

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**International Trade Administration**

[C-337-802]

Notice of Postponement of Time Limit for Countervailing Duty Investigation: Fresh Atlantic Salmon From Chile

AGENCY: International Trade Administration/Import Administration/Department of Commerce.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 28, 1997.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Rosa Jeong or Marian Wells, Import Administration, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, Room 3099, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, D.C. 20230; telephone: (202) 482-1278 or 482-6309, respectively.

Postponement

On July 2, 1997, the Department of Commerce ("the Department") initiated the countervailing duty investigation of Fresh Atlantic Salmon from Chile. Respondents have indicated that they will be cooperating in the investigation. In addition, we are investigating a large number of potentially complex alleged countervailable subsidy practices. Accordingly, as detailed in our July 15, 1997, Memorandum to the File, we deem this investigation to be extraordinarily complicated. Therefore, pursuant to section 703(c)(1) of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended ("the Act"), we are postponing the preliminary determination in this investigation no later than November 10, 1997.

This notice is published pursuant to section 703(c)(2) of the Act.

Dated: July 18, 1997.

Robert S. LaRussa,

Acting Assistant Secretary for Import Administration.

[FR Doc. 97-19811 Filed 7-25-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-DS-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[I.D. 043097B]

Small Takes of Marine Mammals Incidental to Specified Activities; Lockheed Launch Vehicles at Vandenberg Air Force Base, CA

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of issuance of an incidental harassment authorization.

SUMMARY: In accordance with provisions of the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) as amended, notification is hereby given that an Incidental Harassment Authorization to take small numbers of harbor seals by harassment incidental to launches of Lockheed-Martin's launch vehicles (LMLVs) at Space Launch Complex 6 (SLC-6), Vandenberg Air Force Base, CA (Vandenberg) has been issued.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This authorization is effective from July 18, 1997, through July 17, 1998.

ADDRESSES: The application and authorization are available for review in the following offices: Marine Mammal Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910, and the Southwest Region, NMFS, 501 West Ocean Blvd. Long Beach, CA 90802.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kenneth Hollingshead, Office of Protected Resources at 301-713-2055, or Irma Lagomarsino, Southwest Regional Office at 310-980-4016.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Section 101(a)(5)(A) of the MMPA (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) directs NMFS to allow, upon request, the incidental, but not intentional, taking of marine mammals by U.S. citizens who engage in a specified activity (other than commercial fishing) within a specified geographical region if certain findings are made and regulations are issued.

Permission may be granted if NMFS finds that the taking will have a negligible impact on the species or stock(s), will not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of the species or stock(s) for subsistence uses, and the permissible methods of taking and requirements pertaining to the monitoring and reporting of such taking are set forth.

The MMPA Amendments of 1994 established an expedited process by which citizens of the United States can apply for an authorization to incidentally take small numbers of marine mammals by harassment. The MMPA defines "harassment" as:

*** any act of pursuit, torment, or annoyance which (a) has the potential to injure a marine mammal or marine mammal stock in the wild; or (b) has the potential to disturb a marine mammal or marine mammal stock in the wild by causing disruption of behavioral patterns, including, but not limited to, migration, breathing, nursing, breeding, feeding, or sheltering.

New subsection 101(a)(5)(D) establishes a 45-day time limit for NMFS review of an application followed by a 30-day public notice and

comment period on any proposed authorizations for the incidental harassment of small numbers of marine mammals. Within 45 days of the close of the comment period, NMFS must either issue or deny issuance of the authorization.

Summary of Request

On March 21, 1997, NMFS received an application from the U.S. Air Force, Vandenberg, requesting continuation of an authorization for the harassment of small numbers of harbor seals incidental to launches of LMLVs at SLC-6, Vandenberg. These launches would place commercial payloads into low earth orbit. Because of the requirements for circumpolar trajectories of the LMLV and its payloads, the use of SLC-6 is the only feasible alternative for LMLV launches within the United States. As a result of the noise associated with the launch itself and the resultant sonic boom, these noises have the potential to cause a startle response to those harbor seals which haul out on the coastline south and southwest of Vandenberg and may be detectable to marine mammals west of the Channel Islands. Launch noise would be expected to occur over the coastal habitats in the vicinity of SLC-6 while low-level sonic booms could be heard west of the Channel Islands.

Background information on the activity, the authorization request, and affected marine mammals can be found in the proposed authorization notice (62 FR 26779, May 15, 1997) and previous notices (60 FR 24840, May 10, 1995; 60 FR 38308, July 26, 1995) on LMLV launches. Therefore this information is not repeated here. These documents are available from NMFS (see ADDRESSES).

Comments and Responses

A notice of receipt of the application and the proposed authorization was published on May 15, 1997 (62 FR 26779) and a 30-day public comment period was provided on the application and proposed authorization. No comments were received during the comment period.

Conclusion

For reasons discussed in the notice of proposed authorization, since NMFS is assured that the taking will not result in more than the harassment (as defined by the MMPA Amendments of 1994) of a small number of harbor seals, would have only a negligible impact on the species, and would result in the least practicable impact on the stock, NMFS has determined that the requirements of

section 101(a)(5)(D) have been met and the authorization can be issued.

