



NOAA
FISHERIES

West Coast
Region

Marine Mammal Protection Act §120(f) Pinniped - Fishery Interaction Task Force to Convene

**Virtual-only Meeting - March 7, 2024,
9:00-1:00, Pacific Time**

NOAA Fisheries announces that it is convening the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) 120(f) Pinniped-Fishery Interaction Task Force (Task Force) to review the Eligible Entities implementation of the pinniped removal authority authorized by NOAA Fisheries under section 120(f) of the MMPA. On August 14, 2020, NOAA Fisheries authorized the Eligible Entities to lethally remove California and Steller sea lions that are having a significant negative impact on ESA-listed salmon, steelhead, and eulachon in the Columbia River basin.

Section 120(c)(5) of the MMPA requires that: After implementation of an approved application, the Task Force shall evaluate the effectiveness of the permitted intentional lethal taking or alternative actions implemented. If implementation was ineffective in eliminating the problem interaction, the Task Force shall recommend additional actions. If the implementation was effective, the Task Force shall so advise the Secretary, and the Secretary shall disband the Task Force.

The purpose of this meeting is to conduct a mid-program evaluation and seek, if warranted, recommendations from the Task Force to improve the effectiveness of the removal program

NOAA Fisheries will post the agenda with call-in number and web access information prior to the meeting at:

www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/protected_species/marine_mammals/authorized_states.html

Members of the public may attend the meeting.

For more information on the Marine Mammal Protection Act Section 120 Program, visit

www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/protected_species/marine_mammals/authorized_states.html