

# National Marine Fisheries Service

## Marine Mammal Commercial or Educational Photography Permit Application

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>INTRODUCTION .....</b>	<b>2</b>
NEW TO COMMERCIAL/EDUCATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHY PERMITS? WANT TO FILM ENDANGERED OR THREATENED SPECIES? HAVE OTHER QUESTIONS?.....	2
WHEN FILLING OUT YOUR APPLICATION: .....	2
NEED HELP?.....	3
<b>APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS .....</b>	<b>3</b>
PROJECT INFORMATION .....	3
*PROJECT PURPOSE: HYPOTHESIS/OBJECTIVES AND JUSTIFICATION .....	4
*PROJECT DESCRIPTION .....	5
PROJECT SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION .....	7
*PROJECT LOCATIONS AND TAKE INFORMATION .....	8
*TAKE TABLE.....	9
*ANTICIPATED EFFECTS ON THE ENVIRONMENT .....	11
*PROJECT CONTACTS .....	13
SUBMIT APPLICATION.....	15
<b>FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS .....</b>	<b>15</b>
WHEN SHOULD I APPLY?.....	15
WHAT ARE THE ADVANTAGES OF GETTING A COMMERCIAL OR EDUCATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHY PERMIT? .....	16
WHAT IF I WANT TO FILM MARINE MAMMALS LISTED AS THREATENED OR ENDANGERED?.....	16
WHAT IS THE PROCESS FOR GETTING A COMMERCIAL/EDUCATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHY PERMIT? .....	16
WHAT IS THE PROCESS FOR REQUESTING AN AMENDMENT TO A PERMIT? .....	17
<b>ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.....</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT STATEMENT.....</b>	<b>17</b>

## Introduction

These instructions are for submitting an application for a Commercial/Educational Photography Permit under the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA).

Photography/filming activities must involve only Level B harassment<sup>1</sup>. Projects must be discrete with specific time frames and result in products available to the general public. Examples include documentary films, published magazine articles, books, and commercial photographs.

These instructions are **not** for:

- Photography or filming focused on or that may affect marine mammals listed as endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Photography permits cannot authorize harassment of threatened or endangered species. See a [list of ESA species under NMFS' jurisdiction](#).
- Photography that exceeds Level B harassment (*e.g.*, flying lower than 1,000 feet over pinniped rookeries).
- Photography to collect stock images for an undetermined project. You must be working on a specific project that will result in a publicly available product.
- Scientific research on marine mammals.

[New to Commercial/Educational photography permits? Want to film endangered or threatened species? Have other questions?](#)

We recommend you visit our [photography permit web page](#) or see the FAQ on page 14.

**When filling out your application:**

- Refer to [Chapter 2](#) for guidance on how to use APPS.
- **Save your application every 20 minutes or you will lose information!**
- You do not have to complete your application in one session. Your application will remain in draft mode until you submit.
- An \* means it is a required field.

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<sup>1</sup> Level B harassment means any act of pursuit, torment, or annoyance which has the potential to disturb a marine mammal or marine mammal stock in the wild by causing disruption of behavioral patterns, including, but not limited to, migration, breathing, nursing, breeding, feeding, or sheltering but which does not have the potential to injure a marine mammal or marine mammal stock in the wild.

- You may want to use these instructions as a template to draft your application in a Word doc and then cut and paste into APPS. However, note that certain formatting and special characters may be either lost or migrated incorrectly.
- Attachments cannot be larger than 20MB – contact us if you have larger files you need to attach.
- Your application must be a stand-alone document that describes all proposed activities and is readable to a layperson.
- If you do not follow these instructions, your application will be returned and you will be asked to resubmit a new application that includes the information required.
- We can only consider those activities that you describe in your application
- We will not consider your application if you have overdue reports for your most recent permit or authorization.

### Need help?

We encourage you to contact us with questions before submitting your application. You can reach us at the phone number on the bottom of this page.

## Application Instructions

### Project Information

**File Number:** This number is generated by APPS and cannot be changed. To facilitate processing, reference this File No. in correspondence with our office.

**\*Project Title** (up to 255 characters): Provide a concise title that includes activities, species (or taxa if multiple species), location, and purpose of the filming. For example:

- *Filming bottlenose dolphin behavior in south Florida for a television series.*

**\*Project Status:** The project status (New or Renewal) is automatically selected based on your answers in the APPS pre-application guide (PAG). Do not change this field.

**Previous Federal or State Permit #:** If applicable, enter your most recent and closely related NMFS permit number. Otherwise leave blank.

