

Lead Agency:
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)
Office of Protected Resources



Cooperating Agency:
U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)

Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for the Marine Mammal Health and Stranding Response Program

Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement

February 2009

Abstract

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has the authority, delegated from the Secretary of Commerce, to take stranded marine mammals under Section 109(h) of the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) (16 U.S.C. 1379) and to establish and manage the Marine Mammal Health and Stranding Response Program (MMHSRP) under Title IV of the MMPA (16 U.S.C. 1421 *et seq.*). The MMHSRP includes: the National Marine Mammal Stranding Network; the Marine Mammal Unusual Mortality Event Program; the National Marine Mammal Tissue Bank and Quality Assurance Program; marine mammal health biomonitoring, research, and development; the Marine Mammal Disentanglement Network; the John H. Prescott Marine Mammal Rescue Assistance Grant Program; and information management and dissemination. This Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (FPEIS) analyzes the potential environmental impacts of implementing the MMSHRP activities contained in the proposed action and alternatives.

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