

confidential business information, or otherwise sensitive information submitted voluntarily by the sender will become publicly accessible. NOAA, therefore, requests that no business proprietary information, copyrighted information, or personally identifiable information be submitted in response to this notice. Anonymous comments will be accepted. Please note that the U.S. Government will not pay for response preparation or the use of any information contained in the response.

*Documents referenced:*

A copy of the previous *Strategic Priorities for Ocean Exploration and Characterization of the United States Exclusive Economic Zone* published in October 2022 may be downloaded or viewed at: [https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/NOMECEOC\\_Priorities\\_Report.pdf](https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/NOMECEOC_Priorities_Report.pdf).

A copy of the *Report on the Workshop to Identify National Ocean Exploration Priorities in the Pacific* may be downloaded or viewed at: [https://col.ucar.edu/sites/default/files/2022-09/OceanExploration\\_PacificPriorities\\_WorkshopReport\\_NOV2020.pdf](https://col.ucar.edu/sites/default/files/2022-09/OceanExploration_PacificPriorities_WorkshopReport_NOV2020.pdf).

A copy of the NOMECEC National Strategy may be downloaded or viewed at: <https://www.noaa.gov/sites/default/files/2022-07/NOMECECStrategy.pdf>.

A copy of the current NOMECEC Implementation Plan may be downloaded or viewed at: <https://www.noaa.gov/sites/default/files/2021-11/210107-FINALNOMECECImplementationPlan-Clean.pdf>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

IWG–OEC Co-chairs: Rachel Medley, NOAA, [rachel.medley@noaa.gov](mailto:rachel.medley@noaa.gov), 301–789–3075; Dr. Amanda Demopoulos, U.S. Geological Survey, [ademopoulos@usgs.gov](mailto:ademopoulos@usgs.gov), 352–264–3490; Mark Mueller, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, [mark.mueller@boem.gov](mailto:mark.mueller@boem.gov), 703–787–1089.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The NOMECEC Council and IWG–OEC issue this notice on behalf of the Ocean Science and Technology Subcommittee of the Ocean Policy Committee co-chaired by the OSTP and the CEQ and in coordination with the Administrator of NOAA. Public input in response to this notice will inform development of the Pacific Islands Priorities Report, which aims to expand on the prior national-scale U.S. interagency *Strategic Priorities for Ocean Exploration and Characterization of the United States Exclusive Economic Zone* (Priorities Report) released in October 2022 ([https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/NOMECEOC\\_Priorities\\_Report.pdf](https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/NOMECEOC_Priorities_Report.pdf)) along with a

non-federal Consortium for Ocean Leadership *Report on the Workshop to Identify National Ocean Exploration Priorities in the Pacific* released in 2020 ([https://col.ucar.edu/sites/default/files/2022-09/OceanExploration\\_PacificPriorities\\_WorkshopReport\\_NOV2020.pdf](https://col.ucar.edu/sites/default/files/2022-09/OceanExploration_PacificPriorities_WorkshopReport_NOV2020.pdf)). Information gathered in the interagency Priorities Report was generated from public response to a **Federal Register** notice (87 FR 16169; March 22, 2022) and from federal subject matter experts working across five thematic groups. The geographic and thematic priorities identified in the 2022 Priorities Report have directly guided interagency projects collecting information in identified priority areas including expeditions in the Aleutian Arc, Blake Plateau, and Hawai'i, and this new information-gathering effort in the Pacific Islands will do the same.

The IWG–OEC sees value in re-initiating the ad hoc thematic federal working groups and seeking public comments to further refine thematic priorities and data needs specific to the Pacific Islands (State of Hawai'i and the U.S. Pacific Territories and Possessions) within the United States Exclusive Economic Zone (U.S. EEZ) and Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) since there have been changes to relevant federal statutes and an expansion of federal interests in Western and Central Pacific Islands and Nations following the compilation and release of the prior Priorities Report. Additionally, a new federally led regional campaign, “Beyond the Blue: Illuminating the Pacific,” was recently launched. This new prioritization exercise builds upon the prior Priorities Report and supports the objectives of the Beyond the Blue campaign, the NOMECEC Strategy and other national strategies.

This notice solicits comments from Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders, and stakeholders, including academia, private industry, and other relevant institutions, to inform the development and finalization of the Pacific Islands Priorities Report. Specifically, the IWG–OEC is looking for information addressing the following aspects relevant to ocean exploration and characterization within the Pacific Islands (State of Hawai'i and the U.S. Pacific Territories and Possessions). The IWG–OEC will consider relevant priorities and data needs outside U.S. waters if the connection and relevance to U.S. federal interests is explicitly made.

- Provide a description of high-priority interests, disciplines, topics, and/or themes in the region.

- What types of additional data need to be acquired related to these priorities?
- What types of data standards, protocols, and best practices are best suited for data collection related to these priorities?
- What types of products or analyses need to be produced related to these priorities?
- Can you provide information about data sovereignty best practices and principles that can enhance the incorporation of cultural and indigenous knowledge?
- What challenges exist when gathering or accessing data? Can you propose specific solutions to these challenges?
- What technologies or methods (e.g., instrumentation or sensors) exist to address these priorities?
- What specific technology gaps or limitations need to be developed or improved to better advance data collection, planning, and processing techniques?