**\*Permits Requested:** MMPA Commercial/Educational Photography permit should be listed based on your answers in the pre-application guide.

**\*Where Will the Activities Occur?** One or more general locations will be listed based on your answers in the PAG.

**\*Timeframe:** Enter the desired start and end dates of the entire project in the following format: MM/DD/YYYY. The start date cannot be before the date you submit the application and should be at least 4-6 months after the date you submit. The end date must be within 5 years of the start date because photography permits are valid for a maximum of 5 years.

- If your project involves less than one year of planned fieldwork, you should consider requesting a 2-year permit in the event another season or year of filming is needed to obtain the footage.

**\*Sampling Season/Project Duration** (up to 1,000 characters)

- Describe your filming field season(s) including the months of the year.
- Include the frequency of fieldwork (*e.g.*, when and how many times per year will you be filming).

**\*Abstract** (up to 2,000 characters): a short summary that must include:

- Purpose of the filming/photography.
- Species that may be harassed (common names). If filming many species, you can summarize instead of listing every one. For example: *10 species of cetaceans and 5 species of pinnipeds*.
- Type of filming/photography activities (*e.g.*, boat and aerial-based filming).
- Specific geographic locations.
- Requested duration of the permit (the maximum is 5 years).

**\*Project Purpose: Hypothesis/Objectives and Justification** (up to 64,000 characters)

1. Discuss the purpose of your project including your objectives.
2. Describe the anticipated end product(s) of your project.
3. Explain how and when the products will be made available to the public.
4. Explain if stock photos/footage are available and if so, why your project requires new images/video.
5. Explain how you estimated your take numbers (see guidance on pages 8-9 for how to count take).
  - For example, did you base them on the number of filming days and average animal group size or abundance estimates for your location?

- Indicate the number of times known individuals will be intentionally filmed or harassed in a year. Explain why this repeated filming is needed to meet your objectives.

**\*Project Description** (up to 64,000 characters)

**Methods**

Describe your methodologies. Your narrative description must match your APPS take table (see Take Table section below). Every procedure listed in the take table must be described here. It is helpful to reference take table lines in the narrative that correspond to the take actions and procedures. Be sure to provide:

- Clear descriptions of all methods (*i.e.*, procedures) you will use to film or photograph each species.
- The age class and sex (if known) of animals you expect to encounter and film by each method annually. Define how you will differentiate age classes (e.g., neonate, calf/pup, juvenile, subadult, adult).
- If working with dependent calves/pups, their moms, or known pregnant females, give specific protocols for working around them, including how you will avoid separating mothers from calves/pups.
- A brief statement of each method's purpose (*i.e.*, how the activity relates to meeting your objectives).
- **Mitigation** measures that are inherent to your methods may be included in this section or in the Effects and Mitigation section below.
- Figures and photographs that illustrate your methods. You can attach them on the Supplemental Information page.
- See Additional Guidance section below.

**Additional Guidance for Commonly Used Methods:**

**Filming and photography**

Be sure to discuss the following, as applicable:

Approach method (*e.g.*, by foot, vessel or aircraft)

Filming/photography equipment and methods

Minimum approach distances

Within sight of animals or not (*e.g.*, from a blind)?

Number and frequency of filming trips per year

Duration spent with group or individual/day by activity

**Underwater photography/videography**

Method (*e.g.*, snorkeling, underwater pole cam, conventional scuba gear, or re-breathers)

Maximum number of individuals in the water at a given time and their roles (including safety divers)

Minimum approach distance to animals

Duration spent with same animals/day

**Aerial (manned), ground, and vessel (manned or unmanned/remote) platforms**

Type of aircraft and vessel

Number of trips per year

Air speed

Vessel speed

Minimum altitude or approach distance to animals

Protocols for approaching on land, whether a blind or cover will be used

Duration spent with group or individual per day

Number of platforms (aircraft and vessel) to be operated at the same time

**Unmanned aircraft systems (UAS)**

Provide the general aerial survey information above and the following:

Type of UAS – fixed wing or vertical takeoff and landing (VTOL)

Payload components – what is the UAS carrying?

Ground control station (what it is, where is it located - on shore or on vessel, number of stations, and how close the station will be to animals)

Encounter duration – maximum amount of time over same animals

Number of UAS to be operated at the same time

Do you have the appropriate FAA permits/authorizations (including pilot licenses)?

