

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$129 in recordkeeping and reporting costs.

IV. Request for Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection; they also will become a matter of public record.

Dated: September 28, 2018.

Sarah Brabson,

NOAA PRA Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 2018-21522 Filed 10-5-18; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XG499

Endangered Species; File No. 22218

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 NMFS Northeast Fisheries Science Center, 166 Water Street, Woods Hole, MA 02543 [Responsible Party: Dr. Jon Hare], has applied in due form for a permit to take green (*Chelonia mydas*), Kemp's ridley (*Lepidochelys kempii*), leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*), loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*), and unidentified hardshell sea turtles for purposes of scientific research.

DATES: Written, telefaxed, or email comments must be received on or before November 8, 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. 22218 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:

Amy Hapeman or Erin Markin, (301) 427-8401.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The subject permit is requested under the authority of 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 requests a 10-year permit to conduct research on sea turtles in the Northwest Atlantic Ocean in its coastal and estuarine environments from North Carolina to Maine and international waters. The objectives of the research are to (1) identify sea turtle stocks and breeding population origins for juvenile through adult life stages, (2) improve knowledge of sea turtle life history, vital rates, and sex ratios, (3) identify important marine habitats, (4) estimate sea turtle distribution and abundance, (5) assess anthropogenic impacts to sea turtles, and (6) provide data to assist in agency mitigation and monitoring efforts. Researchers request 100 takes of each species and 75 unidentified sea turtles annually for harassment during aerial (manned and unmanned) and vessel surveys for sighting, counting, and monitoring animals and methods that do not result in capture—remote scanning for PIT tags, remote suction cup tagging, observation, photography, photogrammetry, and tracking. Researchers request to capture (by hand, dip net, cast net, encirclement net, hoop net or seine) or obtain from other legal

sources up to 74 green, 90 Kemp's ridley, 72 leatherback, one unidentified, and 115 loggerhead sea turtles annually for study; each animal may be recaptured two times a year for monitoring and removing gear. These animals may be observed via manned and unmanned aircraft prior to capture, and examined, measured, marked, biologically sampled, and have up to two transmitters attached prior to release. Animals may be temporarily observed via a remotely operated vehicle underwater after release. Sea turtle parts, tissues and carcasses from 500 animals annually may be received, imported or exported for study.

Dated: October 3, 2018.

Julia Marie Harrison,

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

[FR Doc. 2018-21852 Filed 10-5-18; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Announcement for the Upcoming Small Business Innovation Research Program (SBIR) Notice of Funding Opportunity and Procurement Award Changes for Fiscal Year 2019 and Beyond

AGENCY: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR), Technology Partnerships Office (TPO), Department of Commerce (DOC).

ACTION: Notice of awards process change and announcement of upcoming Small Business Innovation Research grants opportunity for FY 2019.

The U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) will be processing all Small Business Innovation Research Program (SBIR) awards as grants beginning in FY 2019. Our goals are:

1. To transition the SBIR award process from acquisition (Contracts) to financial assistance (Grants), in order to:
 - a. Expand the scope of SBIR research projects, allowing more creativity on the part of interested small businesses and generating interest beyond "veteran" SBIR participants; and

- b. Streamlining the award and funds distribution processes, refining NOAA's internal operations and facilitating prompt and seamless payments for participating small businesses.

2. To provide Phase I awards as grants in FY 2019 and all new NOAA SBIR awards, Phase I and Phase II, in FY 2020 and beyond.

For over thirty years—since FY 1985—NOAA has awarded contracts to small, science and technology-focused companies under the Small Business Administration (SBA) administered Small Business Innovation Research Program. Historically, NOAA has carried out the goals and directives of the program using contract procurement processes. However, given the increased emphasis for broader participation, specially by socially and economically disadvantaged persons and women-owned small businesses, NOAA aims to meet these programmatic goals by broadening the potential research areas and engendering more innovative solutions that have potential for the commercial market.

The SBIR program is a highly competitive program that encourages domestic small businesses to engage in Federal Research/Research and Development with the potential for commercialization. Through a competitive awards-based program, SBIR enables small businesses to explore their technological potential and provides the incentive to profit from its commercialization. By including qualified small businesses in the nation's research and development arena, high-tech innovation is stimulated and the United States gains entrepreneurial spirit as it meets its specific research and development needs.

