

proposes to deploy biotelemetry instruments on the captives to develop and validate methods for monitoring wild Steller sea lions. Research would be conducted on one adult male, up to four adult females, and up to six offspring, and would include the following activities: mass and morphometric measurements; ultrasound; capture, sedation, and anesthesia; blood sampling and administration of Evan's blue dye and deuterium oxide; feces, urine, semen, and milk collection; video/audio recordings; genital swabs; radiographs; dietary supplements; blubber biopsy; and attachment of biotelemetry instrumentation. ASLC also requests authorization to transfer to and import from approved North American facilities up to two male and four female Steller sea lions, not to exceed 11 animals held at ASLC for use in research. ASLC requests up to two research-related mortalities over the course of the permit. No research would occur on wild populations or affect non-target species.

File No. 14335: The applicant, ASLC, (Principal Investigator: JoAnn Mellish, Ph.D.), requests a five-year permit to investigate the decline of the western stock of Steller sea lions and its failure to recover, and to assist recovery efforts. Data would be obtained on juvenile survival, epidemiology, endocrinology, immunology, virology, physiology, ontogenetic and annual body condition cycles, foraging behavior and habitat selection. Up to 20 pups (8–11 months) and 32 juveniles (12–48 months) of both sexes may be captured per year, with a subset of up to 12 juveniles (12–48 months) of both sexes selected for temporary quarantine captivity at the South Beach facility at the ASLC. Research activities would include capture/handle/release (floating trap, underwater lasso), drug administration (IM, IV, oral, subcutaneous, topical), anesthesia, temporary captivity, fecal and urine collection, instrument attachment (external and internal), marking, measuring, behavioral observations, photogrammetry, restraint, sampling (blood, blubber biopsy, clip hair, fecal swab, blubber and muscle biopsy, nasal swab, oral swab, skin biopsy, vibrissae pull, stable isotopes and serial blood samples), transport, ultrasound, unintentional mortality, weigh and x-ray. Up to 3,500 individuals of all ages, either sex, may be incidentally harassed annually. Two research-related mortalities per year are requested. The location of activities would include the Gulf of Alaska and the ASLC.

File No. 14336: The applicant, Dr. Horning, requests a five-year permit to determine survival rates, emigration, causes of mortality, predation, and collect long-term forage effort data, in juvenile eastern DPS sea lions, using surgically implanted scientific instruments called Life History Transmitters (LHX tags). Up to 50 pups and 50 juveniles of both sexes would be captured for sampling and LHX tag deployment at Hazy Islands and in Frederick Sound, AK annually (100 animals total per age class). LHX tags would also be opportunistically deployed in carcasses of dead Steller sea lions in AK, OR, and CA, and in California sea lions in OR and CA to assess uplink failure rates. Remote monitoring (using still, video, and infrared cameras) for censusing, brand re-sighting, attendance patterns, and estimating body mass, condition and health trends would be conducted at Long Island, AK and Sea Lion Caves and Cascade Head, OR. Up to 900 individuals of all ages and either sex in the western DPS and 8,800 in the eastern DPS of all ages may be incidentally harassed annually. The applicant also requests authorization for 5 research-related mortalities of eastern DPS animals per year.

File No. 14337: The applicant, NPUMMRC, (Principal Investigator: Andrew Trites, Ph.D.), requests a five-year permit to conduct studies of Steller sea lion diets, distributions, life history traits, physiology and the timing of weaning in AK. NPUMMRC also proposes to evaluate pain experienced by Steller sea lions during hot-iron branding conducted by researchers operating under separate permits. Research activities would involve (maximum number of animals per year in parentheses): disturbance associated with capture, observational studies, and scat collection (10,720 eastern DPS; 28,220 western DPS); and capture, restraint, tissue sampling, and marking (126 eastern DPS; 206 western DPS). NPUMMRC requests authorization for the annual research-related mortality of 2 eastern DPS pups, 2 western DPS pups during marking and 4 eastern DPS sea lions of any age, and 4 western DPS sea lions of any age during other studies. NPUMMRC also requests authorization for harassment of 15 northern fur seals, 5 California sea lions, 10 northern elephant seals, 60 harbor seals, and 5 killer whales (*Orcinus orca*) in AK annually incidental to the research on Steller sea lions.

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), an initial determination has been made that the

activities proposed are consistent with the Preferred Alternative in the Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) for Steller Sea Lion and Northern Fur Seal Research (NMFS 2007), and that issuance of the permits would not have a significant adverse impact on the human environment.

As established under the Preferred Alternative, NMFS proposes to authorize annual cumulative research-related mortality of up to 15 percent of the Potential Biological Removal levels for each stock. These annual allowances would include observed and unobserved mortalities, and be calculated based on the nature of the research. The numbers of research-related mortalities permitted may be higher or lower than those requested by the applicants.

