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

NOV 8 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 the Issuance of Incidental Harassment Authorizations to the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary and University of California Santa Cruz to Take Marine Mammals by Harassment Incidental to Rocky Intertidal Monitoring along the U.S. Pacific Coast

LOCATION: South Farallon Islands

SUMMARY: NMFS proposes to issue an Incidental Harassment Authorization (IHA) to the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary to allow the take, by Level B harassment, of five marine mammal species, incidental to rocky intertidal monitoring surveys. Presence of researchers may result in short-term harassment of marine mammals, including avoidance and behavioral changes.

RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL: Helen M. Golde
Acting Director, Office of Protected Resources
National Marine Fisheries Service
1315 East West Highway
Silver Spring, MD
301-427-8400

The environmental review process, including preparation of the Environmental Assessment (EA), 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,

for Patricia A. Montanio
NOAA NEPA Coordinator

Enclosure

Printed on Recycled Paper