

monitoring, and reporting requirements are incorporated. A draft of the proposed IHA can be found at: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/marine-mammal-protection/incidental-take-authorizations-construction-activities>.

### Request for Public Comments

We request comment on our analyses, the proposed authorization, and any other aspect of this notice of proposed IHA for the proposed construction project. We also request comment on the potential renewal of this proposed IHA as described in the paragraph below. Please include with your comments any supporting data or literature citations to help inform decisions on the request for this IHA or a subsequent renewal IHA.

On a case-by-case basis, NMFS may issue a one-time, 1-year renewal IHA following notice to the public providing an additional 15 days for public comments when (1) up to another year of identical or nearly identical activities as described in the Description of Proposed Activity section of this notice is planned or (2) the activities as described in the Description of Proposed Activity section of this notice would not be completed by the time the IHA expires and a renewal would allow for completion of the activities beyond that described in the *Dates and Duration* section of this notice, provided all of the following conditions are met:

- A request for renewal is received no later than 60 days prior to the needed renewal IHA effective date (recognizing that the renewal IHA expiration date cannot extend beyond 1 year from expiration of the initial IHA).
- The request for renewal must include the following:

(1) An explanation that the activities to be conducted under the requested renewal IHA are identical to the activities analyzed under the initial IHA, are a subset of the activities, or include changes so minor (*e.g.*, reduction in pile size) that the changes do not affect the previous analyses, mitigation and monitoring requirements, or take estimates (with the exception of reducing the type or amount of take).

(2) A preliminary monitoring report showing the results of the required monitoring to date and an explanation showing that the monitoring results do not indicate impacts of a scale or nature not previously analyzed or authorized.

- Upon review of the request for renewal, the status of the affected species or stocks, and any other pertinent information, NMFS determines that there are no more than minor changes in the activities, the

mitigation and monitoring measures will remain the same and appropriate, and the findings in the initial IHA remain valid.

Dated: January 15, 2025.

**Kimberly Damon-Randall,**

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

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**BILLING CODE 3510–22–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648–XE618]

#### Marine Mammals; File Nos. 28286 and 22095

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

**ACTION:** Notice; extension of comment period and proposed permit extension.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that the National Marine Fisheries Service is extending the public comment period associated with the notice of receipt for an application for a permit (File No. 28286) to conduct research and enhancement activities on one stranded, non-releasable beluga whale (*Delphinapterus leucas*) from the endangered Cook Inlet distinct population segment (DPS). The application has been updated to reflect additional information received from the applicant. Additionally, we propose extending SeaWorld's current permit, No. 22095–01, under which the subject beluga whale is currently held, for six months to allow additional processing of the updated application (File No. 28286).

**DATES:** The comment period for the notice published December 17, 2024, at 89 FR 102117, is extended. Written comments must be received on or before March 3, 2025.

**ADDRESSES:** The application for a new permit 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. 28286 from the list of available applications. These documents are also available upon written request via email to [NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov](mailto:NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov).

Written comments on this application (File No. 28286) and the proposed extension to Permit No. 22095–01

should be submitted via email to [NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov](mailto:NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov). Please include File Nos. 28286 and 22095, respectively, 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](mailto: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 Jennifer Skidmore, (301) 427–8401.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On

December 17, 2024 (89 FR 102117), the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) published notice of a permit application (File No. 28286) submitted by SeaWorld LLC, 6240 Sea Harbor Drive, Orlando, FL 32821 (Responsible Party: Chris Dold, DVM).

The applicant proposes to conduct research and enhancement activities on and provide long-term care for one male beluga whale (NOA0010477/“Tyonek”) from the depleted and endangered Cook Inlet DPS. The permit is requested for a 5-year period. NMFS received a request for an extension of the public comment period. Additionally, NMFS received updated information from the applicant in response to preliminary questions from the Marine Mammal Commission (MMC), clarifying research sampling and enhancement activity details in the take tables, educational programs, and captive breeding of the subject whale. These changes have been incorporated into the application in APPS (see also new uploaded document, “28286\_Response to MMC Comments\_1.2.2024.pdf”). In addition, NMFS is proposing to extend SeaWorld's current research and enhancement permit for Tyonek, No. 22095–01 (75 FR 27418, April 17, 2024), for six months to allow additional processing of the updated application (File No. 28286). That extended permit would expire on September 15, 2025. Thus, NMFS is extending the public comment period for an additional 30 days.

Dated: January 14, 2025.

**Julia M. Harrison,**

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

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