National Marine Fisheries Service

Marine Mammal Public Display Permit Application (File No. 28233)

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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS USED THROUGHTOUT APPLICATION

AMMPA: Alliance of Marine Mammal Parks and Aquariums
ATTICA: Attica Zoological Park
AZA: Association of Zoos and Aquariums
CITES: Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
CMA: Clearwater Marine Aquarium
EAAM: European Association for Aquatic Mammals
EAZA: European Association of Zoos and Aquariums
EEP: European Endangered Program
ESA: Endangered Species Act
IATA: International Air Transport Association
IUCN: International Union for Conservation of Nature
KLAIPEDA: Lithuanian Sea Museum
LAR: Live Animal Regulations
MMPA: Marine Mammal Protection Act
NMFS: National Marine Fisheries Services
USDA: United States Department Aquaculture
USFWS: United States Fish and Wildlife Services

TABLES

Application Instructions

I. Project Information

A. **Project Title** (up to 255 characters): Provide a concise title that includes activities, species, location, and purpose. For example: *Import of four harbor seals from ABC Aquarium in Country D to XYZ Zoological Park for the purpose of public display*.

Import of five bottlenose dolphins from Attica Zoological Park in Athina, Greece to Clearwater Marine Aquarium, Clearwater, Florida USA for the purpose of public display.

B. **Previous Federal Permit #**: If applicable, state your most recent and closely related NMFS permit number. Otherwise leave blank. **No previous permits.**

C. **Where Will the Activities Occur?** List the locations of your activities.

1. For imports: List the country of export and the receiving facility's address.

Export Country: Greece

Receiving facility address:
Clearwater Marine Aquarium
249 Windward Passage
Clearwater, FL 33767

2. For wild captures in the United States or on the high seas: List the geographic area of collection, the location of temporary staging, and the final destination of the animals. You must include a map of the collection site.

Not applicable; This import does not involve wild captures.

D. **Timeframe:** Enter the desired start and end dates of the proposed activities in the following format: MM/DD/YYYY. The start date cannot be before the date you submit the application and should be at least 6 months (for imports) or 1 year (for captures) after the date you submit. The end date must be within 5 years of the start date because public display permits may be valid for a maximum of 5 years.

11/03/2024- 11/03/2029 (5 years)

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

1. For imports: When do you anticipate the import will occur?

Clearwater Marine Aquarium (hereafter CMA) seeks to import the animals as soon as possible.

2. For wild captures: Describe the field season(s) including the months and frequency of collections. When and how many times per year will you conduct your activities?

Not applicable: This import does not involve wild captures.

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

1. Purpose.
2. Target species and any non-target species that may be affected (common names).
3. Proposed activities (i.e., import or capture).
4. Numbers of animals to be imported or taken, by species, annually.
5. Location from which animals will be imported or specific geographic locations of captures.
6. Requested duration of the permit. The maximum is 5 years.

CMA requests a permit, for a duration of five years, to import three (3) captive born Common bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*) and two (2) captive born Black Sea bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus ponticus)* from Attica Zoological Park in Athina, Greece (hereafter Attica) following Attica's decision to refocus its resources, conservation, and educational work on different species. This will be a single, import of a compatible group of males (5.0) dolphins to:

(a) provide accommodation and care to optimize the welfare of individual marine mammals that are over-populated in the European Union due to successful breeding and decreased availability of facilities; (b) expand opportunities to continue educating the public about the biology, habitats, and conservation status of different cetacean species, including Common bottlenose* and Rough-toothed dolphins* (*CITES Appendix II,*NMFS ESA-not listed, IUCN Red List - Species of Least Concern) and Black Sea dolphins* (*CITES Appendix II, *NMFS ESA- not listed, IUCN Red List – Endangered); (c) raise awareness and engage the public concerning environmental pressures and marine conservation through public display of marine mammals and conservation education; (d) further contribute to research, publication, and overall efforts to advance marine conservation; and (e); enhance the wellbeing of the non-releasable rescued cetaceans housed at CMA through

increased options for socialization with the import of a male dolphin group to an existing male population of one (1).

II. Project Purpose: Objectives and Justification (up to 64,000 characters)

A. Discuss the purpose of your activity including your objectives and justification for the import or capture.

CMA is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit working marine rescue center and public display facility dedicated to inspiring the human spirit through leadership in education, research, rescue, rehabilitation and release. With a mission to preserve the environment and its marine life, CMA is home to rescued dolphins, sea turtles, river otters, stingrays, a nurse shark and more. Through Clearwater Marine Aquarium Research Institute, CMA conducts important global research focused on protecting manatees, North Atlantic right whales and sea turtles. Major motion picture Dolphin Tale (2011) and its sequel Dolphin Tale 2 (2014) featured the true stories of rescued resident dolphins Winter and Hope, inspiring millions around the world. The mission and potential to change people's lives differentiates CMA from many other facilities.

The import of five (5.0) dolphins from Attica to CMA will enhance welfare, create additional opportunities to educate the public, promote engagement in marine conservation efforts, and contribute to scientific research.

The European Ex-situ Programme (EEP) for bottlenose dolphins is a management initiative where a designated coordinator is tasked with gathering data on the dolphins, conducting demographic and genetic analyses, and developing a long-term management plan for the species. The studbook for the bottlenose dolphins is complete, providing valuable information that enables informed decisions regarding the European ex situ population as a whole.

The EEP population has been self-sustaining for several years. However, there is an increasing challenge in finding suitable facilities in Europe to house these dolphins. Contributing factors include aging facilities, the high costs associated with replacing and operating these facilities, changes in legislation, and decisions by some institutions to phase out the species altogether. Attica Park Zoo is among the institutions opting to remove bottlenose dolphins permanently from their collections, leading to a pressing need for alternative housing.

Currently, over 60 animals need placement in facilities that lack the capacity to accommodate them. To address this, the EEP supports the export of these five dolphins from Attica Park Zoo (an EEP member) to the Clearwater Marine Aquarium in the United States. This action will not create demand for additional animals to replace those being relocated. With limited options for permanent placement, the EEP is considering the United States, as its standards align with those in Europe. If

the United States is not an option, the alternative would be to move the animals to institutions in China, where the EEP has fewer assurances.

Each of the three (1.2) Common bottlenose dolphins currently housed at CMA on public display were rescued during key stages of their social development and were deemed non- releasable by National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) due to their inability to survive in the wild. The official letters documenting these animals are non- releasable are available upon request. These cetaceans are socially complex mammals (i.e. those that form long-term, individually specific bonds) that would naturally face sex-specific selection pressures to become socially adept by reproductive age if they were able to survive in a natural ocean environment. Like humans, social structure is an important aspect in communication, providing the ability to share information and learn from one another. One of the key purposes of this application is to import additional dolphins enabling current residents to experience increased socialization and opportunities for a natural fission-fusion structured society in managed care.

Research is an important aspect to the ongoing wellbeing of the animals under our care. Researchers use data to monitor changes in animal health, involvement in research provides mental stimulation to marine mammals, and ultimately the more we know about the species in our care, the better we are in the field with wild stranded marine mammals.