Authorization

For the above reasons, NMFS has issued an incidental harassment authorization for 1 year for the above described activity provided mitigation, monitoring, and reporting requirements described in the IHA are undertaken.

Dated: July 15, 1997.

Patricia A. Montanio,

Deputy Director, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 97-19793 Filed 7-25-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army

Notice of Availability of the Record of Decision for the Demilitarization of Chemical Agents and Munitions Stored at Pine Bluff Arsenal, Arkansas

AGENCY: Department of the Army, DoD.

ACTION: Record of Decision.

SUMMARY: Consistent with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) and regulations promulgated pursuant thereto, this announces the availability of the Record of Decision (ROD) which documents and explains the Department of the Army's decision to construct and operate a full-scale chemical agent disposal facility located in the northeastern area of the Pine Bluff Arsenal (PBA), Arkansas (identified as Site A in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)). The Army has determined that the Revised Final EIS adequately addresses the potential impacts of the Army's actions relating to the disposal of chemical agents and munitions stored at PBA. The Army has also determined that the conclusions in the Revised Final EIS establish that the decision to implement on-site incineration at site A provides maximum protection of the environment, the general public, and workers at the disposal facility. The Army plans to dispose of 3,850 tons of chemical agents stored at PBA consistent with the terms of the ROD.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: A comparison was made of the potential impacts of six different locations at PBA for the facility. The six locations were identified using criteria based on safety and compatibility with current PBA activities. The selected site, located in the northeastern part of the Arsenal, has the advantage of being previously disturbed by construction of the BZ disposal facility and the ready

availability of utilities. Additionally, it was found to result in equivalent or lower potential adverse ecological impacts as compared to the other five sites evaluated. Potential impacts from alternative operating schedules for the proposed disposal facility were also evaluated. It was found that operating the plant continuously on a daily basis would result in lower human health risks than operating the plant only for one shift. Based on these impact analyses, it is concluded that conducting disposal operations at the northern site for three shifts per day is the preferred environmental alternative for implementing on-site disposal.

COPIES: To obtain copies of the ROD, contact the Program Manager for Chemical Demilitarization, Data and Document Control Center, at (410) 671-4901 or Mr. Jeff Lindblad, Pine Bluff Chemical Activity, at (501) 540-2429. For more information, contact Ms. Catherine Herlinger, Office of the Program Manager for Chemical Demilitarization, at (410) 671-3629.

Dated: July 21, 1997.

Raymond J. Fatz,

Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (Environment, Safety and Occupational Health), OASA (I, L&E).

[FR Doc. 97-19767 Filed 7-25-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army

Corps of Engineers

Intent To Prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Reformation Study, Atlantic Coast of Long Island, From Fire Island Inlet to Montauk Point, New York

AGENCY: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, DOD.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: The New York District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers plans to begin preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for proposed measures for storm damage protection for the Atlantic Coast of Long Island, from Fire Island Inlet to Montauk Point, New York (study area). This project is necessary due to continual erosion leading to a decrease in the width of beach and a loss of beach material during severe storms and hurricanes. Due to the erosion and the lack of sufficiently high beaches, berms or dune systems, residential and commercial developments have become

increasingly susceptible to storm damage from flooding and wave attack.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Attn: Stephen A. Couch, Study Manager, (212) 264-9077

Attn: Peter M. Weppner, EIS Coordinator, (212) 264-4663, Planning Division, Corps of Engineers, New York District, 26 Federal Plaza, New York, New York 10278-0090

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The overall Fire Island Inlet to Montauk Point, New York, Combined Beach Erosion Control and Hurricane Protection Project was authorized by the River and Harbor Act of 1960 in accordance with the recommendations of the Chief of Engineers in House Document No. 425, 86th Congress dated June 21, 1960. The original authorized project provided for beach erosion control and hurricane protection along five reaches by means of widening the beaches along the developed areas, raising the dunes by artificial placement of suitable sand, grass planting on the dunes, and construction of interior drainage structures at Mecox Bay, Sagaponack Lake, and Georgica Pond. The project authorized construction of 50 groins subject to determination of their actual need. The authorization was subsequently modified by Section 103 of the River and Harbor Act of October 12, 1962, Section 31 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1974, Section 502 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986, and Section 102 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992. These modifications were made primarily to adjust the cost sharing provisions of the authorized project.

1. Location and Description of Proposed Action

The project area is located entirely in Suffolk County, Long Island, New York, along the Atlantic and bay shores of the towns of Babylon, Islip, Brookhaven, Southampton and Easthampton. The study area is approximately 83 miles long. The study area includes three large estuarial bays. Great South Bay is connected to the Atlantic Ocean through Fire Island Inlet, which is a federal navigation channel. Similarly, Moriches Bay and Shinnecock Bay are connected to the ocean through Moriches and Shinnecock Inlets, respectively, which are also federal navigation channels. Great South Bay, Moriches Bay and Shinnecock Bay are connected by narrow channels behind the barrier. The westernmost portion of the study area, Fire Island Inlet, is located approximately 52 miles by water east of