

## NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE REPORT

NMFS established the Pacific Offshore Cetacean Team (POCTRT) in 1996 to address incidental take of several strategic marine mammal stocks, including several beaked whale species, short-finned pilot whales, pygmy sperm whales, sperm whales, and humpback whales in the California/Oregon drift gillnet fishery targeting thresher shark and swordfish. The primary purpose of the POCTRT, as specified in the MMPA, was to draft a plan, within six months of establishment of the Team, for the reduction of incidental take of large whales in commercial fisheries. That plan was completed and implemented through regulations in 1997.

As mandated by the MMPA, Take Reduction Teams include members representing a variety of interested/affected parties from the fishing industry, regional fishery management councils and interstate fisheries commissions, academic and scientific organizations, environmental groups, and appropriate state and federal agencies. Team members should be knowledgeable, able spokesperson, and be committed to work collaboratively towards a consensus agreement. Primary Team members may identify Alternates if they will not be able to make all team meetings. Alternates represent the same organization or constituency as the primary representative.

As requested in the past, please consider recommending a Team member to participate on the POCTRT. The recommendation should go to the NMFS West Coast Regional office, attention to William Stelle. The appointment will be made by the Assistant Administrator. If interested, please consider sending a request to recommend designating an Alternate to represent the Council should the Primary Team member not be able to attend a meeting.

Our next in-person TRT meeting is tentatively scheduled to be held in Long Beach from March 17-19, 2015. If a Council representative and/or his or her Alternate is not appointed in time to attend the meeting, he or she can attend the meeting as a member of the public. Please contact Tina Fahy at [Christina.Fahy@NOAA.gov](mailto:Christina.Fahy@NOAA.gov) if you have questions or need further information on this upcoming meeting or Team conference calls.

For more information on the Team, including past meeting minutes, recommendations, and Federal Register notices, please visit the POCTRT website at <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/interactions/trt/poctrp.htm>.