

issuing EFPs are contained in the implementing regulations.

NMFS received an application for an EFP from Edward F. Melvin, University of Washington, Washington Sea Grant Program, on February 23, 1999. The purpose of the EFP is to conduct an experiment to assess alternative seabird bycatch avoidance measures for hook-and-line gear fisheries off Alaska. Results from the experiment could be used by NMFS to establish more effective regulatory measures to reduce seabird bycatch in these fisheries.

In accordance with § 679.6(c)(2), NMFS has determined that the proposal warrants further consideration and has initiated consultation with the Council. The Council will consider the EFP application during its April 19–23, 1999, meeting, which will be held at the Hilton Hotel, Anchorage, AK. The applicant has been invited to appear in support of the application.

A copy of the application is available for review from the NMFS Regional Administrator (see ADDRESSES).

**16 U.S.C. 1801** *et seq.*

Dated: March 23, 1999.

**Bruce C. Morehead,**

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

[FR Doc. 99–7653 Filed 3–26–99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–F

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

[I.D. 031199B]

#### Marine Mammals; File No. 930–1486

**AGENCIES:** National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NMFS), Commerce; Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), Interior.

**ACTION:** Receipt of application.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), Western Ecological Research Center, Dixon Field Station 6924 Tremont Road, Dixon, CA 95620 has applied in due form for a permit to take various cetacean and pinniped species, and southern sea otter and sea birds for purposes of scientific research.

**DATES:** Written or telefaxed comments must be received on or before April 28, 1999.

**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 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (301/713–2289);

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

Chief, Branch of Permits, Office of Management Authority, FWS, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Room 432, Arlington, VA 22203 (1–800–358–2104).

Written comments or request for a public hearing on this application should be mailed to the Chief, Permits and Documentation Division, F/PR1, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910 or Chief, Branch of Permits, Office of Management Authority, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Room 700, Arlington, VA 22203. Those individuals requesting a hearing should set forth the specific reasons why a hearing on this particular request would be appropriate.

Comments may also be submitted by facsimile at NMFS (301) 713–0376 or FWS 703/358–2281, 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 by other electronic media.

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

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The subject permit is requested under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (MMPA; 16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), and the Regulations Governing the Taking and Importing of Marine Mammals (50 CFR parts 216 and 18).

USGS requests authorization to conduct low altitude aerial surveys of marine mammals, including southern sea otters and sea birds in the Southern California Bight and adjacent waters.

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), an initial determination has been made that the activities proposed are categorically excluded from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement.

Concurrent with the publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**,

NMFS is forwarding copies of these applications to the Marine Mammal Commission and its Committee of Scientific Advisors.

Dated: March 11, 1999.

**Ann D. Terbush,**

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

Dated: March 19, 1999.

**Margaret Tieger,**

*Chief, Branch of Permits, Office of Management Authority, Fish and Wildlife Service.*

[FR Doc. 99–7651 Filed 3–26–99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–F

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 032299C]

#### Marine Mammals; File No. P368D

**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 Dr. James T. Harvey, Moss Landing Marine Laboratories, P.O. Box 450 Moss Landing, CA 95039–0450, has requested an amendment to scientific research Permit No. 938 (File No. P368D).

**DATES:** Written or telefaxed comments must be received on or before April 28, 1999.

**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); and

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

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