



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
CORPS OF ENGINEERS, PORTLAND DISTRICT  
PO BOX 2946  
PORTLAND, OR 97208-2946  
October 16, 2023

SUBJECT: Request for Year-1 Incidental Harassment Authorization (IHA) Reissuance  
for the Tillamook South Jetty Repairs Project

Jolie Harrison, Division Chief  
Permits and Conservation Division, Office of Protected Resources,  
1315 East-West Highway, F/PR1 Room 13805,  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Ms. Harrison:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) Portland District received an incidental harassment authorization (IHA), under section 101(a)(5)(D) of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended, for the take of marine mammals incidental to the installation of pile structures associated with the Tillamook Bay South Jetty Repairs project. The Corps received a final IHA from NMFS Protected Resources Division on 5 August 2022, valid for a period from November 1, 2022 through October 31, 2023.

The original construction award was protested in October 2022 and required the Corps to take corrective action and reevaluate all bids and resolve conflicts between authorities guided by the Federal Acquisition Regulation. Fortunately, the Corps was able to successfully award the construction contract on September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023 and there have been no further protests. As such, we are requesting that the Year 1 IHA be re-issued to cover a period from November 1, 2023 through October 31, 2024.

There are no proposed changes to the means or methods described in our original application. Repairs to the Tillamook North Jetty were completed in June 2022 using only land-based equipment, thus, the IHA would be solely for constructing a temporary material offloading facility (MOF) near the Tillamook South Jetty. The MOF would facilitate barge delivery of stone and other construction equipment brought directly to the South Jetty. The temporary MOF structure at the South Jetty could require the installation of H-piles, steel pipe piles, and steel sheets as support. Construction of the MOF feature would take up to two months, pending weather conditions.

The existing IHA covers the potential Level B harassment of harbor seals, *Phoca vitulina richardii* (Oregon and Washington Coast Stock); Steller sea lions, *Eumetopias jubatus* (Eastern U.S. Stock); California sea lions, *Zalophus californianus* (U.S. Stock, Pacific Temperate Population); northern elephant seals, *Mirounga angustirostris* (California Breeding Stock); and harbor porpoises, *Phocoena phocoena* (Northern Oregon / Washington Coast Stock). In addition, we are requesting Level A harassment for harbor seals and harbor porpoises that could be adversely affected during any impact pile driving.

Thus far, we have been coordinating with Dr. Reny Tyson Moore of your staff. If you have any further questions regarding this re-issuance request, please contact Dr. Chanda Littles at [Chanda.J.Littles@usace.army.mil](mailto:Chanda.J.Littles@usace.army.mil) or via telephone at 541-297-9168. Thank you for your assistance and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'A' followed by a large loop and a horizontal stroke.

Amy Gibbons  
Chief, Environmental Resources Branch

Enclosure

cc:

Reny Tyson Moore ([reny.tyson.moore@noaa.gov](mailto:reny.tyson.moore@noaa.gov)), Principal Scientist, ESA/MMPA  
Support Services