**Remotely operated vehicle (ROV), vessel or amphibious**

For underwater and amphibious ROVs, same details as for vessel surveys and also:

Description and size of ROV

Whether it is tethered or wireless, tether material and length

Describe any light sources

Whether there will be a live video feed monitored

Encounter duration

**Non-target marine mammals**

Discuss whether and how non-target marine mammals may be harassed and filmed opportunistically and what you will do to minimize or eliminate harassment. These are

species that co-occur with your target species and that could be harassed during your activities.

- Photography permits cannot authorize harassment of threatened or endangered species. If ESA-listed species occur in your project area, explain how you will identify and avoid them (*e.g.*, not in area during time of study; would not approach closer than 100 meters; would halt operations until non-target species moved out of study area).
- If takes to non-target, non-ESA listed marine mammals may occur, include these as separate rows in your Take Table with incidental harassment in the procedure column. These could be non-target conspecifics or other species of marine mammals.
- Non-target taxa (*e.g.* sea turtles, corals, U.S. Fish and Wildlife species) should be addressed in the Effects and Mitigation section below.

#### **Coordination with scientists or other permit holders**

- Include the names and affiliations of scientific advisors and whether they will be in the field with you.
- Describe how you will collaborate with other permitted filmmakers or researchers in your filming area to minimize repeated disturbance.

#### **Project Supplemental Information**

##### **Attach a Supplemental Information File**

You can attach up to 10 files to provide additional information.

- Preferred file formats: Microsoft Word, Excel, or PDF.
- The maximum file size allowed is 20 MB.
- Audio and video files (such as mp3, m4b, wav) cannot be uploaded. Contact us if you need assistance.
- On the Location screen you will be asked to attach a map.

##### **\*Effects and Mitigation** (up to 64,000 characters)

You may include mitigation and monitoring protocols here, or in the Project Description section. Do not restate them here if they are included above; simply reference the section where the following information is found.

- For each method, describe the anticipated responses of the animals (*e.g.*, type, severity, and duration of response).

Describe what you will do to minimize those responses, including:

- If your activities coincide with reproductive seasons or maternal care, how will you avoid disrupting these sensitive periods and ensure mother-calf/pup pairs are not separated?
- Explain how your filming will not result in injury or mortality.
- Describe if you will employ mitigation measures when you observe **unintended adverse reactions**. If you would use the same measures for a suite of activities, you may provide one discussion for that suite of activities.
- Please describe any mitigation you will take to avoid or minimize impacts to non-target protected taxa (e.g., sea turtles, corals, USFWS species). Discuss whether and how they may be incidentally harassed or otherwise affected.

**Public Availability of Product/Publications:** (up to 2,000 characters)

Describe the end product(s) of your proposed photography/filming and how they will be made available to the public. For example, will it be a feature film released in theaters? A television documentary that will air on a specific network or country? A children's book that will be published? Will your project have a web component?

**\*Project Locations and Take Information**

First, you will describe where you plan to work. Then, for each location, you will use the Take Table to list the species you expect to encounter and the filming/photography procedures you will conduct.

- Add **New Location**: provide information about one or more shoot locations
  - General area (ocean basin)
  - State(s), as applicable.
- Enter **Location Details**, as applicable:
  - Waterbody: enter names of rivers, estuaries, bays, etc.

## How to count takes of cetaceans

Count every animal approached regardless of whether a behavioral reaction has occurred.

**During vessel surveys**, only count 1 take per animal per day including all approaches. An "approach" is defined as a continuous sequence of maneuvers involving a vessel, equipment, or researcher's body, including drifting, directed toward a cetacean or group of cetaceans closer than 100 yards for baleen and sperm whales and 50 yards for all other cetaceans.

**During aerial surveys** (manned or UAS) flown at an altitude lower than 1,000 feet, count 1 take per animal observed per day, regardless of the number of passes over the same animal.



- Latitude and longitude of your shoot location
  - Limits of your shoot location (*e.g.*, to the U.S. EEZ, to the edge of the continental shelf, to 50m depth)
  - Names of land masses where filming/photography will occur (*e.g.*, islands, rookeries).
- **Attach File:** Include high quality map(s) to scale that clearly shows the location of your proposed activity and any environmental aspects of interest. Include a shapefile, Google Earth kmz/kml, or ASCII text file of the project's location and the footprint of the affected area with lat/long data and the associated basic metadata.

### \*Take Table

The take table summarizes the **estimated number of animals** you expect to encounter **annually** during filming/photography. An example table is provided below. Your permit and subsequent reports will include a similar table.

