

IHA, we publish a notice of the proposed IHA Renewal in the **Federal Register** and provide an additional 15 days for public comment, for a total of 45 days of public comment. We will also directly contact all commenters on the initial IHA by email, phone, or, if the commenter did not provide email or phone information, by postal service to provide them the opportunity to submit any additional comments on the proposed Renewal IHA.

NMFS also strives to ensure the public has access to key information needed to submit comments on a proposed IHA, whether an initial IHA or a Renewal IHA. The agency's website includes information for all projects under consideration, including the application, references, and other supporting documents. Each **Federal Register** notice also includes contact information in the event a commenter has questions or cannot find the information they seek.

Regarding the Commission's comment that Renewal IHAs should be limited to certain types of projects, NMFS has explained on its website and in individual **Federal Register** notices that Renewal IHAs are appropriate where the continuing activities are identical, nearly identical, or a subset of the activities for which the initial 30-day comment period applied. Where the commenter has likely already reviewed and commented on the initial proposed IHA for these activities, the abbreviated additional comment period is sufficient for consideration of the results of the preliminary monitoring report and new information (if any) from the past year.

Determinations

The USFWS proposes to conduct research and monitoring activities that are nearly identical to those conducted previously. Take of marine mammals from two new activities has been included in this IHA but the potential impacts to marine mammals from these activities are identical to those previously analyzed for the issuance of the 2018 IHA. Therefore, the potential effects from Level B harassment of marine mammals previously analyzed remain applicable, as do NMFS prior determinations.

When issuing the 2018 IHA, NMFS found the USFWS's activities, in their entirety, would have a negligible impact to species or stocks' rates of recruitment and survival and the amount of taking would be small relative to the population size of such species or stock. This IHA authorizes more takes of seals by Level B harassment than the previously issued IHAs (82 FR 12342, March 2, 2017; 83 FR 19236, May 2,

2018) but the amount of taking is still small relative to the population size of the affected species and stocks (*i.e.*, less than nine percent). The IHA includes identical required mitigation, monitoring, and reporting measures as the 2018 IHA. In conclusion, there is no new information suggesting that our analysis or findings should change.

Based on the information contained here and in the referenced documents, NMFS has determined the following: (1) The required mitigation measures will effect the least practicable impact on marine mammal species or stocks and their habitat; (2) the authorized takes will have a negligible impact on the affected marine mammal species or stocks; (3) the authorized takes represent small numbers of marine mammals relative to the affected stock abundances; and (4) the USFWS's activities will not have an unmitigable adverse impact on taking for subsistence purposes as no relevant subsistence uses of marine mammals are implicated by this action, and (5) appropriate monitoring and reporting requirements are included.

Endangered Species Act (ESA)

No incidental take of ESA-listed species is proposed for authorization or expected to result from this activity. Therefore, NMFS has determined that formal consultation under section 7 of the ESA is not required for this action.

National Environmental Policy Act

To comply with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA; 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*) and NOAA Administrative Order (NAO) 216-6A, NMFS must review our proposed action (*i.e.*, the issuance of an incidental harassment authorization) with respect to potential impacts on the human environment.

This action is consistent with categories of activities identified in CE B4 of the Companion Manual for NOAA Administrative Order 216-6A, which do not individually or cumulatively have the potential for significant impacts on the quality of the human environment and for which we have not identified any extraordinary circumstances that would preclude this categorical exclusion. Accordingly, NMFS has determined that the issuance of the proposed IHA qualifies to be categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

Authorization

As a result of these determinations, NMFS has issued an IHA to the USFWS for the harassment of small numbers of marine mammals incidental to

conducting research and monitoring activities at the Complex for a period of one year, provided the previously mentioned mitigation, monitoring, and reporting requirements are incorporated.

Donna Wieting,

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

[FR Doc. 2019-14457 Filed 7-5-19; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

National Integrated Drought Information System National Drought Forum

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

ACTION: Notice of open meeting.

SUMMARY: The National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS) Program Office and the National Drought Resilience Partnership (NDRP) will host the 2nd National Drought Forum on July 30-31, 2019.

DATES: The Forum will be held Tuesday, July 30, 2019 from 9:00 a.m. EST to 4:30 p.m. EDT and Wednesday July 31, 2019 from 9:00 a.m. EST to 4:30 p.m. EDT. These times and the agenda topics are subject to change.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the United States Institute of Peace, 2301 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20037.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Murielle Gamache-Morris, Secretariat for the National Drought Forum, David Skaggs Research Center, Room GD102, 325 Broadway, Boulder CO 80305. Email: murielle.gamache-morris@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS) was authorized by Congress in 2006 (Pub. L. 109-430) and reauthorized on March 6, 2014 and January 7, 2019 with a mandate to coordinate and integrate drought research, building upon existing federal, tribal, state, and local partnerships in support of creating a national drought early warning information system.

The National Drought Resilience Partnership (NDRP) is a partnership made up of Federal departments and agencies formed to improve Federal collaboration and promote long-term drought resilience nationwide.

