

application would be appropriate (see ADDRESSES). 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 applicant and do not necessarily reflect the views of NMFS.

Dated: May 30, 1997.

Nancy Chu,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 052397E]

Marine Mammals

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

ACTION: Issuance of scientific research permit no. 662-1345.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Ms. Dena Matkin, Box 22, Gustavus, Alaska 99826, has been issued a permit to "take" by harassment, humpback whales (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) and killer whales (*Orcinus orca*) for purposes of scientific research.

ADDRESSES: The permit and related documents are available for review upon written request or by appointment in the following offices:

Permits Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13130, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (301/713-2289); and

Regional Administrator, Alaska Regional Office, NMFS, NOAA, 709 West 9th Street, Federal Building, Juneau, Alaska 99802 (907-586-7221).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On March 20, 1997, notice was published in the **Federal Register** (62 FR 13368) that the above-named applicant had submitted a request for a scientific research permit to take (inadvertently harass) up to 400 killer whales and up to 100 humpback whales for purposes of scientific research, over a 5-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. The requested permit has been issued 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 (ESA) 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).

Issuance of this permit, as required by the ESA, 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 ESA.

Dated: May 30, 1997.

Ann D. Terbush,

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

[FR Doc. 97-14922 Filed 6-6-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Public Forum on Certificate Authorities and Digital Signatures: Enhancing Global Electronic Commerce

AGENCY: Technology Administration, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of public forum and request for public comments.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce requests public comments on various aspects of the public key infrastructure related to certificate authorities and digital signatures. This request for public comment will enable the Department, and other Executive Branch agencies, to benefit from the expertise and views of the private sector, states, localities, non-profits, industry associations and other national and international entities. Specific questions that the Department seeks public comments on are listed in "Supplementary Information". A "Public Forum on Certificate Authorities and Digital Signatures: Enhancing Global Electronic Commerce" is being sponsored by the Department on this topic. The comments received by the Department will aid in effectively supporting Administration initiatives on electronic commerce issues.

DATES: The "Public Forum on Certificate Authorities and Digital Signatures: Enhancing Global Electronic

Commerce" will be held on July 24, 1997, from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Advanced registration for the "Public Forum" is due by July 16, 1997.

Written comments are due by July 16, 1997.

Requests to participate as a panelist in the "Public Forum" are due by July 2, 1997.

ADDRESSES: The "Public Forum on Certificate Authorities and Digital Signatures: Enhancing Global Electronic Commerce" will take place at the Green Auditorium, Administration Building, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Gaithersburg, Maryland.

Written comments should be sent to: Director, Information Technology Laboratory, ATTN: "Public Forum on Certificate Authorities and Digital Signatures", Technology Building, Room A231, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Gaithersburg, MD 20899.

Electronic comments may be sent to ECFORUM@NIST.GOV. Electronic comments should be in ASCII, MS word or WordPerfect formats. No comments will be accepted by voice phone or by fax.

PUBLIC INFORMATION: The Department, based on comments received and expressions of interest, will organize the Public Forum as a series of panels, with short presentations and then a period for questions from the audience. Not all issues included in this notice may be covered in the public forum, and the Department may organize the program along lines different than the questions are presented. Members of the public who are interested in serving on a panel are asked to contact the individual listed in **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** below. Due to time and physical constraints, and in order to develop an effective program, not all requests can be honored.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Edward Roback, Information Technology Laboratory, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Building 820, Room 426, Gaithersburg, MD 20899-0001. (301) 975-3696.

For planning purposes, advanced registration is requested by July 16, 1997. To register, please fax your name, postal address, telephone and e-mail address to: 301-948-1233, ATTN: "July 24 Public Forum". Space permitting, registration will also be available at the door. The July 24th meeting is open to the public. There is no registration fee for the Public Forum.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The "Public Forum" on Certificate Authorities and Digital Signatures: