

## **Oil & Gas (and other sound producers)**

### **Overall Perspective**

We believe in a balanced and protective approach that takes into consideration species, activities and interests commensurate with the level of risk such as the “multiple use management” approach recommended in the USCOP *Ocean Blueprint for the Twenty-First Century*. Multiple use management balances competing uses while preserving and protecting the overall integrity of the ocean and coastal environments.

### **Industry statement of the problem:**

- Marine mammals are potentially affected by sounds generated in the oceans
  - Compared to other anthropogenic impacts on marine mammals, we believe sound is a second order effect
  - No scientific studies have conclusively demonstrated a link between exposure to sound and adverse impacts on a marine mammal population. (NRC '05)
  - For sounds generated by industry:
    - There are no known injuries to marine mammals
    - There are no known behavioral effects that have led to population level impacts.
- There is disagreement as to the extent of the problem among other stakeholders.

### **Getting information to reduce uncertainties:**

- Generate additional information to refine/populate risk assessments:
  - Acoustic sound source characteristics and propagation from sound sources.
  - Specific sensitivity of marine mammals to sound and potential for physical impacts to the animals.
  - Behavioral reactions of marine mammals to sound, and whether it is biologically significant.
  - Practical and effective mitigation strategies and technologies.
  - Research tool development (e.g. auditory modeling and animal tracking technology)
- Conduct research studies that establish appropriate exposure thresholds.
- Generate information on life histories of various species, e.g. abundance, distribution, behaviors, etc.

### **Identify sensible things to do now**

- We believe in a balanced and protective approach that takes into consideration species, activities and interests, and is commensurate with the level of risk
- Continue to conduct risk assessments using the best available scientific information
  - Employ mitigation measures that manage the risk for physical injury to marine mammals
  - If behavioral effects lead to population level effects, employ additional measures specifically designed for and commensurate with the risk of the circumstance.