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E 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XF955]

Marine Mammals; File No. 29841

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

ACTION: Notice; receipt of application.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Rutgers University (Responsible Party: John Wiedenmann, Ph.D.), 14 College Farm Rd, New Brunswick, NJ 08901, has applied in due form for a permit to conduct research on cetaceans.

DATES: Written comments must be received on or before **[INSERT DATE 30 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE *FEDERAL REGISTER*]**.

ADDRESSES: The application and related documents are available for review upon written request via email to *NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov*.

Written comments on this application should be submitted via email to *NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov*. Please include File No. 29841 in the subject line of the email comment.

Those individuals requesting a public hearing should submit a written request via email to *NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov*. The request should set forth the specific reasons why a hearing on this application would be appropriate.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Courtney Smith, Ph.D., or Shasta McClenahan, Ph.D., (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), the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq*.), the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered and threatened species (50 CFR parts 222-226).

The applicant proposes assessing the habitat use and behavior of baleen whales within planned offshore wind construction sites and shipping areas off New Jersey with a focus on humpback (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) and endangered fin whales (*Balaenoptera physalus*). Up to 85 whales of these species may be taken annually during vessel surveys involving observations, photo-identification or video, and tagging (dart/barb and deep-implant). Minke whales (*Balaenoptera acutorostrata*), short-beaked common dolphins (*Delphinus delphis*), and endangered North Atlantic right whales (*Eubalaena glacialis*) may be unintentionally harassed and opportunistically studied. The permit is requested for 5 years.

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

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: November 3, 2026.

Larissa Plants,

Deputy Director,

Office of Protected Resources,

National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 2026-22646 Filed: 11/5/2026 8:45 am; Publication Date: 11/6/2026]