

Dated: August 25, 2015.

Julia Harrison,

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-XE009

Marine Mammals; File Nos. 18722, 18897, 19425, and 19497

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

ACTION: Notice; issuance of permits.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that permits have been issued to the following entities to receive, import, and export specimens of marine mammals for scientific research:

Permit No. 18722: Cornell University, 157 Biotechnology Building, Ithaca, NY 14850 [Responsible Party: Sharron Mitchell, Ph.D.];

Permit No. 18897: Kathleen Colegrove, Ph.D., University of Illinois, College of Veterinary Medicine, Zoological Pathology Program, LUMC Room 0745, Building 101, 2160 South First Street, Maywood, IL 60153;

Permit No. 19425: Melissa McKinney, Ph.D., University of Connecticut, Center for Environmental Sciences and Engineering, 3107 Horsebarn Hill Road, U-4210, Storrs, CT 06269; and

Permit No. 19497: University of Florida, College of Veterinary Medicine, Department of Infectious Diseases and Pathology V3-100, VAB, PO BOX 110880, Gainesville, FL, 32611-0880 [Responsible Party: Thomas B. Waltzek, D.V.M., Ph.D.].

ADDRESSES: The permits and related documents are available for review 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.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: The following Analysts at (301) 427-8401: Rosa L. González (Permit No. 19497), Carrie Hubard (Permit No. 19425), Brendan Hurley (Permit Nos. 18722 and 18897) and Jennifer Skidmore (Permit Nos. 18722, 18897, 19425, and 19497).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On June 26, 2015, notice was published in the

Federal Register (80 FR 36768) that four requests for permits to receive, import, and export specimens of marine mammals for scientific research had been submitted by the above-named applicants. The requested permits have been issued under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act 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 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.*).

Permit No. 18722 authorizes Cornell University to receive, import, or export unlimited samples from up to 2000 pinnipeds (excluding walrus) and 2000 cetaceans world-wide. These samples will be used for genotyping on marine mammals including trait mapping, population/ecological studies, and germplasm characterization. No live animals would be harassed or taken, lethally or otherwise, under the authorized permit. The permit is valid through August 10, 2020.

Permit No. 18897 authorizes Dr. Colegrove to import unlimited biological samples from up to 100 individual cetaceans and up to 100 individual pinnipeds (except walrus) world-wide. All samples (bones and organ tissue samples) are being imported for diagnostic testing to determine the causes of outbreaks or unusual natural mortalities, the ecology of diseases in free-ranging animals, or unexpected mortalities in captive populations. Samples will be from animals found deceased or euthanized in nature, collected opportunistically during the animals' capture by other researchers possessing permits for such activities, or legally held in captivity (including those held for rehabilitation) outside the U.S. No live animals would be harassed or taken, lethally or otherwise, under the authorized permit. The permit is valid through August 10, 2020.

Permit No. 19425 authorizes Dr. McKinney to study marine mammal contaminant levels, specifically using fatty acid and stable isotopes to examine diets and contaminant loads and how they are affected by climate change. Tissue samples from cetaceans and pinnipeds may come from remote biopsy sampling, captured animals, and animals collected during subsistence harvests and may originate in the United States, Canada, and Greenland/Denmark. Samples (up to 50 of each

species group per year, except for those species specified below) will be analyzed, with a focus on the following Arctic species: Ringed seal (30 per year), bearded seal (10 per year), and narwhal (10 per year). No live animals would be harassed or taken, lethally or otherwise, under the authorized permit. The permit is valid through August 1, 2020.

