

directed to NMFS (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**) three days prior to the meeting.

Note: The times and sequence specified in the agenda are subject to change.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: June 16, 2017.

Ned Cyr,

Director, Office of Science and Technology,
National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 2017-12962 Filed 6-20-17; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XF474

Endangered and Threatened Species; Initiation of 5-Year Reviews for the Endangered Baiji/Chinese River Dolphin/Yangtze River Dolphin and Endangered Saimaa Subspecies of Ringed Seal

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

ACTION: Notice of initiation of 5-year reviews; request for information.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces its intent to conduct 5-year reviews for the endangered Baiji/Chinese River Dolphin/Yangtze River Dolphin (*Lipotes vexillifer*), and the endangered Saimaa subspecies of ringed seal (*Phoca hispida saimensis*). NMFS is required by the ESA to conduct 5-year reviews to ensure that the listing classifications of the species are accurate. The 5-year reviews must be based on the best scientific and commercial data available at the time. We request submission of any such information on Baiji/Chinese River Dolphin/Yangtze River Dolphin and Saimaa ringed seal, particularly information on the status, threats, and recovery of the species that has become available since the previous status review for Baiji/Chinese River Dolphin/Yangtze River Dolphin in February 2012 and Saimaa seal in December 2010.

DATES: To allow us adequate time to conduct this review, we must receive your information no later than August 21, 2017. However, we will continue to accept new information about any listed species at any time.

ADDRESSES: You may submit information on this document identified by NOAA-NMFS-2017-0057 by either of the following methods:

- **Electronic Submission:** Submit electronic information via the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal. Go to www.regulations.gov. To submit information via the e-Rulemaking Portal, first click the “submit a comment” icon, then enter NOAA-NMFS-2017-0057 in the keyword search. Locate the document you wish to respond to from the resulting list and click on the “Submit a Comment” icon on the right of that line.

- **Mail or Hand-Deliver:** Submit written comments to Endangered Species Conservation Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13535, Silver Spring, MD 20910; Attn: Ron Dean.

Instructions: Information must be submitted by one of the above methods to ensure that the information is received, documented, and considered by NMFS. Information sent by any other method, to any other address or individual, or received after the end of the specified period, may not be considered. All information received is a part of the public record and will generally be posted for public viewing on www.regulations.gov without change. All personal identifying information (e.g., name, address, etc.), confidential business information, or otherwise sensitive or protected information submitted voluntarily by the sender will be publicly accessible. NMFS will accept anonymous submissions (enter “N/A” in the required fields if you wish to remain anonymous).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ron Dean at the above address, by phone at (301) 427-8403 or Ron.Dean@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This notice announces our active review of the Baiji/Chinese River Dolphin/Yangtze River Dolphin and the Saimaa seal. Section 4(c)(2)(A) of the ESA requires that we conduct a review of listed species at least once every five years. The regulations in 50 CFR 424.21 require that we publish a notice in the **Federal Register** announcing species currently under active review. On the basis of such reviews under section 4(c)(2)(B), we determine whether a species should be delisted or reclassified from endangered to threatened or from threatened to endangered. As described by the regulations in 50 CFR 424.11(d), delisting a species must be supported by the best scientific and commercial data available and only considered if such data substantiates that the species is neither endangered nor threatened for one or more of the following reasons: (1) The species is considered extinct; (2) the species is considered to be

recovered; or (3) the original data available when the species was listed, or the interpretation of such data, were in error. Any change in Federal classification would require a separate rulemaking process. The Baiji/Chinese River Dolphin/Yangtze River Dolphin was listed as endangered under the ESA on May 30, 1989 (54 FR 22906) and the Saimaa seal was listed as endangered under the ESA on May 6, 1993 (58 FR 26920).

Background information on Baiji/Chinese River Dolphin/Yangtze River Dolphin, including the endangered listing, is available on the NMFS Office of Protected Species Web site at: <http://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/pr/species/mammals/dolphins/chinese-river-dolphin.html>. Background information on Saimaa seal, including the endangered listing, is available on the NMFS Office of Protected Species Web site at: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/species/mammals/seals/saimaa-seal.html>.

Determining if a Species Is Threatened or Endangered

Section 4(a)(1) of the ESA requires that we determine whether a species is endangered or threatened based on one or more of the five following factors: (1) The present or threatened destruction, modification, or curtailment of its habitat or range; (2) overutilization for commercial, recreational, scientific, or educational purposes; (3) disease or predation; (4) the inadequacy of existing regulatory mechanisms; or (5) other natural or manmade factors affecting its continued existence. Section 4(b) also requires that our determination be made on the basis of the best scientific and commercial data available after conducting a review of the status of the species and after taking into account those efforts, if any, being made by any State or foreign nation, to protect such species.

Public Solicitation of New Information

To ensure that the 5-year reviews are complete and based on the best available scientific and commercial data, we are soliciting new information from the public, governmental agencies, Tribes, the scientific community, industry, environmental entities, and any other interested parties concerning the status of Baiji/Chinese River Dolphin/Yangtze River Dolphin, and the Saimaa seal. Categories of requested information include: (1) Species biology including, but not limited to, population trends, distribution, abundance, demographics, and genetics; (2) habitat conditions including, but not limited to, amount, distribution, and important

features for conservation; (3) status and trends of threats; (4) conservation measures that have been implemented that benefit the species, including monitoring data demonstrating effectiveness of such measures; (5) need for additional conservation measures; and (6) other new information, data, or corrections including, but not limited to, taxonomic or nomenclatural changes and improved analytical methods for evaluating extinction risk.

