

Presentation at the Third Plenary Meeting of the
Advisory Committee on Acoustic Impacts on
Marine Mammals
27-29 July 2004
San Francisco, California

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Marine Mammal Scientific Research Permits and Incidental Harassment Authorizations

July 28, 2004



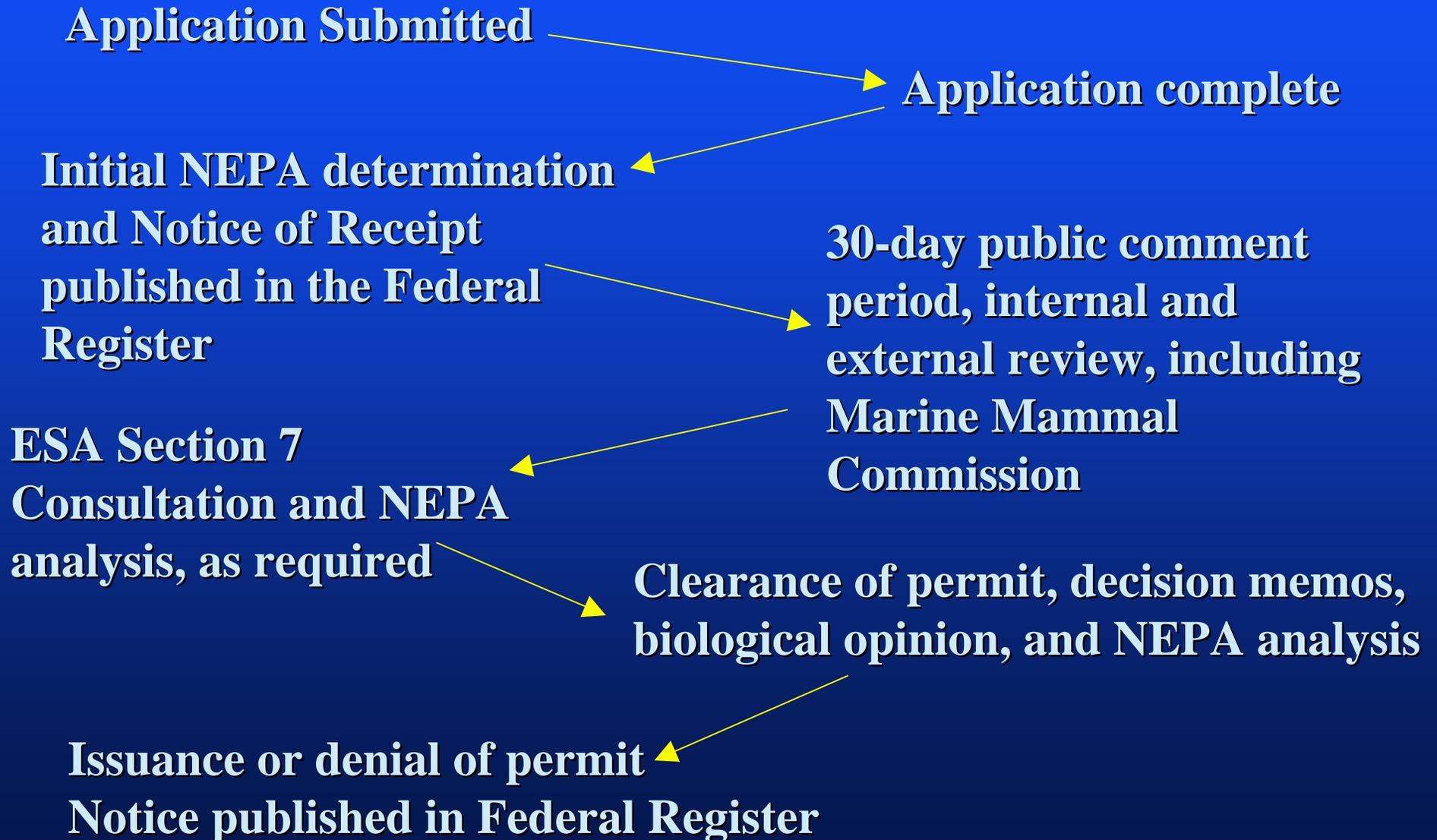
Office of Protected Resources



NOAA Fisheries

National Marine Fisheries Service

Scientific Research Permit Process



Challenges

- ◆ NEPA and ESA
- ◆ Limited human resources
- ◆ Limited funding for NEPA contracts
- ◆ Increasing numbers of permits and authorizations
- ◆ Increasing scope and complexity of actions
- ◆ Public controversy

Solutions

- ◆ Secure funding for hiring additional staff and for NEPA contracts
- ◆ Streamline process by completing programmatic NEPA and ESA analyses
- ◆ Work closely with applicants to obtain info for NEPA and ESA early in process
- ◆ Online Application System

Online Application System

- ◆ Expansion of an existing online system currently used for 4(d) rules (Pacific salmon)
- ◆ Will offer a variety of MMPA and ESA permit types with application questions tailored to specific research
- ◆ Applicants will have a password login and will be able to check on the status of their application. Online reporting may also be possible.