

consolidated into the future Greenville/Spartanburg and Columbia, South Carolina and Raleigh/Durham, North Carolina Weather Forecast Offices (WFOs);

(2) Fort Wayne, Indiana WSO which will be automated at FAA Weather Observation Service Level B and have its services consolidated into the future Northern Indiana WFO; and

(3) South Bend, Indiana WSO which will be automated at FAA Weather Observation Service Level B and have its services consolidated into the future Northern Indiana WFO.

In accordance with Pub. L. 102-567, the public will have 60-days in which to comment on these proposed consolidation, automation, and closure certifications.

DATES: Comments are requested by September 15, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Requests for copies of the proposed consolidation, automation and closure package should be sent to Tom Beaver, Room 11426, 1325 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910, telephone 301-713-0300. All comments should be sent to Tom Beaver at the above address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tom Beaver at 301-713-0300.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In accordance with section 706 of Pub. L. 102-567, the Secretary of Commerce must certify that these consolidations, automations, and closures will not result in any degradation of service to the affected areas of responsibility and must publish the proposed consolidation, automation, and closure certifications in the **Federal Register**. The documentation supporting these proposed certifications includes the following:

(1) A draft memorandum by the meteorologists-in-charge recommending the certification, the final of which will be endorsed by the Regional Director and the Assistant Administrator of the NWS if appropriate, after consideration of public comments and completion of consultation with the Modernization Transition Committee (the Committee);

(2) A description of local weather characteristics and weather-related concerns which affect the weather services provided within the service area;

(3) A comparison of the services provided within the service area and the services to be provided after such action;

(4) A description of any recent or expected modernization of NWS operation which will enhance services in the service area;

(5) An identification of any area within the affected service area which would not receive coverage (at an elevation of 10,000 feet) by the next generation weather radar network;

(6) Evidence, based upon operational demonstration of modernized NWS operations, which was considered in reaching the conclusion that no degradation in service will result from such action including the WSR-88D Radar Commissioning Reports, User Confirmation of Services Reports, and the Decommissioning Readiness Report (as applicable);

(7) Evidence, based upon operational demonstration of modernized NWS operations, which was considered in reaching the conclusion that no degradation in service will result from such action including the ASOS Commissioning Report; series of three letters between NWS and FAA confirming that weather services will continue in full compliance with applicable flight aviation rules after ASOS commissioning; Surface Aviation Observation Transition Checklist documenting transfer of augmentation and backup responsibility from NWS to FAA; successful resolution of ASOS user confirmation of services complaints; and an in-place supplementary data program at the responsible WFOs;

(8) Warning and forecast verification statistics for pre-modernized and modernized services which were utilized in determining that services have not been degraded;

(9) An Air Safety Appraisal for offices which are located on an airport; and

(10) A letter appointing the liaison officer.

These proposed certifications do not include any report of the Committee which could be submitted in accordance with sections 706(b)(6) and 707(c) of Pub. L. 102-567. In December 1995 the Committee decided that, in general, they would forego the optional consultation on proposed certifications. Instead, the Committee would just review certifications after the public comment period had closed so their consultation would be with the benefit of public comments that had been submitted.

This notice does not include the complete certification package because it is too voluminous to publish. Copies of the certification package and supporting documentation can be obtained through the contact listed above.

Once all public comments have been received and considered, the NWS will complete consultation with the Committee and determine whether to proceed with the final certification. At

the June 25, 1997 MTC meeting the Committee stated that its endorsement of certifications is "subject to the following qualifications:

"(1) The number of trained staff in each modernized field office meets staffing requirements as established by the modernization criteria and documented in the National Implementation Plan and the Human Resources Plan (WBS 1100). Delays in training or failure to fill required positions will increase the risk of degradation of service;

"(2) The availability of operational systems in each modernized field office meets requirements as established by the modernization criteria and documented in the System Commissioning and Support Function Demonstration Plans; and

"(3) The operational and administrative infrastructures and technical development needed to support the modernized field offices be maintained as required by the modernization plan." These qualifications have been met for the above proposed certifications. If a decision to certify is made, the Secretary of Commerce must publish final certifications in the FR and transmit the certifications to the appropriate Congressional committees prior to consolidating, automating, and closing this office.

John J. Kelly, Jr.,

Assistant Administrator for Weather Services.

