

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kitty M. Simonds, Executive Director; telephone: 808-522-8220.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Bottomfish Task Force will review a draft amendment for the Mau Zone bottomfish fishery limited entry program in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. The Task Force will discuss new entry criteria for the limited entry program and consider other business as needed.

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

Special Accommodations

This meeting is 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: February 11, 1998.

Bruce C. Morehead,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 98-4044 Filed 2-17-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 021198A]

Marine Mammals

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

ACTION: Issuance of permit amendment.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that on February 10, 1998, Permit No. 827 (P278D), issued to Dr. Brent Stewart, Hubbs-Sea World Research Institute, 1700 South Shores Road, San Diego, California 92109, was amended.

ADDRESSES: The amendment and related documents are available for review upon written request or by appointment 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); and

Regional Administrator, Southwest Region, National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA, 501 West Ocean Boulevard, Suite 4200, Long Beach, California 90802-4213.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sara Shapiro or Ruth Johnson (301/713-2289).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The subject amendment has been issued 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 of the governing the taking and importing (50 CFR part 216), the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), the provisions of § 222.25 of the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered fish and wildlife (50 CFR part 222), and the Fur Seal Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1151 *et seq.*).

The amendment authorizes the continuation of research under Permit No. 827 (P278D) for an additional year. The permit will now expire March 31, 1999.

Issuance of this permit, as required by the ESA, was based on a finding that such permit (1) was applied for in good faith, (2) will not operate to the disadvantage of the endangered species which is the subject of this permit, and (3) is consistent with the purposes and policies set forth in section 2 of the ESA.

Dated: February 11, 1998.

Ann D. Terbush,

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

[FR Doc. 98-4043 Filed 2-17-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D.# 021098H]

Marine Mammals; File No. P771#74

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 the Alaska Fisheries Science Center, National Marine Mammal Laboratory, NMFS, 7600 Sand Point Way NE, BIN C15700, Seattle, WA 98115-0070, has requested an amendment to scientific research Permit No. 977.

DATES: Written or telefaxed comments must be received on or before March 20, 1998.

ADDRESSES: The amendment request 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 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (301/713-2289);

Southwest Region, NMFS, 501 West Ocean Blvd., Long Beach, CA 90802-4213 (310/980-4001); and

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

Written comments or requests for a public hearing on this request should be submitted 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 this particular amendment 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.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ruth Johnson, 301/713-2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The subject amendment to Permit No. 977, issued on September 14, 1995 (60 FR 49260) is requested under the authority 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), and the Fur Seal Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1151 *et seq.*).

Permit No. 977 authorizes the permit holder to: take up to 250,410 California sea lions, 9,275 Northern fur seals and 21,650 Northern elephant seals in the course of conducting four research projects over a 3 to 5-year period which will focus on several aspects of California sea lion biology: 1) annual at-sea distribution, foraging behavior, and food habits of adult females, mother-pup activity patterns and weaning behavior; 2) identification of diseases in the population and the effects of diseases on survival of individuals and weaning parameters of pups; 3) assessment of vital parameters; and 4) assessment of population trends and pup mortality: live and dead pup