If you wish to provide information for the 5-year reviews, you may submit your information and materials electronically or via mail (see **ADDRESSES** section). We request that all information be accompanied by supporting documentation such as maps, bibliographic references, or reprints of pertinent publications. We also would appreciate the submitter's name, address, and any association, institution, or business that the person represents; however, anonymous submissions will also be accepted.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*

Dated: June 15, 2017.

Angela Somma,

Chief, Endangered Species Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 2017-12858 Filed 6-20-17; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army

Solicitation for a Cooperative Research and Development Agreement for the Transfer and Use of a Unique Infrared Laser

AGENCY: Department of the Army, DoD.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Army's Aviation and Missile Research, Development, and Engineering Center (AMRDEC) announces its intent to enter into a Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (CRADA) and seeks inquiries and proposals from potential partners. The goal of this CRADA will be the transfer of a one-of-a-kind infrared laser from AMRDEC to the partner's facilities and the cooperative demonstration of a new remote sensing methodology using this laser.

DATES: Preliminary inquiries and comments from potential partners must be received by August 1, 2017.

ADDRESSES: Submit inquiries and comments to U.S. Army RDECOM AMRDEC, ATTN: RDMR-CST (ORTA), 5400 Fowler Road, Redstone Arsenal,

AL 35898 (usarmy.redstone.rdecom-amrdec.mbx.orta@mail.mil).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the proposed agreement, the Army's AMRDEC plans to collaborate with a single academic or industrial partner. Together, the AMRDEC and its CRADA partner will explore and demonstrate the new trace gas remote sensing methodology based on infrared/terahertz double resonance spectroscopy, as described in the cited references below.

The double resonance technique requires a specially designed infrared laser that produces powerful (100 mJ) short pulses (100 ps) of wavelength tunable radiation (9–11 microns). A laser that uniquely matches those requirements was fabricated by STI Optronics, Inc. as part of a DARPA-funded Phase II SBIR contract and delivered to AMRDEC in 2014.

The CRADA partner must have the resources to package, ship, and install this laser in its facilities and operate it in partnership with AMRDEC to demonstrate the double resonance spectroscopic technique in either a simulated atmospheric chamber containing a trace gas and/or in an actual outdoor laser test range in which a trace gas may be safely released and detected.

Ideally, the partner will have a history of performing laboratory and/or outdoor spectroscopic sensing and will have the necessary infrastructure and expertise to operate this laser safely and reliably. As necessary, the partner should be prepared to elicit funding from other sources to support this project and may anticipate active support from AMRDEC in the preparation of such proposals.

AMRDEC, with its CRADA partner, will create a structured and collaborative environment to advance concepts and technologies for this experimental proof of concept demonstration. The desired products of the proposed collaboration are a successful demonstration of the double resonance technique using this laser and quantitative validation of the performance predicted in the cited references. When the CRADA ends, the partner will retain ownership of the laser, which may be used for other applications during and after the CRADA period.

The AMRDEC's contributions under the proposed CRADA will include:

(1) Scientific expertise in foundational molecular spectroscopy and the double resonance technique developed by its researchers and collaborators;

(2) Access to AMRDEC's laboratories and facilities where molecular spectroscopic research is performed;

(3) Cooperation with the partner as they package, ship, and install the laser at the partner's facility; and

(4) Cooperation in the preparation of proposals and mentoring of researchers new to aspects of the proposed project.

The non-Federal party's contributions under the proposed CRADA will include:

(1) Making arrangements and providing funding to package and ship the laser from AMRDEC facilities and install the laser at the partner's facility;

(2) Expert operation and maintenance of this unique laser in support of the proof-of-concept demonstration of this double resonance technique as well as other applications of the laser based on the partner's unique expertise;

(3) Joint publications and/or patents and/or demonstration hardware as well as sharing of the accumulated intellectual property through the terms specified in the CRADA; and

(4) Writing and submitting research proposals for funding of this project to external sponsors, with the full support of AMRDEC.

AMRDEC reserves the right to select for its CRADA partner one or none of the proposals in response to this notice. AMRDEC will provide no funding for reimbursement of proposal development costs. Proposals (or any other material) submitted in response to this notice will not be returned. Proposals submitted are expected to be unclassified and have no more than 4 single-sided pages (excluding cover page and resumes). AMRDEC will select proposals at its sole discretion on the basis of:

(1) How well they communicate an understanding of, and ability to meet, the proposed CRADA's goal; and

(2) How well they address the following criteria:

(a) Technical capability to satisfy the non-Federal party's described contributions;

(b) Resources available for satisfying the non-Federal party's described contributions; and

(c) Technical expertise/understanding of infrared lasers, ultrafast laser spectroscopy, molecular spectroscopy, and remote sensing, as well as the necessary infrastructure to support a collaborative research project.

This is a technology transfer/development effort. AMRDEC has no plans to procure the technology. Proposals should clearly discuss how the concepts and technologies developed will be supported for the duration of the CRADA and outline plans to use the laser and the jointly