



Memorandum of Agreement

Between

The Seventeenth United States Coast Guard District

And

NOAA Fisheries, Alaska Regional Office

Concerning cooperative efforts to manage marine species protected under the Marine Mammal Protection Act and Endangered Species Act that occur within the waters under the jurisdiction of the Seventeenth United States Coast Guard District in Alaska.

I. Parties

The parties to this agreement are the Seventeenth United States Coast Guard District and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service, Alaska Regional Office.

II. Authority

This agreement is authorized under the provisions of:

1. Endangered Species Act (16 USC 1536, et seq.)
2. Endangered Species Act Regulations (50 CFR Part 17)
3. Marine Mammal Protection Act (16 USC 1361, et seq.)
4. Marine Mammal Protection Act Amendments of 1994 (P.L. 103-238)
5. Marine Mammal Protection Act Regulations (50 CFR Part 18)
6. USCG Enforcement Authority (14 USC 2, et seq.)
7. USCG Cooperation With Other Agencies (14 USC 141, et seq.)
8. Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 USC 1801, et seq.)
9. Protected Living Marine Resources Program (COMDTINST 16475.7)

III. Purpose

The purpose of this agreement is to outline the roles of the respective parties in meeting their program goals. This agreement does not create any financial obligations on the part of either party.

1. The United States Coast Guard (USCG) is the nation's primary at-sea federal maritime law enforcement agency and has broad, multifaceted jurisdictional authority. The USCG maintains several primary missions including the protection of fisheries and other marine resources. The Seventeenth United States Coast Guard District's jurisdiction encompasses the waters of North Pacific Ocean surrounding Alaska to include the Gulf of Alaska, the Bering Sea, the Chukchi Sea, the Beaufort Sea, and the waters of Southeast Alaska.
2. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is the primary federal agency tasked with managing the nation's living marine resources. In Alaska, NMFS Alaska Region Protected Resources Division, is responsible for the management of marine mammals and other endangered and threatened marine species with the exception of polar bears, walrus, and sea otters.
3. The waters under the jurisdiction of the Seventeenth United States Coast Guard District and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service Alaska Regional Office are inhabited by a variety of marine species protected under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA). To enhance the management of the marine protected species listed under these statutes, the Seventeenth United States Coast Guard District and NMFS Alaska Region are dedicated to maintaining a close relationship.
4. This agreement outlines coordinated efforts that will occur between the Seventeenth United States Coast Guard District and NMFS Alaska Region to protect and recover marine protected species.

IV. Responsibilities

1. Subject to the availability of resources, the Seventeenth United States Coast Guard District will:
 - a. Designate the Enforcement Branch as the primary contact for the development of marine mammal and endangered species support programs;
 - b. Disseminate marine protected species information packets supplied by NMFS to vessels boarded in the area;
 - c. When applicable, broadcast Notice to Mariners messages concerning marine protected species (e.g. floating carcasses, entangled marine mammals, location of stranded animals, etc.);
 - d. Request the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary distribute marine protected species guidelines and information when conducting safe boating courses and other events in which the Auxiliary participates;
 - e. Develop a notification protocol to inform NMFS Alaska Region Protected Resources Division, or other parties designated by NMFS, that the Seventeenth United States Coast Guard District has received a report that a marine protected species is stranded, entrapped/entangled in debris, or otherwise at risk; and

- f. Provide limited, short-term vessel and aircraft support to NMFS Alaska Region Protected Resources Division on behalf of non-enforcement programs conducted for the following purposes:
 - 1) Recovery of marine protected species, including emergency response (e.g. live animal aerial transport, deceased animal towing to designated locations, and other operations as described under Permit No. 932-1905),
 - 2) Transport of stranding personnel to necropsy locations,
 - 3) Research and monitoring efforts,
 - 4) And hazardous materials and oil spill response.
2. Subject to the availability of resources, NMFS Alaska Region will:
- a. Designate the Protected Resources Stranding Coordinator as the primary contact for development of marine mammal and endangered species support programs;
 - b. Provide information to the United States Coast Guard North Pacific Regional Fisheries Training Center and the Seventeenth United States Coast Guard District on marine protected resources;
 - c. Provide instruction on identification of protected species found in the North Pacific Ocean,
 - d. Provide mutually agreed upon training material to support the recovery of marine protected species;
 - e. Provide personnel when requested to assist Seventeenth United States Coast Guard District units undertaking survey flights, surface patrols, and other operations conducted in support of this agreement;
 - f. Provide the Seventeenth United States Coast Guard District with a list of organizations or personnel permitted for responding to incidents of stranding or entanglements of large whales or other marine protected species;
 - g. Provide the Seventeenth United States Coast Guard District with written requests for support of non-enforcement programs conducted for the recovery and protection of marine protected species. Written requests may be made in the form of e-mail through the District Command Center;
 - h. Provide instruction on programs and networks established to mitigate the hazards to marine protected species through strandings, ship strikes, and entanglements; and
 - i. Coordinate all actions resulting from an oil or hazardous materials discharge through the pre-designated Federal On-Scene Coordinator.

