

have a negligible impact on marine mammal stocks, will not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of the affected marine mammal stock for subsistence uses, and the mitigation measures provide a means of affecting the least practicable adverse impact on the affected stocks and their habitat.

Dated: July 22, 2024.

**Kimberly Damon-Randall,**

*Director, Office of Protected Resources,  
National Marine Fisheries Service.*

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**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

**Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for Review and Approval; Comment Request; NOAA Satellite Customer Questionnaire**

**AGENCY:** National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of information collection, request for comment.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Commerce, in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), invites the general public and other Federal agencies to comment on proposed, and continuing information collections, which helps us assess the impact of our information collection requirements and minimize the public's reporting burden. The purpose of this notice is to allow for 60 days of public comment preceding submission of the collection to OMB.

**DATES:** To ensure consideration, comments regarding this proposed information collection must be received on or before September 23, 2024.

**ADDRESSES:** Interested persons are invited to submit written comments to Adrienne Thomas, NOAA PRA Officer, at [Adrienne.thomas@noaa.gov](mailto:Adrienne.thomas@noaa.gov). Please reference OMB Control Number 0648-0227 in the subject line of your comments. Do not submit Confidential Business Information or otherwise sensitive or protected information.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Requests for additional information or specific questions related to collection activities should be directed to Mark Turner and Toby Hutchings at [Mark.W.Turner@noaa.gov](mailto:Mark.W.Turner@noaa.gov), 301-817-4446 and [Toby.Hutchings@noaa.gov](mailto:Toby.Hutchings@noaa.gov), 240-569-0871, Suitland Federal Center,

4231 Suitland Road, Bldg. NSOF, Suitland, MD 20746.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**I. Abstract**

This request is for the extension of a current information collection.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) operates a minimum of four meteorological satellite imagery transmission systems, two from geostationary operational environmental (GOES) satellites and two from Joint Polar Satellite System (JPSS) satellites. In addition, a commercially broadcast data stream and legacy/backup/standby polar-orbiting satellites continue to be operated as their health permits. The data transmitted are available worldwide, and any user can establish a ground receiving station for reception of the data without the prior consent, notification, or other approval from NOAA. With such an open access policy, it is currently not possible to have a comprehensive understanding of the range and numbers of the data users and application of the data received and/or used. The purpose of collecting the information contained in the "Questionnaire" is to satisfy the following objectives: (1) To comply with international agreements such as the Department of Commerce (DOC)/NOAA's memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), so that NOAA can provide environmental satellite data and processed satellite data products to the public domain, and (2) To improve Government efficiencies of data dissemination using cost-saving technologies to minimize the expenditure of personnel and financial resources. The NOAA Policy on Partnerships in the Provision of Environmental Information is also pertinent to this information collection. This policy was developed to strengthen the partnership among government, academia, and the private sector, which provides the nation with high quality environmental information.

The collection of information from a respondent is initiated when an individual contacts National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service (NESDIS) via letter, telephone, fax or email, or when they visit a web page. If the nature of the contact indicates the individual may operate a satellite receiving station for the acquisition of NOAA satellite data or may use NOAA satellite data or services, the individual is requested to complete an on-line electronic questionnaire, which is found on a NOAA internet site. The questionnaire

is completed at the respondent's discretion. The information received is used by NOAA for short-term operations and long-term planning. Collection of this data assists in complying with the terms of the MOU with the WMO, MOU with DOC, and NOAA on areas of common interest and other international agreements.

**II. Method of Collection**

Information will be collected via an online questionnaire.

**III. Data**

*OMB Control Number:* 0648-0227.

*Form Number(s):* None.

*Type of Review:* Regular submission [extension of a current information collection].

*Affected Public:* Federal government, Not-for-profit institutions.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 30.

*Estimated Time per Response:* 6 minutes per response.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 30 hours.

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

*Respondent's Obligation:* Voluntary.

**IV. Request for Comments**

We are soliciting public comments to permit the Department/Bureau to: (a) Evaluate whether the proposed information collection is necessary for the proper functions of the Department, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) Evaluate the accuracy of our estimate of the time and cost burden for this proposed collection, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) Evaluate ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) Minimize the reporting burden on those who are to respond, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments that you submit in response to this notice are a matter of public record. We will include or summarize each comment in our request to OMB to approve this ICR. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you may ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we

cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

**Sheleen Dumas,**

Department PRA Clearance Officer, Office of the Under Secretary for Economic Affairs, Commerce Department.

