

Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Council) will convene public meetings.

DATES: The meetings will be held on November 12–15, 2002.

ADDRESSES: These meetings will be held at the Westin Beach Resort, 97000 South Overseas Highway, Key Largo, FL 33037; telephone: 305–852–5553.

Council address: Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, 3018 U.S. Highway 301 North, Suite 1000, Tampa, FL 33619.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Wayne E. Swingle, Executive Director, Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; telephone: (813) 228–2815.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Council

November 14

8:30 a.m.—Convene.

8:45 a.m.–9 a.m.—Appointment of Committee Members

9 a.m.–9:15 a.m.—Election of Vice Chairman

9:15 a.m.–11:30 a.m.—Receive public testimony on the Secretarial Reef Fish Amendment 2.

1 p.m.–4 p.m.—Receive the report of the Habitat Protection Committee.

4 p.m.–5 p.m.—Receive the report of the Shrimp Management Committee.

November 15

8:30 a.m.–11 a.m.—Receive the report of the Reef Fish Management Committee.

11 a.m.–11:30 a.m.—Receive the report of the Joint Reef Fish and Artificial Reef Committees.

11:30 a.m. - 11:40 a.m. -Receive the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas Meeting report.

11:40 a.m.–11:50 a.m.—Receive Enforcement Reports.

11:50 a.m.–12 noon—Receive the NMFS Regional Administrator's Report.

12 noon–12:15 p.m.—Receive Director's Reports.

12:15 p.m.–12:30 p.m.—Other Business.

Committees

November 12, 2002

8:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.—Convene the Habitat Protection Committee to review and comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Generic Amendment. The committee will also consider the recommendations

of Technical and User Review Panels, Habitat Protection Advisory Panels (APs) and the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC). The Council will take final action on the DEIS in January 2003 and file the DEIS with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

2 p.m.–5:30 p.m.—Convene the Reef Fish Management Committee to make its final recommendations to the Council on Secretarial Reef Fish Amendment 2 for amberjack. The amendment contains a rebuilding program for greater amberjack, which is largely based on actions previously taken by the Council in 2000 and 2001 for reducing the recreational bag limits to 1 fish and implementing a 3–month commercial closure. The committee will review new stock assessments on red and yellowedge grouper, but will defer taking action on this information to the January 2003 meeting. The committee will review comments from scoping meetings on Reef Fish Amendment 21 related to extending the duration of rules establishing the Madison/Swanson and Steamboat Lumps marine reserves. The Council will take final action on this amendment in May 2003. The committee will also review a draft red snapper individual fishing quota profile and recommend changes to the Council. The profile when completed will be submitted by NMFS to fishermen for comments in a referendum conducted by NMFS. The committee will discuss with enforcement officials possible causes of violations of the reef fish bottom longline prohibited area in the western Gulf and potential remedies.

November 13, 2002

8:30 a.m.–9:30 a.m.—Convene a joint meeting of the Reef Fish Management and Artificial Reef Committees to consider whether the Council should consider holding workshops to discuss establishing special management zones (SMZs) off Alabama where the number of hooks fished per line may be limited. If approved, these workshops will be scheduled in 2003.

9:30 a.m.–11:30 a.m.—Convene the Shrimp Management Committee to review scoping comments on an options paper that eventually will become Shrimp Amendment 13. The draft amendment will address adding rock shrimp to the fishery management plan, alternatives to improve bycatch estimates, alternatives for reducing bycatch, the need for Vessel Monitoring Systems, and alternatives that could reduce effort.

11:45 a.m.–6 p.m.—Council members will visit the U.S. Coast Guard air

station and bases in the Miami area for an orientation and training session.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in the agenda may come before the Council for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson Act), those issues may not be the subject of formal Council action during this meeting. Council action will be restricted to those issues specifically identified in this notice and any issues arising after publication of this notice that require emergency action under section 305 (c) of the Magnuson Act, provided the public has been notified of the Council's intent to take final action to address the emergency. A copy of the Committee schedule and agenda can be obtained by calling (813) 228–2815.

Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Anne Alford at the Council (see **ADDRESSES**) by November 4, 2002.

Dated: October 24, 2002.

Richard W. Surdi,

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

[FR Doc. 02–27510 Filed 10–28–02; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 093002C]

Endangered Species; File No. 1245

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

ACTION: Issuance of permit amendment.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that J. David Whitaker has been issued a modification to scientific research Permit No. 1245.

ADDRESSES: The amendment 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)713–0376;

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:

Lillian Becker or Ruth Johnson,
(301)713-2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

On September 27, 2001, notice was published in the **Federal Register** (66 FR 49353) that a modification of Permit No. 1245, issued May 19, 2000 (65 FR 36666), had been requested by the above-named individual. A second modification request was published in the **Federal Register** on August 6, 2002 (67 FR 50874). The requested modifications were granted under the authority of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) and the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered and threatened species (50 CFR 222-226).

The modifications extend the permit for an additional two years and increases non-lethal take of loggerhead sea turtles from 250 to 300 and leatherbacks from 1 to 3.

Issuance of this amendment, as required by the ESA was based on a finding that such permit (1) was applied for in good faith, (2) will not operate to the disadvantage of the endangered species which is the subject of this permit, and (3) is consistent with the purposes and policies set forth in section 2 of the ESA.

Dated: October 23, 2002.

Eugene T. Nitta,

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

[FR Doc. 02-27509 Filed 10-28-02; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[I.D. 030602C]

Marine Mammals; File No. 1009-1640

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

ACTION: Receipt of application.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Dr. Jerome Siegel, Neurobiology Research 151A3, 16111 Plummer St., VA GLAHS-Sepulveda, North Hills, CA 91343, has applied in due form for a permit to import tissue samples from bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*), harbor porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*), common dolphins (*Delphinus delphis*), beluga whales (*Delphinapterus leucas*), and Northern fur seals (*Callorhinus*

ursinus) from Russia, and to analyze tissue samples from captive killer whales (*Orcinus orca*) and bottlenose dolphins in the U.S. for purposes of scientific research.

DATES: Written or telefaxed comments must be received on or before November 29, 2002.

ADDRESSES: The application 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)713-0376; 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:

Amy Sloan or Ruth Johnson, (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 proposes three projects. The first is to investigate the anatomy and immunohistology of several structures of cetacean brains. Three bottlenose dolphin, three harbor porpoise, two common dolphin, and two beluga whale brains will be imported from Russia. Brains will be collected from animals killed during subsistence harvest or that died in fishing nets, and from dead animals stranded on shore. No animals will be deliberately killed to fulfill samples for this project. The second project involves the study of sleep in fur seals. Six seals will be caught on the Bering Island in Russia, temporarily held in captivity, implanted for polygraphic sleep studies, and euthanized. Microdialysis samples and brains of the six fur seals will be imported for anatomical studies. The third study involves the determination of hormonal and peptidergic properties of the extended waking behavior in mothers and calves of killer whales and bottlenose dolphins. Blood and urine samples from six U.S. captive killer whale mother/calf pairs and three bottlenose dolphin mother/calf pairs will be analyzed for hormone concentrations. Four bottlenose dolphins will be collected from the Black Sea in Russia, held in temporary captivity, administered hormones, and blood samples from these animals will be imported for this study. The

requested duration of the permit is five years.

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, Conservation and Education 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: October 23, 2002.

Eugene T. Nitta,

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

[FR Doc. 02-27507 Filed 10-28-02; 8:45 am]

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COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS**Adjustment of Import Limits for Certain Wool Textile Products Produced or Manufactured in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia**

October 23, 2002.

AGENCY: Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements (CITA).

ACTION: Issuing a directive to the Commissioner of Customs adjusting limits.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 29, 2002

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Naomi Freeman, International Trade Specialist, Office of Textiles and Apparel, U.S. Department of Commerce, (202) 482-4212. For information on the quota status of these limits, refer to the