

Harassment]; or (ii) any act that disturbs or is likely to disturb a marine mammal or marine mammal stock in the wild by causing disruption of natural behavioral patterns, including, but not limited to, migration, surfacing, nursing, breeding, feeding, or sheltering, to a point where such behavioral patterns are abandoned or significantly altered [Level B Harassment].

### Summary of Request

In August 2008, NMFS received an application from the Navy requesting authorization to take individuals of 28 species of marine mammals (all cetaceans) incidental to upcoming training and RDT&E activities to be conducted in the MIRC over the course of 5 years. The Navy provided an addendum to the application in February 2009. NMFS subsequently requested additional information, which was received in March 2009. These training and RDT&E activities are classified as military readiness activities. The Navy states that these training activities may expose some of the marine mammals present in the area to sound from various active tactical sonar sources or to pressure from underwater detonations. The Navy requests authorization to take individuals of 28 species of cetaceans by Level B Harassment. Further, the Navy requests authorization to take 9 individual beaked whales (of any of the following species: Blainville's beaked whale, Cuvier's beaked whale, Ginkgo-toothed whale, Longman's beaked whale) and one pantropical spotted dolphin by serious injury or mortality over the course of the 5-year rule.

### Specified Activities

In the application submitted to NMFS, the Navy requests authorization to take marine mammals incidental to conducting training events and RDT&E utilizing mid- and high frequency active sonar sources and explosive detonations. These sonar and explosive sources will be utilized during Anti-submarine Warfare (ASW) Tracking and Torpedo Exercises, ASW Major Exercises (Multi Strike Group Exercises, Joint Expeditionary Exercises, and others), Extended Echo Ranging and Improved Extended Echo Ranging (EER/IEER) events, Missile Exercises, Gunnery Exercises, Bombing Exercises, Sinking Exercises, and Demolitions. Table 1-3 in the application lists the activity types, the equipment and platforms involved, and the duration and potential locations of the activities.

### Information Solicited

Interested persons may submit information, suggestions, and comments concerning the Navy's request (see

**ADDRESSES**). All information, suggestions, and comments related to the Navy's MIRC request and NMFS' potential development and implementation of regulations governing the incidental taking of marine mammals by the Navy's MIRC activities will be considered by NMFS in developing, if appropriate, the most effective regulations governing the issuance of letters of authorization.

Dated: March 12, 2009.

**P. Michael Payne,**

*Chief, Division of Permits, Conservation, and Education, Director, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.*  
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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Telecommunications and Information Administration

#### Notice: Broadband Grant Programs Meetings

**AGENCY:** National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), U.S. Department of Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of Meetings, Clarification.

**SUMMARY:** On February 24, 2009, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) published a Notice in the **Federal Register** announcing its intention to begin holding meetings on March 2, 2009, in connection with the broadband grant programs described in the Broadband Data Services Improvement Act, Public Law No. 110-385, and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act), Public Law No. 111-5 (collectively, "Broadband Grant Programs"). This Notice provides clarification regarding those meetings.

**DATES:** March 16, 2009.

**ADDRESSES:** U.S. Department of Commerce, National Telecommunications and Information Administration, 1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20230.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Barbara Brown at (202) 482-4374 or [bbrown@ntia.doc.gov](mailto:bbrown@ntia.doc.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On February 24, 2009, NTIA published a Notice announcing a joint public meeting with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to discuss the Broadband Initiatives contained in the Recovery Act. See Joint Notice of Public Meeting, 74 Fed. Reg. 8914 (Feb. 27, 2009) (announcing a joint

public meeting on March 10, 2009). At the same time, NTIA published a Notice announcing its intention to begin holding meetings on March 2, 2009 in response to numerous requests received from individuals and groups interested in the program. See Notice of Meetings, 74 Fed. Reg. 8233 (Feb. 24, 2009). This Notice explained the manner in which individuals and groups could request meetings and the treatment of such meetings as *ex parte* presentations. Since the publication of these Notices, NTIA has received over 2,500 requests for meetings from interested parties.

Subsequently, NTIA and USDA's Rural Utilities Service announced that the agencies would hold six public meetings on March 16, 17, 18, 19, 23, and 24, 2009, about the new broadband grants, loans, and loan guarantees funded by the Recovery Act and accept written comments about the programs through April 13, 2009. See Joint Request for Information and Notice of Public Meetings, 74 Fed. Reg. 10716 (March 12, 2009). These public meetings will be conducted as roundtables, will be open to the public, and also will be webcast. Transcripts and all written comments received also will be available. Participation in the public meetings and the filing of written comments is encouraged. For further information about these meetings and to submit and view written comments, please see NTIA's website at <http://www.ntia.doc.gov/broadbandgrants/>.

As a result of the overwhelming demand from interested parties for meetings and the expedited time frames in the Recovery Act for making the broadband grant, loan, and loan guarantee funds available, NTIA will not be able to accommodate all meeting requests received. The agency, however, does reserve the right to schedule such *ex parte* meetings as necessary to fulfill the needs of the Broadband Grant Program. All other information provided in the Notice of Meetings remains unchanged.

Dated: March 13, 2009.

**Kathy D. Smith,**

*Chief Counsel, National Telecommunications and Information Administration.*

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## CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

### Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request

**AGENCY:** Corporation for National and Community Service.