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 on Issuance of Permit No. 13430-02 for Research on Marine Mammals

LOCATION: Coastal and Inland Washington and Oregon

SUMMARY: The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) proposes to issue a major amendment to Permit No. 13430-01 for research on marine mammals in the wild, pursuant to the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972. Permit No. 13430-01 authorizes the NMFS National Marine Mammal Laboratory to conduct research on Pacific harbor seals (*Phoca vitulina*), California sea lions (*Zalophus californianus*), and northern elephant seals (*Mirounga angustirostris*) within coastal waters and on pinniped rookeries and haul outs of Washington and Oregon. Steller sea lions (*Eumetopias jubatus*) of the Eastern Distinct Population Segment may be harassed incidental to research. The permit amendment would extend the duration of the permit by five years and authorize the use of additional sedative drugs during captures. The amended permit would be valid through January 31, 2020.

RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL:

Donna S. Wieting
Director, Office of Protected Resources
National Marine Fisheries Service
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
1315 East-West Highway, Room 13821
Silver Spring, MD 20910
(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.

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Although NOAA is not soliciting comments on this completed SEA/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