

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**International Trade Administration****University of Colorado; Notice of Decision on Application for Duty-Free Entry of Scientific Instrument**

This decision is made 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). Related records can be viewed between 8:30 A.M. and 5:00 P.M. in Room 4211, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC.

Docket Number: 98-064. Applicant: University of Colorado, Denver, CO 80217. Instrument: Ammonia Flux Analyzer, Model AMANDA-100. Manufacturer: ECN Fuels, The Netherlands. Intended Use: See notice at 63 FR 71268, December 24, 1998.

Comments: None received. Decision: Approved. No instrument of equivalent scientific value to the foreign instrument, for such purposes as it is intended to be used, is being manufactured in the United States. Reasons: The foreign instrument provides: (1) 2-minute response time, (2) a detection limit of 10.0 ng of NH₃/m³ and (3) portable deployment. A domestic manufacturer of similar equipment advised February 8, 1999 that (1) these capabilities are pertinent to the applicant's intended purpose and (2) it knows of no domestic instrument or apparatus of equivalent scientific value to the foreign instrument for the applicant's intended use.

We know of no other instrument or apparatus of equivalent scientific value to the foreign instrument which is being manufactured in the United States.

Frank W. Creel,

Director, Statutory Import Programs Staff.
[FR Doc. 99-5021 Filed 2-26-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-DS-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**International Trade Administration****Application for Duty-Free Entry of Scientific Instrument**

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 an instrument of equivalent scientific value, for the purposes for which the instrument shown below is intended to be used, is

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, DC 20230. Application 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, NW, Washington, DC.

Docket Number: 99-001. *Applicant:* The Regents of the University of Michigan, MS3204 Medical Sciences I, 1301 Catherine, Ann Arbor, MI 48109-0602. *Instrument:* Electron Microscope, Model H-7500. *Manufacturer:* Hitachi Scientific Instruments, Japan. *Intended Use:* The instrument will be used to train medical students and house officers to evaluate tissue specimens in the practice of anatomic pathology for patients. *Application accepted by Commissioner of Customs:* February 11, 1999.

Frank W. Creel,

Director, Statutory Import Programs Staff.
[FR Doc. 99-5022 Filed 2-26-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-DS-P

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

[I.D. 022299B]

Report to Congress; Impacts of Pinnipeds on Salmonids and West Coast Ecosystems

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

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces the availability of a Report to Congress on the impacts of California sea lions and Pacific harbor seals (pinnipeds) on salmonids and West Coast ecosystems. The report provides recommendations for addressing issues and problems with expanding pinniped populations on the West Coast. NMFS prepared this report in accordance with section 120(f) of the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA).

ADDRESSES: Copies of the Report to Congress are available from NMFS, Northwest Regional Office, 7600 Sand Point Way, NE., Seattle, WA 98115. The report also can be obtained on the Internet at <http://www.nwr.noaa.gov>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Joe Scordino (206) 526-6143, Irma

Lagomarsino (562) 980-4016, or Donna Wieting (301) 713-2322.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The 1994 amendments to the MMPA directed the Secretary of Commerce (Secretary) to conduct a 1-year scientific investigation to determine whether California sea lions and Pacific harbor seals were having (1) a significant negative impact on the recovery of salmonid fishery stocks that have been listed as endangered or threatened species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) or that the Secretary finds are approaching endangered or threatened status or (2) broader impacts on the coastal ecosystems of Washington, Oregon, and California. Because NMFS did not have available resources and sufficient time to conduct rigorous field investigations on the issues identified by Congress within the specified 1-year timeframe, it established a Working Group in 1995 that focused the scientific investigation on a review of information from past field studies. The final Working Group report was published in March 1997 as a part of the NOAA technical memorandum series (NOAA Technical Memorandum NMFS-NWFSC-28) entitled, "Investigation of Scientific Information on the Impacts of California Sea Lions and Pacific Harbor Seals on Salmonids and on the Coastal Ecosystems of Washington, Oregon, and California." Copies of this report are available on the Internet at <http://www.nwfsc.noaa.gov/pubs/tm/tm28/tm28.htm>.

After completion of the scientific investigation, in accordance with the MMPA, NMFS, on behalf of the Secretary, entered into discussions with the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC), on behalf of Washington, Oregon, and California, to address issues or problems identified as a result of the scientific investigation and to develop recommendations to address such issues or problems. In February 1997, the discussions were completed, and NMFS prepared a draft report to Congress to recommend measures to address issues identified in the discussions with PSMFC and representatives of the coastal states. On March 28, 1997 (62 FR 14889), NMFS published notification in the **Federal Register** on the availability of the draft report to Congress for a 90-day public review and comment period. Over 300 letters and 3000 postcards commenting on the draft report were received.

After consideration of public comments, NMFS completed the Report to Congress. A summary of those comments with NMFS responses is