

ADDRESSES: The public meeting will be held at the Ala Moana Hotel, 410 Atkinson Drive, Honolulu, HI 96814—in the Garden Lanai Meeting Room, and will also be broadcast via web conference. Documents to be considered by the PAC will be made available at the meeting. For details on how to join via web conference, call in, or to submit comments, please contact Emily Reynolds (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**). Documents to be considered by the PAC will be sent out via email in advance of the meeting. Please submit contact information to Emily Reynolds (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**) at least 3 days in advance of the meeting to receive documents via email. This meeting may be audio recorded for the purposes of generating notes of the meeting. As public comments will be made publically available, participants and public commenters are urged not to provide personally identifiable information (PII) at this meeting. Participation in the meeting, in person, by web conference, or by telephone constitutes consent to the audio recording.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Emily Reynolds, NMFS Pacific Islands Regional Office; 1845 Wasp Blvd., Bldg. 176, Honolulu, HI 96818; telephone: 808-725-5039; facsimile: 808-725-5215; email: emily.reynolds@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In accordance with the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Convention Implementation Act (16 U.S.C. 6901 *et seq.*), the PAC, has been formed to advise the U.S. Commissioners to the WCPFC. The PAC is composed of: (i) not less than 15 nor more than 20 individuals appointed by the Secretary of Commerce in consultation with the U.S. Commissioners to the WCPFC; (ii) the chair of the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council's Advisory Committee (or the chair's designee); and (iii) officials from the fisheries management authorities of American Samoa, Guam, and the Northern Mariana Islands (or their designees). The PAC supports the work of the U.S. National Section to the WCPFC in an advisory capacity. The U.S. National Section is made up of the U.S. Commissioners and the Department of State. NMFS Pacific Islands Regional Office provides administrative and technical support to the PAC in cooperation with the Department of State. More information on the WCPFC, established under the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean, can

be found on the WCPFC website: <https://www.wcpfc.int>.

Meeting Topics

The PAC meeting topics may include the following: (1) outcomes of the 2022 annual session of the WCPFC and 2023 sessions of the WCPFC Scientific Committee, Northern Committee, and Technical and Compliance Committee; (2) issues to be considered in the WCPFC 2023 annual session; (3) potential U.S. proposals to the WCPFC 2023 annual session; (4) input and advice from the PAC on issues that may arise at the WCPFC 2023 annual session; (5) potential proposals from other WCPFC members; and (6) other issues.

Special Accommodations

The meeting is accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Emily Reynolds at 808-725-5039 by September 18, 2023.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 6902 *et seq.*

Dated: July 27, 2023.

Jennifer M. Wallace,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XD201]

Marine Mammals; File No. 27128

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

ACTION: Notice; receipt of application.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Tamara McGuire, Ph.D., 310 W 123rd Avenue, Anchorage, AK 99515, has applied in due form for a permit to conduct research on the endangered Cook Inlet distinct population segment (DPS) of beluga whales (*Delphinapterus leucas*).

DATES: Written comments must be received on or before August 31, 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. 27128 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. 27128 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: Amy Hapeman or Erin Markin, Ph.D., (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).

Dr. McGuire requests a 5-year permit to continue to conduct research on the endangered DPS of beluga whales in Cook Inlet, Alaska. The purpose of the research is to identify individual whales and to provide information about movement patterns, habitat use, survivorship, reproduction, and population size of Cook Inlet beluga whales. Researchers would conduct up to 1,600 approaches by vessel that may result in Level B harassment for observations, photography, and photo-identification of whales annually. Up to 100 harbor seals (*Phoca vitulina*) annually could be unintentionally harassed during surveys.

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: July 26, 2023.

Julia M. Harrison,

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

[FR Doc. 2023-16210 Filed 7-31-23; 8:45 am]

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