**David Holst,**

*Chief Financial and Administrative Officer, Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.*

[FR Doc. 2024–19417 Filed 8–28–24; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-KA-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[RTID 0648–XE213]

**Endangered and Threatened Species; Notice of Initiation of a 5-Year Review for the Indus River Dolphin**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of initiation; request for information.

**SUMMARY:** The NMFS announces the initiation of a 5-year review for the Indus River dolphin (*Platanista gangetica minor*). NMFS is required by the Endangered Species Act (ESA) to conduct 5-year reviews to ensure that the listing classifications of species are accurate. The 5-year review must be based on the best scientific and commercial data available at the time of the review. We request submission of any such information on the Indus River dolphin, particularly information on the status, threats, and recovery of the species that has become available since the previous review in 2016.

**DATES:** To allow us adequate time to conduct this review, we must receive your information no later than October 28, 2024.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit information on this document, identified by NOAA–NMFS–2024–0097, by the following method:

- **Electronic Submission:** Submit electronic information via the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal. Go to <https://www.regulations.gov> and enter NOAA–NMFS–2024–0097 in the Search box. Click on the “Comment” icon, complete the required fields, and enter or attach your comments.

**Instructions:** Information sent by any other method, to any other address or individual, or received after the end of the specified period, may not be considered by NMFS. All information received is a part of the public record and will generally be posted for public viewing on <https://www.regulations.gov> without change. All personal identifying information (e.g., name, address, etc.), confidential business information, or otherwise sensitive or protected information submitted voluntarily by the sender will be publicly accessible. NMFS will accept anonymous submissions (enter “N/A” in the required fields if you wish to remain anonymous).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Kristen Koyama (301) 427–8456 or [Kristen.Koyama@noaa.gov](mailto:Kristen.Koyama@noaa.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This notice announces our review of the Indus River dolphin (*Platanista gangetica minor*), listed as endangered under the ESA. It should be noted that recent research, since the previous status review, has suggested that the Indus River dolphin should be elevated to species level (*Platanista minor*), which will be discussed in the current review. Section 4(c)(2)(A) of the ESA requires that we conduct a review of listed species at least once every 5 years. The species was previously reviewed in 2016. The regulations in 50 CFR 424.21 require that we publish a notice in the **Federal Register** announcing species currently under active review. On the basis of such reviews under section 4(c)(2)(B), we determine whether any species should be removed from the list (i.e., delisted) or reclassified from endangered to threatened or from threatened to endangered (16 U.S.C. 1533(c)(2)(B)). As described by the regulations in 50 CFR 424.11(e), the Secretary shall delist a species if the Secretary determines based on consideration of the factors and standards set forth in paragraph (c) of that section, that the best scientific and

commercial data available substantiate that: (1) the species is extinct; (2) the species has recovered to the point at which it no longer meets the definition of an endangered species or a threatened species; (3) new information that has become available since the original listing decisions on how the listed entity does not meet the definition of an endangered species or a threatened species; or (4) new information that has become available since the original listing decision shows the listed entity does not meet the definition of a species. Any change in Federal classification would require a separate rulemaking process.

Background information on the species is available on the NMFS website at: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/species/indus-river-dolphin>.

#### Public Solicitation of New Information

To ensure that the review is complete and based on the best available scientific and commercial information, we are soliciting new information from the public, governmental agencies, Tribes, the scientific community, industry, environmental entities, and any other interested parties concerning the status of the Indus River dolphin (*Platanista gangetica minor*). Categories of requested information include: (1) species biology including, but not limited to, population trends, distribution, abundance, demographics, and genetics; (2) habitat conditions including, but not limited to, amount, distribution, and important features for conservation; (3) status and trends of threats to the species and its habitats; (4) conservation measures that have been implemented that benefit the species, including monitoring data demonstrating effectiveness of such measures; and (5) other new information, data, or corrections including, but not limited to, taxonomic or nomenclatural changes and improved analytical methods for evaluating extinction risk.

If you wish to provide information for the review, you may submit your information and materials electronically (see **ADDRESSES** section). We request that all information be accompanied by supporting documentation such as maps, bibliographic references, or reprints of pertinent publications.

**Authority:** 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*

Dated: August 23, 2024.

**Angela Somma,**

Chief, Endangered Species Conservation Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 2024–19416 Filed 8–28–24; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510–22–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648–XE242]

#### Marine Mammals; File No. 28184

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

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

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that Dan Engelhaupt, Ph.D., HDR, 4173 Ewell Road, Virginia Beach, VA 23455, has applied in due form for a permit to conduct research on marine mammals.

**DATES:** Written comments must be received on or before September 30, 2024.

**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 home page, <https://apps.nmfs.noaa.gov>, and then selecting File No. 28184 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. 28184 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:** 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 (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 5-year permit to conduct research in the North Pacific and North Atlantic Oceans including the Gulf of Mexico. The objectives are to study presence, movement patterns, behaviors, and population structure for marine mammals occupying waters shared with the U.S. Navy activities and