

2026. Written public comments will be accepted by 11:59 p.m. Pacific Time on August 14, 2026. Comments submitted after this date will be provided to the Agency, but the Committee may not have adequate time to consider those comments prior to the meeting.

All RAC meetings are subject to cancellation. For status of the meeting prior to attendance, please contact the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the Olympic National Forest Supervisors Office at 1835 Black Lake Blvd. SW, Olympia, WA 98512 and virtually via telephone and/or video conference. Members of the public may participate in the meeting by joining virtually via videoconference at: <https://teams.microsoft.com/join/939073978447?p=KabqCCUfvGEd83TQEL>. Microsoft Teams Meeting ID: 223 939 073 978 447, Passcode: k6BA2646 or Dial in by phone +1 (202) 650-0123, 708168657# United States, Washington; Phone conference ID: 708 168 657#. Committee information and meeting details can be found at the following website <https://www.fs.usda.gov/r06/olympic/working-with-us/committees> or by contacting the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

**Written Comments:** Written comments must be sent by email to [jennifer.garciasantiago@usda.gov](mailto:jennifer.garciasantiago@usda.gov) or via mail (postmarked) to Jennifer Garcia Santiago, G&A/RAC Coordinator, 1835 Black Lake Blvd. SW Olympia, WA 98512. The Forest Service strongly prefers comments to be submitted electronically.

**Oral Comments:** Persons or organizations wishing to make oral comments must pre-register by 11:59 p.m. Pacific Time, August 18, 2026, and speakers can only register for one speaking slot. Oral comments must be sent by email to [jennifer.garciasantiago@usda.gov](mailto:jennifer.garciasantiago@usda.gov) or via mail (postmarked) to Jennifer Garcia Santiago, G&A/RAC Coordinator, 1835 Black Lake Blvd. SW, Olympia, WA 98512.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Joyce Hamilla, Designated Federal Officer, by phone at 503-307-4096 or email at [joyce.hamilla@usda.gov](mailto:joyce.hamilla@usda.gov) or Jennifer Garcia Santiago, RAC Coordinator at 564-669-9623 or email at [Jennifer.GarciaSantiago@usda.gov](mailto:Jennifer.GarciaSantiago@usda.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The purpose of the meeting is to:

1. Welcome—Review Agenda, Housekeeping, and Introductions
2. Old Project Updates and Review new funding;

3. Proponent presentations and Q&A
4. Provide opportunity for public comment;

5. Discussion, prioritization and recommendations on Title II projects by the RAC;

6. Next steps & Close out the meeting.

Please contact the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**, by or before the deadline, for all questions related to the meeting. All comments, including names and addresses when provided, are placed in the record and are available for public inspection and copying. The public may inspect comments received upon request.

**Meeting Accommodations:** If you are a person requiring reasonable accommodation, please make a request in advance for sign language interpreting, assistive listening devices, or other reasonable accommodation. For access to proceedings, please contact the person listed in the section titled **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**. All reasonable accommodation requests are managed on a case-by-case basis.

Equal opportunity practices, in accordance with USDA policies, will be followed in all membership appointments to the Committee.

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Dated: July 24, 2026.

**Cikena Reid,**

*USDA Committee Management Officer.*

[FR Doc. 2026-15218 Filed 7-27-26; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3411-15-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### Foreign-Trade Zones Board

[S-375-2026]

### Foreign-Trade Zone 168; Application for Subzone; Hithium Tech USA Inc.; Forney, Texas

An application has been submitted to the Foreign-Trade Zones (FTZ) Board by the Metroplex International Trade

Development Corporation, grantee of FTZ 168, requesting subzone status for the facilities of Hithium Tech USA Inc., located in Forney, Texas. The application was submitted pursuant to the provisions of the Foreign-Trade Zones Act, as amended (19 U.S.C. 81a-81u), and the regulations of the FTZ Board (15 CFR part 400). It was formally docketed on July 23, 2026.

The proposed subzone (44.58 acres) is located at 11955 and 11975 FM 2932 in Forney, Texas. A notification of proposed production activity has been submitted and will be published separately for public comment. The proposed subzone would be subject to the existing activation limit of FTZ 168.

