

in due form for a permit to conduct research on marine mammals.

DATES: Written comments must be received on or before August 27, 2026.

ADDRESSES: The application and related documents are available for review upon written request via email to NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov.

Written comments on this application should be submitted via email to NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov. Please include File No. 29804 in the subject line of the email comment.

Those individuals requesting a public hearing should submit a written request via email to NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov. The request should set forth the specific reasons why a hearing on this application would be appropriate.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Shasta McClenahan, Ph.D., or Courtney Smith, Ph.D., (301) 427–8401.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The subject permit is requested under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (MMPA; 16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), the regulations governing the taking and importing of marine mammals (50 CFR part 216), the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), and the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered and threatened species (50 CFR parts 222–226).

The applicant requests a 10-year permit to conduct research on 14 species of cetaceans and 2 species of pinnipeds in U.S. and international waters of the North Atlantic Ocean. ESA-listed species include: bowhead (*Balaena mysticetus*), blue (*Balaenoptera musculus*), fin (*Balaenoptera physalus*), North Atlantic right (*Eubalaena glacialis*), sei (*Balaenoptera borealis*), and sperm (*Physeter macrocephalus*) whales. The objectives are to identify, assess, quantify, and monitor trends in demographics, health, and anthropogenic impacts on marine

mammals, with a focus on North Atlantic right whales. Cetaceans may be taken during vessel and aerial surveys, including uncrewed aircraft systems, for counts, photography, videography, photogrammetry, thermal imaging, observations, passive acoustic recordings, biological sampling (blow, feces, sloughed skin, and skin and blubber biopsies), and suction-cup tagging. Pinnipeds may be unintentionally harassed during research. Cetacean parts may also be imported, exported, or received for analysis and curation. See the application for complete numbers of animals requested by species, life stage, and procedure.

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

Dated: July 22, 2026.

Larissa Plants,

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

[FR Doc. 2026–15160 Filed 7–27–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648–XF851]

Marine Mammals and Endangered Species

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and

Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice; issuance of permits, including amendments.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that permits have been issued under the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) and the Endangered Species Act (ESA), as applicable.

ADDRESSES: The permits and related documents are available for review upon written request via email to NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sara Young (File No. 28671), Shasta McClenahan, Ph.D., (File Nos. 28860–01 and 29467), Jennifer Skidmore (File Nos. 29014 and 29107), and Amy Hapeman (File No. 29414); at (301) 427–8401.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The requested permits have been issued under the MMPA of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), the regulations governing the taking and importing of marine mammals (50 CFR part 216), the ESA of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), and the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered and threatened species (50 CFR parts 222–226), as applicable. Notices were published in the **Federal Register** on the dates listed below that requests had been submitted. To locate the **Federal Register** notice that announced our receipt of the application and a complete description of the activities, go to <https://www.federalregister.gov> and search for the file number provided in table 1 below.

TABLE 1—ISSUED PERMITS

File No.	Version No.	RTID	Applicant	Previous Federal Register notice	Issuance date
28671	N/A	0648–XF586 ...	Colleen Reichmuth, Ph.D., Long Marine Laboratory, Institute of Marine Sciences, University of California at Santa Cruz, 115 McAllister Way, Santa Cruz, CA 95060.	91 FR 1217, March 12, 2026 ..	June 9, 2026.
28860	01	0648–XF027 ...	British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) Natural History and Factual Productions Ltd. and BBC Studios Americas Inc., Bridge-water House, Counterslip, Redcliffe, Bristol, BS1 6BX, United Kingdom (Responsible Party: Sarah Conner).	90 FR 35512, July 28, 2025	June 12, 2026.
29014	N/A	0648–XF678 ...	Erich Jarvis, Ph.D., The Rockefeller University, 1230 York Ave, New York, NY 10065.	91 FR 18835, April 13, 2026 ...	June 16, 2026.

TABLE 1—ISSUED PERMITS—Continued

File No.	Version No.	RTID	Applicant	Previous Federal Register notice	Issuance date
29107	N/A	0648–XF664 ...	Susana Caballero, Ph.D., Nova Southeastern University, 8000 North Ocean Drive, Dania Beach, FL 33004.	91 FR 17943, April 9, 2026	June 25, 2026.
29414	N/A	0648–XF662 ...	Jesse Senko, Ph.D., Arizona State University, School of Ocean Futures, 777 East University Drive, Tempe, AZ 85281.	91 FR 17946, April 9, 2026	June 5, 2026.
29467	N/A	0648–XF656 ...	Jing Guo, University of Rochester, HH425 Hutchison Hall, Rochester, NY 14627.	91 FR 17944, April 9, 2026	June 10, 2026.

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), a final determination has been made that the activities proposed are categorically excluded from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement.

As required by the ESA, as applicable, issuance was based on a finding that such permits: (1) were applied for in good faith; (2) will not operate to the disadvantage of such endangered species; and (3) are consistent with the purposes and policies set forth in section 2 of the ESA.

Dated: July 22, 2026.

Larissa Plants,

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

[FR Doc. 2026–15163 Filed 7–27–26; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648–XF911]

Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; General Provisions for Domestic Fisheries; Application for Exempted Fishing Permits

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

ACTION: Notice; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Assistant Regional Administrator for Sustainable Fisheries, Greater Atlantic Region, NMFS, has made a preliminary determination that an Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) application contains all of the required information and warrants further consideration. The EFP would allow federally permitted fishing vessels to fish outside fishery regulations in support of exempted fishing activities proposed by the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries. Regulations under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act require publication of this notification to provide interested parties the

opportunity to comment on applications for proposed EFPs.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before August 12, 2026.

ADDRESSES: You may submit written comments by email: nmfs.gar.efp@noaa.gov. Include in the subject line “Spiny Dogfish Weekly Limit EFP.” All comments received are a part of the public record and may be posted for public viewing without change. All personal identifying information (*e.g.*, name, address), confidential business information, or otherwise sensitive information submitted voluntarily by the sender will be publicly accessible. NMFS will accept anonymous comments (enter “anonymous” as the signature if you wish to remain anonymous).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Christine Ford, Fishery Management Specialist, christine.ford@noaa.gov, 978–281–9185.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries submitted a complete application for an EFP to conduct commercial fishing activities that the regulations would otherwise restrict. This EFP would exempt the participating vessels from the following Federal regulations:

TABLE 1—REQUESTED EXEMPTIONS

CFR citation	Regulation	Need for exemption
50 CFR 648.235(a)(1)	Possession limit	To allow vessels to exceed the trip possession limit and land up to 37,500 lb (17,010 kg) of spiny dogfish per week.

TABLE 2—PROJECT SUMMARY

Project title	Seasonal weekly aggregate limit program for the Northern Region Spiny Dogfish Fishery
Project start	09/01/2026.
Project end	12/31/2026.
Project objectives	To provide data to inform the setting of future trip limits in the spiny dogfish fishery through the specifications process.
Project location	Georges Bank, Gulf of Maine, Southern New England.
Number of vessels	Up to 50.
Number of trips	Up to 4 per vessel per week.
Trip duration (days)	1–2 days.
Total number of days	Up to 7,200 total.