

entities anticipate continuing to implement the pinniped removal program over the next five years without the need for NMFS to authorize an additional number of CSL and SSL that were authorized in the August 14, 2020, permit based on the annual average rate (39 animals) of pinniped removals during this 42-month period.

Despite removing only 11.1 percent and 44.3 percent of the authorized take of CSL and SSL, respectively, in the first 42 months of permit implementation, the eligible entities estimated that the removal of these sea lions has saved (fish that otherwise would have been lost to sea lion predation) an estimated 16,211 to 44,974 adult salmonids.

Nonetheless, according to the information at the March 7, 2024, program review and in the application, within the geographic area, sea lion predation continues to have a significant negative impact on the recovery of salmon, steelhead, and eulachon that are listed as endangered species or threatened species under the ESA; and species of lamprey and sturgeon that are not so listed as endangered or threatened but are listed as a species of concern by the state of Oregon.

Thus, to continue to manage CSL and SSL predation on ESA-listed species in the Columbia River basin, the eligible entities, consistent with section 120(f)(2)(D) of the MMPA, ask NMFS to consider their request to renew the duration of their August 14, 2020, permit for an additional five years. Additionally, the application states that removal of sea lions is also intended to protect species of lamprey or sturgeon that may not be listed as endangered or threatened but are listed as a species of concern by the state of Oregon.

The number of sea lions NMFS authorized for removal in the eligible entities' August 14, 2020, permit is 540 CSL and 176 SSL. If NMFS approves the eligible entities' request to renew the duration their MMPA section 120(f) permit for an additional five years, the eligible entities would be authorized to remove the remaining balance of sea lions originally authorized for removal in their August 14, 2020, permit from the date of issuance of the renewed permit.

In convening the Task Force, NMFS will ask the Task Force to consider the information in the eligible entities' August 21, 2024, application; the information presented to the Task force at the March 7, 2024, program evaluation; public comments received

on the proposed action; and any relevant additional information, e.g., the eligible entities July 13, 2019, MMPA section 120(f) application, in making a recommendation to the Secretary whether to approve or deny the eligible entities' request to renew the duration of their August 14, 2020, MMPA section 120(f) permit for an additional five years to intentionally take, by lethal methods, individually identifiable CSL and SSL that are located in the main stem of the Columbia River between river mile 112 (I-205 bridge) and McNary Dam (river mile 292), or in any tributary to the Columbia River that includes spawning habitat of threatened or endangered salmon or steelhead.

Request for Comments and Other Information

NMFS solicits public comments on the eligible entities' application to renew their MMPA section 120(f) permit for an additional five years, and any relevant additional information that should be considered by the Task Force in making its recommendation, or by NMFS in making its determination whether to approve or deny the eligible entities' application. NMFS is particularly interested in receiving additional information on the impact of sea lion predation within the geographic area on the above-mentioned ESA-listed fish species and species of concern.

NMFS requests that comments be specific. In particular, we request information regarding: (1) observations of sea lion predation activity on salmonids, eulachon, lamprey, and sturgeon within the geographic area; (2) information on areas where sea lions are concentrated within the geographic area, including number of sea lions, and resting/haul out sites where sea lions have been repeatedly observed taking salmonids, eulachon, sturgeon, and lamprey; and (3) dates when sea lions have been observed within the geographic area.

Dated: March 18, 2025.

Kim Damon-Randall,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XE721]

Marine Mammals; File No. 28894

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

Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice; receipt of application.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Charted Marine Consulting, 536 Fairfax Ave., Norfolk, VA 23507 (Responsible Party: Kristi Fazioli), has applied in due form for a permit to conduct research on bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*).

DATES: Written comments must be received on or before April 28, 2025.

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 home page, <https://apps.nmfs.noaa.gov>, and then selecting File No. 28894 from the list of available applications. These documents are also available 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. 28894 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 Shannon Bent, (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.*) and the regulations governing the taking and importing of marine mammals (50 CFR part 216).

