

from the application will not be accepted. Applications without three, signed letters of recommendation or with more than three letters of recommendation will result in the application being disqualified.

VI. Declaration

Applicants must certify that all statements and information in their applications are true and correct by copying the following on a plain sheet of paper, signing it, and including it in their application:

I, the undersigned, declare, under penalty of perjury, that all statements and information in my application are true and correct.

Executed on [insert date].

Print or Type Name

Signature

Failure to include this statement, signed by the applicant, will result in the application being disqualified.

Funding Priorities: The priority of the program is to fund independent graduate-level studies in oceanography, marine biology, or maritime archaeology with scholarships distributed by disciplines, institutions and geography, and by the degree type and level being sought, with selections within distributions based on financial need, the potential for success in a graduate studies program, and the potential for achieving research and career goals.

Evaluation Criteria: The evaluation criteria and their weights are as follows: (a) Financial need (40%); (b) academic record (20%); (c) recommendations (18%); (d) organizational, analytical, and written communication skills based on statement of intent (15%); and (e) research and career goals and objectives as described in your statement of intent (7%).

Selection Procedures: An advisory panel of NOAA experts will review applications based on the evaluation criteria and provide a numerical score for each. The Program Manager will rank the applications based on these scores. Applications falling within the top 10 percent will be reviewed by a second panel of federal experts from which scholarship recipients will be chosen. The second panel will consider the following criteria: Availability of funds, distribution of awards across disciplines, institutions and geography, the degree type and level being sought, and the statement of intent. Therefore, scholarship awards will not necessarily be made to the applicants receiving the highest scores. The panel will arrive at a consensus decision for selection of scholarship recipients.

Announcement of Awards: The names, academic institutions, degrees being sought, research plans, and biographical information of the scholarship awardees will be posted on NOAA's National Ocean Service Web site and may be published in marketing materials developed to advertise the Dr. Nancy Foster Scholarship Program.

Unsuccessful Applicants: The applications of unsuccessful applicants will be destroyed following the selection of the recipients.

Other Requirements: The Department of Commerce Pre-Award Notification Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements contained in the **Federal Register** notice of October 1, 2001 (66 FR 49917) as amended by the **Federal Register** Notice published on October 30, 2002 (67 FR 66109) is applicable to this solicitation.

Classification: This document contains collection-of-information requirements subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA). This application has been approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under control number 0648-0432. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is 4.5 hours for an application and 45 minutes per letter of recommendation. These estimates include the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with, a collection-of-information subject to the PRA, unless that collection displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Applications under this program are not subject to Executive Order 12372, Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs.

This action has been determined to be not significant for purposes of Executive Order 12866.

Because notice and comment are not required under 5 U.S.C. 553, or any other law, for notices relating to public property, loans, grants, benefits or contracts, a Regulatory Flexibility Analysis, 5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.* is not required and has not been prepared for this notice.

Dated: January 16, 2003.

Alan Neuschatz,

Associate Assistant Administrator for Management, National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 120302E]

Marine Mammals; File No. 848-1695

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

ACTION: Receipt of application.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Marine Mammal Research Program, Southwest Fisheries Science Center, Honolulu Laboratory, 2570 Dole Street, Honolulu, HI 96822 (Principal Investigator, Dr. Bud Antonelis), has applied in due form for a permit to take Hawaiian monk seals (*Monachus schauinslandi*) for purposes of scientific research and enhancement.

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

Assistant Administrator for Protected Resources, Southwest Region, NMFS, 501 West Ocean Blvd., Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802-4213; phone (562)980-4020; fax (562)980-4027; and

Protected Species Program Coordinator, Pacific Islands Area Office, NMFS, 1601 Kapiolani Blvd., Rm. 1110, Honolulu, HI 96814-4700; phone (808)973-2935; fax (808)973-2941.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Amy Sloan 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.*), 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).

The applicant proposes to take Hawaiian monk seals over a five year period for purposes of (1) population assessment (monitoring, tagging and retagging, bleach marking, genetics analyses) to determine survivorship,

reproductive rates, pup production, incidence and causes of injury or mortality, and abundance; 2) disease and health assessment (health screening and treatment of ill animals, necropsies, analyses of parasites, dietary analyses) to gain information on pathogens and other factors that affect individual animals; and 3) recovery actions (relocations and translocations, adult male removals, and disentanglements) to enhance the survival of the population.

