



Memorandum

Date: August 20, 2019

Subject: Kalama Manufacturing and Marine Export Facility – Incidental Harassment Authorization (IHA) Extension Request – requesting IHA coverage from October 19, 2019 to October 19, 2020

From: Dan Gunderson, Senior Scientist

To: Dale Youngkin, Fishery Biologist - Permits and Conservation Division, NOAA Fisheries

CC: Tabitha Reeder, Port of Kalama

INTRODUCTION

The Port of Kalama (Port) has an Incidental Harassment Authorization (IHA) from NOAA Fisheries' Office of Protected Resources for the Kalama Manufacturing and Marine Export Facility (the project) under the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA). The current IHA (dated October 18, 2018) is valid through October 18, 2019

Provision #8 of the IHA allows NOAA to “issue a second one-year IHA without additional notice when 1) another year of identical or nearly identical activities as described in the Specified Activities section is planned or 2) the activities would not be completed by the time the IHA expires and a second IHA would allow for completion of the activities beyond that described in the Dates and Duration section”.

The Port has not yet received all of the regulatory authorizations necessary for construction and no work has been conducted as authorized by the existing IHA. The Port does not anticipate being able to begin construction during the valid period for the existing IHA. For this reason, the Port is requesting the IHA be reissued to allow for work during between October 19, 2019 and October 19, 2020 during the work window described below.

The Port does not propose any changes to the proposed action as described in the 2018 IHA application addendum (dated June 21, 2018), aside from the schedule. Additionally, there have been no changes in the population/distribution of marine mammals in the Columbia River that would affect the take estimates from the original application.

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide the required notification as a formal request for an IHA renewal, consistent with Provision #8 of the IHA, authorizing work between October 19, 2019 and October 19, 2020.

PROPOSED PROJECT

The proposed project is documented in the 2018 IHA application addendum (dated June 21, 2018). The proposed project consists of the construction of a facility to manufacture and export methanol on approximately 100 acres on the Columbia River at the Port's North Port site.

The proposed project will consist of a methanol production facility, accessory support and infrastructure facilities located in upland areas, and a new marine terminal located on the Columbia River. The proposed project also includes compensatory mitigation activities. The Port does not propose any changes or modifications to the proposed project.

DATES AND DURATION

The proposed dates and duration are identical to those proposed in the 2018 IHA application addendum (dated June 21, 2018), except that this request is for coverage from October 19, 2019 to October 19, 2020.

The work window is further explained below:

- Pile installation will be conducted between 1 September and 31 January
- Dredging will be conducted between 1 August and 31 December
- ELJ installation will be conducted between 1 August and 31 December
- Pile removal may be conducted year-round
- Work conducted below the ordinary high water mark, but outside the wetted perimeter of the river (in the dry) may be conducted year-round

Pile installation will be completed within up to 153 days within the 2019-2020 pile driving window. Pile installation will be conducted during standard daylight working hours, roughly 8 to 10 hours a day.

TAKE ESTIMATES

The three marine mammal species, subspecies, or distinct population segment (DPS) with known distribution ranges that include the portion of the Columbia River in which construction activities will occur are listed in Table 2 and are addressed in this IHA request.

Table 1. Marine Mammal Species Addressed in this IHA Request

Species Name		ESA Listing Status	Stock
Common Name	Scientific Name		
Harbor Seal	<i>(Phoca vitulina ssp. richardsi)</i>	Not listed	OR/WA coast stock
California Sea Lion	<i>(Zalophus californianus)</i>	Not listed	U,S, stock
Steller Sea Lion	<i>(Eumatopius jubatus)</i>	Not listed	Eastern DPS

All of the marine mammals addressed in this document are pinniped species, which use the portion of the Columbia River within the action area as a seasonal corridor for foraging.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has monitored pinniped presence and salmonid predation at Bonneville Dam (RM 146) since 2002, and has published regularly updated data on pinniped presence at the Bonneville Dam (Tidwell et al. 2019). Since 2016, the USACE has observed increased abundance and prolonged residence of pinnipeds at the Bonneville Dam tailrace. However, the data does not suggest a trend that would require a modification to the take estimates or to the effects analysis.

The Port therefore is requesting the same level of take as is authorized in the current IHA, as there has been no significant change in population density, and no change in marine mammal presence is anticipated.

MARINE MAMMAL MONITORING PLAN

The marine mammal monitoring plan establishes Level A injury protection zones for each pile type/installation method, where pile driving activities will be shut down if marine mammals enter. The monitoring plan also establishes the protocol for monitoring of Level B harassment zones for the purpose of monitoring and reporting and Level B takes of marine mammals.

No work has been conducted to date on the project, and as such, no monitoring has been conducted. The same approved marine mammal monitoring plan will be implemented for the 2019-2020 IHA.

SUMMARY AND REQUEST

As described above, the Port is submitting this request for an IHA, consistent with the existing IHA for the project, but with dates authorizing work for the 2019-2020 (October 19, 2019 to October 19, 2020) during the work window described above.

The Port does not propose any changes to the proposed action, aside from schedule, and there have been no changes in the population/distribution of marine mammals in the Columbia River that would affect the take estimates from the original application.

REFERENCES

California Department of Transportation (Caltrans). 2012. Technical Guidance for Assessment and Mitigation of the Hydroacoustic Effects of Pile Driving on Fish. Updated October 2012.

Jeffries, S. J., P. J. Gearin, H. R. Huber, D. L. Saul, and D. A. Pruett. 2000. Atlas of seal and sea lion haulout sites in Washington. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Wildlife Science Division, Olympia. 139 pp.

Tidwell, K.S., B.A. Carrothers, , K.N Bayley, L/N. Magill and B.K. van der Leeuw. 2019. Evaluation of Pinniped Predation on Adult Salmonids and Other Fish in the Bonneville Dam Tailrace, 2019. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Portland District Fisheries Field Unit. Cascade Locks, OR.

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