

Nikki Martin Media Statement for Atlantic IHAs

We are relieved that NOAA Fisheries has finally completed its review, confirming what decades of the body of scientific research and industry experience have proven: the seismic survey activities proposed for the U.S. Atlantic will have no more than a negligible impact on marine life. However, no regulated entity should have to wait this long- more than four years- for regulatory decisions in a modern civilized government.

Now that this important step is complete, we call on the Department of the Interior to expeditiously issue permits and call on Congress to hold agencies accountable to their statutory deadlines under the Marine Mammal Protection Act. This unnecessarily long and drawn-out process has gone 1,101 days past the statutory timeline of 120 days and illustrates the critical need for improved agency accountability regarding statutory timelines and processes that should be predictable and unbiased.