

California; and (3) along the Western Antarctic Peninsula. The objectives are to determine the density and distribution of non-listed pinnipeds using risk adverse and low impact technology. The LOC expires on November 15, 2022.

File No. 19826-02: Issued to Deanna Rees, Naval Undersea Warfare Center, Division Newport, 1176 Howell Street, Newport, RI 02841 on November 28, 2017, to conduct ground and vessel surveys, photo-identification, and behavioral observations of gray, harbor, and harp seals in Virginia and Narragansett Bay, RI. The amended LOC changes the Principal Investigator. The objectives do not change from those authorized under LOC No. 19826-01. The LOC expires on January 31, 2021.

File No. 19613: Issued to Eric Zolman, NOAA National Ocean Service, Hollings Marine Laboratory, 331 Ft. Johnson, Charleston, SC, 29412-9110 on December 21, 2017, to conduct research on bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*) within coastal waters of the southeastern United States (including the western North Atlantic and northern Gulf of Mexico). Dolphins may be closely approached during vessel surveys for the purposes of photo-identification and behavioral observations to address the following objectives: (1) To estimate abundance of specific inshore bottlenose dolphin stocks; (2) to better define stock boundaries in targeted regions; and (3) to assess the status and health of targeted dolphin populations. The LOC expires on January 1, 2023.

File No. 18101-03: Issued to Jens Currie, Pacific Whale Foundation, 300 Ma'alaea Rd., Suite 211, Wailuku, HI 96793 on March 23, 2018. The amended Letter of Confirmation changes the Principal Investigator and applicant, and extends the LOC by one year for vessel-based research activities on cetaceans within the Maui-4 islands area. The objectives do not change from those authorized under LOC No. 18101-02. The LOC expires on June 21, 2019.

File No. 21932: Issued to Jessica Taylor, Outer Banks Center for Dolphin Research, 310 West Eden St., Kill Devil Hills, NC 27948 on April 4, 2018, to conduct vessel surveys of bottlenose dolphins in the waters of northern North Carolina. Animals may be approached for photo-identification, behavioral observations, and focal follows. The objective of the research is to continue to monitor the presence, identity, ecology, and behavior of bottlenose dolphins in the area. The LOC expires on April 30, 2023.

File No. 21889: Issued to Lesley Thorne, Ph.D., School of Marine and

Atmospheric Sciences, Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, NY, 11794 on April 23, 2018, to conduct vessel and unmanned aircraft system (UAS) surveys of 18 cetacean species. Animals may be approached for photo-identification, photogrammetry, behavioral observations, and abundance estimates. Research may occur in the New York Bight up to 120 nm offshore. The objective of the research is to provide detailed species-level information on the abundance, distribution, movements and body condition of cetaceans within the study area to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation as part of an offshore monitoring program. The LOC expires on July 30, 2023.

File No. 21556: Issued to Stephen McCulloch, Dolphins Plus, 31 Corrine Place, Key Largo, FL 33037 on May 14, 2018 to conduct vessel surveys targeting bottlenose dolphins to include close approach for counts, photo-identification, video recording, and behavioral observations in the Upper Florida Keys, between North Key Largo to Islamorada, FL. The objectives of the research are to provide a contemporary account of common bottlenose dolphins utilizing the Upper Florida Keys. The LOC expires on May 15, 2023.

File No. 22198: Issued to Samuel Wasser, Ph.D., Center for Conservation Biology, University of Washington, Seattle, WA 98195 on May 22, 2018, to conduct boat-based vessel surveys targeting killer whales (*Orcinus orca*, West Coast Transient stock) within the inland waters of Washington State. Whales may be approached during focal follows for photo-identification, behavioral observations, and fecal sample collection. The objective of the research is to, through analysis of feces, address the physiologic measures of nutritional stress with variation in prey abundance, toxicant levels and boat traffic to endpoint measures such as successful birth outcomes and annual mortality. The LOC expires on July 15, 2019.

File No. 20519-01: Issued to Peggy Stap, Marine Life Studies, P.O. Box 884, Monterey, CA 93942-0884 on June 27, 2018. The amended LOC allows for the use of small UAS to determine the number of marine mammals in a group and for photogrammetry of Transient and Offshore killer whales. The objectives do not change from those authorized under LOC 20519. The LOC expires on December 31, 2021.

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 activities are categorically excluded

from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement.

Dated: October 24, 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

Public Meeting for Recommending a National Estuarine Research Reserve Site in Connecticut's Lower Connecticut River and Eastern Long Island Sound

AGENCY: Office for Coastal Management, National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Public meeting notice.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that a public meeting will be held for the purpose of providing information and receiving comments on the preliminary recommendation by the State of Connecticut that portions of the Lower Connecticut River and Eastern Long Island Sound be proposed to NOAA for designation as a National Estuarine Research Reserve.

The public meeting will be held at 6 p.m. on November 13, 2018 in the Academic Building Auditorium at the University of Connecticut's Avery Point campus, located at 1084 Shennecossett Rd, Groton, CT 06340.