The applicant proposes to conduct research on bottlenose dolphins in the bays, sounds, estuaries, and near-shore coastal waters of Texas in the northwestern Gulf of America. The purpose of the research is to: (1) develop and maintain photo-identification catalogs; (2) characterize fine-scale population structure and dynamics; (3) establish baseline patterns of distribution, habitat use, health, and survival; (4) evaluate dolphin behavior in relation to anthropogenic activities; and (5) identify potential risks to the population. Researchers would take up to 8,670 dolphins annually during vessel surveys for counts, photo-identification, behavioral observation and passive acoustic recordings. A subset of animals would also be biopsy sampled or observed for photogrammetry and blow sampling via

an unmanned aircraft system. Up to 50 non-target cetaceans may be unintentionally harassed during surveys and/or approached annually for counts and behavioral observation. The permit would be valid for 10 years.

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: March 25, 2025.

Julia M. Harrison,

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

[FR Doc. 2025-05390 Filed 3-27-25; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XE784]

South Atlantic Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings

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

ACTION: Notice of a public meeting.

SUMMARY: The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold a meeting of the Dolphin Wahoo Advisory Panel (AP) on April 22-23, 2025.

DATES: The Dolphin Wahoo Advisory Panel meeting will be held April 22, 2025, from 1 p.m. until 5 p.m., EDT and April 23, 2025, from 8:30 a.m. until 12 p.m., EDT.

ADDRESSES: *Meeting address:* The meetings will be held at the Town and County Inn, 2008 Savannah Highway, Charleston, SC, 29407.

The meeting will also be available via webinar. Registration is required. Webinar registration, an online public comment form, and briefing book materials will be available two weeks prior to the meeting at: <https://safmc.net/advisory-panel-meetings/>.

Council address: South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201, N Charleston, SC 29405.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John Hadley, Economist, SAFMC; phone: (843) 571-4366 or toll free: (866) SAFMC-10; fax: (843) 769-4520; email: john.hadley@safmc.net.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Dolphin Wahoo Advisory Panel (AP) Meeting

The Dolphin Wahoo AP will review Regulatory Amendment 3 to the Dolphin Wahoo Fishery Management Plan (minimum size limit and recreational retention limits for dolphin), the For-Hire Electronic Reporting Improvement Amendment, the topic of for-hire limited entry, and the Council's Research Plan. The Dolphin Wahoo AP will also receive updates on the management strategy evaluation for dolphin being conducted by the NMFS Southeast Fisheries Science Center, recent Council actions, the Council's Citizen Science Program, Best Fishing Practices Program, and the Council's Lines of Communication initiative. The AP will provide input on other topics as needed.

Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for auxiliary aid should be directed to the Council office (see **ADDRESSES**) 5 days prior to the meeting.

Note: The times and sequence specified in this agenda are subject to change.

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

Dated: March 24, 2025.

Rey Israel Marquez,

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

[FR Doc. 2025-05340 Filed 3-27-25; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XE697]

Endangered Species; File No. 28338

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

ACTION: Notice; issuance of permit.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources (PRDNER), San José Industrial Park, 1375 Ave. Ponce de León, San Juan, PR 00926 (Responsible Party: Nilda Jimenez-Marrero, Ph.D.) has been issued

a permit to take pillar coral (*Dendrogyra cylindrus*) for purposes of enhancement.

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

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

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On October 24, 2024, notice was published in the **Federal Register** (89 FR 84868) that a request for an enhancement permit to take pillar coral had been submitted by the above-named organization. The requested permit has been issued under the authority of 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 through 226).

The 10-year permit authorizes the PRDNER to conduct restoration activities for pillar coral in Puerto Rico to preserve the genetic diversity of the species and increase its population numbers in coral reefs in the wild. Restoration practitioners may collect colonies or parts of colonies from coral reefs in the waters of Puerto Rico and transport them to in situ and ex situ nurseries for maintenance and propagation. Colonies may be outplanted to the wild from nurseries. Additional colonies or parts of colonies may be collected from the wild as part of emergency response due to catastrophic events, such as a vessel grounding or storm. These colonies may be reattached or stabilized in the wild (in the same location or at a new location) or transported to a nursery.

Issuance of this permit, as required by the ESA, 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 or threatened species, and (3) is consistent with the purposes and policies set forth in section 2 of the ESA.

Dated: March 21, 2025.

Julia M. Harrison,

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

[FR Doc. 2025-05370 Filed 3-27-25; 8:45 am]

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