

receive three- to four-days of free on-site training (depending on experience level); this training has been nationally recognized for six consecutive years by Leadership 500 Awards, sponsored by *HR.com*.

BPEP's mission to improve the competitiveness and performance of U.S. organizations for the benefit of all U.S. residents.

II. Method of Collection

MBNQA applicant organizations must comply in writing according to the Eligibility Certification Form and Baldrige Award Application Form available at http://www.nist.gov/baldrige/enter/how_to_apply.cfm. Information on the application for the Board of Examiners can be found at <http://www.nist.gov/baldrige/examiners/index.cfm>. BPEP will electronically send a unique user ID and password (separate emails) on how applicants to the Board of Examiners can apply to the secure system.

III. Data

OMB Control Number: 0693-0006.
Form Number(s): None.

Type of Review: Extension of a current information collection.

Affected Public: Business, health care, education, or other for-profit organizations; health care, education, and other nonprofit organizations; and individuals or households.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 580 (30 Applications for MBNQA and 550 Applicants for the Board of Examiners).

Estimated Time per Response: 30 minutes.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 290 (MBNQA = 15 hours, Board of Examiners = 275 hours).

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: MBNQA = \$1,610-\$79,610 (application and site visit fees vary depending on profit nature of organization and its sector [e.g., smallest fee is for a nonprofit K-12 school, largest fee is for a global manufacturer]; additionally, only 25% of applications pay site visit fees that again vary depending on number of sites and sector of the organization and Board of Examiners: \$0).

IV. Request for Comments

NIST invites comments on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of

information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection; they also will become a matter of public record.

Sheleen Dumas,

Departmental Lead PRA Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer, Commerce Department.

[FR Doc. 2019-06649 Filed 4-4-19; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-13-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

The Department of Commerce will submit to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for clearance the following proposal for collection of information under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35).

Agency: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Title: North Atlantic Recreational Fishing Survey.

OMB Control Number: 0648-.

Form Number(s): None.

Type of Request: Regular (Request for a new collection).

Number of Respondents: 1,295.

Average Hours per Response:

Telephone pre-screening survey with an eligible angler, 3 minutes; telephone pre-screening survey with an ineligible angler, 1 minute; completion of mail/email survey by an eligible angler, 20 minutes; completion of mail/email survey by an ineligible angler, 10 minutes.

Burden Hours: 226.66.

Needs and Uses: The Northeast Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC) is conducting an economics research project to assess how changes in recreational Atlantic cod and haddock fishing regulations affect angler effort, angler welfare, fishing mortality, and future stock levels. The statistical model needed to meet this research objective requires fishing-related and socioeconomic data on users of these fisheries. To collect this essential information, the NEFSC seeks to

implement the North Atlantic Recreational Fishing Survey (NARFS), a questionnaire directed toward recreational anglers who fish for Atlantic cod or haddock off the coast of Maine, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts. Data collected by the NARFS will be used as input into a bioeconomic model that is currently used to determine recreational fishing regulations for North Atlantic cod and haddock (83 FR 18972).

Affected Public: Individuals or households.

Frequency: On occasion.

Respondent's Obligation: Voluntary.

This information collection request may be viewed at reginfo.gov. Follow the instructions to view Department of Commerce collections currently under review by OMB.

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to OIRA_Submission@omb.eop.gov or fax to (202) 395-5806.

Sheleen Dumas,

Departmental Lead PRA Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer, Commerce Department.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XD953

Marine Mammals; File No. 19108

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

ACTION: Notice; receipt of application for permit amendment.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Daniel P. Costa, Ph.D., University of California at Santa Cruz, Long Marine Laboratory, 100 Shaffer Road, Santa Cruz, CA 95064, has applied for an amendment to Scientific Research Permit No. 19108-03.

DATES: Written, telefaxed, or email comments must be received on or before May 6, 2019.

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. 19108" from the list of available applications.

These documents are also available upon written request or by appointment in the 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.

Written comments on this application should be submitted to the Chief, Permits and Conservation Division, at the address listed above. Comments may also be submitted by facsimile to (301) 713-0376, or by email to NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov. Please include the File No. in the subject line of the email comment.

Those individuals requesting a public hearing should submit a written request to the Chief, Permits and Conservation Division at the address listed above. The request should set forth the specific reasons why a hearing on this application would be appropriate.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sara Young or Shasta McClenahan, (301) 427-8401.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The subject amendment to Permit No. 19108-03 is requested 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).

