

Dated: June 20, 1996.

Robert C. Ziobro,

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

[FR Doc. 96-16252 Filed 6-25-96; 8:45 am]

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[I.D. 061396B]

Endangered Species; Permits

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

ACTION: Issuance of permit 989 and permit 1007.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that NMFS issued Permit 989 to Dr. Scott Eckert of Hubbs Sea World Research Institute (P534A), and Permit 1007 to Drs. James R. Spotila and Pamela T. Plotkin of Drexel University, PA (521C), take listed sea turtles for the purpose of scientific research subject to certain conditions set forth therein.

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

Office of Protected Resources, F/PR8, NMFS, 1315 East-West Hwy., Room 13307, Silver Spring, MD 20910-3226 (301-713-1401); and

Director, Northeast Region, NMFS, NOAA, One Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930-2298 (508-281-9250) for Permit 1007; or

Director, Southwest Region, NMFS, NOAA, 501 West Ocean Blvd., Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802-4213 (310-980-4016) for Permit 989.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Notice was published on January 23, 1996 (61 FR 1748) that an application had been filed by Dr. Scott Eckert of Hubbs Sea World Research Institute (P534A), to take listed species as authorized by the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA) (16 U.S.C. 1531-1543) and NMFS regulations governing listed fish and wildlife permits (50 CFR parts 217-222). The applicant requested a 2-year permit to capture 20 green sea turtles (*Chelonia mydas*) annually in South San Diego Bay, take blood samples, attach tags and transmitters, and measure heart rate and internal temperature. Some turtles will have lavage stomach sampling performed. The purpose of the research is (1) to determine habitat preferences, behavioral activity patterns (such as foraging behavior), and residence patterns, and (2) to determine thermal preferences. Dr. Eckert will coordinate his research efforts with Donna

McDonald and Dr. Peter Dutton who are working under Permit 988. On June 7, 1996, NMFS issued Permit 989 authorizing the above research.

Notice was published on May 16, 1996 (61 FR 24760) that an application had been filed by Drs. James R. Spotila and Pamela T. Plotkin of Drexel University, PA (521C), to take listed sea turtles as authorized by the ESA. The applicants requested authorization to capture 75 loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*), 75 Kemp's ridley (*Lepidochelys kempii*), 10 green (*Chelonia mydas*) 5 leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*), and 1 hawksbill (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) sea turtles annually in Delaware Bay from June 1996 to October 1997. The turtles will be examined, measured, photographed, PIT-tagged, and have blood and fecal samples taken. Six turtles will be attached with radio-transmitters and tracked. One incidental sea turtle mortality is requested. The purpose of the research is to assess distribution and population dynamics of sea turtles in Delaware Bay, information helpful to manage impacts to sea turtles from human activities. On June 18, 1996, NMFS issued Permit 1007 authorizing the above research.

Issuance of these permits, as required by the ESA, was based on a finding that such permits: (1) Were applied for in good faith, (2) will not operate to the disadvantage of the listed species that are the subject of the permits, and (3) are consistent with the purposes and policies set forth in section 2 of the ESA.

Dated: June 20, 1996.

Robert C. Ziobro,

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

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[I.D. 061796D]

Marine Mammals; Permit No. 866 (P537)

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

ACTION: Receipt of application for modification.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Mr. Fred Sharpe, Behavioral Ecology Research Group, Department of Biological Sciences, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby BC V5A 1S6, has requested a modification to Permit No. 866.

DATES: Written comments must be received on or before July 26, 1996.

ADDRESSES: The modification request 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 (301/713-2289); and

Director, Alaska Region, National Marine Fisheries Service, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802-1668.

Written data or views, or requests for a public hearing on this request should be submitted to the Chief, Permits Division, F/PR1, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service, 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.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Jeannie Drevenak, 301/713-2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The subject modification to permit no. 866 is 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 part 222).

Permit no. 866 authorizes the permit holder to: Take (i.e., harass) over a four-year period up to 1000 humpback whales (*Megaptera novaeangliae*), up to 18 of which may be fitted with suction cup time-depth recorders annually. The Holder is also authorized to harass during observational and photo-identification studies up to 100 killer whales (*Orcinus orca*) annually on an opportunistic basis during the proposed humpback whale studies. Research activities are authorized to be conducted in the waters of southeastern Alaska between Dixon Entrance and Cross Sound.

The Holder is now requesting that the Permit be amended to authorize the conduct of playback studies on up to 280 humpback whales annually over a three-year period, in the waters of Chatham Strait and Frederick Sound Alaska.

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.