

(ne.rw.survey@noaa.gov), or NOAA via phone (866-755-6622), or the U.S. Coast Guard (Channel 16);

- All vessels would adhere to a 10-knot speed limit when transiting dynamic management areas, transiting areas closed to vertical lines, and/or when whales are observed;
- All vessels would adhere to current approach regulations that create a 500-yard (1,500-feet (ft)) buffer zone in the presence of a surfacing right whale and would depart immediately at a safe and slow speed. Hauling any fishing gear would cease once the entire string or trawl was aboard the vessel, to accommodate the regulation, and be redeployed only after it was reasonable to assume the whale left the area; and
- Law enforcement would be able to inspect gear at any time because one traditional surface-marking would be present at all times. The PI would notify law enforcement agencies (NOAA Office of Law Enforcement (OLE) and Maine Marine Patrol) of project participants and activities in advance of the project start date, including:
 - Materials related to the redeployment of alternative gear-retrieval systems, most relevant to the spring-tagline retrieval system; and
 - Information necessary to continue relevant enforcement operations with participant gear.

If approved, the applicant may request minor modifications and extensions to the EFP throughout the year. EFP modifications and extensions may be granted without further notice if they are deemed essential to facilitate completion of the proposed research and have minimal impacts that do not change the scope or impact of the initially approved EFP request. Any fishing activity conducted outside the scope of the exempted fishing activity would be prohibited.

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

Dated: March 7, 2024.

Everett Wayne Baxter,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RTID 0648-XD796

Marine Mammals and Endangered Species; File No. 27671

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 Northwest Fisheries Science Center, Marine Forensic Laboratory, 2725 Montlake Blvd. East, Seattle, WA 98112 (Kevin Werner, Ph.D., Responsible Party), has applied in due form for a permit to receive, import, and export marine mammal and protected species parts for scientific research.

DATES: Written, telefaxed, or email comments must be received on or before April 12, 2024.

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. 27671 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. 27671 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: Malcolm Mohead or Jennifer Skidmore, (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.*), the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered and threatened species (50 CFR parts 222-226), and the Fur Seal Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1151 *et seq.*).

The applicant proposes to receive, import, and export samples from up to 100 individual animals from each species of all cetaceans, pinnipeds (excluding walrus), sea turtles (in water), coral, and individual species of fish and abalone listed under the ESA including: black and white abalone, Pacific and Atlantic salmonids, sawfish, sturgeon, sharks, grouper, rockfish, guitarfish, and totoaba. Receipt, import,

and export is requested worldwide. Sources of samples may include animal strandings in foreign countries, foreign and domestic subsistence harvests, captive animals, other authorized persons or collections, incidentally bycaught animals, transfers from law enforcement, and marine mammals that died incidental to commercial fishing operations in the U.S. and foreign countries, where such take is legal. Samples would be archived at the Marine Forensics Laboratories in either Charleston, South Carolina, Seattle, Washington, and Ashland, Oregon. Samples would be used for research, supporting law enforcement actions, and outreach and education. No live takes from the wild would be authorized. 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: March 7, 2024.

Julia Marie Harrison,

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

[FR Doc. 2024-05261 Filed 3-12-24; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

Board of Visitors, National Defense University; Notice of Federal Advisory Committee Meeting

AGENCY: Office of the Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff, Department of Defense (DoD).

ACTION: Notice of Federal advisory committee meeting.

SUMMARY: The DoD is publishing this notice to announce that the following Federal Advisory Committee meeting of the Board of Visitors, National Defense University (BoV NDU) will take place.

DATES: Thursday, April 18, 2024 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. Eastern Time (ET).

ADDRESSES: Marshall Hall, Building 62, Room 155, the National Defense