

as amended (19 U.S.C. 1862). In addition, Proclamation 10984 acknowledged the close connections and overlap between part suppliers for the automobile industry and determined that it is necessary and appropriate to conform certain aspects of the tariff system imposed in Proclamation 10908 of March 26, 2025 (Adjusting Imports of Automobiles and Automobile Parts Into the United States) (90 FR 14705), as amended, with the tariff system imposed in Proclamation 10984 for MHDVs, certain MHDVPs, and buses. Finally, the President found it necessary and appropriate to allow modification of tariffs imposed under Proclamation 9704 of March 8, 2018 (Adjusting Imports of Aluminum Into the United States) (83 FR 11619), as amended, and Proclamation 9705 of March 8, 2018 (Adjusting Imports of Steel Into the United States) (83 FR 11625), as amended, based on commitments to increase production of steel or aluminum products that support U.S. production capacity of key products, including U.S. motor vehicles.

To enhance the supply chain security and domestic production of U.S. MHDVs and automobiles, Proclamation 10984 authorized the Secretary to reduce tariffs owed under Proclamations 9704 and 9705 by up to half the otherwise applicable rate for aluminum or steel producers that operate production facilities in Canada or Mexico and supply U.S. motor vehicle manufacturers. Such adjustments are to be limited to quantities of aluminum or steel equal to newly committed U.S. production capacity, as determined by the Secretary.

Proclamation 10984 provides that the adjusted tariff rate under Proclamations 9704 and 9705 may be no less than 25 percent, and that the adjusted tariff rate is only available for imports of aluminum and steel that qualify for preferential tariff treatment under the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) and that were respectively smelted and cast or melted and poured in Canada or Mexico.

Proclamation 10984 directed the Secretary to administer this program in a manner consistent with the need to address the national security threats the President found in Proclamation 9704, Proclamation 9705, Proclamation 9888 of May 17, 2019 (Adjusting Imports of Automobiles and Automobile Parts into the United States) (84 FR 23433), and Proclamation 10984. The Secretary has determined that it is necessary to establish a process for firms that operate production facilities in Canada and Mexico to apply for the adjusted tariffs, as authorized in Proclamation 10984,

based on the quantities of aluminum or steel equal to newly committed U.S. production capacity. The Secretary has determined that only increased commitments to produce primary steel and primary aluminum should be eligible because these commitments address key bottlenecks and will increase the supply of U.S. steel and aluminum for downstream producers of automobiles and MDHVs. For purposes of these procedures, “primary steel” means any semi-finished or finished steel product that was first produced in a liquid state in a steel making furnace and “primary aluminum” means new aluminum metal that is produced from alumina (or aluminum oxide) by the electrolytic Hall-Heroult process.

The Secretary has also determined that, for purposes of these procedures, commitments to increase production capacity of primary steel and primary aluminum that supports U.S. production capacity of key products is limited to commitments to increase capacity of primary steel and primary aluminum that supports U.S. production capacity for automobiles, MHDVs, automobile parts, and MHDV parts (MHDVPs). Proclamation 10984 identifies automobiles and MHDVs as examples of key products. As automobile parts and MHDVPs are critical inputs to MHDVs and automobiles, and as much of the steel and aluminum contained in automobiles and MHDVs is first incorporated into automobile parts and MHDVPs, the Secretary determined that automobile parts and MHDVPs are also “key products” under these procedures, consistent with the purpose of Proclamation 10984.

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

*Frequency:* Quarterly.

*Respondent's Obligation:* Voluntary.

*Legal Authority:* 19 U.S.C. 1862 Trade Expansion Act of 1962.

This information collection request may be viewed at [www.reginfo.gov](http://www.reginfo.gov). Follow the instructions to view the Department of Commerce collections currently under review by OMB.

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be submitted within 30 days of the publication of this notice on the following website [www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain](http://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain). Find this particular information collection by selecting “Currently under 30-day Review—Open for Public Comments” or by using the search function and

entering either the title of the collection or the OMB Control Number 0625–0285.

**Sheleen Dumas,**

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

[FR Doc. 2026–17155 Filed 8–20–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–DS–P

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648–XF961]

#### Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; General Provisions for Domestic Fisheries; Application for Exempted Fishing Permits

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

**ACTION:** Notice; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The Assistant Regional Administrator for Sustainable Fisheries, Greater Atlantic Region, NMFS, has made a preliminary determination that an Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) application contains all of the required information and warrants further consideration. The EFP would allow federally permitted fishing vessels to fish outside fishery regulations in support of exempted fishing activities proposed by the Maine Department of Marine Resources (ME DMR). Regulations under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act require publication of this notification to provide interested parties the opportunity to comment on applications for proposed EFPs.

