

and local governments and the general public have the opportunity to help BOEM determine significant resources and issues, impacting factors, reasonable alternatives, and potential mitigating measures to be analyzed in the WPA 248 Supplemental EIS and to provide additional information. BOEM will also use the NEPA commenting process to initiate the Section 106 consultation process of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470f), as provided for in 36 CFR 800.2(d)(3).

Pursuant to the regulations implementing the procedural provisions of NEPA (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), BOEM will hold public scoping meetings in Texas and Louisiana on the WPA 248 Supplemental EIS. The purpose of these meetings is to solicit comments on the scope of the WPA 248 Supplemental EIS. BOEM's scoping meetings will be held at the following places and times:

- Houston, Texas: Tuesday, April 14, 2015, Houston Airport Marriott at George Bush Intercontinental, 18700 John F. Kennedy Boulevard, Houston, Texas 77032, one meeting beginning at 1:00 p.m. CDT; and
- New Orleans, Louisiana: Thursday, April 16, 2015, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region, 1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard, New Orleans, Louisiana 70123, one meeting beginning at 1:00 p.m. CDT.

Cooperating Agency: BOEM invites other Federal, State, Tribal, and local governments to consider becoming cooperating agencies in the preparation of the WPA 248 Supplemental EIS. We invite qualified government entities to inquire about cooperating agency status for the WPA 248 Supplemental EIS. Following the guidelines from the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), qualified agencies and governments are those with "jurisdiction by law or special expertise." Potential cooperating agencies should consider their authority and capacity to assume the responsibilities of a cooperating agency, and remember that an agency's role in the environmental analysis neither enlarges nor diminishes the final decisionmaking authority of any other agency involved in the NEPA process. Upon request, BOEM will provide potential cooperating agencies with a written summary of ground rules for cooperating agencies, including time schedules and critical action dates, milestones, responsibilities, scope and detail of cooperating agencies' contributions, and availability of predecisional information. BOEM anticipates this summary will form the basis of a Memorandum of Agreement

between BOEM and any cooperating agency. Agencies should also consider the "Factors for Determining Cooperating Agency Status" in Attachment 1 to CEQ's January 30, 2002, Memorandum for the Heads of Federal Agencies: *Cooperating Agencies in Implementing the Procedural Requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act*. These documents are available at the following locations on the Internet: <http://ceq.hss.doe.gov/nepa/regs/cooperating/.html>; and <http://ceq.hss.doe.gov/nepa/regs/cooperating/.html>.

BOEM, as the lead agency, will not provide financial assistance to cooperating agencies. Even if an organization is not a cooperating agency, opportunities will exist to provide information and comments to BOEM during the normal public input stages of the NEPA/EIS process. For further information about cooperating agencies, please contact Mr. Gary D. Goeke at 504-736-3233.

*Comments:* All interested parties, including Federal, State, Tribal, and local governments, and other interested parties, may submit written comments on the scope of the WPA 248 Supplemental EIS, significant issues that should be addressed, alternatives that should be considered, potential mitigating measures, and the types of oil and gas activities of interest in the proposed WPA 248 lease sale area.

Written scoping comments may be submitted in one of the following ways:

1. In an envelope labeled "Scoping Comments for the WPA 248 Supplemental EIS" and mailed (or hand delivered) to Mr. Gary D. Goeke, Chief, Environmental Assessment Section, Office of Environment (GM 623E), Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region, 1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard, New Orleans, Louisiana 70123-2394;
2. Through the regulations.gov web portal: Navigate to <http://www.regulations.gov> and search for "Oil and Gas Lease Sales: Gulf of Mexico, Outer Continental Shelf; Western Planning Area Lease Sale 248" (Note: It is important to include the quotation marks in your search terms). Click on the "Comment Now!" button to the right of the document link. Enter your information and comment, then click "Submit"; or
3. Through BOEM's email address: [wpa248@boem.gov](mailto:wpa248@boem.gov).

Petitions, although accepted, do not generally provide useful information to assist in the development of alternatives, resources, and issues to be analyzed, or impacting factors. BOEM does not consider anonymous comments; please include your name and address as part of your submittal.

BOEM makes all comments, including the names and addresses of respondents, available for public review during regular business hours. Individual respondents may request that BOEM withhold their names and/or addresses from the public record; however, BOEM cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. If you wish your name and/or address to be withheld, you must state your preference prominently at the beginning of your comment. All submissions from organizations or businesses and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

**Authority:** This NOI is published pursuant to the regulations (40 CFR 1501.7) implementing the provisions of NEPA.

Dated: March 25, 2015.

**Abigail Ross Hopper,**

*Director, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

[FWS-HQ-IA-2015-N061;  
FXIA1671090000-156-FF09A30000]

#### Endangered Species; Marine Mammals; Receipt of Applications for Permit

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of receipt of applications for permit.

**SUMMARY:** We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, invite the public to comment on the following applications to conduct certain activities with endangered species, marine mammals, or both. With some exceptions, the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) prohibit activities with listed species unless Federal authorization is acquired that allows such activities.

**DATES:** We must receive comments or requests for documents on or before April 29, 2015. We must receive requests for marine mammal permit public hearings, in writing, at the address shown in the **ADDRESSES** section by April 29, 2015.

