

or injured. Funds recovered under 312 are used to restore, replace or acquire equivalent sanctuary resources. As part of the restoration process at the site of the M/V Wellwood grounding, NOAA and its authorized contractor will be placing reef modules and tremie concrete to rebuild the physical structure of the damaged coral reef. This activity will occur from April 15, 2002 through August 15, 2002.

Because divers, moorings, heavy construction materials and equipment (e.g., barges and cranes) and increased localized boat traffic will be present during the restoration activity, NOAA requests the public to avoid an area of approximately 0.58 acres where the restoration activity will occur. Five to seven, recreational mooring buoys will be removed from the work area and the nearby vicinity. The work area will be marked by construction buoys. The buoys will be set about 30 feet beyond the barge tie down locations, and create an area approximately 200 feet by 150 feet, with the longer axis oriented in a NE-SW direction, around the grounding site (25°0.67' N, 80°22.37' W). The intent is to provide an area for the conduct of these important restoration activities; protect the life and property of construction crews and Sanctuary users while heavy construction materials and equipment (e.g., barges and cranes) are in the area; protect moorings which will be used at the site of stabilize the barges; protect the surface air supply hoses of the divers and SCUBA crew who will be conducting the restoration activities; and ensure timely and successful completion of the restoration. The area that the public is requested to avoid is the minimum area necessary to moor the barges and includes buffer zones to moor support vessels and provide an extra margin for public safety during the restoration activities. The time period for which the public is requested to avoid the restoration site is the expected time necessary to complete the construction activities. If less or more time is needed, NOAA will so notify the public. During the spring of 2002, one-on-one contact was made with local dive operators, a public meeting was held to explain the restoration project and make the public aware of the area it would be requested to temporarily avoid. Additionally, NOAA issued press releases to the local newspapers and radio stations which have covered the restoration planning process and which have provided notice of NOAA's request for the public to avoid the restoration area.

Locations and Boundaries of the Area the Public Is Requested To Avoid

The area which the public is requested to avoid is located approximately 6 nautical miles offshore the southeast portion of the Key Largo, Florida (centered near 25° 0.67' N, 80° 22.37' W). The total area is approximately 0.58 acres. The boundary of this area will be marked by construction buoys.

The area is bounded by the following coordinates:

Latitude	Longitude
A: 25°00' 37.96364"N	80°22' 14.60425"W
B: 25°00' 31.20173"N	80°22' 22.54159"W
C: 25°00' 45.20646"N	80°22' 22.02476"W
D: 25°00' 38.44445"N	80°22' 29.96212"W

Dated: July 16, 2002.

Jamison S. Hawkins,

Deputy Assistant Administrator for Ocean Services and Coastal Zone Management.

[FR Doc. 02-18446 Filed 7-19-02; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Public Scoping Period for the Proposed Designation of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands National Marine Sanctuary; Reopening of Comment Period

AGENCY: National Marine Sanctuary Program (NMSP), National Ocean Service (NOS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce (DOC).

ACTION: Notice; request for comment; reopening of comment period.

SUMMARY: The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is re-opening, until August 6, 2002, the period for submission of public comments on the proposed designation of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands National Marine Sanctuary.

DATES: Comments on the proposed designation must be received by close of business August 6, 2002.

ADDRESSES: Written comments may be sent to NWHI Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve, 6700 Kalaniana'ole Highway, #215, Honolulu, Hawaii 96825; faxed to (808) 3972662; or emailed to nwhi@noaa.gov. Comments will be available for public review at the office address above.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Aulani Wilhelm, (808) 397-2657, nwhi@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On December 4, 2000, Executive Order 13178 established the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve, pursuant to the National Marine Sanctuaries Amendments Act of 2000. The Reserve extends approximately 1200 nautical miles long and 100 nautical miles wide. Pursuant to this Act and the Executive Order, NOAA initiated the process to designate the Reserve as a national marine sanctuary by issuing a notice of intent on January 19, 2001 (66 FR 5509). The public scoping period was announced on March 18, 2002 (67 FR 11996), with a closing date of May 3, 2002. The close of the public scoping period was extended to May 17, 2002 (67 FR 17673). Because of continuing public interest as indicated by the number of comments received during and after the comment period, NOAA is re-opening the comment period until August 6, 2002. Any comments that may have been received between May 17, 2002 and July 22, 2002, will be considered timely filed.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1431 *et seq.*, Pub. L. 106-513, (Federal Domestic Assistance Catalog Number 11.429 Marine Sanctuary Program).

