

Dated: March 13, 1997.

Ann D. Terbush,

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

[FR Doc. 97-6975 Filed 3-19-97; 8:45 am]

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[I.D. 031397D]

**Marine Mammals; Scientific Research Permit (PHF# 662-1345)**

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

**ACTION:** Receipt of application.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that Dena Matkin, Box 22, Gustavus, Alaska 99826, has applied in due form for a permit to take killer whales (*Orcinus orca*) and humpback whales (*Megaptera novaengliae*) for purposes of scientific research.

**DATES:** Written comments must be received on or before April 21, 1997.

**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, Alaska Region, P.O. Box 21688, Juneau, AK 99802-1668 (907/586-7221).

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 application 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 (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 222.23).

The application requests authorization to unintentionally harass

up to 400 killer whales and 100 humpback whales annually over a five year period. The purpose of the research is to continue long-term, year-round photo-identification work in Southeastern Alaska to define the population size, structure and range of killer whales; and to obtain identification of photographs of humpback whales opportunistically in conjunction with the killer whale research.

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: March 14, 1997.

Ann D. Terbush,

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

[FR Doc. 97-7056 Filed 3-19-97; 8:45 am]

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[I.D. 031397A]

**Marine Mammals; Permit No. 957 (P771#71)**

**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 the National Marine Mammal Laboratory, Alaska Fisheries Science Center, NMFS, 7600 Sand Point Way NE., BIN C15700, Seattle, WA 98115-0070, has requested a amendment to permit No. 957.

**DATES:** Written comments must be received on or before April 21, 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  
Regional Administrator, Alaska Region, NMFS, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802-1668 (907/586-7221).

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 amendment 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 amendment to permit no. 957, issued on May 31, 1995 (60 FR 30065) is requested under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) and the Regulations Governing the Taking and Importing of Marine Mammals (50 CFR part 216).

Permit no. 957 authorizes the permit holder to: satellite tag up to 50 beluga whales (*Delphinapterus leucas*) over a 5-year period, but not more than 10 in any one year; and to unintentionally harass up to 900 annually. Activities are authorized to occur in Cook Inlet and along the western Alaska coastline.

The permit holder requests authorization to increase the number of animals taken to 30 annually for the next 3 years (1997 through 1999).

Dated: March 14, 1997.

Ann D. Terbush,

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

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**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**

**Department of the Army**

**Corps of Engineers**

**Columbia River System Operation Review, Selection of a System Operation Strategy (Record of Decision (ROD))**

**AGENCY:** U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, DoD.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability of Record of Decision.

**SUMMARY:** In 1990, the three Federal agencies responsible for management of the Federal Columbia River Power System; the Corps of Engineers, the Bureau of Reclamation, and Bonneville Power Administration; began the System Operation Review (SOR) for the purpose of developing and implementing a coordinated system operating strategy for managing the multiple uses of the system while