

0025 in the subject line of your comments. Do not submit confidential business information or otherwise sensitive or protected information.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Requests for additional information or specific questions related to collection activities should be directed to the OAR Weather Program Office, Attn: Jessie Carman, 1315 East West Hwy., Bldg. SSMC3, Silver Spring, MD 20910–3282, (202) 936–6085, [Weather.Modification@noaa.gov](mailto:Weather.Modification@noaa.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**I. Abstract**

This is a request for extension of a currently approved information collection.

The National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration's Office of Atmospheric Research (OAR)/Weather Program Office is conducting this information collection pursuant to section 6(b) of Public Law 92–205. This law requires that all non-federal weather modification activities (*e.g.*, cloud seeding) in the United States (U.S.) and its territories be reported to the Secretary of Commerce through NOAA. This reporting is critical for gauging the scope of these activities, for determining the possibility of duplicative operations or of interference with another project, for providing a database for checking atmospheric changes against the reported activities, and for providing a single source of information on the safety and environmental factors used in weather modification activities in the U.S. Two forms are collected under this OMB Control Number: one prior to and one after the activity. The requirements are detailed in 15 CFR part 908. This data is used for scientific research, historical statistics, international reports and other purposes.

**II. Method of Collection**

Respondents have a choice of either electronic or paper forms. Methods of submittal include email of electronic forms, mail and facsimile transmission of paper forms.

**III. Data**

*OMB Control Number:* 0648–0025.  
*Form Number(s):* NOAA Forms 17–4 and 17–4A.

*Type of Review:* Regular submission. Extension of a current information collection.

*Affected Public:* Business or other for-profit organizations.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 50.

*Estimated Time per Response:* 60 minutes per initial report; 30 minutes per final report.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 75 hours.

*Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public:* \$0.

*Respondent's Obligation:* Mandatory.  
*Legal Authority:* Public Law 92–205, Weather Modification Reporting Act of 1972.

**IV. Request for Comments**

We are soliciting public comments to permit the Department/Bureau to: (a) Evaluate whether the proposed information collection is necessary for the proper functions of the Department, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) Evaluate the accuracy of our estimate of the time and cost burden for this proposed collection, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) Evaluate ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) Minimize the reporting burden on those who are to respond, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments that you submit in response to this notice are a matter of public record. We will include or summarize each comment in our request to OMB to approve this ICR. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you may ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

**Sheleen Dumas,**

*Department PRA Clearance Officer, Office of the Under Secretary for Economic Affairs, Commerce Department.*

[FR Doc. 2024–00094 Filed 1–5–24; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510–KD–P**

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[RTID 0648–XD609]

**Marine Mammals; File No. 25563**

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

**ACTION:** Notice; receipt of application for permit amendment.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that the NMFS Alaska Fisheries Science Center, Marine Mammal Laboratory, 7600 Sand Point Way NE, Seattle, WA 98115 (Responsible Party: John Bengtson, Ph.D.), has applied for an amendment to Scientific Research Permit No. 25563.

**DATES:** Written comments must be received on or before February 7, 2024.

**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 home page, <https://apps.nmfs.noaa.gov>, and then selecting File No. 25563 from the list of available applications. These documents are also available upon written request via email to [NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov](mailto:NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov).

Written comments on this application should be submitted via email to [NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov](mailto:NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov). Please include File No. 25563 in the subject line of the email comment.

Those individuals requesting a public hearing should submit a written request via email to [NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov](mailto:NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov). The request should set forth the specific reasons why a hearing on this application would be appropriate.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Amy Hapeman or Shasta McClenahan, Ph.D., (301) 427–8401.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The subject amendment to Permit No. 25563 is requested 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 (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), and the Fur Seal Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1151 *et seq.*).

Permit No. 25563, issued on November 8, 2021 (86 FR 70828, December 13, 2021), authorizes the permit holder to monitor cetacean population trends, abundance, distribution, and health in the North Pacific Ocean, the Bering, Beaufort, and Chukchi Seas, and the Gulf of Maine. Researchers may conduct aerial and vessel surveys to study 20 species of cetaceans including endangered or threatened blue (*Balaenoptera musculus*), bowhead (*Balaena mysticetus*), Cook Inlet beluga (*Delphinapterus leucas*), fin (*Balaenoptera physalus*), gray (*Eschrichtius robustus*), humpback (*Megaptera novaeangliae*), North Pacific

right (*Eubalaena japonica*), sei (*Balaenoptera borealis*), Southern Resident killer (*Orcinus orca*), and sperm (*Physeter macrocephalus*) whales. Surveys are authorized for a suite of methods: observations, counts, photography/videography (underwater, topside, and aerial), photogrammetry, photo-identification, biological sampling (exhaled air, feces, blubber and skin, sloughed skin, environmental DNA, and prey remains), invasive and non-invasive tagging, and active acoustics. Researchers may attach up to two tags on a whale at a time. Biological samples collected on the high seas may be imported to the United States. Up to nine species of pinnipeds may be unintentionally harassed during surveys. See the take tables for specific numbers and life stages authorized for each species.

