

response to material submitted during the foregoing period may be submitted during the subsequent 15-day period (to September 9, 2003).

A copy of the application and accompanying exhibits will be available for public inspection at the Office of the Foreign-Trade Zones Board's Executive Secretary at the first address listed above, and at the U.S. Department of Commerce Export Assistance Center, 211 W. Fort St., Suite 2220, Detroit, MI 48226.

Dated: June 18, 2003.

Dennis Puccinelli,

Executive Secretary.

[FR Doc. 03-16220 Filed 6-25-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Foreign-Trade Zones Board

[Docket 31-2003]

Foreign-Trade Zone 93—Research Triangle Park, NC, Area Application for Expansion

An application has been submitted to the Foreign-Trade Zones (FTZ) Board (the Board) by the Triangle J Council of Governments, grantee of Foreign-Trade Zone 93, requesting authority to expand FTZ 93, in the Research Triangle Park, North Carolina, area, within the Raleigh-Durham Customs port of entry. The application was submitted pursuant to the provisions of the Foreign-Trade Zones Act, as amended (19 U.S.C. 81a-81u), and the regulations of the Board (15 CFR part 400). It was formally filed on June 18, 2003.

FTZ 93 was approved on November 4, 1983 (Board Order 233, 48 FR 52108, 11/16/83). The zone project currently consists of the following sites: *Site 1* (121 acres)—within the Imperial Center Industrial Park, adjoining the Research Triangle Park in Durham County; *Site 1A* (temporary; 85 acres)—World Trade Park, adjacent to Raleigh-Durham International Airport; *Site 2* (6 acres)—5604 Departure Drive, Raleigh; and, *Site 3* (110 acres)—Woodland Industrial Park, Highway 56 and I-85, Granville County.

The applicant is now requesting authority to expand the general-purpose zone to replace existing Site 3 with a new site and to make temporary Site 1A permanent. *Proposed New Site 3* (240 acres) would be located at the Holly Springs Business Park (owned by G&G Properties), at the intersection of West Balletine Street and Irving Parkway, Holly Springs. It is also being requested at this time that temporary Site 1A

(expires 10/1/03), which has been fully activated, be made permanent. No specific manufacturing authority is being requested at this time. Such requests would be made to the Board on a case-by-case basis.

In accordance with the Board's regulations, a member of the FTZ Staff has been designated examiner to investigate the application and report to the Board.

Public comment on the application is invited from interested parties. Submissions (original and 3 copies) shall be addressed to the Board's Executive Secretary at one of the addresses below:

1. Submissions via Express/Package Delivery Services: Foreign-Trade Zones Board, U.S. Department of Commerce, Franklin Court Building—Suite 4100W, 1099 14th Street NW., Washington, DC 20005; or

2. Submissions via the U.S. Postal Service: Foreign-Trade Zones Board, U.S. Department of Commerce, FCB—Suite 4100W, 1401 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20230.

The closing period for their receipt is August 25, 2003. Rebuttal comments in response to material submitted during the foregoing period may be submitted during the subsequent 15-day period (to September 9, 2003).

A copy of the application and accompanying exhibits will be available for public inspection at the Office of the Foreign-Trade Zones Board's Executive Secretary at the first address listed above, and at the Office of the Economic Development Department, Town of Holly Springs, 128 South Main Street, Holly Springs, North Carolina 27540.

Dated: June 19, 2003.

Dennis Puccinelli,

Executive Secretary.

[FR Doc. 03-16222 Filed 6-25-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 061303A]

Incidental Take of Marine Mammals; Bottlenose Dolphins and Spotted Dolphins

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

ACTION: Notice of issuance of letters of authorization.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Marine Mammal Protection Act

(MMPA) and implementing regulations, notification is hereby given that 4 letters of authorization (LOAs) to take bottlenose and spotted dolphins incidental to oil and gas structure removal activities were issued.

ADDRESSES: The applications and letters are available for review in the following offices: Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910, and the Southeast Region, NMFS, 9721 Executive Center Drive N, St. Petersburg, FL 33702.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kimberly Skrupky, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, (301) 713-2055, ext. 163.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 101(a)(5)(A) of the MMPA (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) directs NMFS to allow, on request, the incidental, but not intentional, taking of small numbers of marine mammals by U.S. citizens who engage in a specified activity (other than commercial fishing) within a specified geographical region, if certain findings are made and regulations are issued. Under the MMPA, the term "taking" means to harass, hunt, capture, or kill or to attempt to harass, hunt, capture or kill marine mammals.

