

humpback whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*), North Atlantic right whale (*Eubalaena glacialis*), sei whale (*B. borealis*), sperm whale (*Physeter macrocephalus*), green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*), hawksbill sea turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*), loggerhead sea turtle (*Caretta caretta*), Kemp's ridley sea turtle (*Lepidochelys kempii*), and leatherback sea turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*). The permit expires May 15, 2017.

The permit holder is requesting the permit be amended to increase sei whale takes from 10 to 50 per year based on reviewer comments from the Notice of Receipt published on August 17, 2011 (76 FR 51001). The purpose of the take increase is to gain more information on sei whale habitat use and distribution.

An environmental assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) (signed May 1, 2012) prepared for the permit has analyzed the requested 50 sei whale annual takes. NMFS determined that 50 sei whale takes would not significantly impact the quality of the human environment and that preparation of an environmental impact statement was not required. The EA and FONSI are available upon request. A Biological Opinion was also prepared for the permit which analyzed 50 sei whale takes (signed May 1, 2012) and concluded that the research would not jeopardize threatened and endangered species or destroy or adversely modify critical habitat. However, the permit authorizes 10 annual takes of sei whales until a new FR notice could be published to allow the public opportunity to comment on the higher take number.

Concurrent with the publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, NMFS is forwarding copies of the amendment request to the Marine Mammal Commission and its Committee of Scientific Advisors.

Dated: May 30, 2012.

Tammy C. Adams,

Acting Chief, Permits and Conservation Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 2012-13575 Filed 6-4-12; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XR52

Marine Mammals; File No. 14534

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and

Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice; issuance of permit amendment.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that a major amendment to Permit No. 14534-01 has been issued to NOAA's Office of Science and Technology, Silver Spring, MD, (Brandon Southall, Ph.D.—Principal Investigator) for research on marine mammals.

ADDRESSES: The permit amendment and related documents are available for review upon written request or by appointment in the following offices:

Permits and Conservation Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910; phone (301)427-8401; fax (301)713-0376; and Southwest Region, NMFS, 501 West Ocean Blvd., Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802-4213; phone (562)980-4001; fax (562)980-4018.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Tammy Adams or Carrie Hubard, (301)427-8401.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On December 9, 2011, notice was published in the **Federal Register** (76 FR 76949) that the above-named applicant submitted a request for an amendment to Permit No. 14534-01 to conduct research on humpback whales (*Megaptera novaeangliae*), minke whales (*Balaenoptera acutorostrata*), and killer whales (*Orcinus orca*). The requested permit amendment has been issued 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 (ESA; 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).

The amendment increases the take numbers for these three cetacean species, making them focal species under the permit, subject to tagging and intentional exposure to sound playbacks with associated behavioral observations. The location of the research is unchanged and remains focused in the waters within the U.S. Navy's Southern California Range Complex, and primarily near the vicinity of San Clemente Island. The amendment is valid through the original expiration date of the permit, July 31, 2015.

An environmental assessment (EA) analyzing the effects of the permitted activities on the human environment

was prepared in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*). Based on the analyses in the EA, NMFS determined that issuance of the permit would not significantly impact the quality of the human environment and that preparation of an environmental impact statement was not required. That determination is documented in a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), signed on May 14, 2012.

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

Dated: May 30, 2012.

Tammy C. Adams,

Acting Chief, Permits and Conservation Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 2012-13572 Filed 6-4-12; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XA817

Marine Mammals; File No. 16124

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

ACTION: Notice; issuance of permit.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Sea World LLC, 9205 South Park Center Loop, Suite 400, Orlando, FL 32819 (Brad Andrews, Responsible Party), has been issued a permit to conduct research on and enhancement of captive Hawaiian monk seals (*Monachus schauinslandi*).

ADDRESSES: The permit and related documents are available for review upon written request or by appointment in the following offices:

Permits and Conservation Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910; phone (301) 427-8401; fax (301) 713-0376;

Pacific Islands Region, NMFS, 1601 Kapiolani Boulevard, Room 1110, Honolulu, HI 96814-4700; phone (808) 944-2200; fax (808) 973-2941; and

Southeast Region, NMFS, 263 13th Avenue South, Saint Petersburg,

Florida 33701; phone (727) 824-5312; fax (727) 824-5309.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Amy Sloan or Jennifer Skidmore, (301) 427-8401.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On

November 14, 2011, notice was published in the **Federal Register** (76 FR 70418) that a request for a permit to conduct research on and enhancement of the species identified above had been submitted by the above-named applicant. The requested permit has been issued 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 (ESA; 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).

Permit No. 16124 authorizes Sea World LLC to maintain in captivity six non-releasable Hawaiian monk seals for research and enhancement purposes. Research includes a post-vaccination antibody response study using West Nile virus and canine distemper virus vaccinations. The seals will be displayed to the public incidental to the research program. The permit is valid for five years from the date of issuance.

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

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

Dated: May 24, 2012.

Tammy C. Adams,

Acting Chief, Permits and Conservation Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 2012-13566 Filed 6-4-12; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

[Docket ID DOD-2012-OS-0060]

Proposed Collection; Comment Request

AGENCY: Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Reserve Affairs).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In compliance with Section 350(c)(2)(A) of the *Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995*, the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness (Reserve Affairs)) announces a proposed public information collection and seeks public comment on the provisions thereof. Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed information collection; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the information collection on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

DATES: Consideration will be given to all comments received by August 6, 2012.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments, identified by docket number and title, by any of the following methods:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments.
- *Mail:* Federal Docket Management System Office, 4800 Mark Center Drive, East Tower, Suite 02G09, Alexandria, VA 22350-3100.

Instructions: All submissions received must include the agency name, docket number and title for this **Federal Register** document. The general policy for comments and other submissions from members of the public is to make these submissions available for public viewing on the Internet at <http://www.regulations.gov> as they are received without change, including any personal identifiers or contact information.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To request more information on this proposed information collection or to obtain a copy of the proposal and associated collection instruments, please write to CNA Attn: Ms. Jennifer Atkin, 4825 Mark Center Drive,

Alexandria, VA 22311-1850 or call (703) 824-2885.

Title; Associated Form; and OMB Number: How Differences in Pedagogical Methods Impact ChalleNGe Program Outcomes, OMB Control Number: 0704-TBD.

Needs and Uses: The information collection requirement is necessary to obtain data on the pedagogical methods of National Guard Youth ChalleNGe program teachers. The data will be used by DoD to evaluate how differences in classroom teaching methods impact program outcomes. The data will also be used to identify those policies and techniques that are most effective so they may be shared program-wide.

Affected Public: Individuals or households.

Annual Burden Hours: 60 hours.

Number of Respondents: 180.

Responses per Respondent: 1.

Average Burden per Response: 20 minutes.

Frequency: One time.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Summary of Information Collection

Respondents are teachers in the National Guard Youth ChalleNGe program. The ChalleNGe program, operated jointly by states and the state National Guard units, targets at-risk male and female youth ages 16-18. Today there are 34 programs in 28 states (plus Puerto Rico). Several states have multiple campuses. It is a 22-week residential program that includes instruction on academic subjects in an effort to help cadets attain a GED (General Education Development) credential. The program also focuses on noncognitive skills (those skills which are not academic in nature including motivation and perseverance) which have been shown to be a determining factor in educational and economic success. To date, no research has been done to assess differences in the pedagogical approaches of ChalleNGe teachers. This information collection will provide data on the various teaching methods and strategies employed by ChalleNGe academic staff. The data will be used to identify those strategies that lead to the most successful program outcomes.

Dated: May 30, 2012.

Aaron Siegel,

Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.

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