

Dated: August 24, 2016.

Jeffrey N. Lonergan,

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

[FR Doc. 2016-20692 Filed 8-26-16; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XE773

Marine Mammals; File No. 20341

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

ACTION: Notice; receipt of application.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Craig Matkin, North Gulf Oceanic Society, 3430 Main St., Suite B1, Homer, Alaska 99603, has applied in due form for a permit to conduct research on cetaceans.

DATES: Written, telefaxed, or email comments must be received on or before September 28, 2016.

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. 20341 from the list of available applications.

These documents are also available upon written request or by appointment in the Permits and Conservation Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910; phone (301) 427-8401; fax (301) 713-0376.

Written comments on this application should be submitted to the Chief, Permits and Conservation Division, at the address listed above. Comments may also be submitted by facsimile to (301) 713-0376, or by email to NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov. Please include the File No. in the subject line of the email comment.

Those individuals requesting a public hearing should submit a written request to the Chief, Permits and Conservation Division at the address listed above. The request should set forth the specific reasons why a hearing on this application would be appropriate.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Shasta McClenahan 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.*) and the regulations governing the taking and importing of marine mammals (50 CFR part 216).

The applicant proposes to continue a long-term research study of killer whales (*Orcinus orca*) in Alaskan waters, focusing on population abundance, social structure, feeding behavior, and movement patterns. Other non-ESA listed cetacean species would be studied along the North Gulf Coast of Alaska in relation to U.S. Navy testing activities. Research methods include photo-identification, passive acoustics, collection of prey remains, morphometrics, biopsy sampling, and deployment of both suction cup and dart tags. Up to 2,000 killer whales may be photographed annually, with smaller numbers of whales receiving tags or biopsy sampled. Other species to be studied include gray whales (*Eschrichtius robustus*), minke whales (*Balaenoptera acutorostrata*), Baird's beaked whales (*Berardius bairdii*), Cuvier's beaked whales (*Ziphius cavirostris*), and Stejneger's beaked whales (*Mesoplodon stenergeri*). Prey remains may be collected from up to 25 each of the following carcasses: Minke whales, gray whale, harbor porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*), Dall's porpoise (*Phocoenoides dalli*), harbor seals (*Phoca vitulina*), Pacific white-sided dolphins (*Lagenorhynchus obliquidens*), and Northern fur seals (*Callorhinus ursinus*). The permit would be valid for five years from the date of issuance.

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: August 24, 2016.

Julia Harrison,

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

[FR Doc. 2016-20614 Filed 8-26-16; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Advisory Committee for the Sustained National Climate Assessment (SNCA)

AGENCY: Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Department of Commerce (DOC)

ACTION: Notice of Federal Advisory Committee open meeting.

SUMMARY: The Advisory Committee for the Sustained National Climate Assessment (SNCA) was established by a Decision Memorandum, dated August 20, 2015. The Committee's mission is to provide advice on sustained National Climate Assessment activities and products to the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere (Under Secretary), who will forward the advice to the Director of the Office of Science Technology Policy (OSTP). The Committee will advise on the engagement of stakeholders and on sustained assessment activities and the quadrennial National Climate Assessment (NCA4) report.

Time and Date: (1) *Public Hearing.* The meeting will be held on September 13, 2016 from 12:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., September 14, 2016 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and September 15, 2016 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. There will be a 30-minute public comment period on September 13 from 4:25 to 4:55 p.m. These times and the agenda topics described below are subject to change. Please refer to the Web page <http://snca.advisorycommittee.noaa.gov/Meetings.aspx> for the most up-to-date meeting times and agenda.

(2) *Written Public Comment.* Written public comment regarding Advisory Committee for the Sustained National Climate Assessment meeting materials can be submitted to the Advisory Committee Executive Director's Office by September 6, 2016, to provide sufficient time for Advisory Committee review. Written comments received by the Executive Director after September 6, 2016, will be distributed to the Advisory Committee and may not be reviewed prior to the meeting date.

Place: The meeting will be held at Department of Commerce (DOC), Herbert C. Hoover Building (HCHB) Room 48019, 1401 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC. Please note admittance instructions under the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section of this notice.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Meeting Accessibility: Pursuant to 41 CFR 102–3.140 through 102–3.165 and the availability of space, the meeting scheduled for on September 13, 2016 from 12:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., September 14, 2016 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and September 15, 2016 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at DOC is open to the public.

