

groups, and publicity at industry meetings, symposia, conferences, and trade shows. Recruitment for the mission will begin immediately and conclude no later than August 15, 2012. The mission will be open on a first come first served basis. Applications received after that date will be considered only if space and scheduling constraints permit.

Contact Information

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[Docket Number: 120301149-2149-01]

Request for Comments on the 5-Year Review of NOAA's Policy on Partnerships in the Provision of Environmental Information

AGENCY: National Weather Service (NWS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce (DOC).

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The National Weather Service of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration publishes this notice to request comments on NOAA's Policy on Partnerships in the Provision of Environmental Information. This request for comments is being made as part of a period periodic review of the Policy's effectiveness.

DATES: Comments must be received by 5 p.m. (EDT), April 30, 2012.

ADDRESSES: Electronic comments are preferred. A webform for comments is available at: http://www.nws.noaa.gov/survey/policy_partnerships_comments.php.

Written comments may be mailed in hard copy to the following address: Partnership Policy Comments, U.S. Department of Commerce, NOAA 1325 East-West Highway, Room 17205, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

A copy of NOAA's Policy on Partnerships in the Provision of Environmental Information as well as a complete history can be found on the NOAA Web site at: <http://www.noaa.gov/partnershippolicy/>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jennifer Sprague, 301-713-0217.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The National Weather Service of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is undertaking a review of NOAA's Policy on Partnerships in the Provision of Environmental Information. This Policy applies to the weather, water, climate and related environmental information services of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. It sets forth basic principles to be applied in making decisions regarding these information services. The Policy is intended to strengthen the existing partnership between government, academia and the private sector, which is a partnership that provides the nation with high quality weather, water, climate and related environmental information.

The Policy calls for a periodic review of its effectiveness, and NOAA is seeking public comments to aid in this review.

Dated: March 2, 2012.

David Murray,

Director, Management and Organizational Division, Office of the Chief Financial Officer, National Weather Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XO45

Marine Mammals; File No. 14241

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

ACTION: Notice; issuance of permit amendment.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that a major amendment to Permit No. 14241-02 has been issued to Dr. Peter Tyack, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, Woods Hole, MA for research on marine mammals.

ADDRESSES: The permit amendment and related documents are available for review upon written request or by

appointment in the following offices: See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tammy Adams or Carrie Hubbard, (301) 427-8401.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On December 16, 2011, notice was published in the **Federal Register** (76 FR 78242) that a request for an amendment to Permit No. 14241-02 to conduct research on marine mammals had been submitted by the above-named applicant. The requested permit amendment has been issued under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), and the regulations governing the taking and importing of marine mammals (50 CFR part 216).

The permit has been amended to include (1) adding waters off Florida to the project for tagging to study risks of entanglement in mid-Atlantic states; (2) one new species, Atlantic spotted dolphin (*Stenella frontalis*), for field work in waters off Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia; (3) a new project to Dtag the following species in waters off the west coast of North America: Baird's beaked whale (*Berardius bairdii*), Cuvier's beaked whale (*Ziphius cavirostris*), Risso's dolphin (*Grampus griseus*), killer whale (*Orcinus orca*) and Mesoplodont beaked whales (*Mesoplodon* spp); (4) a new procedure for marking cetaceans with zinc oxide; (5) satellite tagging to long-finned pilot whales in approaches to the Mediterranean; and (6) switching some of the playback takes initially located in the Mediterranean and eastern North Atlantic to the same stocks of long-finned (*Globicephala melas*) and short-finned (*G. macrorhynchus*) pilot whales off Cape Hatteras. The amendment is valid through the original expiration date of the permit, July 31, 2014.

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

Documents may be reviewed in the following locations:

Permits and Conservation Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910; phone (301) 427-8401; fax (301) 713-0376;

Northwest Region, NMFS, 7600 Sand Point Way NE., BIN C15700, Bldg. 1, Seattle, WA 98115-0700; phone (206) 526-6150; fax (206) 526-6426;

Southwest Region, NMFS, 501 West Ocean Blvd., Suite 4200, Long Beach,