

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**Bureau of Industry and Security****Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for Review and Approval; Comment Request; Technology Letter of Explanation**

AGENCY: Bureau of Industry and Security, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of information collection, request for comment.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce, in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), invites the general public and other Federal agencies to comment on proposed, and continuing information collections, which helps us assess the impact of our information collection requirements and minimize the public's reporting burden. The purpose of this notice is to allow for 60 days of public comment preceding submission of the collection to OMB.

DATES: To ensure consideration, comments regarding this proposed information collection must be received on or before May 29, 2026.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments by email to Nancy Kook, IC Liaison, Bureau of Industry and Security, at PRA@bis.doc.gov or to PRAComments@doc.gov. Please reference OMB Control Number 0694-0047 in the subject line of your comments. Do not submit Confidential Business Information or otherwise sensitive or protected information.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or specific questions related to collection activities should be directed to Nancy Kook, Information Collection Liaison, Bureau of Industry and Security, phone 202-482-2440 or by email at PRA@bis.doc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**I. Abstract**

This collection is necessary under section 748.8(o) and Supplement 2 section (o) to Part 748 of the Export Administration Regulations (EAR). Licensing officers must make decisions on licensing the export of United States commodities and technical data to foreign countries. When an export involves certain technical data or know how described in the Export Administration Regulation, additional information is required to fully understand the transaction and make a

licensing decision. The Technology Letter of Explanation provides a written description of the technology proposed for export sufficient to allow BIS technical staff to evaluate the impact of licensing the export on United States national security and foreign policy. The letter of assurance puts the consignee on notice that the technology is subject to U.S. export controls and causes the consignee to certify that it will not release the data or the direct product of the data to certain specified country group nationals; thus providing assurance that U.S. national security data will be safeguarded and used only for the stated end use. The additional information is necessary to evaluate technology exports as covered under this collection.

II. Method of Collection

Electronic.

III. Data

OMB Control Number: 0694-0047.

Form Number(s): None.

Type of Review: Regular submission, extension of a current information collection.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit organizations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 5,002.

Estimated Time per Response: 30 min to 2 hours.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 8,945.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: 0.

Respondent's Obligation: Voluntary.

Legal Authority: EAR Section 748.8 and Supp 2 Section (o) to Part 748.

IV. Request for Comments

We are soliciting public comments to permit the Department/Bureau to: (a) Evaluate whether the proposed information collection is necessary for the proper functions of the Department, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) Evaluate the accuracy of our estimate of the time and cost burden for this proposed collection, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) Evaluate ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) Minimize the reporting burden on those who are to respond, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments that you submit in response to this notice are a matter of public record. We will include or summarize each comment in our request to OMB to approve this ICR. 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 may 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.

Sheleen Dumas,

Departmental PRA Compliance Officer, Office of the Under Secretary for Economic Affairs, Commerce Department.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[RTID 0648-XF124]

Taking and Importing Marine Mammals; Taking Marine Mammals Incidental to the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission's Marine Facilities Replacement Program in North Puget Sound, Washington

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

ACTION: Notice; receipt of application for Letter of Authorization; request for comments and information.

SUMMARY: NMFS has received a request from the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission (State Parks) for authorization to take marine mammals incidental to the Marine Facilities Replacement Program (MFRP) in North Puget Sound, Washington, for a period of 5 years from the date of issuance. Pursuant to regulations implementing the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), NMFS is announcing receipt of the State Parks' request for the development and implementation of regulations governing the incidental taking of marine mammals. NMFS invites the public to provide information, suggestions, and comments on the State Parks' application and request.

DATES: Comments and information must be received no later than April 29, 2026.

ADDRESSES: Comments on the application should be addressed to the Permits and Conservation Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service, and should be submitted via email to ITP.Graham@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 received electronically, including all attachments, must not exceed a 25-megabyte file size. Attachments to electronic comments will be accepted in Microsoft Word, Excel, or Adobe PDF file formats only. All comments received are a part of the public record and will generally be posted online at <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/marine-mammal-protection/incidental-take-authorizations-construction-activities> 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: Krista Graham, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, (301) 427-8401. An electronic copy of the State Parks' application 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 above.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

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 authorization is provided to the public for review.