Columns you will fill out in the take table:

1. **Select:** Leave this box blank unless you need to copy, move, or delete the row.
2. **Species:** Use the drop down list. Commercial photography permits are for non-ESA listed species only. You **cannot** select endangered or threatened species.
3. **Listing Unit/Stock:** Select the applicable stock based on your shoot location. Choose Range-wide if your location has multiple stocks of the same species and you cannot distinguish them while in the field.
4. **Production/Origin:** Select Wild.

## How to count takes of pinnipeds

**Count 1** take per animal per day for those **hauled-out animals** that react to the research, regardless of the number of responses, including:

- movements of twice the animal's body length or more,
- changes of direction greater than 90 degrees, or
- retreats (flushes) to the water.

Count 1 take per animal per day for those **animals in water** that exhibit a noticeable adverse behavioral response from your activities

**Do not count** alert behaviors such as:

- turning head towards the disturbance,
- craning head and neck while holding the body rigid in a u-shaped position,
- changing from a lying to a sitting position, or
- brief movements of less than twice the animal's body length.

5. **Life Stage:** Select from the drop-down list. You may enter take information for more than one life stage (*e.g.*, adult and juvenile) on separate rows or select a combination of life stages for one take category.
6. **Sex:** Select from the drop-down list. If your activity targets only one sex, indicate which. If it targets both and they can be targeted separately, enter separate rows for male and female; otherwise select Male and Female.
7. **Expected Take:** This represents a **reasonable estimate** of the number of animals you will encounter, **annually**. Use the guidance in the sidebars to help you determine how to count take.

**For cetaceans and pinnipeds:** in the Project Description, you must indicate **how many times per day** you would approach the same animal or group of animals as well as **how many times per year** you will target the same group of animals.

8. **Take Action:** Select Harass.
9. **Observe/Collect Method:** Select the method of observation (*e.g.*, survey, vessel). If various methods will be used, you must provide take information in separate rows. If you will be approaching animals from a boat to fly UAS surveys, select “survey, aerial/vessel.”
10. **Procedures:** Select the activities that you plan to conduct from the drop down list below. You can select multiple procedures for any row.
  - a. Choose Other if your proposed activity is not listed. In the Details box (see below), briefly describe what the Other means.

Procedure Options	
Behavioral observations	Remote vehicle, vessel
Incidental harassment	Remote vehicle, aerial (fixed wing)
Other (define)	Remote vehicle, aerial (VTOL)
Passive acoustic recordings	Underwater photography / video
Photography / video	

11. **Begin Date:** Populated with the Begin Date you entered on the Project Information page. You may change the date to coincide with a specific project time that is shorter than the overall duration of the project.
12. **End Date:** Populated with the End Date entered on the Project Information page. You may change the date to coincide with a specific project time shorter than the overall duration of the project.

13. **Details:** Enter up to 255 characters in this text box to provide details. This is especially useful for clarifying age class, takes, intentional repeated takes, specific activities, or projects.

Table 1. Sample Take Table

Species	Stock/ Listing Unit	Life stage	Sex	Expected Take	Observe/ Collect Method	Procedures	Details
Sea lion, California	US Stock	Adult	Male and Female	200	Survey, ground	Observations, behavioral; Photograph/ Video	Filming only outside of breeding season
Dolphin, Risso's	California/ Oregon/ Washington Stock	All	Male and Female	10	Survey, vessel	Acoustic, passive recording; Observations, behavioral; Underwater photo/ videography	Filming at any time of year
Dolphin, common, short- beaked	California/ Oregon/ Washington Stock	All	Male and Female	55	Survey, aerial	Observations, behavioral; Photograph/ Video	Filming at any time of year

### \*Anticipated Effects on the Environment

1. Will you be working in or near areas with unique environmental characteristics or important scientific, cultural or historical resources? Examples include:
  - Animals used for subsistence
  - Archaeological resources
  - [Critical Habitat of ESA-listed species](#)
  - [Essential Fish Habitat](#) including wetlands, coral reefs, sea grasses, and rivers
  - Federally recognized Tribal and Native Alaskan lands, cultural or natural resources, or religious or cultural sites
  - [Marine Protected Areas](#)
  - Minority or low-income communities
  - [National](#) or State Parks
  - [National Marine Sanctuaries](#) and [National Monuments](#)
  - [National Historic Landmarks](#)
  - Sites listed in or eligible for listing in the [National Register of Historic Places](#)
  - [Wild and Scenic Rivers](#)

