

Wailuku, HI on March 26, 2012, authorized an amendment to LOC No. 13427–03 to change the Principal Investigator to Itana Silva. This replaced version 13427–03, issued on July 26, 2011. A subsequent amendment to LOC No. 13427 was issued on July 9, 2012 to change the Principal Investigator to Emmanuelle Martinez. The LOC expires on June 15, 2013.

File No. 17263: Issued to the Alaska SeaLife Center, Seward, AK (Responsible Party: Tara Reimer Jones, Ph.D.), on June 1, 2012, for research on harbor seals (*Phoca vitulina*) in Alaska. Activities include (1) remote video monitoring of seals (installation, removal, repair, and maintenance of remote video cameras that require vessel and helicopter access), (2) aerial surveys and photo-ID of seals on land and ice haulouts, and (3) oceanographic surveys in ice habitats. Surveys may be conducted along the coastline on the southern Kenai Peninsula and western Prince William Sound, Alaska. Other marine mammals that may be harassed during surveys include: Dall's porpoise (*Phocoenoides dalli*); harbor porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*); killer whale (*Orcinus orca*), excluding the endangered Southern resident distinct population segment; minke whale (*Balaenoptera acutorostrata*); and gray whale (*Eschrichtius robustus*), excluding the endangered Western North Pacific population. The LOC expires on May 31, 2017.

File No. 17245: Issued to John H. Schacke, Ph.D., Georgia Dolphin Ecology Program, Commerce, GA on June 4, 2012, to construct and supplement catalogs of individually identifiable bottlenose dolphins in the southeastern United States; to record behavioral observations of individual animals; and to document how bottlenose dolphins use the estuarine and near-shore waters of the Georgia coast. Research will occur within the coastal waters of Georgia, primarily between St. Catherine's and Altamaha Sounds, including embayments, rivers, and estuaries. Bottlenose dolphins of the Western North Atlantic South Carolina/Georgia Coastal Stock, Northern Georgia/Southern South Carolina Estuarine System Stock, and Southern Georgia Estuarine System Stock will be taken. The LOC expires on June 30, 2017.

File No. 17259: Issued to Paul Webb, Department of Biology, Roger Williams University, Bristol, RI on June 5, 2012, for level B harassment of Western North Atlantic stocks of harbor seals (*Phoca vitulina concolor*), gray seals (*Halichoerus grypus*), and harp seals (*Pagophilus groenlandica*) resulting

from close approach, behavioral observations, and scat collection. The purpose of the research is to examine the demographic structure of the local populations and factors affecting the haul-out behavior of harbor seals at sites in Narragansett Bay. The LOC expires on June 15, 2017.

File No. 17260: Issued to Kayla Causey, Ph.D., California State University, Fullerton, CA, on June 11, 2012, to conduct photo-identification, observations, passive acoustic recordings, underwater videography, and focal follows during vessel surveys of the California coastal stock of bottlenose dolphins within Newport Harbor and the surrounding Orange County coastline of California. The purpose of the research is to (1) develop an activity budget of dolphins in Newport Harbor for comparison to dolphins in surrounding coastal zones; (2) provide a better understanding of the temporal scale of site fidelity in Newport Harbor and the Orange County region for a population of dolphins known to engage in long-shore reversals; (3) gain insight into dolphin social dynamics, structure, information transfer, and cognition using underwater observation; and (4) determine how dolphins respond to vessels and people in the region. Other marine mammals that may be harassed during surveys include: California sea lions (*Zalophus californianus*), harbor seals, common dolphins (*Delphinus delphis* and *D. capensis*), and Risso's dolphins (*Grampus griseus*). The LOC expires on June 15, 2017.

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 activities are categorically excluded from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement.

Dated: December 7, 2012.

P. Michael Payne,

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

[FR Doc. 2012–29971 Filed 12–11–12; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648–XC390

Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings and Hearings

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and

Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of availability of reports; public meetings, and hearings.

SUMMARY: The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Pacific Council) has begun its annual preseason management process for the 2013 ocean salmon fisheries. This document announces the availability of Pacific Council documents as well as the dates and locations of Pacific Council meetings and public hearings comprising the Pacific Council's complete schedule of events for determining the annual proposed and final modifications to ocean salmon fishery management measures. The agendas for the March and April 2013 Pacific Council meetings will be published in subsequent **Federal Register** documents prior to the actual meetings.

DATES: Written comments on the salmon management alternatives must be received by 11:59 p.m. Pacific Time, March 31, 2013.

ADDRESSES: Documents will be available from, and written comments should be sent to, Mr. Dan Wolford, Chairman, Pacific Fishery Management Council, 7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101, Portland, OR 97220–1384, telephone: 503–820–2280 (voice) or 503–820–2299 (fax). Comments can also be submitted via email at PFMC.comments@noaa.gov, or through the internet at the Federal Rulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments, and include the RIN number in the subject line of the message. For specific meeting and hearing locations, see supplementary information.

