

Following NOAA's review of the relevant information, it was determined that there are still significant threats to the area, and it is still an area of national significance. However, there is not currently demonstrated broad community support for the nomination remaining on the inventory of possible designations. ONMS has also determined that it is not clear, at this time, how a sanctuary designation would supplement or complement existing management and regulatory authorities for the Marianas Trench. Therefore, and in consideration of the nominating organization's request to withdraw the nomination, the ONMS Director has determined the nomination for the Mariana Trench NMS should not remain on the inventory of successful nominations.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1431 *et seq.*

John Armor,

Director, Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

[FR Doc. 2023-19380 Filed 9-8-23; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-NK-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XD335]

Marine Mammals; File No. 27426

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

ACTION: Notice; receipt of application.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Oregon State University, Marine Mammal Institute, 2030 Marine Science Drive, Newport, OR 97365 (Responsible Party: Lisa Ballance, Ph.D.), has applied in due form for a permit to conduct research on marine mammals.

DATES: Written comments must be received on or before October 11, 2023.

ADDRESSES: The application and related documents are available for review by selecting "Records Open for Public Comment" from the "Features" box on the Applications and Permits for Protected Species (APPS) home page, <https://apps.nmfs.noaa.gov>, and then selecting File No. 27426 from the list of available applications. These documents are also available upon written request via email to NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov.

Written comments on this application should be submitted via email to

NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov. Please include File No. 27426 in the subject line of the email comment.

Those individuals requesting a public hearing should submit a written request via email to NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov. The request should set forth the specific reasons why a hearing on this application would be appropriate.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Shasta McClenahan, Ph.D., or Amy Hapeman, (301) 427-8401.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The subject permit is requested under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (MMPA; 16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), the regulations governing the taking and importing of marine mammals (50 CFR part 216), the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered and threatened species (50 CFR parts 222-226), and the Fur Seal Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1151 *et seq.*).

The applicant requests a 5-year research permit to study abundance, density, distribution, movements, behavior, ecology, health, and stock structure of marine mammals in the Atlantic, Pacific, and Southern Oceans. Research may occur in U.S. and international waters on 72 species of marine mammals, including the following ESA-listed cetaceans: blue (*Balaenoptera musculus*), bowhead (*Balaena mysticetes*), fin (*Balaenoptera physalus*), gray (*Eschrichtius robustus*); Western North Pacific distinct population segment [DPS]), humpback (*Megaptera novaeangliae*; Central America, Mexico, Western North Pacific, and Cape Verde DPSs), killer (*Orcinus orca*; Southern Resident DPS), North Pacific right (*Eubalaena japonica*), Rice's (*Balaenoptera ricei*), sei (*Balaenoptera borealis*), Southern right (*E. australis*), and sperm (*Physeter macrocephalus*) whales. Research for cetaceans would include vessel and aerial surveys (manned and unmanned) for observations, photography, video recordings, thermal imaging, photogrammetry, passive acoustics, echosounders for prey mapping, biological sampling (exhaled air, sloughed skin, feces, and skin and blubber biopsy), and tagging (suction-cup, dart, and deep-implant). Eleven species of pinnipeds may be harassed and opportunistically studied during research including the following ESA-listed species: Steller sea lions (*Eumetopias jubatus*; Western DPS), and bearded (*Erignathus barbatus*), Guadalupe fur (*Arctocephalus*

townsendi), Hawaiian monk (*Neomonachus schauinslandi*), ringed (*Phoca hispida*), and spotted (*P. largha*) seals. Parts from all species of cetaceans and pinnipeds (excluding walrus) collected under separate authorizations may be imported, exported, and received annually for scientific research, and secondarily used for curation and education. See the application for complete numbers of animals requested by species and procedure.

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), an initial determination has been made that the activity proposed is categorically excluded from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement.

Concurrent with the publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, NMFS is forwarding copies of the application to the Marine Mammal Commission and its Committee of Scientific Advisors.

Dated: September 5, 2023.

Julia M. Harrison,

Chief, Permits and Conservation Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 2023-19455 Filed 9-8-23; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XD328]

Caribbean Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of a public virtual meeting.

SUMMARY: The Caribbean Fishery Management Council's (Council) Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) will hold a public virtual meeting to address the items contained in the tentative agenda included in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION.**

DATES: The SSC public virtual meeting will be held on September 27, 2023, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Eastern Standard Time.

ADDRESSES: You may join the SSC public virtual meeting (via Zoom) from a computer, tablet or smartphone by entering the following address: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81086075177?pwd=TIbLb0NjWmZaR2h0b2NEbmpOTWtQT09>.

Meeting ID: 810 8607 5177

Passcode: 546850

One tap mobile

+17193594580,,81086075177#

,,, *546850# U.S.

+12532050468,,81086075177#

,,, *546850# U.S.

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 U.S. (Washington DC)

+1 305 224 1968 U.S.

+1 309 205 3325 U.S.

+1 646 558 8656 (New York)

+1 669 900 9128 U.S. (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 810 8607 5177

Passcode: 546850

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81086075177>

In case of problems with ZOOM, please join the meeting via GoToMeeting by entering the following address: <https://meet.goto.com/134023461>.

You can also dial in using your phone.

Access Code: 134-023-461

United States: +1 (312) 757-3121

Join from a video-conferencing room or system.

Meeting ID: 134-023-461

Dial in or type: 67.217.95.2 or

inroomlink.goto.com

Or dial directly: 134023461@67.217.95.2 or 67.217.95.2##134023461

Get the app now and be ready when your first meeting starts: <https://meet.goto.com/install>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Graciela Garcia-Moliner, Caribbean Fishery Management Council, 270 Munoz Rivera Avenue, Suite 401, San Juan, Puerto Rico 00918-1903; telephone: (787) 766-5926.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The following items included in the tentative agenda will be discussed:

September 27, 2023

9 a.m.–9:30 a.m.

—Roll Call

—Approval of Agenda

—Approval of Minutes

9:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

—SEDAR 80 USVI Queen Triggerfish—Adyan Rios, SEFSC Caribbean Fisheries Branch and Kyle Shertzer, SEFSC Atlantic Fisheries Branch

12:30 p.m.–1:30 p.m.

—Lunch Break

1:30 p.m.–5 p.m.

—Recommendations to CFMC on SEDAR 80

—Research Priority Updates

—Other Business

—Next Meeting

—Adjourn

The order of business may be adjusted as necessary to accommodate the completion of agenda items. The meeting will begin on September 27, 2023, at 9 a.m. EST, and will end on September 27, 2023, at 5 p.m., EST. Other than the start time, interested parties should be aware that discussions may start earlier or later than indicated, at the discretion of the Chair. In addition, the meeting may be completed prior to the date established in this notice.

Special Accommodations

For any additional information on this public virtual meeting, please contact Dr. Graciela Garcia-Moliner, Caribbean Fishery Management Council, 270 Muñoz Rivera Avenue, Suite 401, San Juan, Puerto Rico, 00918-1903, telephone: (787) 403-8337.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: September 6, 2023.

Rey Israel Marquez,

Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 2023-19511 Filed 9-8-23; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XD291]

Takes of Marine Mammals Incidental to Specified Activities; Taking Marine Mammals Incidental to Elkhorn Slough Tidal Marsh Restoration Project, Phase III in Monterey County, California

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

ACTION: Notice; issuance of renewal incidental harassment authorization.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the regulations implementing the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), as amended, notification is hereby given that NMFS has issued a Renewal incidental harassment authorization (IHA) to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) to incidentally harass marine mammals incidental to the Elkhorn Slough Tidal Marsh Restoration Project, Phase III, in Monterey County, California.

DATES: This Renewal IHA is valid from September 16, 2023, through September 15, 2024.

ADDRESSES: Electronic copies of the original application, Renewal request,

and supporting documents (including NMFS **Federal Register** notices of the original proposed and final authorizations, and the previous IHA), as well as a list of the references cited in this document, may be obtained online at: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/permit/incidental-take-authorizations-under-marine-mammal-protection-act>. In case of problems accessing these documents, please call the contact listed below.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Alyssa Clevensine, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, (301) 427-8401.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The MMPA prohibits the “take” of marine mammals, with certain exceptions. Sections 101(a)(5)(A) and (D) of the MMPA (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) direct the Secretary of Commerce (as delegated to NMFS) 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, an incidental harassment authorization is issued.

Authorization for incidental takings shall be granted if NMFS finds that the taking will have a negligible impact on the species or stock(s) and will not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of the species or stock(s) for taking for subsistence uses (where relevant). Further, NMFS must prescribe the permissible methods of taking and other “means of effecting the least practicable adverse impact” on the affected species or stocks and their habitat, paying particular attention to rookeries, mating grounds, and areas of similar significance, and on the availability of such species or stocks for taking for certain subsistence uses (referred to here as “mitigation measures”). Monitoring and reporting of such takings are also required. The meaning of key terms such as “take,” “harassment,” and “negligible impact” can be found in section 3 of the MMPA (16 U.S.C. 1362) and the agency’s regulations at 50 CFR 216.103.

NMFS’ regulations implementing the MMPA at 50 CFR 216.107(e) indicate that IHAs may be renewed for additional periods of time not to exceed 1 year for each reauthorization. In the notice of proposed IHA for the initial authorization, NMFS described the circumstances under which we would consider issuing a renewal for this