

§ 217.208

that the total taking of marine mammals by the activities specified in § 217.200(a) will have no more than a negligible impact on the species or stock of affected marine mammal(s), and that the total taking will not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of species or stocks of marine mammals for subsistence uses.

(d) Notice of issuance or denial of an application for a Letter of Authorization will be published in the FEDERAL REGISTER within 30 days of a determination.

§ 217.208 Renewal of Letters of Authorization.

(a) A Letter of Authorization issued under § 216.106 of this chapter and § 217.207 for the activity identified in § 217.200(a) will be renewed annually upon:

(1) Notification to NMFS that the activity described in the application submitted under § 217.206 will be undertaken and that there will not be a substantial modification to the described work, mitigation or monitoring undertaken during the upcoming 12 months;

(2) Timely receipt of the monitoring reports required under § 217.205(d) and (e), and the Letter of Authorization issued under § 217.207, which has been reviewed and accepted by NMFS; and

(3) A determination by NMFS that the mitigation, monitoring and reporting measures required under §§ 217.204 and 217.205 and the Letter of Authorization issued under § 216.106 of this chapter and § 217.207, were undertaken and will be undertaken during the upcoming annual period of validity of a renewed Letter of Authorization; and

(4) A determination by NMFS that the number of marine mammals taken during the period of the Letter of Authorization will be small, that the total taking of marine mammals by the activities specified in § 217.200(a) will have no more than a negligible impact on the species or stock of affected marine mammal(s), and that the total taking will not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of species or stocks of marine mammals for subsistence uses.

(b) If a request for a renewal of a Letter of Authorization issued under § 216.106 of this chapter and this section

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indicates that a substantial modification to the described work, mitigation or monitoring undertaken during the upcoming season will occur, NMFS will provide the public a period of 30 days for review and comment on the request.

(c) Notice of issuance or denial of a renewal of a Letter of Authorization will be published in the FEDERAL REGISTER within 30 days of a determination.

§ 217.209 Modifications of Letters of Authorization.

(a) Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this section, no substantive modification (including withdrawal or suspension) to the Letter of Authorization by NMFS, issued pursuant to § 216.106 of this chapter and § 217.207 and subject to the provisions of this subpart, shall be made until after notification and an opportunity for public comment has been provided. For purposes of this paragraph, a renewal of a Letter of Authorization under § 217.208, without modification (except for the period of validity), is not considered a substantive modification.

(b) If the Assistant Administrator determines that an emergency exists that poses a significant risk to the well-being of the species or stocks of marine mammals specified in § 217.202(b), a Letter of Authorization issued pursuant to § 216.106 of this chapter and § 217.207 may be substantively modified without prior notification and an opportunity for public comment. Notification will be published in the FEDERAL REGISTER within 30 days subsequent to the action.

Subpart W—Taking of Marine Mammals Incidental to the Elliott Bay Seawall Project

SOURCE: 78 FR 63402, Oct. 24, 2013, unless otherwise noted.

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 78 FR 63402, Oct. 24, 2013, subpart W was added, effective Oct. 21, 2013, to Oct. 21, 2018.

§ 217.220 Specified activity and specified geographical region.

(a) Regulations in this subpart apply only to the Elliott Bay Seawall project

and those persons it authorizes to conduct activities on its behalf for the taking of marine mammals that occurs in the area outlined in paragraph (b) of this section incidental to seawall construction associated with the Elliott Bay Seawall project.

(b) The taking of marine mammals by the City of Seattle's Department of Transportation (SDOT) may be authorized in a Letter of Authorization (LOA) only if it occurs in Elliott Bay, Washington.

§ 217.221 Effective dates.

This subpart is effective October 21, 2013, through October 21, 2018.

§ 217.222 Permissible methods of taking.

(a) Under LOAs issued pursuant to §§ 216.106 and 217.226 of this chapter, the Holder of the LOA (hereinafter "SDOT" and "City") may incidentally, but not intentionally, take marine mammals within the area described in § 217.220(b), provided the activity is in compliance with all terms, conditions, and requirements of the regulations in this subpart and the appropriate LOA.

(b) The incidental take of marine mammals under the activities identified in § 217.220(a) is limited to the indicated number of Level B harassment takes of the following species/stocks:

(1) Harbor seal (*Phoca vitulina*)—3,500 (an average of 700 animals per year)

(2) California sea lion (*Zalophus californianus*)—875 (an average of 175 animals per year)

(3) Steller sea lion (*Eumetopias jubatus*)—875 (an average of 175 animals per year)

(4) Harbor porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*)—1,575 (an average of 315 animals per year)

(5) Dall's porpoise (*Phocoenoides dalli*)—350 (an average of 70 animals per year)

(6) Killer whale (*Orcinus orca*), Eastern North Pacific Southern resident—80 (a maximum of 16 animals per year)

(7) Killer whale (*Orcinus orca*), Eastern North Pacific transient—120 (an average of 24 animals per year)

(8) Gray whale (*Eschrichtius robustus*)—40 (an average of 8 animals per year)

(9) Humpback whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*)—20 (an average of 4 animals per year)

§ 217.223 Prohibitions.

Notwithstanding takings contemplated in § 217.222(b) and authorized by an LOA issued under § 216.106 and § 217.226 of this chapter, no person in connection with the activities described in § 217.220 may:

(a) Take any marine mammal not specified in § 217.222(b);

(b) Take any marine mammal specified in § 217.222(b) other than by incidental, unintentional Level B harassment;

(c) Take a marine mammal specified in § 217.222(b) if NMFS determines such taking results in more than a negligible impact on the species or stock of such marine mammal; or

(d) Violate, or fail to comply with, the terms, conditions, and requirements of this subpart or an LOA issued under §§ 216.106 and 217.226 of this chapter.

§ 217.224 Mitigation.

(a) When conducting the activities identified in § 217.220(a), the mitigation measures contained in the LOA issued under §§ 216.106 and 217.226 of this chapter must be implemented. These mitigation measures include:

(1) *Limited Impact Pile Driving.* (i) All sheet piles shall be installed using a vibratory driver, unless impact driving is required to install piles that encounter consolidated sediments or for proofing load bearing sections.

(ii) Any impact driver used in conjunction with vibratory pile driving shall employ sound attenuation devices, where applicable.

(iii) Any attenuation devices that become available for vibratory pile driving shall be considered for additional mitigation.

(2) *Containment of Impact Pile Driving.* The majority of permanent concrete piles shall be driven behind the temporary containment wall.

(3) *Additional Attenuation Measures.* In the event that underwater sound monitoring shows that noise generation from pile installation exceeds the levels originally expected, SDOT shall immediately notify NMFS so it can