

August 14, 2023. This LOC authorizes research to estimate abundance, determine distribution patterns, assess habitat use, and evaluate site fidelity of bottlenose dolphins inhabiting the Upper Florida Keys. Authorized activities include close approach by vessel, for counts, photography, photo-identification, video recordings, behavioral observations, and underwater photography/videography by pole camera. This LOC was amended on April 26, 2024, to authorize passive acoustic monitoring to study dolphin communication. The LOC expires on August 31, 2028.

File No. 27993: Issued to Alaska Department of Fish and Game (RP: Lori Polasek, Ph.D.), P.O. Box 115526, Juneau, Alaska 99811–5526 on May 9, 2024. This LOC authorizes close approach by vessel, manned aerial, and UAS surveys for counts, photo-identification, and behavioral observations of harbor porpoise within southeast Alaska waters. Unintentional harassment of unidentified cetaceans and pinnipeds may occur during surveys. Research objectives are to derive estimates of abundance, density, and population structure of harbor porpoise stocks. The LOC expires on May 14, 2029.

File No. 23782–01: Issued to Janet Mann, Ph.D., Georgetown University, Department of Biology, Reiss Science Room 406, 3700 O St. NW, Washington, District of Columbia 20057, on June 7, 2024. This amended LOC authorizes photogrammetry and adds a new study objective to conduct sex-specific growth assessments of bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops* spp.) in the lower Potomac River, Virginia, following the 2015 Unusual Mortality Event. Additionally, the LOC was extended, to expire on June 30, 2026.

File No. 22856–01: This LOC, held by Patricia Fair, Ph.D., South Carolina Aquarium, 100 Aquarium Wharf, Charleston, South Carolina 29401 was extended on July 22, 2024, while the holder's new application (File No. 28083) is in process. The LOC authorizes vessel and UAS-based research for photo-identification, photogrammetry, and behavioral observations of bottlenose dolphins in waters near Charleston, South Carolina. The objectives of the research would not change. The extended LOC was set to expire on August 31, 2025. However, it was subsequently terminated on January 29, 2025, when a separate LOC was issued (No. 28083).

File No. 28117: Issued to Joseph Warren, Ph.D., Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, New York 11794, on November 14, 2024. This LOC

authorizes photogrammetry, photography, video, counts, and observations during shore-based UAS flights off Long Island, New York. The objective of the research is to study marine mammals and their prey in New York's nearshore environment, including abundance, distribution, size, foraging dynamics, and surface behaviors. Targeted species include bottlenose and Atlantic white-sided dolphins, harbor porpoise, humpback and minke (*Balaenoptera acutorostrata*) whales, and gray (*Halichoerus grypus*) and harbor (*Phoca vitulina*) seals. The LOC expires on December 31, 2027.

File No. 28261: Issued to Institute for Marine Mammal Studies (RP: Mobashir Solangi, Ph.D.), 10801 Dolphin Lane, Gulfport, MS 39503 on December 11, 2024. This LOC authorizes counts, photo-identification, photography/videography, behavioral observations, and passive acoustic recordings of Atlantic spotted (*Stenella frontalis*), bottlenose, pantropical spotted (*Stenella attenuata*), and spinner (*Stenella longirostris*) dolphins; and pygmy sperm whales (*Kogia breviceps*) during vessel and aerial surveys within coastal and estuarine waters of Mississippi, Louisiana, and Alabama. The objective of the research is to evaluate the long-term population trends, behavior, acoustics, and health of cetaceans utilizing the study area. The LOC expires on December 15, 2029.

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 are categorically excluded from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement.

Dated: May 9, 2025.

Kimberly Damon-Randall,

*Director, Office of Protected Resources,
National Marine Fisheries Service.*

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648–XE837]

Marine Mammals; File No. 28860

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

ACTION: Notice; receipt of application.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the British Broadcasting Corporation

(BBC) Natural History and Factual Productions Ltd. and BBC Studios Americas Inc., (Responsible Party: Sarah Conner), Bridgewater House, Counterslip, Redcliffe, Bristol, BS1 6BX, United Kingdom, has applied in due form for a permit to conduct commercial and educational photography on pinnipeds.

DATES: Written comments must be received on or before June 13, 2025.

ADDRESSES: These documents are available 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. 28860” 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 Sara Young, (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.*) and the regulations governing the taking and importing of marine mammals (50 CFR part 216).

The applicant requests a 1-year permit to film Weddell seals (*Leptonychotes weddellii*), crabeater seals (*Lobodon carcinophagus*), and leopard seals (*Hydrurga leptonyx*) in Antarctica for an episode of “Blue Planet III”. Up to 300 Weddell seals and 50 each crabeater and leopard seals may be filming by underwater, land-based, and unmanned aircraft system platforms.

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: May 9, 2025.

Kimberly Damon-Randall,

*Director, Office of Protected Resources,
National Marine Fisheries Service.*

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