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 (EA) on the Issuance of Marine Mammal Incidental Take Authorizations (IHA) to the Washington State Department of Transportation to Take Marine Mammals by Harassment Incidental to Mukilteo Multimodal Project in Mukilteo, Washington

**LOCATION:** Mukilteo, Washington

**SUMMARY:** The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) proposes to issue IHAs to the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) for the taking, by Level B harassment, of small numbers of eight marine mammal species incidental to construction activities related to Mukilteo Ferry Terminal replacement in Washington. The entire ferry terminal replacement project will occur over 4 consecutive years starting 2014. The construction activities include the removal of the U.S. Department of Defense Fuel Supply facility, channel dredging, installing building foundation/trestle piles and stone columns, installing transfer span drilled shafts, wingwalls, fixed dolphins, passenger overhead loading drilled shafts and fishing pier piles, constructing passenger building, and removing current terminal and existing fishing pier when new terminal is operations. WSDOT seeks a series of IHAs because the underwater construction noise and increase of human activities and vessel traffic in the area could adversely affect marine mammals in the area. NMFS proposes to issue IHAs with mitigation measures, as described in Alternative 2 of the Environmental Assessment. Under Alternative 2, the issuance of IHAs may indirectly result in adverse effects on marine mammals, but such effects would be negligible or at most minor because the marine mammals in the area are likely to exhibit only brief and minor behavioral modification as a result of WSDOT's activities.

**RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL:** Donna S. Wieting, Director, Office of Protected Resources National Marine Fisheries Service 1315 East-West Highway, SSMC-3 Suite 13821 Tel. 301-427-8400

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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,

[Signature]

Patricia A. Montanio
NOAA NEPA Coordinator

Enclosure