



MEDIA ADVISORY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 23, 2007

**SPEAK WITH SCIENTISTS CONDUCTING HANDS-ON STUDY ON MARINE
MAMMAL REACTIONS TO UNDERWATER SOUND**

Washington, DC -- NOAA Fisheries Service is leading an international research team this summer at a sophisticated acoustic range in the Bahamas to conduct marine behavioral response studies (BRS) using underwater sound exposures. Scientists hope to learn more about how different sounds, including mid-frequency sonar signals, may influence the behavior of several marine mammal species, particularly beaked whales. The research project will use well-established experimental procedures and shut-down protocols to ensure the safety of animals involved in the study while obtaining sorely needed data on the subject.

Who: **Dr. Brandon Southall:** Director for NOAA's Ocean Acoustics Program (NOAA Fisheries Service) and Principal Investigator for the BRS
Dr. Ian Boyd: Director of the Sea Mammal Research Unit, University of St. Andrews, St. Andrews, Scotland, UK and Chief Scientist for the BRS
Dr. Peter Tyack: Senior Scientist, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution and Co-Investigator for the BRS
Dr. Teri Rowles: NOAA Fisheries Service's lead marine mammal veterinarian and the Director of the Mammal Health & Stranding Program
Dr. Blair Mase: Veterinarian for NOAA Fisheries Southeast Region and Stranding Coordinator for U.S. Southeast Region

Where: Conference call in number: 1-888-972-6401/Passcode: NMFS

When: Monday August 27, 2007 – 2:00 p.m. east coast time

-NOAA-

Photos available: <http://www.who.edu/sbl/liteSite.do?litesiteid=18213&articleId=27373> for pictures of tagging and animals

Helpful Web Sites:

NOAA Fisheries Service: <http://www.noaa.gov/fisheries.html>

BRS Scientific Permit Application: http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/pdfs/permits/1121-1900_application.pdf

BRS Draft Environmental Assessment: http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/pdfs/permits/1121-1900_ea_draft.pdf

Study Summary:

<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/health/brs-07.htm>