

Proposed Renewal IHA and Request for Public Comment

As a result of these preliminary determinations, NMFS proposes to issue a renewal IHA to IWO for conducting marine site characterization with HRG surveys off the coast of New York and New Jersey in the New York Bight from July 31, 2024, through July 30, 2025, provided the previously described mitigation, monitoring, and reporting requirements are incorporated. A draft of the proposed and final initial IHA can be found at <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/permit/incidental-take-authorizations-under-marine-mammal-protection-act>. We request comment on our analyses, the proposed renewal IHA, and any other aspect of this notice. Please include with your comments any supporting data or literature citations to help inform our final decision on the request for MMPA authorization.

Dated: July 12, 2024.

Kimberly Damon-Randall,

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

[FR Doc. 2024-15706 Filed 7-16-24; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XE079]

Marine Mammals; File No. 28080

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 Oregon Coast Aquarium, 2820 SE Ferry Slip Rd., Newport, Oregon 97365 (Responsible Party: James Burke), has applied in due form for a permit to import up to six Pacific harbor seals (*Phoca vitulina richardsi*) for public display.

DATES: Written comments must be received on or before August 16, 2024.

ADDRESSES: These documents are 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. 28080 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: Jennifer Skidmore or Courtney Smith, 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 applicant is proposing to import up to six Pacific harbor seals (two males; four females; life-stages ranging from pup to adult) from the Vancouver Aquarium's Marine Mammal Rescue Center, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, for public display purposes at the Oregon Coast Aquarium. In all cases, the seals to be imported will be non-releasable, rehabilitated seals that were found ill and stranded or abandoned within British Columbia, Canada, and deemed non-releasable to the wild. 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: July 10, 2024.

Amy Sloan,

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

[FR Doc. 2024-15698 Filed 7-16-24; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Patent and Trademark Office

[Docket No.: PTO-P-2024-0026]

2024 Guidance Update on Patent Subject Matter Eligibility, Including on Artificial Intelligence

AGENCY: Patent and Trademark Office, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Examination guidance.

SUMMARY: In accordance with Executive Order 14110 on the "Safe, Secure, and Trustworthy Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence" (October 30,

2023) (Executive Order), the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) is issuing a guidance update on patent subject matter eligibility to address innovation in critical and emerging technologies (ET), especially artificial intelligence (AI). This guidance update will assist USPTO personnel and stakeholders in evaluating the subject matter eligibility of claims in patent applications and patents involving inventions related to AI technology (AI inventions). This update also announces a new set of examples that are intended to assist USPTO personnel in applying the USPTO's subject matter eligibility guidance to AI inventions during patent examination, appeal, and post-grant proceedings. In addition to addressing issues especially relevant to AI inventions, this guidance update addresses feedback from our stakeholders and includes discussions of recent Federal Circuit decisions on patent subject matter eligibility. This guidance update, together with the guidance provided in the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP), is to be used by USPTO personnel when applying subject matter eligibility law.

DATES:

Applicability date: This guidance is effective on July 17, 2024.

Comment deadline date: Written comments must be received on or before September 16, 2024.

ADDRESSES: Comments must be submitted through the Federal eRulemaking Portal at www.regulations.gov. To submit comments via the portal, enter docket number PTO-P-2024-0026 on the homepage and select "Search." The site will provide a search results page listing all documents associated with this docket. Find a reference to this document and select the "Comment" icon, complete the required fields, and enter or attach your comments. Attachments to electronic comments will be accepted in Adobe® portable document format (PDF) or Microsoft Word® format. Because comments will be made available for public inspection, information that the submitter does not desire to make public, such as an address or phone number, should not be included in the comments.

Visit the Federal eRulemaking Portal for additional instructions on providing comments via the portal. If electronic submission of comments is not feasible due to a lack of access to a computer and/or the internet, please contact the USPTO using the contact information below for special instructions.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Carolyn Kosowski, Senior Legal