

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

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

Regional Administrator, Northwest Region, National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA, 7600 Sand Point Way, NE, BIN C15700, Bldg. 1, Seattle, WA 98115-0070 (206/526-6150); and

Regional Administrator, Southwest Region, National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA, 501 West Ocean Boulevard, Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802-4213 (562/980-4001).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Jeannie Drevenak, 301/713-2289.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On August 17, 1998, notice was published in the **Federal Register** (63 FR 43915) that a request for a scientific research permit to take gray whales and harass various cetacean and pinniped species had been submitted by the above-named individual. The requested permit has been issued 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), the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), and the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered fish and wildlife (50 CFR parts 217-227).

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 3, 1999.

**Ann D. Terbush,**

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

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**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**National Telecommunications and Information Administration**

[Docket No. 980212036-9040-04]

**Enhancement of the .us Domain Space, Notification of Public Meeting**

**AGENCY:** National Telecommunications and Information Administration, Department of Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** Notification is hereby given that the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) will hold a public meeting to explore the future administration and management of the .us domain name space. The meeting is scheduled to occur on the dates and times described below. All times noted are eastern standard time. Attendees should complete and submit the meeting pre-registration form located at <http://www.ntia.doc.gov>. The meeting is open to the public and seating at the meeting will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. It is strongly recommended that participants review "Request for Comments on the Enhancement of the .us Domain Space," 63 Fed. Reg. 41547 (1988) (also posted at <http://www.ntia.doc.gov/ntiahome/domainname/usrfc/dotusrfc.htm>), and the public comments received in response to the RFC. These comments can be viewed at <http://www.ntia.doc.gov>. The agenda will proceed through presentations and panel/roundtable discussions. The public will be afforded an opportunity to participate through question and answer/open discussion periods as time permits.

**DATES:** March 9, 1999, 10:00 am to 4:30 pm.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the Department of Commerce, Room 4830, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC. Attendees should use the Main Entrance on 14th Street. To facilitate entry please have a picture ID available and/or a U.S. Government building pass if applicable ready upon arrival.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

*General:* Karen Rose, NTIA/OIA, (202) 482-1866. More detailed information regarding the agenda and other aspects of the meeting will be made available and updated periodically at <http://www.ntia.doc.gov>. The pre-registration form will also be made available at this address.

*Media Inquiries:* Please contact the NTIA Office of Public Affairs, at (202) 482-7002.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On August 4, 1998, NTIA published "Request for Comments on the Enhancement of the .us Domain Space," 63 Fed. Reg. 41547 (1988) (also posted at <http://www.ntia.doc.gov/ntiahome/domainname/usrfc/dotusrfc.htm>). The .us domain is currently administered by the Information Sciences Institute at the University of Southern California. The RFC sought comments regarding the future administration and management of the .us domain space. That comment

period was extend on August 24 to afford interested parties a full opportunity to address the issues on which NTIA solicited public comment. See 63 Fed. Reg. 45800 (1998).

*Purpose:* The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the future management and administration of the .us domain, including how .us could be optimized or enhanced to encourage increased utilization of the domain space.

*Agenda:* The tentative agenda is as follows:

1. .us Today: Overview of current management and structure of the .us domain space.
2. .us Issues and Opportunities: A discussion of the issues and opportunities facing the current and future management of the .us space, with a view toward identifying possible solutions. Questions and issues posed in the .us RFC will be explored as well as other issues and opportunities as identified during the discussion.
3. Other Systems: An overview of the manner in which other country code top level domains (ccTLDs) are administered. What are the current practices and issues in the management of other ccTLDs and to what extent such practices inform the utilization, design, and management of .us?
4. .us RFC Proposals: Specific proposals with respect to administering the .us domain name system submitted in response to the .us RFC will be discussed focusing on how these proposed models function to address the issues and opportunities associated with the .us domain space.

5. Going Forward: A discussion on the next steps for the management and administration of the .us space. We will attempt to summarize the issues, opportunities, and possible solutions identified throughout the day and focus on the possible elements, policies or other solutions that could be implemented as part of future .us administration and management. As part of this item, the feasibility of issuing a Request for Proposals (RFP) for .us management and administration will be discussed.

The agenda is subject to change. An updated, more detailed agenda will be made prior to the meeting. Please check the NTIA website at <http://www.nita.doc.gov>.

Dated: February 5, 1999.

**Kathy Smith,**

*Acting Chief Counsel.*

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