Appendix II—List of Topics Discussed in the Preliminary Decision Memorandum

I. Summary
II. Background
III. Scope Comments
IV. Scope of the Investigation
V. Use of Facts Available and Adverse Inferences
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VIII. Recommendation

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648–XA471]

Marine Mammals; File No. 22629

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

ACTION: Notice; issuance of permit.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that a permit has been issued to Mystic Aquarium (Responsible Party: Stephen M. Coan, Ph.D.) to import five beluga whales (*Delphinapterus leucas*) for scientific research.

ADDRESSES: The permit and related documents are available online at *https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/action/permit-application-import-5-beluga-whales-scientific-research-file-no-22629-mystic-aquarium.*

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Amy Sloan (*amy.sloan@noaa.gov*), Courtney Smith (*courtney.smith@noaa.gov*), or Jennifer Skidmore (*jennifer.skidmore@noaa.gov*), (301) 427–8401.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On October 1, 2019, notice was published in the **Federal Register** (84 FR 52072) that a request for a permit to import five beluga whales for scientific research had been submitted by the above-named applicant. A public hearing on this action was held on November 18, 2019 (84 FR 58694). 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.*) and the regulations governing the taking and importing of marine mammals (50 CFR part 216).

The permit authorizes the importation of five captive-born beluga whales from Marineland of Canada (Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada) to Mystic Aquarium (Mystic, Connecticut, United States).

The beluga whales were born at Marineland of Canada and NMFS considers one of the beluga whales to be a member of the depleted Sakhalin Bay-Nikolaya Bay-Amur River stock, because both parents are likely from the depleted stock. Four of the whales have mixed-stock parentage (*i.e.,* one parent likely from the depleted stock and the other from a stock that has not been designated as depleted). For purposes of this permit application, NMFS has treated all five whales as depleted.

The purpose of the research is to contribute knowledge and inform management and recovery of beluga whale populations in the wild including the endangered Cook Inlet beluga whale distinct population segment and the depleted Sakhalin Bay-Nikolaya Bay-Amur River beluga whale stock. Research authorized includes the following Studies: (1) Neuroimmunological response to environmental and anthropogenic stressors; (2) Development of novel non-invasive techniques to assess health in free-ranging, stranded and endangered beluga whales; (3) Hearing and physiological response to anthropogenic sound; (4) Photogrammetry body condition studies; (5) Diving physiology; (6) Microbiome; and (8) Testing of prototype telemetry and imaging devices before deployment on wild beluga whales. The permit does not authorize Study 7 (Behavioral and reproduction studies) including breeding of any of the imported beluga whales but includes reproductive monitoring as part of husbandry activities. Mystic Aquarium must submit a plan to provide safe and effective contraception or other means to prevent breeding of the five subject beluga whales, for approval by the Office Director prior to importation.

Consistent with other research permits authorizing captive maintenance, the permit is conditioned to require approval by the Office Director for any transfer or transport of the imported whales, including any transport to the Georgia Aquarium, and disposition of the whales at the termination of research. Consistent with NMFS' regulations, public display is authorized incidental to the research. This incidental public display must not interfere with the research and must occur as part of an educational program describing the status of the species and its endangered and depleted stocks. The animals may not be used in public interactive programs or be trained for performance. Public demonstrations in which the whales perform trained husbandry, medical, research-related, and natural behaviors are authorized. The permit is valid through August 31, 2025.

An Environmental Assessment (EA) was prepared analyzing the effects of the permitted activities on the human environment 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 August 27, 2020.

Dated: September 8, 2020.

Julia Marie Harrison,

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

[FR Doc. 2020–20061 Filed 9–10–20; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Evaluation of National Estuarine Research Reserve; Public Meeting; Request for Comments

AGENCY: Office for Coastal Management (OCM), National Ocean Service (NOS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce (DOC).

ACTION: Notice of public meeting and opportunity to comment.

SUMMARY: The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Office for Coastal Management will hold a public meeting to solicit comments on the performance evaluation of the Delaware National Estuarine Research Reserve.

DATES: NOAA will consider all written comments received by October 23, 2020. A virtual public meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 14, 2020 at 12 p.m. EDT.

ADDRESSES: You may submit written comments on the national estuarine research reserve NOAA intends to evaluate by emailing Carrie Hall, Evaluator, NOAA Office for Coastal management at *Carrie.Hall@noaa.gov.* Timely comments received by the Office for Coastal Management are considered part of the public record and may be publicly accessible. Any personal information (*e.g.,* name, address) submitted voluntarily by the sender may

also be publicly accessible. NOAA will accept anonymous comments.

