The applicant requests a permit to export and re-import a captive-born Asian elephant (*Elephas maximus*) to Water Land Marine World, Cali, Columbia for the purpose of enhancing the survival of the species through conservation education.

PRT–804559

Applicant: Zoological Society of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA.

The applicant requests a permit to import two captive-born male giant otter (*Pteronura brasiliensis*) from the Hagenbeck Tierpark, Hamburg, Germany for the purpose of enhancing the survival of the species through conservation education, scientific research and captive propagation.

The public is invited to comment on the following application(s) for permits to conduct certain activities with marine mammals. The application(s) was/were submitted to satisfy requirements of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, *as amended* (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) and the regulations governing marine mammals (50 CFR 18).

PRT–690038

Applicant: The Alaska Science Center, Anchorage, AK.

Type of Permit: Take and Import for scientific research.

Name and Number of Animals: Polar Bear (*Ursus maritimus*), 200.

Summary of Activity to be Authorized: The applicant has requested renewal and amendment of the permit for take activities to include: chemically immobilize, ear-tag, tattoo, paint-mark, remove tooth, blood sample, measure, weigh, collect samples of blubber, skin, and claw shavings, fit up to 50 bears with a radio telemetry device, (including surgically implantation of a satellite transmitter on male bears, only), measure bio-electrical impedance, recapture and release, and; to import biological samples from legally acquired polar bear for the purpose of scientific research.

Source of Marine Mammals for Research/Public Display: North and Northwest coast of Alaska, pack and fast-ice of the Beaufort, Bering, and Chukchi Seas), and import of samples from Canada, Greenland, Norway, and Russia.

Period of Activity: October 1, 1995 to October 31, 2000.

Concurrent with the publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, the Office of Management Authority is forwarding copies of this application to the Marine Mammal Commission and the Committee of Scientific Advisors for their review.

Written data or comments should be submitted to the Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Management Authority, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Room 420(c), Arlington, Virginia 22203 and must be received by the Director within 30 days of the date of this publication.

Documents and other information submitted with these applications are available for review, *subject to the requirements of the Privacy Act and Freedom of Information Act,* by any party who submits a written request for a copy of such documents to the following office within 30 days of the date of publication of this notice: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Management Authority, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Room 420(c), Arlington, Virginia 22203. Phone: (703/358–2104); FAX: (703/358–2281).

Dated: July 14, 1995.

Mary Ellen Amtower,

Acting Chief Branch of Permits, Office of Management Authority.

[FR Doc. 95–17815 Filed 7–19–95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–55–P

U.S. Geological Survey

Request for Public Comments on Proposed Information Collection To Be Submitted to the Office of Management and Budget for Review Under the Paperwork Reduction Act

The proposal for the collection of information listed below will be submitted to the Office of Management and Budget for review under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35). Copies of the collection of information and related forms and explanatory material may be obtained by contacting the Bureau's clearance officer at the phone number listed below. Comments and suggestions on the requirement should be made within 60 days directly to the Bureau clearance officer, U.S. Geological Survey, 208 National Center, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston, Virginia 22092, telephone (703) 648–7343.

Title: State Water Research Institute Program, 30 CFR 401

Abstract: Respondents supply information on eligibility for Federal grants to support water-related research and provide performance reports on accomplishments achieved through use of such funds. This information allows the agency to determine compliance with the objectives and criteria of the grant program.

Bureau Form Number: None

Frequency: Annually

Description of Respondents: State water research institutes.

Annual Responses: 108

Annual Burden Hours: 9072

Bureau Clearance Officer: John Cordyack (703) 648–7313.

Dated: July 4, 1995.

Robert M. Hirsch,

Chief Hydrologist.

[FR Doc. 95–17836 Filed 7–19–95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–31–M

National Park Service

Intent to Revise Concession Policy

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent to revise concession policy.

SUMMARY: On January 17, 1995, the National Park Service (NPS) published for public comment in the **Federal Register** proposed amendments to certain concession policies. Two of these policy amendments have been adopted under separate notice. The remaining policy amendment proposed to eliminate the exemption from franchise fee computation of gross receipts generated by the sale of Native American handicrafts. In reviewing comments received on this proposal, NPS noted that the notice incorrectly limited this exclusion to Native American handicrafts, although the Standard NPS Concession Contract refers to ''genuine United States Indian and native handicraft.''

Because this is a much broader category than indicated in the January 17, 1995, **Federal Register** notice, NPS is publishing a revised policy amendment for comment. Although not required by law to seek public comments on this policy amendment, NPS will consider all comments received in a timely manner in its final decision on this matter. Comments on this policy amendment submitted in response to the January 17, 1995, **Federal Register** notice will also be retained and considered. Respondents to that notice are also invited to amend or expand their comments as a result of this revision.

COMMENT DATE: August 21, 1995.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be made to Robert Yearout, Chief, Concessions Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013–7127.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: For many years, NPS has had a policy which excludes from franchise fee computation the proceeds to concessioners generated by the sale of United States Indian and native handicrafts. The purpose of the policy was to encourage the sale of such handicrafts by making their sale more profitable to concessioners. However, experience has shown that concessioners generally are not encouraged to stock and sell more United States Indian and native handicrafts as a result of this policy than they would in its absence. Consequently, the exemption from franchise fees constitutes a windfall to concessioners with no overriding benefits to United States Indian or native handcrafters.

