

June 23, 2005

Emily Menashes,

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

[FR Doc. E5-3363 Filed 6-27-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 121504B]

Endangered Species; Permits

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

ACTION: Issuance of permit for incidental take of threatened species.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that on June 9, 2005, as authorized by the provisions of the Endangered Species Act, NMFS issued a permit (PRT-1488) to the Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District, Eureka, California subject to certain conditions set forth therein. The permit was granted only after NMFS determined that it was applied for in good faith, that granting the permit will not be to the disadvantage of the threatened species, and that it will be consistent with the purposes and policy set forth in the Endangered Species Act, as amended.

DATES: Effective June 9, 2005 through June 9, 2055.

ADDRESSES: Additional information on this permit action may be requested by contacting NOAA Fisheries, 1655 Heindon Road, Arcata, CA 95521 (phone: 707-825-5160, fax: 707-825-4840). The applications and related documents are available for review in the indicated office, by appointment.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John P. Clancy, Arcata, CA (phone: 707-825-5175, fax: 707-825-4840, e-mail: John.P.Clancy@noaa.gov).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On August 1, 2003, a notice was published in the Federal Register (68 FR 148, August 1, 2003), that an application had been filed with the National Marine Fisheries Service by the Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District, Eureka, California, for a permit to incidentally take, pursuant to Section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1539), as amended, Southern Oregon/Northern California Coasts Coho Salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*), California Coastal Chinook Salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), and Northern California steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) on the

Mad River pursuant to the terms of the Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District Habitat Conservation Plan for its Mad River Operations.

Dated: June 21, 2005.

Susan Pultz,

Acting Division Chief, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 05-12755 Filed 6-27-05; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D.060905A]

Marine Mammals; File No. 1073-1777

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

ACTION: Issuance of permit.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Dr. Kathy Carlstead, Honolulu Zoo, 151 Kapahulu Ave., Honolulu, HI 96815, has been issued a permit to import marine mammal specimens for purposes of scientific research.

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)427-2521; and Pacific Islands Region, NMFS, 1601 Kapiolani Blvd., Rm 1110, Honolulu, HI 96814-4700; phone (808)973-2935; fax (808)973-2941.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jennifer Skidmore or Amy Sloan, (301)713-2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On January 24, 2005, notice was published in the Federal Register (70 FR 3365) that a request for a scientific research permit to import samples from marine mammal species under NMFS jurisdiction had been submitted by the above-named individual. The requested permit has been granted 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).

The Holder is authorized to import into the United States approximately 24 blood samples, 150 fecal samples, and 150 saliva samples from 3 captive false killer whales *Pseudorca crassidens* from Ocean Adventure in the Philippines.

The applicant will be studying stress in false killer whales using behavioral observations, non-invasive glucocorticoid assessment and analysis of blood profile panels. The permit has been issued for five years.

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), a final determination has been made that the activity proposed is categorically excluded from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement.

Dated: June 16, 2005.

Stephen L. Leathery,

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

[FR Doc. 05-12744 Filed 6-27-05; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 061405D]

Marine Mammals; File No. 358-1787 and Permit No. 821-1588-02

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

ACTION: Receipt of applications.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the following applicants have applied in due form for a permit or permit amendment to conduct research on marine mammals:

File No. 358-1787: Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Wildlife Conservation, 1255 West 8th Street, Juneau, AK 99802 (Principal Investigator: Robert Smalls, Ph.D.); and Permit No. 821-1588-02: Texas A&M University, Department of Marine Biology, 5007 Avenue U, Galveston, TX 77551 (Principal Investigator: Randall Davis, Ph.D.).

DATES: Written, telefaxed, or e-mail comments must be received on or before July 28, 2005.

ADDRESSES: The applications 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)427-2521;

Files 358-1787 and 821-1588: Assistant Regional Administrator for Protected Resources, Alaska Region,

NMFS, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802-1668; phone (907)586-7235; fax (907)586-7012; and

File 821-1588: Assistant Regional Administrator for Protected Resources, Southeast Region, NMFS, 263 13th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL 33701, phone (727)824-5312; fax (727)824-5309. Written comments or requests for a public hearing on these applications 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 these particular requests would be appropriate.

Comments may also be submitted by facsimile at (301)427-2521, provided the facsimile is confirmed by hard copy submitted by mail and postmarked no later than the closing date of the comment period.