New Visitor Access Requirement: For participants attending in person, please note that federal agencies, including DOC, can only accept a non-expired state-issued driver's license or identification card for access to federal facilities if such license or identification card is issued by a state that is compliant with the REAL ID Act of 2005 (*Pub. L. 109–13*), or by a state that has an extension for REAL ID compliance. DOC currently accepts other forms of federal-issued identification in lieu of a state-issued driver's license. Driver's licenses from six states and territories are not compliant and will not be accepted as identification: Minnesota, Illinois, Missouri, Washington, and American Samoa. In addition, DOC will accept only enhanced driver's licenses (identified by the American Flag on the face of the card) from two states: Minnesota and Washington State. For a list of alternative identification, please visit: http://www.nist.gov/public_affairs/visitor/.

Non U.S. Citizens Please Note: All foreign national visitors who do not have permanent resident status and who wish to register for the above meeting must supply additional information. Failure to provide this information prior to arrival will result, at a minimum, in significant delays (up to 24 hours) in entering the facility. Authority to gather this information is derived from United States Department of Commerce Department Administrative Order (DAO) number 207–12. When on-line registration is open, the required Foreign National form and instructions for transmittal via secure file transfer will be available. The Foreign National form needs to be submitted at least 7 business days in advance of the meeting.

Written Comments: Pursuant to section 10(a)(3) of the FACA and 41 CFR 102–3.105(j) and 102–3.140, the public or interested organizations may submit written comments to the Advisory Committee in response to the stated agenda and meeting material. Meeting material, including work products will be made available on the Advisory Committee's Web site: <http://sncaadvisorycommittee.noaa.gov/Meetings.aspx>.

Oral Comments: In addition to written statements, members of the public may

present oral comments at 4:25 p.m. on September 13, 2016. Those individuals interested in making oral comments should indicate their intent through the registration form and time will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. Time allotted for an individual's comment period will be limited to no more than 3 minutes. If the number of registrants requesting to speak is greater than can be reasonably accommodated during the scheduled public comment periods, written comments can be submitted in lieu of oral comments. The Advisory Committee expects that public statements presented at its meetings will not be repetitive of previously submitted verbal or written statements.

Registration: Individuals and entities who wish to attend the public meeting are required to pre-register for the meeting by completing the online registration form: <http://sncaadvisorycommittee.noaa.gov/Meetings.aspx>. Anyone wishing to attend this meeting must register by 5:00 p.m. (EST), Tuesday, September 6, 2016. Registered attendees will receive security and campus instructions prior to the workshop. On-site registration will not be available for this meeting. Please note that seating is limited for public attendees, and will be granted on a first come first serve basis.

Additional Information: The Department of Commerce welcomes the attendance of the public at its advisory committee meetings and will make every effort to accommodate persons with physical disabilities or special needs. If you require special accommodations, please indicate your requirements on the online registration form.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Laura Letson, Advisory Committee for the SNCA Executive Director, SSMC3, Room 11359, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910; Email: Laura.Letson@noaa.gov; or visit the Advisory Committee Web site <http://sncaadvisorycommittee.noaa.gov1178>.

Dated: August 24, 2016.

Jason Donaldson,

Chief Financial Officer, Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

[FR Doc. 2016–20705 Filed 8–26–16; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

United States Patent and Trademark Office

[Docket No.: PTO–P–2016–0026]

Request for Comments and Notice of Roundtable Event on Leveraging Electronic Resources To Retrieve Information From Applicant's Other Applications and Streamline Patent Issuance

AGENCY: United States Patent and Trademark Office, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) is continuing its efforts to expedite and improve the overall patent process. Accordingly, the USPTO is exploring how to best utilize available electronic resources to provide examiners with information (e.g., prior art, search reports, etc.) from applicant's other applications as early as possible to increase patent examination quality and efficiency. These other applications, for example, could have the same or substantially the same disclosure (e.g., domestic parent and counterpart foreign applications) as the U.S. application being examined. In addition to improving patent examination quality and efficiency, providing the examiner with this information from applicant's other applications will reduce applicant's burden to provide this information to the USPTO.

Further, the USPTO is seeking to reduce the issuance time of a patent by eliminating potentially unnecessary information from the front page of the patent. In particular, the USPTO is seeking public comment on what information, beyond a copy of the specification and drawing that is required by statute, should be part of the patent considering that complete information concerning U.S. patents and U.S. patent application publications are accessible to the public via the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system.

To assist the USPTO in determining the best way to address these two topics, the USPTO is hosting a roundtable event to obtain public input. The roundtable will be open for any member of the public and will provide a forum for a discussion of the questions identified in this notice. Written comments in response to these questions set forth in this Notice also are requested.

DATES: *Event Date:* The roundtable will be held on September 28, 2016,