CMA intends to include the Attica cetaceans in non-intrusive research focused on individual animal preferences, marine mammal cognitive abilities, and multi-species animal health studies. CMA is in the process of applying for the USDA Research (Class R) registration. Complementing CMA's vision to become a global leader in connecting people to the marine environment, collectively, these animals will contribute to the overall understanding of marine mammals and challenges facing their wild counterparts through public display, research, and related public education and awareness programs and activities.

B. Explain:

1. For imports, why animals cannot be obtained from captive collections in the United States.

For a period of more than three years, CMA has utilized virtual platforms, institutional and personal connections to identify high quality, responsible zoological facilities housing dolphins that are looking for an opportunity to safely and successfully rehome animals. CMA reached out to many like-minded facilities – both within and outside of the Alliance of Marine Mammal Parks and Aquariums (AMMPA) of which CMA is a member - to identify potential dolphins in need of a forever home. Unfortunately, despite significant time and effort, this national search has proven completely unsuccessful and there are currently no viable options for transferring dolphins from other U.S. facilities.

In Europe, a surplus of marine mammals exists presently, attributed to successful breeding and decisions by some zoological institutions with expensive and aging marine mammal facilities not to replace them. This has led to a decrease in the number of available facilities to properly house and care for marine mammals in Europe and creates an important opportunity for CMA to help by rehoming marine mammals in the interest of the proposed individual animals as well as to take pressure off the European zoo populations.

2. For captures from the wild, why animals cannot be obtained from captive collections in the United States or abroad.

Not applicable: This import does not involve wild captures.

C. Provide the information required for maintaining marine mammals for public display purposes:

1. Describe the educational program and include educational materials as attachments or provide a webpage where this information is available. Specify the professionally recognized standards[1] of the public display community upon which the education or conservation program offered by the applicant is based.

Education is a fundamental and vital component of the operations of CMA and one of three NOAA requirements for displaying marine mammals in the United States. The modern zoo or aquarium is much more than a place to display animals. "Accredited zoos and aquariums conduct or facilitate research in both *in situ* and *ex situ* settings that advances scientific knowledge of the animals in their care, enhance the conservation of the wild populations, and engage and inspire the visiting public to be more conservation-minded, even changing their behavior for the benefit of the environment" (Marcy, 2020).

The mission of CMA's Education Department is to integrate conservation and an appreciation of aquatic ecosystems, with an emphasis on the marine environment and its inhabitants, into every guest's life through hands-on educational experiences and motivating exhibits and programs. CMA's Education Department ensures that

CMA provides high-quality education in a safe, respectful and inclusive environment

[1] Standards for education and conservation programs developed and endorsed by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums, formally the American Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) and the Alliance of Marine Mammal Parks and Aquariums (Alliance), representing approximately 60% of the U.S. marine mammal public display community at the time, were published in the Federal Register on October 6, 1994 (59 FR 50900). If applicable, these AZA/Alliance standards may be referenced as the standards on which your education or conservation program is based. However, please note that while these professionally recognized standards have been provided by the AZA and Alliance, they represent only one example of such standards. Other professionally recognized standards of the public display community may differ from this example. If your education or conservation program is based upon different professionally recognized standards of the public display community, please provide a copy of these standards.

that builds a foundation for life-long learning and care and conservation for the ocean and its inhabitants.

When developing and offering educational programming, CMA adheres to established professionally accepted standards determined by National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), the Florida Sunshine Standards, AMMPA, and the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA). As a member of the AMMPA (see Appendix II.C.1), CMA's education program meets the AMMPA education and conservation standards.

CMA offers a multitude of learning opportunities catering to our diverse visitors and audiences spanning generations including children up to adults and seniors. CMA provides an array of programs ranging from onsite presentations and exhibits throughout the Aquarium and in our classrooms to summer camp programs, offsite programming, and a full complement of virtual learning opportunities.
CMA's educational goals and strategies can be found in Appendix II.C.1, along with the Learning Latitudes 2023-2024 educational planner that provides details of all the marine academy programs. The CMA website also provides extensive details on our education programming. https://www.cmaquarium.org/visit/programs/

Daily visitation for the public provides opportunities that include up close observation of animals, taking into account human safety and animal welfare; graphics; interactive signage and displays; daily presentations; and offerings for boat tours of the local waterways. Staff members and dedicated volunteers from the surrounding community are present throughout the Aquarium to offer interpretive education content which helps bridge the emotional and intellectual connection between guests and animals. CMA also offers behind the scenes and VIP experiences that provide extra educational content and exposure to the dedication, expertise, and commitment necessary to properly care for marine mammals. Capturing the moment with a photograph to cherish the encounter, the close interaction aims to establish a bond with the animals, their environment, the dedicated Animal Care Specialists, and initiatives for marine conservation geared towards safeguarding the species. Further information and educational material can be found in folder Appendix II.C.1 concerning the following:

- **Dolphin Presentation**
- **Dolphin Guest Interactive Programs**
- **Examples of our display signage**

CMA outreach education and conservation initiatives are offered throughout the State of Florida with a presence at various events such as SharkCon, the Right Whale Festival, and virtual fieldtrips with local hospitals such as Johns Hopkins All Children's and St. Joseph's Children's. Additionally, CMA's reach extends internationally into Belize, Dominican Republic, and Cuba, inspiring locals to modify environmental practices to create the best opportunity for the marine species inhabiting the surrounding waterways to thrive.

CMA camp programs are offered during Summer, Spring and Winter Breaks. The most popular are the summer camps from June to August where 1470 children from kindergarten through 12th grade experience hands on marine science activities taught in classroom type settings as well as in the marine environment. CMA has 25 camps that cover marine mammals and their ecosystems, including bottlenose dolphins, rough-toothed dolphins, and manatees. Camp activity options include snorkeling in seagrass beds and sand flats, kayaking through local estuaries, and discovering fascinating marine mammals in their natural habitats.

2. Include a copy of your current Animal Welfare Act license issued by APHIS[2].

   If you are a new facility in the process of applying for your APHIS license, please contact us for guidance.

Class C- Exhibitor USDA license # 58-C-0376, expires 02-25-2025

A copy of the license can be found in Appendix II.C.2

3. Provide your hours of operation and cost of admission. This may include copies of facility brochures or public notices (e.g., webpage) advertising this information.

CMA is open seven days a week from 10am to 6pm EST. Exceptions to normal operating hours include:

- **Facility closure – Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day**
- **Limited hours – Christmas and New Year's Eve (close at 2pm EST)**
- **Extended hours – Various dates throughout the year (10am to 7pm EST)**

The cost of admission is $41.95 for adults, $32.95 for children ages 3-12, $39.95 for seniors, and free admission for children under 2 years.

Complete visitor information can be found at:
https://www.cmaquarium.org/visit/visit-info/

[2] As issued under 7 U.S.C. 2131 et seq.

