



## NOAA FISHERIES SERVICE



APPS can be found at:  
<https://apps.nmfs.noaa.gov>

We welcome your feedback. On the APPS home page there is a link to an online survey where you can provide comments and make suggestions to improve the system.

## Authorizations and Permits for Protected Species (APPS)

The Office of Protected Resources, Northwest Regional Office, and Southwest Regional Office are pleased to announce the launch of the Authorizations and Permits for Protected Species (APPS) online permit system (<https://apps.nmfs.noaa.gov>). The goal of APPS is to provide a consolidated location where researchers can apply online for several different types of permits under the authority of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973 and the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) of 1972.

### Background

The Authorizations and Permits for Protected Species (APPS) online system is a collaboration between NOAA Fisheries Service's Office of Protected Resources, Northwest Regional Office, and Southwest Regional Office as well as a partnership with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

In October 2008, APPS was officially made available to the public. APPS covers permits/authorizations for a variety of different species including, but not limited to, sea turtles, Pacific salmonids, sturgeon, whales, dolphins, seals, and sea lions. Please note that APPS does not cover fishing permits or licenses.

The types of permits/authorizations currently available online through APPS are:

- MMPA/ESA scientific research/enhancement
- MMPA/ESA parts
- ESA 10(a)(1)(A) scientific research/enhancement
- 4(d) authorizations for Pacific marine and anadromous fish
- Oregon scientific taking permits

### Pre-Application Guide (PAG)

The Pre-Application Guide (PAG) module helps researchers determine whether or not they need a permit and, if so, what type(s) is required. The PAG walks the user through a series of screens that asks questions about the species involved, the location(s), and the types of activities to be conducted. After the questions are complete, the PAG displays a results screen that lists the type(s) of permit(s) required. The PAG informs the user how

to obtain the appropriate application online. If the permit type can be applied for via APPS, the user may click to immediately begin an application. The results screen makes permit recommendations and provides contact information for species outside of NOAA Fisheries Service's jurisdiction (e.g., sea otters).



APPS allows users to apply online for a variety of permits and authorizations under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act and the Endangered Species Act.

### Additional Features

In addition to online permit applications and the PAG, APPS offers researchers and the general public other useful information and tools. The Features box on the home page includes links to pages that summarize the applicable laws and regulations, provide descriptions of permit types, and offer guidance on when to apply for the different permits. The Online Application Instructions include information on how to navigate APPS and specific instructions on how to fill out the online applications. The "Records Open for Public Comment" link takes the user to a list of all applications that have recently published in the *Federal Register* and are currently available for review and comment. There is also a search function which allows users to locate permits and applications that are in APPS.

### Researcher Use

Besides providing the convenience of applying for a permit online, APPS offers researchers a variety of advantages both during the application process and after their permit has been issued. APPS provides researchers the security of a password-protected profile. A customized Portfolio page displays a researcher's current and previous permits. Applications can be edited until the researcher is ready to submit. Researchers have the ability to track their application through the review and clearance process. By viewing the Status page, researchers can find out whether their application has been published in the *Federal Register*, who has been assigned as their permit analyst, and what types of analyses (e.g., National Environmental Policy Act) are required.

After a permit has been issued, researchers can continue to access APPS to instantly view their take tables, personnel list, and key dates. Permit holders can request modifications to their permits via APPS. Annual, incident, and final reports may also be submitted online. Permit holders will automatically receive emails reminding them when their reports are due and recommending when they should begin preparing a new application.

### Public Use

Anyone who is interested can have immediate access to a list of applications that are currently available for public comment. From there, the person can review an application. Members of the public may also use the search function in APPS to find permits and applications that meet their search criteria.