

directed to Philip Watson, (206) 947-3107 or philip.watson@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) proposes to collect information pertaining to the economic utilization of marine resources by communities on the West Coast, in order to improve fishery management; satisfy NMFS' legal mandates under Executive Order 12866, Title 8 of the Magnuson Steven Fishery Conservation and Management Act (U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*), as amended in 2007; and quantify achievement of the performance measures in the NMFS Strategic Operating Plans. The data collected will enable researchers to determine the degree of dependence of these communities on marine resource based activities and will inform policy makers as to the likely economic impacts of fishery and marine regulations on these communities.

Economic data for selected U.S. coastal communities will be collected for each of the following groups of operations: (1) Locally operated businesses; (2) resident households; and (3) visitors. In general, local businesses will be asked questions concerning their sources of revenue, location and levels of expenditures, ownership, dependence on the fisheries and other marine resources, and fishery employment. Households will be asked questions concerning their sources of income, the location of expenditures made, and their dependence on fishing and other marine resources. Visitors will be asked questions concerning region of residence, expenditures made while visiting, and reasons for visiting. The data collection efforts will be coordinated to reduce the additional burden for those who own multiple businesses. Participation in these data collections will be voluntary.

The data will be used to construct a regional economic simulation model to analyze fishery management alternatives and to investigate the degree of economic dependence on marine resources in the respective communities.

II. Method of Collection

Data will be collected via in-person interviews, telephone interviews and/or mail questionnaire.

III. Data

OMB Number: None.

Form Number: None.

Type of Review: Regular submission.

Affected Public: Individuals or households; business or other for-profit organizations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 2,400.

Estimated Time per Response: 1 hour per survey of businesses; 30 minutes per survey of households; and 15 minutes per survey of individual visitors.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 998.

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: March 15, 2007.

Gwellnar Banks,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. E7-5094 Filed 3-20-07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 031507A]

Endangered Species; File No. 1599

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

ACTION: Notice; receipt of application.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Inwater Research Group, Inc (Michael J. Bresette-Responsible Party), 4160 NE Hyline Dr, Jensen Beach, FL, 34957, has applied in due form for a permit to take green (*Chelonia mydas*), loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*), hawksbill (*Eretmochelys imbricata*), and Kemp's ridley (*Lepidochelys kempii*) sea turtles for purposes of scientific research.

DATES: Written, telefaxed, or e-mail comments must be received on or before April 20, 2007.

ADDRESSES: The application and related documents are available for review 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

Southeast Region, NMFS, 263 13th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL 33701; phone (727) 824-5312; fax (727) 824-5309.

Written comments or requests for a public hearing on this application 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 this 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. Include in the subject line of the e-mail comment the following document identifier: File No. 1599.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kate Swails or Patrick Opay, (301)713-2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The subject permit is requested under the authority of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) and the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered and threatened species (50 CFR 222-226).

The purpose of the proposed research is to continue long term monitoring of sea turtles foraging in the Key West National Wildlife Refuge and surrounding waters. The applicant would net or hand capture up to 200 green, 200 loggerhead, 50 hawksbill, and 10 Kemp's ridley sea turtles per year. The turtles would be measured, weighed, flipper and Passive Integrated Transponder tagged, blood and tissue sampled, marked with paint, and released. A subset of green turtles would be lavaged and satellite tagged. The permit would be valid for five years.

Dated: March 15, 2007.

P. Michael Payne,

Chief, Permits, Conservation and Education
Division, Office of Protected Resources,
National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. E7-5174 Filed 3-20-07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 022007C]

Taking and Importing Marine Mammals; Taking Marine Mammals Incidental to Rocket Launches at Vandenberg Air Force Base, CA

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries
Service, National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration,
Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of issuance of a Letter of
Authorization.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the
Marine Mammal Protection Act
(MMPA), as amended, and
implementing regulations, notification
is hereby given that a 1-year letter of
authorization (LOA) has been issued to
the 30th Space Wing, U.S. Air Force, to
take four species of seals and sea lions
incidental to rocket and missile
launches on Vandenberg Air Force Base
(VAFB), California.

DATES: Effective March 17, 2007,
through March 16, 2008.

