

disturbance on seals. The LOC expires on August 31, 2026.

File No. 25811: Issued to the Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command Atlantic (RP: Deanna Rees; PI: Danielle Jones), 6506 Hampton Boulevard, Norfolk, Virginia 23508. This LOC authorizes close approach, counts, unintentional disturbance, photo-identification, photography/videography, and behavioral observations of harbor and gray seals via vessel surveys, ground surveys, and UAS along the coast of Virginia. Harp seals may be observed during research. The objective of the research is to collect data on pinniped occurrence, movement, habitat use, and haul-out patterns at known haul-out areas near the lower Chesapeake Bay and the Eastern Shore, Virginia. The LOC expires on September 30, 2026.

File No. 20346: This LOC, held by Ann Weaver, Ph.D., Good-natured Statistics Consulting, P.O. Box 8732, St Petersburg, Florida 33738, was extended on September 13, 2021, while the holder's new application (File No. 25957) is in process. The LOC authorizes vessel-based research of bottlenose dolphins, including abundance surveys, behavioral observations, photography and video in and around a 6.5-mile stretch of the Intracoastal Waterway near John's Pass, Florida. The objectives of the research would not change. The extended LOC expires on September 1, 2022, or until a decision is made on the new application, whichever occurs first.

File No. 25574: Issued to Wendy Noke Durden, Hubbs-Sea World Research Institute, 3830 South Highway A1A #4-181, Melbourne Beach, Florida 32951, on September 23, 2021. This LOC authorizes vessel-based surveys and UAS flights for photo-identification, behavioral observations, focal follows, passive acoustic recordings, and breath sampling of bottlenose dolphins. Research may occur in the inland waters along the east coast of Florida from northernmost limits of Flagler County to Jupiter Inlet, including the Indian River Lagoon, with a focus on Mosquito Lagoon and the Halifax River estuary. The objective of the research is to evaluate the abundance, stock association, distribution, residency, social structure, population dynamics, habitat use, health, demography, behavior, anthropogenic interactions, and contact calls of dolphins within the study area. The LOC expires on September 30, 2026.

File No. 25895: Issued to Jacalyn Sullivan, Stockton University, 101 Vera King Farris Drive, Galloway, New Jersey 08205, on October 29, 2021. This LOC

authorizes UAS surveys of harbor seals for count/survey, behavioral observation monitoring, photo-identification, and videography. The objective of the research is to determine temporal patterns of harbor seal habitat use in Great Bay, New Jersey, population size, and shifts over time as a nearby wind farm becomes operational. The LOC expires on October 31, 2026.

File No. 25835: Issued to Tampa Bay Watch (PI: Savannah Gandee), 3000 Pinellas Bayway South, Tierra Verde, Florida 33715, on December 21, 2021. This LOC authorizes vessel-based surveys of bottlenose dolphins for behavioral observations, photo-identification, passive acoustics, count/survey, and photography/videography in Tampa Bay. The objective of the research is to provide an updated account of the common bottlenose dolphin population that utilizes understudied regions of Tampa Bay for management and conservation purposes. The LOC expires on December 31, 2021.

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: January 7, 2022.

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

[FR Doc. 2022-00496 Filed 1-20-22; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Review of Nomination for Hudson Canyon National Marine Sanctuary

AGENCY: Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS), National Ocean Service (NOS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce (DOC).

ACTION: Notice; request for written comments.

SUMMARY: The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is seeking written comments on its five-year review of the nomination for Hudson Canyon National Marine Sanctuary (NMS). Comments should focus solely on any new and relevant information relating to NOAA's 11 sanctuary nomination evaluation

criteria. NOAA will pay particular attention to any additional details about the significance of the area's natural or cultural resources, changes to any threats to these resources, and evolving management efforts, or human uses in the proposed area (e.g., wind energy proposals in the area). NOAA will make a final determination on whether the Hudson Canyon NMS nomination remains relevant and responsive to the evaluation criteria after it analyzes the comments it receives and, if so, whether Hudson Canyon NMS is to remain in the nomination inventory for another five-year period. With this five-year review, NOAA is not seeking comments on whether to start the sanctuary designation process for the Hudson Canyon NMS proposal.

DATES: Comments are due by February 7, 2022.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be submitted by one of the following methods:

- **Federal eRulemaking Portal:** <https://www.regulations.gov>. Submit electronic comments via the Federal eRulemaking Portal and search for Docket Number NOAA-NOS-2022-0010.

- **Mail:** LeAnn Hogan, Regional Operations Coordinator, NOAA Sanctuaries Eastern Region, 1305 East West Highway, N/NMS, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

Email: LeAnn.Hogan@noaa.gov.

Instructions: All comments received are a part of the public record. All personally identifiable information (for example, name and address) voluntarily submitted by the commenter may be publicly accessible. Do not submit confidential business information or otherwise sensitive or protected information. NOAA will accept anonymous comments (enter N/A in the required fields to remain anonymous).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: LeAnn Hogan, Regional Operations Coordinator, NOAA Sanctuaries Eastern Region, 1305 East-West Highway, N/NMS, Silver Spring, MD 20910, or at LeAnn.Hogan@noaa.gov, or 202-731-0678.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background Information

In June 2014, NOAA issued a final rule establishing the sanctuary nomination process (SNP), which details how communities may submit nominations to NOAA for consideration of national marine sanctuary designation (79 FR 33851). NOAA moves successful nominations to an inventory of areas that could be considered for national marine

sanctuary designation. The final rule establishing the SNP included a five-year limit on any nomination added to the inventory that NOAA does not advance for designation.

