

comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time.

**Sheleen Dumas,**

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

[FR Doc. 2026–07619 Filed 4–17–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–08–P

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[RTID 0648–XF544]

**Marine Mammals; File No. 29418**

**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 University of Alaska Southeast, 1332 Seward Ave., Sitka, AK 99835 (Responsible Party: Lauren Wild, Ph.D.), has applied in due form for a permit to conduct research on marine mammals in Alaska.

**DATES:** Written comments must be received on or before May 20, 2026.

**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. 29418” 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. 29418” 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:** Courtney Smith, Ph.D., 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 (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.*), 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.*).

The applicant proposes to conduct research on 18 species of cetaceans in Alaska, with studies targeted on killer whales (*Orcinus orca*; including the Southern Resident Distinct Population Segment [DPS]) and three endangered species: gray (*Eschrichtius robustus*; including the Western North Pacific DPS), humpback (*Megaptera novaeangliae*; including the Western North Pacific DPS and Mexico DPS), and sperm (*Physeter macrocephalus*) whales. Four species of pinnipeds may be unintentionally harassed. The objective of the research is to further biological understanding of Alaskan cetaceans by evaluating species abundance, population and stock structure, life history parameters, foraging behavior and prey specialization, social behavior, seasonal movements and migrations, and depredation interactions with longline fishing vessels. Research methods resulting in Level A and Level B harassment include close approach by vessels and unmanned aircraft systems to conduct photo-identification, behavioral observations, underwater photography/video, count/survey, active acoustic sonar for prey mapping, tagging (suction-cup and dart/barb), biological sampling (skin/blubber biopsy, prey samples, exhaled air, sloughed skin, feces), passive acoustic recordings, and collection of prey remains and water samples for environmental DNA. Some marine mammal parts may be exported for analysis. See the application for complete numbers of animals requested by species, stock or listing unit, life stage, and procedure. The permit is requested for 10 years.

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: April 15, 2026.

**Shannon Bettridge,**

*Chief, Marine Mammal and Sea Turtle Conservation Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. 2026–07624 Filed 4–17–26; 8:45 am]

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**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; Fisheries Finance Program Requirements**

**AGENCY:** National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of Information Collection, request for comment.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Commerce, in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), invites 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. The purpose of this notice is to allow for 60 days of public comment preceding submission of the collection to OMB.

**DATES:** To ensure consideration, comments regarding this proposed information collection must be received on or before June 22, 2026.

**ADDRESSES:** Interested persons are invited to submit written comments to Adrienne Thomas, NOAA PRA Officer, at [NOAA.PRA@noaa.gov](mailto:NOAA.PRA@noaa.gov). Please reference OMB Control Number 0648–0012 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 Brian Summers, Loan Specialist, NOAA/NMFS/FFP/FMB5, 1315 East West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910, (301) 427–8783, [brian.summers@noaa.gov](mailto:brian.summers@noaa.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**I. Abstract**

This request is for an extension of the currently approved information collection. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

operates the Fisheries Finance Program, a direct government loan program that provides long term financing for the cost of construction or reconstruction of fishing vessels, shoreside fishery facilities, aquaculture facilities, and individual fishing quotas in the Northwest Halibut/Sablefish and Alaskan Crab Fisheries. To be eligible for this benefit program, an applicant must be an aquaculture operator or fisherman and a U.S. citizen. They must also meet all of the following:

- Have good credit and earnings record, net worth, and liquidity behind the project, and
- The project must be fully secured with their assets, including personal guarantees (non-recourse credit is not available), and
- Have at least a three-year history of owning or operating the fisheries project that will be the subject of the proposed application, or a three-year history owning or operating a comparable project.

Application information is required to determine loan eligibility pursuant to 50 CFR part 253 and to determine the type and amount of financial assistance available to the applicant. Applicants are required to submit NOAA FORM 88–1 and supporting financial documents. An annual financial statement is required from the recipients to monitor the financial status of the loan. While the core questions remain unchanged, we are implementing several formatting improvements and clarifying the required documentation. These revisions also streamline the signature and guarantor consent forms by removing outdated attestation language and specific credit report references to ensure a more efficient application process.

## II. Method of Collection

Electronic Applications.

## III. Data

*OMB Control Number:* 0648–0012.

*Form Number(s):* 88–1.

*Type of Review:* Regular submission (extension of current information collection).

*Affected Public:* Individuals or households; business or other for-profit organizations.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 316.

*Estimated Time per Response:* Program Application, 10 hours; Annual Financial statement, 2 hours; Guarantor Consent, 5 minutes.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 848 hours.

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

*Respondent's Obligation:* Required to Obtain or Retain Benefits.

*Legal Authority:* 50 CFR part 253.

## 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,**

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

[FR Doc. 2026–07620 Filed 4–17–26; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510–22–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### Patent and Trademark Office

#### **Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget for Review and Approval; Comment Request; Global Intellectual Property Academy (GIPA) Surveys**

**AGENCY:** United States Patent and Trademark Office, Department of Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of information collection; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The United States Patent and Trademark Office (hereafter “USPTO” or “Agency”), as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995,

invites comments on the extension and revision of an existing information collection: 0651–0065 (Global Intellectual Property Academy (GIPA) Surveys). The purpose of this notice is to allow 60 days for public comments preceding submission of the information collection to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

**DATES:** To ensure consideration, you must submit comments regarding this information collection on or before June 22, 2026.

**ADDRESSES:** Interested persons are invited to submit written comments by any of the following methods. Do not submit Confidential Business Information or otherwise sensitive or protected information.

- *Email:* [InformationCollection@uspto.gov](mailto:InformationCollection@uspto.gov). Include “0651–0065 comment” in the subject line of the message.

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* <https://www.regulations.gov>.

- *Mail:* Justin Isaac, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer, United States Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313–1450.

- *Telephone:* Kortney Hammonds, 571–272–1626.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Requests for additional information should be directed to Kortney Hammonds at: Global Intellectual Property Academy (GIPA), United States Patent and Trademark Office, Mail Stop OPIA, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313–1450; 571–272–1626; or [usptogipa@uspto.gov](mailto:usptogipa@uspto.gov) with “0651–0065 comment” in the subject line. Additional information about this information collection is also available at <https://www.reginfo.gov> under “Information Collection Review.”

## SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

### I. Abstract

The Global Intellectual Property Academy (GIPA) was established in 2006 and is a critical resource of the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) for encouraging the development of effective and balanced intellectual property (IP) systems around the world. Through targeted international technical assistance activities, GIPA helps to promote both domestic and international IP rights. GIPA’s activities cover every aspect of intellectual property law and policy, including patents, trademarks, copyrights, trade secrets, commercialization, and enforcement. By participating in GIPA courses, foreign government officials learn about global intellectual property rights protection