

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 31, 1998.

Ann D. Terbush,

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

[FR Doc. 98-21067 Filed 8-5-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 072998B]

Marine Mammals; File Nos. 77#3-54 and 881-1443

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

ACTION: Receipt of applications for amendment.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the following Permit Holders have requested an amendment to their scientific research Permit:

Dr. Bradford E. Brown, Southeast Fisheries Science Center (File No. 77#3-54), 75 Virginia Beach Drive, Miami, FL 33149 (843/762-8541); and

Dr. Michael Castellini, Alaska Sealife Center (File No. 881-1443), Box 1329, Seward, AK 99664 (907/224-2600).

DATES: Written or telefaxed comments must be received on or before October 5, 1998.

ADDRESSES: The amendment request 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);

(77#3-54) - Regional Administrator, Southeast Region, NMFS, 9721 Executive Center Drive North, St. Petersburg, FL 33702-2432 (813/570-5312); and

Regional Administrator, Northeast Region, NMFS, One Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930, (978/281-9250). (881-1443) - Regional Administrator, Alaska Region, NMFS, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802-1668 (907/586-7221).

Written comments or requests for a public hearing on these requests 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 these particular amendment requests 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: Ruth Johnson or Sara Shapiro 301/713-2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The subject amendments to Permits No. 77#3-54 and 881-1443, issued on June 13, 1995 (60 FR 31214), and March 23, 1998 (63 FR 14905), respectively, 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 (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).

Permit No. 77#3-54 authorizes the permit holder to: take by harassment a maximum of 2,000 Atlantic bottlenose dolphins per year for the purpose of locating a maximum of 100 dolphins per year suitable for take by capture for examination, sampling, marking, tagging and release. Sampling procedures include venipuncture, marking by freeze-brand, tooth extraction, skin/blubber biopsy, diagnostic ultrasound, urine, fecal, microbiological, milk, and sperm sampling, colonic temperature measurements, acoustic recordings, and the application of cattle ear tags (roto-tags) and telemetry devices.

The permit holder requests an amendment to this permit to: (1) extend geographic coverage to include entire summer range of the depleted coastal migratory stock of bottlenose dolphins to include coasts of VA, MD, DE, NJ; (2) include satellite telemetry and different attachment packages for VHF transmitters and increase the number of animals that will be tagged annually to 60; and (3) include hoop-netting as an alternative capture method.

Permit No. 881-1443 authorizes the permit holder to: import from Canada,

three juvenile Steller sea lions and two juvenile harbor seals, and to obtain six harbor seals domestically. The Holder conducts research on these animals that involve nutritional physiology, metabolic development, and clinical health under captive conditions.

The permit holder requests an amendment to this permit to: (1) collect whiskers or toenails from each animal for background concentrations of the stable isotopes of carbon and nitrogen; (2) ingest stable isotope carbon or nitrogen labeled fish orally or intravenously and blood sample collected following injection; (3) collect serial biopsies of blubber (50mg) to assess lipid profiles in Stellers and harbor seals; and (4) collection serial biopsies of muscle in harbor seals only for lipid profiles.

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.

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 30, 1998.

Ann D. Terbush,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Telecommunications and Information Administration

Advisory Committee on Public Interest Obligations of Digital Television Broadcasters; Notice of Postponement

ACTION: Notice is hereby given of the postponement of a meeting of the Advisory Committee on Public Interest Obligations of Digital Television Broadcasters, created pursuant to Executive Order 13038.

REFERENCE: This notice amends the notice of open meeting published in the **Federal Register** on July 23, 1998. Citation: 63 FR 39557.

AUTHORITY: Executive Order 13038, signed by President Clinton on March 11, 1997.

NEW DATE: The meeting scheduled for Monday, August 10, 1998 has been