

on the human environment as determined through the 1999 EA, this action is categorically excluded from further NEPA analysis (NOAA NAO 216-6).

#### Determinations

Based on the evidence provided in the application, the EA, and this document, and taking into consideration the comments submitted on the application and proposed authorization notice, NMFS has determined that there will be no more than a negligible impact on marine mammals from the issuance of the harassment authorization to BP/EM/PAI and that there will not be any unmitigable adverse impacts to subsistence communities. NMFS has determined that the short-term impact of conducting shallow hazards surveys in the Alaskan Beaufort Sea will result, at worst, in a temporary modification in behavior by certain species of cetaceans and pinnipeds. While behavioral modifications may be made by these species to avoid the resultant noise, this behavioral change is expected to have a negligible impact on the animals.

While the number of potential incidental harassment takes will depend on the distribution and abundance of marine mammals (which vary annually due to variable ice conditions and other factors) in the area of shallow hazard survey operations, due to the distribution and abundance of marine mammals during the projected period of activity and the location of the proposed shallow hazards activity in waters generally too shallow and distant for most marine mammals of concern, the number of potential harassment takings is estimated to be small. In addition, no take by injury and/or death is anticipated, and the potential for temporary or permanent hearing impairment will be avoided through the incorporation of the mitigation measures mentioned in this document. No rookeries or mating grounds are known to occur within or near the planned area of operations during the season of operations. However, there may be some overlap with areas of concentrated feeding as mentioned previously in this document.

Because bowhead whales are east of the activity area in the Canadian Beaufort Sea until late August/early September, shallow hazard survey activities in the Alaskan Beaufort Sea are not expected to impact subsistence hunting of bowhead whales prior to that date. Using the expected density of whale abundance that could be subject to acoustic harassment from this work, the intensity and frequency of the sound source, and the equivalent received

sound levels for this equipment when compared to a seismic array, a maximum of 1,601 bowhead whales could be incidentally harassed between the effective date of this authorization and September 30, 2001. This represents the estimated number of whales which would occur within 2 km of the source. The actual duration of the survey and the proximity of these operations to the bowhead fall migration corridor are likely to reduce this estimate substantially. Additionally, this estimate considered the distribution of the 1997 fall bowhead migration; a year in which the axis of the migration corridor was close to shore. The AGPPT estimates the most probable level of take as 285 bowhead whales. However, NMFS acknowledges that, should weather conditions delay survey work into September and survey work occur in deeper waters (e.g. over the 60 foot isobath rather than the 40 foot contour as expected), the higher estimate could be approached. Therefore, NMFS believes an appropriate estimate of take for this work may be established as the average between these estimates, or 943 animals. NMFS believes that no bowheads will be killed or seriously injured by BP/EM/PAI's activity and accordingly has not authorized takings by injury or mortality.

Appropriate mitigation measures to avoid an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of bowhead whales for subsistence needs have been the subject of consultation between BP/EM/PAI and subsistence users. This CAA, which consists of three main components: (1) Communications, (2) conflict avoidance, and (3) dispute resolution, has been concluded for the 2001 open-water seismic season.

Also, while shallow hazard surveys in the Alaskan Beaufort Sea have the potential to influence seal hunting activities by residents of Kaktovik, because the zone of influence on seals by shallow hazard survey sources is expected to be small (less than a few hundred meters in diameter), and because the village of Nuiqsut conducts its major sealing during the summer months off the Colville Delta, west of the proposed survey area, NMFS believes that BP/EM/PAI's shallow hazards survey will not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of ringed, bearded and spotted seals needed for subsistence.

Since NMFS is assured that the taking would not result in more than the incidental harassment (as defined by the MMPA Amendments of 1994) of small numbers of bowhead whales, gray whales, beluga whales, and ringed, spotted and bearded seals, would have

only a negligible impact on these stocks, would not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of these stocks for subsistence uses, and would result in the least practicable impact on the stocks, NMFS has determined that the requirements of section 101(a)(5)(D) of the MMPA have been met and the authorization can be issued.

#### Authorization

Accordingly, NMFS has issued an IHA to BP/EM/PAI for the herein described shallow hazards survey during the 2001 open water season in the Alaskan Beaufort Sea provided the mitigation, monitoring, and reporting requirements described in this document and in the IHA are undertaken.

Dated: July 23, 2001.

**Wanda L. Cain,**

*Acting Deputy Director, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.*

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#### DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

##### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 072701G]

##### Marine Mammals; File No. 1012-1647

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

**ACTION:** Receipt of application.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that Robert B. Griffin, Ph.D., Center for Marine Mammal and Sea Turtle Research, Mote Marine Laboratory, 1600 Ken Thompson Parkway, Sarasota, FL 34236, has applied in due form for a permit to take Atlantic spotted dolphins (*Stenella frontalis*) and bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*) for purposes of scientific research over a five year period.

