of the Director of a Program or StaffOffice)

Signature

Date

Signature of NOAA Clearance Officer

Signature

Date

**SUPPORTING STATEMENT
MARINE MAMMAL HEALTH AND STRANDING RESPONSE PROGRAM SURVEY
FOR STRANDING NETWORK PARTICIPANTS
OMB CONTROL NO. 0648-xxxx**

A. JUSTIFICATION

1. Explain the circumstances that make the collection of information necessary.

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has the authority to establish and manage the Marine Mammal Health and Stranding Response Program (MMHSRP) under Title IV of the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) (16 U.S.C. 1421 *et seq.*). The National Marine Mammal Stranding Network is a major component of the MMHSRP and consists of organizations nationwide that respond to stranded cetaceans and pinnipeds (except walrus) on land and within United States (U.S.) waters. These organizations are authorized either through Stranding Agreements issued by NMFS under section 112(c) (16 U.S.C. 1382 *et seq.*) of the MMPA or under section 109(h) (16 U.S.C. 1379 *et seq.*) of the MMPA, which authorizes Federal, state, and local government employees to take marine mammals in the course of their official duties. Organizations involved in the Network include academic institutions, museums, government agencies, Native American tribes and Alaska Native Communities, non-profit and for-profit organizations, and individuals.

The National Stranding Network is managed by the NMFS Office of Protected Resources. The Network is organized into six Regional Stranding Networks corresponding with each of the NMFS jurisdictional regions: Northeast, Southeast, Southwest, Northwest, Alaska, and Pacific Islands. The MMHSRP is beginning program reviews of the Regional Stranding Networks and the survey will be used to assist in the evaluation process. Data will be collected regarding performance, organizational structure, objectives, and needs of the regional program as well as the overall national program. Specific information to be collected includes:

- 1) training levels and perceptions of experience among network participants;
- 2) funding and support among network participant organizations;
- 3) network management and administration;
- 4) satisfaction with protocols and response activities among network participant organizations;
- 5) communication, evaluation, and assessment among network participants and NMFS;
- 6) outreach, publicity, and NMFS support; and
- 7) network improvement.

The information will be used to prioritize and discuss issues of concern and assist with future program management and planning.

2. Explain how, by whom, how frequently, and for what purpose the information will be used. If the information collected will be disseminated to the public or used to support information that will be disseminated to the public, then explain how the collection complies with all applicable Information Quality Guidelines.

A contractor, Responsive Management, will conduct the survey, analyze the data, and provide NMFS with a final report. The survey will be conducted once in each NMFS region, starting with the Southeast and Southwest Regions in 2008. The final report will include an overall summary, a summary of overlapping themes, common issues in each region, and issues specific to each region. Regional meetings will be held to prioritize and discuss issues of concern that

were highlighted in the survey responses. The results of the survey will be disseminated to members of the regional stranding networks and will not be disseminated to the public.

As explained in the preceding paragraphs, the information gathered has utility. NMFS will retain control over the information and safeguard it from improper access, modification, and destruction consistent with National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) standards for confidentiality, privacy, and electronic information. See response to Question 10 of this Supporting Statement for more information on confidentiality and privacy. The information collection is designed to yield data that meet all applicable information quality guidelines. Although the information collected is not expected to be disseminated directly to the public, results may be used in management, technical, or general informational publications. Should NMFS decide to disseminate the information, it will be subject to the quality control measures and pre-dissemination review pursuant to [Section 515 of Public Law 106-554](#).

3. Describe whether, and to what extent, the collection of information involves the use of automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological techniques or other forms of information technology.

Respondents may complete the survey in multiple modes: telephone, mail, e-mail, and/or via a program website. In this way, a respondent will be able to submit responses according to the survey format best suited to his/her schedule. The link, to be set up after this request is approved, will be provided to those respondents choosing this mode.

4. Describe efforts to identify duplication.

The MMHSRP has not previously conducted program reviews and therefore has not gathered this information from Regional Stranding Network participants. This information has not and is not being collected separately by Regional Stranding Coordinators or other members of the regional stranding networks.

5. If the collection of information involves small businesses or other small entities, describe the methods used to minimize burden.

This information collection will not have a significant impact on small businesses or entities as the survey is voluntary and will be administered only once to the respondents.

6. Describe the consequences to the Federal program or policy activities if the collection is not conducted or is conducted less frequently.

If the information collection is not conducted, NMFS will not be able to conduct a thorough program review of each Regional Stranding Network. Without this information, adequate management and policy decisions cannot be made, which may impact the quality and effectiveness of the National Marine Mammal Stranding Network.

7. Explain any special circumstances that require the collection to be conducted in a manner inconsistent with OMB guidelines.

Not applicable.

8. Provide information on the PRA Federal Register Notice that solicited public comments on the information collection prior to this submission. Summarize the public comments received in response to that notice and describe the actions taken by the agency in response to those comments. Describe the efforts to consult with persons outside the agency to obtain their views on the availability of data, frequency of collection, the clarity of instructions and recordkeeping, disclosure, or reporting format (if any), and on the data elements to be recorded, disclosed, or reported.

A Federal Register Notice, published on January 22, 2008 (73 FR 3698), solicited public comments on the survey. No public comments were received.

Discussions were held with the Marine Mammal Commission to review the MMHSRP, current practices and program objectives for each of the Regional Stranding Networks, and the goals of the program evaluation. The survey questions were developed by Responsive Management (outside contractor) and NMFS Protected Resources staff. The survey questions were reviewed by the NMFS Regional Stranding Coordinators for content and clarity.

9. Explain any decisions to provide payments or gifts to respondents, other than remuneration of contractors or grantees.

No payments or gifts are provided to respondents.

10. Describe any assurance of confidentiality provided to respondents and the basis for assurance in statute, regulation, or agency policy.

The survey respondents will be instructed not to include personal information, including phone numbers and e-mail addresses. In accordance with the **Freedom of Information Act**, any personal information inadvertently included may be redacted from a response to a request for information by another party, depending on the information and circumstances. All information collected from the survey will be protected. Responses will not be associated with a name when data is analyzed or reported. Any identifying information used to ensure accuracy of data collection will be excluded from the data analysis. Hard copy survey responses will be handled only by analysts and Responsive Management personnel. Upon completion of the study, hard copy survey responses will be destroyed. The electronic database of survey submissions will be

password-protected and accessible only to Responsive Management analysts working on the study.

11. Provide additional justification for any questions of a sensitive nature, such as sexual behavior and attitudes, religious beliefs, and other matters that are commonly considered private.

The information collection does not require the submission of information of a sensitive nature.

12. Provide an estimate in hours of the burden of the collection of information.

Responsive Management will survey two individuals at each of the organizations in the six Regional Stranding Networks and survey 100 program volunteers in each region. The total sample size of stakeholders (including volunteers) will be 882 over 3 years. The approximate number of respondents in 1 year would be 294. Each individual survey would take up to 1 hour. The estimated annualized burden hours would be 294.

13. Provide an estimate of the total annual cost burden to the respondents or record-keepers resulting from the collection (excluding the value of the burden hours in #12 above).

There would be no annual cost burden to the respondents. Each individual would only be surveyed one time, for up to 1 hour. Most interviews would be conducted by telephone and would not add any additional costs to the respondent. For interviews not conducted by telephone, surveys would be sent by mail and would include pre-paid envelopes to return the completed survey to Responsive Management.

14. Provide estimates of annualized cost to the Federal government.

The information collection has been contracted out to Responsive Management. The current contract for Responsive Management includes developing and conducting the survey, analyzing the survey data, and developing a final report. For two regional surveys, the cost of these services is approximately \$42,500. An additional four regional surveys would be needed to finish the program reviews. The additional surveys would cost approximately \$85,000. The total cost to the Federal government will be \$127,500, annualized to \$42,500.

15. Explain the reasons for any program changes or adjustments reported in Items 13 or 14 of the OMB 83-I.

This request is for a new collection.

16. For collections whose results will be published, outline the plans for tabulation and publication.

All telephone, mail, e-mail and/or web survey data will be processed and analyzed using Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) 10.0 for Windows software, and the analysis of the telephone survey will include a regional breakdown of results. Data processing and analysis will include data entry of the mail and e-mail surveys, coding, cleaning of data,

preparation of straight tabulations, computer programming with cross tabulations, and preparation of study printouts. Survey results will be presented at regional stranding network meetings in each NMFS region. A final recommendations and strategies report will be written based on the survey results.

17. If seeking approval to not display the expiration date for OMB approval of the information collection, explain the reasons why display would be inappropriate.

Not applicable.

18. Explain each exception to the certification statement identified in Item 19 of the OMB 83-I.

There are no exceptions.

B. COLLECTIONS OF INFORMATION EMPLOYING STATISTICAL METHODS

1. Describe (including a numerical estimate) the potential respondent universe and any sampling or other respondent selection method to be used. Data on the number of entities (e.g. establishments, State and local governmental units, households, or persons) in the universe and the corresponding sample are to be provided in tabular form. The tabulation must also include expected response rates for the collection as a whole. If the collection has been conducted before, provide the actual response rate achieved.

The potential respondent universe for this study includes all stakeholders and volunteers at organizations in each of the six Regional Stranding Networks. All networks will be represented in the sampling design.

Responsive Management will survey the top two primary responders from each of the organizations in the six Regional Stranding Networks. The table below summarizes the number of organizations, the sample size, and the expected response rate for each region. In addition to administering the survey to individuals at each organization actively involved in the Stranding Network, Responsive Management proposes to survey 100 program volunteers in each region. The stranding organizations would provide recommendations as to which volunteers to survey, based upon their level of involvement in stranding response activities. The total sample size of stakeholders (including volunteers) will be 882. A 100% response rate is expected because the participants are seen as stakeholders in the program, and will be motivated to improve the program by completing the survey.

Entities Within Universe	Sample	Expected Response Rate (100%)
Approximately seventeen (17) organizations actively involved in the Northeast Region Stranding Network	Two (2) individuals per organization and one hundred (100) program volunteers in the region	134 completed interviews
Approximately forty-seven (47) organizations actively involved in the Southeast Region Stranding Network	Two (2) individuals per organization and one hundred (100) program volunteers in the region	194 completed interviews
Approximately nineteen (19) organizations actively involved in the Southwest Region Stranding Network	Two (2) individuals per organization and one hundred (100) program volunteers in the region	138 completed interviews
Approximately thirty-one (31) organizations actively involved in the Northwest Region Stranding Network	Two (2) individuals per organization and one hundred (100) program volunteers in the region	162 completed interviews
Approximately seventeen (17) organizations actively involved in the Alaska Region Stranding Network	Two (2) individuals per organization and one hundred (100) program volunteers in the region	134 completed interviews
Approximately ten (10) organizations actively involved in the Pacific Islands Region Stranding Network	Two (2) individuals per organization and one hundred (100) program volunteers in the region	120 completed interviews
Total Expected Responses:		882 completed interviews

2. Describe the procedures for the collection, including: the statistical methodology for stratification and sample selection; the estimation procedure; the degree of accuracy needed for the purpose described in the justification; any unusual problems requiring specialized sampling procedures; and any use of periodic (less frequent than annual) data collection cycles to reduce burden.