According to a recent report from the Department of the Interior Inspector General, this exemption reduced NPS franchise fee revenues by over $2.7 million from 1988 through 1992 from 55 concessions in 43 parks. In addition, the Inspector General criticized NPS for not adequately monitoring merchandising procedures with respect to sale of United States Indian and native handicrafts and stated that NPS personnel often did not have the expertise to verify handicraft authenticity. The Inspector General recommended the elimination of the policy of exempting sales of United States Indian and native handicrafts from franchise fee calculations.

For these reasons, NPS intends to eliminate this exemption from the Standard NPS Concession Contract and to remove it from Chapter 10 of NPS Management Policies.

Dated: July 3, 1995.

John Reynolds,

Acting Director, National Park Service.

[FR Doc. 95–17916 Filed 7–19–95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–70–P

Revision of Certain Concession Policies

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Revision of certain concession policies.

SUMMARY: The National Park Service (NPS) authorizes private businesses known as concessioners to provide necessary and appropriate visitor facilities and services in areas of the National Park System. NPS is undertaking a review of its policies concerning concession management activities. Pending completion of a full review, NPS has amended certain specific policies regarding concession contracts as follows: (1) Its current system for determining concessioner franchise fees by eliminating a policy which indicates that a concessioner's franchise fee usually should not exceed 50 percent of the concessioner's pre-tax, pre-franchise fee profit; and (2) revising portions of the NPS rate approval system. NPS had also proposed an amendment to eliminate the policy that franchise fees should not be collected with respect to the sale of Native American handicrafts. However, due to a technical oversight, NPS has determined that it is appropriate to seek additional comments on this policy proposal under a separate notice to assure that all potentially affected parties have an adequate opportunity to comment.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 20, 1995.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Robert Yearout, Chief, Concessions Division, National Park Service, PO Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013–7127, Tele. (202) 343–3784.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On January 17, 1995, NPS published for public comment in the **Federal Register** proposed amendments to the concession policies described above. Although not required by law to seek public comments on these policy amendments, NPS wished to afford all potentially affected or interested parties an opportunity to comment before making its final decisions on these matters.

NPS received 11 comments concerning their proposal to amend certain management policies. Eight of these comments came from NPS concessioners or associated companies, two from associations representing groups of NPS concessioners, and one comment from an interested environmental organization.

Analysis of Comments

The following is an analysis of comments received on the two policy proposals NPS is adopting under this notice.

1. Franchise Fees

With respect to the elimination of the policy which indicates that a concessioner's franchise fee usually should not exceed 50 percent of the concessioner's pre-tax, pre-franchise fee profit (the 50 percent policy), the majority of those commenting opposed this proposal. This opposition was based on their belief that this change is contrary to the intent of the Concession Policy Act of 1965 and that elimination of the policy would remove needed safeguards from the franchise fee process. Franchise fees would rise, they believe, to inappropriate levels and the subsequent reduced profits would adversely impact services to the visitor, the availability of funds for needed maintenance and improvements, and the incentive to actively participate in the bidding process.

According to statute, franchise fees are to be based on the probable value of the privileges granted by the particular authorization in question, but are secondary to the protection and preservation of the areas and of providing adequate and appropriate services to visitors at reasonable rates. Of primary importance to this process, the statute also requires that franchise fees must be consistent with a reasonable opportunity for the concessioner to realize a profit on the investment.

The 50 percent policy was originally intended as a ''shorthand'' mathematical approximation of the upper limit on franchise fees and was not intended to obstruct the assignment of probable value fees. As this formula had neither an empirical nor theoretical basis, the results of analyses have shown that this 50 percent policy can restrict the assignment of probable value fees and, therefore, does not function in the manner intended. This change in policy simply removes the use of the faulty mathematical approximation and leaves the remaining aspects of the franchise fee process in place. The statutory mandate of a reasonable opportunity for profit in coordination with the probable value determination process provides a powerful safeguard against arbitrary fees. As such, the fears of inappropriately rising fees and bankrupt concessioners would not be possible given these procedural checks and balances.

There were also comments that this change was unnecessary due to the increased professionalism of National Park Service employees and because the current policy allows the setting of fees above this limit. It is this increased professionalism that allows the National Park Service to eliminate this arbitrary and fundamentally unsound policy and still assure concessioners a reasonable opportunity for profit as required by statute. Furthermore, while the policy was originally intended to be used as a guideline to aid in the setting of franchise fees, it has often been interpreted by various parties to the fee setting process as a firm cap. This view has led to confusion and the setting of fees below the probable value of the authorizations involved. The elimination of this policy will end this confusion. Finally, one commenter indicated that the elimination of the 50 percent policy could adversely impact small concessioners if adequate safeguards do not exist. It was suggested that the 50 percent policy be retained for those concessioners under $1 million in annual gross receipts and that safeguards be established to include the