

**National Marine Fisheries Service**

**MMPA Section 120(f) Pinniped-Fishery Interaction Task Force Meeting**

**AGENDA**

**Adobe Connect Webinar and Conference Call Information**

Webinar link: <http://kearnswest.adobeconnect.com/nmfsmmpa120/>

Task Force members will receive detailed instructions on joining the meeting audio.

Public attendees will be in listen-only mode for the first two days of the meeting, and the meeting will be livestreamed through the Adobe Connect webinar platform. For those who plan to provide public input on Day 3, May 14, please join via the webinar link **and** call into the conference number below.

Day 3 Call-in information:

- Conference phone number: 866-398-2885
- Access code: 163144

**Day 1—May 12, 2020**

- 8:00** Task Force members and audience please login to webinar, call-in to conference line, and settle in before the start of the meeting
- 8:30** Welcome, Introductions, and Opening Remarks – Debra Nudelman, Facilitator, Kearns & West (KW) and Robert Anderson, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)
- 9:00** Review Agenda, Task Force Logistics, and Ground Rules – Debra Nudelman, Facilitator, KW
- 9:30** MMPA §120 Overview and Context – Robert Anderson, NMFS
- MMPA §120 and §120(f)—Pinniped Removal Authority
  - Purpose of convening the Task Force
  - Role of the Task Force
  - NMFS’ Expectations of the Task Force
  - MMPA §120 Decision-making process and timeframes
  - Questions from the Task Force
- MMPA §120(f) Application
- Proposed action
  - Public comments received on the application
  - Questions from the Task Force

**10:30 Break**

**10:45** Review of Pinniped Removal Authority under the MMPA

- Marine Mammal Protection Act §120 Case Studies – Robert Anderson, NMFS

**11:00** Summary of Salmon and Steelhead Recovery Efforts in the Columbia River Basin – Robert Anderson, NMFS

**11:15** California sea lion population status, life history, ecology, behavior, distribution, etc., – Bob DeLong, National Marine Mammal Laboratory (MML)

**11:45** Steller sea lion population status, life history, ecology, behavior, distribution, etc., – Tom Gelatt/Brian Fadely, MML

**12:15 Lunch**

**1:00** Pinniped-sea lion-salmonid interactions at Bonneville Dam and Willamette Falls – Steve Jeffries, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW); Shea Steingass, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW)

**1:30** MMPA §120(b)(2) expected benefits of taking - benefits analysis – Bryan Wright, ODFW

**2:15** Changes in adult Chinook salmon survival within the lower Columbia River amid increasing pinniped abundance – Michelle Rub, Northwest Fisheries Science Center (NWFSC)

**2:45 Break**

**3:00** Pinniped predation in the Columbia River estuary – Mark Sorel, NWFSC

**3:30** MMPA §120(d) Considerations – (a) Shea Steingass, ODFW; (a) Kessina Lee, WDFW; (b) Bryan Wright, Mike Brown, ODFW; (b) Doug Hatch, Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission; (b) Steve Jeffries, WDFW; (b) Kyle Tidwell, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; (c)(d) Shaun Clements, ODFW

- (a) Population trends, feeding habits, the location of the pinniped interaction, how and when the interaction occurs, and how many individual pinnipeds are involved
- (b) Past efforts to nonlethally deter such pinnipeds, and whether the applicant has demonstrated that no feasible and prudent alternatives exist and that the applicant has taken all reasonable nonlethal steps without success
- (c) The extent to which such pinnipeds are causing undue injury or impact to, or imbalance with, other species in the ecosystem, including fish populations; and
- (d) The extent to which such pinnipeds are exhibiting behavior that presents an ongoing threat to public safety.

**4:30** Reflection, Wrap up, and Preparation for Day 2 – Debra Nudelman, Facilitator, KW

**4:45 Adjourn**

Day 2—May 13, 2020

**8:00** Task Force members and audience please login to webinar, call-in to conference line, and settle in before the start of the meeting

**8:30** Welcome, Opening Remarks, Review Agenda, Task Force Business – Debra Nudelman, Facilitator, KW

- Day 1 summary
- Review Day 2 Agenda
- Reflections/Questions from the Task Force

**9:00** Task Force Business – Debra Nudelman, Facilitator, KW

NMFS requests that the Task Force respond to the following questions and develop a set of actions (or no actions) to each question.

