

Schedule for Document Completion and Availability

March 2, 2004: "Review of 2003 Ocean Salmon Fisheries" and "Preseason Report I-Stock Abundance Analysis for 2004 Ocean Salmon Fisheries" will be available to the public from the Council office and posted on the Council website at <http://www.pcouncil.org>.

March 23, 2004: "Preseason Report II-Analysis of Proposed Regulatory Options for 2004 Ocean Salmon Fisheries" and public hearing schedule will be mailed to the public and posted on the Council website at <http://www.pcouncil.org>. The report will include a description of the adopted salmon management options and a summary of their biological and economic impacts.

April 5, 2004: "Draft Environmental Assessment for the Proposed 2004 Management Measures for the Ocean Salmon Fishery Managed under the Pacific Coast Salmon Plan" will be available at the Council meeting at the Red Lion Hotel Sacramento, Sacramento, CA and posted on the Council website at <http://www.pcouncil.org>.

April 21, 2004: Council adopts ocean salmon fishing management measures will be posted on the Council website at <http://www.pcouncil.org>.

May 1, 2004: Federal regulations will be implemented and "Preseason Report III-Analysis of Council Adopted Ocean Salmon Management Measures for 2004 Ocean Salmon Fisheries" will be available from the Council office and posted on the Council web site at <http://www.pcouncil.org>.

Meetings and Hearings

January 20–23, 2004: The Salmon Technical Team (STT) will meet at the Council office in a public work session to draft "Review of 2003 Ocean Salmon Fisheries" and to consider any other estimation or methodology issues pertinent to the 2004 ocean salmon fisheries.

February 17–20, 2004: The STT will meet at the Council office in a public work session to draft "Preseason Report I-Stock Abundance Analysis for 2004 Ocean Salmon Fisheries" and to consider any other estimation or methodology issues pertinent to the 2004 ocean salmon fisheries.

March 8–12, 2004: The Council and advisory entities will meet at the Sheraton Tacoma Hotel, Tacoma, WA to adopt the 2003 salmon management options for public review.

March 29–30, 2004: Public hearings will be held to receive comments on the

proposed ocean salmon fishery management options adopted by the Council. All public hearings begin at 7 p.m. on the dates and at the locations specified here.

March 29, 2004: Chateau Westport, Beach Room, 710 W Hancock, Westport, WA 98595, telephone 360–268–9101.

March 29, 2004: Red Lion Hotel, South Umpqua Room, 1313 N Bayshore Drive, Coos Bay, OR 97420, telephone 541–269–4099.

March 30, 2004: Tradewinds Lodge and Restaurant, Convention Room, 400 South Main Street, Fort Bragg, CA 95437–4806, telephone 707–964–4761.

April 5–9, 2004: Council and advisory entities meet at the Red Lion Hotel Sacramento, 1401 Arden Way Sacramento, CA 95815, telephone: (916) 922–8041, to adopt 2004 management measures for implementation by NMFS.

April 6, 2004: Testimony on the management options is taken during the Council meeting at the Red Lion Hotel Sacramento, Sacramento, CA.

Although non emergency issues not contained in the STT meeting agendas may come before the STT for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal STT action during these meetings. STT action will be restricted to those issues specifically listed in this document and to any issues arising after publication of this document requiring emergency action under section 305(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, provided the public has been notified of the STT's intent to take final action to address the emergency.

Special Accommodations

The meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Ms. Carolyn Porter at 503–820–2280 (voice), or 503–820–2299 (fax) at least five days prior to the meeting date.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: December 30, 2003.

Bruce C. Morehead,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 04–231 Filed 1–5–04; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 122303L]

Marine Mammals; File No. 642–1536

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

ACTION: Receipt of application for amendment.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Joseph R. Mobley, Jr., Ph.D., Professor Psychology, University of Hawaii-West Oahu, 96–129 Ala Ike, Pearl City, Hawaii 96782 (Principal Investigator: Dr. Joe Mobley), has requested an amendment to scientific research Permit No. 642–1536–00.

DATES: Written or telefaxed comments must be received on or before February 5, 2004.

