

collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

In October 1988, pursuant to provisions of Section 109(i) of the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361–1407), we implemented formal Marking, Tagging, and Reporting Regulations at 50 CFR 18.23(f) for Alaska Natives harvesting polar bear, northern sea otter, and Pacific walrus in Alaska. Under Section 101(b) of the MMPA, Alaska Natives residing in Alaska and dwelling on the coast of the North Pacific or Arctic Oceans may harvest these species for subsistence or handicraft purposes. Section 109(i) of the MMPA authorized us, acting on behalf of the Secretary of the Interior, to prescribe marking, tagging, and reporting regulations applicable to this Native subsistence and handicraft take.

Our regulations have enabled us to gather data on the Native subsistence and handicraft harvest, and on the biology of polar bear, sea otter, and Pacific walrus in Alaska in order to determine what effect such take is having on these populations. The regulations have also provided us with a means of monitoring the disposition of the harvest to ensure that any commercial use of products created from these species meets the criteria set forth in Section 101(b) of the MMPA.

The information that we propose to continue to collect from Alaska Natives beyond the currently authorized period that expires on October 31, 2001 (under OMB Clearance Number 1018–0066), will be used to improve our decision-making ability by substantially expanding the quality and quantity of harvest and biological data upon which we can base future management decisions. It will provide us with the ability to make inferences about the condition and general health of these populations, and to consider the importance and impacts to these populations resulting from the Native harvest and habitat degradation. without authority to collect this harvest information, our ability to measure the take of polar bear, sea otter and walrus is inadequate. We believe that mandatory marking, tagging, and reporting is essential for us, in concert with Alaska Natives, to be able to improve the quality and quantity of harvest and biological data necessary to base future management decisions. It allows us to make rational, knowledgeable decisions regarding the Native harvest and habitat degradation within the range of these species.

We estimate that the annual burden associated with this request will be 674 hours for each year of the 3-year period

of OMB authorization. We calculated this estimated burden based on previous experience suggesting that Alaska Natives annually will take about 2,695 polar bears, sea otter, and Pacific walrus for subsistence and handicraft purposes, and that 15 minutes will be needed to provide the required information for each animal taken.

Title: Marine Mammal Marking, Tagging, and Reporting Program.

Bureau form numbers: R7–51, and R7–52.

Frequency of collection: Occasional.

Description of respondents: Individuals and households.

Number of respondents:

Approximately 2,695 per year.

Estimated completion time: 15 minutes per response.

Annual burden hours: 674 hours.

Current OMB Clearance Number: 1018–0066.

Approval expires: October 31, 2001.

Dated: July 18, 2001.

Rebecca Mullin,

Information Collection Officer, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

[FR Doc. 01–22345 Filed 9–5–01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–55–M

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: Michael M. Smith, Bowie, TX, PRT–047142

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: Saint Louis Zoo, Saint Louis, MO, PRT–039855

The applicant requests a permit to import biological samples collected from wild primates in Madagascar for the purpose of scientific research. Samples are to be collected from

multiple species of the Lemuridae, Megaladapidae, Indridae, Daubentoniidae, and Cheirogaleidae families. This notification covers activities conducted by the applicant over a five year period.

Applicant: National Marine Fisheries Service, Miami, FL, PRT–045532

The applicant requests a permit to import and or introduce from the sea biological samples collected from wild Leatherback sea turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*), Hawksbill sea turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*), and Kemp's Ridley sea turtle (*Lepdochelys. kempii*) for the purpose of scientific research. Samples are to be collected opportunistically from salvaged specimens. This notification covers activities conducted by the applicant over a five year period.

Marine Mammals

The public is invited to comment on the following application(s) for a permit to conduct certain activities with marine mammals. The application(s) was submitted to satisfy requirements of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) and the regulations governing marine mammals (50 CFR 18).

Written data, comments, or requests for copies of these complete applications or requests for a public hearing on these applications should be submitted to the Director (address below) and must be received within 30 days of the date of this notice. Anyone requesting a hearing should give specific reasons why a hearing would be appropriate. The holding of such a hearing is at the discretion of the Director.

Applicant: Gerald M. Moschgat, Ebensburg, PA, PRT–047378

The applicant requests a permit to import a polar bear (*Ursus maritimus*) sport hunted from the Northern Beaufort polar bear population in Canada for personal use.

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 24, 2001.

Michael S. Moore,

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

[FR Doc. 01-22384 Filed 9-5-01; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Marine Mammal Protection Act; Notice of Receipt of Petition To List the Alaska Stock of Sea Otters as Depleted

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), Interior.

ACTION: Receipt of petition.

SUMMARY: On August 21, 2001, the FWS received a petition under section 115 of the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) from the Center for Biological Diversity (CBD). The petition requests that FWS list the Alaska stock of sea otters as depleted under the MMPA. Within 60 days of the receipt of this petition, the FWS will publish a finding in the **Federal Register** as to whether the petition presents substantial information indicating that the petitioned action may be warranted.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: The petition can be viewed online at <http://www.r7.fws.gov/ea/sotter/Pet2.pdf>. For a printed copy of the petition, contact: Douglas Burn, Wildlife Biologist, Marine Mammals Management Office, 1011 East Tudor Road, Anchorage, Alaska 99503, or telephone 907/786-3800 or facsimile 907/786-3816.

Authority: The authority for this action is the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 1383b *et seq.*

Dated: August 17, 2001.

Gary Edwards,

Deputy Regional Director.

[FR Doc. 01-22346 Filed 9-5-01; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Notice of Availability of a Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement

AGENCY: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior (Lead Agency); New York State Department of Environmental

Conservation; Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife (Cooperating Agencies).

ACTION: Notice of availability of Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for a sea lamprey control proposal in Lake Champlain

SUMMARY: This notice announces the availability of a Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (FSEIS) on a proposal to continue sea lamprey control in Lake Champlain. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in cooperation with the Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife (VTDFW) and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) prepared the FSEIS pursuant to Sec. 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

DATES: A 30-day review period will follow the Environmental Protection Agency's notice of availability of the FSEIS on September 7, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the FSEIS are available from Mr. Dave Tilton, Project Leader, USFWS Lake Champlain Office, 11 Lincoln St., Essex Junction, Vermont 05452; phone 802-872-0629, fax 802-872-9704.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Dave Tilton, Project Leader, USFWS Lake Champlain Office, 11 Lincoln St., Essex Junction, Vermont 05452; phone 802-872-0629, fax 802-872-9704. New York contact person is Mr. Lawrence Nashett, Acting Regional Fisheries Manager, New York Department of Environmental Conservation, Region 5, P.O. Box 296, Ray Brook, New York 12977; phone 518-897-1333. Vermont contact person is Mr. Brian Chipman, District Fisheries Biologist, Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife, 111 West Street, Essex Junction, Vermont 05452, phone 802-878-1564.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Sea lamprey are primitive marine invaders to Lake Champlain. They are parasitic fish that feed on the body fluids of other fish resulting in reduced growth and often the death of host fish. A substantial body of information collected on Lake Champlain indicates sea lamprey have a profound negative impact upon the lake's fishery resources and have suppressed efforts to establish new and historical sportfisheries. In 1990, the USFWS, NYSDEC, and VTDFW initiated an 8-year experimental sea lamprey control program for Lake Champlain. The experimental program treated tributaries and deltas of Lake Champlain with the

chemical lampricides TFM and Bayluscide (listed as Bayer 73 in the Final Environmental Impact Statement), which substantially reduced larval sea lamprey numbers in treated waters. The program included monitoring and assessment of the effects of this sea lamprey reduction technique on the characteristics of certain fish populations, the sport fishery, and the area's growth and economy. A set of thirty evaluation standards were established. Overall, the experimental sea lamprey control program met or exceeded the majority of the standards demonstrating a successful reduction in the sea lamprey population. In addition to this evaluation, the cooperating agencies assessed the effects of the program on nontarget organisms.

Two rounds of treatments were planned for each significantly infested stream and delta. From 1990 through 1996, 24 TFM treatments were conducted on 14 Lake Champlain tributaries, and 9 Bayluscide treatments were conducted on 5 deltas. Approximately 141 stream miles and 1220 delta acres were treated.

In summary, trap catches of spawning-phase sea lamprey declined by 80 to 90 percent; nest counts were reduced by 57 percent. Sixteen of 22 TFM treatments reduced ammocoetes at index stations to less than 10 percent of pre-treatment levels. Eight of the nine Bayluscide treatments resulted in mean mortality rates over 85 percent among caged ammocoetes. Relatively small numbers of nontarget amphibian and fish species were killed. Adverse effects on nontarget species were higher for Bayluscide treatments than TFM. Native mussels, snails and some other macroinvertebrates were significantly affected after the 1991 Bayluscide treatments of the Ausable and Little Ausable deltas in New York. However, they recovered to pre-treatment levels within 4 years. American brook lamprey also experienced substantial treatment-related mortality. Yet, the finding of dead American brook lamprey during the experimental program's second-round treatments, in each stream where they were negatively affected during the first round, suggested survival or immigration was adequate to maintain their populations. Wounding rates on lake trout and landlocked Atlantic salmon were reduced in the main lake basin, and catches of both species increased. A significant increase in survival of 3 to 4-year old lake trout was noted: survival of older fish improved, but did not change significantly. Returns of Atlantic salmon to tributaries increased significantly after treatment. Changes in wounding rates on brown