

the U.S. Section of the Council for a term beginning in June 2018 and ending in June 2020.

DATES: All applications must be received by the Office of North America by 5:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time (EST) on April 30, 2018.

ADDRESSES: Please submit applications to Leslie Wilson, International Trade Specialist, Office of North America, U.S. Department of Commerce either by email at Leslie.Wilson@trade.gov (preferred method) or by mail to U.S. Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Avenue NW, Room 30014, Washington, DC 20230.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Leslie Wilson, Office of North America, U.S. Department of Commerce, telephone: (202) 482-0704, email: Leslie.Wilson@trade.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The U.S. Department of Commerce, the U.S. Department of Energy, the Ministry of Economy of the United Mexican States, and the Ministry of Energy of the United Mexican States established the Council in March 2016. The objective of the Council is to bring together representatives of the respective energy industries of the United States and Mexico to discuss issues of mutual interest, particularly ways to strengthen the economic and commercial ties between energy industries in the two countries, and communicating actionable, non-binding recommendations to the U.S. and Mexican Governments.

For more information, please consult the Terms of Reference of the Council (copy and paste link into browser): [https://www.trade.gov/hled/documents/Signed%20US-MEX%20Energy%20Business%20Council%20Terms%20\(May%202016%20-%20English\).pdf](https://www.trade.gov/hled/documents/Signed%20US-MEX%20Energy%20Business%20Council%20Terms%20(May%202016%20-%20English).pdf).

The Department of Commerce is seeking applicants for membership on the U.S. Section of the Council. Each applicant must be a senior representative (e.g., Chief Executive Officer, Vice President, Regional Manager, Senior Director, or holder of a similar position) of a U.S.-owned or controlled individual company, trade association, or private sector organization that is incorporated in and has its main headquarters in the United States and whose activities include a focus on the manufacture, production, commercialization and/or trade in goods and services for the energy industry in Mexico. Each applicant must also be a U.S. citizen, or otherwise legally authorized to work in the United States, and be able to travel to Mexico or locations in the United States to attend Council meetings, as well as U.S.

Section and Committee meetings. In addition, the applicant may not be a registered foreign agent under the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended.

Applications for membership in the U.S. Section by eligible individuals, including applications by current U.S. section members for reappointment, will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- A demonstrated commitment by the entity to be represented to the Mexican market, including as applicable either through exports or investment.
- A demonstrated strong interest in Mexico and its economic development.
- The ability to offer to the work of the Council a broad perspective and business experience specific to the energy industry.
- The ability to address cross-cutting issues that affect the entity's entire energy industry sub-sector.
- The ability to dedicate organizational resources to initiate and be responsible for activities in which the Council will be active.

U.S. Section members will also be selected on the basis of who is best qualified to carry out the objectives of the Council to:

- Promote increased two-way investment in the energy industry;
- Promote two-way trade in goods and services produced by and used in the energy industry, including the oil and gas, renewable energy, electricity, nuclear energy, and energy efficiency sub-sectors;
- Promote the development of binational value chains in the production of goods and services in the energy sector;
- Promote the development of modern energy infrastructure and bolster energy efficiency and security;
- Foster an enabling environment for the rapid development, deployment, and integration of new energy industry technologies—including clean renewable energy technologies—into the marketplace;
- Improve competitiveness through innovation and entrepreneurship in the energy industry, to include the promotion of technology exchanges and research partnerships; and
- Partner in skills development to create solutions in training and education to address evolving energy industry workforce needs.

In selecting members of the U.S. Section, the U.S. Government selection committee, composed of representatives from the Department of Commerce and

the Department of Energy, will attempt to ensure that the Section represents a cross-section of small, medium-sized and large firms.

U.S. Section members will receive no compensation for their participation in Council-related activities. They shall not be considered as special government employees. Individual U.S. Section members will be responsible for all travel and related expenses associated with their participation in the Council, including attendance at Committee and Section meetings. Only appointed U.S. Section members may participate in Council meetings; substitutes and alternates may not be designated. U.S. Section members are expected to serve for two-year terms, but may be reappointed.

