

7. Enforcement and VMS issues, including a) reports from the U.S. Coast Guard and NMFS Enforcement, b) status of violations, and c) possible changes to the Council's VMS policy;

8. Program planning and administrative issues, including a) Council milestones for 2000-2003, b) Standard Operating Practices and Procedure revision, c) election of officers, and d) meetings and workshops; and

9. Other business as required.

Although other issues not contained in this agenda may come before this Council for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, those issues may not be the subject of formal Council action during this meeting. Council action will be restricted to those issues specifically identified in the agenda listed in this notice.

Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Kitty M. Simonds, (808) 522-8220 (voice) or (808) 522-8226 (fax), at least 5 days prior to meeting date.

Dated: October 21, 1997.

Richard W. Surdi,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. 97-28442 Filed 10-27-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[102197B]

Marine Mammals; Permit No. 837 (P77-1#67)

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

ACTION: Scientific research permit amendment.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that a request for amendment of scientific research permit no. 837 submitted by The National Marine Mammal Laboratory, Alaska Fisheries Science Center, NMFS, NOAA, 7600 Sand Point Way NE., BIN C15700, Seattle, Washington 98115, has been granted.

ADDRESSES: The amendment and related documents are available for review

upon written request or by appointment in the following office(s):

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

Alaska Region, NMFS, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802-1668.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On September 12, 1997, notice was published in the **Federal Register** (62 FR 48062) that an amendment of permit no. 837, issued June 4, 1993 (58 FR 33085), had been requested by the above-named organization. The original permit authorized studies on northern fur seals (*Callorhinus ursinus*) over a five-year period on rookeries in the Bering Sea and eastern North Pacific Ocean. The requested amendment has been granted under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), the provisions of § 216.39 of the Regulations Governing the Taking and Importing of Marine Mammals (50 CFR part 216), and the Fur Seal Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1151 *et seq.*).

The permit was amended to authorize the following increased takings of northern fur seals (*Callorhinus ursinus*): To collect biopsy samples from 30 additional females on St. Paul and 30 additional females on St. George Islands. The total number of females to be biopsy sampled on both St. Paul and St. George will increase to 180 (90 on each island).

Dated: October 20, 1997.

Ann Terbush,

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

[FR Doc. 97-28439 Filed 10-27-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D.092697B]

Marine Mammals; Scientific Research Permit No. 1016 (P167H)

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

ACTION: Receipt of application for amendment.

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 requested an amendment to Permit No. 1016.

DATES: Written comments must be received on or before November 27, 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).

Permit No. 1016 authorizes the permittee to harass several species of stranded rehabilitated and permanently captive pinnipeds and small cetaceans in order to measure their interaction with fishing gear and to determine the effect of introducing an auditory stimulus (i.e., pinger) on responses. The research is authorized to be conducted over a five year period. The permittee is now requesting to: add 2 pinger trials and 2 net trials with 14 of the 18 California sea lions (*Zalophus californianus*) currently authorized to be involved in motivational state trials; and increase the number of California sea lions to be used in the naive trials from 30 to 40.

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.