

Modification Requests Received

The USGS requests a modification to Permit 1093 under the authority of section 10 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA) (16 U.S.C. 1531-1543) and the NMFS regulations governing ESA-listed fish and wildlife permits (50 CFR parts 217-227). Permit 1093 authorizes takes of adult and juvenile, threatened, SONCC coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*) associated with defined fish population studies throughout the ESU. The ongoing study consists of five assessment tasks for which ESA-listed fish are taken: (1) Presence/absence, (2) population estimates, (3) spawner surveys, (4) genetic sampling, and (5) habitat quality evaluation. ESA-listed fish are observed or captured, anesthetized, handled, allowed to recover from the anesthetic, and released. Indirect mortalities are also authorized. Modification 11 would increase the authorized annual capture/handle take of adult SONCC coho salmon for the purpose of determining ocean survival rates, rates of straying by adults within the basin, and examine relationships between juvenile size and ocean survival of coho salmon within the SONCC ESU. These data are currently lacking for California. These data are expected to allow managers to make more informed decisions when implementing protective measures for the listed species and to benefit recovery planning for coho salmon in the northern California/southern Oregon ESU, as well as in other ESUs.

Dated: December 15, 2000.

Wanda L. Cain,

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

[FR Doc. 00-32597 Filed 12-20-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[I.D. 121100C]

Marine Mammals; File No. 995-1608

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

ACTION: Receipt of application.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Thomas Norris, SAIC, 3990 Old Town Avenue Suite 105A, San Diego, California 92110, has applied in due form for a permit to take mysticete whales (blue whale, *Balaenoptera*

musculus; fin whale, *Balaenoptera physalus*; Bryde's whale, *Balaenoptera edeni*; minke whale, *Balaenoptera acutorostrata*; humpback whale, *Megaptera novaeangliae*; gray whale, *Eschrichtius robustus*) for purposes of scientific research.

DATES: Written or telefaxed comments must be received on or before January 22, 2001.

ADDRESSES: The application and related documents are available for review upon written request or by appointment in the following office(s):

Permits and Documentation Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13130, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (301/713-2289);

Northwest Region, NMFS, 7600 Sand Point Way NE, BIN C15700, Bldg. 1, Seattle, WA 98115-0700; phone (206)526-6150; fax (206)526-6426; and

Southwest Region, NMFS, 501 West Ocean Blvd., Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802-4213; phone (562)980-4001; fax (562)980-4018.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jill Lewandowski or Simona Roberts, 301/713-2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The subject permit is requested under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (MMPA; 16 U.S.C. 1361 et seq.), the Regulations Governing the Taking and Importing of Marine Mammals (50 CFR part 216), the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered and threatened species (50 CFR 222-226).

The applicant proposes to tag and photograph for identification purposes mysticete whales (blue whale, *Balaenoptera musculus*; fin whale, *Balaenoptera physalus*; Bryde's whale, *Balaenoptera edeni*; minke whale, *Balaenoptera acutorostrata*; humpback whale, *Megaptera novaeangliae*; gray whale, *Eschrichtius robustus*) using Satellite-Linked ARGOS Transmitters (Sat-LAT) and a new Acoustic/Radio Tracking and data-Telemetry (ARTT) system. The ARTT system logs and acoustically telemeters underwater positions and environmental data to a tracking vessel where GPS integrated updates of animal positions and track histories are displayed with a PC. The Sat-LAT system will provide large scale, long-term information on the movement patterns of tagged whales, whereas the ARTT system will provide fine scale, short-term information for examining behavioral responses of mysticete whales to natural and anthropogenic

environmental stimuli. Both methods will provide data necessary to identify critical whale habitat, its variability in space and time, and the effects of anthropogenic activities (e.g. noise) relative to these habitat requirements.

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), an initial determination has been made that the activity proposed is categorically excluded from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement.

Written comments or requests for a public hearing on this application should be mailed to the Chief, Permits and Documentation Division, F/PR1, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Those individuals requesting a hearing should set forth the specific reasons why a hearing on this particular request would be appropriate.

Comments may also be submitted by facsimile at (301) 713-0376, provided the facsimile is confirmed by hard copy submitted by mail and postmarked no later than the closing date of the comment period. Please note that comments will not be accepted by e-mail or by other electronic media.

Concurrent with the publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, NMFS is forwarding copies of this application to the Marine Mammal Commission and its Committee of Scientific Advisors.

Dated: December 15, 2000.

Ann D. Terbush,

Chief, Permits and Documentation Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 00-32473 Filed 12-20-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE: 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**United States Patent and Trademark Office****Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request**

The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for clearance the following proposal for collection of information under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35).

Agency: United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO).

Title: Legal Processes.

Form Numbers: None.

Agency Approval Number: 0651-00XX.

Type of Request: New Collection.
Burden: 28.2 hours.

Number of Respondents: 187 responses.

