



Large Vessel Acoustics Outreach/Information Exchange
2005 SNAME Maritime Technology Conference & Expo
and Ship Production Symposium

October 19-21, 2005 – Houston, Texas

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) staff from the Office of Protected Resources and the Southeast Regional Office are planning an outreach/information exchange event for an upcoming conference and exposition organized by the Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers (SNAME). This outreach event follows the first symposium on the issue of sounds emitted from large vessels and their potential effects on marine life.

The meeting, “Shipping Noise and Marine Mammals: A Forum for Science, Management, and Technology,” was held in Arlington, Virginia on May 18-19, 2004. The final symposium report is available on both the NOAA Fisheries’ Acoustics Program website and the symposium website: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/acoustics> and <http://www.shippingnoiseandmarinemammals.com>. The report made several recommendations, including increasing awareness within the shipping industry concerning marine noise issues, creating alliances across various stakeholder groups, and engaging the industry and other maritime industries in the development of creative and practical solutions to minimize vessel noise.

The purpose of this outreach effort is to exchange information with industry representatives on general marine acoustic issues, including: potential effects of noise on marine life; shipping sound production and propagation; passive acoustic monitoring efforts; noise-reducing technologies currently being used in military and scientific applications; and practical considerations from industry perspective. The Chamber of Shipping America (CSA) is partnering with NMFS in this effort, and a CSA representative has offered to serve as a liaison to the various large vessel industries to facilitate this and future NMFS outreach efforts.

The NOAA Fisheries exhibit at the SNAME Exposition will include both visual and acoustic displays, and NOAA Fisheries’ publications on marine acoustic issues. Protected Resource’s staff from headquarters and the Southeast Regional Office will be on hand to answer questions. Materials will include brief summaries on marine acoustic issues, trends in ambient noise, potential impacts on marine mammals, and current solutions to noise reduction in various applications.

For more information, please contact:

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