

*Please provide the following information, and submit to the NOAA DM Plan Repository.*

### **Reference to Master DM Plan (if applicable)**

*As stated in Section IV, Requirement 1.3, DM Plans may be hierarchical. If this DM Plan inherits provisions from a higher-level DM Plan already submitted to the Repository, then this more-specific Plan only needs to provide information that differs from what was provided in the Master DM Plan.*

URL of higher-level DM Plan (if any) as submitted to DM Plan Repository:

## **1. General Description of Data to be Managed**

### **1.1. Name of the Data, data collection Project, or data-producing Program:**

US west coast

### **1.2. Summary description of the data:**

Aerial surveys are conducted along the US west coast to determine distribution and abundance of endangered leatherback turtles (*Dermochelys coriacea*), loggerhead turtles (*Caretta caretta*), and harbor porpoises (*Phocoena phocoena*). Surveys are conducted in waters between US/Mexico and US/Canada maritime borders, west to the 2000m isobath for leatherbacks, up to 122.8W for loggerheads, and in nearshore waters (approx 200m isobath) between central California and southern Oregon for harbor porpoise.

This region includes the Pacific leatherback conservation area (Federal Register notice 77 (17) FR 4170, January 26, 2012). Previous knowledge of leatherback turtle use of US EEZ waters in the Pacific Northwest came primarily from opportunistic sightings from platforms of opportunity, telemetry deployments that originated from western Pacific nesting beaches (Benson et al. 2007a; 2011), and a previous systematic survey conducted during 2010.

This region also includes a time-area closure off southern California that is to be triggered by warm water anomalies (50 CFR 660.713(c)(2)). This regulation was developed as result of a reasonable and prudent alternative following a formal consultation process as required by Section 7 of the ESA. NMFS developed the rule using information from the fishery observer program for the California drift gillnet fishery, in which all entanglements of loggerhead turtles occurred within a particular sea surface temperature range (15.6 to 22.2 °C). On July 25, 2014, NMFS published notification of an in-season closure for the DGN fishery through the end of August to protect loggerheads in the southern California Bight (79 FR 43268). Based on late spring/early summer forecasts by the Climate Prediction Center, which included an “El Niño watch,” NMFS determined that oceanographic conditions, including anomalously warm sea surface temperatures, warranted the closure. This was the first-ever implementation of this time-area closure, and has resulted in significant attention from commercial fishers, environmental groups, and state and federal agencies regarding the importance

southern Californian waters for endangered loggerhead turtles. Little information is available on population abundance and spatial distribution of loggerhead turtles off southern California and how they may change during warm water periods. However, reports of loggerhead turtle sightings from divers and recreational fishers have increased in recent years and the rate of loggerhead strandings along the U.S. west coast is at an all-time high, indicating a regular presence of loggerheads off the coast (NMFS Turtle Stranding Database). Additionally, the Assistant Administrator for NMFS Protected Resources at the West Coast Regional Office has determined that a thorough re-examination of loggerhead time-area closure is a top priority; therefore, this survey is important and timely, given the current anomalously warm water temperatures off southern California.

**1.3. Is this a one-time data collection, or an ongoing series of measurements?**

Ongoing series of measurements

**1.4. Actual or planned temporal coverage of the data:**

2001 to Present

**1.5. Actual or planned geographic coverage of the data:**

W: -127, E: -117, N: 48, S: 31

**1.6. Type(s) of data:**

*(e.g., digital numeric data, imagery, photographs, video, audio, database, tabular data, etc.)*  
Document (digital)

**1.7. Data collection method(s):**

*(e.g., satellite, airplane, unmanned aerial system, radar, weather station, moored buoy, research vessel, autonomous underwater vehicle, animal tagging, manual surveys, enforcement activities, numerical model, etc.)*

Instrument: Eyes

Platform: Airplane

Physical Collection / Fishing Gear: None

**1.8. If data are from a NOAA Observing System of Record, indicate name of system:**

**1.8.1. If data are from another observing system, please specify:**

**2. Point of Contact for this Data Management Plan (author or maintainer)**

**2.1. Name:**

Tomo Eguchi

**2.2. Title:**

Metadata Contact

**2.3. Affiliation or facility:**

Southwest Fisheries Science Center

**2.4. E-mail address:**

Tomo.Eguchi@noaa.gov

**2.5. Phone number:**

(858) 546-5615

**3. Responsible Party for Data Management**

*Program Managers, or their designee, shall be responsible for assuring the proper management of the data produced by their Program. Please indicate the responsible party below.*