Sample selection for the surveys will be provided by NMFS. Accuracy of the survey results will be of a high degree. Data will be collected with an unbiased survey instrument. Responsive Management will work to ensure a high response rate among stakeholders. This will be achieved by contacting individuals at different times of the day and week, and by scheduling appointments convenient to respondents. The multi-modal aspect of the survey is also crucial in this regard, as individuals have the opportunity to respond via telephone, mail, or through the Web-based questionnaire. Responsive Management will work at a 95% confidence interval when conducting the statistical analyses. Responsive Management anticipates no unusual problems requiring specialized sampling procedures.

3. Describe the methods used to maximize response rates and to deal with nonresponse. The accuracy and reliability of the information collected must be shown to be adequate for the intended uses. For collections based on sampling, a special justification must be provided if they will not yield "reliable" data that can be generalized to the universe studied.

The survey will be administered in multiple modes, such as telephone, mail, and/or web. Responsive Management's more than twenty years of experience interviewing professionals and volunteers suggests that a high response rate will be achieved by making the surveys available in

a variety of formats (including telephone, mail, and/or web). In this way, a respondent will be able to submit responses according to the survey format best suited to his/her schedule. In addition, the participants are seen as stakeholders in the program, and thus motivated to improve the program.

Telephone interviews will be conducted Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., and Sunday 3:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., local time. A five-callback design will be used to attain a high response rate. The five-callback system uses a total of at least four subsequent calls, often as many as eight, to each not-answered number selected in the original sample. Subsequent calls will be placed at different times of the day and different days of the week. In addition, respondents who decline to participate because of inconvenience will be called again to encourage their participation or to set an appointment for their participation. Converting refusals into completed interviews is an important part of Responsive Management's contact plan to help minimize nonresponse.

While the telephone survey represents the preferred sampling medium, Responsive Management has designed a paper version and a web-based version of the survey and will distribute the survey, via postal mail or via the web-based format, at the request of the respondents. Responsive Management will offer these survey versions during the initial telephone interview.

Mail surveys entail using various postal or similar (e.g., FedEx) delivery techniques to deliver surveys to potential respondents. Mail surveys may be effective in a variety of settings, most notably when contacting named respondents, when contacting respondents who are unlikely or unwilling to respond by telephone or other media, or when delivering some sort of stimulus about which a response will be measured.

Web-based surveys may also be highly effective in augmenting response rates when respondents contacted through another medium (mail/telephone) indicate that they would prefer another alternative method of responding. The online survey will ask the same questions as the telephone survey; formatting changes will be made to the survey instrument only to accommodate online viewing of the questionnaire.

4. Describe any tests of procedures or methods to be undertaken. Tests are encouraged as effective means to refine collections, but if ten or more test respondents are involved OMB must give prior approval.

Responsive Management will conduct internal tests of the survey instrument without live respondents and make any necessary revisions for logic, wording, and clarification. During the course of the telephone surveys, Responsive Management will monitor to ensure that the data collected are of the highest quality.

Additionally, Responsive Management's telephone interviewers are trained through lectures, role playing, and video training, according to the standards established by the Council of American Survey Research Organizations. The Survey Center Managers conduct in-depth project briefings with the interviewing staff prior to their working on the specific project. Interviewers are instructed on survey goals and objectives, type of study, handling of survey questions, interview length, termination points and qualifiers for participation, reading of interviewer instructions, reading of survey, reviewing of skip patterns, and probing and clarifying techniques necessary

for specific questions on the survey instrument.

The Survey Center Managers monitor the telephone workstations without the interviewers' knowledge of which interviews will be monitored. This allows the Survey Center Managers to maintain strict quality control over the data collection process.

5. Provide the name and telephone number of individuals consulted on the statistical aspects of the design, and the name of the agency unit, contractor(s), grantee(s), or other person(s) who will actually collect and/or analyze the information for the agency.

Responsive Management has been contracted to collect and analyze the information for the agency. The Executive Director of Responsive Management is Mark Damian Duda. Mr. Duda's telephone number is (540) 432-1888. The NMFS contact is Dr. Janet Whaley, National Stranding Coordinator, at (301) 713-2322.

Marine Mammal Health and Stranding Response Program Survey

Introduction

This survey is part of a program evaluation of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Marine Fisheries' (NMFS) Marine Mammal Health and Stranding Response Program's (MMHSRP) Southeast Region (SER) and Southwest Region (SWR) Stranding Networks. An important component of this study is to gather input regarding the SER and SWR Stranding Networks' current performance, organizational structure, objectives, and needs for the purpose of determining future program directions and enhancing program management and implementation.

You have been identified as a participant in the Marine Mammal Health and Stranding Network. Please take the time to complete this survey to the best of your knowledge. Your responses will help develop future plans for the direction and management of the program.

Please be candid; your answers are completely protected and will not be associated with your name or your organization in any way.

Please return the completed survey by [INSERT DATE HERE], 2008, by mail or fax.

Mailing Address:
Responsive Management
130 Franklin Street
Harrisonburg, VA 22801

Fax:
(540) 432-1892

Reasons for Participation and Organization Contact

1. In which region of the Marine Mammal Stranding Network do you participate?
 - Southeast Region
 - Southwest Region
 - Northeast Region
 - Northwest Region
 - Alaska Region
 - Pacific Islands Region
2. What are the major reasons for your participation in the Marine Mammal Stranding Network?

PLEASE TURN THE PAGE TO CONTINUE THE SURVEY 

-
-
3. How often could you say your organization is contacted for response assistance?
(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)
 A great deal A moderate amount A little Not at all Don't know
4. How many times in the past year would you estimate that your organization was contacted for response assistance? _____
5. How often would you say your organization is able to respond to calls for assistance?
(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)
 Always
 Often
 Sometimes
 Rarely
 Never
 Don't know

Network Participant Training Levels and Experience

6. Which of the following best describes you or your organization's authority as a participant in the Marine Mammal Stranding Network?
(CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)
 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration employee
 Other federal employee
 State or local employee
 Authorized for dead / live response (Section 112c of MMPA)
 Authorized for rehabilitation (Section 112c of MMPA)
 Designee of Stranding Agreement holder
 Other: _____

- Don't know
7. How did you receive your Level A training?
(CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)
 Through NMFS-approved training / NMFS workshop
 Through present organization of employment
 Through previous organization of employment
 Through an educational institution
 Other: _____

8. How would you describe your level of experience with regard to the scope of work and primary duties involved with your role in the Marine Mammal Stranding Network?

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- A great deal of experience
- A moderate amount of experience
- A little experience
- No experience at all

9a. Do you agree or disagree that you personally feel adequately trained to fulfill the duties expected of you?

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- Strongly agree (SKIP TO QUESTION 10a)
- Moderately agree (SKIP TO QUESTION 10a)
- Neither agree nor disagree (CONTINUE TO QUESTION 9b)
- Moderately disagree (CONTINUE TO QUESTION 9b)
- Strongly disagree (CONTINUE TO QUESTION 9b)
- Don't know (SKIP TO QUESTION 10a)

9b. What are the reasons you do not feel adequately trained to fulfill the duties expected of you?

10a. Do you agree or disagree that gaps or discrepancies exist in the training and educational backgrounds of some regional Network participants?

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- Strongly agree (CONTINUE TO QUESTION 10b)
- Moderately agree (CONTINUE TO QUESTION 10b)
- Neither agree nor disagree (SKIP TO QUESTION 11)
- Moderately disagree (SKIP TO QUESTION 11)
- Strongly disagree (SKIP TO QUESTION 11)
- Don't know (SKIP TO QUESTION 11)

10b. Do you consider gaps and discrepancies in the training and educational backgrounds of some regional Network participants to be problematic to the overall effectiveness of the Marine Mammal Stranding Network?

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- Very problematic
- Somewhat problematic
- Not at all problematic
- Don't know

PLEASE CONTINUE TO PAGE 4 

Funding and Support Among Network Participant Organizations

11. Do you agree or disagree that your organization is currently being funded at a level adequate to fulfill the duties of a Stranding Network participating organization?

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- Strongly agree
- Moderately agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Moderately disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

12. How is your organization currently funded?

(CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

- Prescott Grant
- Grants, excluding Prescott Grant
- Private donations / private funding
- Endowed chair(s)
- Merchandise sales
- Registration / membership fees
- Other: _____

Don't know

- IF CHECKED MORE THAN ONE SOURCE OF FUNDING, PLEASE CONTINUE TO QUESTION 13
- IF CHECKED "PRESCOTT GRANT" AS ONLY SOURCE OF FUNDING, PLEASE SKIP TO QUESTION 14a ON PAGE 5
- IF CHECKED ONLY ONE SOURCE OF FUNDING OTHER THAN "PRESCOTT GRANT," PLEASE SKIP TO QUESTION 16 ON PAGE 6

13. What is your organization's primary source of funding?

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- Prescott Grant
- Grants, excluding Prescott Grant
- Private donations / private funding
- Endowed chair(s)
- Merchandise sales
- Registration / membership fees
- Other: _____

Don't know

- IF CHECKED "PRESCOTT GRANT" AS A SOURCE OF FUNDING FOR QUESTION 12, PLEASE CONTINUE TO QUESTION 14a ON PAGE 5
- IF DID NOT CHECK "PRESCOTT GRANT" AS A SOURCE OF FUNDING FOR QUESTION 12, PLEASE SKIP TO QUESTION 16 ON PAGE 6

14a. How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the funding opportunities made available through the Prescott Grant?

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- Very satisfied (SKIP TO QUESTION 15a)
- Somewhat satisfied (SKIP TO QUESTION 15a)
- Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied (SKIP TO QUESTION 15a)
- Somewhat dissatisfied (CONTINUE TO QUESTION 14b)
- Very dissatisfied (CONTINUE TO QUESTION 14b)
- Don't know (SKIP TO QUESTION 15a)

14b. Why are you dissatisfied with the funding opportunities made available through the Prescott Grant?

(CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

- Not enough funds to cover organization needs
- Funds do not arrive in time / are awarded late
- Prescott priorities fail to encompass scope of work
- Prescott review process is unfair / inadequate
- Prescott award process is influenced too much by favoritism / politics
- Prescott award process is influenced by region(s) / favors certain regions
- Prescott award process is influenced by certain areas of the country / favors certain areas of the country
- Other: _____
- Don't know

15a. How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the application process for the Prescott Grant?

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- Very satisfied (SKIP TO QUESTION 16)
- Somewhat satisfied (SKIP TO QUESTION 16)
- Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied (SKIP TO QUESTION 16)
- Somewhat dissatisfied (CONTINUE TO QUESTION 15b)
- Very dissatisfied (CONTINUE TO QUESTION 15b)
- Don't know (SKIP TO QUESTION 16)

15b. Why are you dissatisfied with the application process for the Prescott Grant?

