



Billing Code: 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Marine Mammals and Endangered Species

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

ACTION: Notice; issuance of permits and permit amendments.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that permits or permit amendments have been issued to the following entities under the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) and the Endangered Species Act (ESA), as applicable.

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: Shasta McClenahan (File No. 18786-02 and 21422) and Jennifer Skidmore (File No. 16305); at (301) 427-8401.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Notices were published in the *Federal Register* on the dates listed below that requests for a permit or permit amendment had been submitted by the below-named applicants. To locate the *Federal Register* notice that announced our receipt of the application and a complete description of the research, go to www.regulations.gov and search on the permit number provided in the table below.

File No.	RIN	Applicant	Previous Federal Register Notice	Permit or Amendment
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				Issuance Date
16305	0648–XA807	John Pierce Wise, Sr. Ph.D., Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology, School of Medicine, University of Louisville, Louisville, KY 40292	77 FR 72829; December 6, 2012	October 30, 2017
18786-02	0648–XD900	Marine Mammal Health and Stranding Response Program (Responsible Party: Teri Rowles, D.V.M., Ph.D.), 1315 East West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910	80 FR 44939; July 28, 2015	October 18, 2017
21422	0648–XF664	James Lloyd-Smith, Ph.D., University of California- Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA 90095	82 FR 43002; September 13, 2017	October 17, 2017

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 for Permit Nos. 16305 and 21422 are categorically excluded from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement.

An environmental assessment (EA) was prepared for the original permit (No. 18786) in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), to examine whether significant environmental impacts could result from issuance of the proposed scientific research permit. Based on the analyses in the EA, NMFS determined that issuance of the original permit would not significantly impact the quality of the human environment and that preparation of an environmental impact statement was not required. That determination was documented in a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), signed on June 29, 2015. The activities in the amendment are consistent with the analyses in the original EA and no additional NEPA analysis was required for the issuance of this amendment. The original EA and FONSI are available upon request.

As required by the ESA, as applicable, issuance of these permit 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.

AUTHORITY: The requested permits have been issued under 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), as applicable.

Dated: November 17, 2017.

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

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