The state agencies holding the meeting: The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's Coastal Management Program; the University of Connecticut; and Connecticut Sea Grant. NOAA's Office for Coastal Management will assist with the meeting.

The proposed research reserve site is comprised of the following state-owned properties: Lord Cove Wildlife Management Area; Great Island Wildlife Management Area; Bluff Point State Park and Coastal Reserve and Natural Area Preserve; Haley Farm State Park; and the public trust portions of waterbodies defined by:

(a) Long Island Sound ranging approximately west to east from the mouth of the Connecticut River to Mason's Island and north to south waterward of the mean high water

shoreline to just shy of the Connecticut state boundary in Long Island Sound;

(b) the area waterward of the mean high shoreline of the lower Thames River from approximately the Gold Star Bridge south to the area described in (a);

(c) the area waterward of the mean high shoreline of the lower Connecticut River from approximately Lord Cove south to the area described in (a).

The views of interested persons and organizations regarding the proposed site recommendation are solicited. This information may be expressed orally and in written statements. A presentation about the proposed site and the National Estuarine Research Reserve System will be provided.

Written comments may be also be sent to: Kevin O'Brien, Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection—Land & Water Resources Division, 79 Elm Street, Hartford, CT 06106–5127 or to: kevin.obrien@ct.gov. All written comments must be received no later than seven calendar days following the public meeting. All comments received will be considered by the State in formally nominating a site to NOAA.

The research reserve system is a federal and state partnership program administered by the federal government, specifically the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The research reserve system currently has 29 sites and protects more than 1.3 million acres of estuarine and Great Lakes habitat for long-term research, monitoring, education, and stewardship. Established by the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, each reserve is managed by a lead state agency or university, with input from local partners. NOAA provides partial funding and national programmatic guidance.

This particular site selection effort is a culmination of several years of local, grassroots-support for a research reserve site in Connecticut. The preliminary site recommendation follows a comprehensive evaluation process that sought the views of the public, affected landowners, and other interested parties. State and local agency representatives, as well as estuarine experts, served as committee members and evaluated site proposals. The committee is recommending the Lower Connecticut River and Eastern Long Island Sound as the preferred site for the state to nominate to NOAA.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Erica Seiden, Office for Coastal Management, National Ocean Service, NOAA, 1305 East West Highway, N/OCM, Silver Spring, MD 20910 or Email: erica.seiden@noaa.gov.

Persons with disabilities please contact Michelle MarcAurele at the University of Connecticut Avery Point campus by November 6, 2018 to make arrangements. Phone: 860–405–9115, Email: michelle.marcaurele@uconn.edu.

(Federal Domestic Assistance Catalog Number 11.420 (Coastal Zone Management) Research Reserves)

Dated: October 22, 2018.

Paul M. Scholz,

Associate Assistant Administrator for Management and CFO/CAO, Ocean Services and Coastal Zone Management.

[FR Doc. 2018–23607 Filed 10–29–18; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–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: Pacific Islands Region Coral Reef Ecosystems Logbook and Reporting.

OMB Control Number: 0648–0462.

Form Number(s): None.

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

Number of Respondents: 5.

Average Hours per Response: Pre-trip and pre-landing notifications, 3 minutes; logbook reports, 30 minutes; transshipment reports, 15 minutes.

Burden Hours: 18.

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

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) requires any U.S. citizen issued a Special Coral Reef Ecosystem Fishing Permit to complete logbooks and submit them to NMFS (50 CFR 665). The Special Coral Reef Ecosystem Fishing Permit is authorized under the Fishery Ecosystem Plans for American Samoa Archipelago, Hawaiian Archipelago, Mariana Archipelago, and Pacific Remote Island Areas. The information in the logbooks is used to obtain fish catch/fishing effort data on coral reef fishes and invertebrates harvested in designated low-use marine protected areas and on those listed in the regulations as potentially-harvested

coral reef taxa in waters of the U.S. exclusive economic zone in the western Pacific region. These data are needed to determine the condition of the stocks, whether the current management measures are having the intended effects, and to evaluate the benefits and costs of changes in management measures. The logbook information includes interactions with protected species, including sea turtles, monk seals, and other marine mammals, which are used to monitor and respond to incidental takes of endangered and threatened marine species.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit organizations; individuals or households.

Frequency: On occasion.

Respondent's Obligation: Mandatory.

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: October 25, 2018.

Sarah Brabson,

NOAA PRA Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 2018–23640 Filed 10–29–18; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648–XG567

Nominations for the 2019–2022 General Advisory Committee and the Scientific Advisory Subcommittee to the United States Delegation to the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice; request for nominations.

SUMMARY: National Marine Fisheries Service, on behalf of the Secretary of Commerce, is seeking nominations for the General Advisory Committee to the U.S. delegation to the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission, as well as to a Scientific Advisory Subcommittee of the General Advisory Committee. The purpose of the General Advisory Committee and its Scientific Advisory Subcommittee is to provide public input