



**NOAA
FISHERIES**

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Pinniped-Fishery Interaction Task Force to Reconvene

NOAA Fisheries announced that it is reconvening the Pinniped-Fishery Interaction Task Force (Task Force) to evaluate the implementation of the states of Oregon, Washington, and Idaho (states) pinniped removal authority authorized by NOAA Fisheries on March 15, 2012, via a Letter of Authorization (LOA) issued under the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA).

Wednesday March 1, 2017, from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Thursday March 2, 2017, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Double Tree Hotel, 1000 NE Multnomah St, Portland, OR

NOAA Fisheries will post the agenda, call-in number, and meeting logistics and background materials at:

www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/protected_species/marine_mammals/task_force.html

The meeting is open to the public who may attend in-person or call in. A specific time slot will be provided on the agenda for the public to provide comments or information for the Task Force to consider.

Background

On March 15, 2012, NOAA Fisheries issued the states a LOA under Section 120 of the Marine Mammal Protection Act. The authorization allows the states to lethally remove individually identifiable California sea lions that are having a significant negative impact on ESA-listed salmon and steelhead in the vicinity of Bonneville Dam.

Section 120(c)(5) of the MMPA requires that: After implementation of an approved application, the Task Force shall evaluate the effectiveness of the permitted intentional lethal taking or alternative actions implemented. If implementation was ineffective in eliminating the problem interaction, the Task Force shall recommend additional actions. If the implementation was effective, the Task Force shall so advise the Secretary, and the Secretary shall disband the Task Force.

For more information on the states' MMPA Section 120 Program, please go to:

http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/protected_species/marine_mammals/authorized_states.html