III. Project Description (up to 64,000 characters)

A. Importing Marine Mammals into the United States (If applicable)

For **importing marine mammals into the United States**, please include the following information:

1. Identify the animal(s) to be imported including:

   a. Animal identification (Attica Zoo Local ID/House Name)
   b. Estimated or known age
   c. Size (length and/or weight)
   d. Sex
   e. Reproductive condition[3] **Not applicable, all importing animals are males and are over the age of 8 months.**

Table 1: Marine Mammals Requested for Import

Species	Animal Identification Atticazoo Local ID/ House Name	Microchip ID	Known age	Size Weight (kg/lbs.)	Sex
Tursiops truncatus	MTU026/Blau	968-00-00013-80025	24 years	257 kg/566 lbs.	M
Tursiops truncatus	MTU025/ Nuik	956000009427123	11 years	172 kg/379 lbs.	M
Tursiops truncatus	MTU024/Tumay	968-00-00023-76409	21 years	180 kg/396 lbs.	M
Tursiops truncatus ponticus	MTU002/Lima	440098100004263	20 years	303 kg/668 lbs.	M
Tursiops truncatus ponticus	MTU004/Nojus	440098100002916	18 years	244 kg/537 lbs.	M

2. Locations:

   a. Country of origin:

Please see Table 3.

   b. Exporting facility:

Attica Zoological Park, At Yalou Spata, Athina 190 04, Greece

   c. Ports of entry (FWS Designated Port)

Tampa, Florida with Orlando, Florida as a back-up port option

[3] Permit holders may not import a marine mammal that is pregnant, lactating, or either unweaned 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.

d. Whether you will be requesting a port of entry exemption

CMA has been granted a port of entry exemption permit effective February 15, 2024 to decrease travel time in the interest of animal welfare.

Permit # D80818, Expiration Date: November 15, 2025. A copy of the permit can be found in Appendix III.A.2.

e. Final destination/facility

Clearwater Marine Aquarium
249 Windward Passage
Clearwater, FL 33767

3. The animal's previous transport history (e.g., attach a NOAA Marine Mammal Data Sheet, Species 360 specimen report, or statement from the shipping facility) including dates.

A summary of the animals' transport history is provided in the chart below. The animals' Species360 specimen reports and transport declaration documents can be found in Appendix III.A.3.

Table 2: Import Animal's Previous Transport History

Species	Animal ID Attica Zoo Local ID/House Name	Arrival Date	Depart Date	Statement that explains Transport History
T.truncatus	MTU026/Blau	7/1/1999	7/19/2020	Born at Barcelona Zoo
		7/19/2020	present	Transported and donated to Attica Zoological Park
T.truncatus	MTU025/ Nuik	10/13/2012	7/19/2020	Born at Barcelona Zoo
		7/19/2020	present	Transported and donated to Attica Zoological Park
T.truncatus	MTU024/Tumay	4/13/2002	7/19/2020	Born at Barcelona Zoo
		7/19/2020	present	Transported and donated to Attica Zoological Park
T.truncatus ponticus	MTU002/Lima	7/9/2003	3/24/2010	Born at Lithuanian Sea Museum
		3/24/2010	present	Transported and on loan to Attica Zoological Park
T.truncatus ponticus	MTU004/Nojus	7/16/2005	3/24/2010	Born at Lithuanian Sea Museum
		3/24/2010	present	Transported and on loan to Attica Zoological Park

4. For importing wild-caught animals:

Not applicable: This import does not involve wild captures.

5. For importing captive-born animals:

   a. Provide documentation of the animal's birth.

All the cetaceans were born in human care in zoological facilities. CITES certificates for the cetaceans confirming that the animals were born in captivity is provided in Appendix III.A.5a.

   b. Identify the parents of the animal and, to the extent practicable, provide documentation of their origin (e.g., lineage), including the wild stock and geographic location the animals were collected from.

A summary of the animal's parentage and origins is provided in the chart below. Species360 specimen reports of the parents can be found in Appendix III.A.5b

[5] Humane means using the method that involves the least possible degree of pain and suffering possible.

Table 3: Import Animal's Parentage Information

Animal ID Attica Zoo Local ID/House Name	Animal Birth Location	Sire birth type, location, & GAN #	Sire Geographic location of parent collection	Dam birth type, location, & GAN #	Dam Geographic location of parent collection
MTU026/Blau	Captive -Barcelona Zoo-Spain	Captive- Barcelona Zoo-Spain (Inuk) GAN#17967219	Southeast, USA	Wild-Cuba (Moana) GAN#17964168	Cuba
MTU025/ Nuik	Captive -Barcelona Zoo-Spain	Captive- Barcelona Zoo-Spain (Blau) GAN#MIG12-30088916	Southeast, USA	Wild-Cuba (Anak) GAN#MIG12-30088917	Cuba
MTU024/Tumay	Captive -Barcelona Zoo-Spain	Captive- Barcelona Zoo-Spain (Inuk) GAN#17967219	Southeast, USA	Wild-Cuba (Moana) GAN#17964168	Cuba
MTU002/Lima	Captive- Lithuanian Sea Museum-Lithuania	Wild- Russian Federation (Argas) GAN#CQK12-00251	Russian Federation	Wild-Black Sea (Glorija) GAN#CQK12-00252	Black Sea
MTU004/Nojus	Captive- Lithuanian Sea Museum-Lithuania	Wild- Russian Federation (Argas) GAN#CQK12-00251	Russian Federation	Captive- Lithuanian Sea Museum- Lithuania (Premija) GAN#CQK12-00254	Black Sea

c Use NOAA ID numbers, if applicable.

Not applicable: These animals do not have NOAA IDs. The ID numbers and house names provided for the animals to be imported were assigned by Attica. For the dams and sires, the ID numbers provided were assigned by facilities where they were housed and the GAN # are provided from Species360 specimen report.

6. Attach a statement from the exporting facility and, to the extent practicable, documentation concerning whether the marine mammal to be imported is presently being held in compliance with the laws of the country of exportation.

A statement from Attica can be found in Appendix III. A.6.

7. Attach a statement from the exporting facility explaining if the requested import will likely result in the taking of marine mammals beyond those proposed.

    a. Will marine mammals be acquired to replace the marine mammals to be imported?

    No marine mammals will be acquired to replace the marine mammals to be imported.

    b. Will the proposed import result in an increased demand for marine mammals?

    The proposed import will not result in an increased demand for marine mammals.

    c. Provide justification for these statements.

    A statement from Attica can be found in Appendix III. A.7.

B. Capturing Marine Mammals from the Wild (If not applicable, skip to Section III.C Transport) **Not applicable: This import does not involve wild captures.**

C. Transport:

Thoroughly describe your transport procedures:

1. Describe the method of transportation to the receiving facility (your institution):

    a. Mode of transportation.

The marine mammals will be transported by a combination of ground and air transportation and will follow CMA's Transport Policy (see Appendix III C.1.)

    b. Name of transportation company, if known.

The ground and air transport companies will be identified closer to the date of transport.

    c. Description of the pen, tank, container, cage, cradle, or other device used

    (e.g., material of container, dimensions, photos or illustrations).

All crates and containers used for the transport are in compliance with the IATA Live

Animal Regulations (LAR, container requirement 55), CITES Guidelines for the non-air transport of live animals and plants, AMMPA Standards & Guidelines, USDA Part 3, Subpart E, Marine Mammals, Transportation Standards, and the standards, and guidelines of the European Association for Aquatic Mammals (EAAM).

