

harvest runs from June 23 through August 8 annually, while the male young of the year fur seal open season spans from September 16 through November 30 annually. The most recent monitoring report available indicates that only 10 male sub-adult fur seal and 6 male young of the year fur seal were harvested in 2023 (Kashevarof, 2023a; Kashevarof, 2023b). There are no formal seasons for harbor seals or Steller sea lion, but historically they are spring, winter, and fall (Williams, 2025, personal communication).

USACE contacted Mark Merculief, the mayor of St. George, Alaska, and described him as a subsistence hunter who personally knows every subsistence hunter in St. George community. Mayor Merculief indicated that in recent years there have been no subsistence efforts for marine mammals during the planned project period.

The project is not likely to adversely impact the availability of any marine mammal species or stocks that are commonly used for subsistence purposes or impact subsistence harvest of marine mammals in the region because:

- Geotechnical surveys are planned to be conducted prior to the opening of subsistence hunting for northern fur seal and during a time when other pinnipeds have not been subsistence harvested in recent years;
- Geotechnical surveys are temporary and localized to between the Old Jetty and North Rookery;
- Mitigation measures will be implemented to avoid disturbance of Steller sea lion in the area and minimize disturbance of harbor seal and northern fur seal;
- The project is not expected to result in significant changes to availability of subsistence resources.

Based on the description of the specified activity, the measures described to minimize adverse effects on the availability of marine mammals for subsistence purposes, and the mitigation and monitoring measures, NMFS has determined that there will not be an unmitigable adverse impact on subsistence uses from USACE's activities.

Endangered Species Act

Section 7(a)(2) of the ESA of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) requires that each Federal agency insure that any action it authorizes, funds, or carries out is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any endangered or threatened species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of designated critical habitat. To ensure ESA compliance for the issuance of

IHAs, NMFS consults internally whenever we propose to authorize take for endangered or threatened species.

No incidental take of ESA-listed species is authorized or expected to result from this activity. Therefore, NMFS has determined that formal consultation under section 7 of the ESA is not required for this action.

National Environmental Policy Act

To comply with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA; 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*) and NOAA Administrative Order (NAO) 216-6A, NMFS must review our proposed action (*i.e.*, the issuance of an IHA) with respect to potential impacts on the human environment.

This action is consistent with categories of activities identified in Categorical Exclusion B4 (IHAs with no anticipated serious injury or mortality) of the Companion Manual for NAO 216-6A, which do not individually or cumulatively have the potential for significant impacts on the quality of the human environment and for which we have not identified any extraordinary circumstances that would preclude this categorical exclusion. Accordingly, NMFS has determined that the issuance of this IHA qualifies to be categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

Authorization

NMFS has issued an IHA to USACE for the potential harassment of small numbers of two marine mammal species incidental to the geotechnical survey activities in St. George, Alaska, that includes the previously explained mitigation, monitoring and reporting requirements.

Dated: April 10, 2025.

Kimberly Damon-Randall,

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

[FR Doc. 2025-06376 Filed 4-14-25; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XE709]

Marine Mammals; File No. 28803

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

ACTION: Notice; receipt of application.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Jacob Steinberg, CosmoVision Media Group, 64 Kenilworth Drive East,

Stamford, CT 06902, has applied in due form for a permit to conduct commercial and educational photography on marine mammals.

DATES: Written comments must be received on or before May 15, 2025.

ADDRESSES: These documents are 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. 28803 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 Carrie Hubbard, (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 proposes to film up to 15 species of non-listed marine mammals along the U.S. Atlantic coast and Gulf of America for a wildlife documentary. Filming may occur from vessel, underwater (divers/snorkelers or pole or drop-in camera), helicopter, and unmanned aircraft system platform. See the application for species, life stages, and numbers of animals by filming platform. The permit is requested for 3.5 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: April 9, 2025.

Julia M. Harrison,

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

[FR Doc. 2025-06357 Filed 4-14-25; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P