

Appendix A: Screenshots of APPS Online Application System Redesign

The APPS redesign separates large text boxes that previously required multiple pieces of information into individual questions or fields (such as for the Project Purpose shown here), making it easier to ensure applicants provide all required details.

Project Purpose

Objectives

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Discuss the **need for the research** and your **research objectives or hypotheses**.

Bona fide

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Explain how your proposed research is *bona fide*, including how likely the results of your **research** are to:

- be accepted for publication in a refereed scientific journal;
- contribute to the basic knowledge of the species biology or ecology; or
- identify, evaluate, or resolve conservation problems.

The APPS redesign also provides enhanced help (shown below) that includes the guidance from the instructions directly onscreen to the right of each information field.

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Provide a short summary (up to 2,000 characters) that must include:

- Purpose of the research or enhancement.
- Species that may be taken, imported, or exported (common names).
- Take activities (e.g., capture, sampling, tagging), import, or export
- Where your activities will occur and where animals or samples will be imported or to where they will be exported.

Below are two examples of information fields for an MMPA public display permit application for importation.

Project Purpose

Public display purpose

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Describe the educational program and include educational materials as attachments or provide a webpage where this information is available. Specify the professionally recognized standards (e.g., AMMPA or AZA accreditation) of the public display community upon which the education or conservation program offered by the applicant is based.

Identify Animals

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Identify the animal(s) to be imported and location information including:

- Animal identification
- Estimated or known age
- Size (length and/or weight)
- Sex
- Reproductive condition¹
- Country of origin
- Exporting facility
- Ports of entry (<https://www.fws.gov/e/designated-ports.html>)
- Whether you will be requesting a port of entry exemption
- Final destination/facility

¹ Permit holders may not import a marine mammal that is pregnant, lactating, or either un-weaned or less than 8 months old, whichever comes later, unless the Office Director determines that such importation is necessary for the protection and welfare of the animal. Contact nmfs.pr1.apps@noaa.gov for questions on such importations, which are not covered by this application.

Import Animal Wild Information

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For importing wild-caught animals:

- Indicate the wild stock and the geographic location the animal was collected from. Include latitude/longitude coordinates and/or waterbody location.
- Provide documentation that the take and subsequent holding was humane¹ and legal in accordance with the capture country's laws.

¹ Humane means using the method that involves the least possible degree of pain and suffering possible.

The below image shows the enhanced help within the Project Description section that has categories of methods that expand with more information to guide the user on the type of details to provide for each category.

Provide clear descriptions of all methods

(i.e., each take action and procedure in your APPS Take table).

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Methods Guidance

Expand guidance elements by clicking the small triangle on the left of the Heading.

- ▶ Captive experiments
- ▶ Export / import / receive samples
- ▶ Active acoustics (for behavioral response studies)
- ▶ Capture and restraint
- ▶ External instruments (e.g., instruments attached with epoxy, suction-cup, wire, etc.; a table is helpful for multiple tag types)
- ▶ Internal instruments (e.g., stomach temperature pills, telemetry tags)

Another example of enhanced help with hyperlinks (in blue font) to other websites to help applicants find information to complete their application.

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?	
☐ Yes ☐ No	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