

At the public meetings, DMR, MSU, and NOAA will provide a synopsis of the process for developing a DMP and will solicit comments on significant environmental issues that will be incorporated into a DEIS.

The public meeting will be held in Pascagoula, Mississippi, at the East Jackson County Community Center, 9313 Old Stage Road, on August 6, 1997, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Interested parties who wish to submit suggestions, comments or substantive information regarding the scope or content of the proposed DEIS/DMP are invited to attend the above meeting. Parties who wish to respond in writing should do so by August 21, 1997, to Jerry Mitchell, Coastal Ecology Division, Mississippi Department of Marine Resources, 192 Gateway Drive, Biloxi, MS 39531, or Nathalie Peter, NOAA Sanctuaries and Reserves Division, 1305 East-West Highway N/ORM2, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

Dated: July 11, 1997.

Federal Domestic Assistance Catalog Number
11.420 (Coastal Zone Management)
Research Reserves

Jeffrey R. Benoit,

Director, Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 071497B]

Marine Mammals; Scientific Research Permit (PHF# 872-1397)

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

ACTION: Receipt of application.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Ann E. Bowles, Ph.D., Senior Research Biologist, Hubbs-Sea World Research Institute, 2595 Ingraham Street, San Diego, California 92109, has applied in due form for a permit to take northern elephant seals (*Mirounga angustirostris*) Pacific harbor seals (*Phoca vitulina richardsi*), and California sea lions (*Zalophus californianus*) for purposes of scientific research.

DATES: Written comments must be received on or before August 18, 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, Southwest Region, 501 West Ocean Boulevard, Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802-4213 (310/980-4001).

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.*) and the Regulations Governing the Taking and Importing of Marine Mammals (50 CFR part 216).

The purpose of the proposed research is to study the effects of sonic boom simulation tests on pinniped hearing and physiological response. Up to 10 beached rehabilitated animals of each of the above species will be taken annually (i.e., physically and/or chemically restrained, instrumented with electrodes for physiological measurements, and exposed to sonic boom noise and other brief transients). Of these numbers, up to 3 of each species will be trained to respond behaviorally to low-intensity tone bursts, and up to 2 of each species will be exposed to brief startling stimuli to determine the threshold for startle. The proposed research will be conducted over 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: July 11, 1997.

Ann D. Terbush,

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

[FR Doc. 97-18914 Filed 7-17-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION

Chicago Mercantile Exchange Proposed Futures and Option Contracts on Cheddar Cheese Blocks

AGENCY: Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

ACTION: Notice of availability of the terms and conditions of proposed commodity futures and option contracts.

SUMMARY: The Chicago Mercantile Exchange (CME or Exchange) has applied for designation as a contract market in futures and futures options on cheddar cheese blocks. The Acting Director of the Division of Economic Analysis (Division) of the Commission, acting pursuant to the authority delegated by Commission Regulation 140.96, has determined that publication of the proposal for comment is in the public interest, will assist the Commission in considering the views of interested persons, and is consistent with the purposes of the Commodity Exchange Act.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before August 4, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons should submit their views and comments to Jean A. Webb, Secretary, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, Three Lafayette Centre, 1155 21st St., NW, Washington, DC 20581. In addition, comments may be sent by facsimile transmission to (202) 418-5521 or by electronic mail to secretary@cftc.gov. Reference should be made to the Chicago Mercantile Exchange cheddar cheese blocks futures and option contracts.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Please contact Fred Linse of the Division of Economic Analysis, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, Three Lafayette Centre, 1155 21st St., NW, Washington, DC 20581, telephone 202-418-5273. Facsimile number (202) 418-5527. Electronic mail flinse@cftc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The contracts were submitted pursuant to the Commission's Fast Track procedures for streamlining the review of applications for contract market designation (62 FR 10434). Under those procedures, the contracts, absent any contrary action by the Commission, may be deemed approved on August 25, 1997, 45 days after receipt of the applications. In view of the limited review period provided under the Fast Track procedures, the Commission has determined to publish for public