- Grant requirements / guidelines are unclear
- Application / award process based too much on politics / favoritism
- Application / award process favors certain regions / disproportionate spreading of funds throughout Network
- Application / award process timeline is too short
- Application / award process requires too much information
- Application / award process does not allow for enough information / inadequate room to express relevant information
- Other: _____
- Don't know

PLEASE CONTINUE TO PAGE 6 

➤ ALL RESPONDENTS CONTINUE HERE

16. Does your organization participate in post-release monitoring of marine mammals?

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- Yes (CONTINUE TO QUESTION 17)
- No (SKIP TO QUESTION 18)
- Don't know (SKIP TO QUESTION 18)

17. Do you agree or disagree that your organization has adequate funding with which to conduct post-release monitoring of marine mammals? (CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- Strongly agree
- Moderately agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Moderately disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

18. What resources do you need in order to improve the effectiveness of your organization?

(CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

- Funding
 - Staff
 - Equipment / technology
 - Packing / shipping materials for carcasses, tissues, etc.
 - Training
 - Regulations / guidelines
 - Other: _____
-

19a. How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the National Marine Fisheries Service's ability to provide your organization with the resources necessary to it? (CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- Very satisfied (SKIP TO QUESTION 20a)
- Somewhat satisfied (SKIP TO QUESTION 20a)
- Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied (SKIP TO QUESTION 20a)
- Somewhat dissatisfied (CONTINUE TO QUESTION 19b)
- Very dissatisfied (CONTINUE TO QUESTION 19b)
- Don't know (SKIP TO QUESTION 20a)

19b. Why are you dissatisfied with the National Marine Fisheries ability to provide your organization with the resources necessary to it?

Opinions On Network Management and Administration

20a. How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the current structure and organization of the regional Marine Mammal Stranding Network? (CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- Very satisfied (SKIP TO QUESTION 21a)
- Somewhat satisfied (SKIP TO QUESTION 21a)
- Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied (SKIP TO QUESTION 21a)
- Somewhat dissatisfied (CONTINUE TO QUESTION 20b)
- Very dissatisfied (CONTINUE TO QUESTION 20b)
- Don't know (SKIP TO QUESTION 21a)

20b. Why are you dissatisfied with the current structure and organization of the regional Marine Mammal Stranding Network? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

- Too restrictive
- Too disorganized / lack of clear structure
- Too much bureaucracy
- Can't get clear answers to duty / priority questions
- Structure / organization allows too much room for politics / favoritism
- Inconsistency between regions
- Structure / organization moves too slowly / hinders efficient responses
- Other: _____

21a. How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the current structure and organization of the national Marine Mammal Stranding Network? (CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- Very satisfied (SKIP TO QUESTION 22a)
- Somewhat satisfied (SKIP TO QUESTION 22a)
- Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied (SKIP TO QUESTION 22a)
- Somewhat dissatisfied (CONTINUE TO QUESTION 21b)
- Very dissatisfied (CONTINUE TO QUESTION 21b)
- Don't know (SKIP TO QUESTION 22a)

21b. Why are you dissatisfied with the current structure and organization of the national Marine Mammal Stranding Network? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

- Too restrictive
- Too disorganized / lack of clear structure
- Too much bureaucracy
- Can't get clear answers to duty / priority questions
- Inconsistency between regions
- Structure / organization allows too much room for politics / favoritism
- Structure / organization moves too slowly / hinders efficient responses
- Other: _____

PLEASE CONTINUE TO PAGE 8 

-
- 22a. How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the current management and accessibility of data within the regional Marine Mammal Stranding Network? (CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)
- Very satisfied (SKIP TO QUESTION 23a)
 - Somewhat satisfied (SKIP TO QUESTION 23a)
 - Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied (SKIP TO QUESTION 23a)
 - Somewhat dissatisfied (CONTINUE TO QUESTION 22b)
 - Very dissatisfied (CONTINUE TO QUESTION 22b)
 - Don't know (SKIP TO QUESTION 23a)
- 22b. Why are you dissatisfied with the current management and accessibility of data within the regional Marine Mammal Stranding Network? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)
- Lack of organization / management
 - Lack of accessibility
 - Not enough data / limited availability
 - Poor cooperation among participants with regard to data sharing
 - Risk of losing proprietary data
 - Unclear distinction between Level A and Level B data
 - Inconsistency between regions
 - Other: _____
- 23a. How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the Marine Mammal Stranding Network's National Database? (CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)
- Very satisfied (SKIP TO QUESTION 24a)
 - Somewhat satisfied (SKIP TO QUESTION 24a)
 - Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied (SKIP TO QUESTION 24a)
 - Somewhat dissatisfied (CONTINUE TO QUESTION 23b)
 - Very dissatisfied (CONTINUE TO QUESTION 23b)
 - Don't know (SKIP TO QUESTION 24a)
- 23b. Why are you dissatisfied with the Marine Mammal Stranding Network's National Database? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)
- Lack of accessibility / cannot log in to the Database
 - Lack of organization / management
 - Not enough data / limited availability
 - Database requires too much information
 - Poor cooperation among participants with regard to data sharing
 - Risk of losing proprietary data
 - Difficulties with query system / interface
 - Unresponsiveness by NMFS to requests made concerning database
 - Changes made by NMFS to database without notice
 - Inconsistency between regions
 - Other: _____

24a. How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the Stranding Agreements issued by the National Marine Fisheries Service to Network participant organizations, in terms of their ability to effectively communicate authority, priorities, responsibilities, and overall purpose of involvement?

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- Very satisfied (SKIP TO QUESTION 25a)
- Somewhat satisfied (SKIP TO QUESTION 25a)
- Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied (SKIP TO QUESTION 25a)
- Somewhat dissatisfied (CONTINUE TO QUESTION 24b)
- Very dissatisfied (CONTINUE TO QUESTION 24b)
- Don't know (SKIP TO QUESTION 25a)

24b. Why are you dissatisfied with the Stranding Agreements issued by the National Marine Fisheries Service to Network participant organizations?

(CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

- Unclear / ambiguous wording
- Too detailed
- Not detailed enough
- Fail to cover key / necessary information
- Too much information required to reapply or renew
- Criteria too restrictive
- Stranding Agreements too restrictive
- Inconsistency between regions
- Other: _____

25a. How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the disposition determinations issued by the National Marine Fisheries Service? (CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- Very satisfied (SKIP TO QUESTION 26a)
- Somewhat satisfied (SKIP TO QUESTION 26a)
- Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied (SKIP TO QUESTION 26a)
- Somewhat dissatisfied (CONTINUE TO QUESTION 25b)
- Very dissatisfied (CONTINUE TO QUESTION 25b)
- Don't know (SKIP TO QUESTION 26a)

25b. Why are you dissatisfied with the disposition determinations issued by the National Marine Fisheries Service?

(CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

- Unclear / ambiguous wording
- Too detailed
- Not detailed enough
- Fail to cover key / necessary information
- Inconsistency between regions
- Other: _____

PLEASE CONTINUE TO PAGE 10 

26a. How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the parts authorizations issued within the regional Marine Mammal Stranding Network?

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- Very satisfied (SKIP TO QUESTION 27a)
- Somewhat satisfied (SKIP TO QUESTION 27a)
- Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied (SKIP TO QUESTION 27a)
- Somewhat dissatisfied (CONTINUE TO QUESTION 26b)
- Very dissatisfied (CONTINUE TO QUESTION 26b)
- Don't know (SKIP TO QUESTION 27a)

26b. Why are you dissatisfied with the parts authorizations issued by the regional National Marine Fisheries Service office?

(CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

- Unclear / ambiguous wording
 - Too detailed
 - Not detailed enough
 - Fail to cover key / necessary information
 - Process within regions to get authorization letters too cumbersome / bureaucratic
 - Inconsistency between regions
 - Other: _____
-

27a. Do you agree or disagree that Regional Stranding Agreements limit your operations?

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- Strongly agree (CONTINUE TO QUESTION 27b)
- Moderately agree (CONTINUE TO QUESTION 27b)
- Neither agree nor disagree (SKIP TO QUESTION 28)
- Moderately disagree (SKIP TO QUESTION 28)
- Strongly disagree (SKIP TO QUESTION 28)
- Don't know (SKIP TO QUESTION 28)

27b. In what ways do the Regional Stranding Agreements limit the operations of your organization?

(CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

- Prevent responses to certain species
 - Limit the amount of attention allowed for a certain species
 - Do not take into account local ecosystems / local indigenous species
 - Prevent best-suited organization / facility from responding to stranded mammals
 - Other: _____
-

Satisfaction with Protocols and Response Activities Among Network Participant Organizations

Please indicate how well informed you feel regarding current National Marine Fisheries Service guidelines, protocols, and procedures relating to each of the following areas in the table below.

Area	Very informed	Somewhat informed	Not at all informed	Don't know
28. Stranding responses				
29. Disentanglement responses				
30. Large whale responses				
31. Humane treatment				
32. Rehabilitation of marine mammals				
33. Unusual Mortality Events				

34a. How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with current National Marine Fisheries Service guidelines, protocols, and procedures relating to stranding responses?

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- Very satisfied (SKIP TO QUESTION 35a)
- Somewhat satisfied (SKIP TO QUESTION 35a)
- Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied (SKIP TO QUESTION 35a)
- Somewhat dissatisfied (CONTINUE TO QUESTION 34b)
- Very dissatisfied (CONTINUE TO QUESTION 34b)
- Don't know (SKIP TO QUESTION 35a)

34b. Why are you dissatisfied with current National Marine Fisheries Service guidelines, protocols, and procedures relating to stranding responses?

(CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

- Guidelines, protocols, and procedures allow for poorly coordinated responses
- Guidelines, protocols, and procedures do not ensure timeliness in responses
- Guidelines, protocols, and procedures do not plan for / take into account irregular circumstances (mass strandings)
- Other: _____

PLEASE CONTINUE TO PAGE 12 

35a. How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with current National Marine Fisheries Service guidelines, protocols, and procedures relating to disentanglement responses?

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- Very satisfied (SKIP TO QUESTION 36a)
- Somewhat satisfied (SKIP TO QUESTION 36a)
- Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied (SKIP TO QUESTION 36a)
- Somewhat dissatisfied (CONTINUE TO QUESTION 35b)
- Very dissatisfied (CONTINUE TO QUESTION 35b)
- Don't know (SKIP TO QUESTION 36a)

35b. Why are you dissatisfied with current National Marine Fisheries Service guidelines, protocols, and procedures relating to disentanglement responses?

(CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

- Guidelines, protocols, and procedures allow for poorly coordinated responses
 - Guidelines, protocols, and procedures do not ensure timeliness in responses
 - Guidelines, protocols, and procedures do not adequately define responder criteria / roles
 - Dissatisfaction associated with the inclusion of outside specialists and non-local expert assistance
 - Other: _____
- _____

36a. How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with current National Marine Fisheries Service guidelines, protocols, and procedures relating to large whale stranding events?

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- Very satisfied (SKIP TO QUESTION 37a)
- Somewhat satisfied (SKIP TO QUESTION 37a)
- Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied (SKIP TO QUESTION 37a)
- Somewhat dissatisfied (CONTINUE TO QUESTION 36b)
- Very dissatisfied (CONTINUE TO QUESTION 36b)
- Don't know (SKIP TO QUESTION 37a)

36b. Why are you dissatisfied with current National Marine Fisheries Service guidelines, protocols, and procedures relating to large whale stranding events?

(CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

- Guidelines, protocols, and procedures allow for poorly coordinated responses
 - Guidelines, protocols, and procedures do not ensure timeliness in responses
 - Guidelines, protocols, and procedures place too much emphasis on right whales
 - Guidelines, protocols, and procedures do not place enough emphasis on right whales
 - Guidelines, protocols, and procedures do not adequately define whale responder criteria / roles
 - Dissatisfaction associated with the inclusion of outside specialists and non-local expert assistance
 - Other: _____
- _____

37a. How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with current National Marine Fisheries Service guidelines, protocols, and procedures relating to large whale entanglements?

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- Very satisfied (SKIP TO QUESTION 38a)
- Somewhat satisfied (SKIP TO QUESTION 38a)
- Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied (SKIP TO QUESTION 38a)
- Somewhat dissatisfied (CONTINUE TO QUESTION 37b)
- Very dissatisfied (CONTINUE TO QUESTION 37b)
- Don't know (SKIP TO QUESTION 38a)

37b. Why are you dissatisfied with current National Marine Fisheries Service guidelines, protocols, and procedures relating to large whale entanglements?

(CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

- Guidelines, protocols, and procedures allow for poorly coordinated responses
- Guidelines, protocols, and procedures do not ensure timeliness in responses
- Guidelines, protocols, and procedures place too much emphasis on right whales
- Guidelines, protocols, and procedures do not place enough emphasis on right whales
- Guidelines, protocols, and procedures do not adequately define whale responder criteria / roles
- Dissatisfaction associated with the inclusion of outside specialists and non-local expert assistance
- Other: _____

38a. How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with current National Marine Fisheries Service guidelines, protocols, and procedures relating to humane treatment?

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- Very satisfied (SKIP TO QUESTION 39a)
- Somewhat satisfied (SKIP TO QUESTION 39a)
- Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied (SKIP TO QUESTION 39a)
- Somewhat dissatisfied (CONTINUE TO QUESTION 38b)
- Very dissatisfied (CONTINUE TO QUESTION 38b)
- Don't know (SKIP TO QUESTION 39a)

38b. Why are you dissatisfied with current National Marine Fisheries Service guidelines, protocols, and procedures relating to humane treatment?

(CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

- Guidelines, protocols, and procedures do not adequately define humane treatment
- Guidelines, protocols, and procedures allow for disproportionate focus on terminal mammals
- Inadequate support from NMFS regarding humane treatment decision-making
- Other: _____

PLEASE CONTINUE TO PAGE 14 

39a. How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with current National Marine Fisheries Service guidelines, protocols, and procedures relating to rehabilitation of marine mammals?

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- Very satisfied (SKIP TO QUESTION 40a)
- Somewhat satisfied (SKIP TO QUESTION 40a)
- Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied (SKIP TO QUESTION 40a)
- Somewhat dissatisfied (CONTINUE TO QUESTION 39b)
- Very dissatisfied (CONTINUE TO QUESTION 39b)
- Don't know (SKIP TO QUESTION 40a)

39b. Why are you dissatisfied with current National Marine Fisheries Service guidelines, protocols, and procedures relating to rehabilitation of marine mammals?

(CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

- The role of display / entertainment / educational facilities in determining which species are priorities for rehabilitation
- Guidelines, protocols, and procedures do not provide adequate resources for successful rehabilitation
- Guidelines, protocols, and procedures do not take into account all necessary resources, funds necessary for rehabilitation of marine mammals
- Other: _____

40a. How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with current National Marine Fisheries Service guidelines, protocols, and procedures relating to Unusual Mortality Events?

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- Very satisfied (SKIP TO QUESTION 41)
- Somewhat satisfied (SKIP TO QUESTION 41)
- Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied (SKIP TO QUESTION 41)
- Somewhat dissatisfied (CONTINUE TO QUESTION 40b)
- Very dissatisfied (CONTINUE TO QUESTION 40b)
- Don't know (SKIP TO QUESTION 41)

40b. Why are you dissatisfied with current National Marine Fisheries Service guidelines, protocols, and procedures relating to Unusual Mortality Events? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

- Guidelines, protocols, and procedures contain inadequate criteria for determining Unusual Mortality
- Guidelines, protocols, and procedures allow for inadequate procedural advice provided by Unusual Mortality Working Group
- Guidelines, protocols, and procedures do not allow for adequate management of Marine Mammal Unusual Mortality Event Fund
- Guidelines, protocols, and procedures allow for too much bureaucracy
- Funding is too restrictive
- Dissatisfaction associated with the inclusion of outside specialists and non-local expert assistance
- Other: _____

41. How does your organization determine its policies on euthanasia?

(CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

- Organization does not euthanize marine mammals
- Based on the extent of sickness / injuries of mammal
- Based on amount of available room at facility for mammal
- Based on availability of appropriate rehabilitation space within the region
- Based on the extent of the mammal's suffering
- Based on the commonness / abundance of the species
- Other: _____

42a. Does your organization participate in rehabilitation?

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- Yes (CONTINUE TO QUESTIONS 42b-d IN THE TABLE BELOW)
- No (SKIP TO QUESTION 43 ON PAGE 16)
- Don't know (SKIP TO QUESTION 43 ON PAGE 16)

Recognizing that initial response assessments may not always accurately determine whether or not a cetacean will be releasable after rehabilitation, how often would you say your organization takes in cetaceans that are initially deemed to be:	Always	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never	Don't know
42b. releasable						
42c. conditionally releasable						
42d. non-releasable						

42e. How important should the age class of a mammal be in terms of determining a candidate for evaluation?

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- Very important
- Somewhat important
- Not at all important
- Don't know

42f. How important should the species of a mammal be in terms of determining a candidate for evaluation? Should species be a very important, somewhat important, or not at all important factor in determining a candidate for evaluation?

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- Very important
- Somewhat important
- Not at all important
- Don't know

PLEASE CONTINUE TO PAGE 16 

-
43. Do you agree or disagree that your individual safety is taken into consideration by your organization when participating in field work for the Marine Mammal Stranding Network?
(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)
- Strongly agree
 - Moderately agree
 - Neither agree nor disagree
 - Moderately disagree
 - Strongly disagree
 - Don't know
44. Do you agree or disagree that your individual safety is taken into consideration by the National Marine Fisheries Service when participating in field work for the Marine Mammal Stranding Network?
(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)
- Strongly agree
 - Moderately agree
 - Neither agree nor disagree
 - Moderately disagree
 - Strongly disagree
 - Don't know
45. Do you support or oppose Network use of the Incident Command System to outline specific duties under certain circumstances, such as responses to oil spills or mass strandings?
(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)
- Strongly support
 - Moderately support
 - Neither support nor oppose
 - Moderately oppose
 - Strongly oppose
 - Don't know

PLEASE CONTINUE TO PAGE 17 

Please indicate how prepared you would say your organization is regarding response to each of the events listed in the far left column in the table below. For each event that you indicate your organization is not at all prepared, please indicate the reasons why you think your organization is not at all prepared on the right side of the table below.

How prepared would you say your organization is regarding response to a/an:	Very prepared	Somewhat prepared	Not at all prepared	Don't know	(IF NOT AT ALL PREPARED)						
					Why do you think your organization is unprepared regarding response to this event? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY.)						
					Funding	Staff	Training	Knowledge of proper guidelines, protocols, and procedures	Limited experienced in responding to this type of event	Other (Please specify.)	
46. Mass stranding											
47. Oil spill											
48. Unusual Mortality Event											
49. Large whale stranding											
50. Right whale stranding											
51. Disentanglement event (such as large cetacean or pinniped)											

PLEASE CONTINUE TO PAGE 18 

Communication, Evaluation, and Assessment Among Network Participants and NMFS

52. What is your perception of the role of the regional Stranding Coordinator?

53. What is your perception of the role of the national Stranding Coordinator?

54. How does your organization assess its communications with the National Marine Fisheries Service?
(CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

- Organization does not communicate with NMFS (SKIP TO QUESTION 56)
- Communicate with NMFS through regional coordinator
- Communicate with NMFS through state coordinator
- Communicate with NMFS through national coordinator
- Communicate with NMFS through regional conferences / meetings
- Communicate with NMFS through national conferences / meetings
- Other: _____

55. How frequently does your organization communicate with the National Marine Fisheries Service, either directly or through a regional or state coordinator?
(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- A couple times a week
- Once a week
- A couple times a month
- Once a month
- Once every three months
- Once every six months
- Once a year
- Less than once a year
- Don't know

56. On a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 is poor and 10 is excellent, how would you rate the expertise and quality of information provided by National Marine Fisheries Service staff?

(CIRCLE ONE)

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

57. On a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 is poor and 10 is excellent, how would you rate the quality of communication and ability of the National Marine Fisheries Service to effectively provide your organization with information and assistance?

(CIRCLE ONE)

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

58. Overall, how would you describe communication between the National Marine Fisheries Service and your organization?

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

Excellent Good Fair Poor Don't know

59. How would you describe communication between the National Marine Fisheries Service and your organization during responses to strandings?

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

Excellent Good Fair Poor Don't know

60. How would you describe communication between the National Marine Fisheries Service and your organization after responses to strandings?

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

Excellent Good Fair Poor Don't know

61a. How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the decision-making and support provided by the National Marine Fisheries Service during stranding events?

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- Very satisfied (SKIP TO QUESTION 62)
- Somewhat satisfied (SKIP TO QUESTION 62)
- Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied (SKIP TO QUESTION 62)
- Somewhat dissatisfied (CONTINUE TO QUESTION 61b)
- Very dissatisfied (CONTINUE TO QUESTION 61b)
- Don't know (SKIP TO QUESTION 62)

61b. Why are you dissatisfied with the decision-making and support provided by the National Marine Fisheries Service during stranding events?

PLEASE CONTINUE TO PAGE 20 

62. How confident do you feel about the decision-making abilities of the regional Network during various stranding responses?

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- Very confident
- Somewhat confident
- Not at all confident
- Don't know

➤ IF YOU ARE A PARTICIPANT IN THE SOUTHEAST REGION, PLEASE CONTINUE QUESTION 63

➤ IF YOU ARE NOT A PARTICIPANT IN THE SOUTHEAST REGION, PLEASE SKIP TO QUESTION 65

63. How would you describe communication between the state coordinator and your organization?

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- Excellent
- Good
- Fair
- Poor
- Don't know

64. How would you describe communication between National Marine Fisheries Service area representatives and your organization?

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- Excellent
- Good
- Fair
- Poor
- Don't know

(ALL RESPONDENTS CONTINUE HERE)

65. How would you describe communication between your organization and other Network participant organizations in your region?

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- Excellent
- Good
- Fair
- Poor
- Don't know

66. How would you describe communication between your region and other regions throughout the national Marine Mammal Stranding Network?

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- Excellent
- Good
- Fair
- Poor
- Don't know

67. How would you describe the regional Network's efforts to keep Network participants informed of the latest trends, developments, and information regarding the operations of the Network?

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- Excellent
- Good
- Fair
- Poor
- Don't know

68a. Do you agree or disagree that the National Marine Fisheries Service actively listens to Network participants when developing its various products and services?

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- Strongly agree (SKIP TO QUESTION 69)
- Moderately agree (SKIP TO QUESTION 69)
- Neither agree nor disagree (SKIP TO QUESTION 69)
- Moderately disagree (CONTINUE TO QUESTION 68b)
- Strongly disagree (CONTINUE TO QUESTION 68b)
- Don't know (SKIP TO QUESTION 69)

68b. Why do you feel that the National Marine Fisheries Service does not actively listen to Network participants when developing its various products and services?

