

from the resulting list and click on the "Submit a Comment" icon on the right of that line.

- *Mail or hand-delivery:* Angela Somma, National Marine Fisheries Service, Office of Protected Resources, Endangered Species Division, 1325 East West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

*Instructions:* Comments must be submitted by one of the above methods to ensure that the comments are received, documented, and considered by NMFS. Comments sent by any other method, to any other address or individual, or received after the end of the comment period, may not be considered. All comments received are a part of the public record and will generally be posted for public viewing on [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) without change. All personal identifying information (e.g., name, address, etc.) submitted voluntarily by the sender will be publicly accessible. Do not submit confidential business information, or otherwise sensitive or protected information. NMFS will accept anonymous comments (enter "N/A" in the required fields if you wish to remain anonymous). Attachments to electronic comments will be accepted in Microsoft Word or Excel, WordPerfect, or Adobe PDF file formats only.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Larissa Plants, Office of Protected Resources, 301-427-8471.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Section 4(c)(2)(A) of the ESA requires that we conduct a review of listed species at least once every five years. The regulations in 50 CFR 424.21 require that we publish a notice in the **Federal Register** announcing those species currently under active review. This notice announces our active review of the Kemp's ridley, olive ridley, leatherback, and hawksbill sea turtles.

**Public Solicitation of New Information**

To ensure that the 5-year review is complete and based on the best available scientific and commercial information, we are soliciting new information from the public, governmental agencies, Tribes, the scientific community, industry, environmental entities, and any other interested parties concerning the status of Kemp's ridley, olive ridley, leatherback, and hawksbill sea turtles. The 5-year review considers the best scientific and commercial data and all new information that has become available since the listing determination or most recent status review. Categories of requested information include: (1) Species biology including, but not

limited to, population trends, distribution, abundance, demographics, and genetics; (2) habitat conditions including, but not limited to, amount, distribution, and suitability; (3) conservation measures that have been implemented that benefit the species; (4) status and trends of threats; and (5) other new information, data, or corrections including, but not limited to, taxonomic or nomenclatural changes, identification of erroneous information contained in the List of Endangered and Threatened Species, and improved analytical methods.

Any new information will be considered during the 5-year review and will also be useful in evaluating the ongoing recovery program for these sea turtles. For example, information on conservation measures will assist in tracking implementation of recovery actions.

**Authority:** 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*

Dated: October 3, 2012.

**Heather Coll,**

*Acting Chief, Endangered Species Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. 2012-24935 Filed 10-9-12; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

**National Climate Assessment and Development Advisory Committee; Meeting**

**AGENCY:** Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce (DOC).

**ACTION:** Notice of open meeting.

**SUMMARY:** This notice sets forth the schedule of a forthcoming meeting of the DoC NOAA National Climate Assessment and Development Advisory Committee (NCADAC).

**DATES:** *Time and Date:* The meeting will be held Wednesday, October 24, 2012 from 3–5 p.m. Eastern time.

**PLACE:** This meeting will be a conference call. Public access will be available at the office of the U.S. Global Change Research Program, Conference Room A, Suite 250, 1717 Pennsylvania Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20006. The public will not be able to dial into the call. Please check the National Climate Assessment Web site for additional information at <http://www.globalchange.gov/what-we-do/assessment>.

**Status**

The meeting will be open to public participation with a 10-minute public comment period from 4:45–4:55 p.m. The NCADAC expects that public statements presented at its meetings will not be repetitive of previously submitted verbal or written statements. In general, each individual or group making a verbal presentation will be limited to a total time of two minutes. Written comments should be received in the NCADAC DFO's office by Friday, October 19, 2012, to provide sufficient time for NCADAC review. Written comments received by the NCADAC DFO after Friday, October 19, 2012, will be distributed to the NCADAC, but may not be reviewed prior to the meeting date.

**Special Accommodations**

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for special accommodations may be directed no later than 12 p.m. on Friday, October 19, 2012, to Dr. Cynthia Decker, Designated Federal Official, National Climate Assessment and Development Advisory Committee, NOAA, Rm. 11230, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910, (Phone: 301-734-1156, Fax: 301-713-1459, Email: [Cynthia.Decker@noaa.gov](mailto:Cynthia.Decker@noaa.gov)).

**Matters to be Considered**

Please refer to the Web page <http://www.nesdis.noaa.gov/NCADAC/index.html> for the most up-to-date meeting agenda, when available.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The National Climate Assessment and Development Advisory Committee was established in December 2010. The committee's mission is to synthesize and summarize the science and information pertaining to current and future impacts of climate change upon the United States; and to provide advice and recommendations toward the development of an ongoing, sustainable national Assessment of global change impacts and adaptation and mitigation strategies for the Nation. Within the scope of its mission, the committee's specific objective is to produce a National Climate Assessment.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dr. Cynthia Decker, Designated Federal Official, National Climate Assessment and Development Advisory Committee, NOAA, Rm. 11230, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910, (Phone: 301-734-1156, Fax: 301-713-1459, Email: [Cynthia.Decker@noaa.gov](mailto:Cynthia.Decker@noaa.gov)).

Dated: October 3, 2012.

**Andy Baldus,**

Acting Chief Financial Officer/Chief  
Administrative Officer, Office of Oceanic and  
Atmospheric Research, National Oceanic and  
Atmospheric Administration.

