UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
PROGRAM PLANNING AND INTEGRATION
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

To All Interested Government Agencies and Public Groups:

Under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), an environmental review has been performed on the following action.

TITLE: Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA) on the Issuance of Marine Mammal Incidental Take Authorizations to the California Department of Transportation to Take Marine Mammals by Harassment Incidental to San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge East Span Pier E3 Demolition via Controlled Implosion in San Francisco Bay

LOCATION: San Francisco Bay, California

SUMMARY: The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) proposes to issue an IHA to the California Department of Transportation (CALTRANS) for the taking, by Level B harassment, of small numbers of four marine mammal species incidental to the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge East Span Pier E3 demolition via controlled implosion in San Francisco Bay, California. The demolition activity would use confined detonation to demolish the original Pier E3. CALTRANS seeks an IHA because the underwater noise from the implosion could adversely affect marine mammals in the area. NMFS proposes to issue an IHA with mitigation measures, as described in Alternative 1 of the Supplemental Environmental Assessment. Under Alternative 1, the issuance of an IHA may indirectly result in adverse effects on marine mammals, but such effects would be negligible or at most minor because the marine mammals in the area are likely to exhibit only brief and minor behavioral modification as a result of CALTRANS' activities.

RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL: Donna S. Wieting,
Director, Office of Protected Resources
National Marine Fisheries Service
1315 East-West Highway, SSMC-3 Suite 13821
Tel. 301-427-8400

The environmental review process led us to conclude that this action will not have a significant effect on the human environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement will not be prepared. A copy of the finding of no significant impact (FONSI) including the supporting supplemental environmental assessment (SEA) is enclosed for your information. Although NOAA is not soliciting comments on this completed EA/FONSI we will consider any comments submitted that would assist us in preparing future NEPA documents. Please submit any written comments to the responsible official named above.

Sincerely,

TRONVIG.KRISTEN.A.1365886012

Digitally signed by TRONVIG.KRISTEN.A.1365886012
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for Patricia A. Montanio
NOAA NEPA Coordinator

Enclosure

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