

Northwest Territories, Canada for personal use.

Applicant: John C. Byram, Jr., Mission, KS, PRT-833352.

The applicant requests a permit to import a polar bear (*Ursus maritimus*) sport-hunted from the McClintock Channel polar bear population, Northwest Territories, Canada for personal use.

Applicant: Bobbie McLawhorn, New Bern, NC, PRT-833590.

The applicant requests a permit to import a polar bear (*Ursus maritimus*) sport-hunted from the McClintock Channel polar bear population, Northwest Territories, Canada for personal use.

Applicant: Robert B. Johnson, Millwood, NY, PRT-833623.

The applicant requests a permit to import a polar bear (*Ursus maritimus*) sport-hunted from the Southern Beaufort Sea polar bear population, Northwest Territories, Canada for personal use.

Applicant: Collins F. Kellogg, Sr., Croghan, NY, PRT-833625.

The applicant requests a permit to import a polar bear (*Ursus maritimus*) sport-hunted from the Parry Channel polar bear population, Northwest Territories, Canada for personal use.

Written data or comments, requests for copies of the complete applications, or requests for a public hearing on any of these applications for marine mammal permits should be sent to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Management Authority, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Room 430, Arlington, Virginia 22203, telephone 703/358-2104 or fax 703/358-2281 and must be received within 30 days of the date of publication of this notice. Anyone requesting a hearing should give specific reasons why a hearing would be appropriate. The holding of such hearing is at the discretion of the Director.

Documents and other information submitted with all of the applications listed in this notice are available for review, *subject to the requirements of the Privacy Act and Freedom of Information Act*, by any party who submits a written request for a copy of such documents within 30 days of the date of publication of this notice at the above address.

Dated: August 22, 1997.

Karen Anderson,

Acting Chief, Branch of Permits, Office of Management Authority.

[FR Doc. 97-22889 Filed 8-27-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Emergency Exemption: Issuance

On August 15, 1997, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) issued a permit (PRT-833446) to Dr. David Owens, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX to import blood samples from Kemp's ridley sea turtles (*Lepidochelys kempi*) currently maintained at the Cayman Turtle Farm, Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands. The 30-day public comment period required by section 10(c) of the Endangered Species Act was waived. The Service determined that an emergency affecting the health and life of the sea turtles existed and that no reasonable alternative was available to the applicant, for the following reasons: (1) Mexico has agreed to accept Kemp's ridley sea turtles from the Cayman Turtle Farm which can no longer maintain this endangered species; (2) all of the sea turtles must be tested for disease before transport to Mexico; (3) testing of up to 200 samples is expected to take at least several weeks; (4) because of financial difficulties, the Cayman authorities have indicated that the animals must be moved to Mexico by November or they will have to be euthanized. The 30-day public comment period has therefore been waived to expedite the processing of the blood samples to ensure that only healthy turtles are transported to Mexico and to ensure that healthy animals are not euthanized in the Cayman facility due to lack of supporting funds.

Dated: August 22, 1997.

Karen Anderson,

Acting Chief, Branch of Permit, Office of Management Authority.

[FR Doc. 97-22887 Filed 8-27-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Availability of a Habitat Conservation Plan and Receipt of an Application for an Incidental Take Permit for the Basin A Project, Contra Costa County, California

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service.

ACTION: Notice of receipt.

SUMMARY: This notice advises the public that the Contra Costa County Department of Public Works (Department) has applied to the Fish and Wildlife Service for an incidental take permit pursuant to section

10(a)(1)(B) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. The application has been assigned permit number PRT-833486. The proposed permit would authorize the incidental take of the California red-legged frog (*Rana aurora draytonii*), federally listed as threatened, and/or modification of its habitat during sediment removal activities at Basin A in Contra Costa County, California. The permit would be in effect for 20 years.

The Service announces the receipt of the Department's incidental take permit application and the availability of the proposed Basin A Habitat Conservation Plan (Plan), which accompanies the incidental take permit application, for public comment. The Plan fully describes the proposed project and the measures the Department would undertake to minimize and mitigate project impacts to the California red-legged frog. The Service has determined that the Basin A Plan qualifies as a "low-effect" Plan as defined by the Fish and Wildlife Service's Habitat Conservation Planning Handbook (November 1996). The Service has further determined that approval of the Plan qualifies as a categorical exclusion under the National Environmental Policy Act, as provided by the Department of Interior Manual (516 DM 2, Appendix 1 and 516 DM 6, Appendix 1). This notice is provided pursuant to section 10(c) of the Endangered Species Act.

Comments are specifically requested on the appropriateness of the "No Surprises" assurance specifically discussed under the "Unforeseen Circumstances" section of the Plan. All comments received, including names and addresses, will become part of the official administrative record and may be made available to the public.

DATES: Written comments on the permit application and Plan should be received on or before September 29, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Comments regarding the permit application or the Plan should be addressed to the Fish and Wildlife Service, Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office, 3310 El Camino Avenue, Suite 130, Sacramento, California 95821-6340. Please refer to permit number PRT-833486 when submitting comments. Individuals wishing copies of the application and the Plan for review should immediately contact the above office. Documents also will be available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the above address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Tiki Baron or Mr. William Lehman,