These crates were specifically designed for cetacean transport with a rigid steel frame, fiberglass interior, a vinyl liner, and a layer of 1" closed cell foam lining for padding. Removable water tight baffles prevent water from splashing over either end. The stretchers that will hold the cetacean in the box during transport are made of ballistic nylon with Kodel padding on each end and flipper insertion. A diagram of the crates can be found in appendix III.C.1.c. The dimensions of the crates are as follows:
Dimensions for cetaceans: 380 cm x 122 cm x 140 cm / 149.61 in x 48.03 in x 55.11 in

d. Description of climate-control or other environmental parameters.

Attendants from CMA and Attica will accompany the marine mammals during ground and air transport. This team will be responsible for monitoring various environmental parameters to promote animal well-being. The attendants have expertise in animal health and animal behavior disciplines as well as specific experience in marine mammal transport. Their collective knowledge will ensure regulatory compliance and contribute to the animals' safety and comfort throughout the transportation process. The attendants will monitor water temperature, animal respiration rate, and ambient temperature to ensure conformity with LAR requirements for all marine mammals in transit. They also will monitor additional parameters to ensure alignment with applicable standards, guidelines and other industry best practices as well as a detailed Transport Protocol that will be designed to govern the entire transportation process. These parameters include but are not limited to animal behavior, air and water temperature, access to ventilation and air circulation, altitude, cabin pressure, pitch of take-off and landing in flight and slow stop/go on land, humidity, sound, light, and CO2 levels.

2. Describe any special care during transport.

The animals mentioned in this document have a history of traveling in transport boxes, on stretchers, and by other means. They have history with both ground and air travel without issues. Before this specific transport, the animals will undergo stretcher training to minimize stress during the journey. However, there is no plan to conduct box training due to their prior experience and the absence of a lifting platform that would facilitate this process.

The team will ensure an ample number of attendants are present to oversee and intervene as necessary throughout the transportation process. In accordance with regulations set by governing agencies, the transport will adhere to a comprehensive plan that anticipates and addresses potential contingencies. The team will continuously monitor the animals during transit collecting data on environmental conditions (as previously mentioned), conducting medical and behavioral

assessments, and adjusting protocols as required throughout the journey. There will be adequate supplies and equipment on hand to manage any changes in conditions, and redundancy in personnel will enable prompt and effective responses to any situations that may arise, drawing upon clear thinking, skills, and abilities as needed.

3. Include the total transport time and time per each transport leg if stop-overs are included.

Table 4: Transport Time

Transport steps	In minutes	In hours
Out of habitat, into transport container, ~ about 20 minutes per dolphin	100	1.67
Load transport container onto ground transportation, ~ 20 minutes per dolphin	100	1.67
Ground transport from Attica Zoo to airport	40	0.66
Load containers onto plane	120	2
Loadmaster to secure individuals in the plane	45	0.75
Non-stop flight from Greece to Luxembourg	210	3.52
Refueling in Luxembourg	120	2
Non-stop flight from Luxembourg to Tampa	720	12
Unload containers from airplane to ground transport	120	2
Ground transport from airport to CMA	30	0.5
Unload from ground transport and transition into habitat, ~30 minutes per animal	150	2.5
Total	**1755**	**29.27**

4. Describe quarantine procedures for the animal(s).

A comprehensive transition plan for animals after international transport prioritizes the health and welfare of the animals while minimizing the risk of disease transmission to the current collection. Collaboration between veterinarians and animal care specialists will be essential to ensure success during this period.

- **Prior to transport, CMA plans to send 1-2 Animal Care Specialists to become familiar with the animals that will be relocating to CMA. This team will spend a few weeks with the current caregivers at Attica, observing the animals' typical behavior. Their goal is to prepare for integrating these animals into a new environment, fostering relationships between both existing and new trainers.**
- **These animals will not be quarantined nor isolated prior to leaving Attica Zoological institution as this facility's infrastructure does not provide for separation or isolation for this group of five cetaceans.**
- **The dolphins designated for import have a documented history of good health, with no underlying or chronic health conditions that would interfere with or raise concerns about their transport. These dolphins have been carefully**

monitored over time, ensuring they meet all necessary health and welfare standards for a safe and stress-free relocation.

- **Each animal will undergo a thorough health examination by marine mammal veterinarians. This assessment includes physical exams, blood tests, other diagnostic sampling, screenings for infectious diseases and imaging. The results will determine if the animal is healthy enough for transport. An official certificate of veterinary inspection will be completed to show the animal is physically healthy enough for transport, thus import.**
- **Upon arrival at CMA, the animals will be placed into their assigned habitats. The newly transported cetaceans, which already are an established and compatible social group, will be placed in a section of the habitat that is separated from other pools and cetaceans while still allowing access to a medical pool in case of need.**
- **The initial transition period will last a minimum of 30 days. During the transition, the animals will be closely monitored for signs of illness or stress. They also will receive additional health assessments, including diagnostic testing which includes blood, blow, gastric, fecal sampling, diagnostic imaging and behavioral evaluations. Any signs of illness or abnormal behavior will promptly be addressed with appropriate medical treatment. The transition period may be extended for one or more animal if necessary.**
- **Throughout the transition process, detailed records will be kept documenting the animals' health status, medical diagnostics and treatments, and any notable observations in accordance with regulations and standards of care.**

5. Describe the acclimation plan for the animal(s) and how the animal(s) will be incorporated into your public display program. Include contingency plans in the event adverse responses are observed.

The successful acclimation of marine mammals into a new habitat is made possible through detailed advance plans and preparations that take into account individual animal behaviors and preferences and a stepwise introduction managed by experienced professionals, including the presence of caretakers from the previous facility and training of the new caretakers as part of the overall transition. While individual marine mammals may react differently, and various factors can influence their responses, the following presents general expectations for acclimation of marine mammals to new habitats:

- **Marine mammals may exhibit increased vocalizations, changes in swimming patterns, and altered breathing rates. The duration of these potential reactions to change varies but may take several hours to a few days.**
- **Marine mammals may initially have a decreased interest in food, but with proper management and care most marine mammals will resume their typical feeding patterns within a few days.**
- **Marine mammals are naturally curious and, as they acclimate to their new environment, are likely to engage in exploratory behaviors, such as**

investigating the pool layout, interacting with objects, and socializing with other conspecifics.