**DATES:** Comments must be received on or before September 8, 2026.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit written comments by email: [nmfs.gar.efp@noaa.gov](mailto:nmfs.gar.efp@noaa.gov). Include in the subject line “ME DMR Dynamic Management EFP.” All comments received are a part of the public record and may be posted for public viewing without change. All personal identifying information (e.g., name, address), confidential business information, or otherwise sensitive information submitted voluntarily by the sender will be publicly accessible. NMFS will accept anonymous comments (enter “anonymous” as the signature if you wish to remain anonymous).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Christine Ford, Fishery Management Specialist, [christine.ford@noaa.gov](mailto:christine.ford@noaa.gov), 978–281–9185.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The applicant submitted a complete application for an EFP to conduct

commercial fishing activities that the regulations would otherwise restrict. This EFP would exempt the

participating vessels from the following Federal regulations:

TABLE 1—REQUESTED EXEMPTIONS

| CFR citation              | Regulation                      | Need for exemption                                                                                              |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 50 CFR 697.21(b)(2) ..... | Gear marking requirements ..... | To allow for the use of trap/pot gear with no more than one surface marking on trawls of more than three traps. |

TABLE 2—PROJECT SUMMARY

|                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Project title .....                    | Testing the applicability of dynamic management in Maine’s lobster fishery during potential future North Atlantic Right Whale (NARW) aggregations near Jeffrey’s Ledge.                                                                                                    |
| Project start .....                    | 11/01/2026.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Project end .....                      | 03/31/2027.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Project objectives .....               | To assess the feasibility of dynamic management for the Maine lobster fishery to allow for continued access to fishing grounds while also reducing the risk associated with vertical lines in real-time when endangered NARW are found to be present in the Gulf of Maine. |
| Project location .....                 | Lobster Management Area 1: Maine Lobster Conservation Zones F, F/G, and G around Jeffrey’s Ledge.                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Number of vessels .....                | Up to 50.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Number of trips, duration, total days. | See Project Narrative.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Gear type(s) .....                     | Lobster traps.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Number and duration of tows or sets.   | See Project Narrative.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |

Project Narrative

In January 2025, an aggregation of upwards of 90 individual NARWs were spotted on Jeffrey’s Ledge and persisted for over 3 weeks. During that time, vessels from Maine, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts were actively fishing lobster gear, creating an area of potentially high NARW entanglement risk. Using vessel tracking data and sightings information, ME DMR identified the area of greatest overlap between recently set lobster gear from Maine vessels and NARW sightings. Maine vessels took voluntary action to reduce the entanglement risk by removing an endline from gear that was actively being fished in the area, delaying the setting of gear into deeper waters, and/or delaying setting gear at all. The 2025 NARW aggregation highlighted the potential to execute dynamic management, of which ME DMR is interested in investigating further.

This EFP would not allow for any changes to regular commercial lobster fishing activities regarding trap limits, soak times, catch, *etc.* This EFP would only allow participating vessels to temporarily remove, or drop and secure to the bottom, one endline from their trawls upon notification from ME DMR that a NARW aggregation is in the Jeffrey’s Ledge area. Which endline would be dropped would be decided if an aggregation occurred. The dropped endline would be consistent for all participants and ME DMR would communicate the information out for

awareness. The trigger for a dynamic management response would be based on the details of the situation (*e.g.*, where/when/how many whales aggregate, if they were in an area of dense fishing gear, if a mom/calf pair was present).

If ME DMR triggered a dynamic management response, data would be collected on how many whales were present, for how long, and the size of the area where participating vessels removed/dropped an endline. For each participating vessel, data would also be collected on the time between initial whale detections and any removed/dropped endlines, how many endlines were removed/dropped, and how long endlines were removed/dropped. Additional information regarding delaying the setting of gear, setting gear in a different area, or trawling up would also be collected. Data would help provide feedback to managers on the feasibility of implementing a dynamic management program in the future.

ME DMR has requested to exempt participants from EFP trip reporting requirements, stating that this requirement is a barrier to recruiting fishermen for this project and is duplicative of the required electronic vessel trip reporting. EFP trip reporting requirements assist NMFS in monitoring trips taken under an EFP, and to help identify vessels that are operating in ways that would otherwise not be allowed. There are no sensitivities related to catch that NMFS needs to document at the trip level. NOAA’s

Office of Law Enforcement has indicated that there are other means by which it could monitor, perform outreach on, and enforce regulations on vessels participating in this EFP. For these reasons, NMFS recommends waiving the EFP trip reporting requirements for vessels operating under this EFP. This would be consistent with other EFP’s where NMFS has waived the trip reporting requirements. NMFS may reevaluate this waiver should it become evident that EFP trip-level reporting is warranted or needed.

