

Dated: February 15, 1996.
 Richard W. Surdi,
*Acting Director, Office of Fisheries
 Conservation and Management, National
 Marine Fisheries Service.*
 [FR Doc. 96-4167 Filed 2-22-96; 8:45 am]
 BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

[I.D. 081195B]

**Small Takes of Marine Mammals
 Incidental to Specified Activities;
 McDonnell Douglas Aerospace Delta II
 Vehicles at Vandenberg Air Force
 Base, CA**

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

ACTION: Notice of modification of an incidental harassment authorization.

SUMMARY: In accordance with provisions of the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) as amended, notification is hereby given that an Incidental Harassment Authorization (IHA), issued to the U.S. Air Force (USAF) on September 19, 1995, to take small numbers of marine mammals by harassment incidental to launches of McDonnell Douglas Aerospace (MDA) Delta II vehicles at Space Launch Complex 2W (SLC-2W), Vandenberg Air Force Base, CA (Vandenberg), has been modified.

EFFECTIVE DATE: The authorization is effective from September 19, 1995, until September 19, 1996.

ADDRESSES: The application, authorization and modification are available for review in the following offices: Marine Mammal Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910 and the Southwest Region, NMFS, 501 West Ocean Blvd., Long Beach, CA 90802.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kenneth Hollingshead, 301-713-2055, or Irma Lagomarsino, 301-980-4016.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

On July 12, 1995, NMFS received an application from the USAF requesting an authorization for the harassment of small numbers of harbor seals and potentially for other pinniped species incidental to launches of Delta II vehicles at SLC-2W, Vandenberg. These launches would place Department of Defense, National Aeronautic and Space Administration (NASA), and commercial, medium-weight payloads into polar or near-polar orbits. MDA/NASA intends to launch four to five

Delta IIs during the period of this proposed 1-year authorization.

Background information and rationale was provided with the notice of receipt of the application and proposed authorization that was published on August 18, 1995 (60 FR 43120) and are not repeated here. A 30-day public comment period was provided on the application and proposed authorization. After review of the comments received on the application, NMFS concluded that the taking will not result in more than the harassment (as defined by the MMPA Amendments of 1994) of a small number of harbor seals, California sea lions, and northern elephant seals, would have only a negligible impact on the species, and would result in the least practicable impact on the stock. Accordingly, NMFS determined that the requirements of section 101(a)(5)(D) of the MMPA had been met and the incidental harassment authorization was issued on September 19, 1995 (60 FR 52653, October 10, 1995).

Summary of Request

Section 6(b) of the IHA requires the USAF to observe harbor seal activity on haulouts in the vicinity of SLC-2W before and after each Delta II launch and to record launch noise levels at nearby harbor seal haulouts. On January 24, 1996, NMFS received a request from the USAF to amend section 6(b) by removing the requirement for recording launch noises at coastal harbor seal haulouts.

The first launch of a Delta II vehicle under the IHA occurred on November 4, 1995. NMFS and the USAF received a preliminary report on noise measurements recorded at various distances from SLC-2W during this launch. These results indicate that launch noise was similar to noise recorded at the same distances during another Delta II launch at the Kennedy Space Center, FL, in July 1992. Furthermore, the USAF indicated that these noise levels correspond closely with a predictive model that was run prior to the launch to calculate launch noise levels at various distances from the launch pad.

Based on this information, it appears that noise levels from launches of Delta II space vehicles are predictable and consistent. The USAF has indicated that the azimuth for subsequent Delta II launches during the authorization period will be similar to the November 4, 1995, launch. The noise level measurements taken during the November 4, 1995, launch therefore appear to be applicable to the remaining Delta II launches during the authorization period.

Because the empirical data support the predictive model, additional acoustic measurements are unnecessary for monitoring the impact of Delta II launches on nearby harbor seal haulouts. Accordingly, on January 31, 1996, NMFS amended section 6(b) of the IHA as follows:

b. Observations on harbor seal activity at harbor seal haulouts in the vicinity of SLC-2 and Purisima Point or in the absence of pinnipeds at that location, at another nearby haulout, must commence at least 72 hours prior to any planned launch and continue for a period of time not less than 48 hours subsequent to launching.

As a result of this modification, the monitoring of noise levels during the remaining launches of Delta II space vehicles from SLC-2W will not be necessary through September 19, 1996. However, the USAF will be required to comply with all of the other conditions of the IHA, including observations of harbor seal activity, as required in the IHA.

Dated: February 15, 1996.
 Ann D. Terbush,
*Acting Director, Office of Protected Resources,
 National Marine Fisheries Service.*
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[I.D. 021596B]

Endangered Species; Permits

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

ACTION: Receipt of two applications for scientific research permits (P605 and P606).