Permit No. 19108, issued on June 30, 2015 (80 FR 39750), authorizes the permit holder to conduct research on northern elephant seal population status, reproduction, diving and fasting, physiology, and metabolism. Research methods include behavioral observations, marking, capture and sampling, instrumentation, translocation, short-term captive holding, physiology studies, and acoustic studies. Research is permitted from California to Washington, but occurs primarily at Año Nuevo. Incidental harassment and mortalities of northern elephant seals, and incidental harassment of California sea lions (*Zalophus californianus*), northern fur seals (*Callorhinus ursinus*), and Steller sea lions (*Eumetopias jubatus*) of the Eastern Distinct Population Segment is authorized.

The permit holder is requesting the permit be amended to include authorization for an increase in annual take from 10 to 20 animals for elephant seals that can be instrumented and translocated and receive thermistor placement annually. This annual increase would allow all of the translocations in this category to be conducted during the spring molt, which further ensures that animals are able to be recaptured for instrument

removal. The applicant also requests permission to use an intravascular electrocardiogram within existing catheter placement (20 animals annually). The applicant is authorized to experimentally alter the buoyancy of seals during translocations, including use of a neutral buoyancy control that alters the drag surface of the animal. The applicant requests to explicitly modify drag outside of the context of a buoyancy modification experiments and to add additional drag surface to subjects on one of the two translocations allowed per individual elephant seal to assess the impact of increased swimming effort on blood oxygen utilization (20 animals annually). The applicant also requests to add a head-mounted instrument for electroencephalography on translocated animals to give insight into the potential use of bihemispheric or unihemispheric sleep and the level of brain oxygenation during diving. The instrument uses near-infrared spectroscopy sensors or up to six electrodes (20 animals annually).

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 this application to the Marine Mammal Commission and its Committee of Scientific Advisors.

Dated: April 1, 2019.

Amy Sloan,

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

[FR Doc. 2019-06628 Filed 4-4-19; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[Docket No. 181019964-9283-01]

RIN 0648-XG584

Announcement of Hearing Regarding Proposed Waiver and Regulations Governing the Taking of Marine Mammals

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

ACTION: Notice of hearing.

SUMMARY: This notice announces an agency hearing to be convened by the National Marine Fisheries Service before an administrative law judge (ALJ) and the process by which interested persons can participate in the hearing. The hearing involves a proposed waiver under the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) and proposed regulations governing the hunting of eastern North Pacific (ENP) gray whales by the Makah Indian Tribe in northwest Washington State. A proposed rule relating to the proposed waiver and regulations is published elsewhere in today's issue of the **Federal Register**.

DATES: NMFS has scheduled a hearing before Administrative Law Judge George J. Jordan to consider the proposed MMPA waiver and the proposed regulations. It will begin on August 12, 2019 at 9:30 a.m. PDT in the Henry M. Jackson Federal Building, 915 Second Ave., 4th Floor Auditorium, Seattle, WA 98174. A pre-hearing conference is scheduled on June 17, 2019, at 10:00 a.m. PDT in the Henry M. Jackson Federal Building, 915 Second Ave., Seattle, WA 98174 (room location to be set by the ALJ). Persons interested in participating as a party in the hearing should consult regulations at 50 CFR part 228 and this notice and notify NMFS by the filing deadline below.

Filing deadlines: Any person desiring to participate as a party at the hearing must notify the NMFS West Coast Region Regional Administrator, by certified mail, postmarked on or before May 6, 2019. Any person desiring to participate as a party must submit initial written direct testimony by May 20, 2019, as specified below. All notices, testimony, and other filings must include the following Hearing Docket Number assigned to this matter: 19-NMFS-0001. Interested persons should consult the remainder of this notice and the procedural regulations at 50 CFR part 228 for additional deadlines, hearing procedures, and other opportunities for participation in the process.

ADDRESSES: Any person desiring to participate as a party in the hearing must notify NMFS, by certified mail, at the following address: Mr. Barry Thom, Regional Administrator, NMFS, West Coast Region, 1201 NE Lloyd Boulevard, Suite 1100, Portland, OR 97232.

Any person desiring to participate as a party in the hearing should also send an electronic copy to aljseattle@uscg.mil.

All documents pertaining to the hearing, including initial direct testimony, shall be filed with the ALJ. All documents should, to the extent