

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. 26329, issued on October 21, 2022 (87 FR 68133, November 14, 2022), authorizes the permit holder to study behavioral responses of 17 cetacean species in California waters. Researchers seek to identify key characteristics of species-typical calling, diving, feeding, social, and movement behavior in cetaceans, and under what conditions and contexts these behaviors are affected by human noise disturbance. Researchers may approach cetaceans by vessel for observations, suction-cup tagging, collection of sloughed skin, acoustic playbacks, prey mapping, photo-identification, and unintentional harassment. Five pinniped species may be unintentionally harassed during fieldwork. The permit holder requests to amend the permit to consolidate and improve the management and reporting of fieldwork that currently occurs with collaborating scientists under several research permits as follows: (1) add suction-cup tagging and sloughed skin collection as procedures for six authorized odontocete species; (2) allow deployment of suction-cup tags by uncrewed aircraft system (UAS) in addition to attachment by pole; (3) authorize the use of a suction-cup tag unit that has a built-in echosounder; (3) authorize active acoustics for prey mapping for all authorized species; (4) authorize biopsy sampling for all cetacean species that could be tagged; (5) increase take numbers for multiple cetacean species for currently authorized methods in addition to new requested methods including: invasive (dab/barb or deep-implant) tagging and UAS surveys for counts, observations, photo-ID, photography/videography, and photogrammetry; and (6) update the personnel list and their roles. See the application's take table for details on take numbers and methods for each species. The permit would be valid until March 31, 2028.

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: August 19, 2026.

Larissa Plants,

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

[FR Doc. 2026–17153 Filed 8–20–26; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648–XF954]

Marine Mammals; File No. 29892

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

ACTION: Notice; receipt of application.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Edward Charles, Open Plant Studios, 27A Regent Street, Clifton, Bristol, BS8 4HG, United Kingdom, has applied in due form for a permit to conduct commercial or educational photography on marine mammals.

DATES: Written comments must be received on or before September 21, 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. 29892 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: Erin Markin, 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.*) and the regulations governing the taking and importing of marine mammals (50 CFR part 216).

The applicant requests a 5-month permit to film humpback whales (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) in Hawaii for a documentary featuring Dr. Sylvia Earle. Up to 210 humpback whales may be filmed and observed by a vessel and unmanned aircraft system. Up to 105 bottlenose (*Tursiops truncatus*) and 700 spinner (*Stenella longirostris*) dolphins

may be unintentionally harassed, observed, and opportunistically filmed during these activities.

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: August 19, 2026.

Larissa Plants,

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

[FR Doc. 2026–17107 Filed 8–20–26; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648–XF962]

Western Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings

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

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Western Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold its Joint Hawaii Archipelago Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP) Advisory Panel (AP) and Bottomfish Advisory Review Board (BARB), American Samoa FEP AP, Fishing Industry Advisory Committee (FIAC), Mariana Archipelago FEP Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) AP, and Social Science Planning Committee (SSPC) to discuss and make recommendations on fishery management issues in the Western Pacific Region.

DATES: The meetings will be held between August 28 through September 3, 2026. For specific times and agendas, see **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

ADDRESSES: The Council will hold its Joint Hawaii Archipelago FEP AP and BARB, American Samoa FEP AP, FIAC, Mariana Archipelago FEP CNMI AP, SSPC meetings in a hybrid format with in-person and remote participation (Webex) options available for the members and the public. In-person attendance for the Joint Hawaii Archipelago FEP AP and BARB, FIAC

and SSPC and public will be hosted at Council Office, 1164 Bishop St Suite 1400, Honolulu, HI, 96813. In-person attendance for the American Samoa Archipelago FEP AP and public will be hosted at the Tedi of Samoa Suite 208B, P8C6+V2F, Fagatogo Village, AS, 96799. In-person attendance for the Mariana Archipelago FEP AP and public will be hosted at the BRI Building Suite 205, Kopa Di Oru St., Garapan, Saipan, 96950. Instructions for connecting to the web conference and providing oral public comments will be posted on the Council website at www.wpcouncil.org. For assistance with the web conference connection, contact the Council office at (808) 522-8220.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Contact Kitty M. Simonds, Executive Director, Western Pacific Fishery Management Council; phone: (808) 522-8220.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Joint Hawaii Archipelago FEP AP and BARB will be held between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. (Hawaii Standard Time [HST]) on Friday, August 28, 2026. The American Samoa FEP AP will be held between 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. (Samoa Standard Time [SST]) on Tuesday, September 1, 2026. The FIAC will be held between 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. (HST) on Wednesday, September 2, 2026. The Mariana Archipelago FEP CNMI AP will be held between 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. (Chamorro Standard Time [ChST]) on Thursday, September 3, 2026. The SSPC meeting will be held between 12 p.m. and 4 p.m. (HST) on Thursday, September 3, 2026.