ADDRESSES: The LOA and supporting
documentation are available for review
by writing to P. Michael Payne, Chief,
Permits, Conservation, and Education
Division, Office of Protected Resources,
National Marine Fisheries Service
(NMFS), 1315 East-West Highway,
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3225 or by
telephoning one of the contacts listed
below (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
CONTACT**). Documents cited in this
notice may be viewed, by appointment,
during regular business hours, at the
aforementioned address and at the
Southwest Regional Office, NMFS, 501
West Ocean Boulevard, Suite 4200,
Long Beach, CA 90802.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jolie
Harrison or Candace Nachman, Office of
Protected Resources, NMFS, (301) 713-
2289, or Monica DeAngelis, NMFS,
(562) 980-3232.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Section 101(a)(5)(A) of the MMPA (16
U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) directs the National
Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to

allow, upon request, the incidental, but
not intentional, taking of small numbers
of marine mammals by U.S. citizens
who engage in a specified activity (other
than commercial fishing) within a
specified geographical region if certain
findings are made and regulations are
issued. Under the MMPA, the term
“taking” means to harass, hunt, capture,
or kill or to attempt to harass, hunt,
capture, or kill marine mammals.

Authorization may be granted for
periods up to 5 years if NMFS finds,
after notification and opportunity for
public comment, that the taking will
have a negligible impact on the species
or stock(s) of marine mammals and will
not have an unmitigable adverse impact
on the availability of the species or
stock(s) for subsistence uses. In
addition, NMFS must prescribe
regulations that include permissible
methods of taking and other means
effecting the least practicable adverse
impact on the species and its habitat
and on the availability of the species for
subsistence uses, paying particular
attention to rookeries, mating grounds,
and areas of similar significance. The
regulations must include requirements
for monitoring and reporting of such
taking.

Regulations governing the taking of
Pacific harbor seals (*Phoca vitulina
richardsi*), northern elephant seals
(*Mirounga angustirostris*), California sea
lions (*Zalophus californianus*), and
northern fur seals (*Callorhinus ursinus*),
by harassment, incidental to missile and
rocket launches, aircraft flight test
operations, and helicopter operations at
VAFB, were issued on February 6, 2004
(69 FR 5720), and remain in effect until
February 6, 2009. For detailed
information on this action, please refer
to that document. These regulations
include mitigation, monitoring, and
reporting requirements for the
incidental take of marine mammals
during missile and rocket launches at
VAFB.

This LOA is effective from March 17,
2007 through March 16, 2008 and
authorizes the incidental take of the four
marine mammal species listed above
that may result from the launching of up
to 30 space and missile vehicles and up
to 20 rockets annually from VAFB, as
well as from aircraft and helicopter
operations. Harbor seals haul-out on
several sites on VAFB, and harbor seals,
California sea lions, elephant seals, and
northern fur seals are found on various
haul-out sites and rookeries on San
Miguel Island (SMI). Currently, five
space launch vehicle programs use
VAFB to launch satellites into polar
orbit: Atlas IIAS, Delta II, Minotaur,
Taurus, and Titan (II and IV). Also a

variety of small missiles, several types
of interceptor and target vehicles, and
fixed-wing aircraft are launched from
VAFB.

The activities under these regulations
create two types of noise: continuous
(but short-duration) noise, due mostly to
combustion effects of aircraft and
launch vehicles, and impulsive noise,
due to sonic boom effects. Launch
operations are the major source of noise
on the marine environment from VAFB.
The operation of launch vehicle engines
produces significant sound levels. The
noise generated by VAFB activities will
result in the incidental harassment of
pinnipeds, both behaviorally and in
terms of physiological (auditory)
impacts. The noise and visual
disturbances from space launch vehicle
and missile launches and aircraft and
helicopter operations may cause the
animals to move towards or enter the
water. Take of pinnipeds will be
minimized through implementation of
the following mitigation measures: (1)
all aircraft and helicopter flight paths
must maintain a minimum distance of
1,000 ft (305 m) from recognized seal
haul-outs and rookeries; (2) missile and
rocket launches must, whenever
possible, not be conducted during the
harbor seal pupping season of March
through June; (3) VAFB must avoid,
whenever possible, launches which are
predicted to produce a sonic boom on
the Northern Channel Islands during
harbor seal, elephant seal, and
California sea lion pupping seasons,
March through June; and 4) monitoring
methods will be reviewed by NMFS if
post-launch surveys determine that an
injurious or lethal take of a marine
mammal occurred. VAFB will also use
monitoring surveys, audio-recording
equipment, and time-lapse video to
monitor the animals before, during, and
after rocket launches, and to measure
sound levels generated by the launches.
Reports will be submitted to NMFS after
each LOA expires, and a final report
will be submitted before the rule
expires.

Summary of Request

NMFS received a request for a LOA
pursuant to the aforementioned
regulations that would authorize, for a
period not to exceed 1 year, take of
marine mammals, by harassment,
incidental to rocket and missile
launches at VAFB.

Summary of Activity and Monitoring Under the Current LOA

In compliance with the 2006 LOA,
VAFB submitted an annual report on
the rocket launches at VAFB. A