**ADDRESSES:** Brenda Tapia, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Management Authority, Branch of Permits, MS: IA, 5275 Leesburg Pike,

Falls Church, VA 22041; fax (703) 358-2281; or email [DMAFR@fws.gov](mailto:DMAFR@fws.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Brenda Tapia, (703) 358-2104 (telephone); (703) 358-2281 (fax); [DMAFR@fws.gov](mailto:DMAFR@fws.gov) (email).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**I. Public Comment Procedures**

*A. How do I request copies of applications or comment on submitted applications?*

Send your request for copies of applications or comments and materials concerning any of the applications to the contact listed under **ADDRESSES**. Please include the **Federal Register** notice publication date, the PRT-number, and the name of the applicant in your request or submission. We will not consider requests or comments sent to an email or address not listed under **ADDRESSES**. If you provide an email address in your request for copies of applications, we will attempt to respond to your request electronically.

Please make your requests or comments as specific as possible. Please confine your comments to issues for which we seek comments in this notice, and explain the basis for your comments. Include sufficient information with your comments to allow us to authenticate any scientific or commercial data you include.

The comments and recommendations that will be most useful and likely to influence agency decisions are: (1) Those supported by quantitative information or studies; and (2) Those that include citations to, and analyses of, the applicable laws and regulations. We will not consider or include in our administrative record comments we receive after the close of the comment period (see **DATES**) or comments delivered to an address other than those listed above (see **ADDRESSES**).

*B. May I review comments submitted by others?*

Comments, including names and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the street address listed under **ADDRESSES**. The public may review documents and other information applicants have sent in support of the application unless our allowing viewing would violate the Privacy Act or Freedom of Information Act. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment

to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

**II. Background**

To help us carry out our conservation responsibilities for affected species, and in consideration of section 10(a)(1)(A) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), and the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), along with Executive Order 13576, “Delivering an Efficient, Effective, and Accountable Government,” and the President’s Memorandum for the Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies of January 21, 2009—Transparency and Open Government (74 FR 4685; January 26, 2009), which call on all Federal agencies to promote openness and transparency in Government by disclosing information to the public, we invite public comment on these permit applications before final action is taken. Under the MMPA, you may request a hearing on any MMPA application received. If you request a hearing, give specific reasons why a hearing would be appropriate. The holding of such a hearing is at the discretion of the Service Director.

**III. Permit Applications**

*A. Endangered Species*

Applicant: Houston Zoo Inc., Houston, TX; PRT-45248B

The applicant requests a permit to export one female curassow (*Crax alberti*) from Houston Zoo, Houston, Texas to Nago Zoological and Botanical Gardens, Okinawa, Japan, for the purpose of scientific research. This notification covers activities to be conducted by the applicant over a 5-year period.

Applicant: Disney’s Animal Kingdom, Bay Lake, FL; PRT-53174B

The applicant requests a permit to export feathers from captive-bred pink pigeons (*Nesoenas mayeri*) for the purpose of scientific research.

Applicant: The Wild Animal Park, Chittenango, NY; PRT-56456B

The applicant requests a captive-bred wildlife registration under 50 CFR 17.21(g) for giant tortoises (*Chelonoidis nigra*), radiated tortoises (*Astrochelys radiata*), ring-tailed lemurs (*Lemur catta*), snow leopards (*Uncia uncia*), and leopards (*Panthera pardus*) to enhance the species’ propagation or survival. This notification covers activities to be conducted by the applicant over a 5-year period.

Applicant: USFWS/Ecological Services Field Office, Cheyenne, WY; PRT-219999

The applicant requests renewal of their permit to export to and import from Toronto Zoo, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, captive hatched Wyoming toads (*Bufo hemiophrys baxteri*) for the purposes of enhancement of the survival of the species. This notification covers activities to be conducted by the applicant over a 5-year period.

Applicant: Edgar Hinkle, Lexington, NC; PRT-59964B

The applicant requests a permit to import a sport-hunted trophy of one male bontebok (*Damaliscus pygargus pygargus*) culled from a captive herd maintained under the management program of the Republic of South Africa, for the purpose of enhancement of the survival of the species.

*B. Endangered Marine Mammals and Marine Mammals*

Applicant: Tom Smith, Brigham Young University, Provo, UT; PRT-225854

The applicant requests a renewal of the permit to authorize harassment of polar bears (*Ursus maritimus*) by adjusting the video camera equipment, conducting aerial surveys, and conducting ground-truth surveys with snowmobiles near dens for the purpose of scientific research. This notification covers activities to be conducted by the applicant over the remainder of the 5-year period of the permit.

Concurrent with publishing this notice in the **Federal Register**, we are forwarding copies of the above applications to the Marine Mammal Commission and the Committee of Scientific Advisors for their review.

**Brenda Tapia,**

*Program Analyst/Data Administrator, Branch of Permits, Division of Management Authority.*

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**INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION**

[Investigation No. 337-TA-951]

**Certain Lithium Metal Oxide Cathode Materials, Lithium-Ion Batteries for Power Tool Products Containing the Same, and Power Tools Products With Lithium-Ion Batteries Containing Same; Institution of Investigation**

**AGENCY:** U.S. International Trade Commission.

**ACTION:** Notice.