In accordance with the FTZ Board's regulations, Camille Evans of the FTZ Staff is designated examiner to review the application and make recommendations to the Executive Secretary.

Public comment is invited from interested parties. Submissions shall be addressed to the FTZ Board's Executive Secretary and sent to: [ftz@trade.gov](mailto:ftz@trade.gov). The closing period for their receipt is September 8, 2026. Rebuttal comments in response to material submitted during the foregoing period may be submitted through September 21, 2026.

A copy of the application will be available for public inspection in the "Online FTZ Information Section" section of the FTZ Board's website, which is accessible via [www.trade.gov/ftz](http://www.trade.gov/ftz).

For further information, contact Camille Evans at [Camille.Evans@trade.gov](mailto:Camille.Evans@trade.gov).

Dated: July 23, 2026.

**Elizabeth Whiteman,**  
*Executive Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 2026-15155 Filed 7-27-26; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-DS-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### International Trade Administration

[A-580-921]

### Certain Monomers and Oligomers From the Republic of Korea: Antidumping Duty Order

**AGENCY:** Enforcement and Compliance, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce

**SUMMARY:** Based on affirmative final determinations by the U.S. Department of Commerce (Commerce) and the U.S. International Trade Commission (ITC), Commerce is issuing an antidumping duty (AD) order on certain monomers and oligomers (monomers and

oligomers) from the Republic of Korea (Korea).

**DATES:** Applicable July 28, 2026.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Peter Shaw, AD/CVD Operations, Office V, Enforcement and Compliance, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20230; telephone: (202) 482-0697.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Background**

In accordance with section 735(d) and 777(i) of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (the Act), on May 27, 2026, Commerce published its affirmative final determination of sales at less than fair value (LTFV) of monomers and oligomers from Korea.<sup>1</sup> On July 13, 2026, the ITC notified Commerce of its affirmative final determination, pursuant to section 735(d) of the Act, that an industry in the United States is materially injured within the meaning of section 735(b)(1)(A)(i) of the Act by reason of LTFV imports of monomers and oligomers from Korea.<sup>2</sup>

**Scope of the Order**

The products covered by this order are monomers and oligomers from Korea. For a complete description of the scope of this order, see the appendix to this notice.

**Antidumping Duty Order**

On July 13, 2026, in accordance with 735(d) of the Act, the ITC notified Commerce of its final determination that an industry in the United States is materially injured within the meaning of section 735(b)(1)(A)(i) of the Act by reason of imports of monomers and oligomers from Korea that are sold in the United States at LTFV.<sup>3</sup> Therefore, in accordance with sections 735(c)(2) and 736 of the Act, Commerce is issuing this AD order. Because the ITC determined that imports of monomers and oligomers are materially injuring a U.S. industry, unliquidated entries of such merchandise from Korea, entered or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, on or after January 5, 2026, are subject to the assessment of antidumping duties.

Therefore, in accordance with section 736(a)(1) of the Act, Commerce will

direct U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to assess, upon further instruction by Commerce, antidumping duties equal to the amount by which the normal value of the merchandise exceeds the export price (or constructed export price) of the merchandise, for all relevant entries of monomers and oligomers from Korea. Antidumping duties will be assessed on unliquidated entries of monomers and oligomers entered, or withdrawn from warehouse, for consumption on or after January 5, 2026, the date of the publication of the *Preliminary Determination* but will not include entries occurring after the expiration of the provisional measures period and before the publication of the ITC's final injury determination under section 735(b) of the Act, as further described in the "Provisional Measures—AD" section of this notice.<sup>4</sup>

**Critical Circumstances—AD**

In addition, the ITC found that critical circumstances do not exist with respect to imports of monomers and oligomers from Korea. As a result, we intend to instruct CBP to lift the suspension of liquidation and to refund all cash deposits for estimated antidumping duties with respect to entries of subject merchandise entered, or withdrawn from warehouse, for consumption on or after October 7, 2025, (*i.e.*, 90 days prior to the date of publication of the affirmative *Preliminary Determination*), but before January 5, 2026 (*i.e.*, the date of publication of the *Preliminary Determination*).

