

Authority and Duties of Division (7 U.S.C. & 453)

(a) The division shall render service to associations of producers of agricultural products, and federations and subsidiaries thereof, engaged in the cooperative marketing of agricultural products, including processing, warehousing, manufacturing, storage, the cooperative purchasing of farm supplies, credit, financing, insurance, and other cooperative activities.

(b) The division is authorized:

(1) To acquire, analyze and disseminate economic, statistical, and historical information regarding the progress, organization, and business methods of cooperative associations in the United States and foreign countries.

(2) To conduct studies of the economic, legal, financial, social, and other phases of cooperation, and publish the results thereof. Such studies shall include the analyses of the organization, operation, financial and merchandising problems of cooperative associations.

(3) To make surveys and analyses if deemed advisable of the accounts and business practices of representative cooperative associations upon their request; to report to the association so surveyed to results thereof, and with the consent of the association so surveyed to publish summaries of the results of such surveys, together with similar facts, for the guidance of cooperative associations and for the purpose of assisting cooperative associations in developing methods of business and market analysis.

(4) To confer and advise with committees or groups of producers, if deemed advisable, that may be desirous of forming a cooperative association and to make an economic survey and analysis of the facts surrounding the production and marketing of the agricultural product or products which the association, if formed, would handle or market.

(5) To acquire from all available sources information concerning crop prospects, supply, demand, current receipts, exports, imports, and prices of the agricultural products handled or marketed by cooperative associations, and to employ qualified commodity marketing specialists to summarize and analyze this information and disseminate the same among cooperative associations, and others.

(6) To promote the knowledge of cooperative principles and practices and to cooperate, in promoting such knowledge, with educational and marketing agencies, cooperative associations, and others.

(7) To make such special studies, in the United States and foreign countries, and to acquire and disseminate such information and findings as may be useful in the development and practice of cooperation.

*Estimate of Burden:* Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average .5 hours per response.

*Respondents:* Mainly buyers of agricultural products in domestic market areas in which proposed cooperatives would be expected to market their member's products.

*Estimated number of Respondents:* 105

*Estimated number of responses per respondent:* 1

*Estimated total annual burden on respondents:* 52.5 hours per year.

The Cooperative Development Division specializes in technical assistance to agricultural and rural producer groups interested in organizing a cooperative, and to emerging or developing co-ops, so they can: (a) use sensible economic judgment, (b) determine co-op feasibility, (c) meet an economic need, (d) successfully operate on sound business principles and, (e) increase member income.

Copies of this information collection can be obtained from Sam Spencer, Rural Business Team Information Collection Coordinator, at (202) 720-9588.

*Comments:* Comments are invited on: (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Comments may be sent to Sam Spencer, Rural Business Team Information Collection Coordinator, Regulations and Paperwork Management Division, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, STOP 0743, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250-0743, or may be submitted via the Internet by addressing them to comments @ rus.usda.gov and must contain the words Buyer Survey. All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will become a matter of public record.

Dated: November 2, 1996.

Wilbur T. Peer,

*Acting Administrator, Rural Business-Cooperative Service.*

[FR Doc. 96-31233 Filed 12-6-96; 8:45 am]

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## ASSASSINATION RECORDS REVIEW BOARD

### Sunshine Act Meeting

**DATE:** December 16-17, 1996.

**PLACE:** ARRB, 600 E Street, NW, Washington, DC.

**STATUS:** Closed.

#### MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:

1. Review and Accept Minutes of Closed Meetings
2. Review of Assassination Records
3. Other Business

#### CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Eileen Sullivan, Assistant Press and Public Affairs Officer, 600 E Street, NW, Second Floor, Washington, DC 20530. Telephone: (202) 724-0088; Fax: (202) 724-0457.

David G. Marwell,

*Executive Director.*

[FR Doc. 96-31387 Filed 12-5-96; 3:38 pm]

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 112596B]

#### Marine Mammals; Scientific Research Permit (P772#63)

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

**ACTION:** Receipt of application for amendment.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that Southwest Fisheries Science Center, NMFS, P.O. Box 271, La Jolla, CA 92038-0271, has requested an amendment to Permit No. 873.

**DATES:** Written comments must be received on or before January 8, 1997.

**ADDRESSES:** The amendment 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, Southwest Region, NMFS, 501 West Ocean Boulevard, Suite 4200,