Council Address: Pacific Fishery Management Council, 7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101, Portland, OR 97220.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Mike Burner, telephone: 503–820–2280.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Schedule for Document Completion and Availability

February 15, 2013: “Review of 2012 Ocean Salmon Fisheries, Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation Document for the Pacific Coast Salmon Fishery Management Plan” will be mailed to the public and posted on the Pacific Council Web site at <http://www.pcouncil.org>.

March 1, 2013: “Preseason Report I-Stock Abundance Analysis and Environmental Assessment Part 1 for 2013 Ocean Salmon Fishery Regulations” will be mailed to the

public and posted on the Pacific Council Web site at <http://www.pcouncil.org>.

March 20, 2013: "Preseason Report II-Proposed Alternatives and Environmental Assessment Part 2 for 2013 Ocean Salmon Fishery Regulations" and public hearing schedule will be mailed to the public and posted on the Pacific Council Web site at <http://www.pcouncil.org>. The report will include a description of the adopted salmon management alternatives and a summary of their biological and economic impacts.

April 22, 2013: "Preseason Report III-Council-Adopted Management Measures and Environmental Assessment Part 3 for 2013 Ocean Salmon Fishery Regulations" will be mailed to the public and posted on the Pacific Council Web site at <http://www.pcouncil.org>.

May 1, 2013: Federal regulations for 2013 ocean salmon regulations will be published in the **Federal Register** and implemented.

Meetings and Hearings

January 22–25, 2013: The Salmon Technical Team (STT) will meet at the Pacific Council office in a public work session to draft "Review of 2012 Ocean Salmon Fisheries" and to consider any other estimation or methodology issues pertinent to the 2013 ocean salmon fisheries.

February 19–22, 2013: The STT will meet at the Pacific Council office in a public work session to draft "Preseason Report I-Stock Abundance Analysis and Environmental Assessment Part 1 for 2013 Ocean Salmon Fishery Regulations" and to consider any other estimation or methodology issues pertinent to the 2013 ocean salmon fisheries.

March 25–26, 2013: Public hearings will be held to receive comments on the proposed ocean salmon fishery management options adopted by the Pacific Council. Written comments received at the public hearings and a summary of oral comments at the hearings will be provided to the Pacific Council at its April meeting.

All public hearings begin at 7 p.m. at the following locations:

March 25, 2013: Chateau Westport, Beach Room, 710 W Hancock, Westport, WA 98595, telephone 360–268–9101.

March 25, 2013: Red Lion Hotel, South Umpqua Room, 1313 N Bayshore Drive, Coos Bay, OR 97420, telephone 541–267–4141.

March 26, 2013: Red Lion Eureka, Humboldt Bay Room, 1929 Fourth Street, Eureka, CA 95501, telephone 707–445–0844.

Although nonemergency issues not contained in the STT meeting agendas may come before the STT for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal STT action during these meetings. STT action will be restricted to those issues specifically listed in this document and to any issues arising after publication of this document requiring emergency action under Section 305(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, provided the public has been notified of the STT's intent to take final action to address the emergency.

Special Accommodations

These public meetings and hearings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Mr. Kris Kleinschmidt at 503–820–2280 (voice), or 503–820–2299 (fax) at least five days prior to the meeting date.

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

Dated: December 6, 2012.

Emily H. Menashes,

Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. 2012–29969 Filed 12–11–12; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648–XC136

Marine Mammals; File No. 17152

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

ACTION: Notice; issuance of permit.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that a permit has been issued to PRBO Conservation Science, 3820 Cypress Drive, #11, Petaluma, CA 94954 (Responsible Party: Russell Bradley) to conduct research on pinnipeds in California.

ADDRESSES: The permit and related documents are available for review upon written request or by appointment in the following offices:

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; and

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

CA 90802–4213; phone (562) 980–4001; fax (562) 980–4018.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Amy Sloan or Tammy Adams, (301) 427–8401.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On August 13, 2012, notice was published in the **Federal Register** (77 FR 48130) that a request for a permit to conduct research on pinnipeds had been submitted by the above-named applicant. The requested permit 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 holder is authorized to monitor population trends, health, and ecology of pinnipeds in California over a five-year period. To accomplish this, researchers are authorized to capture, sedate, sample, mark, instrument, photo-identify and incidentally harass harbor seals (*Phoca vitulina richardii*). Ten mortalities of harbor seals over the duration of the permit are authorized. Researchers are authorized to capture, mark, weigh, and sample (swabs and blood) northern elephant seals (*Mirounga angustirostris*); and incidentally harass elephant seals during captures and ground monitoring/photo-identification. Researchers are authorized to harass California sea lions (*Zalophus californianus*) and northern fur seals (*Callorhinus ursinus*) during ground surveys and photo-identification.

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.

Dated: December 7, 2012.

P. Michael Payne,

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

[FR Doc. 2012–29935 Filed 12–11–12; 8:45 am]

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