Status: This meeting will be open to public participation. Individuals interested in attending should register at <https://cpaess.ucar.edu/meetings/2019/2nd-national-drought-forum>. Please refer to this web page for the most up-to-date meeting times and agenda. Seating at the meeting will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Special Accommodations: This meeting is accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for special accommodations may be directed no later than 5:00 p.m. on July 15, 2019, to Murielle Gamache-Morris, Secretariat for the National Drought Forum, David Skaggs Research Center, Room GD102, 325 Broadway, Boulder CO 80305; Email: murielle.gamache-morris@noaa.gov.

Matters To Be Considered: The meeting will include the following topics: (1) Lessons learned and progress towards U.S. drought readiness since the last Forum in 2012; (2) strengthening the state-federal relationship to realize greater collaboration and promote cooperative partnerships with U.S. businesses to address drought; (3) new information and opportunities for coordination that help move the Nation from a reactive to a proactive approach to drought risk management; and (4) action items that could improve U.S. drought resilience.

Dated: June 19, 2019.

David Holst,

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

[FR Doc. 2019-14459 Filed 7-5-19; 8:45 am]

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COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION

Sunshine Act Meetings

TIME AND DATE: 10 a.m., Thursday, July 11, 2019.

PLACE: CFTC Headquarters, Lobby-Level Hearing Room, Three Lafayette Centre, 1155 21st Street NW, Washington, DC.

STATUS: Open.

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED: The Commodity Futures Trading Commission ("Commission" or "CFTC") will hold this meeting to consider the following matters:

- Supplemental Proposal on Exemption from Derivatives Clearing Organization Registration;
- Proposed Rule on Registration with Alternative Compliance for Non-U.S. Derivatives Clearing Organizations; and

- Proposed Rule on Customer Margin Rules relating to Security Futures.

The agenda for this meeting will be available to the public and posted on the Commission's website at <https://www.cftc.gov>. In the event that the time, date, or place of this meeting changes, an announcement of the change, along with the new time, date, or place of the meeting, will be posted on the Commission's website.

CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION: Christopher Kirkpatrick, Secretary of the Commission, 202-418-5964.

Dated: July 2, 2019.

Christopher Kirkpatrick,

Secretary of the Commission.

[FR Doc. 2019-14500 Filed 7-3-19; 11:15 am]

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BUREAU OF CONSUMER FINANCIAL PROTECTION

Fair Lending Report of the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, June 2019

AGENCY: Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection.

ACTION: Fair Lending Report of the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection (Bureau) is issuing its seventh Fair Lending Report of the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection (Fair Lending Report) to Congress. The Bureau is committed to ensuring fair access to credit and eliminating discriminatory lending practices. This report describes the Bureau's fair lending activities in prioritization, supervision, enforcement, rulemaking, interagency coordination, and outreach for calendar year 2018.

DATES: The Bureau released the June 2019 Fair Lending Report on its website on June 28, 2019.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bobby Conner, Senior Policy Counsel, Fair Lending, at 1-855-411-2372. If you require this document in an alternative electronic format, please contact CFPB_Accessibility@cfpb.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

1. Fair Lending Report of the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, June 2019

Message From Kathleen L. Kraninger, Director

This Fair Lending Report describes the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's 2018 activities to expand fair, equitable, and nondiscriminatory access

to credit and to ensure that consumers are protected from discrimination.¹

Earlier this spring I outlined my priorities for how the Bureau will use its tools to carry out our mission. I shared how Congress granted to the Director the tools of education, regulation, supervision, and enforcement, each of which serves an important component in the Bureau's execution of its mission. I believe that the best application of these tools is to focus on prevention of harm to consumers and that includes protecting consumers from unfair, deceptive and abusive acts or practices as well as from discrimination. The Bureau's very purpose is to ensure that all consumers have access to consumer financial products and services which is based on having fair, transparent, and competitive markets.

Protecting consumers from discrimination is one of the primary objectives laid out in the Dodd-Frank Act—an objective that the Bureau takes very seriously. Under my leadership, the Bureau will continue to vigorously enforce fair lending laws in our jurisdiction, and will stand on guard against unlawful discrimination in credit. In addition to that core work, the Bureau will continue to explore cutting-edge fair lending issues including how consumer-friendly innovation can increase access to credit to all consumers—and especially unbanked and underbanked consumers and their communities.

I am truly excited to take the Bureau's work in fair lending to a new level, and I look forward to working with all stakeholders on these important matters.

Sincerely,

Kathleen L. Kraninger.

Message from Patrice Alexander Ficklin, Director, Fair Lending.

2018 marked the Office of Fair Lending and Equal Opportunity's seventh full year of spearheading the Bureau's efforts to fulfill its fair lending mandate. It was also a year of transition for the Office as it prepared to move to the Director's office as part of the Office of Equal Opportunity and Fairness. Throughout the transition, the Office has continued to focus on promoting fair, equitable, and nondiscriminatory access to credit and has embarked on new efforts to coordinate the Bureau's fair lending work both internally, and with other governmental agencies, industry, and stakeholders to encourage innovation in expanding responsible credit access.

The Bureau's supervisory and enforcement activity in 2018 focused on

¹ (12 U.S.C. 5511(b)(2)).