

- Collaborates with other CMS components to establish ongoing performance expectations for Medicare contractors (carriers and FIs) consistent with the agency's goals; interprets, evaluates, and provides information on Medicare contractors in terms of ongoing compliance with performance requirements and expectations; evaluates compliance with issued instructions; evaluates contractor-specific performance and/or integrity issues; and evaluates/monitors corrective action, if necessary.

- Manages, monitors, and provides oversight of contractor (carriers and FIs) transition activities including replacement of departing contractors and the resulting transfer of workload, functional realignments, and geographic workload carveouts.

- Maintains and provides accurate contractor specific information.

Develops and implements long-term FFS contractor strategy, tactical plans, and other planning documents.

- Serves as lead on current/proposed legislation in order to determine impact on provider and contractor operations.

- Develops national policy and implementation of all Medicare Part A, Part B, and Part C premium billing and collection activities and coordination of benefits to assure effective administration of FFS aspects of the Medicare program.

Dated: September 6, 2001.

Thomas A. Scully,

Administrator, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

[FR Doc. 01-22821 Filed 9-11-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4120-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Notice of Receipt of Applications for Permit

Endangered Species

The public is invited to comment on the following application(s) for a permit to conduct certain activities with endangered species. This notice is provided pursuant to section 10(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531, *et seq.*). Written data, comments, or requests for copies of these complete applications should be submitted to the Director (address below) and must be received within 30 days of the date of this notice.

Applicant: The Dallas World Aquarium, Dallas, TX, PRT-043800.

The applicant requests a permit to import 1.1 captive held giant river otter,

Pteronura brasiliensis, currently being held in Venezuela, for the purpose of enhancement of the survival of the species through captive propagation and conservation education.

Applicant: Edward E. Seager, Bedford, PA, PRT-047589.

The applicant requests a permit to import the sport-hunted trophy of one male bontebok (*Damaliscus pygargus dorcas*) culled from a captive herd maintained under the management program of the Republic of South Africa, for the purpose of enhancement of the survival of the species.

Applicant: Richard M. Welch, Mechanicsville, TX, PRT-047505.

The applicant requests a permit to import the sport-hunted trophy of one male bontebok (*Damaliscus pygargus dorcas*) culled from a captive herd maintained under the management program of the Republic of South Africa, for the purpose of enhancement of the survival of the species.

Applicant: Patrick B. Sands, Dallas, TX, PRT-047504.

The applicant requests a permit to import the sport-hunted trophy of one male bontebok (*Damaliscus pygargus dorcas*) culled from a captive herd maintained under the management program of the Republic of South Africa, for the purpose of enhancement of the survival of the species.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has information collection approval from OMB through March 31, 2004, OMB Control Number 1018-0093. Federal Agencies may not conduct or sponsor and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a current valid OMB control number.

Documents and other information submitted with these applications are available for review, subject to the requirements of the Privacy Act and Freedom of Information Act, by any party who submits a written request for a copy of such documents within 30 days of the date of publication of this notice to: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Management Authority, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Room 700, Arlington, Virginia 22203, telephone 703/358-2104 or fax 703/358-2281.

Dated: August 31, 2001.

Monica Farris,

Senior Permit Biologist, Branch of Permits, Division of Management Authority.

[FR Doc. 01-22902 Filed 9-11-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Minerals Management Service

Outer Continental Shelf (OCS), Central and Western Gulf of Mexico, Oil and Gas Lease Sales for Years 2002-2007

AGENCY: Minerals Management Service, Interior.

ACTION: Call for information and nominations, Notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement.

SUMMARY: MMS proposes to adopt a multisale process for the Central and Western Gulf of Mexico (GOM) sales in the 2002-2007 OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program. This single multisale process will cover all proposed sales in both planning areas. The Call, the initial step in the process, will cover ten sales—five Central GOM sales and five Western GOM sales. There will also be complete National Environmental Policy Act, OCS Lands Act, and Coastal Zone Management Act coverage for each sale. We propose to prepare an Environmental Assessment for Sale 184, Western GOM, tiering off the previous multisale EIS for Western GOM Sales. We propose to prepare one multisale EIS for the remaining nine Central and Western GOM sales in the 2002-2007 OCS Leasing Program.

DATES: Nominations and comments must be received no later than October 12, 2001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For information on the Call for Information and Nominations, please contact Ms. Jane Burrell Johnson, Minerals Management Service, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region, 1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard, New Orleans, Louisiana 70123-2394, telephone (504) 736-2811. For information on the Notice of Intent to Prepare an EIS, please contact, Mr. Joseph Christopher, Minerals Management Service, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region, 1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard, New Orleans, Louisiana 70123-2394, telephone (504) 736-2788.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In 1996, MMS adopted multisale processes for sales in the Central and Western GOM. The multisale process for each planning area incorporated prelease planning and analysis steps for all sales proposed in the 1997-2002 OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program (except for the first sale in the Western GOM, which was covered in a previous Call and EIS). MMS proposes to adopt a similar process for the Central and Western GOM sales in the 2002-2007 OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program. For the Proposed 5-Year Program, a single multisale process will cover all proposed sales in both planning areas.