

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration****[RTID 0648–XF918]****Marine Mammals; File No. 29716**

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

ACTION: Notice; receipt of application.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that ABR, Inc. Environmental Research and Services, P.O. Box 80410, Fairbanks, AK 99708 (Responsible Party: Adrian Gall, Ph.D.), has applied in due form for a permit to conduct research on 4 pinniped species and 10 cetacean species.

DATES: Written comments must be received on or before August 26, 2026.

ADDRESSES: The application and related documents are available for review upon written request via email to NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov.

Written comments on this application should be submitted via email to NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov. Please include File No. 29716 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. The request should set forth the specific reasons why a hearing on this application would be appropriate.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Amy Hapeman or Sara Young, (301) 427–8401.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The subject permit is requested under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (MMPA; 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.*), 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 evaluate the seasonal and annual distribution and abundance of marine mammals in the vicinity of a proposed barge site in the Tuxedni Bay and Tuxedni Channel, western Cook Inlet, Alaska. Target species include: endangered beluga (*Delphinapterus leucas*, Cook Inlet distinct population segment [DPS]); endangered fin (*Balaenoptera physalus*); endangered North Pacific right

(*Eubalaena japonica*); gray (*Eschrichtius robustus*, including the endangered Western North Pacific stock); humpback (*Megaptera novaeangliae*, Hawaii, endangered Western North Pacific, and threatened Mexico DPSs), killer (*Orcinus orca*), and minke (*B. acutorostrata*) whales; Pacific white-sided dolphins (*Lagenorhynchus obliquidens*); harbor (*Phocoena phocoena*) and Dall's (*Phocoenoides dalli*) porpoise; harbor (*Phoca vitulina*) and Northern fur (*Callorhinus ursinus*) seals; and California (*Zalophus californianus*) and Steller (*Eumetopias jubatus*, endangered Western DPS) sea lions. Researchers would conduct vessel and aerial surveys (crewed and uncrewed) of marine mammals of all life stages for counts, photography/videography, and observations. See the application for numbers of animals requested by species. The permit is requested for 5 years and 3 months.

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: July 22, 2026.

Larissa Plants,

Acting Deputy Director, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 2026–15054 Filed 7–24–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE:**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration****[RTID 0648–XF906]****Gulf Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting**

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

ACTION: Notice of hybrid meeting open to the public offering both in-person and virtual options for participation.

SUMMARY: The Gulf Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold a four-day meeting to consider actions affecting the Gulf of America fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ).

DATES: The meeting will convene Monday, August 24, 2026 through Thursday, August 27, 2026. Daily schedule: Monday through Wednesday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., CDT and Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 3:15 p.m., CDT.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will take place at the Golden Nugget Hotel and Casino, located at 151 Beach Boulevard, Biloxi, MS 39530. If you prefer to “listen in,” you may access the log-on information by visiting our website at www.gulfcouncil.org.

Council address: Gulf Fishery Management Council, 4107 W Spruce Street, Suite 200, Tampa, FL 33607; telephone: (813) 348–1630.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Carrie Simmons, Executive Director, Gulf Fishery Management Council; telephone: (813) 348–1630.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Monday, August 24, 2026; 8:30 a.m.–5 p.m., CDT

The meeting will begin with the induction of reappointed Council members, followed by the Administrative/Budget Committee's review and discussion of the Final 2026 Funded Budget and Activities, the future funding cycle, timing of funding releases, and Council planning.

The Shrimp Committee will review the July 2026 Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) Meeting Summary and Recommendations and receive a status update from the Working Group to Address Interactions and Bycatch of Protected Resources in Shrimp Trawls.

The Gulf Southeast Data Assessment and Review (SEDAR) Committee will receive the July 2026 SEDAR Steering Committee Summary Report. The Ecosystem Committee will review the contractor report, Identification of Stakeholder-Driven Fishery Ecosystem Issues. The Data Collection Committee will review and discuss Final Action for the Generic Amendment: Modifications to the Gulf For-hire Data Collection Program and receive a presentation on the Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP)-Fishing Effort Survey (FES) Pilot Study Results.

Tuesday, August 25, 2026; 8:30 a.m.–5 p.m., CDT

The meeting will begin with a litigation update, followed by the Reef Fish Committee's review of draft options for Reef Fish Amendment 64: Delegate Federal For-hire Red Snapper Management to Gulf States and for Management Flexibility for the Federal For-hire component of the Red Snapper fishery.