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

MAY 28 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: Final Environmental Assessment on the Issuance of Regulations to Take Marine Mammals by Harassment Incidental to U.S. Navy Missile Launch Activities at San Nicolas Island, California

LOCATION: San Nicolas Island, California

SUMMARY: The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) proposes to issue regulations and a Letter of Authorization to the U.S. Navy for the take, by Level B harassment, of marine mammals during missile launch activities from San Nicolas Island, California (SNI). NMFS has determined that the impact of conducting these activities from SNI may result, at worst, in a temporary modification in behavior and short-term displacement from haul-out sites of three species of marine mammals. No injury or mortality is anticipated to result from this activity, nor is it authorized. NMFS has further determined that this activity will result in a negligible impact on the affected species or stocks.

RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL: Donna S. Wieting
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) 713-2332

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.

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Although NOAA is not soliciting comments on this 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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