



**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.

**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:** Malcolm Mohead (File Nos. 21198 and 21434), Shasta McClenahan (File No. 21386), Jennifer Skidmore (File No. 20590 and 20610), Erin Markin (File No. 21260) and Amy Hapeman (File No. 21111); 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.federalregister.gov](http://www.federalregister.gov) and search on the permit number provided in the table below.

Permit No.	RIN	Applicant	Previous Federal Register Notice	Permit Issuance Date
20590	0648-XF801	Nicole Phillips, Ph.D. The University of Southern Mississippi, 118 College Drive No. 5018, Hattiesburg, MS 39406	82 FR 54334; November 17, 2017	February 22, 2018
20610	0648-XF801	David Portnoy, Ph.D. Texas A&M University, Corpus Christi, TX 78412	82 FR 54334; November 17, 2017	February 27, 2018
21111	0648-XF485	NMFS Southwest Fisheries Science Center, 8901 La Jolla Shores Drive, La Jolla, CA 92037 (Responsible Party: Lisa Ballance, Ph.D.)	82 FR 31948; July 11, 2017	February 15, 2018
21198	0648-XF861	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Southeast Regional Office, Century Boulevard, Atlanta, GA 30602 (Responsible Party: Allan Brown)	82 FR 57954; December 8, 2017	February 08, 2018
21260	0648-XF827	NMFS Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center, 1845 Wasp Boulevard, Honolulu, HI 96818 (Responsible Party: Charles Littnan, Ph.D.)	82 FR 56815; November 30, 2017	February 28, 2018
21386	0648-XF909	North Slope Borough Department of Wildlife Management, P.O. Box 69, Barrow, AK 99723 (Responsible Party: Taqulik Hepa)	82 FR 60967; December 26, 2017	February 15, 2018
21434	0648-XF861	Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Cooperative Oxford Laboratory, 904 South Morris Street, Oxford, MD 21654 (Responsible Party: Brian Richardson)	82 FR 57954; December 8, 2017	February 8, 2018

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

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: March 27, 2018.

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

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