

Notices

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This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains documents other than rules or proposed rules that are applicable to the public. Notices of hearings and investigations, committee meetings, agency decisions and rulings, delegations of authority, filing of petitions and applications and agency statements of organization and functions are examples of documents appearing in this section.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food and Nutrition Service

Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC): Income Eligibility Guidelines

AGENCY: Food and Nutrition Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department announces adjusted income eligibility guidelines to be used by State agencies in determining the income eligibility of persons applying to participate in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC Program). These income eligibility guidelines are to be used in conjunction with the WIC Regulations. **EFFECTIVE DATE:** July 1, 1999.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Barbara Hallman, Branch Chief, Policy and Program Development Branch, Supplemental Food Programs Division, FNS, USDA, 3101 Park Center Drive, Alexandria, Virginia 22302, (703) 305-2730.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Executive Order 12866

This notice is exempted from review by the Office of Management and Budget under Executive Order 12866.

Regulatory Flexibility Act

This action is not a rule as defined by the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601-612) and thus is exempt from the provisions of this Act.

Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995

This notice does not contain reporting or recordkeeping requirements subject to approval by the Office of Management and Budget in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3507).

Executive Order 12372

This program is listed in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Programs under No. 10.557 and is subject to the provisions of Executive Order 12372, which requires intergovernmental consultation with State and local officials (7 CFR Part 3015, Subpart V, 48 FR 29112 June 24, 1983).

Description

Section 17(d)(2)(A) of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1786 (d)(2)(A)) requires the Secretary of Agriculture to establish income criteria to be used with nutritional risk criteria in determining a person's eligibility for participation in the WIC Program. The law provides that persons will be income eligible for the WIC Program only if they are members of families that satisfy the income standard prescribed for reduced price school meals under section 9(b) of the National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1758(b)). Under section 9(b), the income limit for reduced price school meals is 185 percent of the Federal poverty guidelines, as adjusted.

Section 9(b) also requires that these guidelines be revised annually to reflect changes in the Consumer Price Index. The annual revision for 1999 was published by the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) in the **Federal Register** on March 18, 1999 at 64 FR 13428. The guidelines published by DHHS are referred to as the poverty guidelines.

Section 246.7(d)(1) of the WIC regulations specifies that State agencies may prescribe income guidelines either equaling the income guidelines established under section 9 of the

National School Lunch Act for reduced price school meals or identical to State or local guidelines for free or reduced price health care. However, in conforming WIC income guidelines to State or local health care guidelines, the State cannot establish WIC guidelines which exceed the guidelines for reduced price school meals, or which are less than 100 percent of the Federal poverty guidelines. Consistent with the method used to compute income eligibility guidelines for reduced price meals under the National School Lunch Program, the poverty guidelines were multiplied by 1.85 and the results rounded upward to the next whole dollar.

At this time the Department is publishing the maximum and minimum WIC income eligibility guidelines by household size for the period July 1, 1999 through June 30, 2000. Consistent with Section 17(f)(17) of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1786(f)(17)), a State agency may implement the revised WIC income eligibility guidelines concurrently with the implementation of income eligibility guidelines under the Medicaid program established under title XIX of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396 *et seq.*). State agencies may coordinate implementation with the revised Medicaid guidelines, but in no case may implementation take place later than July 1, 1999. State agencies that do not coordinate implementation with the revised Medicaid guidelines must implement the WIC income eligibility guidelines on July 1, 1999. The first table of this notice contains the income limits by household size for the 48 contiguous States, the District of Columbia and all Territories, including Guam. Because the poverty guidelines for Alaska and Hawaii are higher than for the 48 contiguous States, separate tables for Alaska and Hawaii have been included for the convenience of the State agencies.

BILLING CODE 3410-30-U

INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES
(Effective from July 1, 1999 to June 30, 2000)

Household Size	Federal Poverty Guidelines			Reduced Price Meals - 185%		
	Annual	Month	Week	Annual	Month	Week
48 CONTIGUOUS UNITED STATES, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, GUAM AND TERRITORIES						
1.....	8,240	687	159	15,244	1,271	294
2.....	11,060	922	213	20,461	1,706	394
3.....	13,880	1,157	267	25,678	2,140	494
4.....	16,700	1,392	322	30,895	2,575	595
5.....	19,520	1,627	376	36,112	3,010	695
6.....	22,340	1,862	430	41,329	3,445	795
7.....	25,160	2,097	484	46,546	3,879	896
8.....	27,980	2,332	539	51,763	4,314	996
For each add'l family member add	+ 2,820	+ 235	+ 55	+ 5,217	+ 435	+ 101
ALASKA						
1.....	10,320	860	199	19,092	1,591	368
2.....	13,840	1,154	267	25,604	2,134	493
3.....	17,360	1,447	334	32,116	2,677	618
4.....	20,880	1,740	402	38,628	3,219	743
5.....	24,400	2,034	470	45,140	3,762	869
6.....	27,920	2,327	537	51,652	4,305	994
7.....	31,440	2,620	605	58,164	4,847	1,119
8.....	34,960	2,914	673	64,676	5,390	1,244
For each add'l family member add	+ 3,520	+ 294	+ 68	+ 6,512	+ 543	+ 126
HAWAII						
1.....	9,490	791	183	17,557	1,464	338
2.....	12,730	1,061	245	23,551	1,963	453
3.....	15,970	1,331	308	29,545	2,463	569
4.....	19,210	1,601	370	35,539	2,962	684
5.....	22,450	1,871	432	41,533	3,462	799
6.....	25,690	2,141	495	47,527	3,961	914
7.....	28,930	2,411	557	53,521	4,461	1,030
8.....	32,170	2,681	619	59,515	4,960	1,145
For each add'l family member add	+ 3,240	+ 270	+ 63	+ 5,994	+ 500	+ 116

