

Dated: August 25, 2015.

**Julia Harrison,**

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

[FR Doc. 2015-21392 Filed 8-28-15; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XE009

#### Marine Mammals; File Nos. 18722, 18897, 19425, and 19497

**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 have been issued to the  
following entities to receive, import,  
and export specimens of marine  
mammals for scientific research:

Permit No. 18722: Cornell University,  
157 Biotechnology Building, Ithaca, NY  
14850 [Responsible Party: Sharron  
Mitchell, Ph.D.];

Permit No. 18897: Kathleen  
Colegrove, Ph.D., University of Illinois,  
College of Veterinary Medicine,  
Zoological Pathology Program, LUMC  
Room 0745, Building 101, 2160 South  
First Street, Maywood, IL 60153;

Permit No. 19425: Melissa McKinney,  
Ph.D., University of Connecticut, Center  
for Environmental Sciences and  
Engineering, 3107 Horsebarn Hill Road,  
U-4210, Storrs, CT 06269; and

Permit No. 19497: University of  
Florida, College of Veterinary Medicine,  
Department of Infectious Diseases and  
Pathology V3-100, VAB, PO BOX  
110880, Gainesville, FL, 32611-0880  
[Responsible Party: Thomas B. Waltzek,  
D.V.M., Ph.D.].

**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:** The  
following Analysts at (301) 427-8401:  
Rosa L. González (Permit No. 19497),  
Carrie Hubard (Permit No. 19425),  
Brendan Hurley (Permit Nos. 18722 and  
18897) and Jennifer Skidmore (Permit  
Nos. 18722, 18897, 19425, and 19497).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On June  
26, 2015, notice was published in the

**Federal Register** (80 FR 36768) that four  
requests for permits to receive, import,  
and export specimens of marine  
mammals for scientific research had  
been submitted by the above-named  
applicants. The requested permits have  
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.*), the regulations governing the  
taking, importing, and exporting of  
endangered and threatened species (50  
CFR parts 222-226), and the Fur Seal  
Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1151  
*et seq.*).

Permit No. 18722 authorizes Cornell  
University to receive, import, or export  
unlimited samples from up to 2000  
pinnipeds (excluding walrus) and 2000  
cetaceans world-wide. These samples  
will be used for genotyping on marine  
mammals including trait mapping,  
population/ecological studies, and  
germplasm characterization. No live  
animals would be harassed or taken,  
lethally or otherwise, under the  
authorized permit. The permit is valid  
through August 10, 2020.

Permit No. 18897 authorizes Dr.  
Colegrove to import unlimited  
biological samples from up to 100  
individual cetaceans and up to 100  
individual pinnipeds (except walrus)  
world-wide. All samples (bones and  
organ tissue samples) are being  
imported for diagnostic testing to  
determine the causes of outbreaks or  
unusual natural mortalities, the ecology  
of diseases in free-ranging animals, or  
unexpected mortalities in captive  
populations. Samples will be from  
animals found deceased or euthanized  
in nature, collected opportunistically  
during the animals' capture by other  
researchers possessing permits for such  
activities, or legally held in captivity  
(including those held for rehabilitation)  
outside the U.S. No live animals would  
be harassed or taken, lethally or  
otherwise, under the authorized permit.  
The permit is valid through August 10,  
2020.

Permit No. 19425 authorizes Dr.  
McKinney to study marine mammal  
contaminant levels, specifically using  
fatty acid and stable isotopes to examine  
diets and contaminant loads and how  
they are affected by climate change.  
Tissue samples from cetaceans and  
pinnipeds may come from remote  
biopsy sampling, captured animals, and  
animals collected during subsistence  
harvests and may originate in the  
United States, Canada, and Greenland/  
Denmark. Samples (up to 50 of each

species group per year, except for those  
species specified below) will be  
analyzed, with a focus on the following  
Arctic species: Ringed seal (30 per year),  
bearded seal (10 per year), and narwhal  
(10 per year). No live animals would be  
harassed or taken, lethally or otherwise,  
under the authorized permit. The permit  
is valid through August 1, 2020.

File No. 19497 authorizes the  
University of Florida to receive, import,  
and export marine mammal tissue and  
other specimen materials (*e.g.*, body  
fluids) to research the etiologies and  
cofactors of emerging marine mammal  
infectious diseases, utilizing standard  
molecular and sequencing approaches.  
Unlimited samples from up to 300  
individual cetaceans and 700 individual  
pinnipeds (excluding walrus) are  
authorized to be received, imported, or  
exported annually on an opportunistic  
basis. They will be collected by others  
under separate existing permits and may  
be obtained from the following sources:  
(1) Animals killed during legal U.S. or  
foreign subsistence harvests; (2) animals  
stranded alive or dead in foreign  
countries; (3) animals that died  
incidental to commercial fishing  
operations in the U.S. where such taking  
is legal (*i.e.*, bycatch); (4) animals that  
died incidental to commercial fishing  
operations in foreign countries where  
such taking is legal; (5) animals in  
captivity where samples were taken as  
a result of routine husbandry  
procedures or under separate permit;  
and (6) samples from other authorized  
researchers or collections in academic,  
federal, state or other institutions  
involved in marine mammal research in  
the U.S. or abroad. Samples collected  
from stranded animals in the U.S. and  
received under separate authorization  
may be exported and re-imported. No  
takes of live animals are requested or  
would be permitted. The permit is valid  
through July 31, 2020.

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, issuance of  
these permits 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: August 25, 2015.

**Julia Harrison,**

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

[FR Doc. 2015-21390 Filed 8-28-15; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Telecommunications and Information Administration

#### Multistakeholder Process To Promote Collaboration on Vulnerability Research Disclosure

**AGENCY:** National Telecommunications  
and Information Administration,  
Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of open meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The National  
Telecommunications and Information  
Administration (NTIA) will convene  
meetings of a multistakeholder process  
concerning the collaboration between  
security researchers and software and  
system developers and owners to  
address security vulnerability  
disclosure. This Notice announces the  
first meeting, which is scheduled for  
September 29, 2015.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held on  
September 29, 2015, from 9:00 a.m. to  
3:00 p.m., Pacific Time. See  
**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for details.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held in  
the Booth Auditorium at the University  
of California, Berkeley, School of Law,  
Boalt Hall, Bancroft Way and Piedmont  
Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94720-7200.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Allan Friedman, National  
Telecommunications and Information  
Administration, U.S. Department of  
Commerce, 1401 Constitution Avenue  
NW., Room 4725, Washington, DC  
20230; telephone (202) 482-4281; email:  
[afriedman@ntia.doc.gov](mailto:afriedman@ntia.doc.gov). Please direct  
media inquiries to NTIA's Office of  
Public Affairs, (202) 482-7002; email  
[press@ntia.doc.gov](mailto:press@ntia.doc.gov).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

*Background:* On March 19, 2015, the  
National Telecommunications and  
Information Administration, working  
with the Department of Commerce's  
Internet Policy Task Force (IPTF),  
issued a Request for Comment to  
"identify substantive cybersecurity  
issues that affect the digital ecosystem  
and digital economic growth where  
broad consensus, coordinated action,  
and the development of best practices  
could substantially improve security for

organizations and consumers."<sup>1</sup> This  
Request built on earlier work from the  
Department, including the 2011 Green  
Paper *Cybersecurity, Innovation, and  
the Internet Economy*,<sup>2</sup> as well as  
comments the Department had received  
on related issues.<sup>3</sup>

The IPTF asked for suggestions of  
security challenges that an NTIA-  
convened multistakeholder group could  
address, and offered a dozen potential  
topics for explicit feedback.<sup>4</sup> We  
received 35 comments from a range of  
stakeholders, including trade  
associations, large companies,  
cybersecurity startups, civil society  
organizations and independent  
computer security experts.<sup>5</sup> The  
comments highlight a range of issues  
that might be addressed through the  
multistakeholder process and suggest  
various ways in which the group's work  
could be structured.

Of the topics suggested, the challenge  
of collaboration between security  
researchers and system and software  
vendors stands out as a critical issue  
where reaching some consensus on  
shared goals, principles, and practices is  
both feasible and necessary. On July 9,  
2015, after reviewing the comments,  
NTIA announced that the first issue to  
be addressed would be "collaboration  
on vulnerability research disclosure."<sup>6</sup>  
While this is not the first discussion on  
the topic, stakeholders have presented  
the case that the time is right to make  
further progress among ecosystem  
players by achieving consensus and a  
commitment to baseline principles and  
accepted practices.

This issue is commonly referred to as  
the question of "vulnerability  
disclosure." For as long as humans have

<sup>1</sup> U.S. Department of Commerce, Internet Policy  
Task Force, Request for Public Comment,  
Stakeholder Engagement on Cybersecurity in the  
Digital Ecosystem, 80 FR 14360, Docket No.  
150312253-5253-01 (Mar. 19, 2015), available at:  
[http://www.ntia.doc.gov/files/ntia/publications/  
cybersecurity\\_rfc\\_03192015.pdf](http://www.ntia.doc.gov/files/ntia/publications/cybersecurity_rfc_03192015.pdf).

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Department of Commerce, Internet Policy  
Task Force, *Cybersecurity, Innovation, and the  
Internet Economy* (June 2011) (Green Paper),  
available at: [http://www.nist.gov/itl/upload/  
Cybersecurity\\_Green-Paper\\_FinalVersion.pdf](http://www.nist.gov/itl/upload/Cybersecurity_Green-Paper_FinalVersion.pdf).

<sup>3</sup> See Comments Received in Response to **Federal  
Register** Notice Developing a Framework for  
Improving Critical Infrastructure Cybersecurity,  
Docket No. 140721609-4609-01, available at:  
[http://csrc.nist.gov/cyberframework/rfi\\_comments\\_  
10\\_2014.html](http://csrc.nist.gov/cyberframework/rfi_comments_10_2014.html).

<sup>4</sup> Request for Public Comment, *supra* note 1.

<sup>5</sup> NTIA has posted the public comments received  
at [http://www.ntia.doc.gov/federal-register-notice/  
2015/comments-stakeholder-engagement-  
cybersecurity-digital-ecosystem](http://www.ntia.doc.gov/federal-register-notice/2015/comments-stakeholder-engagement-cybersecurity-digital-ecosystem).

<sup>6</sup> NTIA, *Enhancing the Digital Economy Through  
Collaboration on Vulnerability Research Disclosure*  
(July 9, 2015), available at: [http://  
www.ntia.doc.gov/blog/2015/enhancing-digital-  
economy-through-collaboration-vulnerability-  
research-disclosure](http://www.ntia.doc.gov/blog/2015/enhancing-digital-<br/>economy-through-collaboration-vulnerability-<br/>research-disclosure).

created software there have been  
software "bugs."<sup>7</sup> Many of these bugs  
can introduce vulnerabilities, leaving  
the users of the systems and software at  
risk. The nature of these risks vary, and  
mitigating these risks requires various  
efforts from the developers and owners  
of these systems. Security researchers of  
all varieties, including academics,  
professionals, and those who simply  
enjoy thinking about security may  
identify these bugs for a number of  
reasons, and in a wide range of contexts.  
How researchers should handle these  
vulnerabilities, and how vendors should  
work with researchers has been the  
matter of active debate for many years,  
since before the turn of the  
millennium.<sup>8</sup> Several points have been  
actively debated. Researchers have  
expressed concerns that vendors do not  
respond in a timely fashion, leaving  
users at risk. Vendors worry about the  
time, expense, and added complexity of  
addressing every vulnerability, as well  
as the risks introduced by potentially  
disclosing vulnerabilities before they  
can be patched or mitigated. Given that  
all good faith actors care about security,  
there is room to find common ground.

The goal of this process is neither to  
replicate past discussions nor duplicate  
existing initiatives. As information  
security is gaining more attention in the  
collective consciousness due to a series  
of high profile cybersecurity incidents  
and disclosed vulnerabilities, more  
firms and organizations are considering  
how to engage with third party  
researchers, just as they are exploring  
other security tools and processes. The  
security community itself has worked to  
promote better collaboration. More  
software vendors and system owners are  
offering "bug bounty" programs that  
reward researchers for sharing  
vulnerability information. In addition to  
enterprises that buy vulnerabilities and  
sell them to vendors, new business  
models have emerged to help  
organizations develop and manage bug  
bounty programs. Leading experts at the  
International Standards Organization  
have developed, and are continuing to  
revise, a formal standard for vendors on  
how to manage incoming vulnerability

<sup>7</sup> See, e.g., Peter Wayner, *Smithsonian Honors the  
Original Bug in the System*, N.Y. Times (Dec. 7,  
1997), available at: [http://www.nytimes.com/  
library/cyber/week/120497bug.html](http://www.nytimes.com/<br/>library/cyber/week/120497bug.html).

<sup>8</sup> For a bibliography of research, proposed  
standards, online discussions and other resources,  
see University of Oulu Secure Programming Group,  
Juhani Eronen & Ari Takanen eds., *Vulnerability  
Disclosure Publications and Discussion Tracking*,  
available at: [https://www.ee.oulu.fi/research/ouspg/  
Disclosure\\_tracking](https://www.ee.oulu.fi/research/ouspg/<br/>Disclosure_tracking) (last visited Aug. 20, 2015).