

2016 Harbor Porpoise Take Reduction Team Members and Alternates

Under the 1994 amendments to the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), NOAA Fisheries (NMFS) is required to establish Take Reduction Teams to develop and implement Take Reduction Plans for reducing incidental mortality and serious injury to strategic stocks of marine mammals that interact with commercial fisheries. The MMPA provides guidance regarding the membership and composition of Take Reduction Teams. For example, Section 118(f)(6)(C) states that:

Members of take reduction teams shall have expertise regarding the conservation or biology of the marine mammal species which the take reduction plan will address, or the fishing practices which result in the incidental mortality and serious injury of such species. Members shall include representatives of Federal agencies, each coastal State which has fisheries which interact with the species or stock, appropriate Regional Fishery Management Councils, interstate fisheries commissions, academic and scientific organizations, environmental groups, all commercial and recreational fisheries groups and gear types which incidentally take the species or stock, Alaska native organizations or Indian tribal organizations, and others as the Secretary deems appropriate. Take reduction teams shall, to the maximum extent practicable, consist of an equitable balance among representatives of resource user interests and nonuser interests.

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