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

FEB 3 2011

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: Environmental Assessment for Issuance of a Permit Amendment to Conduct Research on Captive and Rehabilitating Threatened and Endangered Marine Mammals (Permit No. 13602-01)

LOCATION: Captive facilities (research, public display, and rehabilitation centers)

SUMMARY: The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) proposes to issue Permit No. 13602-01 to Dr. Terrie Williams (University of California at Santa Cruz, Long Marine Laboratory) to authorize physiological research on captive and rehabilitating threatened and endangered marine mammals. Based on the analyses in the environmental assessment (EA), it is unlikely that activities carried out under the proposed amendment would have significant cumulative effects when considered with other factors affecting the marine mammals.

RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL: James H. Lecky
Director, Office of Protected Resources
National Marine Fisheries Service
1315 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910
Phone: 301-713-2289

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 EA 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,

Paul N. Doremus, Ph.D.
NOAA NEPA Coordinator

Enclosure

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