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Ms. Pamela A. Petrusso, in collaboration with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation at Red Bluff, CA (BOR), and the Contra Costa Water District at Concord, CA (CCWD) have applied in due form for permits to take juvenile, endangered, Sacramento River winter-run chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) for the purpose of scientific research.

DATES: Written comments or requests for a public hearing on either of these applications must be received on or before March 25, 1996.

ADDRESSES: The applications and related documents are available for review in the following offices, by appointment:

Office of Protected Resources, F/PR8, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910-3226 (301-713-1401); and

Director, Southwest Region, NMFS, NOAA, 501 West Ocean Blvd., Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802-4213 (310-980-4016).

Written comments or requests for a public hearing should be submitted to the Chief, Endangered Species Division, Office of Protected Resources.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Ms. Petrusso and CCWD request permits under the authority of section 10 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA) (16 U.S.C. 1531-1543) and the NMFS regulations governing listed fish and wildlife permits (50 CFR parts 217-227).

Ms. Petrusso, a graduate assistant of Michigan State University (P605), requests a 2-year permit to determine the physical condition of juvenile chinook salmon rearing in mainstem habitats between Keswick Dam and Red Bluff on the Sacramento River. Listed juvenile salmon will be captured and handled indirectly during run-of-the-river sampling activities. Any adipose fin-clipped juveniles collected, including juvenile, listed, hatchery-produced, winter-run chinook salmon, will be sacrificed and provided to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at Red Bluff, CA for coded-wire tag extraction. The proposed project will contribute to BOR's efforts to reduce migration impediments to the four runs of Sacramento River chinook salmon by providing baseline data for interpretation of the results of entrapment studies. In addition, the study will advance the understanding of the early life history and ecology of young chinook salmon in the upper Sacramento River.

CCWD (P606) requests a 5-year permit to monitor its Mallard Slough pumping facility for the presence of listed juvenile salmon in compliance with the California ESA requirements imposed by the California Department of Fish and Game. Listed juvenile salmon may be captured and handled during bimonthly sampling from February 15 to July 31 each year within the Mallard Slough intake channel and in the adjacent San Joaquin River channel. Any adipose fin-clipped juveniles collected, including juvenile, listed, hatchery-produced, winter-run chinook salmon, will be sacrificed and provided to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at Stockton, CA for coded-wire tag extraction. Sampling will not occur if Delta water quality conditions do not allow the operation of the Mallard Slough facility. The monitoring results will indicate the relative abundance of sensitive fish species and allow CCWD to modify operation of the Mallard

Slough facility as necessary to minimize potential entrainment losses.

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

Dated: February 16, 1996.
Ann D. Terbush,

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

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[I.D. 020196D]

Marine Mammals

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

ACTION: Issuance of modification to permit no. 854 (P211F).

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Permit No. 854, issued to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Marine Science Drive, Bldg. 3, Newport, OR 97365, has been modified.

ADDRESSES: The modification and related documents are available for review upon written request or by appointment in the following office(s): Permits Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13130 Silver Spring, MD 20910 (301/712-2289);

Director, Northwest Region, NMFS, 7600 Sand Point Way, NE, BIN C15700, Bldg. 1, Seattle, WA 98115-0070 (206/526-6150);

Director, Southwest Region, NMFS, 501 W. Ocean Blvd., Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802-4213 (310/980-4015); and

Director, Alaska Region, NMFS, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802-1668 (907/586-7221).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The subject modification has been issued under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), the provisions of 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 provisions of the regulations governing the taking, importing, and

exporting of endangered fish and wildlife (50 CFR part 222).

Permit No. 854 authorizes scientific research on Steller sea lions (*Eumetopias jubatus*) over a 5-year period.

The Permit, as modified, reduces the number of Steller sea lion pups to be weighed, measured, marked, flipper tagged, hot-branded, and have blood drawn from 200 to 100 annually, and authorizes 100 Steller sea lions of any sex or age to be weighed, measured, marked, flipper tagged, hot-branded, and have blood drawn annually.

Issuance of this modified permit as required by the Endangered Species Act of 1973 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 Endangered Species Act.

Dated: February 14, 1996.

Ann D. Terbush,

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

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COMMITTEE FOR PURCHASE FROM PEOPLE WHO ARE BLIND OR SEVERELY DISABLED

Procurement List Additions

AGENCY: Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled.

ACTION: Additions to the procurement list.

SUMMARY: This action adds to the Procurement List services to be furnished by nonprofit agencies employing persons who are blind or have other severe disabilities.

EFFECTIVE DATE: March 25, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled, Crystal Square 3, Suite 403, 1735 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, Virginia 22202-3461.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Beverly Milkman (703) 603-7740

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On October 20 and December 29, 1995, the Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled published notices (60 F.R. 54612 and 67351) of proposed additions to the Procurement List.

After consideration of the material presented to it concerning capability of