Avg. Hours Per Response: The USPTO estimates that it takes an average of 30 minutes to gather, prepare, and submit petitions to waive rules and requests, demands, or subpoenas for employee testimony or production of documents. It is also estimated to take 30 minutes to report unauthorized testimony and possible cases for indemnification to the Office of General Counsel. Additionally, the USPTO estimates that it takes an average of five minutes to ensure that a service of process has been properly served and ten minutes to ensure that the service of process or demands for employee testimony or documentation are forwarded to the proper authorities. Furthermore, it is estimated that it takes an average of one hour to request indemnification and to gather, prepare, and submit a claim under the Federal Tort Claims Act.

Needs and Uses: This collection of information supports a proposed rulemaking entitled "Legal Processes." This information collection covers the public and current and former USPTO employees. The USPTO believes that the number of responses received from both current and former employees will be very small. The number of responses from the public is also expected to be very small except for the service of process. In the case of service of process, the principal effect of the rule is to provide an address for service. There are no forms associated with any of the information requirements contained in this collection. The public and current or former USPTO employees use this information collection as appropriate to petition the General Counsel to either waive or suspend a rule; to forward or receive summons; to seek testimony or documentation; to request employee indemnification; to report unauthorized testimony or possible indemnification cases; and to file a claim under the Federal Tort Claims Act. The USPTO uses the collected information to ensure that the proper procedures have been followed. The USPTO also uses this information to ensure that the release of testimony or documentation is authorized; to review the demands and claims filed; to determine whether the legal process rules can be suspended; to grant indemnification; and to determine whether the agency should settle or deny a claim filed under the Federal Torts Claim Act.

Affected Public: Individuals or households, businesses or other for-profit, not-for-profit institutions, farms,

Federal government, and state, local or tribal government.

Frequency: On occasion.

Respondent's Obligation: Required to obtain or retain benefits.

OMB Desk Officer: David Rostker, (202) 395-3897.

Copies of the above information collection proposal can be obtained by calling or writing Susan Brown, Records Officer, Data Administration Division, Office of Data Management, United States Patent and Trademark Office, Crystal Park 3, 3rd Floor, Suite 310, Washington, DC, 20231, by phone at (703) 308-7400, or via the Internet at susan.brown@uspto.gov.

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication to David Rostker, OMB Desk Officer, Room 10236, New Executive Office Building, 725 17th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20503.

Dated: December 11, 2000.

Susan K. Brown,

Records Officer, Data Administration Division, Office of Data Management.

[FR Doc. 00-32445 Filed 12-20-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-16-P

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[CFDA No.: 84.250B]

Vocational Rehabilitation Service Projects for American Indians With Disabilities; Notice Inviting Applications for New Awards for Fiscal Year (FY) 2001

Purpose of Program: To provide vocational rehabilitation services to American Indians with disabilities who reside on or near Federal or State reservations, consistent with their individual strengths, resources, priorities, concerns, abilities, capabilities, and informed choices, so that they may prepare for and engage in gainful employment, including self-employment, telecommuting, or business ownership.

Eligible Applicants: Applications may be submitted only by the governing bodies of Indian tribes (and consortia of those governing bodies) located on Federal or State reservations.

Applications Available: December 21, 2000.

Deadline for Transmittal of Applications: June 21, 2001.

Estimated Available Funds: \$1,525,135.

The Administration has requested \$23,998,000 for this program for FY 2001. The actual level of funding, if any,

depends on final congressional action. However, we are inviting applications to allow enough time to complete the grant process before the end of the fiscal year, if Congress appropriates funds for this program.

Estimated Range of Awards: \$250,000-\$350,000.

Estimated Average Size of Awards: \$300,000.

Reasonable Accommodations: We will consider, and may fund, requests for additional funding as an addendum to an application to reflect the costs of reasonable accommodations necessary to allow individuals with disabilities to be employed on the project as personnel on project activities.

Estimated Number of Awards: 5.

Note: The Department is not bound by any estimates in this notice.

Project Period: Up to 60 months.

Applicable Regulations: (a) The Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) in 34 CFR parts 75, 77, 80, 81, and 82; and (b) The regulations for this program in 34 CFR part 371.

Priority: Under section 121(b)(4) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, we give preference to applications that meet the following competitive priority. Under 34 CFR 74.105(c)(2)(i) we award 10 points to an application that meets this competitive priority. These points are in addition to any points the application earns under the selection criteria:

Competitive Preference Priority—Continuation of Previously Funded Tribal Programs: In making new awards under this program, we give priority consideration to applications for the continuation of tribal programs that have been funded under this program.

Selection Criteria: In evaluating an application for a new grant under this competition, we use selection criteria chosen from the general selection criteria in 34 CFR 75.210 of EDGAR. The selection criteria to be used for this competition will be provided in the application package for this competition.

For Applications Contact: Education Publications Center (ED Pubs), P.O. Box 1398, Jessup, MD 20794-1398. Telephone (toll free): 1-877-433-7827. FAX (301) 470-1244. If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD), you may call (toll free): 1-877-576-7734.

You may also contact ED Pubs at its Web site: <http://www.ed.gov/pubs/edpubs.html>

Or you may contact ED Pubs at its e-mail address: edpubs@inet.ed.gov

If you request an application from ED Pubs, be sure to identify this