

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Ms. Carole Conway, Genomic Variation Laboratory, Department of Animal Science, Meyer Hall, University of California, Davis, CA 95616-3322, has been issued a permit to import blue whale (*Balaenoptera musculus*) skin samples 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); and

Regional Administrator, Southwest Region, National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA, 501 West Ocean Blvd., Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802-4213 (562/980-4001).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sara Shapiro or Ruth Johnson, 301/713-2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On May 13, 1998, notice was published in the **Federal Register** (63 FR 26574) that a request for a scientific research permit to take blue whales (*Balaenoptera musculus*) had been submitted by the above-named individual. 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 fish and wildlife (50 CFR parts 217-227).

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 10, 1998.

Ann D. Terbush,

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

[FR Doc. 98-19009 Filed 7-15-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 061698E]

Marine Mammals

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

ACTION: Issuance of permit.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Mr. Fred Sharpe, Behavioral Ecology Research Group, Department of Biological Sciences, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, B.C., Canada V5A 1S6, has been issued a permit to take North Pacific humpback whales (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) and killer whales (*Orcinus orca*) for purposes of scientific research.

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

Permits Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13130, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (301/713-2289); and

Regional Administrator, Director, Alaska Region, NMFS, 709 W. 9th Street, Federal Building, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, Alaska 99802 (907/586-7012).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jeannie Drevenak, 301/713-2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On May 11, 1998, notice was published in the **Federal Register** (63 FR 25834) that a request for a scientific research permit to take North Pacific humpback whales and killer whales had been submitted by the above-named individual. 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 (ESA) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), and the Regulations Governing the Taking, Importing, and Exporting of Endangered Fish and Wildlife (50 CFR part 222).

Issuance of this amendment, 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 7, 1998.

Ann D. Terbush,

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

[FR Doc. 98-19013 Filed 7-15-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 060898B]

Marine Mammals

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

ACTION: Issuance of permit amendment.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Mason Weinrich, Cetacean Research Unit, P.O. Box 59, Gloucester, MA, has been issued an amendment to scientific research Permit No. 959.

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

Permits Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13130, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (301/713-2289); and

Regional Administrator, Northeast Region, NMFS, NOAA, One Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930-2298 (508/281-9250).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jeannie Drevenak, 301/713-2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On May 4, 1998, notice was published in the **Federal Register** (63 FR 24530) that an amendment of permit No. 959, issued June 19, 1995 (60 FR 30844), had been requested by the above-named individual. The requested amendment 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 (ESA) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), and the Regulations Governing the Taking, Importing, and Exporting of Endangered Fish and Wildlife (50 CFR part 222).

Issuance of this amendment, 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 9, 1998.

Ann D. Terbush,

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

[FR Doc. 98-19014 Filed 7-15-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army

Inland Waterways Users Board

AGENCY: Department of the Army, DoD.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Section 302 of Public Law (PL) 99-662 established the Inland Waterways Users Board. The Board is an independent Federal advisory committee. Its 11 members are appointed by the Secretary of the Army. This notice is to solicit nominations for six (6) appointments or reappointments to two-year terms that will begin January 1, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), Department of the Army, Washington, DC 20310-0103. Attention: Inland Waterways Users Board Nominations Committee.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Joseph W. Westphal, Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works) (703) 697-8986.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The selection, service, and appointment of Board members are covered by provisions of Section 302 of PL 99-662. The substance of those provisions is as follows:

a. Selection

Members are to be selected from the spectrum of commercial carriers and shippers using the inland and intracoastal waterways, to represent geographical regions, and to be representative of waterborne commerce as determined by commodity ton-miles statistics.

b. Service

The Board is required to meet at least semi-annually to develop and make recommendations to the Secretary of the Army on waterways construction and rehabilitation priorities and spending levels for commercial navigation improvements, and report its recommendations annually to the Secretary and Congress.

c. Appointment

The operation of the Board and appointment of its members are subject

to the Federal Advisory Committee Act (PL 92-463, as amended) and departmental implementing regulations. Members serve without compensation but their expenses due to Board activities are reimbursable. The considerations specified in section 302 for the selection of the Board members, and certain terms used therein, have been interpreted, supplemented, or otherwise clarified as follows:

(1) Carriers and Shippers

The law uses the terms "primary users and shippers." Primary users has been interpreted to mean the providers of transportation services on inland waterways such as barge or towboat operators. Shippers has been interpreted to mean the purchasers of such services for the movement of commodities they own or control. Individuals are appointed to the Board, but they must be either a carrier or shipper, or represent a firm that is a carrier or shipper. For that purpose a trade or regional association is neither a shipper or primary user.

(2) Geographical Representation

The law specifies "various" regions. For the purpose of selecting Board members, the waterways subjected to fuel taxes and described in PL 95-502, as amended, have been aggregated into six regions. They are (1) the Upper Mississippi River and its tributaries above the mouth of the Ohio; (2) the Lower Mississippi River and its tributaries below the mouth of the Ohio and above Baton Rouge; (3) the Ohio River and its tributaries; (4) the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway in Louisiana and Texas; (5) the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway east of New Orleans and associated fuel-taxed waterways including the Tennessee-Tombigbee, plus the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway below Norfolk; and (6) the Columbia-Snake Rivers System and Upper Willamette. The intent is that each region shall be represented by at least one Board member, with that representation determined by the regional concentration of the individual's traffic on the waterways.

(3) Commodity Representation

Waterway commerce has been aggregated into six commodity categories based on "inland" ton-miles shown in Waterborne Commerce of the United States. In rank order they are (1) Farm and Food Products; (2) Coal and Coke; (3) Petroleum, Crude and Products; (4) Minerals, Ores, and Primary Metals and Mineral Products; (5) Chemicals and Allied Products; and (6) All other. A consideration in the

selection of Board members will be that the commodities carried or shipped by those individuals or their firms will be reasonably representative of the above commodity categories.

d. Nomination

Reflecting preceding selection criteria, the current representation by the six (6) Board members whose terms expire December 31, 1998, is one member representing each of the six regions previously described. Also, these Board members represent three shipper/carriers, one shipper and two carriers.

Three (3) of the six members whose terms expire December 31, 1998, are eligible for reappointment.

Nominations to replace Board members whose terms expire December 31, 1998, may be made by individuals, firms or associations. Nominations will:

- (1) State the region to be represented;
- (2) State whether the nominee is representing carriers, shippers or both.
- (3) Provide information on the nominee's personal qualifications;
- (4) Include the commercial operations of the carrier and/or shipper with whom the nominee is affiliated. This commercial operations information will show the actual or estimated ton-miles of each commodity carried or shipped on the inland waterways system in a recent year (or years) using the waterway regions and commodity categories previously listed.

Nominations received in response to last year's **Federal Register** notice, published on July 9, 1997, have been retained for consideration. Renomination is not required but may be desirable.

e. Deadline for Nominations

All nominations must be received at the address shown above no later than August 31, 1998.

Gregory D. Showalter,

Army Federal Register, Liaison Officer.

[FR Doc. 98-19024 Filed 7-15-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers

Intent To Prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIS/R) for the Napa River, California, Salt Marsh Restoration Feasibility Study

AGENCY: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, DoD.

ACTION: Notice of intent.