To apply for membership in the U.S. Section, please submit the following information as instructed in the **ADDRESS** and **DATES** captions above:

- Name(s) and title(s) of the applicant;
- Name and address of the headquarters of the entity that employs the applicant;
- Location of incorporation or establishment;
- Size of the represented entity, in terms of annual sales and number of employees;
- As applicable, the size of the entity's export trade, investment, and nature of operations or interest in Mexico; and
- A brief statement of why the applicant should be considered, including information about the applicant's ability to initiate and be responsible for activities in which the Council will be active.

All applicants will be notified of whether they have been selected once the application window closes and selection of U.S. Section members has been made.

Dated: February 21, 2018.

Geri Word,

Director for the Office of North America.

[FR Doc. 2018-03937 Filed 2-26-18; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-HE-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

The Department of Commerce will submit to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for clearance the following proposal for collection of information under the provisions of the

Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35).

Agency: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Title: Economic Impacts of Hawaii Reef Diving and Snorkeling.

OMB Control Number: 0648–xxxx.

Form Number(s): None.

Type of Request: Regular (request for a new information collection).

Number of Respondents: 4,150.

Average Hours per Response: 10 minutes.

Burden Hours: 692.

Needs and Uses: This request is for a new collection of information.

The objective of the survey will be to understand divers' and snorkelers' expenditures associated with recreational coral reef diving activities in Hawaii. The survey will also collect information on divers' attitudes, preferences, and concerns about recreational diving and coral reefs health in Hawaii. We are conducting this survey to improve our understanding of divers' expenditure patterns and to estimate the economic impact of coral reef related spending. Results of the survey will be used to inform coastal resource management planning and establish a baseline for outreach and education. The expenditure survey is also expected to provide useful information for local economic and business interests. A similar survey (OMB Control No. 0648–0746) was implemented in south Florida and was successfully completed in November 2017.

Affected Public: Individuals or households.

Frequency: One time.

Respondent's Obligation: Voluntary.

This information collection request may be viewed at reginfo.gov. Follow the instructions to view Department of Commerce collections currently under review by OMB.

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to OIRA_Submission@omb.eop.gov or fax to (202) 395–5806.

Dated: February 21, 2018.

Sarah Brabson,

NOAA PRA Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 2018–03878 Filed 2–26–18; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648–XG028

Marine Mammals; File No. 21238

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 Center for Whale Research (Responsible Party: Kenneth Balcomb III), 355 Smuggler's Cove Road, Friday Harbor, WA, 98250, has applied in due form for a permit to conduct research on marine mammals.

DATES: Written, telefaxed, or email comments must be received on or before March 29, 2018.

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. 21238 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 Amy Hapeman, (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 take 19 species of cetaceans and four species of pinnipeds primarily in the inland marine waters of Washington State, may also include territorial waters up to 200 miles offshore of Oregon, California, and Alaska. The ESA listed species include blue (*Balaenoptera musculus*), fin (*B. physalus*), (*Megaptera novaeangliae*), North Pacific right (*Eubalaena japonica*), sperm (*Physeter macrocephalus*), and Southern Resident killer (*Orcinus orca*) whales, and the Western stock of Steller sea lions (*Eumetopias jubatus*). The primary objective of the research is to monitor the population size, demographics, range, movement, social structure, health, and body condition of Southern resident killer whales, and secondarily, to monitor the population size and demographics of other marine mammals in the study area. Research activities would include manned and unmanned aerial surveys and vessel surveys for counts, photography, photo-identification, video recording, observation, passive acoustic recording, and opportunistic sampling of sloughed skin, feces, and predation remains. The permit would expire five years after 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: February 21, 2018.

Julia Harrison,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

The Department of Commerce will submit to the Office of Management and