

in the Plan. The TMDL Technical Assessment Report is included as an appendix to the Plan.

The Services formally initiated an environmental review of the project through a Notice of Intent to prepare a Statement in the Federal Register on February 9, 1999 (64 FR 6325). This notice also announced a 30-day public scoping period, during which other agencies, tribes, and the public were invited to provide comments and suggestions regarding issues and alternatives to be included in the Statement. A draft Statement was subsequently produced and made available for a 62-day public review period on October 22, 1999 (64 FR 57630). Comments received on the draft Statement and responses to those comments are included in the final Statement.

The final Statement fully analyzes a No Action alternative, the Proposed Action, a Forests and Fish Report Alternative, and a Modified Northwest Forest Plan Alternative. Under the No Action Alternative, incidental take permits would not be issued and Simpson would continue a forest management program which avoids take of federally listed species. Under the Forests and Fish Report Alternative incidental take permits would not be issued and Simpson would conduct forest management according to the proposed revisions to the Washington State Forest Practices Act, and avoid take of federally listed species. Under the Proposed Action, the Services would issue Incidental Take Permits and Simpson would implement their proposed Plan on 261,575 acres of Simpson's Washington timberlands. Under a Modified Northwest Forest Plan Alternative, the Services would issue Incidental Take Permits, and Simpson would implement a Plan with riparian conservation measures providing protective buffers approximately mid-way between the buffers provided by the Northwest Forest Plan and the Proposed Action. Current Washington Forest Practices would be applied where Northwest Forest Plan guidelines are not available.

Dated: June 27, 2000.

Don Weathers,

Acting Regional Director, Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 1, Portland, Oregon.

Dated: July 14, 2000.

Wanda L. Cain,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 071300A]

Marine Mammals; File No. 526-1523

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

ACTION: Issuance of permit.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Allied Whale, College of the Atlantic, 105 Eden Street, Bar Harbor, ME 04609-1198 (Principal Investigator: Sean K. Todd, Ph.D) has been issued a permit to take humpback (*Megaptera novaeangliae*), finback (*Balaenoptera physalus*) and minke (*B. acutorostrata*) whales for purposes of scientific research.

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

Permits and Documentation Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (301/713-2289);

Northeast Region, NMFS, One Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930 (978/281-9138).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Simona Roberts or Ruth Johnson, 301/713-2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On April 13, 2000, notice was published in the **Federal Register** (62 FR 19877) that a request for a scientific research permit to take humpback (*Megaptera novaeangliae*), finback (*Balaenoptera physalus*) and minke (*B. acutorostrata*) whales had been submitted by the above-named organization. The requested permit has 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).

Issuance of this permit, 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: July 14, 2000.

Ann D. Terbush,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D.062700B]

Marine Mammals; Permit No. 455-1445

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

ACTION: Denial of permit amendment.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that a request for a scientific research permit amendment [No. 455-1445] submitted by Waikiki Aquarium has been denied.

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

Permits and Documentation Division, F/PR1, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (301/713-2289);

Southwest Region, NMFS, 501 West Ocean Blvd., Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802-4213 (562/980-4001); and

Pacific Islands Area Office, Southwest Region, NMFS, 1601 KAPIOLANI BLVD, RM 1110, HONOLULU, HI 96814-4700 (808)973-2935 x210).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ruth Johnson or Simona Roberts, 301/713-2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On March 14, 2000, notice was published in the **Federal Register** (65 FR 13723) that an application to amend Permit 455-1445 had been filed by the above named organization. The requested permit has been denied subject to the provisions of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 (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 222-226).

Scientific research and enhancement permit No. 455-1445 was issued on May 26, 1998. The Permit authorizes Waikiki to maintain and care for three male Hawaiian monk seals (*Monachus*