Comments may also be submitted by e-mail. The mailbox address for providing email comments is NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov. Include in the subject line of the e-mail comment the following document identifier: File No. 358-1787 or 821-1588.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Ruth Johnson or Tammy Adams (301)713-2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The subject permit and permit amendment are requested under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (MMPA; 16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), the Regulations Governing the Taking and Importing of Marine Mammals (50 CFR part 216), and the Fur Seal Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1151 *et seq.*).

Permit Application

File No. 358-1787: The ADF&G has requested a permit to conduct scientific research on harbor seals (*Phoca vitulina*), spotted seals (*P. largha*), ringed seals (*P. hispida*), ribbon seals (*P. fasciata*) and bearded seals (*Erignathus barbatus*). The seals would be captured, handled, sampled, tagged and released. The overall objective is to describe the ecology and behavior of these seal species. Harbor seals are the primary species to be studied to: monitor harbor seal population trends in Alaska, describe the movements, diving behavior, and haulout patterns; determine feeding habits and prey requirements; assess health status and physiology; and examine life history parameters. The applicant requests authority for incidental mortality of five

harbor seals and one each of the ice seals annually. Seals would be incidentally harassed during capture activities and fecal collection.

Permit Amendment

Permit No. 821-1588-02 authorizes the Holder to capture, sample, handle, and tag Weddell seals (*Leptonychotes weddelli*) on McMurdo Sound, Antarctica, and elephant seals (*Mirounga angustirostris*) on Ano Nuevo Island, California. The Permit also authorizes the Holder to approach, photograph, biopsy sample, and tag sperm whales (*Physeter macrocephalus*), conduct Level B harassment activities on small cetaceans in the Gulf of Mexico, and import/export marine mammal parts.

The Holder now requests to amend the permit to allow capture, sampling, handling and tagging of Northern fur seals (*Callorhinus ursinus*) on the Pribilof Islands, Alaska. The objective of this study is to characterize the movements, foraging behavior and habitat-associations of northern fur seal pups during their first winter at sea. 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: June 16, 2005.

Stephen L. Leathery,

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

[FR Doc. 05-12753 Filed 6-27-05; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 051005C]

Marine Mammals; Files No. 369-1757-00 and 522-1785-00

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

ACTION: Issuance of permits.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Bruce R. Mate, Ph.D., Holder/Principal Investigator, Oregon State University, Hatfield Marine Science Center, 2030 SE Marine Science Drive, Newport, OR 97365, and Randall S. Wells, Ph.D., Sarasota Dolphin Research Program, c/o Mote Marine Laboratory, 1600 Ken Thompson Parkway, Sarasota, FL 34236, have each been issued a permit to take marine mammals for scientific research.

ADDRESSES: The permit and related documents are available for review upon written request or by appointment (See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for addresses).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Ruth Johnson or Carrie Hubbard, (301)713-2289 or email: ruth.johnson@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On August 3, 2004 (69 FR 46521) and March 21, 2005 (70 FR 13481), notice was published in the **Federal Register** that a request for a scientific research permit to take marine mammals had been submitted by the above-named individuals. The requested permits have been issued under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), the Regulations Governing the Taking and Importing of Marine Mammals (50 CFR part 216), 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 parts 222-226).

Permit 369-1757-00 authorizes the Holder to approach and harass during tagging/biopsy sampling activities, up to 25 of the following species per stock not to exceed 50 of each species within a year: humpback whales (*Megaptera novaeangliae*), blue whales (*Balaenoptera musculus*), fin whales (*Balaenoptera physalus*), gray whales (*Eschrichtius robustus*), southern right whales (*Eubalaena australis*), bowhead whales (*Balaena mysticetus*), and sperm whales (*Physeter macrocephalus*) in U.S. and foreign waters of the North Atlantic (including Gulf of Mexico), North Pacific (including Hawaii), Arctic and Indian Oceans, Beaufort, Bering and Chukchi Seas, and international waters of the Mediterranean Sea annually for five years. Up to 200 of each species may be incidentally harassed annually. Some whales will be tagged twice. After tagging, whales will be approached for photo-identification, behavioral observation and assessment of possible tag effects. North Pacific right whales and North Atlantic right whales are not authorized in this permit. The permit also authorizes opportunistic tagging of up to 100 killer whales (*Orcinus orca*) over a five-year period not to exceed 20 in a single year. Southern resident killer whales are not authorized in this permit. Additionally, the permit allows non-invasive Level B harassment (photo-identification and behavioral observation) of other non-target non-listed marine mammal species encountered during tagging activities, and import/export of biopsy specimens