



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
NAVAL AIR WARFARE CENTER WEAPONS DIVISION
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CHINA LAKE, CA 93555-6100 POINT MUGU, CA 93042-5049

IN REPLY REFER TO:

5090
Ser EB2R00M/1072
14 Apr 20

Donna S. Wieting
Director, Office of Protected Resources
National Marine Fisheries Service
B-SSMC3, Room 13821
1315 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3283

Dear Ms. Wieting:

The Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons Division (NAWCWD) is requesting a renewal of the 2019-2020 Incidental Harassment Authorization (IHA) issued pursuant to the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) for the taking of California sea lions, Pacific harbor seals and northern elephant seals incidental to target and missile launch activities at San Nicolas Island (SNI), California. These activities are a continuation of the NAWCWD launch program for missiles and targets at SNI to support test and training activities associated with operations on the NAWCWD Point Mugu Sea Range.

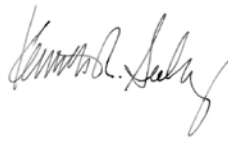
The current IHA for these ongoing military readiness activities is set to expire June 11, 2020. It includes a provision that National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) may issue a one-year IHA renewal when another year of identical or nearly identical activities is planned. We are requesting renewal at this time based on the following criteria identified by NMFS:

- The specific activities proposed for 2020-2021 are identical to those described in the initial application for the current IHA. As in past years, plans for the upcoming year include up to 40 target and missile launch events at SNI from the same two launch sites in use for more than 20 years.
- Enclosed is our preliminary monitoring report for June 2019 through March 2020. The monitoring results do not indicate impacts of a scale or nature not previously analyzed or authorized. Both the number of launch activities and the number of pinnipeds affected by launch events are well below the level authorized in the current IHA. There is no evidence of injury, mortality, or abandonment of behavioral patterns of pinnipeds resulting from launch activities at SNI.
- If the IHA is renewed, all mitigation and monitoring requirements identified in the current IHA will continue to be implemented.

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Please extend my thanks to your staff for their continued support of the U.S. Navy's compliance process. We are available to meet with you or your staff should you have questions on the enclosed application. My point of contact for these matters is Mr. Gregory Sanders at 805-989-4852 or gregory.s.sanders@navy.mil.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kenneth Seeley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "K".

KENNETH SEELEY
By direction

Enclosure 1: Preliminary Pinniped Monitoring Report, Missile Launches on San Nicolas Island, California, June 2019 – March 2020