

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

RIN 0648–XG539

**Marine Mammals; File No. 22183**

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

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

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that Michelle Shero, Ph.D., 266 Woods Hole Road, Woods Hole, MA 02543, has applied in due form for a permit to conduct research on Weddell seals (*Leptonychotes weddellii*).

**DATES:** Written, telefaxed, or email comments must be received on or before December 3, 2018.

**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. 22183 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:** Sara Young or Carrie Hubard, (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).

Research activities will take place between October 1 and March 31 for the

five austral summer seasons. Each season will encompass two sampling periods: one during the lactation period (October to November) and one at the end of the molt (January to March). During the first period, up to 25 adult females will be given a health exam and dive recorders/transmitters will be recovered from females handled the previous molt period. At the end of the molt, up to 25 adult females will undergo a health and pregnancy status assessment and will be outfitted with a satellite-relay dive recorder. Unmanned aircraft system surveys will be used for photogrammetry of handled animals, as well as unhandled seals in larger area surveys. Up to 500 crabeater seals (*Lobodon carcinophagus*) may also be taken by incidental harassment. Research activities will be conducted as part of a larger assessment of Weddell seals in the Ross Sea Marine Protected Area, led by the New Zealand Antarctic Program.

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: October 30, 2018.

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

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**BILLING CODE 3510–22–P**

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

RIN 0648–XG579

**North Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) Electronic Monitoring Committee will meet November 19, 2018 through November 20, 2018.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held on Monday, November 19, 2018, from 12 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. and on Tuesday, November 20, 2018, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. (or as necessary), Pacific Standard Time.

**ADDRESSES:**

**Meeting address:** The meeting will be held at the International Pacific Halibut Coalition Offices, 2320 West Commodore Way, Seattle, WA 98199. Teleconference number: (877) 733–2599, Conference ID: 282264.

**Council address:** North Pacific Fishery Management Council, 605 W 4th Ave., Suite 306, Anchorage, AK 99501–2252; telephone: (907) 271–2809.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Elizabeth Figus, Council staff; telephone: (907) 271–2809.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:****Agenda**

*Monday, November 19, 2018 to  
Tuesday, November 20, 2018*

*The agenda will include:* Updates since the last meeting in August 2018; staff presentations about the updated Alaska Regional Electronic Technologies Implementation Plan, biological sampling needs, electronic monitoring in other regions, and automation; reviewing a white paper on retention, a data streams draft document, and research plans for tender issues in the western Gulf of Alaska; discussing funding opportunities; finalizing a cooperative research plan document; and, scheduling and other issues.

The Agenda is subject to change, and the latest version will be posted at [www.npfmc.org](http://www.npfmc.org) prior to the meeting, along with meeting materials.

**Public Comment**

Public comment letters will be accepted and should be submitted either electronically to Elizabeth Figus, Council staff: [Elizabeth.figus@noaa.gov](mailto:Elizabeth.figus@noaa.gov) or through the mail: North Pacific Fishery Management Council, 605 W 4th Ave., Suite 306, Anchorage, AK 99501–2252. In-person oral public testimony will be accepted at the discretion of the chair.

**Special Accommodations**

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Shannon Gleason at (907) 271–2809 at least 7 working days prior to the meeting date.