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**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric  
Administration**

RIN 0648-XA969

**Takes of Marine Mammals Incidental to  
Specified Activities; Taking Marine  
Mammals Incidental to Abalone  
Research on San Nicolas Island, CA**

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

**ACTION:** Notice; issuance of an incidental  
harassment authorization.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the  
regulations implementing the Marine  
Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) as  
amended, notification is hereby given  
that we have issued an incidental  
harassment authorization (IHA) to Dr.  
Glenn R. VanBlaricom (VanBlaricom) to  
incidentally harass, by Level B  
harassment only, several species of  
marine mammal incidental to abalone  
research surveys on San Nicolas Island  
(SNI).

**DATES:** This authorization is effective for  
a period of 1 year from the date of  
issuance.

**ADDRESSES:** A copy of the IHA and  
related documents may be obtained by  
visiting the Internet at: [http://  
www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/permits/  
incidental.htm](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/permits/incidental.htm). Associated documents  
prepared pursuant to the National  
Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) are  
also available at the same site. For those  
members of the public unable to view  
these documents on the internet, a copy  
may be obtained by writing to Michael  
Payne, Chief, Permits and Conservation  
Division, Office of Protected Resources,  
National Marine Fisheries Service, 1315  
East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD  
20910 or telephoning the contact listed  
below (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION  
CONTACT**). Documents may also be  
viewed, by appointment only, at the  
aforementioned address.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ben  
Laws, Office of Protected Resources,  
NMFS, (301) 427-8401.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Background**

Sections 101(a)(5)(A) and (D) of the  
MMPA (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) direct  
the Secretary of Commerce to allow,  
upon request, the incidental, but not  
intentional, taking of small numbers 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 either regulations are  
issued or, if the taking is limited to  
harassment, a notice of a proposed  
authorization is provided to the public  
for review.

Authorization for incidental takings  
shall 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 (where relevant), and if  
the permissible methods of taking and  
requirements pertaining to the  
mitigation, monitoring and reporting of  
such takings are set forth. NMFS has  
defined “negligible impact” in 50 CFR  
part 216 as “\* \* \* an impact resulting  
from the specified activity that cannot  
be reasonably expected to, and is not  
reasonably likely to, adversely affect the  
species or stock through effects on  
annual rates of recruitment or survival.”

Section 101(a)(5)(D) of the MMPA  
established an expedited process by  
which citizens of the U.S. can apply for  
an authorization to incidentally take  
small numbers of marine mammals by  
harassment. Section 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 marine mammals. Within  
45 days of the close of the comment  
period, NMFS must either issue or deny  
the authorization. Except with respect to  
certain activities not pertinent here, the  
MMPA defines “harassment” as: “any  
act of pursuit, torment, or annoyance  
which (i) has the potential to injure a  
marine mammal or marine mammal  
stock in the wild [Level A harassment];  
or (ii) 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  
[Level B harassment].”

**Summary of Request**

On October 26, 2011, NMFS received  
a complete application from  
VanBlaricom for the taking, by Level B  
harassment only, of marine mammals  
incidental to research surveys

investigating the black abalone (*Haliotis  
cracherodii*). The first of five IHAs for  
similar research activities was issued to  
VanBlaricom on September 23, 2003 (68  
FR 57427; October 3, 2003); the most  
recent of these was issued on January  
18, 2008 (73 FR 4841; January 28, 2008),  
expiring January 17, 2009.

Authorization for incidental take, by  
Level B harassment only, was requested  
for small numbers of California sea lions  
(*Zalophus californianus*), harbor seals  
(*Phoca vitulina*), and northern elephant  
seals (*Mirounga angustirostris*). The take  
is expected to occur incidental to  
research surveys performed for the  
purpose of assessing trends in black  
abalone populations over time in  
permanent study sites, and to conduct  
related research on the biology and  
ecology of black abalones relevant to  
current conservation concerns for the  
species, at San Nicolas Island (SNI),  
Ventura County, California. The  
specified activity consists of researchers  
on foot counting black abalones in plots  
along established transect lines at each  
of nine permanent study sites. Visits are  
generally made to each site on SNI up  
to four times per year in order to  
complete standardized annual black  
abalone surveys. VanBlaricom plans to  
conduct additional studies of growth  
and mortality rates, as well as genetic  
studies, necessitating as many as five  
visits per year to certain sites.

**Description of the Specified Activity**

Long-term study of abalone  
population trends began in 1979 due to  
interest in relocation of southern sea  
otters (*Enhydra lutris nereis*) to SNI.  
Following two seasons of  
reconnaissance surveys (1979–80),  
quantitative survey effort started in  
1981, when nine permanent research  
sites in rocky intertidal habitats were  
chosen based on the presence of  
relatively dense abalone aggregations in  
order to monitor changes over time.  
From September 1979 through October  
2011, VanBlaricom has made 137  
separate field trips to SNI, with a total  
of 723 days of survey work. The  
specified activity and specific  
geographic region were described in  
greater detail in the **Federal Register**  
notice of proposed authorization  
(hereafter, the FR notice; 77 FR 12246;  
February 29, 2012) and will not be  
repeated here.

Research is conducted by counting  
black abalone in plots along permanent  
transect lines in rocky intertidal habitats  
at each of the nine study sites (see  
Figure 1 of VanBlaricom’s application  
for a map of the study sites). Survey  
work is typically done by two field  
biologists working on foot (sites are