

Office of Sustainable Fisheries,
International Fisheries Division, 1315
East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD
20910.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Robert A. Dickinson, Office of
Sustainable Fisheries, (301) 713-2276.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section
204(d) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act (16
U.S.C. 1824(d)) provides, among other
things, that the Secretary of Commerce
(Secretary) may issue a transshipment
permit which authorizes a vessel other
than a vessel of the United States to
engage in fishing consisting solely of
transporting fish or fish products at sea
from a point within the U.S. Exclusive
Economic Zone (EEZ) or, with the
concurrence of a State, within the
boundaries of that State to a point
outside the United States. NMFS has
received an application requesting
authorization for three Mexican vessels
to receive within the area of the U.S.
EEZ south of 34° N. lat., and east of 121°
W. long., transfers of live tuna from a
U.S. purse seiner for the purpose of
transporting the tuna alive to the
Mexican EEZ.

Section 204(d)(3) of the Magnuson-
Stevens Act provides, among other
things, that an application may not be
approved until the Secretary determines
that "no owner or operator of a vessel
of the United States which has adequate
capacity to perform the transportation
for which the application is submitted
has indicated...an interest in performing
the transportation at fair and reasonable
rates." NMFS is publishing this notice
as part of its effort to make this
determination.

Interested U.S. vessel owners and
operators may obtain a copy of the
complete application, including vessel
modifications necessary to
accommodate the pens into which the
live tuna will be placed, from NMFS
(See **ADDRESSES**).

Dated: July 23, 1998.

Bruce C. Morehead,

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

[FR Doc. 98-20212 Filed 7-28-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 071698C]

Marine Mammals; File No. P66j

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

ACTION: Issuance of permit amendment.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that
Mr. Wayne C. Regelin, Director,
Division of Wildlife Conservation,
Alaska Department of Fish and Game,
P.O. Box 25526, Juneau, AK 99802-
5526, has been issued an amendment to
scientific research Permit No. 965
(P66j).

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 13705,
Silver Spring, MD 20910 (301/713-
2289); and

Regional Administrator, Alaska
Region, National Marine Fisheries
Service, NOAA, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau,
AK, 99802-1668 (907/586-7221).

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

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On June 3,
1998, notice was published in the
Federal Register (63 FR 30201) that an
amendment of Permit No. 965, issued
June 19, 1995 (60 FR 34233), had been
requested by the above-named
organization. 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), the Endangered Species Act of
1973, as amended (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531
et seq.), and the provisions of § 222.25
of the regulations governing the taking,
importing, and exporting of endangered
fish and wildlife (50 CFR 222.23).

Permit No. 965 (P66j) authorizes the
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
(ADF&G) to: take a maximum of 125
Steller sea lions (*Eumetopias jubatus*)
by trapping (including leash capture),
darting, sampling, and anesthesia
(including a maximum of 20 by
recapture for follow-up blood sampling
and removal of instruments); a
maximum of 400 Steller pups over 6
months old by hand capture, gas
anesthesia, and marking; a maximum of
10,000 Stellers by harassment during
the course of capturing suitable animals;
a maximum of 15 Stellers by
unintentional mortality during the
course of capture and chemical
immobilization; and salvage specimens
of stranded animals, premature pups,
and mortalities associated with this and
other research activities. The Holder is
also authorized to take up to 30
rehabilitated California sea lions
(*Zalophus californianus*) by injection
with experimental immobilization drugs

and a maximum of 3 for unintentional
mortality. All takes will be over a 5-year
period.

The amendment authorizes the
Holder to take 25 additional (50 total)
juvenile Steller sea lions (*Eumetopias
jubatus*) annually using the underwater
leash capture method to adequately
describe the basic life history and
ecology of this age class.

Issuance of this amendment, 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: July 23, 1998.

Ann D. Terbush,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 072298A]

Marine Mammals; File No. 715-1457

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

ACTION: Receipt of application.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Dr.
A.W. Trites, Research Director, North
Pacific Universities Marine Mammal
Research Consortium, 6248 Biological
Sciences Road, Hut B3, Room 18,
University of British Columbia,
Vancouver, B.C. Canada, V6T 1Z4, has
applied in due form for a permit to take
Steller sea lions (*Eumetopias jubatus*)
for purposes of scientific research.

DATES: Written or telefaxed comments
must be received on or before August
28, 1998.

ADDRESSES: The application 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

Regional Administrator, Alaska
Region, National Marine Fisheries