

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration****RIN 0648–XE689****Marine Mammals; File No. 18529**

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

**ACTION:** Notice; issuance of permit.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that a permit has been issued to Janice Straley, University of Alaska Southeast, 1332 Seward Ave., Sitka, AK 99835, to conduct research on cetaceans.

**ADDRESSES:** The permit 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:** Carrie Hubard or Amy Sloan, (301) 427–8401.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On June 27, 2016, notice was published in the *Federal Register* (81 FR 41524) that a request for a permit to conduct research on large whales had been submitted by the above-named applicant. The requested permit has 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.*), and the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered and threatened species (50 CFR parts 222–226).

Permit No. 18529 authorizes research on large whales in Alaska, focusing on humpback whales (*Megaptera novaeangliae*), sperm whales (*Physeter macrocephalus*), and killer whales (*Orcinus orca*). Research methods include photo-identification, behavioral observations, biopsy sampling, suction cup and dart tagging, underwater photography/video, and prey-mapping sonar. Prey samples, blow, sloughed skin and feces would also be collected. In addition to the three focus species, six other large whale species and seven small cetacean species would be targeted for research. The permit expires on August 31, 2021.

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 activity proposed is categorically excluded from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement.

As required by the ESA, issuance of this permit was based on a finding that such permit: (1) Was applied for in good faith; (2) will not operate to the disadvantage of such endangered species; and (3) is consistent with the purposes and policies set forth in section 2 of the ESA.

Dated: September 21, 2016.

**Julia Harrison,**

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

[FR Doc. 2016–23099 Filed 9–23–16; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510–22–P**

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration****RIN 0649–XE898****Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of a public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council will hold a meeting of its Law Enforcement Technical Committee (LETC), in conjunction with the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission's Law Enforcement Committee (LEC).

**DATES:** The meeting will convene on Thursday, October 13, 2016; starting 8:30 a.m. and will adjourn at 5 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the JW Marriott New Orleans, located at 614 Canal Street, New Orleans, LA 70130; telephone: (504) 525–6500.

**Council address:** Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, 2203 N. Lois Avenue, Suite 1100, Tampa, FL 33607; telephone: (813) 348–1630.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Steven Atran, Senior Fishery Biologist, Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; [steven.atran@gulfcouncil.org](mailto:steven.atran@gulfcouncil.org), telephone: (813) 348–1630, and Mr. Steve Vanderkooy, Inter-jurisdictional Fisheries Coordinator, Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission; [svanderkooy@gsmfc.org](mailto:svanderkooy@gsmfc.org), telephone: (228) 875–5912.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The items of discussion on the agenda are as follows:

Thursday, October 13, 2016, 8:30 a.m.–5 p.m.

1. Welcome
  2. LEC and LETC Voting Procedures
  3. Adoption of Agenda
  4. Election of GMFMC LETC Chair and Vice-chair
  5. Election of GSMFC LEC Chair and Vice-chair
  6. Approval of Minutes
    - a. Approval of minutes of March 16, 2016 Joint LEC/LETC meeting
  - Gulf Council LETC Items
  7. Solicitation for Candidates for 2017 Officer of the Year Award
  8. Draft Reef Fish Amendment 36A—Commercial IFQ Program Modifications
  9. Draft Reef Fish Amendment 46—Gray Triggerfish Rebuilding Plan
  10. Draft Generic Amendment to Require Electronic Reporting for For-hire Vessels
  11. Draft Framework Action—Mutton Snapper ACL and Management Measures and Gag Commercial Size Limit
  - GSMFC LEC Items
  12. Anthropocene Institute's Marine Managed Area Project
  13. State Boundary and Jurisdictional Extensions
  14. Approval of GSMFC Pubs
    - a. Strategic Plan 2017–2020
    - b. Operations Plan 2017–2018
  15. IJF Program Activity
    - a. Tripletail
    - b. Atlantic Croaker
  16. State Report Highlights
    - a. Florida
    - b. Alabama
    - c. Mississippi
    - d. Louisiana
    - e. Texas
    - f. USCG
    - g. NOAA OLE
    - h. USFWS
  17. Other Business
- Meeting Adjourns—

The Agenda is subject to change. The latest version of the agenda along with other meeting materials will be posted on the Council's file server, which can be accessed by going to the Council Web site at <http://www.gulfcouncil.org> and clicking on File Server under Quick Links. For meeting materials see folder "LETC Meeting—2016–10" on Gulf Council file server. The username and password are both "gulfguest".

The Law Enforcement Technical Committee consists of principal law enforcement officers in each of the Gulf States, as well as the NOAA Law Enforcement, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Coast Guard, and the NOAA General Counsel for Law Enforcement.