

importance for migration for the North Atlantic right whale BIA

- Similarly, due to the small overlap of the survey activities with the biologically important area for fin whales, along with the size of the required shutdown, which should avoid the majority of impacts, the survey activities are not expected to affect foraging behavior of this species.

- For all species, the percentage of stocks affected are less than 9 percent of the stock. This represents the total instances of take and does not consider that there are likely repeat exposures of the same individuals, which would mean that the percentage of individuals are likely lower. In addition, these takes are anticipated to be Level B harassment takes in the form of short-term startle or avoidance reactions that would not affect the species or stock.

NMFS concludes that exposures to marine mammal species and stocks due to Bay State Wind's HRG survey activities would result in only short-term (temporary and short in duration) and relatively infrequent effects to individuals exposed, and not of the type or severity that would be expected to be additive for the very small portion of the stocks and species likely to be exposed. Animals may temporarily avoid the immediate area, but are not expected to permanently abandon the area. Major shifts in habitat use, distribution, or foraging success, are not expected. For the reasons described herein, NMFS does not anticipate the authorized take to impact annual rates of recruitment or survival.

Based on the analysis contained herein of the likely effects of the specified activity on marine mammals and their habitat, and taking into consideration the implementation of the required monitoring and mitigation measures, NMFS finds that the total marine mammal take from Bay State Wind's proposed HRG survey activities will have a negligible impact on the affected marine mammal species or stocks.

Small Numbers

The takes authorized for the HRG survey represent 2.07 percent of the Gulf of Maine stock of humpback whale (West Indies Distinct Population Segment); 1.92 percent of the WNA stock of fin whale; 0.77 percent of the Canadian East Coast stock of minke whale; 0.22 percent of the North Atlantic stock of sperm whales; 8.66 percent of the Western North Atlantic stock of bottlenose dolphins; 0.16 percent of the WNA stock of Risso's dolphins; 0.11 percent of the WNA stock of Atlantic spotted dolphins; 0.05

percent of the WNA stock of long-finned pilot whales; 2.85 percent of the WNA stock of common dolphin; 1.02 percent of the WNA stock of Atlantic white-sided dolphin; 1.09 percent of the Gulf of Maine/Bay of Fundy stock of harbor porpoise; 2.16 percent of the WNA stock of harbor seal; and 0.56 percent of the North Atlantic stock of gray seal. These take estimates represent the percentage of each species or stock that could be taken and are small numbers relative to the affected species or stock sizes. Further, the authorized take numbers are the maximum numbers of animals that are expected to be harassed during the project; it is possible that some of these exposures may occur to the same individual, which would mean the percentage of stock taken would be smaller as it would not take into account these multiple exposures of the same individual(s). Therefore, NMFS finds that small numbers of marine mammals will be taken relative to the populations of the affected species or stocks.

Impact on Availability of Affected Species for Taking for Subsistence Uses

There are no relevant subsistence uses of marine mammals implicated by this action. Therefore, NMFS has determined that the total taking of affected species or stocks would not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of such species or stocks for taking for subsistence purposes.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

The U.S. Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), to evaluate the issuance of wind energy leases covering the entirety of the Massachusetts Wind Energy Area (including the OCS-A 0500 Study Area), and the approval of site assessment activities within those leases (BOEM, 2014). NMFS previously adopted BOEM's EA and issued a Finding of No Significant Effect (FONSI) for similar work in 2016 (81 FR 56589, August 22, 2016).

NMFS has reviewed the BOEM EA and our previous FONSI and has determined that this action is consistent with categories of activities identified in CE B4 of the Companion Manual for NOAA Administrative Order 216-6A, which do not individually or cumulatively have the potential for significant impacts on the quality of the human environment and for which we have not identified any extraordinary circumstances that would preclude this

categorical exclusion. Accordingly, NMFS has determined that the issuance of the IHA qualifies to be categorically excluded from further NEPA review. We have reviewed all comments submitted in response to the proposed IHA notice prior to concluding our NEPA process and making a final decision on the IHA request.

Endangered Species Act

The NMFS Office of Protected Resources is authorizing the incidental take fin whales, which are listed under the ESA. BOEM consulted with NMFS GARFO under section 7 of the ESA on commercial wind lease issuance and site assessment activities on the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New York and New Jersey Wind Energy Areas. The NMFS GARFO issued a Biological Opinion concluding that these activities may adversely affect but are not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of the North Atlantic right, fin, and sperm whale. The Biological Opinion can be found online at:

www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/marine-mammal-protection/incidental-take-authorizations-other-energy-activities-renewable. Upon request from the NMFS Office of Protected Resources, the NMFS GARFO will issue an amended incidental take statement associated with this Biological Opinion to include the takes of the ESA-listed fin whale authorized through this IHA.

Authorization

NMFS has issued an IHA to Bay State Wind for conducting marine site characterization surveys offshore of Massachusetts and along potential submarine cable routes for a period of one year, provided the previously mentioned mitigation, monitoring, and reporting requirements are incorporated.

Dated: July 24, 2018.

Donna S. Wieting,

*Director, Office of Protected Resources,
National Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. 2018-16200 Filed 7-27-18; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Telecommunications and Information Administration

Virginia Broadband Summit

AGENCY: National Telecommunications and Information Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of open meeting.

SUMMARY: The National Telecommunications and Information Administration's (NTIA) BroadbandUSA Program, in partnership with the Center for Innovative Technology (CIT), will host the Virginia Broadband Summit in Roanoke, Virginia on October 30, 2018. The purpose of the Summit is to engage the public and stakeholders with information to accelerate broadband connectivity, improve digital inclusion, and support local priorities. The Summit will provide information on topics including local broadband planning, funding and engagement with service providers. Speakers and attendees from Virginia, federal agencies and across the country will come together to explore ways to facilitate the expansion of broadband capacity, access, and utilization.

DATES: The Broadband Summit will be held on October 30, 2018, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Eastern Time.

ADDRESSES: The Virginia Broadband Summit will be held in Roanoke, Virginia at the Roanoke South County Library, 6303 Merriman Road, Roanoke, VA 24018.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Janice Wilkins, National Telecommunications and Information Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, Room 4678, 1401 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20230; telephone: (202) 482-5791; email: broadbandusaevents@ntia.doc.gov. Please direct media inquiries to NTIA's Office of Public Affairs, (202) 482-7002; email: press@ntia.doc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The NTIA's BroadbandUSA program promotes innovation and economic growth by supporting efforts to expand broadband access and meaningful use across America. The CIT provides broadband support to Virginia localities, elected officials, state and federal agencies, and broadband providers to accelerate Virginia's economic growth through the application and use of broadband telecommunications.

The Virginia Broadband Summit is open to the public. Pre-registration is requested because space may be limited. NTIA asks registrants to provide their first and last names and email address for registration purposes and to receive any updates on the workshop and other BroadbandUSA news and events. Registration information, meeting updates, including changes in the agenda, and relevant documents will be available on NTIA's website at <https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/VirginiaBroadbandSummit2018>.

The public meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Individuals requiring accommodations, such as language interpretation or other ancillary aids, should notify Janice Wilkins at the contact information listed above at least five (5) business days before the meeting so that accommodations can be made.

Dated: July 24, 2018.

Kathy D. Smith,
Chief Counsel, National Telecommunications and Information Administration.

[FR Doc. 2018-16157 Filed 7-27-18; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army

[Docket ID: USA-2018-HQ-0010]

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

AGENCY: Department of the Army Corps of Engineers, DoD.

ACTION: 30-Day information collection notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Defense has submitted to OMB for clearance the following proposal for collection of information under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act.

DATES: Consideration will be given to all comments received by August 29, 2018.

ADDRESSES: Comments and recommendations on the proposed information collection should be emailed to Mr. Vlad Dorjets, DoD Desk Officer, at aira_submission@omb.eop.gov. Please identify the proposed information collection by DoD Desk Officer, Docket ID number, and title of the information collection.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Fred Licari, 571-372-0493, or whs.mc-alex.esd.mbx.dd-dod-information-collections@mail.mil.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title; Associated Form; and OMB Number: Application for Department of the Army Permit and Nationwide Permit Pre-Construction Notification Forms; ENG Form 4345; ENG Form 6082; OMB Control Number 0710-0003.

Type of Request: Reinstatement.
Number of Respondents: 80,000.
Responses per Respondent: 1.
Annual Responses: 80,000.
Average Burden per Response: 11 hours.

Annual Burden Hours: 880,000.
Needs and Uses: Information collected is used to evaluate, as required by law, proposed construction or filing

in waters of the United States that result in impacts to the aquatic environment and nearby properties, and to determine which type of permit would be required if one was needed. Respondents are private landowners, businesses, non-profit organizations, and government agencies. Respondents also include sponsors of proposed and approved mitigation banks and in-lieu fee programs.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit; individuals or households.

Frequency: On occasion.

Respondent's Obligation: Voluntary.

OMB Desk Officer: Mr. Vlad Dorjets.

You may also submit comments and recommendations, identified by Docket ID number and title, by the following method:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments.

Instructions: All submissions received must include the agency name, Docket ID number, and title for this **Federal Register** document. The general policy for comments and other submissions from members of the public is to make these submissions available for public viewing on the internet at <http://www.regulations.gov> as they are received without change, including any personal identifiers or contact information.

DoD Clearance Officer: Mr. Frederick Licari.

Requests for copies of the information collection proposal should be sent to Mr. Licari at whs.mc-alex.esd.mbx.dd-dod-information-collections@mail.mil.

Dated: July 25, 2018.

Aaron T. Siegel,

Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.

[FR Doc. 2018-16235 Filed 7-27-18; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 5001-06-P

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

Board of Regents, Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences; Notice of Federal Advisory Committee Meeting

AGENCY: Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, Board of Regents (Board), Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU), Department of Defense (DoD).

ACTION: Notice of Federal Advisory Committee Meeting.

SUMMARY: The DoD is publishing this notice to announce that the following Federal Advisory Committee meeting of