In November 2019, NOAA issued a **Federal Register** notice (84 FR 61546) to clarify procedures for evaluating and updating a nomination as it approaches the five-year mark on the inventory of areas that could be considered for national marine sanctuary designation. This notice explained that if a nomination remains responsive to the evaluation criteria for inclusion on the inventory, NOAA could keep the nomination on the inventory for another five years. The notice also established a process for NOAA to consider the continuing viability of nominations nearing the five-year expiration mark. The nomination for Hudson Canyon proposal is scheduled to expire in February 2022. The full nomination can be found at <https://nominate.noaa.gov/nominations/>.

NOAA is not proposing to designate Hudson Canyon as a national marine sanctuary with this action. Instead, comments should identify any new or changing information relative to NOAA's 11 sanctuary nomination evaluation criteria (<https://nominate.noaa.gov/guide.html>). Comments that do not pertain to information supporting the evaluation criteria, or present new information on the Hudson Canyon NMS nomination, will not be considered in NOAA's decision on whether to retain this nomination in the inventory.

Should NOAA conclude that the Hudson Canyon NMS nomination no longer meets its evaluation criteria and decide to remove it from the inventory, NOAA would notify the nominator directly via letter, and the public via notice in the **Federal Register** and a web posting at "nominate.noaa.gov."

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1431 *et seq.*

John Armor,

Director, Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[FR Doc. 2022-01085 Filed 1-20-22; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Review of Nomination for Mariana Trench National Marine Sanctuary

AGENCY: Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS), National Ocean

Service (NOS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce (DOC).

ACTION: Notice; request for written comments.

SUMMARY: The Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS) of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is requesting written comments to facilitate ONMS' five-year review of the nomination for the Mariana Trench National Marine Sanctuary (NMS) at the five-year interval. In particular, NOAA is requesting relevant information as it pertains to its 11 evaluation criteria for inclusion in the inventory. In this five-year review, NOAA will pay particular attention to any new information about the significance of the area's natural or cultural resources, changes to any threats to these resources, and any updates to the management framework of the area. NOAA has provided the original nominating parties, The Pew Charitable Trusts and Friends of the Marianas Trench, an opportunity to share their views on these same questions. Following this information gathering and internal analysis, NOAA will make a final determination on whether or not the Mariana Trench NMS nomination will remain in the inventory for another five-year period.

DATES: Written comments must be received by February 22, 2022. NOAA will conduct a virtual meeting on Saturday, February 12, 2022, from 10 a.m.–12 p.m. ChST (Guam/Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands)/Friday, February 11, 2022, from 2 p.m.–4 p.m. HST (Hawai'i). NOAA may end the meeting before the time noted above if all those participating have completed their oral comments.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be submitted by one of the following methods:

- **Federal eRulemaking Portal:** <https://www.regulations.gov>. Submit electronic comments via the Federal eRulemaking Portal and search for Docket Number NOAA-NOS-2022-0005.
- **Mail:** Kristina Kekuewa, Pacific Islands Regional Director, NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, 1845 Wasp Blvd., Honolulu, Hawaii 96818.
- **Email:** Kristina.Kekuewa@noaa.gov.
- **Public Scoping Meeting:** Provide oral comments during a virtual public scoping meeting, as described under **DATES**. Webinar registration details and additional information about how to participate in the public scoping meeting is available at <https://nominate.noaa.gov/5-year-review.html>.

Instructions: All comments received are a part of the public record. All personal identifying information (for example, name and address) voluntarily submitted by the commenter may be publicly accessible. Do not submit confidential business information or otherwise sensitive or protected information. NOAA will accept anonymous comments (enter N/A in the required fields to remain anonymous).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kristina Kekuewa, Pacific Islands Regional Director, NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, 1845 Wasp Blvd., Honolulu, Hawaii 96818, or at kristina.kekuewa@noaa.gov, or at 808-725-5252.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background Information

In 2014, NOAA issued a final rule re-establishing the sanctuary nomination process (SNP), which details how communities may submit nominations of areas of the marine and Great Lakes environment for NOAA to consider for designation as national marine sanctuaries (79 FR 33851). NOAA moves successful nominations to an inventory of areas that could be considered for national marine sanctuary designation. The final rule re-establishing the SNP included a five-year limit on any nomination added to the inventory that NOAA does not advance for designation.

In November 2019, NOAA issued a **Federal Register** notice (84 FR 61546) to clarify procedures for evaluating and updating a successful nomination as it approaches the five-year mark in the inventory of areas that could be considered for national marine sanctuary designation. This notice explained that if a nomination remains responsive to the evaluation criteria for inclusion in the inventory, it may be appropriate to allow the nomination to remain in the inventory for another five years. The notice also established a process for NOAA to consider the continuing viability of nominations nearing the five-year expiration mark.

The nomination for Mariana Trench NMS was accepted to the national inventory on March 13, 2017, and is therefore scheduled to expire on March 13, 2022. The full nomination can be found at <https://nominate.noaa.gov/nominations/>.

NOAA is not proposing to designate the Mariana Trench NMS with this action. Instead, NOAA is seeking public comment on ONMS' five-year review of the nomination for Mariana Trench NMS. Accordingly, written comments submitted as part of this request should