

2021, provided the previously mentioned mitigation, monitoring, and reporting requirements are incorporated.

Dated: August 11, 2021.

**Catherine Marzin,**

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

[FR Doc. 2021-17683 Filed 8-17-21; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

#### Reopening of Solicitation of Nominations for the Marine Debris Foundation Board of Directors

**AGENCY:** National Ocean Service (NOS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce (DOC).

**ACTION:** Reopening of solicitation of nominations.

**SUMMARY:** The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration published a notice in the **Federal Register** on May 19, 2021 seeking nominations of qualified candidates to be considered for appointment as a member of the Marine Debris Foundation Board of Directors (Board). This solicitation of nominations of qualified persons to the Board is hereby reopened.

**DATES:** Nominations to the Board of Directors for the Marine Debris Foundation must be received in entirety no later than 11:59 p.m. EDT on August 27, 2021. Nomination packages received after this time will not be considered.

**ADDRESSES:** All nominations should be emailed (recommended) to [marinedebris.foundation@noaa.gov](mailto:marinedebris.foundation@noaa.gov) with the subject line "Marine Debris Foundation Nomination," or mailed to Caitlin Wessel, Marine Debris Foundation Nomination, c/o NOAA Disaster Response Center, 7344 Ziegler Blvd., Mobile, AL 36608.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Caitlin Wessel, Ph.D., Phone 251-222-0276; Email [caitlin.wessel@noaa.gov](mailto:caitlin.wessel@noaa.gov) or visit the NOAA Marine Debris Program website at <https://marinedebris.noaa.gov/who-we-are/marine-debris-foundation>.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Refer to the **Federal Register** Notice of May 19, 2021 (86 FR 27070) and the NOAA Marine Debris Program website at <https://marinedebris.noaa.gov/who-we-are/marine-debris-foundation> for the items that are required parts of the nomination package and additional information.

(Authority: Pub. L. 116-224, 112, Dec. 18, 2020, 134 Stat. 1072)

**Scott Lundgren,**

*Director, Office of Response and Restoration, National Ocean Service.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XB163]

#### Takes of Marine Mammals Incidental to Specified Activities; Taking Marine Mammals Incidental to the Palmer Station Pier Replacement Project, Antarctica

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

**ACTION:** Notice; proposed incidental harassment authorization; request for comments on proposed authorization and possible renewal.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS has received a request from the National Science Foundation (NSF) for authorization to take marine mammals incidental to the Palmer Station Pier Replacement Project in Anvers Island, Antarctica. Pursuant to the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), NMFS is requesting comments on its proposal to issue an incidental harassment authorization (IHA) to incidentally take marine mammals during the specified activities. NMFS is also requesting comments on a possible one-time, one-year renewal that could be issued under certain circumstances and if all requirements are met, as described in Request for Public Comments at the end of this notice. NMFS will consider public comments prior to making any final decision on the issuance of the requested MMPA authorizations and agency responses will be summarized in the final notice of our decision.

**DATES:** Comments and information must be received no later than September 17, 2021.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments should be addressed to Jolie Harrison, Chief, Permits and Conservation Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service. Written comments should be submitted via email to [ITP.Pauline@noaa.gov](mailto:ITP.Pauline@noaa.gov).

*Instructions:* NMFS is not responsible for comments sent by any other method, to any other address or individual, or received after the end of the comment

period. Comments, including all attachments, must not exceed a 25-megabyte file size. All comments received are a part of the public record and will generally be posted online at [www.fisheries.noaa.gov/permit/incidental-take-authorizations-under-marine-mammal-protection-act](http://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/permit/incidental-take-authorizations-under-marine-mammal-protection-act) without change. All personal identifying information (e.g., name, address) voluntarily submitted by the commenter may be publicly accessible. Do not submit confidential business information or otherwise sensitive or protected information.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Robert Pauline, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, (301) 427-8401. Electronic copies of the application and supporting documents, as well as a list of the references cited in this document, may be obtained online at: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/permit/incidental-take-authorizations-under-marine-mammal-protection-act>. In case of problems accessing these documents, please call the contact listed above.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Background

The MMPA prohibits the "take" of marine mammals, with certain exceptions. sections 101(a)(5)(A) and (D) of the MMPA (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) direct the Secretary of Commerce (as delegated to NMFS) to allow, upon request, the incidental, but not intentional, taking of small numbers of marine mammals by U.S. citizens who engage in a specified activity (other than commercial fishing) within a specified geographical region if certain findings are made and either regulations are issued or, if the taking is limited to harassment, a notice of a proposed incidental take authorization may be provided to the public for review.

Authorization for incidental takings 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 taking for subsistence uses (where relevant). Further, NMFS must prescribe the permissible methods of taking and other "means of effecting the least practicable adverse impact" on the affected species or stocks and their habitat, paying particular attention to rookeries, mating grounds, and areas of similar significance, and on the availability of the species or stocks for taking for certain subsistence uses (referred to in shorthand as "mitigation"); and requirements pertaining to the mitigation, monitoring and reporting of the takings are set forth.