- [Wilderness Areas](#)
  - [Wildlife Refuges](#)
- a. If yes, please list those areas. As applicable, mention if you will need to or have already obtained permission (licenses, permits, authorizations) to work in these areas.
  - b. How would your activities affect such resources? What measures will you take to ensure your work does not cause loss or destruction of such resources?
  - c. For marine mammal activities in Alaska or Washington, how will you ensure your project does not adversely affect the availability (*e.g.*, distribution, abundance) or suitability (*e.g.*, food safety) of marine mammals for subsistence uses?
2. Discuss if your activities have the potential to impact the physical or biological environment, in particular coastal and marine environments. Impacts can be positive or negative. Examples of potential impacts include:
- Altering substrate while anchoring vessels and buoys.
  - Using bottom trawls or other types of nets.
  - Erecting blinds or other structures.
  - Ingress and egress of researchers.
  - Injuring or killing benthic organisms (*e.g.*, sea grass, corals).
  - Altering the physical or chemical characteristics of water (*e.g.*, oil spills)
  - Affecting a species' abundance or distribution.
3. Does your project involve activities known or suspected of introducing or spreading invasive species, intentionally or not? Examples include transporting animals or other biological specimens, discharging ballast water, and using boats/equipment at multiple sites.

Describe measures you would take to prevent the possible introduction or spread of non-indigenous or invasive species, including plants, animals, microbes, or other biological agents.

4. Will your activities involve collecting, handling, or transporting potentially infectious agents or pathogens, such as biological specimens (animals, blood, tissues)?

Will your activities involve using or transporting hazardous substances, such as toxic chemicals?

If yes to either question, describe the protocols you will use to ensure that public health and human safety are not adversely affected, such as by spread of zoonotic diseases, chemical injuries, or contamination of food or water supplies.

5. Do your activities involve equipment (*e.g.*, scientific instruments) or techniques that are new, untested, or have unknown or uncertain impacts on the biological or physical environment?

If yes:

- a. Briefly describe the equipment or techniques and provide any information about the use of these in your study area, other areas, and/or with other taxa.
- b. Discuss the degree to which they are likely to be adopted by others for similar activities or applied more broadly.

### \*Project Contacts

As the person entering the application, you will automatically be assigned the following roles: **Applicant/Permit Holder, Principal Investigator, and Primary Contact.**

1. You may need to change or add personnel. See [Chapter 2](#) for directions on how to change who is assigned to these roles.
2. Use the guidance below to help you decide who should have what role.
3. To prevent duplicate entries, **ALWAYS search APPS for the person before entering a new contact.** Start with only putting the last name in APPS search box.
4. Include a table (see example Table 3) listing the names of the PI and CIs, and the specific procedures they will oversee or conduct. **Attach the table on the Supplemental Information page.**
5. Attach a CV, resume, or biosketch for the PI and each CI. See Qualifications and Experience below.

### Descriptions of Personnel Roles

A project must have a **Responsible Party if the Applicant/Permit Holder is an organization, institution, or agency.** The Responsible Party or Applicant/Permit Holder is an official who has the legal authority to bind the organization, institution, or agency and is ultimately responsible for the activities of any individual operating under the authority of the permit.

The **Principal Investigator (PI)** is the individual primarily responsible for the take and any related activities conducted under the permit. There can only be one PI on a permit. The PI:

- Must have qualifications, knowledge, and experience relevant to the activities authorized by the permit
- Must be on site during activities conducted under the permit unless a Co-Investigator is present to act in place of the PI
- May also be the Applicant/Permit Holder and Primary Contact.

The **Primary Contact** is the person primarily responsible for correspondence during the application review process and after a permit is issued. Typically this person administers the permit, requests amendments (*e.g.*, personnel changes, filming requests), and submits reports. The Primary Contact may also serve other roles on the permit (*e.g.*, Applicant/Permit Holder, PI, CI).

**The Applicant/Permit Holder or Responsible Party, PI, and Primary Contact will have access to APPS to enter and edit the application, submit reports and modification requests, and will receive automatic emails from APPS.**

**Co-Investigators** (CIs) are individuals who are qualified and authorized to conduct or directly supervise activities conducted under a permit without the on-site supervision of the PI.

- You may add CIs to the application if the PI will not always be present during the permitted activities.
- CIs can also be added or removed once a permit has been issued.

Filming Assistants (FAs) are individuals who work under the direct and on-site supervision of the PI or a CI. FAs cannot conduct permitted activities in the absence of the PI or a CI. FAs do not need to be named in the application or permit.