69. What would be the best way for the National Marine Fisheries Service to provide your organization with news, updates and relevant information regarding the Network and its operations?

(CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

- Direct mail
- Telephone notification
- Press releases
- Web site / Internet
- E-mail
- Organization newsletters
- Other: _____
- Don't know

➤ IF ANSWERED YES TO QUESTION 42a THAT YOUR ORGANIZATION PARTICIPATES IN REHABILITATION, CONTINUE TO QUESTION 70)

➤ IF ANSWERED NO TO QUESTION 42a THAT YOUR ORGANIZATION DOES NOT PARTICIPATE IN REHABILITATION OR YOU DO NOT KNOW, SKIP TO QUESTION 71)

70a. Do you agree or disagree that the National Marine Fisheries Service is doing enough to work with your organization to assess rehabilitation success rates?

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- Strongly agree (SKIP TO QUESTION 71a)
- Moderately agree (SKIP TO QUESTION 71a)
- Neither agree nor disagree (SKIP TO QUESTION 71a)
- Moderately disagree (CONTINUE TO QUESTION 70b)
- Strongly disagree (CONTINUE TO QUESTION 70b)
- Don't know (SKIP TO QUESTION 71a)

70b. How can the National Marine Fisheries Service improve the assessment of rehabilitation success rates at your organization?

PLEASE CONTINUE TO PAGE 22 

Opinions On Outreach, Publicity, and NMFS Support

71a. Does your organization currently offer outreach?

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- Yes (CONTINUE TO QUESTION 71b)
- No (SKIP TO QUESTION 72)
- Don't know (SKIP TO QUESTION 72)

71b. Which types or methods of outreach does your organization currently offer?

(CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

- Websites
 - Listservs
 - Newsletters / e-newsletters
 - Member / employee directory
 - Educational classes / seminars
 - Training programs
 - Other: _____
-

71c. Is the outreach offered by your organization funded or otherwise supported by the National Marine Fisheries Service? (CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- Wholly funded or otherwise supported by NMFS
- Partially funded or otherwise supported by NMFS
- Not funded or otherwise supported by NMFS
- Don't know

72. How would you rate your organization's efforts to provide feedback to the public regarding strandings and other Network information? (CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- Excellent
- Good
- Fair
- Poor
- Don't know

73. How would you rate the National Marine Fisheries Service's efforts to provide feedback to the public regarding strandings and other Network information? Would you say excellent, good, fair, poor, or do you not know? (CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- Excellent
- Good
- Fair
- Poor
- Don't know

74. Do you agree or disagree that your organization feels public pressure to respond to and / or to save every marine mammal?

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- Strongly agree
- Moderately agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Moderately disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

75. How would you rate your organization's efforts to handle media and publicity?

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- Excellent
- Good
- Fair
- Poor
- Don't know

76. How would you rate the efforts of the National Marine Fisheries Service to assist your organization with media and publicity (such as during major stranding events, etc.)? (CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- Excellent
- Good
- Fair
- Poor
- Don't know

77a. Do you agree or disagree that the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the National Marine Fisheries Service adequately engage communities and respect the cultural traditions and practices of Network areas? (CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- Strongly agree (SKIP TO QUESTION 78a)
- Moderately agree (SKIP TO QUESTION 78a)
- Neither agree nor disagree (SKIP TO QUESTION 78a)
- Moderately disagree (CONTINUE TO QUESTION 77b)
- Strongly disagree (CONTINUE TO QUESTION 77b)
- Don't know (SKIP TO QUESTION 78a)

77b. Why do you feel that the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the National Marine Fisheries Service do not adequately engage communities and respect the cultural traditions and practices of Network areas?

78a. Do you agree or disagree that the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration should be working more closely with neighboring nations to provide training, enhanced communication or collaboration with other countries? (CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- Strongly agree (CONTINUE TO QUESTION 78b)
- Moderately agree (CONTINUE TO QUESTION 78b)
- Neither agree nor disagree (SKIP TO QUESTION 79)
- Moderately disagree (SKIP TO QUESTION 79)
- Strongly disagree (SKIP TO QUESTION 79)
- Don't know (SKIP TO QUESTION 79)

78b. With which other nations should the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration work to provide training, enhanced communication or collaboration?

PLEASE CONTINUE TO PAGE 24 

Attitudes Toward Network Improvement

79. Do you agree or disagree that you personally have noticed an improvement in the day-to-day operations of the Marine Mammal Stranding Network since the last program review in 1989?

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- Strongly agree
- Moderately agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Moderately disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

80a. Would Marine Mammal Stranding Network policies be most effective if they were established and enacted on the national level, the regional level, or a combination of the two?

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- National level (CONTINUE TO QUESTION 80b)
- Regional level (SKIP TO QUESTION 80c)
- Combination of national and regional (SKIP TO QUESTION 80d)

80b. Why do you think Network policies would be most effective if enacted on the national level?

80c. Why do you think Network policies would be most effective if enacted on the regional level?

➤ IF YOU ANSWERED QUESTION 80c, SKIP TO QUESTION 81a ON PAGE 25

80d. Why do you think Network policies would be most effective if enacted on both the national and regional levels?

81a. Do you agree or disagree that your organization is currently operating at the full potential of its conservation and scientific values by responding to stranded marine mammals?

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- Strongly agree (SKIP TO QUESTION 82)
- Moderately agree (SKIP TO QUESTION 82)
- Neither agree nor disagree (SKIP TO QUESTION 82)
- Moderately disagree (CONTINUE TO QUESTION 81b)
- Strongly disagree (CONTINUE TO QUESTION 81b)
- Don't know (SKIP TO QUESTION 82)

81b. Why do you think your organization is not operating at the full potential of its conservation and scientific values?

82. Excluding funding, how can Network participants enhance the capacity to produce more scientific information?

83. What are the constraints to implementing the Marine Mammal Stranding Network in your region?

84. Including financial resources, what additional resources are needed in your region to improve the efficiency of the Marine Mammal Stranding Network?

85. Excluding financial resources, what additional resources are needed in your region to improve the efficiency of the Marine Mammal Stranding Network?

PLEASE CONTINUE TO PAGE 26 

86. What should the priorities be for the Marine Mammal Stranding Network in your region over the course of the next 5 years?

Demographics of Network Participants

87. What is the name of your organization? (Your answers to this survey will not be associated with the name of your organization in any way.)

88. Which of the following best describes your organization?

- Federal agency
- State agency
- Non-profit organization
- For-profit business
- Educational institution
- Other: _____
- Don't know

89. What is your title or position? _____

90. Which of the following best describes your type of employment?

- Full-time paid employee
- Part-time paid employee
- Full-time volunteer
- Part-time volunteer
- Other: _____

91. How many years have you been a participant in the Marine Mammal Stranding Network? _____ years

92. In the past 2 years, how many stranding events have you personally attended? _____ events

That is the end of the survey. Thank you for answering our questions. **Please return your completed survey by [DATE], 2008 to Responsive Management.** If you have any additional comments, please write them below.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 1 hour per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other suggestions for reducing this burden to: Chief, Marine Mammal and Sea Turtle Conservation Division, Office of Protected Resources, NOAA Fisheries, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910. Notwithstanding any other provisions of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subjected to a penalty for failure to comply with, a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Control Number.

Federal Cooperation With States

16 U.S.C. 1379

Sec. 109. (a) [STATE ENFORCEMENT OF STATE LAWS OR REGULATIONS PROHIBITED WITHOUT TRANSFER TO STATE OF MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY BY SECRETARY.] — No State may enforce, or attempt to enforce, any State law or regulation relating to the taking of any species (which term for purposes of this section includes any population stock) of marine mammal within the State unless the Secretary has transferred authority for the conservation and management of that species (hereinafter referred to in this section as "management authority") to the State under subsection (b)(1).

(b) [FINDINGS PREREQUISITE TO TRANSFER OF AUTHORITY; STATE PROGRAM; IMPLEMENTATION.] —

(1) Subject to paragraph (2) and subsection (f), the Secretary shall transfer management authority for a species of marine mammal to a State if the Secretary finds, after notice and opportunity for public comment, that the State has developed and will implement a program for the conservation and management of the species that—

(A) is consistent with the purposes, policies, and goals of this Act and with international treaty obligations;

(B) requires that all taking of the species be humane;

(C) does not permit the taking of the species unless and until—

(i) the State has determined, under a process consistent with the standards set forth in subsection (c)—

(I) that the species is at its optimum sustainable population (hereinafter in this section referred to as "OSP"), and

(II) the maximum number of animals of that species that may be taken without reducing the species below its OSP, and

(ii) the determination required under clause (i) is final and implemented under State law, and, if a cooperative allocation agreement for the species is required under subsection (d)(1), such an agreement is implemented;

(D) does not permit the taking of a number of animals of the species that exceeds the maximum number determined pursuant to subparagraph (C)(i)(II), and, in the case of taking for subsistence uses (as defined in subsection (f)(2)), does not permit the taking of a number of animals that would be inconsistent with the maintenance of the species at its OSP;

(E) does not permit the taking of the species for scientific research, public display, or enhancing the survival or recovery of a species or stock, except for taking for such purposes that is undertaken by, or on behalf of, the State;

(F) provides procedures for acquiring data, and evaluating such data and other new evidence, relating to the OSP of the species, and the maximum take that would maintain the species at that level, and, if required on the basis of such evaluation, for amending determinations under subparagraph (C)(i);

(G) provides procedures for the resolution of differences between the State and the Secretary that might arise during the development of a cooperative allocation agreement under subsection (d)(1); and

(H) provides for the submission of an annual report to the Secretary regarding the administration of the program during the reporting period.

(2) During the period between the transfer of management authority for a species to a State under paragraph (1) and the time at which the implementation requirements under paragraph (1)(C)(ii) are complied with—

(A) the State program shall not apply with respect to the taking of the species within the State for any purpose, or under any condition, provided for under section 101; and

(B) the Secretary shall continue to regulate, under this title, all takings of the species within the State.

(3) After the determination required under paragraph (1)(C)(i) regarding a species is final and implemented under State law and after a cooperative allocation agreement described in subsection (d)(1), if required, is implemented for such species—

(A) such determination shall be treated, for purposes of applying this title beyond the territory of the State, as a determination made in accordance with section 103 and as an applicable waiver under section 101(a)(3);

(B) the Secretary shall regulate, without regard to this section other than the allocations specified under such an agreement, the taking of the species—

(i) incidentally in the course of commercial fishing operations (whether provided for under section 101(a)(2) or (4)), or in the course of other specified activities provided for under section 101(a)(5), in the zone described in section 3(14)(B), and

(ii) for scientific research, public display, or enhancing the survival or recovery of a species or stock (other than by, or on behalf of, the State), except that any taking authorized under a permit issued pursuant to section 101(a)(1) after the date of the enactment of the 1981 amendment to this sub-section [October 9, 1981] allowing the removal of live animals from habitat within the State shall not be effective if the State agency disapproves, on or before the date of issuance of the permit, such taking as being inconsistent with the State program; and

(C) section 101(b) shall not apply.

