

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

[RTID 0648–XC062]

**Endangered Species; File No. 19496**

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

**ACTION:** Notice; receipt of application for a permit modification.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that Mariana Fuentes, Ph.D., Florida State University, 3263 Foley Drive, Tallahassee, FL 32309, has applied in due form for a modification to take green (*Chelonia mydas*), hawksbill (*Eretmochelys imbricata*), Kemp's ridley (*Lepidochelys kempii*), and loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*) sea turtles for purposes of scientific research.

**DATES:** Written, telefaxed, or email comments must be received on or before June 27, 2022.

**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. 19496 Mod 10 from the list of available applications. These documents are also available upon written request via email to [NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov](mailto:NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov).

Written comments on this application should be submitted via email to [NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov](mailto:NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov). Please include File No. 19496 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](mailto: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:** Erin Markin or Amy Hapeman, (301) 427–8401.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The subject modification is requested under the authority of 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).

Mariana Fuentes, Ph.D., Florida State University, 3263 Foley Drive, Tallahassee, FL 32309, proposes to modify Permit No. 19496–04. The permit, originally issued on June 16, 2016 (81 FR 43589, July 5, 2016), and

modified on June 5, 2018 (83 FR 34116, July 19, 2018), authorizes researchers to identify important foraging and developmental habitats of sea turtles in Florida. Researchers may capture sea turtles by hand or dip, strike, or tangle nets, tag, biologically sample, photograph, video record, measure, and weigh, prior to release. The permit holder requests authorization to (1) expand the study location in the Florida Big Bend region from Hernando Beach to the southern end of Marco Island, (2) add animal-borne cameras as an instrument for studying Kemp's ridley and green sea turtles, (3) increase the subset of green (from 10 to 50) and Kemp's ridley (from 10 to 30) sea turtles annually that may receive a satellite tag or animal-borne camera, and (4) increase the number of loggerhead (from 10 to 50) sea turtles that may receive a satellite tag or animal-borne camera. The total number of green and Kemp's ridley sea turtles that may be captured, handled, and released annually would not change, 245 and 195, respectively. The total number of loggerhead sea turtles that may be captured, handled, and released annually would change from 55 to 95. The permit is valid through September 30, 2025.

Dated: May 20, 2022.

**Amy Sloan,**

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

[FR Doc. 2022–11293 Filed 5–25–22; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4**

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

[RTID 0648–XB985]

**Takes of Marine Mammals Incidental to Specified Activities; Taking Marine Mammals Incidental to Pier 58 Reconstruction and Pier 63 Removal Projects in Seattle, Washington**

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

**ACTION:** Notice; issuance of incidental harassment authorizations (IHAs).

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the regulations implementing the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) as amended, notification is hereby given that NMFS has issued two IHAs to the City of Seattle (City) to incidentally harass marine mammals during in-water construction activities associated with the Pier 58 Reconstruction Project and

Pier 63 Removal Project in Seattle, Washington.

**DATES:** Both IHAs are valid from August 1, 2022 through July 31, 2023.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Amy Fowler, 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/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**

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 proposed or, if the taking is limited to harassment, a notice of a proposed IHA is 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. The definitions of all applicable MMPA statutory terms cited above are included in the relevant sections below.

**Summary of Request**

On July 21, 2021, NMFS received two requests from the City for an IHA to take marine mammals incidental to the Pier 63 Removal Project and, separately, the Pier 58 Reconstruction Project on the waterfront in downtown Seattle,