## **Qualifications and Experience**

You must provide a CV, resume or biosketch for the PI and each CI. The document must include the person's relevant filming experience, including their experience with marine mammals or other marine life for each activity they would be authorized to conduct.

Persons authorized as the PI or CIs must have qualifications corresponding to their duties. If you do not provide sufficient information, we will not authorize the person(s) to conduct the filming activities.

All documentation submitted will be publicly available. **DO NOT** include personal information (*e.g.*, social security number, nationality, date of birth, home phone). Include:

- Name (first, middle initial, last)
- Title
- Affiliation
- Business e-mail address
- Business phone number
- Relevant education and training, including certificates or licenses held
- Relevant work experience, including previous documentaries, films or other publications and experience filming or working with marine mammals or other wildlife (including species).

In addition, you must submit a table (see Table 2) defining the roles and activities to be performed for the PI and each CI listed in the application.

Table 2. Example Personnel Roles

<b>Name/Affiliation</b>	<b>Role</b>	<b>Activities</b>
John Smith, Affiliation, City, State	Principal Investigator	Supervise and perform all activities under the permit
Jane Doe, Affiliation, City, State	Co-Investigator	Conduct and oversee underwater filming operations
Bob Jones, Affiliation, City, State	Co-Investigator	UAS pilot

## Submit Application

See [Chapter 2](#) for how to submit your application and check on its status.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### When should I apply?

At least 4 months before your project will begin, preferably 6 months prior.

## What are the advantages of getting a commercial or educational photography permit?

Having a permit allows you to approach the animals closer than if you do not have a permit and have to follow the [viewing guidelines](#). Also, a permit authorizes you to film by the methods and the locations that you describe in your application. You may have more flexibility and autonomy filming under your own permit rather than working with a permitted researcher.

## What if I want to film marine mammals listed as threatened or endangered?

You cannot get an MMPA commercial or educational photography permit to film species listed under the Endangered Species Act. However, you have several options:

1. Use footage or images that already exist.
2. Collaborate with a permitted scientist.
3. Follow [NOAA Fisheries' marine mammal viewing guidelines and approach regulations](#).
4. Film in locations outside the Marine Mammal Protection Act's jurisdiction.

Call us or check out our [photography permit web page](#) for more information about these options.

## What is the process for getting a commercial/educational photography permit?

1. Follow these instructions and contact the NMFS Permits and Conservation Division with any questions.
2. Submit your application via [APPS](#).
  - a. A permit analyst will review your application and contact you if additional information is needed.
3. Address any questions within 60 days or your application will be withdrawn.
  - a. Once we consider your application complete, we will publish a notice in the Federal Register, which starts a mandatory 30-day public comment period.
  - b. Concurrently, we will send your application to the Marine Mammal Commission and other subject matter experts in partner institutions and federal and state agencies for review.
4. Address any questions received during the comment period.
  - a. We will draft the permit and supporting documentation (including National Environmental Policy Act analyses and documentation of MMPA issuance criteria).



- b. The documents will be reviewed by various NMFS offices including a legal review.
- c. The Office Director will decide whether to issue or deny your permit.

### What is the process for requesting an amendment to a permit?

Use [APPS](#) to request an amendment to your permit. You'll need to provide a description of your proposed changes and include all the necessary details for those changes, as applicable. Use these application instructions as a guide. For example, changes to your objectives will require that you discuss all the points in the Project Purpose section. Additions to personnel require Qualifications Forms and descriptions of their roles.

## Additional Information

Under Section 104(c)(6)the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), a permit may be issued for photography of marine mammals in the wild for educational or commercial purposes where the photography activities do not exceed Level B harassment. Application Instructions for Photography (50 CFR 216.42, Reserved) have not yet been proposed.

MMPA section 104 is available at the following web site:

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/marine-mammal-protection-act>.

## Paperwork Reduction Act Statement

The information requested in this application is required. It will be used to determine:

- Whether the proposed activities are likely to exceed Level B harassment of a marine mammal in the wild,
- Whether the photography methods are adequate to meet the project objectives,
- Whether the applicants are qualified to carry out the proposed activities, and
- How the products of such activities will be made available to the public.

**Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to *average 10 hours per response* (i.e., the above application), including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the Chief, Permits and Conservation Division, Office of Protected Resources, F/PR1, NOAA/National Marine Fisheries Service, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910.**

The application and any associated documents, including any reports required by the permit, are subject to the Freedom of Information Act.

Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with, a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.