(c) [STANDARDS WITH WHICH STATE PROCESS MUST COMPLY.] — The State process required under subsection (b)(1)(C) must comply with the following standards:

(1) The State agency with management authority for the species (hereinafter in this section referred to as the "State agency") must make an initial determination regarding the factors described in clause (i) of that subsection. The State agency must identify, and make available to the public under reasonable circumstances, the documentation supporting such initial determination. Unless request for a hearing under paragraph (2) regarding the initial determination is timely made, the initial determination shall be treated as final under State law.

(2) The State agency shall provide opportunity, at the request of any interested party, for a hearing with respect to the initial determination made by it under paragraph (1) at which interested parties may—

(A) present oral and written evidence in support of or against such determination; and

(B) cross-examine persons presenting evidence at the hearing.

The State agency must give public notice of the hearing and make available to the public within a reasonable time before commencing the hearing a list of the witnesses for the

State and a general description of the documentation and other evidence that will be relied upon by such witnesses.

(3) The State agency, solely on the basis of the record developed at a hearing held pursuant to paragraph (2), must make a decision regarding its initial determination under paragraph (1) and shall include with the record a statement of the findings and conclusions, and the reason or basis therefor, on all material issues.

(4) Opportunity for judicial review of the decision made by the State agency on the record under paragraph (3), under scope of review equivalent to that provided for in section 706(2) (A) through (E) of Title 5, United States Code, must be available under State law. The Secretary may not initiate judicial review of any such decision.

(d) [COOPERATIVE ALLOCATION AGREEMENTS.] —

(1) If the range of a species with respect to which a determination under paragraph (1)(C)(i) of subsection (b) is made extends beyond the territorial waters of the State, the State agency and the Secretary (who shall first coordinate with the Marine Mammal Commission and the appropriate Regional Fishery Management Council established under section 302 of the Act of April 13, 1976 (16 U.S.C. 1852)) shall enter into a cooperative allocation agreement providing procedures for allocating, on a timely basis, such of the number of animals, as determined under paragraph (1)(C)(i)(II) of subsection (b), as may be appropriate with priority of allocation being given firstly to taking for subsistence uses in the case of the State of Alaska, and secondly to taking for purposes provided for under section 101(a) within the zone described in section 3(14)(B).⁷

(2) If the State agency requests the Secretary to regulate the taking of a species to which paragraph (1) applies within the zone described in section 3(14)(B) for subsistence uses or for hunting, or both, in a manner consistent with the regulation by the State agency of such taking within the State, the Secretary shall adopt, and enforce within such zone, such of the State agency's regulatory provisions as the Secretary considers to be consistent with his administration of section 101(a) within such zone. The Secretary shall adopt such provisions through the issuance of regulations under section 553 of Title 5, United States Code, and with respect to such issuance the Regulatory Flexibility Act, the Paperwork Reduction Act, Executive Order No. 12291, dated February 17, 1981, and the thirty-day notice requirement in subsection (d) of such section 553 shall not apply. For purposes of sections 105, 106, and 107, such regulations shall be treated as having been issued under this title.

(e) [REVOCATION OF TRANSFER OF MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY.] —

(1) Subject to paragraph (2), the Secretary shall revoke, after opportunity for a hearing, any transfer of management authority made to a State under subsection (b)(1) if the Secretary finds that the State program for the conservation and management of the species concerned is not being implemented, or is being implemented in a manner inconsistent with the provisions of this section or the provisions of the program. The Secretary shall also establish a procedure for the voluntary return by a State to the Secretary of species management authority that was previously transferred to the State under subsection (b)(1).

(2)(A) The Secretary may not revoke a transfer of management authority under paragraph (1) unless—

(i) The Secretary provides to the State a written notice of intent to revoke together with a statement, in detail, of those actions, or failures to act, on which such intent is based; and

(ii) during the ninety-day period after the date of the notice of intent to revoke—

(I) the Secretary provides opportunity for consultation between him and the State concerning such State actions or failures to act and the remedial measures that should be taken by the State, and

(II) the State does not take such remedial measures as are necessary, in the judgment of the Secretary, to bring its conservation and management program, or the administration or enforcement of the program, into compliance with the provisions of this section.

(B) When a revocation by the Secretary of a transfer of management authority to a State becomes final, or the State voluntarily returns management authority to the Secretary, the Secretary shall regulate the taking, and provide for the conservation and management, of the species within the State in accordance with the provisions of this Act (and in the case of Alaskan Natives, section 101(b) and subsection (i) of this section shall apply upon such revocation or return of management authority).

(f) [TRANSFER OF MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY TO STATE OF ALASKA.] —

(1) The Secretary may not transfer management authority to the State of Alaska under subsection (b)(1) for any species of marine mammal unless—

(A) the State has adopted and will implement a statute and regulations that insure that the taking of the species for subsistence uses—

- (i) is accomplished in a nonwasteful manner,
- (ii) will be the priority consumptive use of the species, and
- (iii) if required to be restricted, such restriction will be based upon—

(I) the customary and direct dependence upon the species as the mainstay of livelihood,

(II) local residency, and

(III) the availability of alternative resources; and

(B) the State has adopted a statute or regulation that requires that any consumptive use of marine mammal species, other than for subsistence uses, will be authorized during a regulatory year only if the appropriate agency first makes findings, based on an administrative record before it, that—

(i) such use will have no significant adverse impact upon subsistence uses of the species, and

(ii) the regulation of such use, including, but not limited to, licensing of marine mammal hunting guides and the assignment of guiding areas, will, to the maximum extent practicable, provide economic opportunities for the residents of the rural coastal villages of Alaska who engage in subsistence uses of that species.

(2) For purposes of paragraph (1), the term "subsistence uses" means the customary and traditional uses by rural Alaska residents of marine mammals for direct personal or family consumption as food, shelter, fuel, clothing, tools, or transportation; for the making and selling of handicraft articles out of nonedible byproducts of marine mammals taken for personal or family consumption; and for barter, or sharing for personal or family consumption. As used in this paragraph—

(A) The term "family" means all persons related by blood, marriage, or adoption, or any person living within a household on a permanent basis.

(B) The term "barter" means the exchange of marine mammals or their parts, taken for subsistence uses—

- (i) for other wildlife or fish or their parts, or

(ii) for other food or for nonedible items other than money if the exchange is of a limited and noncommercial nature.

(g) [ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT NOT REQUIRED.] — Neither the transfer of management authority to a State under subsection (b)(1), nor the revocation or voluntary return of such authority under subsection (e), shall be deemed to be an action for which an environmental impact statement is required under section 102 of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

(h) [TAKING OF MARINE MAMMALS AS PART OF OFFICIAL DUTIES.] —

(1) Nothing in this title or title IV shall prevent a Federal, State, or local government official or employee or a person designated under section 112(c) from taking, in the course of his or her duties as an official, employee, or designee, a marine mammal in a humane manner (including euthanasia) if such taking is for—

- (A) the protection or welfare of the mammal,
- (B) the protection of the public health and welfare, or
- (C) the nonlethal removal of nuisance animals.

(2) Nothing in this title shall prevent the Secretary or a person designated under section 112(c) from importing a marine mammal into the United States if such importation is necessary to render medical treatment that is not otherwise available.

(3) In any case in which it is feasible to return to its natural habitat a marine mammal taken or imported under circumstances described in this subsection, steps to achieve that result shall be taken.

(i) [REGULATIONS COVERING TAKING OF MARINE MAMMALS BY ALASKAN NATIVES.] — The Secretary may (after providing notice thereof in the Federal Register and in newspapers of general circulation, and through appropriate electronic media, in the affected area and providing opportunity for a hearing thereon in such area) prescribe regulations requiring the marking, tagging, and reporting of animals taken pursuant to section 101(b).

(j) [GRANTS TO DEVELOP OR ADMINISTER STATE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS.] — The Secretary may make grants to States to assist them—

(1) in developing programs, to be submitted for approval under subsection (b), for the conservation and management of species of marine mammals; and

(2) in administering such programs if management authority for such species is transferred to the State under such subsection.

Grants made under this subsection may not exceed 50 per centum of the costs of developing a State program before Secretarial approval, or of administering the program thereafter.

(k) [DELEGATION OF ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT TO STATES.] — The Secretary is authorized and directed to enter into cooperative arrangements with the appropriate officials of any State for the delegation to such State of the administration and enforcement of this title: *Provided*, That any such arrangement shall contain such provisions as the Secretary deems appropriate to insure that the purposes and policies of this Act will be carried out.

(l) [AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.] —

(1) There are authorized to be appropriated to the Department of the Interior, for the purposes of carrying out this section, not to exceed \$400,000 for each of the fiscal years ending September 30, 1979, September 30, 1980, and September 30, 1981.

(2) There are authorized to be appropriated to the Department of Commerce, for the purposes of carrying out this section, not to exceed \$225,000 for each of the fiscal years ending September 30, 1979, September 30, 1980, and September 30, 1981.

Marine Mammal Research Grants

16 U.S.C. 1380

Sec. 110. (a) [AUTHORIZATION; RESEARCH CONCERNING YELLOWFIN TUNA; ANNUAL REPORT.] — The Secretary is authorized to make grants, or to provide financial assistance in such other form as he deems appropriate, to any Federal or State agency, public or private institution, or other person for the purpose of assisting such agency, institution, or person to undertake research in subjects which are relevant to the protection and conservation of marine mammals. In carrying out this subsection, the Secretary shall undertake a program of, and shall provide financial assistance for, research into new methods of locating and catching yellowfin tuna without the incidental taking of marine mammals. The Secretary shall include a description of the annual results of research carried out under this section in the report required under section 103(f).

(b) [TERMS AND CONDITIONS.] — Any grant or other financial assistance provided by the Secretary pursuant to this section shall be subject to such terms and conditions as the Secretary deems necessary to protect the interests of the United States and shall be made after review by the Marine Mammal Commission.

(c) [GULF OF MAINE ECOSYSTEM PROTECTION.] —

(1) No later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Marine Mammal Protection Act Amendments of 1994 [April 30, 1995], the Secretary of Commerce shall convene a regional workshop for the Gulf of Maine to assess human-caused factors affecting the health and stability of that marine ecosystem, of which marine mammals are a part. The workshop shall be conducted in consultation with the Marine Mammal Commission, the adjacent coastal States, individuals with expertise in marine mammal biology and ecology, representatives from environmental organizations, the fishing industry, and other appropriate persons. The goal of the workshop shall be to identify such factors, and to recommend a program of research and management to restore or maintain that marine ecosystem and its key components that—

(A) protects and encourages marine mammals to develop to the greatest extent feasible commensurate with sound policies of resource management;

(B) has as the primary management objective the maintenance of the health and stability of the marine ecosystems;

(C) ensures the fullest possible range of management options for future generations; and

(D) permits nonwasteful, environmentally sound development of renewable and nonrenewable resources.

(2) On or before December 31, 1995, the Secretary of Commerce shall submit to the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation of the Senate a report containing the results of the workshop under this subsection, proposed regulatory or research actions, and recommended legislative action.