Acclimation Plan

- **CMA will begin with placement of animals into their assigned CMA marine mammal habitats in accordance with an advance plan that considers both animal wellbeing and human safety.**
- **Our comprehensive contingency plan encompasses provisions for addressing various contingencies, including but not limited to animal and human medical emergencies, availability of extra equipment, and acts of God inhibiting progress to ensure that we can respond to any adverse events or challenges that may occur during the execution of our acclimation plan.**
- **Animal Care staff will remain on property providing 24-hour observation period as long as necessary until animals are adjusted to new sections of the exhibit.**
- **The acclimation timing is not predetermined but is dependent on the comfort and pace of the group as well as consideration for individuals within the group.**
- **To aid in the process of adaptation, both teams from Attica and CMA will collaborate closely to guarantee a smooth transition.**
- **To help further facilitate acclimation, there can be adjustments to public access during the unloading, introduction to the habitat, and acclimation period to reduce variables during these transitional stages.**
- **Key behavioral markers may indicate adjustment into a new environment**
    - **Exhibiting normal social and behavior in contingent and non-contingent interactions for both the group and the individual**
    - **Normal eating behavior**
    - **Use of all aspects of the habitat**
    - **Movement from one location to another through a gate system**
- **If the group, or an individual, is not exhibiting normal behavior in alignment with the acclimation process, options for adjustment may include but not limited to:**
    - **Reducing the pace of the various steps throughout the acclimation process**
    - **Use of a medical assessment to make sure there is not a medical concern driving the failure to acclimate**
    - **Adjustment of habitat access**
    - **Use of social compatibility**
- **Integration into educational guest programming involves a step-by-step process, starting with an individual showcasing typical medical, social, and individual behavior. These steps to include:**
    - **An individual's ability to represent their species demonstrating natural behaviors during scheduled educational presentations**
    - **Presence in the pool during guest programming**
    - **Increasing proximity to the guest on the poolside**

- **Participation with guests during programming**
- **Continued monitoring and regulation pre-, during, post interactions**

6. Describe the exhibit and the social group for this animal(s) at the destination facility, including the number, sex, and age of the resident animals.

CMA's cetacean population is housed within the new Ruth and J.O. Stone Complex located on the southeast portion of the facility. This 1.5 million-gallon habitat includes five interconnecting pools with a depth profile of 9-20' of natural, treated, salt water. There are two 40' round husbandry pools, one outfitted with a lifting platform, the second has been retrofitted for a second lifting floor. This habitat is a semi-closed environment covered by a roof structure which can be fully closed using HEPA filtered HVAC systems to control ambient temperature. The animals are exposed to indirect natural sunlight throughout the day, while overhead lighting is set to timers mimicking the natural circadian rhythm. The entire facility is built with hurricane contingency planning in mind. The top deck sits 23' above sea level and the new construction is rated to sustain category five hurricane force winds. Access to the facility for the animals is with a freight elevator designed for 11,000#/5000kg. A two-ton hoist and rail system traverse the 1.5 million gallons spanning across all five pools from the elevator to the medical exam room standardizing the movement of all animals at a moment's notice. As wellbeing and research are a primary focus for CMA's work, this habitat includes hydrophones in each pool of the system along with security cameras above and below the water for comprehensive monitoring.

CMA guests can enjoy viewing the marine mammals from the top deck on the north and east side; however, the experience and education occur at ground level where large viewing windows provide a full experience to understand the marine mammals as they naturally live in their underwater world.

The current residents of CMA's Ruth and J.O. Stone Complex are listed below. An exhibit map and photos can be found in Appendix III.C.6.

Table 5: CMA Marine Mammal Current Population

CMA Local ID/ House Name	Enclosure Name	Scientific Name	Common Name	Age (as of Jan 2024)	Sex
TT001/Nicholas	Dolphin Complex	*Tursiops truncatus*	Bottlenose dolphin	21	M
TT003/Hope	Dolphin Complex	*Tursiops truncatus*	Bottlenose dolphin	13	F
TT007/Izzy	Dolphin Complex	*Tursiops truncatus*	Bottlenose dolphin	8	F
SB003/Rosie	Dolphin Complex	*Steno bredanensis*	Rough-toothed dolphin	2	F
SB001/Rudy	Dolphin Complex	*Steno bredanensis*	Rough-toothed dolphin	7	M
Total					**2 males 3 females**

IV. Project Supplemental Information

A. Status of the Affected Species (up to 2,000 characters)

MMPA-depleted and ESA-listed species cannot be imported or captured for public display purposes. This also includes progeny from individuals with this status.

Indicate the status of the species or stock under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) - Appendix I, I, or III.

Species information is available at the following web sites:

https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/species-directory
http://www.fws.gov/
http://www.cites.org/

The dolphins proposed for import are CITES Appendix II and Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) species. CITES Feb 23, 2023 Appendices list includes Annotation A6 establishing a zero quota for the Black Sea population of *Tursiops truncatus ponticus* "removed from the wild and traded for primarily commercial purposes" is not applicable because the Black Sea dolphins for which this permit is sought were born in human care (nor are they being traded for commercial purposes).

B. Mortalities (up to 2,000 characters)

If authorization for serious injury[4] or mortality[5] (accidental/unintentional or humane euthanasia/intentional[6]) is proposed:

1. What activities could result in mortality?

Although unlikely, potential activities that could result in mortality include, but are not limited to, equipment accidents, injuries, stress-induced over-activity in the animals, and shock

2. Justify the number of mortalities.

[4] A serious injury is an injury that will more likely than not result in mortality.

[5] Caused by the presence or actions of personnel including but not limited to deaths or serious injuries sustained during capture and handling, while attempting to avoid or escape capture, or from injuries sustained during transport.

[6] This includes unintentional euthanasia for humane reasons (e.g., due to serious injury caused during permitted activity).

We do not anticipate any mortalities under normal operational circumstances. All necessary precautions and safety protocols are in place to ensure the well-being of the five individuals involved. The only potential exceptions would be unforeseen events beyond our control, such as an act of God or a plane accident, which are highly improbable. Therefore, unless such rare and exceptional circumstances occur, we expect zero mortalities. This confidence is based on the extensive experience of the personnel involved in the transport and the animals' medical profiles and history with similar previous relocations.

3. How is euthanasia decided, conducted, and who conducts it?

As the consultant veterinarian for the transport, Dr. Tania Monreal Pawlowsky will make the decision to proceed with euthanasia if deemed necessary. The procedure will involve sedation followed by intravenous euthanasia.

4. What are the protocols for necropsy and carcass disposal?

CMA uses a third-party veterinary pathologist will perform the necropsy, process samples, and provide a comprehensive necropsy report. Post necropsy, all tissues will be disposed of with local animal crematorium or would be sent for landfill.

5. What are the protocols for disposition of dependent young if lactating females may die as a result of capture activities?

Not applicable: This import does not include females.

C. Effects and Mitigation (up to 64,000 characters)

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

1. Discuss how your proposed activities (import or capture) as outlined in the take table will affect target and non-target animals (See Observe/Collect Methods and Procedures).

The import activity only involves zoological animals that were born in human care and will not affect other animals of the same or different species. The take table can be found in Appendix V. Take Table folder.

2. Cite the best available science (i.e., peer-reviewed literature or other published data sources) and your experience (e.g., personal communication, annual permit reports). References must be made available upon request.

References of regulations and best practices for safe and ethical transport, acclimation, and introduction of marine mammals include:

- **AMMPA *Accreditation Standards & Guidelines*, 2020, District of Columbia USA, https://ammpa.org/sites/default/files/files/Resource%20Library/AMMPA-StandardsAndGuidelines-R072020.pdf**
- **Antrim, Jim. McBain James F. "Marine Mammal Transport". CRC Handbook of Marine Mammal Medicine, Second Edition, edited by Dierauf Leslie A. Gullarnd Frances M.D, CRC Press, 2001**
- **EAAM *Standards and Guidelines for the management of aquatic mammals under human care* (version March 2019), https://www.eaam.be/_files/ugd/ba9fb6_6f39447579634794ab70c28a1cdb26da.pdf**
- **IATA Live Animals Regulations, Edition 50. IATA, 2024, https://www.iata.org/en/publications/store/live-animals-regulations/**
- **Lyon, France (March 2022) CITES Guidelines for the Non-Air Transport of Live Wild Animals and Plants https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/resources/transport/E-FINAL_CITES_Non-air_transport_Guidelines.pdf**
- **Reddy, Michelle. (Ed) (1991). Cetacean transport standard operating procedure. Naval Ocean Systems Center Technical Manual 637, 10 pp.**
- **Title 7- U.S.C Agriculture. Chapter 54- transportation, Sale and Handling of Certain Animals Sections 2131-2159. (2022), https://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_welfare/downloads/AC_BlueBook_AWA_508_comp_version.pdf**

3. Group together actions with similar responses and describe, as applicable:

    a. For imports, describe the anticipated responses:

        - During and after import and acclimation into the destination facility's enclosure/pool. Include the time it takes to resume normal behavior after transport or handling.
        - During introductions to the existing collection animals.
        - Worst-case responses to import, acclimation, and introduction.
        - % of animals that may exhibit each response type.

The anticipated response during and after import and acclimation can be found in Section III.C.5. Introducing dolphins to conspecifics requires a thoughtful and gradual approach to ensure their well-being and successful integration. The collection integration plan for the dolphins, which is presented below, is fluid and will adapt based on animal health, behaviors, and interactions observed.

Pre-Introduction Assessment

- **CMA's veterinarian will conduct thorough health examinations of all animals**

involved to ensure they are in optimal condition for integration with new conspecifics.

- **Animal Care Teams will assess the behavioral traits, social history, and any known preferences or sensitivities for each individual thus building a personal and individual relationship with each marine mammal.**
- **Integration to the system and new conspecifics will occur in a manner with limited public viewing to minimize stimuli introduced to the individuals.**

Physical Introduction of Resident Dolphins to New Group

- **Utilize as many pools as possible for the introduction allowing for enough space for dolphins to retreat if they feel uncomfortable.**
- **Identify candidates for initial social compatibility to introduce resident dolphins to no more than three dolphins at one time. Introduction would occur by bringing residents to the other dolphins, reinforcing all dolphins in close proximity and then taking a break from the session to allow them to explore each other in a non-contingent manner. Compatibility will dictate the timing for the next step of introducing the remaining social group**
- **Veterinary and Animal Care teams will be present to observe behavior throughout a 24-hour period. The teams will be looking for positive interactions or signs of stress or aggression. In the case of a need for intervention, the following steps may be taken:**
    - **Trainers to work to reestablish behavioral control and utilize positive reinforcement, behavioral techniques, to reward appropriate pro-social, affiliative behavior.**
    - **Changing the social dynamic: Initially allowing them to build relationships one-on-one before integrating into a larger group.**
    - **Gate separation and reassessment: If necessary, temporarily separating them to gather information for a more informed integration.**
    - **Use of net to separate individuals.**
    - **If medically necessary, move animals to medical pool.**
    - **Provide environmental enrichment:**
        - **Enrich the environment with toys, structures, and other stimuli to keep the animals mentally and physically engaged.**
        - **Enrichment can help distract from potential stressors and encourage pro-social natural behaviors.**

Gradual Public Exposure

- **For the benefit of the animals, stanchions and/or window coverings may be used to manage external stimuli. The stanchions and/or window coverings can be adjusted to gradually provide the animals' viewing through the large display windows as they successfully integrate.**
- **Monitor their response to the presence of visitors and adjust public access accordingly.**

Document and Evaluate:

- **Animal Care staff will maintain detailed records throughout the collection**

integration process, noting behaviors, interactions, and any adjustments made.

- **Animal Care staff, along with the behavioral research team, will continually evaluate the success of the integration and make ongoing improvements to the plan as warranted.**

Although unexpected, worst-case responses (as described below) will be addressed by the attending veterinarian and Animal Care teams throughout all aspects of the import, acclimation, and introduction. CMA and Attica collectively have over 100 years of experience with marine mammals and do not anticipate any unforeseen challenges with the acclimation and integration of these animals. Thorough planning, including for various potential contingencies, practice, and desensitization contribute to success. While not expected, the maximum percentage of animals that could exhibit the worst-case responses identified above are estimated as follows:

Signs of significant stress or anxiety: less than 30%

- **Signs of significant stress or anxiety may include, but not limited to: abnormal swimming, aggression, lethargy, abnormal respiratory rates for the individual, inappetence, stereotypic behavior**

Persistent decreased appetite: less than 20%

- **Signs of decreased appetite may include, but not limited to: avoidance to presence of fish or dropping food once offered**

Significant atypical aggressive behavior: less than 15%

- **Signs of atypical aggressive behavior may include but not limited to: jaw popping, fluking, ramming, hitting, chasing, raking**

b. For captures, describe the anticipated responses:

Not applicable: This import does not involve wild captures.

4. For novel procedures for import or capture, discuss the most likely anticipated responses based on literature from studies on other species, if available, and any results from testing, if applicable.

Not applicable, CMA will not use any novel procedures during the import, acclimation, and integration processes.

5. Briefly summarize any mortalities or serious injuries that have occurred during any previously permitted import or wild capture conducted by your facility and staff identified in the application using the same or similar techniques; include circumstances and cause of death.

Not applicable, CMA has not previously imported marine mammals.

6. Discuss the anticipated effects on the species or stock from import or capture,

especially if mortalities or reproductive effects are possible. On what is your determination based?

There will be no detrimental effects on the species concerned from the importation and rehoming of these zoological specimens at CMA. On the contrary, due to increased opportunities to educate the public about the species, and particular, the conservation status of Black Sea dolphins, and planned research, positive effects on species conservation are anticipated.

7. For capture-related health assessments, describe your steps to prevent infection.

Not applicable: This import does not involve wild captures.

8. Describe what mitigation measures you will employ to minimize adverse reactions to import or capture. If you will use the same mitigation measures for a suite of activities, you may provide one discussion for each suite of activities (e.g., transport/import; close approach; capture; health assessments).

Minimization of potential adverse reactions to import such as items listed within 3.a., will be mitigated through involvement of experienced marine mammal experts; use of best professional practices including those reflected in the AMMPA Standards & Guidelines; extensive planning and practice, including stretcher training, prior to import; development of contingency and emergency plans; preparation of and adherence to a detailed Transport Protocol and retention of experienced animal transporters; training of CMA personnel at Attica prior to the transport to learn about the individual animals and their care and management;, retention of the animals' current caretakers at CMA for a period up to three months following importation; 24/7 monitoring and recordkeeping during all sensitive phases; and full compliance with local, state, federal, and international laws and regulations. A USFWS port exemption permit to import the animals into Tampa, FL will directly and significantly reduce travel time, thus mitigating certain potential adverse effects.

9. For captures, if working in proximity to or with lactating females and dependent young, or known pregnant females, give specific protocols for working around them. For example, how will you minimize disturbance and avoid separating mothers from young?

Not applicable: This import does not involve wild captures.

