

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration****Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Reporting Requirements for Commercial Fisheries Authorization Under Section 118 of the Marine Mammal Protection Act**

**AGENCY:** National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

**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 June 5, 2009.

**ADDRESSES:** Direct all written comments to Diana Hynek, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 7845, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230 (or via the Internet at [dHynek@doc.gov](mailto:dHynek@doc.gov)).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument and instructions should be directed to Patricia Lawson, (301) 713-2232 or [Patricia.Lawson@noaa.gov](mailto:Patricia.Lawson@noaa.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:****I. Abstract**

Reporting injury to and/or mortalities of marine mammals is mandated under Section 118 of the Marine Mammal Protection Act. This information is required to determine the impacts of commercial fishing on marine mammal populations. This information is also used to categorize commercial fisheries into Categories I, II, or III. Participants in the first two categories must be authorized to take marine mammals, while those in Category III are exempt from that requirement. All categories must report injuries or mortalities on a National Marine Fisheries Service form.

**II. Method of Collection**

Reports are required from participants, and methods of submittal include Internet, mail and facsimile transmission of paper forms.

**III. Data**

*OMB Number:* 0648-0292.

*Form Number:* None.

*Type of Review:* Regular submission.

*Affected Public:* Not-for-profit institutions; and business or other for-profits organizations.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 200.

*Estimated Time Per Response:* 15 minutes.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 50.

*Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public:* \$0.

**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.

**Gwellnar Banks,**

*Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.*

[FR Doc. E9-7677 Filed 4-3-09; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration****Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Groundfish Tagging Program**

**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 June 5, 2009.

**ADDRESSES:** Direct all written comments to Diana Hynek, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 7845, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230 (or via the Internet at [dHynek@doc.gov](mailto:dHynek@doc.gov)).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument and instructions should be directed to John Clary, (206) 526-4039 or e-mail [john.c.clary@noaa.gov](mailto:john.c.clary@noaa.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:****I. Abstract**

The groundfish tagging program provides scientists with information necessary for effective conservation, management, and scientific understanding of the groundfish fishery off Alaska and the Northwest Pacific. The program area includes the Pacific Ocean off Alaska (the Gulf of Alaska, the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Area, and the Alexander Archipelago of Southeast Alaska), California, Oregon, and Washington. Fish movement information from recovered tags is used in population dynamics models for stock assessment. There are two general categories of tags. The simple plastic tags (spaghetti tags) are external tags approximately two inches long printed with code numbers. When a tag is returned the tag number is correlated with databases of released, tagged fish to determine the net movement and growth rate of the tagged fish. Archival tags are microchips with sensors encased in plastic cylinders that record the depth, temperature or other data, which can be downloaded electronically from the recovered tags. The groundfish tagging and tag recovery program is part of the fishery resource assessment and data collection that National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) conducts under the Magnuson-Stevens Act authority as codified in 16 U.S.C. 1801(a)(8).

**II. Method of Collection**

This is a volunteer program requiring the actual tag from the fish to be returned, along with recovery information. Reporting forms with pre-addressed and postage-free envelopes are distributed to processors and catcher vessels.

**III. Data**

*OMB Control Number:* 0648-0276.

*Form Number:* None.

*Type of Review:* Regular submission.

*Affected Public:* Business or other for-profit organizations, individuals or households.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 661.

*Estimated Time per Response:* 5 minutes for returning a regular tag; and 20 minutes for returning an internal archival tag.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 88.

*Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public:* \$0.

#### 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: April 1, 2009.

#### Gwellnar Banks,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. E9-7685 Filed 4-3-09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XO42

#### Marine Mammals; File Nos. 14197 and 782-1812

**AGENCY:** National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice; receipt of applications.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that the U.S. Air Force, 30th Space Wing Civil Engineer Environmental Flight, Vandenberg Air Force Base, CA, has applied in due form for a permit to conduct research on marine mammals (File No. 14187); and NMFS National Marine Mammal Laboratory, Seattle, WA, has applied for a major amendment to Scientific Research Permit No. 782-1812 for research on marine mammals.

**DATES:** Written, telefaxed, or e-mail comments must be received on or before May 6, 2009.

**ADDRESSES:** The applications and related documents are available for review by selecting "Records Open for Public Comment" from the *Features* box on the Applications and Permits for Protected Species (APPS) home page, <https://apps.nmfs.noaa.gov/index.cfm>, and then selecting File No. 14197 or 782-1812 from the list of available applications.

These documents are also available upon written request or by appointment in the following office(s):

Permits, Conservation and Education Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910; phone (301)713-2289; fax (301)427-2521; and

Southwest Region, NMFS, 501 West Ocean Blvd., Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802-4213; phone (562)980-4001; fax (562)980-4018.

Written comments or requests for a public hearing on these applications should be mailed to the Chief, Permits, Conservation and Education Division, F/PR1, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Those individuals requesting a hearing should set forth the specific reasons why a hearing on the particular request would be appropriate.

Comments may also be submitted by facsimile at (301)427-2521, provided the facsimile is confirmed by hard copy submitted by mail and postmarked no later than the closing date of the comment period.

Comments may also be submitted by e-mail. The mailbox address for providing e-mail comments is [NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov](mailto:NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov). Include the File No. (14197 or 782-1812) in the subject line of the e-mail comment as a document identifier.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Tammy Adams or Kate Swails, (301)713-2289.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The subject permit and major amendment are requested under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (MMPA; 16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) and the regulations governing the taking and importing of marine mammals (50 CFR part 216).

*File No. 14197.* The proposed permit would authorize continued studies of the effects of noise from rocket and missile launches and subsequent launch-generated sonic booms on pinnipeds inhabiting Vandenberg Air Force Base (VAFB) and the northern Channel Islands (NCI). Continuing

research would examine effects from new launch vehicles, including the Delta IV. Target species are Pacific harbor seals (*Phoca vitulina richardii*), California sea lions (*Zalophus californianus*), and northern elephant seals (*Mirounga angustirostris*). Anticipated research activities include capture with physical or chemical restraint, hearing tests, blood sampling, physiological measurements, and attachment of telemetry instruments. The applicant proposes to capture 50 harbor seals per year at VAFB, with incidental harassment of up to 600 harbor seals, 50 northern elephant seals, and 10 California sea lions annually. On the NCI, the applicant proposes to capture 450 harbor seals per year with incidental harassment of 2,700 animals annually, inclusive for the three targeted species. No mortalities are anticipated, but two incidental harbor seal deaths annually are requested at VAFB, as are two incidental deaths per species annually for the NCI. The permit is requested for a 5-year period.

*File No. 782-1812.* The proposed permit amendment would authorize an increase in the number of California sea lions that could be taken per year for the duration of the permit, which expires June 30, 2011. The location of the research would remain the California Channel Islands. The applicant is requesting changes in research protocols and objectives that require capture, marking, and sampling of additional animals, and would result in incidental harassment of additional animals. The permit would be amended to increase numbers of takes of California sea lions for (1) harassment incidental to live and dead pup censuses in the California Channel Islands; (2) capture of pups 4 to 11 months old for condition health studies; (3) evaluating various methods of chemical immobilization for adult males; (4) evaluating different handling and marking methods of pups; and (5) investigating the breeding system using molecular genetics and behavioral observations of adult males.

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), an initial determination has been made that the activities proposed are categorically excluded from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement.

Concurrent with the publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, NMFS is forwarding copies of the applications to the Marine Mammal Commission and its Committee of Scientific Advisors.