Permission may be granted if NMFS finds, after notification and opportunity for public comment, that the taking will have a negligible impact on the species or stock(s) of marine mammals and will not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of the species or stock(s) for subsistence uses. In addition, NMFS must prescribe regulations that include permissible methods of taking and other means effecting the least practicable adverse impact on the species and its habitat, and on the availability of the species for subsistence uses, paying particular attention to rookeries, mating grounds, and areas of similar significance. The regulations must include requirements pertaining to the monitoring and reporting of such taking. Regulations governing the taking of bottlenose and spotted dolphins incidental to oil and gas structure removal activities in the Gulf of Mexico were published on August 1, 2002 (67 FR 49869), and remain in effect until February 2, 2004. Issuance of these letters of authorization are based on a finding that

the total takings will have a negligible impact on the bottlenose and spotted dolphin stocks of the Gulf of Mexico.

Letters of Authorization were issued to:

(1) Comstock Offshore, LLC, Chase Tower, 600 Travis, Suite 6375, Houston, TX 77002, on May 08, 2003;

(2) Spinnaker Exploration Company, LLC., 1200 Smith Street, Suite 800, Houston, TX 77002, on May 22, 2003;
 (3) J.M. Huber Corporation, 11451 Katy Freeway, Suite 400, Houston, TX 77079 on May 22, 2003;

(4) Torch Energy Services, Inc., 1221 Lamar, Suite 1600, Houston, TX 77010-3039, on June 13, 2003.

Dated: June 20, 2003.

Laurie K. Allen,

Acting Office Director, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 03-16218 Filed 6-25-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 061703B]

Marine Mammals; Photography Permit Application No. 997-1704

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

ACTION: Receipt of application.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Bob McLaughlin, P.O. Box 496, 339 Glenwood, Eastsound, Washington 98245, has applied in due form for a permit to take several species of non-listed marine mammals for purposes of commercial/educational photography.

DATES: Written or telefaxed comments must be received on or before July 28, 2003.

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; and Northwest Region, NMFS, 7600 Sand Point Way NE, BIN C15700, Bldg. 1, Seattle, WA 98115-0700; phone (206)526-6150; fax (206)526-6426; and,

Alaska Region, NMFS, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802-1668; phone (907)586-7221; fax (907)586-7249.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jennifer Jefferies or Ruth Johnson, (301)713-2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The subject permit is requested under the authority of section 104(c)(6) 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). Section 104(c)(6) provides for photography for educational or commercial purposes involving non-endangered and non-threatened marine mammals in the wild. NMFS is currently working on proposed regulations to implement this provision. However, in the meantime, NMFS has received and is processing this request as a "pilot" application for Level B Harassment of non-listed and non-depleted marine mammals for photographic purposes.

The purpose of the proposed project is to film several species of non-listed marine mammals for an ongoing project that is tentatively titled "Death of an Ecosystem?". While this project has been ongoing for several years, Mr. McLaughlin desires to film from a closer vantage point, i.e. within 100 yards of an individual animal. The closeness of filming would be considered Level B harassment and therefore would require a permit under the MMPA. The photographers intend to attempt to document marine mammal movement and aggregation under varying conditions including the presence of boat traffic. This will be done using a fusion of passive acoustic recording equipment with different filming equipment, including still and video, as well as different filming platforms, including elevated filming platforms. The action area would include waters off the coasts of California, Oregon, Washington and Alaska. The resulting film footage will be dispensed in part for print and broadcast media, to researchers as well as for educational purposes. The Permit would expire 2 years after the date of issuance.

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 to (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: June 23, 2003.

Stephen L. Leathery,

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

[FR Doc. 03-16219 Filed 6-25-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 032503B]

Endangered Species; File No.1429

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

ACTION: Issuance of permit.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Southeast Fisheries Science Center (SEFSC), National Marine Fisheries Service, 75 Virginia Beach Drive, Miami, FL 33149, has been issued a permit to take loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*), leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*), green (*Chelonia mydas*), Kemp's ridley (*Lepidochelys kempii*), hawksbill (*Eretmochelys imbricata*), and olive ridley (*Lepidochelys olivacea*) sea turtles for purposes of scientific research.

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

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;

Southeast Region, NMFS, 9721 Executive Center Drive North, St. Petersburg, FL 33702-2432; phone (727)570-5301; fax (727)570-5320; and Northeast Region, NMFS, One Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930-2298; phone (978)281-9328; fax (978)281-9371.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Patrick Opay (301) 713-1401, or Carrie Hubard (301) 713-2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On April 1, 2003, notice was published in the **Federal Register** (68 FR 15707) that a request for a scientific research permit