10. Describe your short- and long-term import ~~or post-capture~~ monitoring protocols.

Short term monitoring protocols can be found in Section III.C. Transport #4 during the transition process and IV.C. Effects and Mitigation #3 during the acclimation and introduction process

Long term monitoring will occur through an established animal welfare monitoring process in place for CMA. Animal welfare is monitored and tracked regularly through daily, semiannually, and annual assessments. Special considerations include morbidity and mortality reviews, event driven assessments, concern assessments, and quality of life assessments.

11. Explain if and why monitoring or mitigation is not feasible for specific procedures, species, situations, etc.

Not applicable: See section IV.C regarding monitoring and mitigation.

12. Humane[7] determination: Explain how you determined your methods involve the least possible degree of pain and suffering possible and why there are no feasible alternative methods.

    a. Provide alternatives to the proposed manner of capture and/or transport, and explain why the proposed methods are considered humane.

Air transport is the most humane possible means of transport due to its relative efficiency. The air transport will be carried out in full compliance with IATA LAR general requirements and relevant Container Requirements. The airports in Greece and Florida both are less than 45 minutes from the facilities of departure and arrival. Ground transport to and from these airports will involve the same containers/methods as are required for air transport in accordance with the CITES Guidelines for the non-air transport of live wild animals and plants. Full compliance with the AMMPA Standards & Guidelines relevant to cetacean transport will promote animal welfare, safety and comfort throughout the transportation process.

    b. Attach a written statement from the responsible veterinarian certifying that the methods of capture and/or transport, facilities, and methods of care and maintenance will be adequate to ensure the well-being of the animals and will comply with all care and transport standards established under the AWA.

Statement can be found in Appendix IV.C.12 for both Attica and CMA veterinarians.

13. For captures, describe any mitigation you will take to avoid[8] or minimize impacts to non-target protected species (e.g., sea turtles, corals, USFWS species). Discuss whether and how they may be unintentionally harassed, captured, or otherwise affected.

[7] Humane means using the method that involves the least possible degree of pain and suffering possible.

[8] Public display permits cannot authorize take for ESA listed species.

Not applicable: This import does not involve wild captures.

14. Coordination for captures: **Not applicable: This import does not involve wild captures.**

D. Attach a References File

Attach a bibliography of references cited in this application. Referenced materials must be made available upon request, as needed for evaluation of the application, and preparation of MMPA or NEPA analyses.

- **"Appendices I, II, III". CITES. 23 02 2023 https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/app/2023/E-Appendices-2023-02-23.pdf**
- **Marcy, Karlyn. "Why Zoos and Aquariums Are Beneficial." AZA. 13 11 2020. https://www.aza.org/connect-stories/stories/benefits-of-zoos**

E. Resources Needed to Accomplish Objectives (up to 2,000 characters and attach files if necessary)

1. Explain how your expertise, facilities, and resources[9] are adequate to accomplish your proposed objectives and activities.

Expertise: CMA and Attica are combining their extensive experience in the successful care, management, and transport of marine mammals. Veterinary and husbandry professionals associated with CMA and Attica and whom will be involved in all aspects of planning for and completion of the transport and acclimation to the animals' new home, have decades of direct experience with marine mammals and are widely considered as among the foremost experts in the marine mammal community. Detailed information about personal qualifications is included in Section VII below.

Facilities: CMA is well-prepared to rehome the cetaceans from Attica. The availability of newly built facilities and medical and environmental management equipment on property, demonstrate the commitment to ensuring the well-being and thriving conditions for these marine animals in their new environment. These facilities feature Cat 5 hurricane-rated buildings, are elevated to withstand over 25 feet of storm surge, and have the capability to maintain a fully enclosed, climate-controlled

[9] **Expertise** includes a summary of the cumulative experience of you and your personnel. **Facilities** include such things as your existing infrastructure or laboratories. **Resources** include financial (e.g., current funding and/or history of securing funding); material (e.g., transport equipment); and other resources (e.g., collaborative partnerships) that can be drawn on to support your work.

environment with HVAC and HEPA filtration systems. Additionally, they offer multiple housing arrangements designed to protect the animals from all natural disasters.

Resources: CMA is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization that relies heavily on the greater community for revenue (e.g., donations, paid admissions, and fundraisers). These funds are utilized to support the CMA rescue mission as well as provide optimal care for the non-releasable resident animal population. CMA has undergone expansions with the aid of city, county, and state grants as well as capital campaign to support its programs and to increase revenue in the future and ensure long-term sustainability of the organization. Our community's dedication, combined with strategic fundraising and grant opportunities, ensures that we will not only survive but continue to thrive in our mission, even in the face of adversity. Attica is donating equipment and expertise to help offset costs while CMA has secured funding for this endeavor through the means mentioned above.

2. List relevant proposals, contracts, grant awards, or letters of agreement that would demonstrate your resources. Copies must be made available upon request.

CMA is finalizing an animal loan agreement with the Lithuanian Sea Museum, owner of the Black Sea dolphins currently loaned to Attica. This loan agreement will transfer the loan of the Black Sea dolphins from Attica to CMA. Upon successful transport and arrival of the dolphins from Attica to CMA, the loan will terminate between Attica and Lithuania. The black sea dolphins will then be loaned to CMA through the Lithuanian Sea Museum. CMA does not intend to breed the Black Sea dolphins, should progeny be born, the loan agreement would be amended and CMA understands there are additional requirements for potential export. The animal donation agreement between Attica and CMA for the bottlenose dolphins is complete.

3. Indicate the status of other international, federal, state, or local authorizations and permits you have applied for, secured, or will apply for.

USFW Designated Port Exemption: Approved. A copy of the permit can be found in Appendix III.A.2.
CITES Export Permit: Attica Zoo has applied and received CITES permits for export with the last day for validity as January 30, 2025.
CMA is currently looking into a permit with Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) for the import of controlled substances that would be included in the medical kit.

V. Take Table

The take table summarizes the estimated number of animals you expect to import or capture annually. Create a new take table for each location and list the species you expect to encounter and the procedures you will conduct.

The CMA Take Table can be found in Appendix V.

VI. 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 or no.

No, this is not applicable to this import application.

2. Discuss if your activities have the potential to impact the physical or biological environment, in particular coastal and marine environments.

Import activities will not have any potential impact on the physical or biological environment.

3. a. 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. Yes or no.

   b. 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. (up to 1,200 characters)

This import activity with captive bred marine mammals includes transport but the animals will be placed directly in a managed facility and will not introduce or spread invasive species. The objective of this import is to comply with all DEP water permitting designated for CMA concerning water discharge. After the animals are transported and introduced into their new environment, the water from the transport containers will undergo chemical treatment to eliminate any biological agents prior to disposal. For additional information on security measures, see response to VI.4.c below.

4.

   a. Will your activities involve collecting, handling, or transporting potentially infectious agents or pathogens, such as biological specimens (animals, blood, tissues)? Yes or no.

Yes, this transport will involve handling and transporting live animals.

   b. Will your activities involve using or transporting hazardous substances, such as toxic chemicals? Yes or no.
   c. 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. (up to 1,200 characters)

The Attica veterinarian will carry a medical kit containing common used veterinary drugs during the transport. After the animals' land, the CMA veterinarian's medical kit will be used if needed during the ground transport from the airport to CMA. We will be working closely with U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Drug Enforcement Administration, and any other required agency to ensure the proper importation or disposal of the drugs within the medical kit coming from Greece upon their arrival in the U.S. Overall, none of the drugs are considered hazardous or toxic and will remain confined and secured in the medical box unless needed for emergency use.

