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

MAY 18 2012

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 on Effects of Issuing Marine Mammal Scientific Research Permit No. 14534-02

LOCATION: Coastal waters of California, especially within the U.S. Navy's Southern California Range Complex, and primarily near San Clemente Island

SUMMARY: The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is issuing Scientific Research Permit No. 14534-02, pursuant to the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (MMPA; 16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), and the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*). The permit amends and replaces Permit No. 14534-01, and authorizes takes by harassment of a variety of marine mammal stocks and species, including endangered sperm whales, humpback whales, sei whales, fin whales, and blue whales. The takes are expected to result in transitory and recoverable changes in behavior of some marine mammals and the action is not likely to adversely affect marine mammal populations or species, or other components of the environment.

RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL: Helen M. Golde
Acting 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 environmental assessment (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,

Patricia A. Montanio
NOAA NEPA Coordinator

Enclosure

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