

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

## National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 061997A]

## Marine Mammals; Photography Permit (File No. 863-1378)

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

**ACTION:** Receipt of application.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that Mr. Hardy Jones, 1252 B Street, Petaluma, CA, 94952, has applied in due form for a permit to take Hawaiian spinner dolphins (*Stenella longirostris*) for purposes of commercial photography.

**DATES:** Written comments must be received on or before July 28, 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);

Regional Administrator, Southwest Region, NMFS, 501 West Ocean Boulevard, Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802-4213 (310/980-4001); and

Protected Species Program Manager, Pacific Area Office, NMFS, 2570 Dole Street, Room 106, Honolulu, HI 96822-2396 (808-973-2987).

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 § 104(c)(6) 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). Section 104(c)(6) provides for photography for educational or commercial purposes involving non-endangered and non-threatened marine mammals in the wild. NMFS is currently working on proposed regulations to implement this provision.

However, in the meantime, NMFS has received and is processing this request as a "pilot" application for Level B Harassment of non-listed and non-depleted marine mammals for photographic purposes. The applicant seeks authorization to photograph Hawaiian spinner dolphins (*Stenella longirostris*) in Hawaii waters. The applicant proposes to initiate this work upon receipt of the permit.

Dated: June 19, 1997.

**Ann D. Terbush,**

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

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

## National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 061297A]

## International Whaling Commission: Meetings

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

**ACTION:** Notice of meetings.

**SUMMARY:** NOAA makes use of a public Interagency Committee to assist in preparing for meetings of the International Whaling Commission (IWC). This notice sets forth guidelines for participating on the Committee and a tentative schedule of meetings and other important dates.

**DATES:** See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for dates of scheduled meetings.

**ADDRESSES:** Recommendations to the U.S. Commissioner to the IWC and nominations to the U.S. delegation to the IWC should be sent to: Dr. D. James Baker, Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere, Department of Commerce, Herbert C. Hoover Building, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, D.C. 20230, with a copy sent to Angela Somma, NMFS, 1315 East West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910. **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Angela Somma, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910, (301) 713-2319.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Secretary of Commerce is charged with the responsibility of discharging the obligations of the United States under the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling, 1946. This authority has been delegated to the

Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere, who is also the U.S. Commissioner to the IWC. The U.S. Commissioner has primary responsibility for the preparation and negotiation of U.S. positions on international issues concerning whaling and for all matters involving the IWC. He is staffed by the Department of Commerce and assisted by the Department of State, the Department of the Interior, the Marine Mammal Commission, and other interested agencies.

Each year, NOAA conducts meetings and other actions to prepare for the annual meeting of the IWC. The major purpose of the preparatory meetings is to provide for input in the development of policy by members of the public and non-governmental organizations interested in whale conservation. NOAA believes that this participation is important for the effective development and implementation of U.S. policy concerning whaling. Any person with an identifiable interest in United States whale conservation policy may participate in the meetings, but NOAA reserves the authority to inquire about the interest of any person who appears at a meeting and to determine the appropriateness of that person's participation. Foreign nationals and persons who represent foreign governments may not attend. These stringent measures are necessary to promote the candid exchange of information. Such measures are a necessary basis for the relatively open process of preparing for IWC meetings that characterizes current practice.

The tentative schedule of meetings and deadlines, including those of the IWC and deadlines for the preparation of position papers during 1994 is as follows:

August 1, 1997—Nominations for the U.S. Delegation to the May IWC meetings are due to the U.S. Commissioner, with a copy to Angela Somma at the address above. All persons wishing to be considered pursuant to the U.S. Commissioner's recommendation to the Department of State concerning the composition of the delegation should ensure that nominations are received by this date. Prospective Congressional advisors to the Delegation should contact the Department of State directly.

September 9, 1997 (2:00 PM, Room 6009, Herbert C. Hoover Building, Department of Commerce, 14th and Constitution, Washington, D.C.)—Tentative Interagency Committee meeting date to review recent events