CMA and Attica will comply with applicable laws and regulations and all established biosecurity, quarantine, and sanitization protocols for the prevention of any transmission of disease outlined by both institutions and in alignment with professional best practices. All attendees working directly with marine mammals are trained on zoonotic prevention, regularly practicing proper habits using safety equipment and sanitization techniques while working around marine mammals in accordance with AMMPA Standards & Guidelines and other best professional practices.

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? Yes or no.

No, all equipment is standard equipment used for marine mammal transportation.

If yes:

a. Briefly describe the equipment or techniques and provide any information about the use of these in your study area and/or with other taxa and what is known about their impacts. (up to 1,200 characters)

b. Discuss the degree to which they are likely to be adopted by others for similar activities or applied more broadly. (up to 800 characters)

VII. Project Contacts

Please provide information about the personnel who will be working under the permit.

- Identify the personnel under Project Contacts who will accompany the animals.
- Include a table listing the names of the PI and CIs, and the specific procedures they will oversee or conduct.
- Attach a Qualifications Form for the PI and each CI. See Qualifications and Experience below.

Table 6: PI and CIs

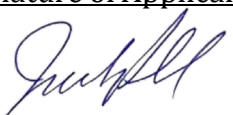
Name/Affiliation	Role	Activities
Clearwater Marine Aquarium	Applicant/Permit Holder	Non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization/ public aquarium
James Powell, PhD Clearwater, FL	Responsible Party	CMA Chief Zoological Officer & Executive Director, legal authority to bind the organization
Kelly Martin/CMA Clearwater, FL	Principal Investigator	CMA VP Zoological Care, oversees all activities conducted under the permit at CMA and the main contact/point person with Attica Zoo during all activities
Katie Curran/CMA Clearwater, FL	Primary Contact	CMA Registrar, responsible for maintaining the marine mammal inventory records at facility, contact for application questions or updates
Shelly Marquardt DVM, CVA/CMA Clearwater, FL	Veterinarian	Vice President Animal & Environmental Health, CMA attending veterinarian once animals placed in CMA habitat and oversee the quarantine process.
Tania Monreal Pawlowski DVM/International Zoo Veterinary Group UK	Veterinarian	Zoo, Aquarium, and Wildlife Veterinarian, Attica Zoo consultant veterinarian during all transport activities.
Cammie Zodrow/CMA Clearwater, FL	Co-Investigator	CMA Animal Care Program Manager- oversees the Marine Mammal Department. Will assist with transport activities when animals arrive in US and lead acclimation process.
Brooke Bowersox/CMA Clearwater, FL	Co-Investigator	CMA Animal Care Program Supervisor- oversees the Marine Mammal Department. Will assist with transport when animals arrive in US and assist during the acclimation process
Robert Gojceta/Attica Zoo Athena, Greece	Co-Investigator	Attica Zoo Curator of Marine Mammals/Bottlenose Dolphin EAZA EEP Coordinator, Oversee and lead all transport activities. Main contact/point person with CMA during all activities.

VIII. Certification, Signature, and Submission of Application

A. The following Certification, followed by the Signature, Name, and Title of the Applicant or Responsible Party, must be submitted as the concluding section of the application.

> **"I hereby certify that the foregoing information is complete, true, and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. I understand that this information is submitted for the purpose of obtaining a permit under the following statute and the regulations promulgated thereunder, as indicated in section I. of this application:**
>
> **The Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) and regulations (50 CFR Part 216).**
>
> **I also understand that any false statement may subject me to the criminal penalties of 18 U.S.C. 1001, or to penalties provided under the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972."**

Signature of Applicant and Date of Signature



05/03/24

Typed or Printed Name of Applicant
Dr. James Powell

Title of Applicant
Chief Zoological Officer & Executive Director

B. Submit an electronic copy of the application by email: nimm.inventory@noaa.gov.

Additional Information

What activities are NOT covered by these instructions?

1. Importing or taking marine mammals listed as depleted under the MMPA or threatened or endangered under the ESA.

2. Importing a marine mammal for necessary medical treatment not

otherwise available.

3. Maintaining or receiving marine mammals within the United States for the purpose of public display.

4. Importing a marine mammal for the purpose of scientific research or enhancement.

5. Conducting scientific research or enhancement activities on captive marine mammals.

6. Exporting marine mammals for public display.

7. Obtaining a non-releasable stranded marine mammal.

8. Obtaining CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) permits.

When should you apply?

- Imports: at least 6 months before the import will begin (longer if animals to be imported were captured from the wild).

- Captures: at least 1 year before the captures will begin.

What is the process for getting a public display permit?

1. Follow these instructions and contact the Permits and Conservation Division at nmfs.pr1.apps@noaa.gov with any questions.

2. Submit your application:

   a. By email: nimm.inventory@noaa.gov (preferred), or

   b. By mail: Office or Protected Resources, Permits and Conservation Division, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13805 Silver Spring, MD 20910.

3. A permit analyst will review your application and assign a File Number. To facilitate processing, reference the application File Number in all correspondence.

4. Your permit analyst will contact you regarding the status of your application. If deficiencies are identified, you must address them within 60 days or your application will be returned to you without action.

5. Once we consider your application complete:

    a. 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 U.S. Marine Mammal Commission, the U.S. Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), and subject matter experts for review.

6. We may receive substantive comments during the public comment period. We will forward these comments to you, as appropriate, for your response.

7. We will draft documentation (including NEPA analyses and documentation of MMPA issuance criteria).

8. The documents will be reviewed by various NMFS offices including a legal review.

9. The Office Director will decide whether to issue or deny your permit.

Applicable Laws and Regulations

Under section 104(c) of the MMPA, persons may be authorized to import or take marine mammals for public display purposes. Interested persons are required to submit an application in accordance with the Act and the implementing regulations at 50 CFR part 216, subpart D. These instructions for applying for a public display permit are drawn from, but do not substitute for, the MMPA and MMPA regulations. These regulations are available at the following web site: http://www.gpo.gov/ and are summarized below. MMPA section 104 is available at the following web site: https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/marine-mammal-protection-act. Under NEPA, Federal agencies must assess the effects of federal actions on the environment.

NMFS regulations implementing the permit provisions of the MMPA are in 50 CFR sections 216.33 through 216.35, and 216.12. Section 216.33 contains requirements for application submission, the process for application review, and issuance or denial procedures. Section 216.34 specifies issuance criteria, specifically indicating that the applicant must demonstrate how their proposed activity meets the criteria. Section 216.35 specifies permit restrictions, including limitations on importation. Section 216.12 specifies conditions under which importation of marine mammals is prohibited, including by permit.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement

The information requested in this application is required and is used to determine whether the activities described in the application are consistent with the purposes and policies of the Act and their implementing regulations.

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to *average* 30 hours per response, 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.

All permit documentation, including the application, permit and amendments, reports, inventory information, and any other associated documents 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.