[FR Doc. 98-19042 Filed 7-16-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-12-M

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 070798A]

Marine Mammals; File No. 481-1464 and 782-1355

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

ACTION: Receipt of applications for permit and amendment

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Dr. W. John Richardson, LGL Ltd. Environmental Research Associates, 22 Fisher St., P.O.B. 280, King City, Ontario L7B 1A6, Canada has applied in due form for a permit to take bowhead whales (*Balaena mysticetus*), ringed seals (*Phoca hispida*), bearded seals (*Erignathus barbatus*) and beluga whales (*Delphinapterus leucas*) for purposes of scientific research; and Dr.

Douglas P. DeMaster, Director, National Marine Mammal Laboratory, National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA, 7600 Sand Point Way, NE, BIN C15700, Bldg. 1, Seattle, WA 98115-0070, has requested an amendment to scientific research Permit No. 782-1355.

DATES: Written or telefaxed comments must be received on or before August 17, 1998.

ADDRESSES: The application (File No. 481-1464), amendment request (Permit No. 782-1355), 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 13130, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (301/713-2289);

Regional Administrator, National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA, Alaska Region, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802-1668 (907/586-7221).

Written comments or requests for a public hearing on this request should be submitted to the Chief, Permits and Documentation Division, F/PR1, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13130, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Those individuals requesting a hearing should set forth the specific reasons why a hearing on this particular amendment 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 other electronic media.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The subject permit application and amendment to Permit No. 782-1355, issued on July 15, 1997 (62 FR 39826) are requested 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 222.23).

Dr. Richardson (File No. 481-1464) requests authorization to study the feeding ecology of bowhead whales in the eastern Alaskan Beaufort Sea through aerial surveys and sampling of prey species.

Permit No. 782-1355 authorizes the permit holder to take Pacific Harbor seals (*Phoca vitulina*) in the following manner: Harass during census flights; capture, restrain, measure (weight length, girth), sample (flipper punch, vibrissa, blood, blubber/muscle biopsy, ultra sound, enema), radio tag, flipper tag, and release 500 animals; and incidentally harass up to 2000 during the conduct of these activities, and during collection of scat samples from haulouts. The permit holder requests authorization to: increase the number of seals instrumented with time-depth recorders, biopsy sampled, and harassed.

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 activities proposed are categorically excluded from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement.

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: July 7, 1998.

Ann D. Terbush,

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

[FR Doc. 98-19122 Filed 7-16-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION

Sunshine Act Meeting

AGENCY: U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, Washington, DC 20207.

TIME AND DATE: Wednesday, July 22, 1998, 10:00 a.m.

LOCATION: Room 420, East West Towers, 4330 East West Highway, Bethesda, Maryland.

STATUS: Open to the Public.

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:

FY 2000 Budget Request

The Commission will consider issues related to the Commission's budget for fiscal year 2000.

For a recorded message containing the latest agenda information, call (301) 504-0709.

CONTACT PERSON FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Sadye E. Dunn, Office of the Secretary, 4330 East West Highway, Bethesda, MD 20207 (301) 504-8000.

Dated: July 13, 1998.

Sadye E. Dunn,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 98-19267 Filed 7-15-98; 2:48 pm]

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CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION

Sunshine Act Meeting

AGENCY: U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, Washington, DC 20207.

TIME AND DATE: Monday, July 27, 1998, 2:00 p.m.

LOCATION: Room 410, East West Towers, 4330 East West Highway, Bethesda, Maryland.

STATUS: Closed to the Public.

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:

Compliance Status Report

The staff will brief the Commission on the status of various compliance matters.

For a recorded message containing the latest agenda information, call (301) 504-0709.

CONTACT PERSON FOR ADDITIONAL

INFORMATION: Sadye E. Dunn, Office of the Secretary, 4330 East West Highway, Bethesda, MD 20207, (301) 504-0800.

Dated: July 14, 1998.

Sadye E. Dunn,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 98-19268 Filed 7-15-98; 2:48 pm]

BILLING CODE 6355-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

TRICARE Senior Demonstration of Military Managed Care

AGENCY: Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs).

ACTION: Notice of demonstration project.

SUMMARY: This notice is to advise interested parties of a demonstration project in which the Department of Defense (DoD) will provide health care services to Medicare-eligible military retirees in a managed care program, called TRICARE Senior, and receive reimbursement for such care from the Medicare Trust Fund. The program is authorized by section 1896 of the Social Security Act, amended by section 4015 of the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 (P.L. 105-33). The statute authorizes DoD and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to conduct at six sites during January 1998 through December 2000, a three-year demonstration under which dual-eligible beneficiaries will be