

- Training and human resources operations;
- Laboratory management and safety;
- Hazardous materials safety;
- Emergency medical response;
- Environmental safety;
- Environmental remediation; and
- Security for hazardous materials.

The purpose of this meeting is to review and ultimately provide advice to the Department of Commerce on whether (a) The training, safety, security, and response protocols, (b) the implementation of those protocols and internal controls, and (c) the management structure at NIST are appropriate to ensure safe operations of all NIST programs. The agenda for this meeting will focus on NIST safety and management structure as well as a discussion of the findings from recent safety audits and investigations. The agenda may change to accommodate Commission business.

**DATES:** The meeting will convene on September 17, 2008 at 9 a.m. and will adjourn at 5 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the National Institute of Standards and Technology, Administration Building, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899. To enable NIST to make arrangements to admit visitors to the NIST campus, anyone wishing to attend this meeting should submit name, e-mail address and phone number to Mary Lou Norris ([marylou.norris@nist.gov](mailto:marylou.norris@nist.gov)) no later than September 15, 2008.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mary Lou Norris, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Building 101, MS 1071, 100 Bureau Drive, Gaithersburg, MD, 20899; telephone: (301) 975-2002; e-mail: [marylou.norris@nist.gov](mailto:marylou.norris@nist.gov).

Dated: September 8, 2008.

**James M. Turner,**

*Deputy Director.*

[FR Doc. E8-21340 Filed 9-11-08; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-13-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

**RIN 0648-XJ52**

#### Marine Mammals; File No. 13388

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

**ACTION:** Notice; issuance of permit.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that Sea World, Inc., 9205 South Park Center

Loop, Suite 400, Orlando, FL 32819 [Brad Andrews, Responsible Party] has been issued a permit to import one beluga whale (*Delphinapterus leucas*) for public display.

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

Permits, Conservation and Education Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910; phone (301)713-2289; fax (301)427-2521; and

Southeast Region, NMFS, 263 13th Avenue South, Saint Petersburg, FL 33701; phone (727)824-5312; fax (727)824-5309.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Jennifer Skidmore or Kate Swails, (301) 713-2289.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On May 20, 2008, notice was published in the *Federal Register* (73 FR 29111) that a request for a public display permit to import one male adult beluga whale from the Vancouver Aquarium Marine Science Center, British Columbia, Canada to Sea World of Texas, had been submitted by the above-named organization. The requested permit has been issued under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), the regulations governing the taking and importing of marine mammals (50 CFR part 216).

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

Dated: September 8, 2008.

**P. Michael Payne,**

*Chief, Permits, Conservation and Education Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. E8-21348 Filed 9-11-08; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-S**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

**RIN 0648-XJ54**

#### Marine Mammals; File No. 13428

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

**ACTION:** Notice; issuance of permit.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that Niladri Basu, Ph.D., Department of Environmental Health Sciences, University of Michigan, 109 South Observatory Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48109-2029, has been issued a scientific research permit to import marine mammal specimens for scientific research.

**ADDRESSES:** The permit and related documents are available for review upon written request or by appointment in the following offices:

Permits, Conservation and Education Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910; phone (301)713-2289; fax (301)427-2521; and

Northeast Region, NMFS, One Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930-2298; phone (978)281-9300; fax (978)281-9394.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Jennifer Skidmore or Kate Swails, (301) 713-2289.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On June 12, 2008, notice was published in the *Federal Register* (73 FR 33399) that a request for a scientific research permit had been submitted by the above-named individual. The requested permit has been issued under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) and the regulations governing the taking and importing of marine mammals (50 CFR part 216).

The permit authorizes the importation of brain tissues from 40 baikal seals (*Phoca sibirica*). These samples were collected in 2005 under a joint agreement between the East-Siberian Research and Production Fisheries Center (Russia) and the Center for Marine Environmental Studies (Japan). The purpose of this study is to determine: (1) the types and amounts of heavy metals that baikal seals accumulate in specific brain regions; and (2) whether these exposures are a neurotoxicological concern by using novel biomarker technologies. This permit will expire one year from date of issuance.

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

Dated: September 8, 2008.

**P. Michael Payne,**

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

[FR Doc. E8-21349 Filed 9-11-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XI15

#### Small Takes of Marine Mammals Incidental to Specified Activities; Marine Geophysical Survey in the Gulf of Alaska, September 2008

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

**ACTION:** Notice; issuance of incidental  
take authorization.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the  
Marine Mammal Protection Act  
(MMPA) regulations, notification is  
hereby given that NMFS has issued an  
Incidental Harassment Authorization  
(IHA) to Lamont-Doherty Earth  
Observatory (L-DEO), a part of Columbia  
University, for the take of marine  
mammals, by Level B harassment only,  
incidental to conducting a marine  
seismic survey in the Gulf of Alaska  
during September, 2008.

