

sea turtles in the waters of Palm Beach County, FL. The purpose of this project is to support hawksbill recovery efforts by surveying the local population to document the distribution and movement of individuals in these waters. Larger turtles will be hand captured and smaller individuals will be captured using a 24 inch (60 cm) diameter dip-net. Turtles will be retained on a vessel for the collection of morphometric data, tagging, numbering, photographs, and tissue sampling, and then released. Seventy-five turtles of all sizes will be captured annually, and the requested duration of this permit is 5 years.

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.

Dated: May 14, 2003.

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

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 051203B]

Marine Mammals; File No. 1004-1656

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

ACTION: Issuance of permit amendment.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Funtime, Inc. d/b/a Six Flags Worlds of Adventure, 1060 North Aurora Road, Aurora, OH 44202, has been issued an amendment to public display Permit No. 1004-1656-00 to extend the expiration date through May 16, 2004.

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; and

Northeast Region, NMFS, One Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930-2298; phone (978)281-9200; fax (978)281-9371.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Jennifer Skidmore or Amy Sloan,
(301)713-2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On May 22, 2002, notice was published in the *Federal Register* (67 FR 35965) that Permit No. 1004-1656-00 had been issued to Funtime, Inc. d/b/a Six Flags Worlds of Adventure to import two killer whales, one adult female from Marineland S.A., Antibes, France and one adult male from Mundo Marino, Buenos Aires, Argentina, for the purposes of public display. This permit amendment extends the duration of the permit from May 16, 2003, to May 16, 2004. The requested permit amendment has been issued under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), and the Regulations Governing the Taking and Importing of Marine Mammals (50 CFR part 216).

Dated: May 13, 2003.

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

[FR Doc. 03-12649 Filed 5-19-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Patent and Trademark Office

[Docket No.: 2003-P-018]

Request for Comments on the Study of the Changes Needed To Implement a Unity of Invention Standard in the United States

AGENCY: United States Patent and Trademark Office, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) has established a 21st Century Strategic Plan to transform the USPTO into a quality-focused, highly productive, responsive organization supporting a market-driven intellectual property system. As part of this plan, the USPTO will conduct a study of the changes needed to implement a Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) style Unity of Invention standard

in the United States. Prior to starting a detailed study, the USPTO is seeking public comment on a number of issues to help guide the scope and content of a study on the adoption of a Unity of Invention standard in the United States.

COMMENT DEADLINE DATE: To be ensured of consideration, written comments must be received on or before July 21, 2003. No public hearing will be held at this stage of the study.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be sent by electronic mail message over the Internet addressed to: unity.comments@uspto.gov. Comments may also be submitted by mail addressed to: Mail Stop Comments—Patents, Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450; or by facsimile to (703) 872-9411, marked to the attention of Robert Clarke. Although comments may be submitted by mail or facsimile, the USPTO prefers to receive comments via the Internet. If comments are submitted by mail, the USPTO would prefer that the comments be submitted on a DOS formatted 3½ inch disk accompanied by a paper copy.

The comments will be available for public inspection at the Office of Patent Legal Administration, Office of the Deputy Commissioner for Patent Examination Policy, located at Room 3D65 of Crystal Plaza 3/4, 2201 South Clark Place, Arlington, Virginia, 22202, and will be available through anonymous file transfer protocol (ftp) via the Internet (address: <http://www.uspto.gov>). Since comments will be made available for public inspection, information that is not desired to be made public, such as an address or phone number, should not be included in the comments.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Robert A. Clarke directly by phone at (703) 305-9177, by e-mail at robert.clarke@uspto.gov, by facsimile to (703) 305-1013, marked to the attention of Robert A. Clarke, or by mail addressed to: Mail Stop Comments—Patents, Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Unity of Invention standard (in PCT applications) and United States restriction practice (in United States applications) are mechanisms by which the USPTO determines whether patent applicants are entitled to examination of all of the claims in an application by determining whether the claims are directed to a single invention, or to