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

JAN 30 2014

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 an Incidental Harassment Authorization to Point Blue Conservation Science and Partners to Take Marine Mammals by Harassment Incidental to Seabird and Pinniped Research Conducted in Central California.

LOCATION: Southeast Farallon Island, West End Island, Año Nuevo Island, San Francisco Bay, Point Reyes National Seashore, and the Russian River in Sonoma County, CA.

SUMMARY: NMFS proposes to issue an Incidental Harassment Authorization (IHA) to Point Blue Conservation Science and Partners to allow the take, by Level B harassment, of four marine mammal species, incidental to seabird and pinniped research operations. Elevated sound levels and human presence may result in short-term harassment of marine mammals, including avoidance and behavioral changes.

RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL: Donna S. Wieting
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, we have not prepared an environmental impact statement. 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

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