

for November 16, 2026, from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Eastern Time (ET). Instructions for attending the virtual public hearing are provided below.

ADDRESSES: The Eco application is electronically available at <https://www.regulations.gov/docket/NOAA-NOS-2026-2608>.

You may send comments, identified by docket number, by either of the following means:

Written Comments

Submit all public written comments on Eco's Application via the Federal [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov) e-Portal at <https://www.regulations.gov/docket/NOAA-NOS-2026-2608> or go to <https://www.regulations.gov> and enter "NOAA-NOS-2026-2608" in the search bar.

Comments must be submitted by the date and electronic method described below to ensure that the comments are received, documented, and considered by NOAA. Comments sent by any other method, to any other address or individual, or received after the end of the comment period, may not be considered. Comments that are not related to the application or that contain profanity, vulgarity, threats, or other inappropriate language will not be considered. To ensure full consideration by NOAA, comments must be submitted in English. Comments that are not submitted in English may not be posted to the public dockets on [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov), or considered by NOAA. All relevant comments received are a part of the public record and will generally be posted for public viewing on <https://www.regulations.gov> without change. All personal identifying information (e.g., name, address) submitted voluntarily by the sender will be publicly accessible. Do not submit confidential business information or otherwise sensitive or protected information. NOAA will accept anonymous comments (enter "N/A" in the required fields if you wish to remain anonymous).

Virtual Public Hearings

You may submit oral comments for Eco's Application during the November 16, 2026 meeting.

NOAA will conduct a virtual public hearing via Adobe Connect. Each person who wants to attend the virtual public hearing must electronically register by November 12, 2026, 5 p.m. ET. Attendance at the virtual public hearing will be limited to 1,000 individuals. Any person who registers and wants to speak at a virtual public hearing should indicate that they want to speak during registration. To register for either hearing, use the following link: https://noaabroadcast.adobeconnect.com/ef1lgeja8pd6/event/event_info.html.

Each registered participant will receive an Adobe Connect link for the virtual public hearing.

Once the virtual public hearing starts, NOAA will describe the virtual public hearing logistics. NOAA will then start the public comment part of the virtual public hearing and will call on speakers on a first come/first served basis through the raised hand function of Adobe Connect. NOAA will then unmute the person speaking. Each speaker will have three minutes to speak on the Eco application. If a speaker does not respond when they are called on, NOAA will move to the next speaker. At the three-minute mark for each speaker, NOAA will mute that speaker. Speakers cannot allot their time to another speaker. Once all speakers have spoken, or at the scheduled end of the virtual public hearing, whichever is earlier, NOAA will end the virtual public hearing. NOAA retains discretion to extend the virtual public hearing if appropriate and feasible. NOAA will record each hearing and will include transcripts of the hearing on the public dockets for the Eco application on the [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov) website at <https://www.regulations.gov/docket/NOAA-NOS-2026-2608>. The names provided by each speaker will also be published as part of the transcripts.

The virtual public hearing does not replace the process for submission of written comments. NOAA will not respond during the hearing to oral comments or questions. To ensure full consideration by NOAA, oral comments must be in English. Comments that are not in English may not be transcribed or considered by NOAA.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bryan Cole, 301-233-2998, bryan.cole@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On December 5, 2025, NOAA received an amended application from Eco for a license to conduct seabed mining exploration activities within the seabed area beyond national jurisdiction within the Pacific Ocean in areas in the Clarion-Clipperton Zone and an area between Guam and Wake Island. NOAA has determined that the application is fully compliant with the applicable information requirements of the Act and its implementing regulations. Under DSHMRA, NOAA shall publish notice of all license applications and, subject to applicable public disclosure limitations, interested persons are afforded the opportunity to examine the relevant application materials and to submit written and oral comments to

NOAA. NOAA has determined that the Eco application is the relevant material for examination during the notice of application. 30 U.S.C. 1426(a)(1). This application is electronically available at the location listed in the **ADDRESSES** section. Please note that the statements made in the application do not necessarily reflect the views of NOAA or the views of the U.S. Government.

Authority: 30 U.S.C. 1426(a)(1).

Neil A. Jacobs,

Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and NOAA Administrator, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XG104]

Marine Mammals; File No. 29892

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

ACTION: Notice; withdrawal of application.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Edward Charles, Open Planet Studios, 27A Regent Street, Clifton, Bristol, UK BS8 4HG, has withdrawn their application for a permit to conduct commercial and educational photography on marine mammals.

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

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Erin Markin, Ph.D., or Amy Hapeman, (301) 427-8401.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On August 21, 2026, notice was published in the **Federal Register** (91 FR 54312) that a request for a permit to conduct filming of marine mammals had been submitted by the above-named applicant. The applicant has withdrawn the application from further consideration.

Dated: October 8, 2026.

Larissa Plants,

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

[FR Doc. 2026-20872 Filed 10-9-26; 8:45 am]

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