

**Federal Register** (80 FR 27928) that a request for a permit to conduct commercial or educational photography on long-beaked common dolphins (*Delphinus capensis*), short-beaked common dolphins (*Delphinus delphis*), Risso's dolphins (*Grampus griseus*), bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*), harbor seals (*Phoca vitulina*), California sea lions (*Zalophus californianus*), Northern elephant seals (*Mirounga angustirostris*), Steller sea lions (*Eumetopias jubatus*), and Northern fur seals (*Callorhinus ursinus*) had been submitted by the above-named applicant. The requested permit has been issued under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) and the regulations governing the taking and importing of marine mammals (50 CFR part 216).

The permit authorizes filming of marine mammals along the California coast from Point Año Nuevo south to the Channel Islands. Cetaceans may be filmed from boats and pole cameras. Pinnipeds may be filmed from boats, pole cameras, underwater divers, and while hauled out on land. Footage will be used for a *Big Blue Live* television series examining marine issues and conservation successes along the coast of California. The permit is valid until September 30, 2015.

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), a final determination has been made that the activity proposed is categorically excluded from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement.

Dated: July 7, 2015.

**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 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:* Submission of Conservation Efforts to Make Listings Unnecessary under the Endangered Species Act under the Policy for Evaluation of Conservation Efforts when Making Listing Decisions.

*OMB Control Number:* 0648-0466.

*Form Number(s):* None.

*Type of Request:* Regular (extension of a currently approved information collection).

*Number of Respondents:* 3.

*Average Hours per Response:* 2,500 hours per agreement or plan; 320 hours to conduct monitoring for successful agreements; and 80 hours to prepare a report for successful agreements.

*Burden Hours:* 3,300.

*Needs and Uses:* This request is for extension of a currently approved information collection.

On March 28, 2003, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Services) announced a final policy on the criteria the Services will use to evaluate conservation efforts by states and other non-Federal entities (68 FR 15100). The Services take these efforts into account when making decisions on whether to list a species as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act. The efforts usually involve the development of a conservation plan or agreement, procedures for monitoring the effectiveness of the plan or agreement, and an annual report.

*Affected Public:* State, local or tribal government; business or other for-profit organizations.

*Frequency:* On occasion.

*Respondent's Obligation:* Voluntary.

This information collection request may be viewed at [reginfo.gov](http://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](mailto:OIRA_Submission@omb.eop.gov) or fax to (202) 395-5806.

Dated: July 7, 2015.

**Sarah Brabson,**

NOAA PRA Clearance Officer.

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XD826

#### Marine Mammals; File No. 17967

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

**ACTION:** Notice; issuance of permit amendment.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that a permit has been issued to Minnesota Zoological Gardens (MZG), 13000 Zoo Blvd., Apple Valley, MN 55124, to conduct research on and enhancement of Hawaiian monk seals (*Neomonachus schauinslandi*) in captivity.

**ADDRESSES:** The permit and related documents are available for review 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.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Amy Sloan or Jennifer Skidmore, (301) 427-8401.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On March 23, 2015, notice was published in the **Federal Register** (80 FR 15190) that a request for a permit to maintain the species identified for research and enhancement purposes had been submitted by the above-named applicant. The requested permit has been issued under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (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 permit authorizes MZG to maintain up to eight nonreleasable Hawaiian monk seals in captivity at the MZG. Permitted research includes: (1) Annual blood samples and nasal swabs to be analyzed for presence of West Nile virus, canine distemper virus, and phocine distemper virus in seals previously vaccinated; and (2) testing various sedatives to inform use in the wild population. Seals may be used in research projects authorized under separate permits. MZG will continue public awareness on the status of the species through education and public observation of the seals. The permit expires May 1, 2020.