BOU Weekly Report
9/13/17-9/19/07

Request Number	Received	Requester	Requester Organization
DOC-NOAA-2017-001876	9/18/2017	Hallie Templeton	Friends of the Earth
DOC-NOAA-2017-001859	9/14/2017	Christopher Flavelle	Bloomberg News

Status

Assignment Determination

Assignment Determination

Detail

Friends of the Earth requests all records pertaining to any applications for permits submitted to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for the authorization of offshore, marine aquaculture activities involving the culturing of finfish in net pens or cages, received from January 1, 2016 to present. These records should include, but not be limited to, any internal or external correspondence regarding the applications; any meetings or communications or other contact— including meeting minutes and scheduling notes—that any applicant arranged or attended with NOAA or that NOAA arranged or attended with any of the applicant; as well as any findings, conclusions, or actions taken in response to an application. For this request, the term “records” refers to, but is not limited to, correspondence of any kind, memoranda, letters, notes, schedules, electronic mail, telephone logs, minutes of meetings, work papers, reports, studies, or data.

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. Section 552 et seq.("FOIA"), I request access to and copies of documents showing the number of people assigned to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) from institutions of higher education under the Intergovernmental Personnel Act Mobility Program, as of two dates: September 14, 2017, and September 14, 2016 (“the First Request”). I also request access to and copies of documents showing the specific institutions of higher education with which those people were associated, and the number of people assigned to NOAA under the Intergovernmental Personnel Act Mobility Program from each participating institution of higher education, for both of the dates in question (the "Second Request"; together with the "First Request", the "Records"). The Office of Personnel Management states on its website (https://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/hiring-information/intergovernment-personnel-act/#url=Provisions) that "It is imperative that agencies maintain accurate records of all Intergovernmental Personnel Act assignments." Accordingly, I am hoping that the Records will be easily accessible and your agency will be able to provide them to me in a timely manner. To the extent necessary, I would appreciate your sending me the documents on a rolling basis rather than waiting for a complete response. I am further requesting that the Records be provided to me on computer files or, if not maintained on computer files, in the same format as they are currently maintained at NOAA.

Category	Comments
Public Interest	The Marine Aquaculture permits have been subject to significant publicity recently considering planned expansion of fish farms and accidental releases of farmed fish species. https://www.pccmarkets.com/images/sc/sc_2017_04.pdf.
News Media	IPAs are of significant media interest currently under the present administration's initiatives for FTE's to have temporary assignments in private industry, and in light of reduced staffing and funding within agencies.