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XD989]

#### Takes of Marine Mammals Incidental to Specified Activities; Taking Marine Mammals Incidental to U.S. Coast Guard Fast Response Cutter Homeporting in Seward and Sitka, Alaska

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

**ACTION:** Notice; proposed incidental harassment authorizations; request for comments on proposed authorizations and possible renewals.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS has received a request from the United States Coast Guard (USCG) for authorization to take marine mammals incidental to fast response cutter (FRC) homeporting in Seward and Sitka, Alaska. Pursuant to the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), NMFS is requesting comments on its proposal to issue two incidental harassment authorizations (IHAs) to incidentally take marine mammals during the specified activities. NMFS is also requesting comments on possible one-time, 1-year renewals that could be issued under certain circumstances and if all requirements are met, as described in Request for Public Comments at the end of this notice. NMFS will consider public comments prior to making any final decision on the issuance of the requested MMPA authorizations and agency responses will be summarized in the final notice of our decision.

**DATES:** Comments and information must be received no later than August 26, 2024.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments should be addressed to Jolie Harrison, Chief, Permits and Conservation Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service and should be submitted via email to [ITP.clevenstine@noaa.gov](mailto:ITP.clevenstine@noaa.gov). Electronic copies of the application and supporting documents, as well as a list of the references cited in this document, may be obtained

online at: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/marine-mammal-protection/incidental-take-authorizations-construction-activities>. In case of problems accessing these documents, please call the contact listed below.

**Instructions:** NMFS is not responsible for comments sent by any other method, to any other address or individual, or received after the end of the comment period. Comments, including all attachments, must not exceed a 25-megabyte file size. All comments received are a part of the public record and will generally be posted online at <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/permit/incidental-take-authorizations-under-marine-mammal-protection-act> without change. All personal identifying information (e.g., name, address) voluntarily submitted by the commenter may be publicly accessible. Do not submit confidential business information or otherwise sensitive or protected information.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Alyssa Clevenstine, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, (301) 427-8401.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Background

The MMPA prohibits the “take” of marine mammals, with certain exceptions. Sections 101(a)(5)(A) and (D) of the MMPA (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) direct the Secretary of Commerce (as delegated to 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 either regulations are proposed or, if the taking is limited to harassment, a notice of a proposed IHA is provided to the public for review.

Authorization for incidental takings shall be granted if NMFS finds that the taking will have a negligible impact on the species or stock(s) and will not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of the species or stock(s) for taking for subsistence uses (where relevant). Further, NMFS must prescribe the permissible methods of taking and other “means of effecting the least practicable adverse impact” on the affected species or stocks and their habitat, paying particular attention to rookeries, mating grounds, and areas of similar significance, and on the availability of the species or stocks for taking for certain subsistence uses (referred to in shorthand as “mitigation”); and requirements pertaining to the monitoring and

reporting of the takings. The definitions of all applicable MMPA statutory terms cited above are included in the relevant sections below.

#### National Environmental Policy Act

To comply with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA; 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*) and NOAA Administrative Order (NAO) 216-6A, NMFS must review our proposed action (*i.e.*, the issuance of an IHA) with respect to potential impacts on the human environment.

This action is consistent with categories of activities identified in Categorical Exclusion B4 (IHAs with no anticipated serious injury or mortality) of the Companion Manual for NAO 216-6A, which do not individually or cumulatively have the potential for significant impacts on the quality of the human environment and for which we have not identified any extraordinary circumstances that would preclude this categorical exclusion. Accordingly, NMFS has preliminarily determined that the issuance of the proposed IHAs qualify to be categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

We will review all comments submitted in response to this notice prior to concluding our NEPA process or making a final decision on the IHA requests.

#### Summary of Request

On January 19, 2024, NMFS received a request from the USCG for two IHAs to take marine mammals incidental to pile driving (installation and removal) associated with construction of two FRC homeporting docks in Seward and Sitka, Alaska. Following NMFS’ review of the application, the USCG submitted revised versions on April 3, 2024, June 6, 2024, and June 11, 2024. The application was deemed adequate and complete on June 11, 2024. The USCG’s request is for take of 11 species (18 stocks) of marine mammals by Level B harassment and, for a subset of five these species, Level A harassment. Neither the USCG nor NMFS expect serious injury or mortality to result from this activity and, therefore, IHAs are appropriate.

#### Description of Proposed Activity

##### Overview

The USCG proposes to construct shore-side facilities and associated infrastructure at Moorings Seward to homeport one FRC located in the Seward Marine Industrial Center (SMIC) boat basin, and demolishing and constructing shore side facilities at Moorings Sitka in Sitka Harbor to