ADDRESSES: The amendment request 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 Protected Species Coordinator, Pacific Islands Region Office, NMFS, 1601 Kapiolani Blvd., Rm, 1110, Honolulu, HI 96814–4700; phone (808)973–2935; fax (808)973–2941.

Written comments or requests for a public hearing on this request should be submitted 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 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: Jill Lewandowski, (301)713–2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The subject amendment to Permit No. 642–1536–00, issued on March 15, 2000 (65 FR 13949) 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 222–226).

Permit No. 642–1536–00 authorizes the permit holder to conduct aerial and vessel-based research, including surface and underwater photography/videography for fluke identification and sex verification, on North Pacific humpback whales (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) and several other species of cetaceans in Hawaii waters. The permit holder now requests authorization to add biopsy sampling and suction cup/implantable bioacoustic tagging of various marine mammal species resident to Hawaii, including humpback whales, fin whales (*Balaenoptera physalus*), sei whales (*Balaenoptera borealis*), Bryde's whales (*Balaenoptera edeni*), killer whales (*Orcinus orca*), short-finned pilot whales (*Globicephala macrorhynchus*), melon-headed whales (*Peponocephala electra*), false killer whales (*Pseudorca crassidens*), spinner dolphins (*Stenella longirostris*), spotted dolphins (*Stenella attenuata*), striped dolphins (*Stenella coeruleoalba*), Risso's dolphins (*Grampus griseus*), rough-toothed dolphins (*Steno bredanensis*), bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*), sperm whales (*Physeter macrocephalus*), pygmy sperm whales (*Kogia breviceps*), dwarf sperm whales (*Kogia simus*), Baird's beaked whale (*Berardius bairdii*), Cuvier's beaked whales (*Ziphius cavirostris*), and Blainville's beaked whales (*Mesoplodon densirostris*). Specifically, the permit holder is requesting 40 tagging takes and 80 biopsy takes for humpback whales, 5 tagging takes and 10 biopsy takes for fin, sei, Bryde's, and killer whales, and 20 tagging takes and 40 biopsy takes for all other requested species. Biopsy sampling is requested to further study the population structure of the above species. Bioacoustic tagging is requested to record and quantify the various acoustic stimuli in the animals' environment, with a primary objective of tagging singing humpback whale males to further understand song structure and duration. The proposed research is requested for the duration of the current permit which expires on May 31, 2005. All research will take place in Hawaiian waters.

NOAA environmental review procedures provide that scientific research permits are generally categorically excluded from the National Environmental Policy Act of

1969 (NEPA; 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*) requirements to prepare an environmental assessment (EA) or environmental impact statement. However, given that portions of the research are directed at species listed as threatened or endangered under the ESA, NMFS is currently preparing an EA to determine if the proposed activities are likely to result in any significant impacts to social, economic, biological or physical environment resources.

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: December 30, 2003.

Tammy C. Adams,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 122303K]

Marine Mammals; Photography Permit File No. 1061–1738

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

ACTION: Receipt of application.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Joanne Lunt, Wag TV, 2d Leroy House, 436 Essex Road, London N1 3QP, England [Principal Investigator: Joanne Lunt] has applied in due form for a permit to take Northern elephant seals (*Mirounga angustirostris*) for purposes of commercial/educational photography.

DATES: Written or telefaxed comments must be received on or before February 5, 2004.

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

Southwest Region, NMFS, 501 West Ocean Blvd., Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802–4213; phone (562)980–4001; fax (562)980–4018.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jill Lewandowski or Jennifer Jefferies (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.*), and the Regulations Governing the Taking and Importing of Marine Mammals (50 CFR part 216). Section 104(c)(6) of the MMPA provides for photography for educational or commercial purposes involving marine mammals in the wild not listed as endangered or threatened. 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 marine mammals for photographic purposes.

The applicant specifically proposes to take by harassment up to 200 northern elephant seals during land-based filming activities. The purpose of the proposed project is to collect footage of mating behavior and also document permitted scientists conducting research on northern elephant seals. The footage will be used to produce a documentary on the evolution of sexual behavior that will be broadcast on Discovery Channel US and Channel 4 UK. Filming activities will take place in Point Reyes or Ano Nuevo, California. The Permit would be valid 1 year after the date of issuance with filming currently scheduled to take place during February 2004.

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**,