

taking allowable under these regulations.

(b) A notice of issuance or denial of a renewal of a Letter of Authorization will be published in the FEDERAL REGISTER within 30 days of a determination.

§ 216.158 Modifications to the Letter of Authorization.

(a) Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this section, no substantive modification, including withdrawal or suspension, to the Letter of Authorization issued pursuant to § 216.106 and subject to the provisions of this subpart shall be made until after notice and an opportunity for public comment.

(b) If the Assistant Administrator determines that an emergency exists that poses a significant risk to the well-being of the species or stocks of marine mammals specified in § 216.151(b), the Letter of Authorization issued pursuant to § 216.106 may be substantively modified without prior notice and an opportunity for public comment. Notification will be published in the FEDERAL REGISTER subsequent to the action.

Subparts O–P [Reserved]

Subpart Q—Taking of Marine Mammals Incidental to Navy Operations of Surveillance Towed Array Sensor System Low Frequency Active (SURTASS LFA sonar) Sonar

SOURCE: 72 FR 46890, Aug. 21, 2007, unless otherwise noted.

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 72 FR 46890, Aug. 21, 2007, subpart Q, consisting of §§ 216.180 through 216.191 was added, effective Aug. 16, 2007 through Aug. 15, 2012.

§ 216.180 Specified activity.

Regulations in this subpart apply only to the incidental taking of those marine mammal species specified in paragraph (b) of this section by the U.S. Navy, Department of Defense, while engaged in the operation of no more than four SURTASS LFA sonar systems conducting active sonar operations, in areas specified in paragraph

(a) of this section. The authorized activities, as specified in a Letter of Authorization issued under §§ 216.106 and 216.188, include the transmission of low frequency sounds from the SURTASS LFA sonar and the transmission of high frequency sounds from the mitigation sonar described in § 216.185 during training, testing, and routine military operations of SURTASS LFA sonar.

(a) With the exception of those areas specified in § 216.183(d), the incidental taking by harassment may be authorized in the areas (biomes, provinces, and subprovinces) described in Longhurst (1998), as specified in a Letter of Authorization.

(b) The incidental take, by Level A and Level B harassment, of marine mammals from the activity identified in this section is limited to the following species and species groups:

(1) Mysticete whales—blue (*Balaenoptera musculus*), fin (*Balaenoptera physalus*), minke (*Balaenoptera acutorostrata*), Bryde's (*Balaenoptera edeni*), sei (*Balaenoptera borealis*), humpback (*Megaptera novaeangliae*), North Atlantic right (*Eubalaena glacialis*), North Pacific right (*Eubalaena japonica*) southern right (*Eubalaena australis*), pygmy right (*Caperea marginata*), bowhead (*Balaena mysticetus*), and gray (*Eschrichtius robustus*) whales.

(2) Odontocete whales—harbor porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*), spectacled porpoise (*Phocoena dioptica*), beluga (*Dephinapterus leucas*), *Stenella* spp., Risso's dolphin (*Grampus griseus*), rough-toothed dolphin (*Steno bredanensis*), Fraser's dolphin (*Lagenodelphis hosei*), northern right-whale dolphin (*Lissodelphis borealis*), southern right whale dolphin (*Lissodelphis peronii*), short-beaked common dolphin (*Delphinus delphis*), long-beaked common dolphin (*Delphinus capensis*), very long-beaked common dolphin (*Delphinus tropicalis*), *Lagenorhynchus* spp., *Cephalorhynchus* spp., bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*), Dall's porpoise (*Phocoenoides dalli*), melon-headed whale (*Peponocephala* spp.), beaked whales (*Berardius* spp., *Hyperoodon* spp., *Mesoplodon* spp.), Cuvier's beaked whale (*Ziphius cavirostris*), Shepard's beaked whale (*Tasmacetus shepherdi*),