

emergency action under section 305(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, provided the public has been notified of the Council's intent to take final action to address the emergency.

Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Paul J. Howard (see **ADDRESSES**) at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: December 18, 2000.

Richard W. Surdi,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 00-32596 Filed 12-20-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE: 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 121500B]

North Pacific Management Council; Public Meetings

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

ACTION: Notice of public meetings.

SUMMARY: The North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC) will conduct public meetings on protection of deep sea corals off coastal Alaska.

DATES: The meeting dates are January 10, 2001, 7 p.m., Sitka, AK, and January 12, 2001, 12 noon, Yakutat, AK.

ADDRESSES: The meeting locations are: Sitka, AK-Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association Office, 1308 Sawmill Creek Road, Sitka, AK.

Yakutat, AK-Alaska Native Brotherhood Hall, 220 Max Italio, Yakutat, AK.

Council address: North Pacific Fishery Management Council, 605 W. 4th Avenue, Suite 306, Anchorage, AK 99501-2252.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Cathy Coon, NPFMC, telephone (907) 271-2809.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: These stakeholder meetings will address Habitat Areas of Particular Concern (HAPC) for the protection of deep-sea corals off coastal Alaska. The concept is to develop a comprehensive and iterative approach for future HAPC identification and habitat protection involving researchers, stakeholders, and management agencies. These meetings

are for an informal exchange of information between the public and management agencies.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this notice may come before this Council for discussion, these issues may not be the subject of formal Council action during this meeting. Council action will be restricted to those issues specifically listed in this notice and any issues arising after publication of this notice that require emergency action under section 305(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, provided the public has been notified of the Council's intent to take final action to address the emergency.

Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Helen Allen, telephone (907) 271-2809 at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: December 15, 2000.

Richard W. Surdi

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 00-32474 Filed 12-20-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE: 3510-22 -S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 121500F]

Endangered Species; Permits

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

ACTION: Receipt of request to modify permit 1093 for scientific research.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given of the following action regarding permits for takes of endangered or threatened species for the purposes of scientific research: the NMFS has received an application for modification of existing permit 1093, in due form, from the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), California Cooperative Fishery Research Unit in Arcata, CA.

DATES: Comments or requests for a public hearing on any of the new applications or modification requests must be received at the appropriate address or fax number no later than 5 p.m. eastern standard time on January 22, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Written comments on any of the new applications or modification

requests should be sent to the appropriate office as indicated below. Comments may also be sent via fax to the number indicated for the application or modification request. Comments will not be accepted if submitted via e-mail or the Internet. The applications and related documents are available for review in the indicated office, by appointment:

Protected Species Division, NMFS, 777 Sonoma Avenue, Room 325, Santa Rosa, CA 95404-6528 (707-575-6053).

Documents may also be reviewed by appointment in the Office of Protected Resources, F/PR3, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910-3226 (301-713-1401).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dan Logan, Protected Resources Division, Santa Rosa, CA (ph: 707-575-6053, fax: 707-578-3435, e-mail: Dan.Logan@noaa.gov).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Authority

Issuance of permits and permit modifications, as required by the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531-1543) (ESA), is based on a finding that such permits/modifications: (1) are applied for in good faith; (2) would not operate to the disadvantage of the listed species which are the subject of the permits; and (3) are consistent with the purposes and policies set forth in section 2 of the ESA. Authority to take listed species is subject to conditions set forth in the permits. Permits and modifications are issued in accordance with and are subject to the ESA and NMFS regulations governing listed fish and wildlife permits (50 CFR parts 222-226).

Those individuals requesting a hearing on an application listed in this notice should set out the specific reasons why a hearing on that application would be appropriate (see **ADDRESSES**). The holding of such hearing is at the discretion of the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NOAA. All statements and opinions contained in the permit action summaries are those of the applicant and do not necessarily reflect the views of NMFS.

Species Covered in This Notice

The following species and evolutionarily significant units (ESUs) are covered in this notice:

Fish

Coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*): threatened Southern Oregon/Northern California Coasts.

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.