File No. 19497 authorizes the University of Florida to receive, import, and export marine mammal tissue and other specimen materials (e.g., body fluids) to research the etiologies and cofactors of emerging marine mammal infectious diseases, utilizing standard molecular and sequencing approaches. Unlimited samples from up to 300 individual cetaceans and 700 individual pinnipeds (excluding walrus) are authorized to be received, imported, or exported annually on an opportunistic basis. They will be collected by others under separate existing permits and may be obtained from the following sources: (1) Animals killed during legal U.S. or foreign subsistence harvests; (2) animals stranded alive or dead in foreign countries; (3) animals that died incidental to commercial fishing operations in the U.S. where such taking is legal (*i.e.*, bycatch); (4) animals that died incidental to commercial fishing operations in foreign countries where such taking is legal; (5) animals in captivity where samples were taken as a result of routine husbandry procedures or under separate permit; and (6) samples from other authorized researchers or collections in academic, federal, state or other institutions involved in marine mammal research in the U.S. or abroad. Samples collected from stranded animals in the U.S. and received under separate authorization may be exported and re-imported. No takes of live animals are requested or would be permitted. The permit is valid through July 31, 2020.

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, issuance of these permits 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: August 25, 2015.

Julia Harrison,

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Telecommunications and Information Administration

Multistakeholder Process To Promote Collaboration on Vulnerability Research Disclosure

AGENCY: National Telecommunications
and Information Administration,
Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of open meeting.

SUMMARY: The National
Telecommunications and Information
Administration (NTIA) will convene
meetings of a multistakeholder process
concerning the collaboration between
security researchers and software and
system developers and owners to
address security vulnerability
disclosure. This Notice announces the
first meeting, which is scheduled for
September 29, 2015.

DATES: The meeting will be held on
September 29, 2015, from 9:00 a.m. to
3:00 p.m., Pacific Time. See
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION for details.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held in
the Booth Auditorium at the University
of California, Berkeley, School of Law,
Boalt Hall, Bancroft Way and Piedmont
Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94720-7200.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Allan Friedman, National
Telecommunications and Information
Administration, U.S. Department of
Commerce, 1401 Constitution Avenue
NW., Room 4725, Washington, DC
20230; telephone (202) 482-4281; email;
afriedman@ntia.doc.gov. Please direct
media inquiries to NTIA's Office of
Public Affairs, (202) 482-7002; email
press@ntia.doc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background: On March 19, 2015, the
National Telecommunications and
Information Administration, working
with the Department of Commerce's
Internet Policy Task Force (IPTF),
issued a Request for Comment to
"identify substantive cybersecurity
issues that affect the digital ecosystem
and digital economic growth where
broad consensus, coordinated action,
and the development of best practices
could substantially improve security for

organizations and consumers."¹ This
Request built on earlier work from the
Department, including the 2011 Green
Paper *Cybersecurity, Innovation, and
the Internet Economy*,² as well as
comments the Department had received
on related issues.³

The IPTF asked for suggestions of
security challenges that an NTIA-
convened multistakeholder group could
address, and offered a dozen potential
topics for explicit feedback.⁴ We
received 35 comments from a range of
stakeholders, including trade
associations, large companies,
cybersecurity startups, civil society
organizations and independent
computer security experts.⁵ The
comments highlight a range of issues
that might be addressed through the
multistakeholder process and suggest
various ways in which the group's work
could be structured.

Of the topics suggested, the challenge
of collaboration between security
researchers and system and software
vendors stands out as a critical issue
where reaching some consensus on
shared goals, principles, and practices is
both feasible and necessary. On July 9,
2015, after reviewing the comments,
NTIA announced that the first issue to
be addressed would be "collaboration
on vulnerability research disclosure."⁶
While this is not the first discussion on
the topic, stakeholders have presented
the case that the time is right to make
further progress among ecosystem
players by achieving consensus and a
commitment to baseline principles and
accepted practices.

This issue is commonly referred to as
the question of "vulnerability
disclosure." For as long as humans have

created software there have been
software "bugs."⁷ Many of these bugs
can introduce vulnerabilities, leaving
the users of the systems and software at
risk. The nature of these risks vary, and
mitigating these risks requires various
efforts from the developers and owners
of these systems. Security researchers of
all varieties, including academics,
professionals, and those who simply
enjoy thinking about security may
identify these bugs for a number of
reasons, and in a wide range of contexts.
How researchers should handle these
vulnerabilities, and how vendors should
work with researchers has been the
matter of active debate for many years,
since before the turn of the
millennium.⁸ Several points have been
actively debated. Researchers have
expressed concerns that vendors do not
respond in a timely fashion, leaving
users at risk. Vendors worry about the
time, expense, and added complexity of
addressing every vulnerability, as well
as the risks introduced by potentially
disclosing vulnerabilities before they
can be patched or mitigated. Given that
all good faith actors care about security,
there is room to find common ground.

