

known or reported to be harassed by fisheries, and those marine mammals suspected to be injured, killed, or harassed incidental to commercial fishing operations. The list of marine mammal species identified in the final LOF for 1996 includes only those marine mammals that have been documented as having been injured or killed in observer programs, logbook reports, strandings data, or by fishers' reports or anecdotal reports. This list includes only those marine mammals that have been injured or killed incidental to commercial fisheries since 1989.

Registration Requirements for Vessels Participating in Category I and II Fisheries

Vessel owners participating in Category I or II fisheries must register under the MMPA, as required by 50 CFR 229.4. Registration under the MMPA is conducted on a NMFS Region-specific basis. Thus, how registration materials are distributed and the cost of registration differ between Regions. Under 50 CFR 229.4, the granting and administration of Authorization certificates is to be integrated and coordinated with existing fishery license, registration, or permit systems and related programs, whenever possible. Alternative registration programs have been or are being implemented in the Alaska Region, Northwest Region, and Southeast Region. Special procedures and instructions for registration in these Regions appear below.

If the granting and/or administration of authorizations has not been integrated with state licensing, registration, or permit systems, vessel owners may obtain registration forms from the NMFS Region in which their fishery operates. NMFS Regional Offices will endeavor to send these packets to known participants in Category I or II fisheries. The registration packet will typically include an MMAP registration form, a list of those fisheries in each region that require authorization in order to incidentally kill or injure marine mammals (Category I and II fisheries), and an explanation of the new management regime, including instructions on reporting requirements. The registration packet may also include an explanation of the changes in the fishery classification criteria, guidance on deterring marine mammals, and a reminder that intentional lethal takes of marine mammals are no longer permitted except under certain specific conditions.

Vessel owners must submit the registration form and the \$25 fee to the

NMFS Regional Office in which their fishery operates. NMFS will send the vessel owner an Authorization Certificate, program decals, and reporting forms within 60 days of receiving the registration form and application fee.

Procedures for registering in each NMFS region are outlined in the following section.

Region-Specific Registration Requirements for Category I and II Fisheries

If the granting and administration of authorizations under 50 CFR 229.4 is not integrated or coordinated with existing fishery licenses, registrations, or related programs, requests for registration forms and completed registration forms should be sent to the NMFS Regional Offices listed in this notice under **ADDRESSES**.

Alaska Region (AKR) MMAP Registration for 1996

Vessel owners in Category I and II state and Federal fisheries, as well as all vessel owners with Alaska Department of Fish and Game commercial vessel licenses, will receive a registration packet. Fishers may not register with other regions for Alaska fisheries. If a fisher plans to participate in a Category I or II fishery and does not receive a registration packet, AKR should be contacted see **ADDRESSES**.

Northwest Region (NWR) MMAP Registration for 1996

Oregon: Under an agreement developed between NMFS and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), information collected for licensing purposes by the state of Oregon will be provided to NMFS in lieu of NMFS requiring a separate MMAP registration. Vessel owners in Oregon who apply for and obtain a Developmental Fisheries Permit to harvest and land swordfish using drift gillnet gear (CA/OR thresher shark/swordfish drift gillnet fishery; Category I) or a Developmental Fisheries Permit to harvest and land swordfish or blue shark using surface longline gear (OR swordfish/blue shark surface longline fishery; Category II) will automatically receive an Authorization for the incidental take of marine mammals at the time of permit issuance. Vessel owners will receive marine mammal injury and mortality reporting forms along with their fisheries permit and Authorization.

The number of available Developmental Permits for these fisheries is limited and the information necessary to fulfill the requirements of

the MMPA is already being collected by ODFW for Developmental Permit processing. NMFS will provide limited support to ODFW for the issuance of the Authorizations. Processing costs for ODFW are expected to be minimal, and hence, MMAP registration fees will not be charged to Developmental Fishery permit holders in 1996.

Since the Authorization will be issued in combination with the Developmental Fisheries Permit, it is specific to the permit and will only authorize the incidental take of marine mammals during fishing activities conducted under this permit. Fishers who participate in the CA/OR thresher shark/swordfish drift gillnet fishery under permits to harvest and land in California must apply for and obtain a MMAP Authorization Certificate from the NMFS Southwest Region.

ODFW will provide NMFS with the following information:

- (1) Name, address, and phone number of the Vessel Owner;
- (2) Name, address, and phone number of the Permit Holder;
- (3) Vessel name, U.S. Coast Guard documentation number, or state registration (OR) number (as applicable), and ODFW Developmental Fishery Permit number for the permitted vessel. NMFS will incorporate the information into a national data base of registered Category I and II fishers.

Washington: Under an agreement developed between NMFS and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), information collected by the State for licensing purposes will be provided to NMFS in lieu of NMFS requiring a separate MMAP registration. Vessel owners in Washington who apply for and obtain a Puget Sound Gillnet License to harvest and land salmon using drift gillnet gear (WA Puget Sound Region salmon drift gillnet fishery; includes all inland waters south of US-Canada border and eastward of the Bonilla-Tatoosh line—Treaty Indian fishing is excluded; Category II) will automatically receive an Authorization for the incidental take of marine mammals at the time of license issuance. Fishers will receive marine mammal injury/mortality reporting forms along with their fisheries license and Marine Mammal Authorization.

The information necessary to fulfill the requirements of the MMPA is already being collected by WDFW for Fishing License processing and NMFS will provide limited support for the issuance of the Authorization. Processing costs for WDFW are expected to be minimal, and hence, MMAP registration fees will not be charged to licenseholders in 1996. Since the