

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Terri Jordan, Silver Spring, MD (phone: 301-713-1401, fax: 301-713-0376, e-mail: Terri.Jordan@noaa.gov)

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Authority

Issuance of permits and permit modifications, as required by the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531-1543) (ESA), is based on a finding that such permits/modifications: (1) are applied for in good faith; (2) would not operate to the disadvantage of the listed species which are the subject of the permits; and (3) are consistent with the purposes and policies set forth in section 2 of the ESA. Scientific research and/or enhancement permits are issued under Section 10(a)(1)(A) of the ESA. Authority to take listed species is subject to conditions set forth in the permits. Permits and modifications are issued in accordance with and are subject to the ESA and NMFS regulations governing listed fish and wildlife permits (50 CFR parts 222-226).

Those individuals requesting a hearing on an application listed in this notice should set out the specific reasons why a hearing on that application would be appropriate (see **ADDRESSES**). The holding of such hearing is at the discretion of the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NOAA. All statements and opinions contained in the permit action summaries are those of the applicant and do not necessarily reflect the views of NMFS.

Species Covered in This Notice

The following species are covered in this notice:

Sea Turtles

Threatened and endangered Green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*)
Endangered Hawksbill turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*)
Endangered Kemp's ridley turtle (*Lepidochelys kempii*)
Endangered Leatherback turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*)
Threatened Loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*)

Permits and Modified Permits Issued

Permit #1324

Notice was published on June 4, 2001 (66 FR 29934) that Dr. Nancy Thompson, of Southeast Fisheries Science Center applied for a scientific research permit (1324). The applicant requested a two-year permit that would authorize the take of threatened and endangered species of sea turtles in the

northeast distant statistical sampling area (NED) for the U.S. longline fishery. The purpose of the research is to develop and test methods to reduce bycatch of research that occurs incidental to commercial, pelagic longline fishing. The researchers propose to work cooperatively with U.S. pelagic longline fishermen in the NED area to conduct this fishery-dependent testing. The fishery dependent use of commercial fishing boats for this research is necessary because (1) a large level of fishing effort is necessary for the statistical power to complete this testing and fishery independent work would be cost-prohibitive and (2) testing should be conducted aboard a mix of representative platforms so that the testing results are clearly applicable to the fleets that would ultimately adopt bycatch reduction measures through this research. Permit 1324 was issued on August 9, 2001, authorizing take of listed species. Permit 1324 expires December 31, 2002.

Permit #1201

The requestor currently possesses a two-year scientific research permit to take up to 50 green (*Chelonia mydas*), 100 Kemp's ridley (*Lepidochelys kempii*) and 100 loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*) turtles annually in large mesh tangle nets. The purpose of the research is to evaluate the abundance, movements, and location of sea turtles in the estuaries of Alabama, and to potentially identify specific foraging areas. The presence of juvenile sea turtles in estuaries represents a potential conflict for fisheries and coastal development. However, there is little information about this issue for the estuaries of Alabama. The proposed research is a prerequisite to determining if the estuaries of Alabama represent a developmental habitat for sea turtles, and will benefit the species by providing information critical to developing a prudent management strategy which protects sea turtles while sustaining the productivity of the fisheries.

For modification #2, the applicant requests authorization to use two satellite transmitters in lieu of two previously authorized radio transmitters. Modification #2 to Permit 1201 was issued on August 6, 2001, authorizing take of listed species. Permit 1201 expires February 28, 2003.

Dated: August 10, 2001.

Therese Conant,

Acting Chief, Endangered Species Division,
Office of Protected Resources, National
Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 01-20649 Filed 8-15-01; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 080801B]

Permits; Foreign Fishing

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

ACTION: Notice of receipt of foreign fishing application.

SUMMARY: NMFS publishes for public review and comment a summary of an application submitted by the Government of the Russian Federation requesting authorization to conduct fishing operations in the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) in 2001 under provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act).

ADDRESSES: Comments may be submitted to NMFS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, International Fisheries Division, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910, or to any of the following Regional Fishery Management Councils:

Paul J. Howard, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council, 50 Water Street, Mill 2, Newburyport, MA 01905; Phone (978) 465-0492; Fax (978) 465-3116;

Daniel T. Furlong, Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, Federal Building, Room 2115, 300 South New Street, Dover, DE 19904; Phone (302) 674-2331; Fax (302) 674-4136.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Robert A. Dickinson, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, (301) 713-2276.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In accordance with a Memorandum of Understanding with the Secretary of State, NMFS publishes, for public review and comment, summaries of applications received by the Secretary of State requesting permits for foreign fishing vessels to fish in the U.S. EEZ under provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*).

