

Advisory Committee on Acoustic Impacts on Marine Mammals

Plenary Meeting Two

April 28-30, 2004

Crystal City Sheraton, Arlington, VA

Draft Agenda

Purpose of this Meeting:

- To discuss tools available and/or needed to best determine the levels of noise that represent a risk to marine mammals.
- To discuss the development and application of NOAA Fisheries' proposed Noise Exposure Criteria for evaluating the risk to marine mammals from anthropogenic noise
- To develop information base for discussing mitigation questions at meeting four

Wednesday, April 28

9:00 – 9:45 Welcome, Introductions, Review Agenda for this Meeting, Approve Summary from Meeting One

9:45 – 10:40 Review, Discuss and Reach Agreement on Operating Procedures

10:40-10:55 **Break**

10:55- 12:15 Session I: Background on Assessing the Risk to Marine Mammals from Anthropogenic Sound (25-minute presentations with 15 minutes Committee discussion)

- Overview of past efforts to develop criteria for assessing risk to marine mammals from anthropogenic sound, including High Energy Seismic Studies (HESS) Panel, and National Research Council (NRC) Panel reports.
- Update from current NRC Panel on Describing Biologically Significant Marine Mammal Behavior

Doug Wartzok, Vice Provost and Dean, Florida International University, and Member of the Committee of Scientific Advisors to the Marine Mammal Commission

- Current risk analysis activities under the Endangered Species Act and the Marine Mammal Protection Act

Penny Ruvelas and Donna Wieting, NOAA Fisheries

12:15-1:15 **Lunch**

1:15-4:15

*(with break
2:35-2:55)*

Session II: Examples of Risk Assessment Methods

(Each panelist: 20-minute presentation, 20 minutes Committee discussion)

- Application of Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Risk Assessment Model to Marine Mammals and Sound – *John Harwood, Sea Mammal Research Unit, University of St. Andrews*
- Effects of Sound on the Marine Environment (ESME) Model – *Bob Gisinger, Office of Naval Research*
- U.K. Navy Risk Mitigation and Management – *Claire Burt, Defence Science and Technology Laboratories (Dstl)*
- U.S. Navy Low-Frequency Active Sonar Environmental Impact Statement– *Kurt Fristrup, Cornell Lab of Ornithology*

Panelists will address:

- Description of specific approaches to assess risks to marine mammals from anthropogenic sound, including risk criteria and assumptions used, if any.
- What challenges have arisen in assessing risk using these methods, including types of information needed?

4:15-4:45

Public Comment

4:45-5:15

Report from Beaked Whale Workshop *Andy Read, Assistant Professor, Duke University Marine Lab and Workshop Chair*

5:15-5:30

Wrap Up and Adjourn

Thursday, April 29

8:30-8:45

Opening Remarks, Comments on Day One

8:45-12:30

Session III: Emerging Approaches

(with break

10:40-10:55)

Noise Exposure Criteria

- Background on development and intended use of criteria– *Donna Wieting*
- Overview of history and scope of Noise Exposure Criteria – *Roger Gentry*
- Structure of Noise Exposure Criteria Matrix – *Brandon Southall*
- Scientific Basis for Noise Exposure Criteria– *Roger Gentry and members of Acoustic Science Panel convened by NOAA Fisheries: Ann Bowles, Jim Finneran, Charles Greene, Darlene Ketten, James Miller, John Richardson, and Peter Tyack*
- Summarize Noise Exposure Criteria Approach – *NOAA Fisheries*
 - Where are the gaps and limitations?
 - What are the next steps on the Criteria?
- Discussion in plenary

12:30-1:30

Lunch

1:30-3:45 **Development of Policy Guidelines for Application of Noise Exposure Criteria**

Questions and Discussion with Donna Wieting, NOAA Fisheries: How Noise Exposure Criteria Could be Applied in NOAA Fisheries' Regulatory Decisions about Incidental Take and Harassment

Plenary Discussion:

- What are the most useful portions of the proposed criteria (the “plusses”)?
- What are the major concerns about them?

3:45-4:00 **Break**

4:00-4:30 **Summarize What Has Been Accomplished Through Presentation and Discussion; What More is Needed from/by the Committee on This Topic**

4:30-5:00 **Public Comment**

5:00 **Adjourn**

5:30 **Reception**

Friday, April 30

8:30-8:35 **Opening Remarks and Review Tasks for Day Three**

8:35-9:45 **Follow-up on Interim Work Since First Meeting**

- Report from Knowledge Assessment Subcommittee and discussion of next steps – *Naomi Rose, Committee*
- Update on International Workshop – *Erin Vos*

9:45-10:00 **Break**

10:00-11:45 **Plan for Committee's Next Steps**

- Discussion of Management and Mitigation Subcommittee
- Plan Meeting Three Agenda

11:45-Noon **Wrap Up and Adjourn**