

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****International Trade Administration****Applications for Duty-Free Entry of Scientific Instruments**

Pursuant to Section 6(c) of the Educational, Scientific and Cultural Materials Importation Act of 1966 (Pub. L. 89-651; 80 Stat. 897; 15 CFR part 301), we invite comments on the question of whether instruments of equivalent scientific value, for the purposes for which the instruments shown below are intended to be used, are being manufactured in the United States.

Comments must comply with 15 CFR 301.5(a)(3) and (4) of the regulations and be filed within 20 days with the Statutory Import Programs Staff, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, D.C. 20230. Applications may be examined between 8:30 A.M. and 5:00 P.M. in Room 4211, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C.

**Docket Number:** 98-001. **Applicant:** University of Texas at Austin, Materials Science & Engineering Center, MS&E—Building, ETC. Room 9.102, M/C C2201, 26th & Dean Keaton Streets, Austin, TX 78712. **Instrument:** IR Image Furnace, Model SC-M35HD. **Manufacturer:** NEC Nichiden Machinery Ltd., Japan.

**Intended Use:** The instrument will be used in an ongoing research project that includes growth of transition-metal oxide crystals with the objectives of providing highly reliable data to study the electronic behavior at the crossover from itinerant to localized electrons in transition-metal oxides. Application accepted by Commissioner of Customs: January 12, 1998.

**Docket Number:** 98-002. **Applicant:** University of Vermont, Burlington, VT 05405. **Instrument:** HD Collector Upgrade for Mass Spectrometer. **Manufacturer:** Pro-Vac Services, United Kingdom. **Intended Use:** The instrument is an accessory which will upgrade the analytical capabilities of an existing mass spectrometer to analyze stable isotope abundance of H in natural materials for a variety of environmental, biological and ecological research projects. In addition, the instrument will be used for educational purposes in the course Environmental Isotope Geochemistry for student practice of what is learned during the lecture part of the course. Application accepted by Commissioner of Customs: January 21, 1998.

**Docket Number:** 98-003. **Applicant:** University of Vermont, Department of Medicine, Given Building C-247,

Burlington, VT 05405. **Instrument:** (40 each) HV Stopcock (Laboratory Glassware). **Manufacturer:** Louwers Hapert Glasstechnics BV, The Netherlands. **Intended Use:** The instruments are components assembled from tubes that will be used in the reduction of water to hydrogen by the zinc reduction method. Experiments will be conducted involving the use of double labeled water to determine metabolic rates of research subjects. Application accepted by Commissioner of Customs: January 21, 1998.

**Docket Number:** 98-004. **Applicant:** University of California at Los Angeles, Plasma Physics Laboratory, 405 Hilgard Avenue, P.O. Box 951547, Los Angeles, CA 90095-1547. **Instrument:** YAG Pumped Dye Laser. **Manufacturer:** Spectron Laser Systems, United Kingdom. **Intended Use:** The instrument will be used as the illuminator on a resonant lidar system. It will be used to excite sodium at 90 km altitude for the purposes of monitoring density during auroral conditions. The density will be monitored by tuning the dye laser to the sodium resonance wave length at 590 nm and measuring the strength of the return. Application accepted by Commissioner of Customs: January 26, 1998.

**Frank W. Creel,**

*Director, Statutory Import Programs Staff.*

[FR Doc. 98-4072 Filed 2-17-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-DS-P

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

[I.D. 021098F]

**Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council; Meeting**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council's Dogfish Technical Committee will hold a public meeting.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held on Thursday, March 5, 1998, from 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** This meeting will be held at the Days Inn, 4101 Island Avenue, Philadelphia, PA; telephone: 215-492-0400.

**Council Address:** Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 300 S. New Street, Dover, DE 19904; telephone: 302-674-2331.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** David R. Keifer, Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council; telephone: 302-674-2331

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Agenda items include overview of current stock status, definition of overfishing, discussion of possible management actions necessary including reductions in F and possible rebuilding schedule, and discard issues and required analyses.

Although other issues not contained in this agenda may come before this Committee 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 Joanna Davis at the Council (see **ADDRESSES**) at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: February 11, 1998.

**Bruce C. Morehead,**

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

[FR Doc. 98-4045 Filed 2-17-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

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

[I.D. 021098C]

**Western Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Western Pacific Fishery Management Council will hold a meeting of its Bottomfish Task Force.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held on March 5, 1998, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council, Conference Room, 1164 Bishop Street, Suite 1400, Honolulu, HI; telephone: (808) 522-8220.

**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