

supply. The unit can be configured for automatic reduced position transmissions when the vessel is stationary (*i.e.*, in port) which allows for port stays in a reduced power state and without the need for unit shut down. The unit restarts normal position transmission automatically when the vessel goes to sea.

The Faria WatchDog 750VMS has omni-directional Iridium, GPS, and GSM/GPRS antennas, providing operation from +/- 5 degrees above or below the horizon anywhere on earth. The GSM/GPRS capability (if activated) gives the system the additional ability to communicate through the AT&T GPRS wireless network where available.

A configuration option is available to automatically send daily status reports to a private email address and position reports to a secure Web site where the data is provided on a map and in tabular form. A 2-inch LCD user interface is also included with this system that displays if the MTU is operating properly and can send emergency notification messages to up to four email addresses and/or telephone numbers. A complete list of options is available from the VMS provider.

The Faria WatchDog 750VMS must be bundled with the Iridium/GSM communications service.

Faria can be contacted at (860) 608-5875 and mark@fariawatchdog.net.

B. Thrane & Thrane Sailor (TT-3026D) Gold VMS

The TT-3026D Gold VMS features an integrated GPS/Inmarsat-C unit. The unit is factory pre-configured for NMFS VMS operations (non-Global Maritime Distress & Safety System (non-GMDSS)). The Thrane and Thrane Gold VMS includes a marine grade monitor with keyboard and integrated mouse. Satellite commissioning services are provided by GMPCS Personal Communications Inc. personnel.

Automatic GPS position reporting starts after transceiver installation and power activation onboard the vessel. The unit is an integrated transceiver/antenna/GPS design using a floating 10 to 32 VDC power supply. The unit is configured for automatic reduced position transmissions when the vessel is stationary (*i.e.*, in port). It allows for port stays without power drain or power shut down. The unit restarts normal position transmission automatically when the vessel goes to sea.

The TT-3026D provides operation down to +/- 15 degree angles. The unit has the capability (if so configured) of two-way communications to send electronic forms and to receive email and other messages. A configuration

option is available to automatically send position reports to a private address, such as a fleet management company.

The TT-3026D must be bundled with the Inmarsat-C communications service. The vessel owner will need to establish an Inmarsat-C system use contract with an approved Inmarsat-C communications service provider. The owner will be required to complete the GMPCS SERVICE AGREEMENT FOR INMARSAT VMS—NMFS SERVICES form. The owner should consult with GMPCS when completing this form.

GMPCS Personal Communications Inc. personnel will perform the following services before shipment: (1) Configure the transceiver according to OLE specifications for vessels issued permits to operate in Atlantic HMS fisheries; (2) download the predetermined NMFS position reporting and broadcast command identification numbers into the unit; (3) test the unit to ensure operation when installation has been completed on the vessel; and (4) forward the Inmarsat service provider and the transceiver identifying information to OLE.

GMPCS can be contacted at 1-(888) 664-6727 and Contact@gmpcs-us.com.

C. CLS America Thorium VMS TST-100

The approved configuration consists of the CLS America Thorium VMS TST-100 Transceiver and the Data Terminal Equipment (DTE) version 1.0. The DTE software is version 1.0. The CLS Thorium VMS unit and the DTE must be bundled with Halios communications (email, eforms) and position services. This configuration is enabled through the Iridium Short Burst Data (SBD) service, and is accessed through the CLS Iridium Web Portal (IWP) or machine-to-machine interface (IWS). CLS can be contacted at 1 (301) 925-4411 and info@cls-halios.net.

D. Stellar ST2500-G

The approved Skymate E-MTU consists of the Stellar 2500-G satellite communicator version 1.12 with MDA version 2.52, April 27, 2007, Comrod AV-57, May 2005 VHF antenna, SA-700 GPS antenna, a dedicated Dell Latitude ATG D620 PP18L modified to meet the requirements of 73 FR 5813, and when bundled with the Orbcomm mobile communications provider service.

Skymate can be reached at 866-SKYMATE and sales@skymate.com.

Dated: November 25, 2011.

Alan D. Risenhoover,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XO45

[File No. 14241]

Marine Mammals

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

ACTION: Notice; receipt of application for permit amendment.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Dr. Peter Tyack, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, Woods Hole, MA has applied for an amendment to Permit No. 14241-02 to conduct research on marine mammals.

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. 14241 from the list of available applications.

These documents are also available upon written request or by appointment in the following office(s):

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

Northeast Region, NMFS, 55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930; phone (978) 281-9300; fax (978) 281-9333; and Southeast Region, NMFS, 263 13th Avenue South, Saint Petersburg, Florida 33701; phone (727) 824-5312; fax (727) 824-5309.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tammy Adams or Carrie Hubard, (301) 427-8401.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The subject amendment to Permit No. 14241-02 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).