Concurrent with the publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, NMFS is forwarding copies of the applications to the Marine Mammal Commission and its Committee of Scientific Advisors.

Dated: May 7, 2009.

P. Michael Payne,

Chief, Permits, Conservation and Education Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Institute of Standards and Technology

Second Smart Grid Interoperability Standards Interim Roadmap Public Workshop

AGENCY: National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), United States Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of public workshop.

SUMMARY: The National Institute of Standards and Technology announces that a free two-day public workshop on Smart Grid standards will be held on May 19–20, 2009, in the Washington, DC area.

DATES: The free public workshop will be held on May 19 and 20, 2009, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The free public workshop will be held in the Washington, DC, area at the Gaylord National Hotel and Convention Center, 201 Waterfront Street, National Harbor, MD 20745. The location and registration information will be posted at: <http://www.nist.gov/smartgrid/>. Those interested in attending also can call Ashley Eldrege of the Electric Power Research Institute, on

650–855–2063 to register, or send a message to smartgrid@nist.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Zulma Lainez at 301–975–2232 or by e-mail at smartgrid@nist.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the Energy Independence and Security Act (EISA) of 2007 (Pub. L. 110–140), the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) has “primary responsibility to coordinate development of a framework that includes protocols and model standards for information management to achieve interoperability of smart grid devices and systems * * *” (EISA, section 1305)

In 2008, responding to this mandate, NIST initiated a government/industry effort to develop and achieve consensus on an Interoperability Framework and to engage the many Smart Grid stakeholders in a coordinated approach to identify or develop needed standards. This coordinated effort was designed and initiated in full collaboration with the Department of Energy. In early 2009, responding to President Obama’s energy-related national priorities, NIST intensified and expedited efforts to accelerate progress toward stakeholder consensus on Smart Grid standards.

On April 28–29, 2009 an initial workshop was held in Reston, VA at which stakeholders engaged in discussions of Smart Grid architecture and requirements, and existing standards or standards under development that could be used as a foundation for Smart Grid interoperability standards. The May 19–20 workshop will continue the stakeholder consensus process by identifying additional standardization needs and providing input to a roadmap for their development. NIST has contracted with EPRI to facilitate both workshops. As specified in its contract with NIST, EPRI will utilize its technical expertise to compile, distill and organize stakeholder contributions

into a draft interim roadmap for Smart Grid interoperability standards. The workshops and the interim roadmap document, coordinated by EPRI under its contract, provide an input to the NIST effort to expedite development of key standards for the Smart Grid. By early fall, NIST expects to describe an initial Smart Grid architecture, priorities for interoperability standards, including cybersecurity; an initial set of standards to support support implementation; and plans to meet remaining standards needs.

NIST will submit standards that are identified or developed through this process to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). Once FERC determines that there is sufficient consensus, EISA instructs FERC to institute a rulemaking proceeding to adopt the standards and protocols that may be necessary to ensure that there is Smart Grid functionality and interoperability in interstate transmission of electric power, and in regional and wholesale electricity markets.

Plenary and break-out sessions at the May 19–20 workshop will cover a range of power, communication, and cybersecurity issues. Particular emphasis will be given to four high-priority Smart Grid applications identified by FERC: Demand Response, Electric Transportation, Wide-Area Visualization, and Storage.

Additional Information: More information is available on the NIST Smart Grid project Web site at: <http://www.nist.gov/smartgrid/>. To help it fulfill its mandate to facilitate Smart Grid standards interoperability, NIST also manages a Smart Grid collaboration Web site at: <http://collaborate.nist.gov/wiki-sggrid/bin/view/SmartGrid/WebHome>. NIST recently contracted with the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) to perform services related to NIST’s effort to coordinate development of Smart Grid standards. The contract requires EPRI to help NIST

organize and facilitate two workshops at which stakeholders will present, review, develop, and work toward consensus on roadmap content and to use its technical expertise to compile, distill, and organize stakeholder contributions into a draft interim roadmap for smart grid interoperability standards. This notice announces the second of those workshops. All EPRI outputs under the contract are subject to NIST review and approval and are owned by NIST.

Dated: May 6, 2009.

Richard F. Kayser,

Chief Scientist.

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

[Transmittal Nos. 09–17]

36(b)(1) Arms Sales Notification

AGENCY: Department of Defense, Defense Security Cooperation Agency.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Defense is publishing the unclassified text of a section 36(b)(1) arms sales notification. This is published to fulfill the requirements of section 155 of Public Law 104–164 dated 21 July 1996.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. B. English, DSCA/DBO/CFM, (703) 601–3740.

The following is a copy of a letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Transmittals 09–17 with attached transmittal, policy justification, and Sensitivity of Technology.

Dated: May 4, 2009.

Patricia L. Toppings,

*OSD Federal Register, Liaison Officer,
Department of Defense.*