The permit holder is requesting the permit be amended to include authorization for blue, fin, gray, and humpback whales (adult and juvenile life stages) to receive up to three tags (suction-cup, dart/barb tag, and deep implant) at the same time. Deployment of three tags at a time will allow researchers to better understand whale movements and habitat use and to validate new sensors. The number of takes authorized for each species would not change. The amendment would be valid for the duration of the permit, which is set to expire October 31, 2026.

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 this application to the Marine Mammal Commission and its Committee of Scientific Advisors.

Dated: January 3, 2024.

**Julia M. Harrison,**

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

[FR Doc. 2024-00139 Filed 1-5-24; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

#### Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for Review and Approval; Comment Request; Alaska Pacific Halibut: Subsistence

The Department of Commerce will submit the following information collection request to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and clearance in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, on or after the date of publication of this notice. We invite the general public and other Federal agencies to comment on proposed, and continuing information collections, which helps us assess the impact of our information collection requirements and minimize the public's reporting burden. Public comments were previously requested via the **Federal Register** on August 11, 2023, during a 60-day comment period (88 FR 54574). This notice allows for an additional 30 days for public comments.

*Agency:* National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

*Title:* Alaska Pacific Halibut: Subsistence.

*OMB Control Number:* 0648-0512.

*Form Number(s):* None.

*Type of Request:* Regular submission. Extension of a current information collection.

*Number of Respondents:* 4,783.

*Average Hours per Response:*

Application for SHARC Rural Resident: 10 minutes; Application for SHARC Alaska Native Tribal Member: 10 minutes; Application for SHARC Alaska Native Tribe: 30 minutes; Subsistence Halibut Special Permits Application: 30 minutes; Harvest logs: 30 minutes; Appeal for permit denial: 4 hours; Gear marking: 30 minutes.

*Total Annual Burden Hours:* 1,673 hours.

*Needs and Uses:* The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), Alaska Regional Office, is requesting extension of a currently approved information collection for the Alaska Subsistence Halibut Program.

The International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) promulgates regulations governing the North Pacific halibut fishery under the Convention between the United States and Canada for the Preservation of the Halibut Fishery of the Northern Pacific Ocean and Bering Sea (Convention). The IPHC's regulations are subject to

approval by the Secretary of State with the concurrence of the Secretary of Commerce. The Northern Pacific Halibut Act of 1982 (Halibut Act; 16 U.S.C. 773c(a)-(b)), provides the Secretary of Commerce with general responsibility for carrying out the Convention and the Halibut Act, including the authority to adopt regulations necessary to carry out the purposes and objectives of the Convention. The Halibut Act, 16 U.S.C. 773c(c), also provides the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) with authority to develop regulations, including limited access regulations, that are in addition to, and not in conflict with, IPHC regulations.

Regulations the Council recommends may be implemented by NMFS only after approval by the Secretary of Commerce. The Council has exercised this authority in the development of subsistence halibut fishery management measures. NMFS has responsibility for managing the subsistence halibut fishery according to regulations approved by the Secretary. Regulations governing the subsistence halibut fishery are at 50 CFR 300.2, 300.4, and subpart E, and in the annual management measures published in the **Federal Register** pursuant to 50 CFR 300.62.

This information collection is necessary for NMFS to manage the Alaska Subsistence Halibut Program. Subsistence halibut means halibut caught by a rural resident or a member of an Alaska Native tribe for direct personal or family consumption as food, sharing for personal or family consumption as food, or customary trade. The Alaska Subsistence Halibut Program is intended to allow eligible persons to practice the long-term customary and traditional harvest of Pacific halibut for food in a non-commercial manner. This program provides NMFS the opportunity to enhance estimates of subsistence removals for stock assessment purposes.

Before fishing under subsistence halibut regulations, a Subsistence Halibut Registration Certificate (SHARC) must be obtained. This information collection contains the forms used by participants in the subsistence halibut fishery to apply for SHARCs, apply for special use permits, and submit harvest information for special use permits. This information collection contains two collections for which no forms are used: the appeals process for denied permits and marking subsistence setline fishing gear.

Information collected by the permit applications includes applicant information and depending on the