

Atoll: behavioral observations, tagging/bleach marking, and necropsies on seals found dead in the wild. The applicant requests this permit for a five 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.

Dated: November 8, 1996.

Ann D. Terbush,

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

[FR Doc. 96-29470 Filed 11-15-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

[I.D. 110796B]

Marine Mammals; Scientific Research Permit (P772#69)

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

ACTION: Receipt of application.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Southwest Fisheries Science Center, National Marine Fisheries Service, 8604 La Jolla Shores Drive, La Jolla, CA 92037, has applied in due form for a permit to take Antarctic pinnipeds for purposes of scientific research.

DATES: Written comments must be received on or before December 18, 1996.

ADDRESSES: The application 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

Regional Administrator, Southwest Region, NMFS, 501 West Ocean Blvd., Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802-4213.

Written data or views, or requests for a public hearing on this request, should be submitted to the Director, 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 this particular request would be appropriate.

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.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The subject permit is requested under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (MMPA; 16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), and the Regulations Governing the Taking and Importing of Marine Mammals (50 CFR part 216).

The applicant requests authority to conduct level B harassment activities [i.e., censuses] on Antarctic pinnipeds in the South Shetland Islands, Antarctica. Additionally, up to 1050 Antarctic fur seals will be captured, handled and released. During these activities, up to 1934 Antarctic fur seals, 99 southern elephant seals, 7 leopard seals, 15 Weddell seals, 1 Ross seal may be inadvertently harassed, and 1 animal may be accidentally killed or injured during capture operations.

Dated: November 8, 1996.

Ann D. Terbush,

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

[FR Doc. 96-29471 Filed 11-15-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION

Audit Trail Requirements, Exemption; Minneapolis Grain Exchange

AGENCY: Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

ACTION: Opinion and order.

SUMMARY: Section 5a(b)(3) of the Commodity Exchange Act ("Act") provides that the audit trail system of each contract market must meet the heightened audit trail standards that became effective on October 28, 1995. However, Section 5a(b)(5) of the Act provides that the Commodity Futures Trading Commission ("Commission") shall, by rule or order, make an exemption from the enhanced audit trail requirements for low-volume exchanges that can meet certain standards

The Commission, pursuant to its authority under Section 5a(b)(5), has determined to grant the Minneapolis Grain Exchange an exemption from Section 5a(b)(3), subject to continuing compliance by the Minneapolis Grain Exchange with all statutory requirements for the exemption.

DATE: The Commission's order will take effect 30 legislative days or 90 calendar days, whichever is later, after submission of the order to the Committee on Agriculture of the House

of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate. To confirm the date the order will take effect, contact the Division of Trading and Markets in For Further Information Contact.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Brian Regan, Attorney-Advisor, Division of Trading and Markets, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, 3 Lafayette Center, 1155 21st St. K Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20581; telephone (202) 418-5490.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On November 12, 1996, the Commission issued the following opinion and order as authorized by Section 5a(b)(5) of the Act:

Opinion and Order Granting an Exemption From the Requirements of Section 5a(b)(3)

Upon consideration of the available record and pursuant to its statutory authority under Section 5a(b)(5) of the Commodity Exchange Act ("Act"), the Commission has determined to grant the Minneapolis Grain Exchange an exemption from the audit trail requirements of Section 5a(b)(3) of the Act, which became effective on October 28, 1995.

The Commission finds that the Minneapolis Grain Exchange has demonstrated that it satisfies the standards set forth in Section 5a(b)(5) for an exemption from Section 5a(b)(3). Specifically, the Commission finds that the Minneapolis Grain Exchange:

(1) Has a level of trading volume that is relatively small;

(2) Is in substantial compliance with the audit trail objectives of Section 5a(b)(3); and

(3) Generally has maintained a high level of compliance with the requirements in Section 5a(b) for an effective trade monitoring system.

Accordingly, the Commission HEREBY ORDERS that the Minneapolis Grain Exchange be exempted at this time from the requirements of Section 5a(b)(3). As part of this exemption, the Minneapolis Grain Exchange must continue to maintain compliance with all statutory requirements for the exemption. Under Section 5a(b)(6), this order shall become effective 30 legislative days or 90 calendar days, whichever is later, after submission of the order to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate.

Dated: November 12, 1996.