

Dated: May 5, 1999.

**Penelope D. Dalton,**

*Assistant Administrator for Fisheries,  
National Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. 99-11879 Filed 05-10-99; 8:45 am]

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**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric  
Administration**

[I.D. 050399B]

**Marine Mammals; File No. 782-1510**

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

**ACTION:** Receipt of application.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that National Marine Fisheries Service, National Marine Mammal Laboratory, has applied in due form for a permit to take killer whales (*Orcinus orca*) for purposes of scientific research.

**DATES:** Written or telefaxed comments must be received on or before June 10, 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 13130, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (301/713-2289);

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

Regional Administrator, Southwest Region, NMFS, 501 West Ocean Blvd., Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802-4213 (562/980-4001).

Written comments or requests 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. 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 (301) 713-0376, 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 part 216).

The applicant proposes to take up to 350 killer whales (*Orcinus orca*) by biopsy sample over a 5-year period. Animals will be photographed during sampling. Samples will be exported to England for genetic analysis. Up to 2500 will be inadvertently harassed annually. The purpose of the research is to investigate genetic diversity, food web dynamics and contaminant levels in North Pacific killer whales.

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 activity proposed is categorically excluded from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement.

Dated: May 4, 1999.

**Ann D. Terbush,**

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

[FR Doc. 99-11880 Filed 5-10-99; 8:45 am]

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**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric  
Administration**

[I.D. 050499A]

**Marine Mammals; File No. 758-1459-01**

**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. Kimberlee Beckmen, Institute of Arctic Biology, University of Alaska Fairbanks, Fairbanks, AK 99775-7000, has requested an amendment to scientific research Permit No. 758-1459.

**DATES:** Written or telefaxed comments must be received on or before June 10, 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

Alaska Region, NMFS, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802-1668 (309/586-7221).

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 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 other electronic media.

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

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The subject amendment to Permit No. 758-1459 issued on August 21, 1998 (63 FR 46417) is requested 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) and the Fur Seal Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1151 *et seq.*).

Permit No. 758-1459 authorizes the permit holder to take up to six moribund, mortally injured northern fur seals by lethal injection and salvage the liver, blood and blubber.

The permit holder requests authorization to take up to 82 northern fur seal pups up to 5 times to conduct research activities. Up to 9,152 will be inadvertently harassed annually during capture operations. The objective is to determine if the profound decline in lymphocyte proliferation responsiveness in all 4-6 week old pups compared to their neonatal response (observed in 1996) was a normal phenomenon, and determine at what age the maternal antibody protection finally wanes and the pup's own immune system can be fully stimulated.

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 activity proposed is 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**,