

³The final rule refers to the GOM Bryde's whale (*Balaenoptera edeni*). These whales were subsequently described as a new species, Rice's whale (*Balaenoptera ricei*) (Rosel *et al.*, 2021).

⁴Modeled take of 1 decreased to 0. For rough-toothed dolphin, use of the exposure modeling produces results that are smaller than the average GOM group size (*i.e.*, estimated exposure value of 1, relative to assumed average group size of 14) (Maze-Foley and Mullin, 2006). NMFS' typical practice is to increase exposure estimates to the assumed average group size for a species in order to ensure that, if the species is encountered, exposures will not exceed the authorized take number. However, given the very short survey duration and small estimated exposure value NMFS has determined that is unlikely the species would be encountered at all. As a result, in this case NMFS has not authorized take for this species.

⁵Modeled take of 7 increased to account for potential encounter with group of average size (Maze-Foley and Mullin, 2006).

Based on the analysis contained herein of Echo's proposed survey activity described in its LOA application and the anticipated take of marine mammals, NMFS finds that small numbers of marine mammals will be taken relative to the affected species or stock sizes (*i.e.*, less than one-third of the best available abundance estimate) and therefore the taking is of no more than small numbers.

Authorization

NMFS has determined that the level of taking for this LOA request is consistent with the findings made for the total taking allowable under the incidental take regulations and that the amount of take authorized under the LOA is of no more than small numbers. Accordingly, we have issued an LOA to Echo authorizing the take of marine mammals incidental to its geophysical survey activity, as described above.

Dated: January 23, 2023.

Kimberly Damon-Randall,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XC718]

Marine Mammals; File No. 27027

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

ACTION: Notice; receipt of application.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve (Philip Hooge, Responsible Party), has applied in due form for a permit to conduct research on humpback (*Megaptera novaeangliae*), killer (*Orcinus orca*), minke (*Balaenoptera acutorostrata*), and gray (*Eschrichtius robustus*) whales.

DATES: Written, telefaxed, or email comments must be received on or before February 27, 2023.

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 (APPS) home page, <https://apps.nmfs.noaa.gov>, and then selecting File No. 27027 from the list of available applications. These documents are also available upon written request via email to NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov.

Written comments on this application should be submitted via email to NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov. Please include File No. 27027 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. The request should set forth the specific reasons why a hearing on this application would be appropriate.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Erin Markin or Carrie Hubard, (301) 427-8401.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The subject permit is requested under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (MMPA; 16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), the regulations governing the taking and importing of marine mammals (50 CFR part 216), the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), and the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered and threatened species (50 CFR parts 222-226).

The applicant proposes to study humpback, killer, minke, and gray whales to gather information on their ecology, behavior, and population status in southeastern Alaska, including Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve. Individuals may be closely approached for vessel surveys, photo-identification, behavioral observation, collection of feces or sloughed skin, and passive acoustic recording. The maximum annual approaches to whales will be 2050 humpback whales, 500 killer whales, 20 minke whales, and 20 gray whales. Biopsy sampling of 50 humpback whales, annually, is also requested. Unidentified cetacean, pinniped, and salmonid species parts may be collected from predation events. Biological samples may be imported or

exported. The requested duration of the permit is 5 years.

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

Dated: January 23, 2023.

Julia M. Harrison,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Patent and Trademark Office

[Docket No.: PTO-P-2023-0001]

Public Meeting on Innovation Driven by Artificial Intelligence

AGENCY: United States Patent and Trademark Office, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) plays an important role in incentivizing and protecting innovation, including innovation driven by artificial intelligence (AI), to ensure continued U.S. leadership in AI and other emerging technologies (ET). The USPTO's Texas Regional Office will host a public meeting on innovation driven by AI on February 8, 2023, at 11 a.m. CT. The meeting will be held in collaboration with the Dallas Bar Association (DBA) Intellectual Property (IP) section and the State Bar of Texas IP section. This will be the third meeting in the USPTO's AI/ET Partnership Series. First announced in June 2022, the AI/ET Partnership provides an opportunity to bring stakeholders together through a series of engagements to share ideas, feedback,