V. Primary points of contact for implementing this agreement are:

1. Seventeenth United States Coast Guard District:
 - a. The District 17 Command Center shall be the primary point of contact for all marine protected species support related requests. Upon receipt of a

request, the Command Center shall route the request to the (dre) LEDO and the appropriate Coast Guard response unit.

Phone number: (907) 463-2000

- b. The Law Enforcement Branch Chief shall be the primary point of contact for all policy related queries with regards to development and implementation of this agreement.

Phone number: (907) 463-2223

2. NMFS Alaska Region Protected Resources Division:

- a. Alaska Marine Mammal Stranding Coordinator, located in Juneau, shall be responsible for coordination of state-wide response coordination.

Office Phone: (907) 586-7248

- b. Anchorage Marine Mammal Stranding Coordinator shall be responsible for response coordination for Cook Inlet and south-central AK events, and shall operate as the back-up for state-wide marine protected species issues.

Office Phone: (907) 271-3448

Cell Phone: (907) 360-3481

- c. The Protected Resources Division Chief shall be the primary point of contact for all policy related queries with regards to the development and implementation of this agreement.

Phone Number: (907) 586-7824

VI. Mutual Efforts

1. The Seventeenth United States Coast Guard District and NMFS Alaska Region Protected Resources Division will maintain a close liaison to keep each other informed of new initiatives and provide guidance on how to support the biological recovery and protection of marine protected species within the Seventeenth United States Coast Guard District Area of Responsibility.
2. The Seventeenth United States Coast Guard District Office of Public Affairs and the NMFS Alaska Region Media Specialist will coordinate media releases when appropriate.

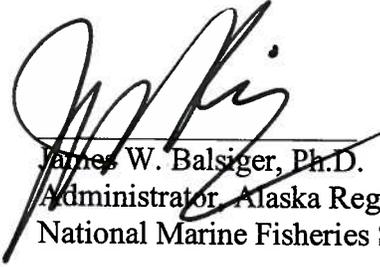
VII. Effective Date, Modification, and Termination:

1. This agreement is effective upon signature of the parties. Either party may withdraw from this agreement upon 30 days written notice to the other.
2. This agreement may be modified by the mutual written consent of the parties.
3. The parties to this agreement shall meet from time to time, but not less than once per year, to discuss its implementation and need for any revision.

VIII. Approved by:



Christopher C. Colvin
Rear Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard
Commander
Seventeenth Coast Guard District



James W. Balsiger, Ph.D.
Administrator, Alaska Region
National Marine Fisheries Service

Date: 11/10/10

Date: 11.22.10

Attachment 1 –
Coast Guard Unit Locations for MPS Responses

The following is a list of Coast Guard units and their locations throughout Alaska. Coast Guard Cutters are often deployed in support of other operations and not active within the areas where their home port is located. Due to the changing nature and demands on platforms for various missions, all requests must be made through the D17 Command Center at (907) 463-2000. The D17 Command Center will then coordinate a response with the appropriate unit and the D17 law enforcement duty officer (LEDO).

District 17 Assets

- 1) District 17 Command Center – Juneau (907) 463-2000
- 2) Sector Juneau
 - a. Station Ketchikan - Ketchikan
 - b. Station Juneau - Juneau
 - c. USCGC ANACAPA – Petersburg
 - d. USCGC LIBERTY – Auke Bay
 - e. USCGC NAUSHON – Ketchikan
 - f. Aids to Navigation Team Sitka
- 3) Sector Anchorage
 - a. Station Valdez - Valdez
 - b. USCGC LONG ISLAND - Valdez
 - c. USCGC MUSTANG - Seward
 - d. USCGC ROANOKE ISLAND - Homer
 - e. Aids to Navigation Team Kodiak - Kodiak
- 4) AIRSTATION Kodiak - Kodiak
 - a. Command Center
 - b. Air Support Facility Cordova (Not Year Round)
- 5) AIRSTATION Sitka - Sitka

Other D17 Cutters in Alaska

- 1) USCGC Anthony Petit -- Ketchikan
- 2) USCGC Elderberry -- Petersburg
- 3) USCGC Hickory -- Homer
- 4) USCGC Maple -- Sitka
- 5) USCGC SPAR -- Kodiak
- 6) USCGC Sycamore -- Cordova