(d) [BERING SEA ECOSYSTEM PROTECTION.] —

(d) [RESEARCH AND OBSERVATION.] — Furthermore, after timely notice and during the period of research provided in this section, duly authorized agents of the Secretary are hereby empowered to board and to accompany any commercial fishing vessel documented under the laws of the United States, there being space available, on a regular fishing trip for the purpose of conducting research or observing operations in regard to the development of improved fishing methods and gear as authorized by this section. Such research and observation shall be carried out in such manner as to minimize interference with fishing operations. The Secretary shall provide for the cost of quartering and maintaining such agents. No master, operator, or owner of such a vessel shall impair or in any way interfere with the research or observation being carried out by agents of the Secretary pursuant to this section.

Regulations and Administration

16 U.S.C. 1382

Sec. 112. (a) [CONSULTATION WITH FEDERAL AGENCIES.] — The Secretary, in consultation with any other Federal agency to the extent that such agency may be affected, shall prescribe such regulations as are necessary and appropriate to carry out the purposes of this title.

(b) [COOPERATION BY FEDERAL AGENCIES.] — Each Federal agency is authorized and directed to cooperate with the Secretary, in such manner as may be mutually agreeable, in carrying out the purposes of this title.

(c) [CONTRACTS, LEASES, AND COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.] — The Secretary may enter into such contracts, leases, cooperative agreements, or other transactions as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this title or title IV and on such terms as he deems appropriate with any Federal or State agency, public or private institution, or other person.

(d) [ANNUAL REVIEW; SUSPENSION OF PROGRAM.] — The Secretary shall review annually the operation of each program in which the United States participates involving the taking of marine mammals on land. If at any time the Secretary finds that any such program cannot be administered on lands owned by the United States or in which the United States has an interest in a manner consistent with the purposes of ⁸ policies of this Act, he shall suspend the operation of that program and shall include in the annual report to the public and the Congress required under section 103(f) of this Act his reasons for such suspension, together with recommendations for such legislation as he deems necessary and appropriate to resolve the problem.

(e) [MEASURES TO ALLEVIATE IMPACTS ON STRATEGIC STOCKS.] — If the Secretary determines, based on a stock assessment under section 117 or other significant new information obtained under this Act, that impacts on rookeries, mating grounds, or other areas of similar ecological significance to marine mammals may be causing the decline or impeding the recovery of a strategic stock, the Secretary may develop and implement conservation or management measures to alleviate those impacts. Such measures shall be developed and implemented after consultation with the Marine Mammal Commission and the appropriate Federal agencies and after notice and opportunity for public comment.

TITLE IV—Marine Mammal Health and Stranding Response

Establishment of Program

16 U.S.C. 1421

Sec. 401. (a) ESTABLISHMENT. — The Secretary shall, in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior, the Marine Mammal Commission, and individuals with knowledge and experience in marine science, marine mammal science, marine mammal veterinary and husbandry practices, and marine conservation, including stranding network participants, establish a program to be known as the "Marine Mammal Health and Stranding Response Program".

(b) PURPOSES. — The purposes of the Program shall be to—

(1) facilitate the collection and dissemination of reference data on the health of marine mammals and health trends of marine mammal populations in the wild;

(2) correlate the health of marine mammals and marine mammal populations, in the wild, with available data on physical, chemical, and biological environmental parameters; and

(3) coordinate effective responses to unusual mortality events by establishing a process in the Department of Commerce in accordance with section 404.

Determination; Data Collection and Dissemination

16 U.S.C. 1421a

Sec. 402. (a) DETERMINATION FOR RELEASE. — The Secretary shall, in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior, the Marine Mammal Commission, and individuals with knowledge and experience in marine science, marine mammal science, marine mammal veterinary and husbandry practices, and marine conservation, including stranding network participants, develop objective criteria, after an opportunity for public review and comment, to provide guidance for determining at what point a rehabilitated marine mammal is releasable to the wild.

(b) COLLECTION. — The Secretary shall, in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior, collect and update, periodically, existing information on—

(1) procedures and practices for—

(A) rescuing and rehabilitating stranded marine mammals, including criteria used by stranding network participants, on a species-by-species basis, for determining at what point a marine mammal undergoing rescue and rehabilitation is returnable to the wild; and

(B) collecting, preserving, labeling, and transporting marine mammal tissues for physical, chemical, and biological analyses;

(2) appropriate scientific literature on marine mammal health, disease, and rehabilitation;

(3) strandings, which the Secretary shall compile and analyze, by region, to monitor species, numbers, conditions, and causes of illnesses and deaths of stranded marine mammals; and

(4) other life history and reference level data, including marine mammal tissue analyses, that would allow comparison of the causes of illness and deaths in stranded marine mammals with physical, chemical, and biological environmental parameters.

(c) AVAILABILITY. — The Secretary shall make information collected under this section available to stranding network participants and other qualified scientists.

Stranding Response Agreements

16 U.S.C. 1421b

Sec. 403. (a) IN GENERAL. — The Secretary may enter into an agreement under section 112(c) with any person to take marine mammals under section 109(h)(1) in response to a stranding.

(b) REQUIRED PROVISION. — An agreement authorized by subsection (a) shall—

(1) specify each person who is authorized to perform activities under the agreement; and

(2) specify any terms and conditions under which a person so specified may delegate that authority to another person.

(c) REVIEW. — The Secretary shall periodically review agreements under section 112(c) that are entered into pursuant to this title, for performance adequacy and effectiveness.

Unusual Mortality Event Response

16 U.S.C. 1421c

Sec. 404. (a) RESPONSE. —

(1) WORKING GROUP. — (A) The Secretary, acting through the Office, shall establish, in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior, a marine mammal unusual mortality event working group, consisting of individuals with knowledge and experience in marine science, marine mammal science, marine mammal veterinary and husbandry practices, marine conservation, and medical science, to provide guidance to the Secretary and the Secretary of the Interior for—

(i) determining whether an unusual mortality event is occurring;

(ii) determining, after an unusual mortality event has begun, if response actions with respect to that event are no longer necessary; and

(iii) developing the contingency plan in accordance with subsection (b), to assist the Secretary in responding to unusual mortality events.

(B) The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 App. U.S.C.) shall not apply to the marine mammal unusual mortality event working group established under this paragraph.

(2) RESPONSE TIMING. — The Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior, shall to the extent necessary and practicable—

(A) within 24 hours after receiving notification from a stranding network participant that an unusual mortality event might be occurring, contact as many members as is possible of the unusual mortality event working group for guidance; and

(B) within 48 hours after receiving such notification—

(i) make a determination as to whether an unusual mortality event is occurring;

(ii) inform the stranding network participant of that determination; and

(iii) if the Secretary has determined an unusual mortality event is occurring, designate an Onsite Coordinator for the event, in accordance with subsection (c).

(b) CONTINGENCY PLAN. —

(1) IN GENERAL. — The Secretary shall, in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior and the unusual mortality event working group, and after an opportunity for public review and comment, issue a detailed contingency plan for responding to any unusual mortality event.

(2) CONTENTS. — The contingency plan required under this subsection shall include—

(A) a list of persons, including stranding network participants, at a regional, State, and local level, who can assist the Secretary in implementing a coordinated and effective response to an unusual mortality event;

(B) the types of marine mammal tissues and analyses necessary to assist in diagnosing causes of unusual mortality events;

(C) training, mobilization, and utilization procedures for available personnel, facilities, and other resources necessary to conduct a rapid and effective response to unusual mortality events; and

(D) such requirements as are necessary to—

(i) minimize death of marine mammals in the wild and provide appropriate care of marine mammals during an unusual mortality event;

(ii) assist in identifying the cause or causes of an unusual mortality event;

(iii) determine the effects of an unusual mortality event on the size estimates of the affected populations of marine mammals; and

(iv) identify any roles played in an unusual mortality event by physical, chemical, and biological factors, including contaminants.

(c) ONSITE COORDINATORS. —

(1) DESIGNATION. — (A) The Secretary shall, in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior, designate one or more Onsite Coordinators for an unusual mortality event, who shall make immediate recommendations to the stranding network participants on how to proceed with response activities.

(B) An Onsite Coordinator so designated shall be one or more appropriate Regional Directors of the National Marine Fisheries Service or the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, or their designees.

(C) If, because of the wide geographic distribution, multiple species of marine mammals involved, or magnitude of an unusual mortality event, more than one Onsite Coordinator is designated, the Secretary shall, in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior, designate which of the Onsite Coordinators shall have primary responsibility with respect to the event.

(2) FUNCTIONS. — (A) An Onsite Coordinator designated under this subsection shall coordinate and direct the activities of all persons responding to an unusual mortality event in accordance with the contingency plan issued under subsection (b), except that—

(i) with respect to any matter that is not covered by the contingency plan, an Onsite Coordinator shall use his or her best professional judgment; and

(ii) the contingency plan may be temporarily modified by an Onsite Coordinator, consulting as expeditiously as possible with the Secretary, the Secretary of the Interior, and the unusual mortality event working group.

(B) An Onsite Coordinator may delegate to any qualified person authority to act as an Onsite Coordinator under this title.

Unusual Mortality Event Activity Funding

16 U.S.C. 1421d

Sec. 405. (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF FUND. — There is established in the Treasury an interest bearing fund to be known as the "Marine Mammal Unusual Mortality Event Fund", which shall consist of amounts deposited into the Fund under subsection (c).

(b) USES. —

(1) IN GENERAL. — Amounts in the Fund—

(A) shall be available only for use by the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior—

(i) to compensate persons for special costs incurred in acting in accordance with the contingency plan issued under section 404(b) or under the direction of an Onsite Coordinator for an unusual mortality event;

(ii) for reimbursing any stranding network participant for costs incurred in preparing and transporting tissues collected with respect to an unusual mortality event for the Tissue Bank; and

(iii) for care and maintenance of marine mammal seized under section 104(c)(2)(D); and

(B) shall remain available until expended.

(2) PENDING CLAIMS. — If sufficient amounts are not available in the Fund to satisfy any authorized pending claim, such claim shall remain pending until such time as sufficient amounts are available. All authorized pending claims shall be satisfied in the order received.

(c) DEPOSITS INTO THE FUND. — There shall be deposited into the Fund—

(1) amounts appropriated to the Fund;

(2) other amounts appropriated to the Secretary for use with respect to unusual mortality events; and

(3) amounts received by the United States in the form of gifts, devises, and bequests under subsection (d).

(d) ACCEPTANCE OF DONATIONS. — For purposes of carrying out this title and section 104(c)(2)(D), the Secretary may accept, solicit, and use the services of volunteers, and may accept, solicit, receive, hold, administer, and use gifts, devises, and bequests.

Liability

16 U.S.C. 1421e

Sec. 406. (a) IN GENERAL. — A person who is authorized to respond to a stranding pursuant to an agreement entered into under section 112(c) is deemed to be an employee of the government for purposes of chapter 171 of title 28, United States Code, with respect to actions of the person that are—

- (1) in accordance with the agreement; and
- (2) in the case of an unusual mortality event, in accordance with—
 - (A) the contingency plan issued under section 404(b);
 - (B) the instructions of an Onsite Coordinator designated under section 404(c); or
 - (C) the best professional judgment of an Onsite Coordinator, in the case of any matter that is not covered by the contingency plan.