**DATES:** Written or telefaxed comments must be received on or before September 5, 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 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910; phone (301) 713-2289; fax (301) 713-0376; and Southeast Region, NMFS, 9721 Executive Center Drive North, St. Petersburg, FL 33702-2432; phone (727) 570-5301; fax (727) 570-5320.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Trevor Spradlin or Lynne Barre, (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.*) and the Regulations Governing the Taking and Importing of Marine Mammals (50 CFR part 216).

The applicant is requesting to take Atlantic spotted dolphins and bottlenose dolphins on the west Florida continental shelf, using the tools of radio-telemetry, biopsy sampling, photography, and passive acoustic recording. For Atlantic spotted dolphins, the proposed annual takes are: 50 for biopsy sampling, 5,000 for photo-identification, and 10 for suction cup telemetry tags. For bottlenose dolphins, the proposed annual takes are: 220 for biopsy sampling, 17,300 for photo-identification, and 10 for suction cup telemetry tags. The research objectives include: (1) study of the feasibility of using suction-cup radio-telemetry tags on the Atlantic spotted dolphin and bottlenose dolphin; (2) radio telemetry of these species to answer questions of movement and foraging patterns; (3) photography of these species for contributions to existing photo-ID catalogues maintained at Mote Marine Laboratory; (4) further study of anthropogenic contaminant loads in these species; and (5) contribute to the National Marine Fisheries Service stock analysis database. The research will be conducted in the Gulf of Mexico, offshore of the west coast of Florida between Tampa Bay and Charlotte Harbor, and near Panama City in Choctawhatchee Bay and St. Andrews Bay.

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: July 30, 2001.

**Ann D. Terbush,**

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

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## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

### Office of the Secretary

#### Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

**ACTION:** Notice.

The Department of Defense has submitted to OMB for clearance, the following proposal for collection of information under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35).

*Title, Forms, and OMB Number:* Commissary Customer Service Survey; DeCA Form 60-28; OMB Number 0704-0380.

*Type of Request:* Revision.  
*Number of Respondents:* 7,500.  
*Responses Per Respondent:* 1.  
*Annual Responses:* 7,500.  
*Average Burden Per Response:* 4 minutes.

*Annual Burden Hours:* 500.

*Needs and Uses:* The DoD Commissary Agency has developed the "Commissary Customer Service Survey" (CCSS) as a management tool to evaluate customer satisfaction in each commissary worldwide. This management tool, "Commissary Customer Service Survey," DeCA Form 60-28, is designed to query commissary patrons on perceived customer satisfaction.

The results will be distributed to each commissary for guidance to effectively serve patrons' needs and also to operate a more efficient and cost-effective system.

*Affected Public:* Individuals or households.

*Frequency:* Annually.  
*Respondent's Obligation:* Voluntary.  
*OMB Desk Officer:* Mr. Edward C. Springer.

Written comments and recommendations on the proposed

information collection should be sent to Mr. Springer at the Office of Management and Budget, Desk Officer for DoD, Room 10236, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503.

*DOD Clearance Officer:* Mr. Robert Cushing. Written requests for copies of the information collection proposal should be sent to Mr. Cushing, WHS/DIOR, 1215 Jefferson Davis Highway, Suite 1204, Arlington, VA 22202-4302.

Dated: July 30, 2001.

**Patricia L. Toppings,**

*Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison  
Officer, Department of Defense.*

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**BILLING CODE 5001-08-M**

## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

### Office of the Secretary

#### Change in Meeting Date of the DOD Advisory Group on Electron Devices

**AGENCY:** Department of Defense, Advisory Group on Electron Devices.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** Working Group B (Microelectronics) of the DoD Advisory Group on Electron Devices (AGED) announces a change to a closed session meeting.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held at 1400 Tuesday, September 11, 2001.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held Palisades Institute for Research Services, 1745 Jefferson Davis Highway, Suite 500, Arlington, VA 22202.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Elise Rabin, AGED Secretariat, 1745 Jefferson Davis Highway, Crystal Square Four, Suite 500, Arlington, Virginia 22202.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The mission of the Advisory Group is to provide advice to the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Technology, to the Director Defense Research and Engineering (DDR&E), and through the DDR&E, to the Director Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency and the Military Departments in planning and managing an effective research and development program in the field of electron devices.

The Working Group B meeting will be limited to review of research and development programs which the military proposes to initiate with industry, universities or in their laboratories. The microelectronics area includes such programs on semiconductor materials, integrated circuits, charge coupled devices and