

record systems, and individuals interviewed as part of the background investigation.

#### EXEMPTIONS CLAIMED FOR THE SYSTEM:

Portions of this system are exempt under 5 U.S.C. 552a(k)(1), (k)(2) and (k)(6).

Issued in Arlington, Virginia, on August 8, 2003.

**Susan T. Tracey,**

*Deputy Chief Administrative Officer.*

[FR Doc. 03-20925 Filed 8-15-03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4910-62-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

#### Receipt of Applications for Permit

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of Receipt of Applications for Permit.

**SUMMARY:** The public is invited to comment on the following applications to conduct certain activities with endangered species and/or marine mammals.

**DATES:** Written data, comments or requests must be received by September 17, 2003.

**ADDRESSES:** 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; fax 703/358-2281.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Division of Management Authority, telephone 703/358-2104.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### 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 above).

*Applicant:* David E. Garza, San Antonio, TX, PRT-073546.

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.

##### Endangered Marine Mammals and Marine Mammals

The public is invited to comment on the following application(s) for a permit to conduct certain activities with endangered marine mammals and/or marine mammals. The application(s) was/were submitted to satisfy requirements of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, *as amended* (16 U.S.C. 1531, *et seq.*) and/or the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, *as amended* (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), and the regulations governing endangered species (50 CFR part 17) and/or marine mammals (50 CFR part 18). Written data, comments, or requests for copies of the complete applications or requests for a public hearing on these applications should be submitted to the Director (address above). 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:* Norman L. Delan, Jr., Fleetwood, PA, PRT-075014.

The applicant requests a permit to import a polar bear (*Ursus maritimus*) sport hunted from the Viscount Melville Sound 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.

Dated: July 25, 2003.

**Lisa J. Lierheimer,**

*Policy Specialist, Branch of Permits, Division of Management Authority.*

[FR Doc. 03-20943 Filed 8-15-03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-55-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

#### Notice of Availability of an Environmental Assessment/Habitat Conservation Plan and Receipt of Application for Incidental Take of the Houston Toad

**AGENCY:** U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability.

**SUMMARY:** Elizabeth Ott (Applicant) has applied for an incidental take permit (TE-074986-0) pursuant to Section 10(a) of the Endangered Species Act (Act). The requested permit would authorize the incidental take of the endangered Houston toad. The proposed take would occur as a result of the construction and occupation of a single-family residence on approximately 0.5 acres of a 4.137-acre property on Highway 290, Bastrop County, Texas.

The Service has prepared the Environmental Assessment/Habitat Conservation Plan (EA/HCP) for the incidental take application. A determination of jeopardy or non-jeopardy to the species and a decision pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) will not be made until at least 60 days from the date of publication of this notice. This notice is provided pursuant to Section 10(c) of the Act and National Environmental Policy Act regulations (40 CFR 1506.6).

**DATES:** Written comments on the application should be received by September 17, 2003.

**ADDRESSES:** Persons wishing to review the application may obtain a copy by writing to the Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, P.O. Box 1306, Room 4102, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103. Persons wishing to review the EA/HCP may obtain a copy by written or telephone request to Clayton Napier, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ecological Services Office, 10711 Burnet Road, Suite 200, Austin, Texas 78758 (512/490-0057). Documents will be available for public inspection, by written request or by appointment only, during normal business hours (8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Office, Austin, Texas. Data or comments concerning the application and EA/HCP should be submitted in writing to the Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Office, Austin, Texas at 10711 Burnet Road, Suite 200, Austin, Texas 78758. Please refer to permit number TE-074582-0 when submitting comments.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Clayton Napier at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ecological Services Office, 10711 Burnet Road, Suite 200, Austin, Texas 78758 (512/490-0057).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Section 9 of the Act prohibits the "taking" of endangered species such as the Houston toad. However, the Service, under limited circumstances, may issue permits to take endangered wildlife species incidental to, and not the

purpose of, otherwise lawful activities. Regulations governing permits for endangered species are at 50 CFR 17.22.