**Suspension of Liquidation and Cash Deposits**

In accordance with section 736 of the Act, Commerce intends to instruct CBP to reinstitute the suspension of liquidation of monomers and oligomers from Korea, effective on the date of publication of the ITC's final affirmative injury determination in the **Federal Register**. Commerce also intends to instruct CBP to require cash deposits equal to the estimated weighted-average dumping margins listed in the *Final Determination*. The all-others rate applies to all producers or exporters not specifically listed. These instructions suspending liquidation and cash deposit requirements will remain in effect until further notice.

**Estimated Weighted-Average Dumping Margins**

The estimated weighted-average dumping margins are as follows:

| Exporter/producer                                  | Weighted-average dumping margin (percent) |
|----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| Green Chemical Co., Ltd.; Green Life Science ..... | 65.72                                     |
| Miwon Specialty Chemical Co., Ltd .....            | * 155.42                                  |
| Kukdo Chemicals Co. Ltd .....                      | * 155.42                                  |
| All Others .....                                   | 65.72                                     |

\* Rate based on facts available with adverse inferences.

**Provisional Measures**

Section 733(d) of the Act states that instructions issued under section 733(d)(1) and (2) of the Act pursuant to an affirmative preliminary determination may not remain in effect for more than four months, except where exporters representing a significant proportion of exports of the subject merchandise request that Commerce extend the four-month period to no more than six months. At the request of exporters that account for a significant proportion of exports of monomers and oligomers from Korea, Commerce extended the four-month period to six months in this investigation. Commerce published the *Preliminary Determination* on January 5, 2026.<sup>5</sup>

The extended provisional measures period, beginning on the date of publication of the *Preliminary Determination*, ended on July 3, 2026. Therefore, in accordance with section 733(d) of the Act, Commerce intends to instruct CBP to terminate the suspension of liquidation and to liquidate, without regard to antidumping duties, unliquidated entries of monomers and oligomers from Korea entered, or withdrawn from warehouse, for consumption on or after July 4, 2026, the first day provisional measures were no longer in effect, until and through the day preceding the date of publication of the ITC's final injury determination in the **Federal Register**. Suspension of liquidation and the collection of cash deposits will resume on the date of publication of the ITC's final injury determination in the **Federal Register**.

**Establishment of the Annual Inquiry Service List**

On September 20, 2021, Commerce published the final rule titled

<sup>1</sup> See *Certain Monomers and Oligomers from the Republic of Korea: Final Affirmative Determination of Sales at Less Than Fair Value and Final Affirmative Determination of Critical Circumstances*, 91 FR 31415 (May 27, 2026) (Korea *Final Determination*), and accompanying Issues and Decision Memorandum (IDM).

<sup>2</sup> See ITC's Letter, "Notification of Final Determination," dated July 13, 2026.

<sup>3</sup> *Id.*

<sup>4</sup> See *Certain Monomers and Oligomers from the Republic of Korea: Preliminary Affirmative Determination of Sales at Less Than Fair Value, Preliminary Affirmative Determination of Critical Circumstances, in Part, and Postponement of Final Determination, and Extension of Provisional Measures*, 91 FR 244 (January 5, 2026) (*Preliminary Determination*).

<sup>5</sup> See *Preliminary Determination*.

“*Regulations to Improve Administration and Enforcement of Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Laws*” in the **Federal Register**.<sup>6</sup> On September 27, 2021, Commerce also published the notice titled “*Scope Ruling Application; Annual Inquiry Service List; and Informational Sessions*” in the **Federal Register**.<sup>7</sup> The *Final Rule* and *Procedural Guidance* provide that Commerce will maintain an annual inquiry service list for each order or suspended investigation, and any interested party submitting a scope ruling application or request for circumvention inquiry shall serve a copy of the application or request on the persons on the annual inquiry service list for that order, as well as any companion order covering the same merchandise from the same country of origin.<sup>8</sup>

