

sawfish, Atlantic sturgeon, and prohibited sharks. In an effort to improve reporting, the proper identification of protected species and prohibited sharks will also be taught at these workshops. Additionally, individuals attending these workshops will gain a better understanding of the requirements for participating in these fisheries. The overall goal of these workshops is to provide participants with the skills needed to reduce the mortality of protected species and prohibited sharks, which may prevent additional regulations on these fisheries in the future.

Online Recertification Workshops

NMFS implemented an online option for shark dealers and owners and operators of vessels that fish with longline and gillnet gear to renew their certificates in December 2021. To be eligible for online recertification workshops, dealers and vessel owners and operators need to have previously attended an in-person workshop. Information about the courses is available online at <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/atlantic-highly-migratory-species/atlantic-shark-identification-workshops> and <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/atlantic-highly-migratory-species/safe-handling-release-and-identification-workshops>. To access the course please visit: <https://hmsworkshop.fisheries.noaa.gov/start>.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: March 16, 2026.

David R. Blankinship,

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

[FR Doc. 2026-05265 Filed 3-17-26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XF574]

New England Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The New England Fishery Management Council (Council) is scheduling a public hybrid meeting of its Whiting Joint Advisory Panel and Plan Development Team (PDT) to consider actions affecting New England fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ). This meeting will be held in-

person with a webinar option. Recommendations from this group will be brought to the full Council for formal consideration and action, if appropriate.

DATES: This webinar will be held on Wednesday April 1, 2026, at 10 a.m. EST Webinar registration URL information: <https://nefmc-org.zoom.us/j/9876543210>

ADDRESSES: This meeting will be held at DoubleTree by Hilton, 2081 Post Road, Warwick, RI, 028869; Phone (401) 739-3000.

Council address: New England Fishery Management Council, 50 Water Street, Mill 2, Newburyport, MA 01950.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Cate O'Keefe, Ph.D., Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council; telephone: (978) 465-0492.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Agenda

The Whiting Advisory Panel and Plan Development Team will meet to discuss preliminary analyses of the small-mesh multispecies fishery in preparation for management action as well as the status and potential application of the Council's new risk policy to set specifications. They will also discuss small-mesh fishery management issues to be identified by the advisors as well as the possible management measures and alternatives to consider for 2026 and future management actions. Other business will be discussed, if necessary.

Although non-emergency issues not contained on the agenda may come before this Council for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Council action will be restricted to those issues specifically listed in this notice and any issues arising after publication of this notice that require emergency action under section 305(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, provided the public has been notified of the Council's intent to take final action to address the emergency. The public also should be aware that the meeting will be recorded. Consistent with 16 U.S.C. 1852, a copy of the recording is available upon request.

Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Cate O'Keefe, Ph.D., Executive Director, at (978) 465-0492, at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: March 16, 2026.

Rey Israel Marquez,

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

[FR Doc. 2026-05297 Filed 3-17-26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XF216]

Takes of Marine Mammals Incidental to Specified Activities; Taking Marine Mammals Incidental to the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities' Cold Bay Ferry Terminal Reconstruction Project in Cold Bay, Alaska

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

ACTION: Notice; issuance of incidental harassment authorization.

SUMMARY: In accordance with regulations implementing the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) as amended, notification is hereby given that NMFS has issued an incidental harassment authorization (IHA) to the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (ADOT&PF) for authorization to take marine mammals incidental to the Cold Bay Ferry Terminal Reconstruction Project in Cold Bay, Alaska.

DATES: This Authorization is effective from May 1, 2028, through April 30, 2029.

ADDRESSES: 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/national/marine-mammal-protection/incidental-take-authorizations-construction-activities>. In case of problems accessing these documents, please call the contact listed below.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

MMPA Background and Determinations

The MMPA prohibits the "take" of marine mammals, with certain exceptions. Among the exceptions is section 101(a)(5)(D) of the MMPA (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) which directs the Secretary of Commerce (as delegated to

NMFS) to allow, upon request, the incidental, but not intentional, taking by harassment 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 the public has an opportunity to comment on the proposed IHA.

Specifically, NMFS will issue an IHA if it 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 such species or stocks for taking for certain subsistence uses (referred to here as “mitigation”). NMFS must also prescribe requirements pertaining to the monitoring and reporting of such takings. The definitions of key terms, such as “take,” “harassment,” and “negligible impact,” can be found in the MMPA and the NMFS’ implementing regulations (see 16 U.S.C. 1362; 50 CFR 216.103).

