



Point Blue Conservation Science (*formerly PRBO*)  
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**Conservation Science for a healthy planet.**

August 21, 2019  
Director, Office of Protected Resources  
National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)  
1315 East-West Highway  
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3226

Dear Director,

Point Blue Conservation Science (formerly PRBO), along with partners Oikonos Ecosystem Knowledge and Point Reyes National Seashore, is requesting renewal of our Incidental Harassment Authorization (IHA) under the Marine Mammal Protection Act. This authorization allows limited harassment of marine mammals incidental to conducting long term research operations on Southeast Farallon Island, Año Nuevo Island, and Point Reyes National Seashore in central California. All of these activities are conducted under cooperative agreements with federal agencies (i.e. US Fish and Wildlife Service) and in consultation with valued partners at the Greater Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary. Marine mammal species that could be potentially impacted by these activities include the California stocks of northern elephant seal (*Mirounga angustirostris*), harbor seal (*Phoca vitulina richardii*), Steller sea lion (*Eumetopias jubatus*), and California sea lion (*Zalophus californianus*). Take discussed here involves Level B Harassment, namely movements in response to or away from disturbance, typically over short distances (1-3 meters) and including dramatic changes in direction or speed of locomotion for animals already in motion and all flushes to the water as well as lengthier retreats (>3 meters).

We would like to renew this authorization for another year. All actions are identical to those documented in our current IHA. We request that numbers of take be the same as our current IHA for all species, namely 43 Steller sea lions – Eastern U.S. Stock, 32,623 California sea lions, 304 Pacific harbor seals, 239 northern elephant seals.

We thank you for reviewing this request and look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pete Warzybok", is written over a light blue circular stamp.

Pete Warzybok  
Farallon Program Leader  
Point Blue Conservation Science  
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