The goal of this process is neither to
replicate past discussions nor duplicate
existing initiatives. As information
security is gaining more attention in the
collective consciousness due to a series
of high profile cybersecurity incidents
and disclosed vulnerabilities, more
firms and organizations are considering
how to engage with third party
researchers, just as they are exploring
other security tools and processes. The
security community itself has worked to
promote better collaboration. More
software vendors and system owners are
offering "bug bounty" programs that
reward researchers for sharing
vulnerability information. In addition to
enterprises that buy vulnerabilities and
sell them to vendors, new business
models have emerged to help
organizations develop and manage bug
bounty programs. Leading experts at the
International Standards Organization
have developed, and are continuing to
revise, a formal standard for vendors on
how to manage incoming vulnerability

¹ U.S. Department of Commerce, Internet Policy
Task Force, Request for Public Comment,
Stakeholder Engagement on Cybersecurity in the
Digital Ecosystem, 80 FR 14360, Docket No.
150312253-5253-01 (Mar. 19, 2015), available at:
[http://www.ntia.doc.gov/files/ntia/publications/
cybersecurity_rfc_03192015.pdf](http://www.ntia.doc.gov/files/ntia/publications/cybersecurity_rfc_03192015.pdf).

² U.S. Department of Commerce, Internet Policy
Task Force, *Cybersecurity, Innovation, and the
Internet Economy* (June 2011) (Green Paper),
available at: [http://www.nist.gov/itl/upload/
Cybersecurity_Green-Paper_FinalVersion.pdf](http://www.nist.gov/itl/upload/Cybersecurity_Green-Paper_FinalVersion.pdf).

³ See Comments Received in Response to **Federal
Register** Notice Developing a Framework for
Improving Critical Infrastructure Cybersecurity,
Docket No. 140721609-4609-01, available at:
[http://csrc.nist.gov/cyberframework/rfi_comments_
10_2014.html](http://csrc.nist.gov/cyberframework/rfi_comments_10_2014.html).

⁴ Request for Public Comment, *supra* note 1.

⁵ NTIA has posted the public comments received
at [http://www.ntia.doc.gov/federal-register-notice/
2015/comments-stakeholder-engagement-
cybersecurity-digital-ecosystem](http://www.ntia.doc.gov/federal-register-notice/2015/comments-stakeholder-engagement-cybersecurity-digital-ecosystem).

⁶ NTIA, *Enhancing the Digital Economy Through
Collaboration on Vulnerability Research Disclosure*
(July 9, 2015), available at: [http://
www.ntia.doc.gov/blog/2015/enhancing-digital-
economy-through-collaboration-vulnerability-
research-disclosure](http://www.ntia.doc.gov/blog/2015/enhancing-digital-economy-through-collaboration-vulnerability-research-disclosure).

⁷ See, e.g., Peter Wayner, *Smithsonian Honors the
Original Bug in the System*, N.Y. Times (Dec. 7,
1997), available at: [http://www.nytimes.com/
library/cyber/week/120497bug.html](http://www.nytimes.com/library/cyber/week/120497bug.html).

⁸ For a bibliography of research, proposed
standards, online discussions and other resources,
see University of Oulu Secure Programming Group,
Juhani Eronen & Ari Takanen eds., *Vulnerability
Disclosure Publications and Discussion Tracking*,
available at: [https://www.ee.oulu.fi/research/ouspg/
Disclosure_tracking](https://www.ee.oulu.fi/research/ouspg/Disclosure_tracking) (last visited Aug. 20, 2015).