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

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: Seabird Monitoring and Research, September, 2014.

LOCATION: Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve, Alaska

SUMMARY: We, the National Marine Fisheries Service, propose to issue an Incidental Harassment Authorization (Authorization) to Glacier Bay National Park for the taking, by Level B harassment, of small numbers of marine mammals, incidental to conducting seabird monitoring and research in Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve, Alaska.

We prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) titled, *Issuance of an Incidental Harassment Authorization to Glacier Bay National Park to Take Marine Mammals by Harassment Incidental to Seabird Monitoring and Research Conducted in Glacier Bay National Park. Alaska*, and prepared an independent Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). We determined that the impact of conducting the seabird monitoring and research may result, at worst, in a temporary modification in behavior of small numbers of several species of marine mammals. Based on its review of the record, including the EA and FONSI, we determined that issuance of the Authorization will not result in any significant direct, indirect, or cumulative impacts to any element of the human environment. We do not anticipate that take by injury (Level A harassment), serious injury, or death will occur; nor have we authorized take by Level A harassment. We have 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) 427-8400

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All beneficial and adverse impacts of the action have been addressed to reach the conclusion of no significant impacts. Accordingly, preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement for this action is not necessary. We enclose for your information a copy of the FONSI prepared by us and supporting documentation.

Although NOAA is not soliciting comments on this 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,

TRONVIG.KRISTEN.A.1365886012

Digitally signed by TRONVIG.KRISTEN.A.1365886012
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for Patricia A. Montanio
NOAA NEPA Coordinator

Enclosure