**Applicant:** Elizabeth Ott plans to construct a single family residence, within 5 years, on approximately 0.5 acres of a 4.137-acre property on Highway 290, Bastrop County, Texas. This action will eliminate 0.5 acres or less of Houston toad habitat and result in indirect impacts within the lot. The Applicant proposes to compensate for this incidental take of the Houston toad by providing \$2,000.00 to the Houston Toad Conservation Fund at the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for the specific purpose of land acquisition and

management within Houston toad habitat.

**Bryan Arroyo,**

*Acting Regional Director, Southwest Region, Albuquerque, New Mexico.*

[FR Doc. 03-20988 Filed 8-15-03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4510-55-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

#### Issuance of Permits

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of Issuance of Permits for Marine Mammals.

**SUMMARY:** The following permits were issued.

**ADDRESSES:** 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 to: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Management Authority, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Room 700, Arlington, Virginia 22203; fax 703/358-2281.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Division of Management Authority, telephone 703/358-2104.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Notice is hereby given that on the dates below, as authorized by the provisions of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, *as amended* (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), the Fish and Wildlife Service issued the requested permit(s) subject to certain conditions set forth therein.

#### Marine Mammals

Permit number	Applicant	Receipt of application <b>Federal Register</b> notice	Permit issuance date
055331 .....	Dennis B. Callender .....	68 FR 33179; June 3, 2003 .....	July 17, 2003.
072383 .....	Scott S. Snyder .....	68 FR 33734; June 5, 2003 .....	July 17, 2003.

Dated: July 25, 2003.

**Lisa J. Lierheimer,**

*Policy Specialist, Branch of Permits, Division of Management Authority.*

[FR Doc. 03-20942 Filed 8-15-03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-55-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

#### Draft Policy for Enhancement-of-Survival Permits for Foreign Species Listed Under the Endangered Species Act

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** We, the Fish and Wildlife Service, (the FWS) announce a Draft Policy for "Enhancement of Survival" permits for foreign species listed under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA). This policy would provide guidance under which we will consider the issuance of Section 10(a)(1)(A) enhancement-of-survival permits as incentives to encourage conservation of foreign-listed species in the wild. Permits to allow the import of foreign-listed species or their parts or products would only be considered in certain limited situations if such action enhances the survival of the species in the wild. Enhancement must be

demonstrated through support of a substantive conservation program for that species in the range country with a positive benefit for the species and/or its habitat. The in-situ conservation actions envisioned by implementing this policy otherwise would not occur or would be significantly reduced, absent the issuance of permits to encourage range countries to develop and implement such programs or to encourage applicants within the United States to become active participants in range country conservation actions.

The ESA and existing regulations provide full authority for issuance of these permits. However, in the past we have generally chosen to limit these types of permits for ESA-listed foreign species. We now believe there could be a greater conservation benefit by providing for the import and export of carefully selected ESA-listed foreign species, or their parts and products, that are obtained from captive-breeding programs or well-managed conservation programs that limit removal from the wild and further promote and advance the conservation of the species within range countries.

This draft policy presents guidance to help the public understand the requirements for issuance of permits under the ESA. It is not intended to be prescriptive or to necessarily prohibit or allow any public or private activity. We

seek public comment on this proposed draft policy.

**DATES:** Comments on the draft policy must be received by October 17, 2003.

**ADDRESSES:** Send any comments or materials concerning the Draft Policy for Enhancement-of-Survival Permits for Foreign Species to the Chief, Division of Management Authority, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Room 700, Arlington, Virginia 22203 (Telephone, 703-358-2093; fax, 703-358-2280; e-mail, [ManagementAuthority@fws.gov](mailto:ManagementAuthority@fws.gov)).

Comments received will be made available to the public and become part of the file for this policy. You may examine comments and materials received during normal business hours at the above address in Arlington, Virginia. You must make an appointment to examine these materials.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Kenneth Stansell, Assistant Director, International Affairs. (Telephone, 202-208-6393).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

#### The Application of the Endangered Species Act to Foreign Species Conservation

Approximately 40 percent of all species listed under the ESA are foreign species whose natural range occurs outside the United States. Of these, approximately 80 percent are listed as endangered and 20 percent are listed as