

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

RIN 0648–XG906

**Marine Mammals; File No. 22479**

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

**ACTION:** Notice; receipt of application.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that Jose Pablo Vazquez-Medina, Ph.D., University of California Berkley, Department of Integrative Biology, 3040 Valley Life Sciences Building, #3140, Berkley, CA 94720, has applied in due form for a permit to import specimens of marine mammals for scientific research.

**DATES:** Written, telefaxed, or email comments must be received on or before May 3, 2019.

**ADDRESSES:** The application and related documents are available for review by selecting “Records Open for Public Comment” from the “Features” box on the Applications and Permits for Protected Species (APPS) home page, <https://apps.nmfs.noaa.gov>, and then selecting File No. 22479 from the list of available applications.

These documents are also available upon written request or by appointment in the Permits and Conservation Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910; phone (301) 427–8401; fax (301) 713–0376.

Written comments on this application should be submitted to the Chief, Permits and Conservation Division, at the address listed above. Comments may also be submitted by facsimile to (301) 713–0376, or by email to [NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov](mailto:NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov). Please include the File No. in the subject line of the email comment.

Those individuals requesting a public hearing should submit a written request to the Chief, Permits and Conservation Division at the address listed above. The request should set forth the specific reasons why a hearing on this application would be appropriate.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Carrie Hubard or Shasta McClenahan, (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.*), the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered and threatened species (50 CFR parts 222–226), and the Fur Seal Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1151 *et seq.*).

The applicant proposes to receive, import, and export biological samples from up to 200 pinnipeds (excluding walrus) and 200 cetaceans annually. The samples will be used to examine the effects of stress hormones and chemical pollutants on marine mammal cellular and tissue functions. The permit is requested for five years.

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: March 29, 2019.

**Amy Sloan,**

*Acting Chief, Permits and Conservation Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.*

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

RIN 0648–XG849

**Addition of Species to the Annexes of the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife in the Wider Caribbean Region**

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

**ACTION:** Notice; request for public comments.

**SUMMARY:** During a meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) under the Protocol to the Cartagena Convention on Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPA Protocol), held in Panama City, Panama in December 2018, two animal species were nominated and recommended to be added to the Annexes of the SPA Protocol. The Department of State and NMFS solicit comment on the

recommendations to add these two species to the Annexes.

**DATES:** Comments must be received by May 3, 2019.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments on the recommendations to add the two species to the Annexes of the SPA Protocol, identified by NOAA–NMFS–2019–0020, by either of the following methods:

- **Federal e-Rulemaking Portal:** Go to [www.regulations.gov/](http://www.regulations.gov/)

- **#!docketDetail;D=NOAA-NMFS-2019-0020.** Click the “Comment Now!” icon, complete the required fields, and enter or attach your comments.

- **Mail:** Submit written comments to Addition of Species to the Annexes of the SPA Protocol, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13535, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

**Instructions:** Comments sent by any other method, to any other address or individual, or received after the end of the comment period may not be considered. All comments received are a part of the public record and will generally be posted for public viewing on [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) without change. All personal identifying information (e.g., name, address, etc.), confidential business information, or otherwise sensitive information submitted voluntarily by the sender will be publicly accessible. Anonymous comments will be accepted (enter N/A in the required fields if you wish to remain anonymous).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Chelsey Young, NOAA (301) 427–8491; [chelsey.young@noaa.gov](mailto:chelsey.young@noaa.gov). Persons who use a Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1–800–877–8339, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The SPA Protocol is a protocol to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (Cartagena Convention or Convention). There is also a protocol to the Convention addressing land-based sources of pollution and a protocol addressing regional cooperation on oil pollution preparedness and response. The SPA Protocol was adopted in 1990 and entered into force in 2000. The United States ratified the SPA Protocol in 2003. There are currently 16 countries that are Parties to the SPA Protocol from throughout the Wider Caribbean Region.

Participants at the December 2018 meeting of the STAC to the SPA Protocol included representatives from: