



## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XF740]

#### Marine Mammals and Endangered Species

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

**ACTION:** Notice; issuance of permits, including permit amendments.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that permits have been issued 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 via email to [NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov](mailto:NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Courtney Smith, Ph.D. (File Nos. 24378, 29471, and 29565), Shasta McClenahan, Ph.D. (File Nos. 23966, 29070, and 29154), Amy Hapeman (File No. 29017), and Jennifer Skidmore (File No. 28985); at (301) 427-8401.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The requested permits have been issued under the MMPA 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 ESA of 1973, as amended (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. Notices were published in the **Federal Register** on the dates listed below that requests had been submitted. To locate the **Federal Register** notice that announced our receipt of the application and a complete description of the activities, go to <https://www.federalregister.gov> and search for the file number provided in table 1 below.

#### Table 1 -- Issued Permits

File No.	Version No.	RTID	Applicant	Previous <b>Federal Register</b> Notice	Issuance Date
23966	01	0648–XB412	Christopher Cilfone, Kohola Film Project, 61 Loa Place, Lahaina, HI 96761	86 FR 50704, September 10, 2021	April 29, 2026
24378	02	0648–XE954	University of Alaska Southeast-Sitka, 1332 Seward Ave, Sitka, AK 99835 (Responsible Party: Jan Straley)	90 FR 23519, June 3, 2025	April 17, 2026
28985	N/A	0648–XF551	Minnesota Zoological Gardens, 13000 Zoo Boulevard, Apple Valley, MN 55124 (Responsible Party: John Frawley)	91 FR 8467, February 23, 2026	April 29, 2026
29017	N/A	0648–XF059	Alaska Department of Fish and Game, P.O. Box 25526, Juneau, AK 99802 (Responsible Party: Lori Quakenbush, Ph.D.)	90 FR 44648, September 16, 2025	April 22, 2026
29070	N/A	0648–XF512	University of Florida, 2015 Southwest 16th Avenue, Gainesville, FL 32608 (Responsible Party: Michael Walsh, DVM)	91 FR 5729, February 9, 2026	April 8, 2026
29154	N/A	0648–XF513	Briana Witteveen, Ph.D., University of Alaska Fairbanks, 4422 SE 50th Avenue, Portland, OR 97206	91 FR 5726, February 9, 2026	April 29, 2026
29471	N/A	0648–XF419	Fort Wayne Zoo, 3411 Sherman Boulevard, Fort Wayne, IN 46808 (Responsible Party: Rick Schuiteman)	91 FR 5928, February 10, 2026	April 15, 2026
29565	N/A	0648–XF543	Mission Partners Entertainment Group, 5500 Greenwood Plaza Boulevard, Greenwood Village, CO 80111 (Responsible Party: Greg Eliason)	91 FR 12172, March 12, 2026	April 29, 2026

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 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.

Dated: May 18, 2026.

**Shannon Bettridge,**

*Chief, Marine Mammal and Sea Turtle Conservation Division,*

*Office of Protected Resources,*

*National Marine Fisheries Service.*