**3.1. Name:**

Jeffrey A Seminoff

**3.2. Title:**

Data Steward

**4. Resources**

*Programs must identify resources within their own budget for managing the data they produce.*

**4.1. Have resources for management of these data been identified?**

No

**4.2. Approximate percentage of the budget for these data devoted to data management (specify percentage or "unknown"):**

Unknown

**5. Data Lineage and Quality**

*NOAA has issued Information Quality Guidelines for ensuring and maximizing the quality, objectivity, utility, and integrity of information which it disseminates.*

**5.1. Processing workflow of the data from collection or acquisition to making it publicly accessible**

*(describe or provide URL of description):*

Lineage Statement:

Data are checked for errors and stored in a secure server.

**5.1.1. If data at different stages of the workflow, or products derived from these data, are subject to a separate data management plan, provide reference to other plan:****5.2. Quality control procedures employed (describe or provide URL of description):**

Data entry errors are checked by using software.

**6. Data Documentation**

*The EDMC Data Documentation Procedural Directive requires that NOAA data be well documented,*

*specifies the use of ISO 19115 and related standards for documentation of new data, and provides links to resources and tools for metadata creation and validation.*

**6.1. Does metadata comply with EDMC Data Documentation directive?**

Yes

**6.1.1. If metadata are non-existent or non-compliant, please explain:**

**6.2. Name of organization or facility providing metadata hosting:**

NMFS Office of Science and Technology

**6.2.1. If service is needed for metadata hosting, please indicate:**

**6.3. URL of metadata folder or data catalog, if known:**

<https://inport.nmfs.noaa.gov/inport/item/30796>

**6.4. Process for producing and maintaining metadata**

*(describe or provide URL of description):*

Metadata produced and maintained in accordance with the NMFS Data Documentation Procedural Directive: <https://inport.nmfs.noaa.gov/inport/downloads/data-documentation-procedural-directive.pdf>

**7. Data Access**

*NAO 212-15 states that access to environmental data may only be restricted when distribution is explicitly limited by law, regulation, policy (such as those applicable to personally identifiable information or protected critical infrastructure information or proprietary trade information) or by security requirements. The EDMC Data Access Procedural Directive contains specific guidance, recommends the use of open-standard, interoperable, non-proprietary web services, provides information about resources and tools to enable data access, and includes a Waiver to be submitted to justify any approach other than full, unrestricted public access.*

**7.1. Do these data comply with the Data Access directive?**

No

**7.1.1. If the data are not to be made available to the public at all, or with limitations, has a Waiver (Appendix A of Data Access directive) been filed?**

No

**7.1.2. If there are limitations to public data access, describe how data are protected from unauthorized access or disclosure:**

None

**7.2. Name of organization of facility providing data access:**

Southwest Fisheries Science Center

**7.2.1. If data hosting service is needed, please indicate:**

**7.2.2. URL of data access service, if known:**

<http://swfsc.noaa.gov/prd-turtles.aspx>

**7.3. Data access methods or services offered:**

Contact the PI

**7.4. Approximate delay between data collection and dissemination:**

7 years

**7.4.1. If delay is longer than latency of automated processing, indicate under what authority data access is delayed:**

Data have been published.

**8. Data Preservation and Protection**

*The NOAA Procedure for Scientific Records Appraisal and Archive Approval describes how to identify, appraise and decide what scientific records are to be preserved in a NOAA archive.*

**8.1. Actual or planned long-term data archive location:**

*(Specify NCEI-MD, NCEI-CO, NCEI-NC, NCEI-MS, World Data Center (WDC) facility, Other, To Be Determined, Unable to Archive, or No Archiving Intended)*

Other

**8.1.1. If World Data Center or Other, specify:**

SWFSC

**8.1.2. If To Be Determined, Unable to Archive or No Archiving Intended, explain:****8.2. Data storage facility prior to being sent to an archive facility (if any):**

Southwest Fisheries Science Center - La Jolla, CA

**8.3. Approximate delay between data collection and submission to an archive facility:**

5 weeks

**8.4. How will the data be protected from accidental or malicious modification or deletion prior to receipt by the archive?**

*Discuss data back-up, disaster recovery/contingency planning, and off-site data storage relevant to the data collection*

Data are stored in a secure server.

**9. Additional Line Office or Staff Office Questions**

*Line and Staff Offices may extend this template by inserting additional questions in this section.*