

## §216.110

## 50 CFR Ch. II (10–1–07 Edition)

holder of the authorization with an explanation of why the report is being returned. If the authorization holder disagrees with the findings of the Assistant Administrator, the holder may request an independent peer review of the report. Failure to submit a complete and accurate report may result in a delay in processing future authorization requests.

(g) Results of any behavioral, feeding, or population studies, that are conducted supplemental to the monitoring program, should be made available to the National Marine Fisheries Service before applying for an incidental harassment authorization for the following year.

### **Subpart J—Taking Marine Mammals Incidental to Coastal Commercial Fireworks Displays at Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, CA**

SOURCE: 71 FR 40932, July 19, 2006, unless otherwise noted.

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 71 FR 40932, July 19, 2006, Subpart J consisting of §§216.110 through 216.119 were added, effective July 4, 2006 through July 3, 2011.

#### **§216.110 Specified activity and specified geographical region.**

(a) Regulations in this subpart apply only to the incidental taking of those marine mammal species specified in paragraph (b) of this section by the MBNMS.

(b) The incidental take, by Level B harassment only, of marine mammals under the activity identified in this section is limited to the following species: California sea lions (*Zalophus californianus*) and Pacific harbor seals (*Phoca vitulina*).

#### **§216.111 Effective dates.**

Regulations in this subpart are effective from July 4, 2006, through July 3, 2011.

#### **§216.112 Permissible methods of taking.**

(a) Under Letters of Authorization issued pursuant to §§216.106 and 216.117, the Holder of the Letter of Authorization (i.e. the Superintendent of

MBNMS) may incidentally, but not intentionally, take marine mammals by Level B harassment only, within the area described in §216.110(a), provided the activity is in compliance with all terms, conditions, and requirements of these regulations and the appropriate Letter of Authorization.

(b) The activities identified in §216.110(a) must be conducted in a manner that minimizes, to the greatest extent practicable, any adverse impacts on marine mammals and their habitat.

(c) The taking of marine mammals is authorized for the species listed in §216.110(b) and is limited to the Level B Harassment of no more than 6,170 California sea lions and 1,065 harbor seals annually.

#### **§216.113 Prohibitions.**

Notwithstanding takings contemplated in §216.110 and authorized by a Letter of Authorization issued under §§216.106 and 216.117, no person in connection with the activities described in §216.110 may:

(a) Take any marine mammal not specified in §216.110(b);

(b) Take any marine mammal specified in §216.110(b) other than by incidental, unintentional Level B harassment;

(c) Take a marine mammal specified in §216.110(b) if such taking results in more than a negligible impact on the species or stocks of such marine mammal; or

(d) Violate, or fail to comply with, the terms, conditions, and requirements of these regulations or a Letter of Authorization issued under §§216.106 and 216.117.

#### **§216.114 Mitigation.**

(a) The activity identified in §216.110(a) must be conducted in a manner that minimizes, to the greatest extent practicable, adverse impacts on marine mammals and their habitats. When conducting operations identified in §216.110(a), all the mitigation measures contained in the Letter of Authorization issued under §§216.106 and 216.117 must be implemented, including but not limited to:

(1) Limiting the location of the authorized fireworks displays to the four specifically prescribed areas at Half

Moon Bay, the Santa Cruz/Soquel area, the northeastern Monterey Peninsula, and Cambria (Santa Rosa Creek);

(2) Limiting the total frequency of authorized fireworks displays to no more than 20 total displays per year and the average frequency to no more than one fireworks display every two months in each of the four conditional display areas;

(3) Limiting the duration of authorized individual fireworks displays to no longer than 30 minutes each, with the exception of two longer shows not to exceed 1 hour;

(4) Prohibiting fireworks displays at MBNMS between March 1 and June 30 of any year; and

(5) Implementing the following special conditions for fireworks when authorizing fireworks displays at the MBNMS:

(i) Delay of aerial "salute" effects until five minutes after the commencement of any fireworks display.

(ii) Removal of all plastic labels and wrappings from pyrotechnic devices prior to use.

(iii) Required recovery of all fireworks related debris from the launch site and affected beaches on the evening of the display and again on the morning after.

(b) The mitigation measures that the individuals conducting the fireworks are responsible for shall be included as a requirement in any Authorization the MBNMS issues to the individuals.

**§216.115 Requirements for monitoring and reporting.**

(a) The Holder of the Letter of Authorization issued pursuant to §§216.106 and 216.117 for activities described in §216.110(a) is required to cooperate with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), and any other Federal, state or local agency monitoring the impacts of the activity on marine mammals. The Holder of the Letter of Authorization must notify the Director, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service, or designee, by telephone (301-713-2289), within 48 hours if the authorized activity identified in §216.110(a) is thought to have resulted in the mortality or injury of any marine mammals, or in any take of ma-

rine mammals not identified in §216.110(b).

(b) The Holder of the Letter of Authorization must conduct all monitoring and/or research required under the Letter of Authorization including, but not limited to:

(1) A one-time comprehensive pinniped census at the City of Monterey Fourth of July Celebration in 2007;

(2) A one-time acoustic measurement of the Monterey Fourth of July Celebration in 2007;

(3) Counts of pinnipeds in the impact area prior to all displays at all locations; and

(4) Reporting to NMFS of all marine mammal injury or mortality encountered during debris cleanup the morning after every fireworks display authorized by the Sanctuary.

(c) Unless specified otherwise in the Letter of Authorization, the Holder of the Letter of Authorization must submit a draft annual monitoring report to the Director, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, no later than 60 days after the conclusion of each calendar year. This report must contain:

(1) An estimate of the number of marine mammals disturbed by the authorized activities,

(2) Results of the monitoring required in §216.115 (b) and (c) and any additional information required by the Letter of Authorization. A final annual monitoring report must be submitted to the NMFS within 30 days after receiving comments from NMFS on the draft report. If no comments are received from NMFS, the draft report will be considered to be the final annual monitoring report.

(d) A draft comprehensive monitoring report on all marine mammal monitoring and research conducted during the period of these regulations must be submitted to the Director, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS at least 120 days prior to expiration of these regulations or 120 days after the expiration of these regulations if renewal of the regulations will not be requested. A final comprehensive monitoring report must be submitted to the NMFS within 30 days after receiving comments from NMFS on the draft report. If no comments are received from