

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[RTID 0648-XE291]

Marine Mammals; File No. 27984

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

ACTION: Notice; receipt of application.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Jooke Robbins, Ph.D., Center for Coastal Studies, 5 Holway Avenue, Provincetown, MA 02657, has applied in due form for a permit to conduct research on marine mammals.

DATES: Written comments must be received on or before November 29, 2024.

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 home page, <https://apps.nmfs.noaa.gov>, and then selecting File No. 27984 from the list of available applications. These documents are 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. 27984 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: Courtney Smith, Ph.D., or Shasta McClenahan, Ph.D., (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 (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), and the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered and threatened species (50 CFR parts 222-226).

The applicant proposes to target humpback (*Megaptera novaeangliae*; Gulf of Maine stock/West Indies Distinct Population Segment) and endangered fin (*Balaenoptera physalus*; Western North Atlantic stock) whales for research purposes in the Gulf of Maine

and adjacent waters, and the waters off Georgia and Florida. An additional 12 species of cetaceans and 2 species of pinnipeds may be unintentionally harassed during research, including endangered North Atlantic right (*Eubalaena glacialis*) and sei (*B. borealis*) whales. Marine mammals may be approached during vessel surveys for photo-identification, photogrammetry, underwater photography/videography, counts, unmanned aircraft system operations, behavioral observations, and biological sampling (skin and blubber biopsy, feces, and sloughed skin). Additionally, samples would be imported and exported for analysis and the creation of cell lines. See the application for complete numbers of animals requested by species, age-class, and procedure. The objectives of the research are to continue the long-term study of the biology and ecology of humpback and fin whales by examining population dynamics, movement and habitat use, entanglement and other human impacts, molecular genetics, aging, toxicology, foraging ecology, microbiology, reproduction, and health. The permit would be valid for 5 years.

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: October 24, 2024.

Amy Sloan,

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

[FR Doc. 2024-25126 Filed 10-25-24; 4:15 pm]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[RTID 0648-XE386]

Notice of Availability of a Final Programmatic Environmental Assessment on the Effects of Permitting Translocation of Sturgeon for Scientific Research and Enhancement Under Section 10(a)(1)(A) of the Endangered Species Act

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

ACTION: Notice of availability of final programmatic environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact.

SUMMARY: NOAA has prepared a final programmatic environmental assessment (PEA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended, analyzing the environmental impacts of the NMFS Office of Protected Resources (OPR) proposal to authorize directed take under the sturgeon Endangered Species Act (ESA) permitting program for the translocation of shortnose (*Acipenser brevirostrum*) and Atlantic (*A. oxyrinchus oxyrinchus*) sturgeons for research and enhancement purposes. Based on its finding of no significant impact, NMFS has determined that an environmental impact statement need not be prepared.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Erin Markin, Ph.D., erin.markin@noaa.gov, (301) 427-8416; Malcolm Mohead, malcolm.mohead@noaa.gov, (301) 427-8427.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Background**

This final PEA analyzes the potential impacts on the natural and human environments for the authorization of directed take of sturgeon by translocation, in scientific research or enhancement permits under section 10(a)(1)(A) of the ESA, to achieve recovery objectives. For the purposes of the sturgeon permitting program, translocation is the intentional capture, holding, handling, transport, and release of individuals within a river system (*e.g.*, translocation of fish across a dam or fish passage) or between river systems within the U.S. historical range of Atlantic and shortnose sturgeon (*i.e.*, Maine to Florida). Under the Proposed Action, NMFS would authorize directed

take for the translocation of ESA-listed Atlantic and shortnose sturgeon as a research or enhancement activity to support sturgeon conservation management and recovery objectives. NMFS would authorize translocation concurrent with additional research or enhancement activities, if the research or enhancement activity's objectives are (1) stated as a term and condition to implement reasonable and prudent measures of an active biological opinion, (2) an identified objective in a NMFS recovery outline or recovery plan for the species, or (3) determined necessary by NMFS Regional Offices and the NMFS OPR to recover the species. Programmatic NEPA reviews add value and efficiency to the decision making process when they inform the scope of decisions and subsequent tiered NEPA reviews. Therefore, NMFS decided that completing a PEA for the proposed action was appropriate.