**In order to get through all of the questions and develop actions, Task Force discussions will be limited to no more than 1 hour for each question.**

1. What, if any, non-lethal measures does the Task Force recommend in areas identified as Category 1 and Category 2 to displace and-or minimize sea lion predation in salmon/steelhead “hot spots?”
2. What, if any, non-lethal measures does the Task Force recommend in areas identified as Category 3<sup>1</sup> to preclude the establishment of sea lions?
3. What methods and operating procedures does the Task Force recommend regarding the capture, removal, etc., of sea lions in areas identified as Category 2 and Category 3?
4. What criteria does the Task Force recommend regarding the use of wildlife darting techniques, for in-water retrieval, capture and handling of sea lions?
5. What criteria and-or metrics does the Task Force recommend regarding the proposed locations, timing, numbers, limitations, methods, and duration of sea lion takings?
6. What methods, criteria and-or metrics does the Task Force recommend for evaluating the expected benefits of the taking of sea lions on at-risk fish stocks?
7. What type of pinniped-predation data does the Task Force recommend be collected in areas identified as Category 1 to evaluate the problem interaction?
8. What type of pinniped-predation data does the Task Force recommend be collected in areas identified as Category 2 and Category 3 to evaluate the problem interaction?

---

<sup>1</sup> Category 3 includes areas where sea lions have not been officially documented but contain spawning habitat for salmon and steelhead, or have documented presence that managers are monitoring but do not deem a conservation risk at present.

**Marine Mammal Protection Act Section 120(f) Pinniped-Fishery Interaction Task Force Meeting  
May 2020**

9. What criteria and-or metrics does the Task Force recommend be used to assess the effectiveness of the removal program (post-implementation evaluation)?
10. What methods, criteria and-or metrics does the Task Force recommend regarding the development and implementation of a long-term management plan by the eligible entities to preclude naïve sea lions from becoming habituated predators in the 120(f) geographic area?
11. What actions does the Task Force recommend be implemented by the eligible entities to reduce the social transmission between habituated sea lions and naïve sea lions to minimize/eliminate future recruitment of naïve sea lions into the 120(f) geographic area?

**10:30 Break**

**10:45 Task Force Business – Debra Nudelman, KW**

- Continue with Task Force discussions on questions 1-11
- Continue with developing Task Force actions to questions 1-11

**12:00 Lunch**

**12:45 Task Force Business – Debra Nudelman, KW**

- Continue with Task Force discussions on questions 1-11
- Continue with developing Task Force actions to questions 1-11

**2:45 Break**

**3:00 Task Force Business – Debra Nudelman, KW**

- Continue with Task Force discussions on questions 1-11
- Continue with developing Task Force actions to questions 1-11

**4:30 Reflection, Wrap up, and Preparation for Day 3 – Debra Nudelman, Facilitator, KW**

**4:45 Adjourn**

Day 3—May 14, 2020

**8:00** Task Force members and audience please login to webinar, call-in to conference line, and settle in before the start of the meeting

**8:30** Welcome, Opening Remarks, Review Agenda, Task Force Business – Debra Nudelman, Facilitator, KW

- Day 2 summary
- Review Day 3 Agenda
- Reflections/Questions from the Task Force

**9:00** Public Input – This is an opportunity for members of the public to identify information, not covered in Day 1 or Day 2, regarding the problem interaction that may be of value to Task Force members. It is not a time for discussion with the Task Force.

- Facilitator will announce opening of public input and solicit input.
- Depending upon the number of participants, the Facilitator may limit your time to permit as many members of the public an opportunity to provide input to the Task Force.

**Note: We will move to the next agenda item at either 9:30 or when public input is finished, whichever is first.**

**9:30** Task Force Business – Debra Nudelman, Facilitator, KW

- Continue with Task Force discussions on questions 1-11
- Continue with developing Task Force actions to questions 1-11

**10:30 Break**

**10:45** Task Force Business – Debra Nudelman, Facilitator, KW

- Continue with Task Force discussions on questions 1-11
- Continue with developing Task Force actions to questions 1-11

**12:00 Lunch**

**12:45** Task Force Business – Debra Nudelman, Facilitator, KW

- Finalize Task Force discussions on questions 1-11
- Finalize Task Force actions to questions 1-11

**2:45 Break**

**3:00** Task Force members recommendation on the eligible entities' proposed intentional lethal taking of sea lions in the Columbia River — recommend to NMFS to either approve or deny the eligible entities' application

**Marine Mammal Protection Act Section 120(f) Pinniped-Fishery Interaction Task Force Meeting  
May 2020**

**3:30** Reflection, Wrap Up and Next Steps – Debra Nudelman, Facilitator, KW

- Review schedule and process for documenting meeting results and submitting the Task Force report, recommendation, and actions to NMFS

**3:45** Closing Comments – Robert Anderson, NMFS

**4:00** **Adjourn**