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

JUL 23 2010

Dear Reviewer:

In accordance with provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) intends to adopt the U.S. Navy's *Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for NAVSEA NUWC Keyport Range Complex Extension Final Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement* to comply with NEPA and for agency decision-making purposes. NOAA's proposed action is to issue a 5-year rule and Letters of Authorization (LOAs) to the Navy to take marine mammals incidental to its research, development, test and evaluation (RDT&E) activities in the Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) Naval Undersea Warfare Center (NUWC) Keyport Range Complex Extension Study Area and is related to the Navy's proposed action to conduct RDT&E activities in the NAVSEA NUWC Keyport Range Complex Extension Study Area. NOAA has determined that this FEIS adequately analyzes and discloses the environmental impacts associated with this project. Therefore, we enclose this FEIS your review.

This FEIS is prepared pursuant to NEPA to assess the environmental impacts associated with NOAA proceeding with issuing the rule and LOAs. NMFS' proposed action (issuance of regulations and LOAs) would authorize take of marine mammals incidental to a subset of the activities analyzed in the Navy's NAVSEA NUWC Keyport Range Complex that are anticipated to result in the take of marine mammals, i.e., those activities that involve underwater active acoustic sources, including high and mid-frequency active sonar. Thus, these components of the Navy's proposed action are interrelated as they are the subject of NMFS' proposed MMPA regulatory action.

NOAA is not required to respond to comments received as a result of issuance of the FEIS. However, comments will be reviewed and considered for their impact on issuance of a record of decision (ROD). Please send comments to the responsible official identified below. The ROD will be made available publicly following final agency action.

Responsible Official: Eric C. Schwaab
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National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
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Sincerely,

for Paul N. Doremus, Ph.D.
NOAA NEPA Coordinator

Enclosure

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