All vessels participating in the EFP would adhere to current approach regulations—a 500-yard (457-meter) buffer zone created by a surfacing right whale—and must depart immediately at a safe and slow speed, in accordance with current regulations. Hauling any lobster gear would immediately cease (by removal) to accommodate the regulation and be reinitiated only after it was reasonable to assume the whale had left the area.

ME DMR proposed the following best practices and risk reduction measures:

- All vessels would operate within a 10-knot (18.5 kilometers per hour) speed limit when whales were observed;
- All vessels would report all right whale sightings to NMFS via [ne.rw.survey@noaa.gov](mailto:ne.rw.survey@noaa.gov) or NOAA (866–755–6622) or the U.S. Coast Guard (Channel 16) and record sightings on data sheets;
- All vessels would provide mandatory, weekly gear loss reports to ME DMR; and

• Upon aggregation dispersal, ME DMR would work with participating vessels to return their gear to its required configuration within 30 days.

If approved, the applicant may request minor modifications and extensions to the EFP throughout the year. EFP modifications and extensions may be granted without further notice if they are deemed essential to facilitate completion of the proposed research and have minimal impacts that do not change the scope or impact of the initially approved EFP request. Any fishing activity conducted outside the scope of the exempted fishing activity would be prohibited.

(Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*)

Dated: August 19, 2026.

**Shannon Bettridge,**

*Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. 2026–17126 Filed 8–20–26; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510–22–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648–XF902]

#### Marine Mammals and Endangered Species

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

**ACTION:** Notice; issuance of permits.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that permits have been issued under the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) and the Endangered Species Act (ESA), as applicable.

**ADDRESSES:** The permits and related documents are available for review upon written request via email to [NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov](mailto:NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Sara Young (File Nos. 29313 and 29621) and Amy Hapeman (File No. 29749); at (301) 427–8401.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The requested permits have been issued under the MMPA 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 ESA 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), as applicable. Notices were published in the **Federal Register** on the dates listed below that requests had been submitted. To locate the **Federal Register** notice that announced our receipt of the application and a complete description of the activities, go to <https://www.federalregister.gov> and search for the file number provided in table 1 below.

TABLE 1—ISSUED PERMITS

| File No.    | RTID          | Applicant                                                                                                                                                         | Previous <b>Federal Register</b> notice | Issuance date  |
|-------------|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|----------------|
| 29313 ..... | 0648–XF554 .. | Michelle Shero, Ph.D., Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, 266 Woods Hole Road, Woods Hole, MA 02543.                                                           | 91 FR 13294, March 19, 2026.            | July 1, 2026.  |
| 29621 ..... | 0648–XF774 .. | NMFS Marine Mammal Laboratory, 7600 Sand Point Way NE, Seattle, WA 98118 (Responsible Party: Nancy Friday, Ph.D.).                                                | 91 FR 29118, May 19, 2026.              | July 9, 2026.  |
| 29749 ..... | 0648–XF823 .. | BBC Natural History Unit and Factual Productions Limited, 1 Television Centre, 101 Wood Lane, London, W12 7FA, United Kingdom (Responsible Party: Victoria Webb). | 91 FR 32009, May 29, 2026.              | July 10, 2026. |

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 proposed are categorically excluded from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement.

As required by the ESA, as applicable, issuance was based on a finding that such permits: (1) were applied for in good faith; (2) will not operate to the disadvantage of such endangered species; and (3) are consistent with the purposes and policies set forth in section 2 of the ESA.

Dated: August 19, 2026.

**Larissa Plants,**

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

[FR Doc. 2026–17150 Filed 8–20–26; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510–22–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648–XF960]

#### Marine Mammals; File No. 26329

**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 Brandon Southall, Ph.D., Southall Environmental Associates, Inc., 9099 Soquel Drive, Suite 8, Aptos, CA 95076, has applied for an amendment to scientific research Permit No. 26329.

**DATES:** Written comments must be received on or before September 21, 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 (APPS) home page, <https://apps.nmfs.noaa.gov>, and then selecting File No. 26329 mod #4 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. 26329–01 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 Sara Young, (301) 427–8401.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The subject amendment to Permit No. 26329 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