DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648–X840

Marine Mammals; File No. 16479

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 Pacific Whale Foundation [Principal Investigator: Daniela Maldini], 300 Malaekahana Road, Suite 211, Wailuku, HI 96793, has applied in due form for a permit to conduct research on humpback whales (Megaptera novaeangliae).

DATES: Written, telefaxed, or email comments must be received on or before December 23, 2011.

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 (APPS) home page, https://apps.nmfs.noaa.gov, and then selecting File No. 16479 from the list of available applications.

These documents are also available 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
- Pacific Islands Region, NMFS, 1601 Kapiolani Blvd., Rm 1110, Honolulu, HI 96814–4700; phone (808) 944–2200; fax (808) 973–2941.

Written comments on this application should be submitted to the Chief, Permits and Conservation Division, at the address listed above. Comments may also be submitted by facsimile to (301) 713–0376, or by email to NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov. Please include the File No. in the subject line of the email comment.

Those individuals requesting a public hearing should submit a written request to the Chief, Permits and Conservation Division at the address listed above. The request should set forth the specific reasons why a hearing on this application would be appropriate.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Laura Morse or Joselyd Garcia-Reyes, (301) 427–8401.


The proposed permit would authorize vessel based research on humpback whales in Maui County waters, Hawaii to quantify the potential for near misses between vessels and humpback whales, and define the probability of “surprise encounters” with humpback whales in relation to time of day, environmental variables, vessel behavior, whale abundance, and individual sex and age classes. Up to 567 humpback whales may be approached annually for photoidentification and behavioral observation and all Hawaiian insular false killer whales (Pseudorca crassidens) may be incidentally harassed by the research activities. The permit would be valid for a period of five years.

A draft environmental assessment (EA) has been prepared in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), to examine whether significant environmental impacts could result from issuance of the proposed scientific research permit. The draft EA is available for review and comment simultaneous with the scientific research permit application.

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: November 17, 2011.

P. Michael Payne,
Chieft, Permits and Conservation Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648–XA841

Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings/Workshop

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

ACTION: Notice of public teleconference.

SUMMARY: The NMFS Northwest Fisheries Science Center and Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold an online webinar to review and critique its groundfish stock assessment process in 2011. The online Groundfish Stock Assessment Process Review Workshop webinar is open to the public.

DATES: The Groundfish Stock Assessment Process Review Workshop webinar will commence at 1 p.m., Thursday, December 8, 2011 and continue until 5 p.m. or as necessary to complete business for the day.

ADDRESSES: To join the online Groundfish Stock Assessment Process Review Workshop webinar from the U.S. Pacific time zone, go to https://nwfsc.webex.com/nwfsc/j.php?ED=164913422&UID=12274854778RT=MM0. To join the online Groundfish Stock Assessment Process Review Workshop webinar from other time zones or to view the webinar in languages other than English, go to https://nwfsc.webex.com/nwfsc/j.php?ED=164913422&UID=12274854778ORT=MM0. If requested, enter your name, email address, and the meeting number, which is 805–527–249.

Click “Join” when the login process is completed. No password is required to join the online webinar.

To only join the audio teleconference of the Groundfish Stock Assessment Process Review Workshop from the U.S. or Canada, call the toll number 1 (408) 600–3600 (note: this is not a toll-free number) and use the access code 805–527–249 when prompted.

A public listening station for the Groundfish Stock Assessment Process Review Workshop webinar will also be available in the large conference room at the Council office, 7700 NE. Ambassador Place, Suite 101, Portland, OR 97220–1384; telephone: (503) 820–2280. Other public listening stations may be organized prior to the Groundfish Stock Assessment Process Review Workshop. For further information on public listening stations,
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
RIN 0648–XA835
Marine Mammals; File No. 16314


ACTION: Notice; issuance of permit.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that a permit has been issued to Jennifer Lewis, Ph.D., Tropical Dolphin Research Foundation, Aventura, FL, to conduct research on bottlenose dolphins (Tursiops truncatus).

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 3705, Silver Spring, MD 20910; phone (301) 427–8401; fax (301) 713–0376; and
- Southeast Region, NMFS, 263 13th Avenue South, Saint Petersburg, FL 33701; phone (727) 824–5312; fax (727) 824–5309.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Joselyd Garcia-Reyes or Carrie Hubard, (301) 427–8401.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On June 10, 2011, notice was published in the Federal Register (76 FR 34053) that a request for a permit to conduct research on bottlenose dolphins 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.) and the regulations governing the taking and importing of marine mammals (50 CFR part 216).

Permit No. 16314 authorizes Dr. Lewis to conduct photo-identification surveys and biopsy sampling in Whitewater Bay, Shark River, Ponce de Leon Bay and Florida Bay, which are found in Everglades National Park. Up to 3,020 bottlenose dolphins could be taken by level B harassment each year during photo-identification surveys. Additionally, up to 38 bottlenose dolphins from each location could be taken by level A harassment annually, to acquire 30 successful biopsy samples from each location over the life of the permit. Research would stop when the desired number of samples has been obtained. The permit is valid through November 26, 2016.

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.

Dated: November 18, 2011.


[FR Doc. 2011–30270 Filed 11–22–11; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 3510–22–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
RIN 0648–XA836
Marine Mammals; File No. 15274


ACTION: Notice; issuance of permit.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that a permit has been issued to Dan R. Salden, Ph.D., Hawaii Whale Research Foundation, 52 Cheshire Drive, Maryville, IL 62062 to conduct research on humpback whales (Megaptera novaeangliae).

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

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Joselyd Garcia-Reyes or Carrie Hubard, (301) 427–8401.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On January 31, 2011, notice was published in the Federal Register (76 FR 5338) that a request for a permit to conduct research on humpback whales 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).

Authorized research will include harassment of humpback whales, Hawaiian Insular false killer whales (Pseudorca crassidens), and six non-ESA-listed cetaceans through passive acoustics, underwater photography and