Permit No. 14241, issued on July 15, 2009 (74 FR 3668), authorizes the permit holder to conduct research on cetacean behavior, sound production, and responses to sound. The research methods include tagging marine mammals with an advanced digital sound recording tag that records the acoustic stimuli an animal hears and measures vocalization, behavior, and physiological parameters. Research also involves conducting sound playbacks in a carefully controlled manner and measuring animals' responses. The principal study species are beaked whales, especially Cuvier's beaked whale (*Ziphius cavirostris*), and large delphinids such as long-finned pilot whales (*Globicephala melas*), although other small cetacean species may also be studied. The locations for the field work are the Mediterranean Sea, waters off of the mid-Atlantic United States, and Cape Cod Bay. The permit has been amended twice since issuance. Amendment number 1 (Permit No. 14241-01) issued on July 27, 2010 (75 FR 47779): (1) Included authorization for collection of a skin and blubber biopsy sample from animals that are already authorized to be tagged; (2) added new species for existing projects involving tagging, playbacks, and behavioral observations; and (3) modified and clarified tagging and playback protocols and mitigation for when dependent calves are present. Amendment number 2 (Permit No. 14241-02), a minor amendment, issued on April 4, 2011, modified the sound source protocols and added zinc oxide marking for animals being tagged or biopsied. The permit, as amended, is valid through July 31, 2014.

The permit holder is requesting the permit be amended to: (1) Add one new species, Atlantic spotted dolphin (*Stenella frontalis*), for field work in waters off Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia; (2) add a new project to Dtag the following species in waters off the west coast of North America: Baird's beaked whale (*Berardius bairdii*), Cuvier's beaked whale, Risso's dolphin (*Grampus griseus*), killer whale (*Orcinus orca*) and Mesoplodont beaked whales (*Mesoplodon* spp); (3) add a new procedure for marking cetaceans with zinc oxide; (4) add satellite tagging to long-finned pilot whales in approaches to the Mediterranean; and (5) switch some of the playback takes initially located in the Mediterranean and eastern North Atlantic to the same stocks of long-finned and short-finned (*G. macrorhynchus*) pilot whales in a subset of a location that is already part

of the permit in waters near Cape Hatteras. The amendment would not change the expiration date of the permit.

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 this application to the Marine Mammal Commission and its Committee of Scientific Advisors.

Dated: November 28, 2011.

Tammy C. Adams,

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

[FR Doc. 2011-31036 Filed 12-1-11; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XA808

Takes of Marine Mammals Incidental to Specified Activities; Marine Geophysical Survey in the Central Pacific Ocean, November, 2011 Through January, 2012

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

ACTION: Notice; issuance of an incidental take authorization.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) regulation, notification is hereby given that NMFS has issued an Incidental Harassment Authorization (IHA) to Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory (L-DEO), a part of Columbia University, for an Incidental Harassment Authorization (IHA) to take marine mammals, by harassment, incidental to conducting a marine geophysical survey in the central Pacific Ocean, November, 2011 through January, 2012.

DATES: Effective November 26, 2011 through January 19, 2012.

ADDRESSES: A copy of the IHA and application are available by writing to P. Michael Payne, Chief, Permits and Conservation Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910-3225.

An electronic copy of the application containing a list of the references used in this document may be obtained by writing to the above address, telephoning the contact listed here (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**) or visiting the Internet at: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/permits/incidental.htm#applications>.

The following associated documents are also available at the same Internet address: the National Science Foundation's (NSF) final Environmental Analysis (Analysis) pursuant to Executive Order 12114, which incorporates an "Environmental Assessment of a Marine Geophysical Survey by the R/V *Marcus G. Langseth* in the Central Pacific Ocean, November-December 2011," prepared by LGL Limited, on behalf of NSF and L-DEO; and a finding of no significant impact (FONSI) prepared by the NSF. NMFS prepared its own EA and FONSI, which is available at the same Internet address. Documents cited in this notice may be viewed, by appointment, during regular business hours, at the aforementioned address.

The NMFS Biological Opinion will be available online at: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/consultation/opinions.htm>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jeannine Cody, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, (301) 427-8401.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Section 101(a)(5)(D) of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (MMPA; 16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) directs the Secretary of Commerce to authorize, upon request, the incidental, but not intentional, taking of small numbers of marine mammals of a species or population stock, by United States citizens who engage in a specified activity (other than commercial fishing) within a specified geographical region if certain findings are made and, if the taking is limited to harassment, a notice of a proposed authorization is provided to the public for review.

Authorization for the incidental taking of small numbers of marine mammals shall be granted if NMFS finds that the taking will have a negligible impact on the species or stock(s), and will not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of the species or stock(s) for subsistence uses (where relevant). The authorization must set forth the permissible methods of taking, other means of effecting the least practicable adverse impact on the species or stock and its habitat, and requirements