In accordance with the *Procedural Guidance*, for orders published in the **Federal Register** after November 4, 2021, Commerce will create an annual inquiry service list segment in Commerce’s online e-filing and document management system, Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Electronic Service System (ACCESS), available at <https://access.trade.gov>, within five business days of publication of the order. Each annual inquiry service list will be saved in ACCESS, under each case number, and under a specific segment type called “AISL-Annual Inquiry Service List.”<sup>9</sup>

Interested parties who wish to be added to the annual inquiry service list for an order must submit an entry of appearance to the annual inquiry service list segment for the order in ACCESS within 30 days after the date of

publication of the order. For ease of administration, Commerce requests that law firms with more than one attorney representing interested parties in an order designate a lead attorney to be included on the annual inquiry service list. Commerce will finalize the annual inquiry service list within five business days thereafter. As mentioned in the *Procedural Guidance*, the new annual inquiry service list will be in place until the following year, when the *Opportunity Notice* for the anniversary month of the order is published.

Commerce may update an annual inquiry service list at any time as needed based on interested parties’ amendments to their entries of appearance to remove or otherwise modify their list of members and representatives, or to update contact information. Any changes or announcements pertaining to these procedures will be posted to the ACCESS website at <https://access.trade.gov>.

**Special Instructions for the Petitioner and Foreign Governments**

In the *Final Rule*, Commerce stated that, “after an initial request and placement on the annual inquiry service list, both the petitioners and foreign governments will automatically be placed on the annual inquiry service list in the years that follow.”<sup>10</sup> Accordingly, as stated above, the petitioner and the Government of Korea should submit their initial entry of appearance after publication of this notice in order to appear in the first annual inquiry service list for those orders for which they qualify as an interested party. Pursuant to 19 CFR

351.225(n)(3), the petitioner and the Government of Korea will not need to resubmit their entries of appearance each year to continue to be included on the annual inquiry service list. However, the petitioner and the Government of Korea are responsible for making amendments to their entries of appearance during the annual update to the annual inquiry service list in accordance with the procedures described above.

**Notifications to Interested Parties**

This notice constitutes the AD order with respect to monomers and oligomers from Korea pursuant to section 736(a) of the Act. Interested parties can find a list of AD and countervailing duty orders currently in effect at <https://enforcement.trade.gov/stats/iastats1.html>.

This AD order is published in accordance with section 736(a) of the Act and 19 CFR 351.211(b).

Dated: July 23, 2026.

**Christopher Abbott**,  
*Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy and Negotiations, performing the non-exclusive functions and duties of the Assistant Secretary for Enforcement and Compliance.*

**Appendix**

**Scope of the Order**

The products subject to this investigation are certain multifunctional acrylate and methacrylate monomers, and acrylated bisphenol-A epoxy based oligomers (collectively, certain monomers and oligomers or CMOs) that are derived from chemical reactions involving the use of acrylic or methacrylic acid. Products within the scope are listed below and have the following Chemical Abstracts Service (CAS) numbers:

| CAS No.          | Description                                                      | Molecular formula                                                                                                                                                                           |
|------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 109–16–0 .....   | Triethylene glycol dimethacrylate (TEGDMA) .....                 | C <sub>14</sub> H <sub>22</sub> O <sub>6</sub>                                                                                                                                              |
| 13048–33–4 ..... | 1,6-hexanediol diacrylate (HDDA) .....                           | C <sub>12</sub> H <sub>18</sub> O <sub>4</sub>                                                                                                                                              |
| 42978–66–5 ..... | Tripropylene glycol diacrylate (TPGDA) .....                     | C <sub>15</sub> H <sub>24</sub> O <sub>6</sub>                                                                                                                                              |
| 3290–92–4 .....  | Trimethylolpropane trimethacrylate (TMPTMA) .....                | C <sub>18</sub> H <sub>26</sub> O <sub>6</sub>                                                                                                                                              |
| 15625–89–5 ..... | Trimethylolpropane triacrylate (TMPTA) .....                     | C <sub>15</sub> H <sub>20</sub> O <sub>6</sub>                                                                                                                                              |
| 28961–43–5 ..... | Ethoxylated trimethylol-propane triacrylate (EOTMPTA) ...        | (C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>4</sub> O) <sub>n</sub> (C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>4</sub> O) <sub>n</sub> (C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>4</sub> O) <sub>n</sub> C <sub>15</sub> H <sub>20</sub> O <sub>6</sub> |
| 57472–68–1 ..... | Dipropylene glycol diacrylate (DPGDA) .....                      | C <sub>12</sub> H <sub>18</sub> O <sub>5</sub>                                                                                                                                              |
| 55818–57–0 ..... | Bisphenol-A-epichlorohydrin copolymer acrylate (EPOXY ACRYLATE). | (C <sub>15</sub> H <sub>16</sub> O <sub>2</sub> .C <sub>3</sub> H <sub>5</sub> ClO) <sub>x</sub> .xC <sub>3</sub> H <sub>4</sub> O <sub>2</sub>                                             |