Annual takes are summarized as follows: Up to 1500 seals may be disturbed up to three times during ground monitoring on the Hawaiian Archipelago and Johnston Atoll. Up to 50 seals may be disturbed up to 10 times during aerial surveys in the Main Hawaiian Islands and adjacent islets, Kaula Rock, Necker Island, and Nihoa Island. Up to 416 seals (excluding lactating females and nursing pups) may be restrained, flipper and PIT tagged with flipper tissue plugs retained for genetics analyses, swab samples, and morphometrics taken; and up to 100 may be restrained, retagged, with flipper tissue plugs retained, swab samples and morphometrics taken. Up to 1500 seals may be bleached marked up to two times. Tagging and bleaching marking may occur on the Hawaiian Archipelago and Johnston Atoll.

Up to 20 healthy seals (excluding lactating females and nursing pups) may be restrained, sedated, sampled (morphometrics, blood, blubber biopsy, and swabs), and instrumented with satellite and VHF transmitters (restraint and sampling may occur up to two times if animals subsequently show signs of illness) on the Main Hawaiian Islands. Up to 30 unhealthy seals (excluding lactating females and nursing pups) may be restrained, sedated, medically treated on site, and sampled as above (sedation, extent of sampling, and treatment will be at discretion of consulting veterinarian) up to two times in the Hawaiian Archipelago. Humane euthanasia may be performed on up to five severely debilitated or moribund seals at the discretion of the attending veterinarian.

Up to five nursing pups who have suckled less than half their nursing period and have lost contact with their mother may be restrained, swab samples taken, and relocated to a foster mother. Up to 25 weaned pups located in an area determined to be of high risk of mortality or areas of high human activity, may be restrained, swab samples taken, and relocated to a safer area. Up to 20 weaned pup and/or juvenile seals in an area of poor juvenile survival may be captured, restrained,

sedated, sampled (morphometrics, blood, blubber biopsy, and swabs), temporarily held, medically treated, translocated to an island or atoll with higher juvenile survival, and released. All pup and juvenile relocations may occur on the Hawaiian Archipelago. Up to 10 adult male seals on the Hawaiian Archipelago that are known to have caused mortality to nursing pups, weaned pups, or immature seals may be captured, restrained, sedated, sampled (blood, biopsy, swabs), and relocated to the Main Hawaiian Islands or Johnston Atoll, placed in permanent captivity, or humanely euthanized. Up to 15 seals of any age or sex may be captured, disentangled, and released on the Hawaiian Archipelago or Johnston Atoll, in cooperation with the Marine Mammal Health and Stranding Response Program.

An unlimited number of seal carcasses may be necropsied and tissues analyzed in cooperation with the Marine Mammal Health and Stranding Response Program, an unlimited number of parts (molted fur/skin, placentae) salvaged, and an unlimited number of scat and spew samples may be collected at haul out sites along the Hawaiian Archipelago. An unlimited number of specimens (hard and soft parts including but not limited to blood serum, blubber biopsy, and placentae) may be exported to countries (including but not limited to Canada, the Netherlands, Scotland, and Australia) for scientific analyses related to health assessment of monk seals; samples not used in analyses may be re-imported. An unlimited number of specimens (hard and soft parts) from Mediterranean monk seals (*Monachus monachus*) may be imported to the U.S. and re-exported to the country of origin for opportunistic research related to the conservation of monk seals. Up to 200 monk seals may be incidentally disturbed up to two times during the research and enhancement activities. Up to 140 adult green sea turtles (*Chelonia mydas*) may be incidentally disturbed during research and enhancement activities. Up to five accidental mortalities of monk seals that are captured and sedated are requested over the five year period.

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: January 15, 2003.

Eugene T. Nitta,

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

[FR Doc. 03-1378 Filed 1-21-03; 8:45 am]

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COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS

Denial of Participation in the Special Access Program

January 16, 2003.

AGENCY: Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements (CITA).

ACTION: Issuing a directive to the Commissioner of Customs suspending participation in the Special Access Program.

EFFECTIVE DATE: September 1, 2002.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Richard Stetson, International Trade Specialist, Office of Textiles and Apparel, U.S. Department of Commerce, (202) 482-3400.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Authority: Section 204 of the Agricultural Act of 1956, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1854); Executive Order 11651 of March 3, 1972, as amended.

The Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements (CITA) has determined that Thompson and Thompson, LLP (now operating as Progressive Services, Inc.) has violated the requirements for participation in the Special Access Program and has suspended Progressive Services, Inc. from participation in the Program for