Dated: July 16, 2002.

Jamison S. Hawkins,

Deputy Assistant Administrator, for Ocean Services and Coastal Zone Management.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 071602A]

Marine Mammals; File No. 1034-1685 and Permit No. 751-1614

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

ACTION: Receipt of application for a permit and application to amend a permit.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given of the following actions regarding permits for takes of marine mammals for purposes of scientific research: NMFS has received a permit application from Dr. Markus Horning, Department of Marine Biology, Texas A&M University, Galveston, TX 77551, to take California sea lions (*Zalophus californianus*); and an application to amend Permit No. 751-1614 issued to the Ocean Alliance/Whale Conservation Institute, 191

Weston Road, Lincoln, MA 01773 (Dr. Roger S. Payne, Principal Investigator).

DATES: Written or telefaxed comments must be received on or before August 21, 2002.

ADDRESSES: The application and related documents are available for review upon written request or by appointment in the following office(s):

For both applications, 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;

For File No. 1034-1685, Southwest Region, NMFS, 501 West Ocean Blvd., Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802-4213; phone (562)980-4001; fax (562)980-4018;

For Permit No. 751-1614, Northeast Region, NMFS, One Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930-2298; phone (978)281-9200; fax (978)281-9371; and

For Permit No. 751-1614, 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: Tammy Adams, Ruth Johnson, or Amy Sloan, (301)713-2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The subject permit, File No. 1034-1685, 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 subject amendment to Permit No. 751-1614 is requested under the authority of the MMPA, the Regulations Governing the Taking and Importing of Marine Mammals (50 CFR part 216), the ESA, and the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered and threatened species (50 CFR parts 222-226).

The applicant for File No. 1034-1685 proposes to implant dual satellite-linked life history transmitters in up to 15 rehabilitated California sea lions at the Marine Mammal Center per year, for two years, to determine long-term post-release survival rates of rehabilitated sea lions. External tags will also be attached for short-term monitoring. To assess stress levels from surgical procedures, and to relate post-rehabilitation health status to survival, blood samples will be collected for standard clinical hematology and chemistry panels. Blubber biopsies, bioelectric impedance analysis, deuterium dilution determinations, and blubber ultrasound will also be performed.

Permit No. 751-1614, issued on March 7, 2002 (67 FR 11677) authorizes takes of various cetacean species by aerial survey, photo-identification, and biopsy sampling, within waters under the jurisdiction of the United States or on the high seas of the Pacific, Atlantic, and Indian Oceans, and the Mediterranean Sea. It also authorizes the import/export of an unlimited number of samples (sloughed skin from live animals, and skin, blubber, blood, bone, baleen and other tissues collected from dead stranded animals) collected within the territorial waters of a number of foreign countries. The holder of Permit No. 751-1614 has requested authorization to import and export samples collected from the cetacean species listed in the permit within the territorial waters of any foreign country sanctioned by the United States and in accordance with the permit conditions.

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: July 16, 2002.

Eugene T. Nitta,

Acting Chief, Permits, Conservation and Education Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. 02-18441 Filed 7-19-02; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 071202B]

Marine Mammals; File No. 779-1681

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

ACTION: Receipt of application.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that NMFS Southeast Fisheries Science Center (SEFSC), (Dr. Aleta Hohn, Principal Investigator), 75 Virginia Beach Drive, Miami, FL 33149, has applied in due form for a permit to take bottlenose dolphins for purposes of scientific research.

DATES: Written or telefaxed comments must be received on or before August 21, 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;

Northeast Region, NMFS, One Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930-2298; phone (978)281-9200; fax (978)281-9371; 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: Carrie Hubard 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 SEFSC requests a Permit to take bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*) for scientific research. The impetus for the research is the need to define the stock structure of western North Atlantic bottlenose dolphins. The project is a continuation of research begun in 1997 to elucidate stock structure using multiple methods and to test the hypothesis of one coastal migratory stock of bottlenose dolphins along the Atlantic coast of the U.S. A maximum of 500 individual dolphins will be captured, examined, sampled, marked, and released during the 5 year