An incidental take authorization shall be granted if NMFS finds that the taking will have a negligible impact on the species or stock(s), will not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of the species or stock(s) for subsistence uses (where relevant), and if the permissible methods of taking and requirements pertaining to the mitigation, monitoring, and reporting of such takings are set forth.

NMFS has defined "negligible impact" in 50 CFR 216.103 as an impact resulting from the specified activity that cannot be reasonably expected to, and is not reasonably likely to, adversely affect

the species or stock through effects on annual rates of recruitment or survival.

The MMPA states that the term "take" means to harass, hunt, capture, kill, or attempt to harass, hunt, capture, or kill any marine mammal.

Except for certain activities not pertinent here, the MMPA defines "harassment" as: any act of pursuit, torment, or annoyance, which (i) has the potential to injure a marine mammal or marine mammal stock in the wild (Level A harassment); or (ii) has the potential to disturb a marine mammal or marine mammal stock in the wild by causing disruption of behavioral patterns, including, but not limited to, migration, breathing, nursing, breeding, feeding, or sheltering (Level B harassment).

Summary of Request

On April 30, 2025, NMFS received an application from the State Parks requesting authorization to take marine mammals incidental to the MFRP, specifically the repair and improvement of six marine facilities in four State Parks within North Puget Sound in Western Washington (the San Juan Islands and Deception Pass). We provided comments on the application, and the State Parks submitted a revised version on July 25, 2025. The application subsequently underwent substantial updates due to project changes, and a final application was received on March 23, 2026. The application was deemed adequate and complete on March 24, 2026. The requested regulations would be valid for 5 years, from August 1, 2026, through July 31, 2031. The State Parks plans to conduct necessary work, including pile driving and removal (vibratory and impact) and rotary drilling (rock socket drilling or down-the-hole (DTH) drilling). Only pile removal and installation associated with in-water construction and maintenance activities of the marine facilities are anticipated to result in takes of marine mammals due to elevated underwater noise. The underwater sound generated by these in-water activities may result in Level A harassment and/or Level B harassment of marine mammal species. Therefore, the State Parks requests authorization to incidentally take marine mammals.

Specified Activities

The purpose of the State Parks' activities is to conduct maintenance and improvement projects at Reid Harbor and Prevost Harbor in Stuart Island Marine State Park, at Fossil Bay in Sucia Island Marine State Park, at Olga Pier at Olga State Park, and at Bowman Bay and Rosario Pier at Deception Pass State Park. The proposed activities would

include removing or replacing existing timber piles with aluminum and steel piles and structures to improve piers, ramps, floats, and moorage facilities. Construction activities will last up to 14 hours per day and will occur annually between August 1, 2026, and February 15, 2027, through 2031. The State Parks' application includes mitigation and monitoring measures designed to minimize impacts on marine mammals.

Information Solicited

Interested persons may submit information, suggestions, and comments concerning the State Parks' request (see **ADDRESSES**). NMFS will consider all information, suggestions, and comments related to the request during the development of proposed regulations governing the incidental taking of marine mammals by the State Parks, if appropriate.

Dated: March 25, 2026.

Kim Damon-Randall,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Ocean Research Advisory Panel (ORAP)

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

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice sets forth the schedule and proposed agenda of a meeting of the Ocean Research Advisory Panel (ORAP). The members will discuss issues outlined in the section on *Matters to be Considered*.

DATES: The meeting is scheduled for May 21, 2026 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Eastern Time (ET). These times and the agenda topics described below are subject to change.

For the latest agenda please refer to the ORAP website: <https://www.noaa.gov/ocean-research-advisory-panel/orap-public-meetings>.

ADDRESSES: The May 21, 2026 meeting will be at the AGU Conference Center, 2000 Florida Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20009. The link for the webinar registration will be posted, when available, on the ORAP website: <https://www.noaa.gov/ocean-research-advisory-panel/orap-public-meetings>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Viviane Silva, ORAP Designated Federal