Beginning in FY19, however, all new Phase I awards will be made through a competitive grants process. During Phase I of the NOAA SBIR Program, small businesses are invited to submit innovative research proposals related to the research topic areas derived from the Department of Commerce Strategic Plan, 2018–2022, <https://www.commerce.gov/file/us-department-commerce-2018-2022-strategic-plan>. While the specific subtopics that NOAA seeks to fund through the SBIR program will be available at time of the funding opportunity announcement, the broader topic areas are as follows:

1. Aquaculture
2. Recreational and Commercial Fisheries
3. Weather Service Improvement and Evolution
4. NOAA Big Data Partnerships
5. Next Generation NOAA Platforms
6. Next Generation Observation and Modeling Systems
7. Floods

Phase I gives small businesses the opportunity to establish technical merit,

feasibility, and proof of concept for the proposed innovative solution. At NOAA SBIR, we anticipate awarding multiple Phase I grants, with a period of performance of six (6) months and a not-to-exceed value of \$120,000.00 each. Any organizations or individuals receiving grants under Phase I is eligible to compete for a follow-up Phase II award.

The FY19 SBIR Phase I Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) will be issued on or about October 22, 2018. The NAICS Code for this acquisition is 541715. The NOAA SBIR NOFO will be available on the [Grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov) website. *Please do not submit questions regarding this specific NOFO at this time.* More detailed topic/subtopic information will be available in the NOFO when it is published. After the release of this funding announcement, it will be the offeror's responsibility to monitor [Grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov) for any amendments or updates.

The NOFO is a restricted eligibility solicitation which is limited to small businesses. For purposes of this upcoming NOFO announcement for NOAA SBIR, eligibility requirements can be found on <http://www.sbir.gov>. NOAA plans to select for award the application(s) judged to be of the highest overall merit, with consideration given to the quality of the technical approach, innovation, commercial-potential, and company/personnel experience and qualifications.

All potential grantees must be registered with the federal government System for Award Management (SAM) through the [SAM.gov](http://sam.gov) website (formerly the Central Contractor Registration database). No award can be made unless the vendor is registered in [SAM.gov](http://sam.gov). For additional information and to register in SAM, please go to <https://sam.gov/> or call 1-866-606-8220. In order to register in SAM and to be eligible to receive an award from this acquisition office, all offerors must have a Dun & Bradstreet Universal Systems (DUNS) Number. A DUNS number may be acquired free of charge by contacting Dun & Bradstreet on-line at <http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform>.

Grant applicants must obtain a DUNS number and register in the SAM prior to submitting an application pursuant to 2 CFR 25.200(b). If the applicant does not provide documentation that they are registered in SAM and their DUNS number, the application will not be considered for funding. In addition, an entity applicant must maintain registration in SAM at all times during which it has an active Federal award or an application or plan under consideration by the Agency.

Additional information concerning DUNS and SAM can be obtained on the [Grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov) website at <http://www.grants.gov>. In addition, [Grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov) provides access to technical support by calling 800-518-4726 or emailing support@grants.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Vince Garcia, SBIR Program Manager at vince.garcia@noaa.gov.

Dated: October 2, 2018.

David Holst,

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

[FR Doc. 2018-21788 Filed 10-5-18; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-KA-P

CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION

[CPSC Docket No. 19-C0001]

Costco Wholesale Corporation, Provisional Acceptance of a Settlement Agreement and Order

AGENCY: Consumer Product Safety Commission.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: It is the policy of the Commission to publish settlements which it provisionally accepts under the Consumer Product Safety Act in the **Federal Register** in accordance with the terms of the Consumer Product Safety Commission's regulations. Published below is a provisionally-accepted Settlement Agreement with Costco Wholesale Corporation, containing a civil penalty in the amount of \$3.85 million dollars (\$3,850,000), to be paid within thirty (30) days of service of the Commission's final Order accepting the Settlement Agreement.

DATES: Any interested person may ask the Commission not to accept this agreement or otherwise comment on its contents by filing a written request with the Office of the Secretary by October 24, 2018.

ADDRESSES: Persons wishing to comment on this Settlement Agreement should send written comments to the Comment 19-C0001, Office of the Secretary, Consumer Product Safety Commission, 4330 East-West Highway, Room 820, Bethesda, Maryland 20814-4408.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Michele Melnick, Trial Attorney, Division of Compliance, Office of the General Counsel, Consumer Product Safety Commission, 4330 East-West Highway, Bethesda, Maryland 20814-4408; telephone (301) 504-7592.