Public Comment periods will be provided in the agendas. The order in which agenda items are addressed may change. The meetings will run as late as necessary to complete scheduled business.

Schedule and Agenda for the Joint Hawaii Archipelago FEP AP and BARB Meeting

Friday, August 28, 2026, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (HST)

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Review of the Last AP Recommendation and Meeting
3. Council Fisheries Issues
 - A. Options for Amending Fishing Regulations in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands (NWHI)
 - B. Options for Revising the Hawaii Shallow-Set Longline Fishery Sea Turtle Measure
 - C. Hawaii Deep-Set Longline Swordfish Retention
 - D. Social, Economic, Ecological and Management (SEEM) Process Review

4. Council Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) Community Consultation Project Update
 - A. Scenario Planning
 - B. Protected Species
 - C. Disaster Resilience Workshop
 - D. Hawaii Shark Regulatory Alignment and Education Workshop
5. Research Priorities
6. AP Strategic Planning for 2026
7. Other Business
8. Public Comment
9. Discussion and Recommendations

Schedule and Agenda for the American Samoa Archipelago FEP AP Meeting

Tuesday, September 1, 2026, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. (SST)

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Review of the Last AP Recommendation and Meeting
3. Council Fisheries Issues
 - A. Annual Catch Limit (ACL) Specification for American Samoa Bottomfish Management Unit Species (BMUS) for 2027–2029
 - B. Options for Amending the Large Vessel Prohibited Area (LVPA) in American Samoa
 - C. American Samoa Longline Fishery Sea Turtle Measures
 - D. SEEM Process Review
4. Council IRA Project Discussions
 - A. Scenario Planning
 - B. Protected Species
 - C. Community Consultation
5. Research Priorities
6. AP Strategic Planning for 2026
7. Other Business
8. Public Comment
9. Discussion and Recommendations

Schedule and Agenda for the FIAC Meeting

Wednesday, September 2, 2026, 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. (HST)

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Status Report on Previous FIAC Recommendations
3. Roundtable update on Fishing/Market Issues/Impacts
4. Options for Amending the LVPA in American Samoa
5. Options for Amending Fishing Regulations in the NWHI
6. International Fisheries Updates
7. Seafood Executive Order Priority Actions for Reducing Burdens on Domestic Fishing
 - A. Options for Revising the Hawaii Shallow-set Sea Turtle Measures
 - B. American Samoa Longline Fishery Sea Turtle Measures
 - C. Swordfish Retention Limit in Hawaii Deep-set Fishery
8. Update on Electronic Monitoring Implementation

9. Research Prioritization
10. IRA Project Updates
 - A. Draft Final Report on Longline Scenario Planning
 - B. Protected Species
 - C. Community Consultation
11. Other Issues
12. Public Comment
13. Discussion and Recommendations

Schedule and Agenda for the Mariana Archipelago FEP CNMI AP Meeting

Thursday, September 3, 2026, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. (ChST)

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Review of the Last AP Recommendation and Meeting
3. Council Fisheries Issues
 - A. Next Steps for Management of Fishing in waters of the Islands Unit of the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument
 - B. SEEM Process Review
4. Council IRA Project Discussions
 - A. Rota/Tinian Data Collection Workshop
 - B. Northern Islands Community Based Management Plan Workshop
5. Research Priorities
6. Advisory Panel Strategic Planning for 2026
7. Other Business
8. Public Comment
9. Discussion and Recommendations

Schedule and Agenda for the SSPC Meeting

Thursday, September 3, 2026, 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. (HST)

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Developing the SSPC Work Plan
4. SEEM Process Revision Draft Procedural Document
5. Update on the Scientific and Statistical Committee Social Valuation Working Group
6. Socioeconomic Considerations for Council Actions and Issues
 - A. Options for Amending the LVPA in American Samoa
 - B. Options for Amending Fishing Regulations in the NWHI
 - C. ACL Specification for American Samoa BMUS for 2027–2030
 - D. Options for Revising the Hawaii Shallow-set Longline Fishery Sea Turtle Measures
8. Project Updates
9. Other Business
10. Public Comment
11. Discussion and Recommendations

Special Accommodations

These meetings are accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to

Kitty M. Simonds, (808) 522–8220 (voice) or (808) 522–8226 (fax), at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

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

Dated: August 19, 2026.

Rey Israel Marquez,

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

[FR Doc. 2026–17127 Filed 8–20–26; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

Renewal of Department of Defense Federal Advisory Committee—Reserve Forces Policy Board

AGENCY: Department of Defense (DoD).

ACTION: Renewal of Federal advisory committee.

SUMMARY: The DoD (referred to herein as “the Department,” “Department of War” or “DoW”) is publishing this notice to announce that it is renewing the Reserve Forces Policy Board (RFPB) as a non-discretionary Federal advisory committee.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jim Freeman, Advisory Committee Management Officer for the Department of War, 703–692–5952.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The RFPB is being renewed pursuant 10 United States Code (U.S.C.) 175 and 10301 and in accordance with the provisions of chapter 10 of Title 5, U.S.C. (commonly known as “the Federal Advisory Committee Act” or “FACA”) and 41 Code of Federal Regulation (CFR) 102–3.50(a). The charter and contact information for the RFPB’s Designated Federal Officer (DFO) are found at: <https://www.facadatabase.gov/FACA/apex/FACAPublicAgencyNavigation>.

The RFPB provides independent advice and recommendations on the reserve components on strategies, policies, and practices designed to improve and enhance the capabilities, efficiency, and effectiveness of the reserve components. The RFPB may act on those matters referred to by the Chair and on any matter raised by a member of the RFPB or the SecWar. All RFPB work, including subcommittee work, will be in response to written terms of reference or taskings approved by the SecWar or the Deputy Secretary War (“the DoW Appointing Authority”), or the Under Secretary of War for Personnel and Readiness unless otherwise provided by statute or Presidential directive.

Pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 10301(c), the RFPB shall be composed of 20 members, appointed, or designated as follows:

a. A civilian appointed by the SecWar from among persons determined by the Secretary to have the knowledge of, and experience in, policy matters relevant to national security and reserve component matters necessary to carry out the duties of the RFPB, who shall serve as chair of the RFPB.

b. Two active or retired reserve officers or enlisted members designated by the SecWar upon recommendation of the Secretary of the Army:

1. One of whom shall be a member of the Army National Guard of the United States or a former member of the Army National Guard of the United States in the Retired Reserve; and

2. One of whom shall be a member or retired member of the Army Reserve.

c. Two active or retired reserve officers or enlisted members designated by the SecWar upon the recommendation of the Secretary of the Navy:

1. One of whom shall be an active or retired officer of the Navy Reserve; and

2. One of whom shall be an active or retired officer of the Marine Corps Reserve.

d. Two active or retired reserve officers or enlisted members designated by the SecWar upon the recommendation of the Secretary of the Air Force:

1. One of whom shall be a member of the Air National Guard of the United States or a former member of the Air National Guard of the United States in the Retired Reserve; and

2. One of whom shall be a member or retired member of the Air Force Reserve.

e. One active or retired reserve officer or enlisted member of the U.S. Coast Guard designated by the Secretary of Homeland Security.

f. Ten persons appointed or designated by the SecWar, each of whom shall be a U.S. citizen having significant knowledge of and experience in policy matters relevant to national security and reserve component matters and shall be one of the following:

1. An individual not employed in any Federal or State department or agency.

2. An individual employed by a Federal or State department or agency.

3. An officer of a regular component of the armed forces on active duty, or an officer of a reserve component of the armed forces in an active status, who:

• Is serving or has served in a senior position on the Joint Staff, the headquarters staff of a Combatant Command, or the headquarters staff of an armed force; and

• Has experience in joint professional military education, joint qualification, and joint operations matters.

g. A reserve officer of the Army, Navy, Air Force, or Marine Corps who is a general or flag officer recommended by the chair and designated by the SecWar, who shall serve without vote, as:

1. Military adviser to the Chair;

2. Military executive officer of the RFPB; and

3. Supervisor of the operations and staff of the RFPB.

h. A senior enlisted member of a reserve component recommended by the chair and designated by the SecWar, who shall serve without vote as enlisted military adviser to the Chair.

Authority to invite or appoint individuals to serve on the RFPB rests solely with the DoW Appointing Authority, and RFPB members will be approved for a term of one-to-four years, with annual renewals, in accordance with DoW policy and procedures. No member, unless approved by the DoW Appointing Authority, may serve more than two consecutive terms of service on the RFPB, to include its subcommittees, or serve on more than two DoW Federal advisory committees at one time.

RFPB members who are not full-time or permanent part-time Federal officers or employees, nor active-duty members of the Uniformed Services, shall be appointed as experts or consultants pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3109 to serve as special government employee (SGE) members. RFPB members who are full-time or permanent part-time Federal officers or employees, or active-duty members of the Uniformed Services, shall be designated pursuant to 41 CFR 102–3.130(a) to serve as regular government employee (RGE) members.

All members of the RFPB are appointed to exercise their own best judgment on behalf of the DoW, without representing any particular point of view, and to discuss and deliberate in a manner that is free from conflicts of interest. Except for reimbursement of official RFPB-related travel and per diem, RFPB members serve without compensation.

The public or interested organizations may submit written statements to the RFPB about the RFPB’s mission and functions. Written statements may be submitted at any time or in response to the stated agenda of planned meeting of the RFPB. All written statements shall be submitted to the DFO for the RFPB, and this individual will ensure that the written statements are provided to the membership for their consideration.