This notice concerns the receipt of an application from the Government of the Russian Federation. The application

requests that the large stern trawler/processor VIKTOR KHUDIAKOV be authorized in 2001 to conduct joint venture operations in the EEZ for Atlantic herring and Atlantic mackerel. The application also requests that the VIKTOR KHUDIAKOV be authorized in 2001 to conduct directed fishing in the EEZ for Atlantic herring and Atlantic mackerel.

Dated: August 10, 2001.

Bruce C. Morehead,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 080301B]

Marine Mammals; File Nos. 1008-1637-00 and 779-1633-00

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

ACTION: Receipt of applications.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the following applicants have applied in due form for permits to take and import marine mammals and marine mammal parts for purposes of scientific research and enhancement: John Wise, Ph.D., Yale University, School of Medicine, P.O. Box 208034, New Haven, CT, 06520-8034; and NMFS, Southeast Fisheries Science Center, 75 Virginia Beach Drive, Miami, FL 33149.

DATES: Written or telefaxed comments must be received on or before September 17, 2001.

ADDRESSES: The applications and related documents are available for review upon written request or by appointment. (See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Amy Sloan or Ruth Johnson, (301)713-2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The subject permits are 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.*), the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered and threatened species (50 CFR 222-226), and the Fur Seal Act of

1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1151 *et seq.*).

File No. 1008-1637-00: Dr. Wise proposes to import marine mammal parts (lung, liver, kidney, brain, skin, blubber, and reproductive organs) from all species of stranded dead marine mammals (excluding walrus, polar bear, and sea otter) collected as part of government-authorized marine mammal stranding operations along the coast of British Columbia, Canada, as well as receive such parts collected in the U.S. from stranded dead marine mammals or those that have died during rehabilitation efforts. Skin and blubber samples from live Steller sea lions and other marine mammals (excluding walrus, polar bear, and sea otter) may be received from activities permitted at the Alaska SeaLife Center, Mystic Aquarium, The Marine Mammal Center, and from other permitted research activities in the U.S. These parts will be used to determine tissue levels of metals in Steller sea lions and other marine mammal species and to establish a national resource of cell lines for use as model systems in the investigation of various factors related to marine mammal health (e.g., toxicity of metals, virology, etc.). Once the cell lines are established, they may be transferred to other researchers for such study, including export to Canada. The cell lines will not be sold for profit or used for commercial purposes.

File No. 779-1633-00: The Southeast Fisheries Science Center (SEFSC) proposes to take various cetacean species by harassment during biopsy sampling, aerial and vessel-based line-transect sampling, acoustic sampling, observations of cetacean behavior, and photo-identification for MMPA mandated stock assessment activities. Activities will occur in the North Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico over a 5-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 these applications should be mailed to the Chief, Permits and Documentation 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 a 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 these applications to the Marine Mammal Commission and its Committee of Scientific Advisors.

Documents for File No. 779-1633-00 (SEFSC) are available in locations as noted. File No. 1008-1637-00 (Dr. Wise) may be reviewed in all the following locations:

(All files) Permits and Documentation Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910; phone (301) 713-2289; fax (301) 713-0376;

Northwest Region, NMFS, 7600 Sand Point Way NE, BIN C15700, Bldg. 1, Seattle, WA 98115-0700; phone (206) 526-6150; fax (206) 526-6426;

Alaska Region, NMFS, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802-1668; phone (907) 586-7221; fax (907) 586-7249;

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

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

(File No. 779-1633-00) Northeast Region, NMFS, One Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930-2298; phone (978) 281-9200; fax (978) 281-9371;

(File No. 779-1633-00) Southeast Region, NMFS, 9721 Executive Center Drive N., St. Petersburg, FL 33702-2432; phone (727) 570-5301; fax (727) 570-5320.

Dated: August 9, 2001.

Ann D. Terbush,

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

[FR Doc. 01-20651 Filed 8-15-01; 8:45 am]

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COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION

Sunshine Act Meeting; Notice

AGENCY HOLDING THE MEETING: Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

TIME AND DATE: 11:00 a.m., Friday, September 14, 2001.