On December 29, 2025, a notice of NMFS’ proposal to issue an IHA to ADOT&PF for the taking of marine mammals incidental to the Cold Bay Ferry Terminal Reconstruction Project in Cold Bay, Alaska was published in the **Federal Register** (90 FR 60653). In that notice, NMFS indicated the estimated numbers, type, and methods of incidental take proposed for each species or stock, as well as the mitigation, monitoring, and reporting measures that would be required should the IHA be issued. The **Federal Register** notice also included analysis to support NMFS’ preliminary conclusions and determinations that the IHA, if issued, would satisfy the requirements of section 101(a)(5)(D) of the MMPA for issuance of the IHA. The **Federal Register** notice included web links to a draft IHA for review, as well as other supporting documents.

No comments were received during the public comment period. With the exception of the minor changes described below, there are no substantive changes to the specified activity, the species taken, the proposed numbers, type, or methods of take, or the mitigation, monitoring, or reporting measures in the proposed IHA notice. Furthermore, no new information that

would change any of the preliminary analyses, conclusions, or determinations in the proposed IHA notice has become available since that notice was published; therefore, the preliminary analyses, conclusions, and determinations included in the proposed IHA are considered final.

Changes From the Proposed IHA to the Final IHA

NMFS made a few minor changes to the IHA based on input received from ADOT&PF during the public comment period. The first included the removal of the word “lead” in IHA measure 4(c) when describing the start-of-shift determination related to the pre-clearance monitoring to ensure that visibility is sufficient for PSO monitoring. As a Lead PSO is not required at all times, the inclusion of this could pose a logistical challenge for the project. With this change, any on-duty PSO can make the appropriate decision for the start of activities, upon completion of the required pre-clearance monitoring period.

The other change was related to an inadvertent inclusion of an incorrect 500-meter (m) (1,640 feet (ft)) shutdown zone for harbor seals (*Phoca vitulina*), specifically during impact pile driving of the 36-inch (in) (91-centimeter (cm)) trestle support piles, the 24-in (61-cm) to 36-in (91-cm) temporary trestle piles, the 36-in (91-cm) dock support pile, the 24-in (61-cm) to 36-in (91-cm) temporary dock piles, and the 36-in (91-cm) dolphin piles. Given the small size and cryptic behavior of this species, individuals may be difficult to see at a distance greater than 300 m (984 ft); therefore, this has been changed to a 300-m (984 ft) shutdown zone for harbor seals in table 2 of the final IHA. This is also in alignment with the shutdown zone for other small species during impact pile driving (*i.e.*, harbor porpoises (*Phocoena phocoena*) and Steller sea lions (*Eumetopias jubatus*)).

Lastly, NMFS corrects a few errors in the total number of takes by Level B harassment for Steller sea lions, harbor porpoises, and harbor seals. The correct value for Steller sea lions should have been 3,465 total estimated exposures, minus 14 takes by Level A harassment, which equates to 3,451 takes by Level B harassment. For harbor porpoises, the correct value should have been 95 takes, given that the original 73 takes by Level A harassment were reduced to 4 and should have been added to the takes by Level B harassment to equal 95 (26 + 69). Similarly for harbor seals, the reduced number of takes by Level A harassment (from 744 to 50) should have been added to the takes by Level

B harassment to equal 2,260 (694 + 1,560). This means that the total percentage of the population/stock expected to be taken now equates to 6.96 percent for Steller sea lions, 0.32 percent for harbor porpoises, and 8.13 percent for harbor seals, all of which are still below NMFS’ threshold for small numbers. We have corrected these in the final IHA and carry them forward here.

None of these minor updates change NMFS’ analysis, the findings, or final determinations, as previously described.

National Environmental Policy Act

To comply with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA; 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*) and NOAA Administrative Order (NAO) 216–6A, NMFS must review our proposed action (*i.e.*, the issuance of an IHA) with respect to potential impacts on the human environment.

This action is consistent with categories of activities identified in Categorical Exclusion B4 (IHAs with no anticipated serious injury or mortality) of the Companion Manual for NAO 216–6A, which do not individually or cumulatively have the potential for significant impacts on the quality of the human environment and for which we have not identified any extraordinary circumstances that would preclude this categorical exclusion. Accordingly, NMFS has determined that the issuance of the IHA qualifies to be categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

Endangered Species Act

Section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) requires that each Federal agency ensures that any action it authorizes, funds, or carries out is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any endangered or threatened species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of designated critical habitat. To ensure ESA compliance for the issuance of IHAs, NMFS consults internally whenever we propose to authorize take for endangered or threatened species, in this case, with NMFS’ Alaska Regional Office.

There are two ESA-listed marine mammal species, consisting of three stocks, with confirmed occurrence in the project area: the Mexico DPS and Western North Pacific DPS of humpback whales, and the Western DPS of Steller sea lions. NMFS requested consultation under section 7 of the ESA on December 19, 2025. The NMFS Alaska Regional Office Protected Resources Division issued a Biological Opinion under section 7 of the ESA, on the issuance of an IHA to ADOT&PF under section

101(a)(5)(D) of the MMPA by the NMFS Permits and Conservation Division. The Biological Opinion concluded that the proposed action is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of humpback whales (both the Mexico DPS and the Western DPS) and Steller sea lions (Western DPS), and is not likely to destroy or adversely modify critical habitat for this species.