(b) LIMITATION. — Subsection (a) does not apply to actions of a person described in that subsection that are grossly negligent or that constitute willful misconduct.

National Marine Mammal Tissue Bank and Tissue Analysis

16 U.S.C. 1421f

Sec. 407. (a) TISSUE BANK. —

(1) IN GENERAL. — The Secretary shall make provision for the storage, preparation, examination, and archiving of marine mammal tissues. Tissues archived pursuant to this subsection shall be known as the "National Marine Mammal Tissue Bank".

(2) GUIDANCE FOR MARINE MAMMAL TISSUE COLLECTION, PREPARATION, AND ARCHIVING. — The Secretary shall, in consultation with individuals with knowledge and expertise in marine science, marine mammal science, marine mammal veterinary and husbandry practices, and marine conservation, issue guidance, after an opportunity for public review and comment, for marine mammal tissue collection, preparation, archiving, and quality control procedures, regarding—

- (A) appropriate and uniform methods and standards for those activities to provide confidence in marine mammal tissue samples used for research; and
- (B) documentation of procedures used for collecting, preparing, and archiving those samples.

(3) SOURCE OF TISSUE. — In addition to tissues taken during marine mammal unusual mortality events, the Tissue Bank shall incorporate tissue samples taken from other sources in the wild, including—

- (A) samples from marine mammals taken incidental to commercial fishing operations;

- (B) samples from marine mammals taken for subsistence purposes;
- (C) biopsy samples; and
- (D) any other samples properly collected.

(b) **Tissue Analysis.** — The Secretary shall, in consultation with the Marine Mammal Commission, the Secretary of the Interior, and individuals with knowledge and experience in marine science, marine mammal science, marine mammal veterinary and husbandry practices, and marine conservation, issue guidance, after an opportunity for public review and comment, for analyzing tissue samples (by use of the most effective and advanced diagnostic technologies and tools practicable) as a means to monitor and measure overall health trends in representative species or populations of marine mammals, including—

- (1) the levels of, and if possible, the effects of, potentially harmful contaminants; and
- (2) the frequency of, and if possible, the causes and effects of abnormal lesions or anomalies.

(c) **DATA BASE.** —

(1) **IN GENERAL.** — The Secretary shall maintain a central data base which provides an effective means for tracking and accessing data on marine mammals, including relevant data on marine mammal tissues collected for and maintained in the Tissue Bank.

(2) **CONTENTS.** — The data base established under this subsection shall include—

- (A) reference data on the health of marine mammals and populations of marine mammals; and
- (B) data on species of marine mammals that are subject to unusual mortality events.

(d) **ACCESS.** — The Secretary shall, in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior, establish criteria, after an opportunity for public review and comment, for access to—

- (1) marine mammal tissues in the Tissue Bank;
- (2) analyses conducted pursuant to subsection (b); and
- (3) marine mammal data in the data base maintained under subsection (c);

which provide for appropriate uses of the tissues, analyses, and data by qualified scientists, including stranding network participants.

John H. Prescott Marine Mammal Rescue Assistance Grant Program¹⁵

16 U.S.C. 1421f-1

Sec. 408. (a) IN GENERAL. —

(1) Subject to the availability of appropriations, the Secretary shall conduct a grant program to be known as the John H. Prescott Marine Mammal Rescue Assistance Grant Program, to provide grants to eligible stranding network participants for the recovery or treatment of marine mammals, the collection of data from living or dead stranded marine mammals for scientific research regarding marine mammal health, and facility operation costs that are directly related to those purposes.

(2)(A) The Secretary shall ensure that, to the greatest extent practicable, funds provided as grants under this subsection are distributed equitably among the stranding regions designated as of the date of the enactment of the Marine Mammal Rescue Assistance Act of 2000 [December 21, 2000], and in making such grants shall give preference to those facilities that have established records for rescuing or rehabilitating sick and stranded marine mammals in each of the respective regions, or subregions.

(B) In determining priorities among such regions, the Secretary may consider—

(i) any episodic stranding or any mortality event other than an event described in section 410(6), that occurred in any region in the preceding year;

(ii) data regarding average annual strandings and mortality events per region; and

(iii) the size of the marine mammal populations inhabiting a geographic area within such a region.

(b) APPLICATION. — To receive a grant under this section, a stranding network participant shall submit an application in such form and manner as the Secretary may prescribe.

(c) CONSULTATION. — The Secretary shall consult with the Marine Mammal Commission, a representative from each of the designated stranding regions, and other individuals who represent public and private organizations that are actively involved in rescue, rehabilitation, release, scientific research, marine conservation, and forensic science regarding stranded marine mammals, regarding the development of criteria for the implementation of the grant program and the awarding of grants under the program.

(d) LIMITATION. — The amount of a grant under this section shall not exceed \$100,000.

(e) MATCHING REQUIREMENT. —

(1) IN GENERAL. — The non-Federal share of the costs of an activity conducted with a grant under this section shall be 25 percent of such costs.

(2) IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS. — The Secretary may apply to the non-Federal share of an activity conducted with a grant under this section the amount of funds, and the fair market value of property and services, provided by non-Federal sources and used for the activity.

(f) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES. — Of amounts available each fiscal year to carry out this section, the Secretary may expend not more than 6 percent or \$80,000, whichever is greater, to pay the administrative expenses necessary to carry out this section.

(g) DEFINITIONS. — In this section:

(1) DESIGNATED STRANDING REGION. — The term "designated stranding region" means a geographic region designated by the Secretary for purposes of administration of this title.

(2) SECRETARY. — The term "Secretary" has the meaning given that term in section 3(12)(A).

(h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS. — There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2001 through 2003, to remain available until expended, of which—

- (1) \$4,000,000 may be available to the Secretary of Commerce; and
- (2) \$1,000,000 may be available to the Secretary of the Interior.

Authorization of Appropriations

16 U.S.C. 1421g

Sec. 409. There is authorized to be appropriated—

(1) to the Secretary for carrying out this title (other than sections 405 and 407) \$250,000 for each of fiscal years 1993 and 1994;

(2) to the Secretary for carrying out section 407, \$250,000 for each of fiscal years 1993 and 1994; and

(3) to the Fund, \$500,000 for fiscal year 1993.

Definitions

16 U.S.C. 1421h

Sec. 410. In this title, the following definitions apply:

(1) The term "Fund" means the Marine Mammal Unusual Mortality Event Fund established by section 405(a).

(2) The term "Office" means the Office of Protected Resources, in the National Marine Fisheries Service.

(3) The term "stranding" means an event in the wild in which—

(A) a marine mammal is dead and is—

(i) on a beach or shore of the United States; or

(ii) in waters under the jurisdiction of the United States (including any navigable waters); or

(B) a marine mammal is alive and is—

(i) on a beach or shore of the United States and unable to return to the water;

(ii) on a beach or shore of the United States and, although able to return to the water, is in need of apparent medical attention; or

(iii) in the waters under the jurisdiction of the United States (including any navigable waters), but is unable to return to its natural habitat under its own power or without assistance.

(4) The term "stranding network participant" means a person who is authorized by an agreement under section 112(c) to take marine mammals as described in section 109(h)(1) in response to a stranding.

(5) The term "Tissue Bank" means the National Marine Tissue Bank provided for under section 407(a).

(6) The term "unusual mortality event" means a stranding that—

(A) is unexpected;

(B) involves a significant die-off of any marine mammal population; and

(C) demands immediate response.

TITLE V—POLAR BEARS

DEFINITIONS

16 U.S.C. 1423

Sec. 501. In this title (1) AGREEMENT.--The term `Agreement' means the Agreement Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Russian Federation on the Conservation and Management of the Alaska-Chukotka Polar Bear Population, signed at Washington, D.C., on October 16, 2000.

(2) ALASKA NANUUQ COMMISSION.--The term `Alaska Nanuuq Commission' means the Alaska Native entity, in existence on the date of enactment of the United States-Russia Polar Bear Conservation and Management Act of 2006, that represents all villages in the State of Alaska that engage in the annual subsistence taking of polar bears from the Alaska-Chukotka population and any successor entity.

(3) IMPORT.--The term `import' means to land on, bring into, or introduce into, or attempt to land on, bring into, or introduce into, any place subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, without regard to whether the landing, bringing, or introduction constitutes an importation within the meaning of the customs laws of the United States.

(4) POLAR BEAR PART OR PRODUCT.--The term part or product of a polar bear means any polar bear part or product, including the gall bile and gall bladder.

(5) SECRETARY --The term Secretary' means the Secretary of the Interior.

(6) TAKING --The term taking has the meaning given the term in the Agreement.

(7) COMMISSION --The term Commission means the

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 7,431.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$297,000 in capital and recordkeeping/reporting costs.

IV. Request for Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection; they also will become a matter of public record.

Dated: January 15, 2008.

Gwellnar Banks,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. E8-917 Filed 1-18-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Marine Mammal Health and Stranding Response Program Survey for Stranding Network Participants

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

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before March 24, 2008.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Diana Hynek, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 6625,

14th and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230 (or via the Internet at dHynek@doc.gov).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument and instructions should be directed to Sarah Howlett, (301) 713-2322 or sarah.howlett@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

The National Marine Fisheries Service's (NMFS) Marine Mammal Health and Stranding Response Program will conduct program evaluations of the six NMFS regional stranding networks: Northeast, Southeast, Southwest, Northwest, Alaska, and Pacific Islands Regions. A survey will be used to gather data from a cross-section of stranding network participants in each region. The data will be collected regarding performance, organizational structure, objectives, and needs of the program. The information will be used to prioritize and discuss issues of concern and assist with future program management and planning.

II. Method of Collection

The survey will be conducted through a combination of telephone interviews, paper format (mailed), and electronic format via e-mail or online.

III. Data

OMB Number: None.

Form Number: None.

Type of Review: Regular submission.

Affected Public: Not-for-profit institutions; business or other for-profits organizations; State, Local, or Tribal Government; Federal Government.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 294.

Estimated Time per Response: 1 hour.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 294.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$22.

IV. Request for Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques

or other forms of information technology.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection; they also will become a matter of public record.

Dated: January 15, 2008.

Gwellnar Banks,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. E8-920 Filed 1-18-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Extension of Application Period for Vacancies on the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

AGENCY: National Marine Sanctuary Program (NMSP), National Ocean Service (NOS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce (DOC).

ACTION: Notice and request for applications.

SUMMARY: The Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary (CINMS) is still seeking applicants for the following vacant seats on its Sanctuary Advisory Council (Council): Chumash Community member and alternate, and Tourism alternate. Applicants are chosen based upon: Their particular expertise and experience in relation to the seat for which they are applying, community and professional affiliations, views regarding the protection and management of marine resources, and the length of residence in the communities located near the Sanctuary. Applicants who are chosen as members should expect to serve in a volunteer capacity for 2-year terms, pursuant to the Council's Charter.

DATES: The application period has been extended and applications are now due by February 10, 2008.

ADDRESSES: Application kits may be obtained from Dani Lipski, Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary, 113 Harbor Way, Suite 150, Santa Barbara, CA 93109-2315. Completed applications should be sent to the same address. Application materials are also available at: <http://www.channelislands.noaa.gov/sac/news.html>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michael Murray, Channel Islands