

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[I.D. 080197C]

Marine Mammals; Scientific Research Permits (File Nos. 782-1399 and 878-1410)

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

ACTION: Receipt of applications.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the following applicants have applied in due form for a permit to take marine mammals for purposes of scientific research.

National Marine Fisheries Service, National Marine Mammal Laboratory, 7600 Sand Point Way, NE, BIN C15700 - Building 1, Seattle, WA 98115-0070 (File No. 782-1399); and

University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston, TX 77555-0555 (Principal Investigator: Dr. Daniel F. Cowan, Professor of Pathology) (File No. 878-1410).

DATES: Written or telefaxed comments must be received on or before September 8, 1997.

ADDRESSES: The application and related documents are available for review upon written request or by appointment. (SEE SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION).

Written comments or requests for a public hearing on these applications should be mailed to the Chief, Permits and Documentation Division, F/PR1, 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 a particular request would be appropriate.

Comments may also be submitted by facsimile at (301) 713-0376, provided the facsimile is confirmed by hard copy submitted by mail and postmarked no later than the closing date of the comment period. Please note that comments will not be accepted by E-mail or other electronic media.

Concurrent with the publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, NMFS is forwarding copies of the

applications to the Marine Mammal Commission and its Committee of Scientific Advisors.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The subject permits are requested under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (MMPA; 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 (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered fish and wildlife (50 CFR 222.23), and the Fur Seal Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1151 *et seq.*).

The National Marine Mammal Laboratory (File No. 782-1399) requests a permit to collect, import or export specimen materials from pinnipeds (excluding walrus) or cetaceans that were legally taken in the country of origin, killed incidental to commercial fishing or other operations, found dead at sea or stranded, and/or found dead of natural causes, from anywhere in the world these samples become available. The research conducted under permit will provide valuable information regarding the biology and life history of each species.

The University of Texas Medical Branch (File No. 878-1410) requests authority to obtain, import and export specimen materials from cetaceans and pinnipeds (except walrus) from anywhere in the world samples were legally taken. The purposes of the study are to: determine anatomic baselines for normal structures and tissues; determine the patterns of naturally occurring diseases and whether they change over time; whether stranding or other mortality can be attributed to environmental degradation or other human activity.

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.

Addresses: Applications and related documents are available in the following offices:

Permits and Documentation Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS,

1315 East-West Highway, Room 13130, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (301/713-2289);

Alaska Region, NMFS, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802-1668 (907/586-7221);

Northeast Region, NMFS, One Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930/2298 (508/281-9250);

Northwest Region, NMFS, 7600 Sand Point Way, NE, BIN C15700, Bldg. 1, Seattle, WA 98115-0070 (206/526-6150);

Southeast Region, NMFS, 9721 Executive Blvd. North, St. Petersburg, FL 33702-2432 (813/570-5301); and

Southwest Region, NMFS, 501 West Ocean Blvd., Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802 (310/980-4001).

Dated: August 1, 1997.

Ann D. Terbush,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**Office of the Secretary**

[Transmittal No. 97-31]

36(b)(1) Arms Sales Notification

AGENCY: Department of Defense, Defense Security Assistance Agency.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Defense is publishing the unclassified text of a section 36(b)(1) arms sales notification. This is published to fulfill the requirements of section 155 of Pub. L. 104-164 dated 21 July 1996.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. J. Hurd, DSAA/COMPT/CPD, (703) 604-6575.

The following is a copy of a letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Transmittal 97-31, with attached transmittal, policy justification, and 620C(d).

Dated: July 31, 1997.

L.M. Bynum,

Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.

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