Authorization

Accordingly, consistent with the requirements of section 101(a)(5)(D) of the MMPA, NMFS has issued an IHA to ADOT&PF for authorization to take marine mammals incidental to the Cold Bay Ferry Terminal Reconstruction Project in Cold Bay, Alaska.

Dated: March 16, 2026.

Kimberly Damon-Randall,

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

[FR Doc. 2026-05283 Filed 3-17-26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Patent and Trademark Office

Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget for Review and Approval; Comment Request; Admission To Practice and Roster of Registered Patent Attorneys and Agents Admitted To Practice Before the United States Patent and Trademark Office

AGENCY: United States Patent and Trademark Office, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of information collection; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The United States Patent and Trademark Office (hereafter “USPTO” or “Agency”), as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, invites comments on the extension and revision of an existing information collection: 0651-0012 (Admission to Practice and Roster of Registered Patent Attorneys and Agents Admitted to Practice Before the United States Patent and Trademark Office). The purpose of this notice is to allow 60 days for public comments preceding submission of the information collection to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

DATES: To ensure consideration, you must submit comments regarding this information collection on or before May 18, 2026.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit written comments by any of the following methods. Do not

submit Confidential Business Information or otherwise sensitive or protected information.

- **Email:** InformationCollection@uspto.gov. Include “0651-0012 comment” in the subject line of the message.

- **Federal eRulemaking Portal:** <https://www.regulations.gov>.

- **Mail:** Justin Isaac, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer, United States Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

- **Telephone:** Diana Oleksa, Office of Enrollment and Discipline, 571-272-4097.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Requests for additional information should be directed to Diana Oleksa at: Office of Enrollment and Discipline, United States Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450; 571-272-4097; or Diana.Oleksa@uspto.gov with “0651-0012 comment” in the subject line. Additional information about this information collection is also available at <https://www.reginfo.gov> under “Information Collection Review.”

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

This collection of information is authorized by 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2)(D), which permits the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) to establish regulations governing the recognition and conduct of agents, attorneys, or other persons representing applicants or other parties before the USPTO. This statute also permits the USPTO to require information from applicants that shows that they are of good moral character and reputation and have the necessary qualifications to assist applicants with the patent process and to represent them before the USPTO.

This information collection addresses submissions required by the regulations at 37 CFR 1.21 and 11.5-11.11, which set forth the requirements to apply for the examination for registration and to demonstrate eligibility to be a registered attorney or agent before the USPTO. The Office of Enrollment and Discipline (OED) collects this information to determine the qualifications of individuals entitled to represent applicants before the USPTO in the preparation and prosecution of applications for a patent. The OED also collects this information to administer and maintain the public roster of attorneys and agents registered to practice before the USPTO, which is accessible through the USPTO website.

This information collection is used by the USPTO to review applications for the examination for registration, and to determine whether an applicant may be added to the Register of Patent Attorneys and Agents. Additionally, it is used to determine whether an applicant may remain on the Register.

Since the previous renewal of this information collection, certain items have been changed and reordered. The USPTO is adding an item (Item 6—Undertaking Under 37 CFR 11.10(b)) to this information collection.

Additionally, the following items have been removed, as they have been declared exempt from the Paperwork Reduction Act by OMB under 5 CFR 1320.3(h)(1), 1320.3(h)(2), and 1320.3(h)(7):

- Registration Examination to Become a Registered Practitioner
- Reasonable Accommodation—PTO 158RA
- Change of Registration from Agent to Attorney—PTO 158
- Written Requests (Certificate of Good Standing, Disciplinary History)

II. Method of Collection

Items in this information collection may be submitted as electronic submissions. Applicants may also submit the information in paper form by mail, fax, or hand delivery.

III. Data

OMB Control Number: 0651-0012.
Forms:

- PTO-107A: (Data Sheet—Register of Patent Attorneys and Agents)
- PTO-107R: (Reinstatement—Data Sheet—Register of Patent Attorneys and Agents)
- PTO-107S: (Registration Statement—Data Sheet—Register of Patent Attorneys and Agents)
- PTO-158: (Application for Registration to Practice Before the United States Patent and Trademark Office)
- PTO-158A: (Application for Registration to Practice Before the United States Patent and Trademark Office Under 37 CFR 11.6(c) by a Foreign Resident)
- PTO-158T: (Application for Recognition to Practice Before the United States Patent and Trademark Office Under 37 CFR 11.14(c) by a Foreign Resident)
- PTO-275: (Undertaking Under 37 CFR 11.10(b))
- PTO-1209: (Oath or Declaration)

Type of Review: Extension and revision of a currently approved information collection.

Affected Public: Individuals or Households.