NMFS published a Notice of Availability of the draft PEA in the **Federal Register** on December 27, 2023 (88 FR 89385) beginning a 30-day public comment period. NMFS considered the public comments received on the draft PEA and has responded to comments in appendix 1 of the final PEA.

After publishing the draft PEA for public comment, NMFS identified one additional sampling method that was inadvertently left out of the draft PEA. Epidermal mucus sampling was found to be consistent with an existing category of activities that normally do not have a significant effect on the human environment, and therefore do not require preparation of an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement (40 CFR 1501.4). NMFS incorporated this additional method into the final PEA which resulted in no changes to the impact determinations. Additional information is located in section 1.2.1 of the final PEA.

The PEA and FONSI have been prepared in compliance with NEPA of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321, *et seq.*), the 2020 Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 CFR 1500–1508) as modified by the Phase 1 2022 revisions, and NOAA policy and procedures (NOAA Administrative Order 216–6A and its Companion Manual). The final PEA and FONSI may be downloaded or viewed at: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/action/draft-environmental-assessment-permitting-translocation-sturgeon-scientific-research-and>.

Dated: October 25, 2024.

Amy Sloan,

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

[FR Doc. 2024–25214 Filed 10–29–24; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648–XE429]

Takes of Marine Mammals Incidental to Specified Activities; Taking Marine Mammals Incidental to Pile Driving Training Exercises at Naval Base Ventura County, Port Hueneme; Correction

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

ACTION: Notice; proposed issuance of an incidental harassment authorization; request for comments on proposed authorization and possible renewal; correction.

SUMMARY: This notice contains corrections to a notice of the proposed issuance an incidental harassment authorization (IHA) to the United States Navy (Navy). The document being corrected is Takes of Marine Mammals Incidental to Specified Activities; Taking Marine Mammals Incidental to Pile Driving Training Exercises at Naval Base Ventura County, Port Hueneme, which was published on October 23, 2024.

DATES: Comments and information must be received no later than November 22, 2024.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Reny Tyson Moore, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, (301) 427–8401. Electronic copies of the application and supporting documents, as well as the **Federal Register** notices and IHAs, may be obtained online at: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/marine-mammal-protection/incidental-take-authorizations-construction-activities>. In case of problems accessing these documents, please call the contact listed above.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

NMFS published a notice in the **Federal Register** on October 23, 2024 (89 FR 84534) announcing the proposed issuance of an IHA to the Navy concerning the authorization of take of

marine mammals incidental to pile driving training exercises at Naval Base Ventura County, Port Hueneme. The proposed IHA, which would authorize the Navy to incidentally take California sea lions (*Zalophus californius*) and harbor seals (*Phoca vitulina richardii*), by Level B harassment only, during the described activities and specified timeframe, prescribe the methods of taking and other means of effecting the least practicable adverse impact on marine mammal species or stocks and their habitat, as well as propose requirements pertaining to the monitoring and reporting of such taking. NMFS refers the reader to the October 23, 2024, (89 FR 84534) **Federal Register** notice for background information concerning the proposed issuance of the IHA. The information in the notice of proposed issuance is not repeated here.

Correction

The error to be corrected appears in the **DATES** section. The text incorrectly states that Comments and information must be received no later than November 7, 2024, which suggests the comment period for this proposed IHA is 15 days. However, proposed IHAs require a 30-day public comment period. Therefore, the correct public comment period should be 30 days, and should end on November 22, 2024.

Dated: October 25, 2024.

Kimberly Damon-Randall,

Director, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 2024–25226 Filed 10–29–24; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for Review and Approval; Comment Request; StormReady, TsunamiReady, TsunamiReady Supporter, StormReady Supporter, and Weather-Ready Ambassador Application Forms

The Department of Commerce will submit the following information collection request to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and clearance in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, on or after the date of publication of this notice. We invite the general public and other Federal agencies to comment on proposed, and continuing information collections, which helps us