You may also provide public comments during the virtual public meeting, which is being held Wednesday, October 14, 2020 at 12 p.m. EDT. To participate in the virtual public meeting, registration is required at least two hours in advance by Wednesday, October 14, 2020, at 10 a.m. EDT. Advance registration is available via the following website: *http://noaacsc.adobeconnect.com/depublicmeeting/event/event_info.html.* You may participate online or by phone. If you would like to provide comment during the public meeting, please select ''yes'' during the online registration. The line-up of speakers will be based on the date and time of registration.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Carrie Hall, Evaluator, NOAA Office for Coastal Management by email at *Carrie.Hall@noaa.gov* or by phone at (240) 533–0730. Copies of the previous evaluation findings, reserve management plan, and reserve site profile may be viewed and downloaded on the internet at *http://coast.noaa.gov/czm/evaluations.* A copy of the evaluation notification letter and most recent progress report may be obtained upon request by contacting Carrie Hall.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 312 of the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) requires NOAA to conduct periodic evaluations of federally approved state coastal programs. The process includes one or more public meetings, consideration of written public comments, and consultations with interested Federal, state, and local agencies and members of the public. During the evaluation, NOAA will consider the extent to which the state of Delaware has met the national objectives, adhered to the management program approved by the Secretary of Commerce, and adhered to the terms of financial assistance under the CZMA. When the evaluation is completed, NOAA's Office for Coastal Management will place a notice in the **Federal Register** announcing the availability of the Final Evaluation Findings.

Keelin Kuipers,

Deputy Director, Office for Coastal Management, National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

[FR Doc. 2020–20096 Filed 9–10–20; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Evaluation of State Coastal Management Program; Public Meeting; Request for Comments

AGENCY: Office for Coastal Management (OCM), National Ocean Service (NOS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce (DOC).

ACTION: Notice of public meeting; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Office for Coastal Management will hold a public meeting and solicit written comments on the performance evaluation of the Illinois Coastal Management Program.

DATES: NOAA will consider all written comments received by November 6, 2020. The virtual public meeting will be held on Wednesday October 28, 2020 at 1 p.m. CDT.

ADDRESSES: You may submit written comments on the coastal management program NOAA intends to evaluate by emailing Ralph Cantral, Senior Advisor, NOAA Office for Coastal Management at *Ralph.Cantral@noaa.gov.* Timely comments received by the Office for Coastal Management are considered part of the public record and may be publicly accessible. Any personal identifying information (*e.g.,* name, address) submitted voluntarily by the sender may also be publicly accessible. NOAA will accept anonymous comments.

You may also provide public comments during the virtual public meeting which is being held Wednesday, October 28, 2020 at 1 p.m. CDT. To participate in the virtual public meeting, registration is required at least two hours in advance by Wednesday, October 28, 2020 at 11 a.m. CDT. Advance registration is available via the following website: *http://noaacsc.adobeconnect.com/illinoiscmppublicmeeting/event/event_info.html.* You may participate online or by phone. If you would like to provide comment during the public meeting, please select ''yes'' during the online registration. The line-up of speakers will be based on your date and time of registration.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ralph Cantral, Senior Advisor, NOAA Office for Coastal Management by phone at (301) 233–2998 or email *Ralph.Cantral@noaa.gov.* Copies of the previous evaluation findings, the coastal management program's 2016–2020 Assessment and Strategy, and the Reserve's management plan and site profile may be viewed and downloaded on the internet at *http://coast.noaa.gov/czm/evaluations.* A copy of the evaluation notification letter and most recent progress reports may be obtained upon request by contacting Ralph Cantral.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 312 of the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) requires NOAA to conduct periodic evaluations of federally approved state coastal programs. The process includes one or more public meetings, consideration of written public comments, and consultations with interested Federal, state, and local agencies and members of the public. For the evaluation of the Illinois Coastal Management Program, NOAA will consider the extent to which the state has met the national objectives, adhered to the management program approved by the Secretary of Commerce, and adhered to the terms of financial assistance under the CZMA. When the evaluation is completed, NOAA's Office for Coastal Management will place a notice in the **Federal Register** announcing the availability of the Final Evaluation Findings.

Keelin Kuipers,

Deputy Director, Office for Coastal Management, National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

[FR Doc. 2020–20095 Filed 9–10–20; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648–XA468]

Marine Mammals; File No. 23858

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

ACTION: Notice; receipt of application.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the NMFS' Marine Mammal Laboratory, 7600 Sand Point Way NE, Seattle, WA 98115–6349 (Responsible Party: John Bengtson, Ph.D.), has applied in due form for a permit to conduct research on pinnipeds in Alaska.

DATES: Written, telefaxed, or email comments must be received on or before October 13, 2020.

ADDRESSES: The application and related documents are available for review by