**DATES:** Effective September 10, 2008,  
through October 31, 2008.

**ADDRESSES:** A copy of the IHA and the  
application are available by writing to P.  
Michael Payne, Chief, Permits,  
Conservation and Education Division,  
Office of Protected Resources, National  
Marine Fisheries Service, 1315 East-  
West Highway, Silver Spring, MD  
20910-3225 or by telephoning the  
contact listed here. A copy of the  
application containing a list of the  
references used in this document may  
be obtained by writing to the address  
specified above, telephoning the contact  
listed below (see **FOR FURTHER  
INFORMATION CONTACT**), or visiting the  
internet at: [http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/  
pr/permits/incidental.htm#applications](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/permits/incidental.htm#applications).  
Documents cited in this notice may be  
viewed, by appointment, during regular  
business hours, at the aforementioned  
address.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**  
Howard Goldstein or Ken Hollingshead,  
Office of Protected Resources, NMFS,  
(301) 713-2289.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

## Background

Sections 101(a)(5)(A) and (D) of the  
MMPA (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) direct  
the Secretary of Commerce to allow,  
upon request, the incidental, but not  
intentional, taking of marine mammals  
by U.S. citizens who engage in a  
specified activity (other than  
commercial fishing) within a specified  
geographical region if certain findings  
are made and either regulations are  
issued or, if the taking is limited to  
harassment, a notice of a proposed  
authorization is provided to the public  
for review.

Authorization shall be granted if  
NMFS finds that the taking will have a  
negligible impact on the species or  
stock(s), will not have an unmitigable  
adverse impact on the availability of the  
species or stock(s) for subsistence uses  
(where relevant), and if the permissible  
methods of taking and requirements  
pertaining to the mitigation, monitoring  
and reporting of such takings are set  
forth. NMFS has defined "negligible  
impact" in 50 CFR 216.103 as " \* \* \* an  
impact resulting from the specified  
activity that cannot be reasonably  
expected to, and is not reasonably likely  
to, adversely affect the species or stock  
through effects on annual rates of  
recruitment or survival."

Section 101(a)(5)(D) of the MMPA  
established an expedited process by  
which citizens of the United States can  
apply for an authorization to  
incidentally take small numbers of  
marine mammals by harassment. Except  
with respect to certain activities not  
pertinent here, the MMPA defines  
"harassment" as:

any act of pursuit, torment, or annoyance  
which (i) has the potential to injure a marine  
mammal or marine mammal stock in the wild  
[Level A harassment]; or (ii) has the potential  
to disturb a marine mammal or marine  
mammal stock in the wild by causing  
disruption of behavioral patterns, including,  
but not limited to, migration, breathing,  
nursing, breeding, feeding, or sheltering  
[Level B harassment].

Section 101(a)(5)(D) establishes a 45-  
day time limit for NMFS review of an  
application followed by a 30-day public  
notice and comment period on any  
proposed authorizations for the  
incidental harassment of marine  
mammals. Within 45 days of the close  
of the comment period, NMFS must  
either approve or deny the  
authorization.

## Summary of Request

On April 10, 2008, NMFS received an  
application from L-DEO for the taking,  
by Level B harassment only, of small  
numbers of 20 species of marine  
mammals incidental to conducting,

under a cooperative agreement with the  
National Science Foundation (NSF), a  
marine seismic survey in the Gulf of  
Alaska during September, 2008. The  
purpose of the research program was  
outlined in NMFS' notice of the  
proposed IHA (73 FR 45407, August 5,  
2008).

## Description of the Activity

The seismic survey will involve one  
source vessel, the R/V *Marcus G.  
Langseth* (*Langseth*), which will occur  
offshore from the Saint Elias Mountains.  
The *Langseth* will deploy an array of 36  
airguns (6,600 in<sup>3</sup>) as an energy source  
and, at times, a receiving system  
consisting of a 8-km (5-mi) towed  
hydrophone streamer and/or Ocean  
Bottom Seismometers (OBSs). The  
streamer will be towed at a depth of 7  
m (23 ft). The OBSs are housed in 43-  
cm diameter glass spheres that have a  
gross weight of approximately 45 kg (99  
lbs). As the airgun array is towed along  
the survey lines, the hydrophone  
streamer and/or OBSs will receive the  
returning acoustic signals and transfer  
the data to the on-board processing  
system.

The *Langseth* is expected to depart  
Astoria, Oregon on approximately  
September 10, 2008 for the study area in  
the GOA (see Figure 1 of L-DEO's  
application). The airgun array is  
expected to operate for a total of ~200-  
250 hours. With OBS deployment and  
retrieval, the length of the survey will be  
~18 days. The overall area within which  
the STEEP survey will take place is  
located at ~58-60.5° N, 138-146° W (see  
Figure 1 of L-DEO's application). The  
proposed survey will be conducted in  
water depths from <100 m to >3,000 m  
(<330 to >9,840 ft) entirely within the  
territorial waters and Exclusive  
Economic Zone (EEZ) of the United  
States. The exact dates of the activities  
depend upon logistics, as well as  
weather conditions and/or the need to  
repeat some lines if data quality is  
substandard.

The primary marine seismic survey  
will consist of two long transect lines  
that will cross each other (Figure 1 of L-  
DEO's application). For the longer line  
paralleling the shoreline, a seismic  
reflection-refraction profile will be shot  
using the hydrophone streamer as well  
as 25 OBSs deployed on the seafloor  
and 60 Texan seismometers deployed  
on land across the toe of the Bering  
Glacier. A reflection-refraction profile  
will also be obtained from the slightly  
shorter line that is perpendicular to the  
shoreline using the hydrophone  
streamer as well as 17 OBSs; this line  
will be shot twice if time allows. Both  
of these lines will have a shot spacing