The monomers are generally known as multifunctional acrylates (MFAs) or multifunctional methacrylates (MFMA)s

depending on whether the functional groups are acrylate or methacrylate. The monomers generally contain stabilizers/inhibitors,

which include but are not limited to Hydroquinone, Methyl Hydroquinone, and Butylated Hydroxy Toluene. The monomers

<sup>6</sup> See *Regulations to Improve Administration and Enforcement of Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Laws*, 86 FR 52300 (September 20, 2021) (*Final Rule*).

<sup>7</sup> See *Scope Ruling Application; Annual Inquiry Service List; and Informational Sessions*, 86 FR 53205 (September 27, 2021) (*Procedural Guidance*).

<sup>8</sup> *Id.*  
<sup>9</sup> This segment will be combined with the ACCESS Segment Specific Information (SSI) field, which will display the month in which the notice of the order or suspended investigation was published in the **Federal Register**, also known as the anniversary month. For example, for an order under case number A–000–000 that was published

in the **Federal Register** in January, the relevant segment and SSI combination will appear in ACCESS as “AISL-January Anniversary.” Note that there will be only one annual inquiry service list segment per case number, and the anniversary month will be pre-populated in ACCESS.  
<sup>10</sup> See *Final Rule*, 86 FR at 52335.

are either difunctional or trifunctional (having 2 or 3 functional groups/molecule), have viscosities of 9 to 15 centipoise (cPs) at 25 degrees Celsius (if difunctional) or 44 to 110 cPs at 25 degrees Celsius (if trifunctional), have (meth)acrylate equivalent weights (molecular weight per number of functional groups) between 99 and 158 and molecular weights between 226 and 472 grams per mol.

The acrylated bisphenol-A epoxy based oligomer is commonly referred to as epoxy acrylate or acrylated epoxy. In contrast to epoxy resin, the main characteristic of the epoxy acrylate oligomer is that it contains acrylate functional groups which make them curable by free-radical polymerization. The epoxy acrylate has a molecular weight between 508 to 536 grams per mol and a viscosity of 2400 to 3600 cPs at 65 degrees Celsius. The epoxy acrylate generally contains stabilizers/inhibitors, which include but are not limited to Hydroquinone, Methyl Hydroquinone, and Butylated Hydroxy Toluene.

Certain monomers and oligomers are subject to the scope even if an in-scope monomer or oligomer is blended or mixed with one or more other in-scope monomers or oligomers.

Certain monomers and oligomers in any blend or mixture are also subject to the scope, so long as the blend or mixture contains no less than 20 percent by weight of in-scope CMOs.

The scope includes merchandise matching the above description that has been processed in a third country, including by commingling, diluting, introducing, or removing ingredients, or performing any other processing that would not otherwise remove the merchandise from the scope of the investigations if performed in the subject country.

The scope also includes CMOs that are commingled, mixed or blended with in-scope product from sources not subject to these investigations.

Only the subject component(s) of such blends, mixtures or commingled products described above is covered by the scope of these investigations. Subject merchandise contained in a blended, mixed or commingled product described above will not have undergone a chemical reaction as a result of being blended, mixed or commingled.