Dated: March 16, 1999.
 Authority: 42 U.S.C. 1786.

Samuel Chambers, Jr.,
 Administrator.

[FR Doc. 99-7263 Filed 3-24-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-30-C

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 030599B]

Incidental Take of Marine Mammals; Taking of Ringed Seals Incidental to On-Ice Seismic Activities

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

ACTION: Notice of issuance of a letter of authorization.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), as amended, and with implementing regulations, notification is hereby given that a letter of authorization to take ringed seals incidental to on-ice seismic operations in the Beaufort Sea off Alaska was issued on March 21, 1999, to BP Exploration (Alaska), Anchorage, AK. **DATES:** This letter of authorization is effective from March 21, 1999, through May 31, 1999.

ADDRESSES: The applications and letters are available for review in the following offices: Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910, and Western Alaska Field Office, NMFS, 701 C Street, Anchorage, AK 99513.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kenneth R. Hollingshead, NMFS, (301) 713-2055 or Brad Smith, Western Alaska Field Office, NMFS, (907) 271-5006.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 101(a)(5)(A) of the MMPA (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) directs NMFS to allow, on request, the incidental, but not intentional, taking of small numbers of marine mammals by U.S. citizens who engage in a specified activity (other than commercial fishing) within a specified geographical region, if certain findings are made by NMFS and regulations are issued. Under the MMPA, the term "taking" means to harass, hunt, capture, or kill or to attempt to harass, hunt, capture or kill marine mammals.

Permission may be granted for periods up to 5 years if NMFS finds, after notification and opportunity for public comment, that the taking will have a negligible impact on the species or

stock(s) of marine mammals and will not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of the species or stock(s) for subsistence uses. In addition, NMFS must prescribe regulations that include permissible methods of taking and other means effecting the least practicable adverse impact on the species and its habitat and on the availability of the species for subsistence uses, paying particular attention to rookeries, mating grounds, and areas of similar significance. The regulations must include requirements pertaining to the monitoring and reporting of such taking. Regulations governing the taking of ringed and bearded seals incidental to on-ice seismic surveys were published on February 2, 1998 (63 FR 5277), and remain in effect until December 31, 2002.

Summary of Request

NMFS received a request for a letter of authorization on February 8, 1999, from BP Exploration (Alaska). This letter requested a take by harassment of a small number of ringed seals incidental to the described activity.

Issuance of these letters of authorization are based on findings that the total takings by this activity will have a negligible impact on the ringed and bearded seal stocks of the Western Beaufort Sea and that the applicants have met the requirements contained in the implementing regulations.

Dated: March 21, 1999.

Hilda Diaz-Soltero,

Director, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 99-7351 Filed 3-24-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 031799D]

South Atlantic Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of public meetings.

SUMMARY: The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council's (Council) Statement of Organization Practices and Procedures (SOPPs) Committee and ad hoc Reauthorization Committee will meet in Charleston, SC.

DATES: The SOPPs Committee meeting will be held on April 19, 1999 from 1:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., and on April 20, 1999

from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon; the ad hoc Reauthorization Committee meeting will be held on April 20, 1999 from 1:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. and on April 21, 1999 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

ADDRESSES: The meetings will be held at the Town and Country Inn, 2001 Savannah Highway, Charleston, SC 29407; telephone: 843-571-1000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Susan Buchanan, Public Information Officer; telephone: (843) 571-4366; fax: (843) 769-4520; email: susan.buchanan@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The SOPPs Committee will revise the Council's SOPPs manual for submission to the Secretary of Commerce for review. The ad hoc Reauthorization Committee will develop Council recommendations for changes to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to the Council office (see **ADDRESSES**) by April 12, 1999.

Dated: March 19, 1999.

Bruce C. Morehead,

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

[FR Doc. 99-7350 Filed 3-24-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 031999D]

Endangered Species; Permits

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

ACTION: Receipt of a request for modification 1 to permit 1094.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife at Olympia, WA (WDFW) has applied in due form for a permit modification that would authorize takes of anadromous fish species listed under the Endangered Species Act for research/enhancement purposes.

DATES: Written comments or a request for a public hearing on this request for a permit modification must be received on or before April 26, 1999.