Notwithstanding the above, specifically excluded from the scope are downstream products, including but not limited to, inks, coatings and overprint varnishes. For purposes of this exclusion, the downstream product requires only the application of energy to be cured, *e.g.*, inks or varnish applied to packaging, coatings applied to wood flooring, *etc.* The energy source required to cure the downstream product to its substrate can be thermal, ultraviolet radiation, visible light, electron beam radiation, or infrared radiation.

This merchandise is currently classifiable under Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS) subheadings 2916.12.5050, 2916.14.2050, 3824.99.2900, 3907.29.0000 and 3907.30.0000. Subject merchandise may also be entered under

subheadings 2916.12.1000 and 3824.99.9397. The HTSUS subheadings and CAS registry numbers are provided for convenience and customs purposes only; the written description of the scope is dispositive.

[FR Doc. 2026–15220 Filed 7–27–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–DS–P

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648–XF874]

#### Taking and Importing Marine Mammals; Taking Marine Mammals Incidental to Geophysical Surveys Related to Oil and Gas Activities in the Gulf of America

**AGENCY:** National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice; issuance of letter of authorization.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), as amended, its implementing regulations, and NMFS' MMPA regulations for taking marine mammals incidental to geophysical surveys related to oil and gas activities in the Gulf of America (GOA), notification is hereby given that a Letter of Authorization (LOA) has been issued to Fugro U.S.A. Marine, Inc. (Fugro) for the take of marine mammals incidental to geophysical survey activity in the GOA.

**DATES:** The LOA is effective from July 22, 2026 through September 15, 2026.

**ADDRESSES:** The LOA, LOA request, and supporting documentation are available online at: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/action/incidental-take-authorization-oil-and-gas-industry-geophysical-survey-activity-gulf-mexico>. In case of problems accessing these documents, please call the contact listed below (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Alyssa Clevenstine, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, (301) 427–8401.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Background

Section 101(a)(5)(A) and (D) of the MMPA (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) directs the Secretary of Commerce to allow, upon request, the incidental, but not intentional, taking of small numbers of marine mammals by U.S. citizens who engage in a specified activity (other than commercial fishing) within a specified geographical region if certain findings

are made and either regulations are issued or, if the taking is limited to harassment, a notice of a proposed authorization is provided to the public for review.

An authorization for incidental takings shall be granted if NMFS finds that the taking will have a negligible impact on the species or stock(s), will not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of the species or stock(s) for subsistence uses (where relevant), and if the permissible methods of taking and requirements pertaining to the mitigation, monitoring and reporting of such takings are set forth. NMFS has defined “negligible impact” in 50 CFR 216.103 as an impact resulting from the specified activity that cannot be reasonably expected to, and is not reasonably likely to, adversely affect the species or stock through effects on annual rates of recruitment or survival.

Except with respect to certain activities not pertinent here, the MMPA defines “harassment” as: any act of pursuit, torment, or annoyance which (i) has the potential to injure a marine mammal or marine mammal stock in the wild (Level A harassment); or (ii) has the potential to disturb a marine mammal or marine mammal stock in the wild by causing disruption of behavioral patterns, including, but not limited to, migration, breathing, nursing, breeding, feeding, or sheltering (Level B harassment).

On January 19, 2021, we issued a final rule with regulations to govern the unintentional taking of marine mammals incidental to geophysical survey activities conducted by oil and gas industry operators, and those persons authorized to conduct activities on their behalf (collectively “industry operators”), in U.S. waters of the GOA<sup>1</sup> over the course of 5 years (86 FR 5322, January 19, 2021). The rule was based on our findings that the total taking from the specified activities over the 5-year period will have a negligible impact on the affected species or stock(s) of marine mammals and will not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of those species or stocks for subsistence uses, and became effective on April 19, 2021.

The regulations at 50 CFR 217.180 *et seq.* allow for the issuance of LOAs to industry operators for the incidental take of marine mammals during

<sup>1</sup> Pursuant to Executive Order 14172, “Restoring Names That Honor American Greatness,” and Department of the Interior Secretarial Order 3423, “The Gulf of America,” the body of water formerly known as the Gulf of Mexico is now called the Gulf of America. Accordingly, NMFS amended the incidental take regulations to reflect the change. See 90 FR 38001 (August 7, 2025).