

will be used to develop USG positions and priorities on electronic commerce for international discussions in bilateral, regional and multilateral discussions, including the WTO, OECD, FTAA, TEP and others.

Background

In section 135 of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (19 U.S.C. 2155), Congress established a private-sector advisory system to ensure that U.S. trade policy and trade negotiation objectives adequately reflect U.S. commercial and economic interests.

Section 135 directs the President to—
“seek information and advice from representative elements of the private sector and the non-Federal governmental sector with respect to—

(A) Negotiating objectives and bargaining positions before entering into a trade agreement under [title I of the 1974 Trade Act and section 1102 of the Omnibus Trade and Competitiveness Act of 1988];

(B) The operation of any trade agreement once entered into; including preparation for dispute settlement panel proceedings to which the United States is a party; and

(C) Other matters arising in connection with the development, implementation, and administration of the trade policy of the United States.
* * *

The Secretary and the USTR have established seventeen Industry Sector Advisory Committees for Trade Policy Matters (ISACs) and four Industry Functional Advisory Committees for Trade Policy Matters (IFACs) pursuant to section 135. A complete list of these committees appears below:

Industry Sector Advisory Committees for Trade Policy Matters (ISAC) on:

- Aerospace Equipment (ISAC 1);
- Capital Goods (ISAC 2);
- Chemicals and Allied Products (ISAC 3);
- Consumer Goods (ISAC 4);
- Electronics and Instrumentation (ISAC 5);
- Energy (ISAC 6);
- Ferrous Ores and Metals (ISAC 7);
- Footwear, Leather, and Leather Products (ISAC 8);
- Building Products and Other Materials (ISAC 9);
- Lumber and Wood Products (ISAC 10);
- Nonferrous Ores and Metals (ISAC 11);
- Paper and Paper Products (ISAC 12);
- Services (ISAC 13);
- Small and Minority Business (ISAC 14);
- Textiles and Apparel (ISAC 15);
- Transportation, Construction, Mining,

- and Agricultural Equipment (ISAC 16);
- Wholesaling and Retailing (ISAC 17);
- and
- Industry Functional Advisory Committees on Trade Policy Matters (IFAC) on:
- Customs (IFAC 1);
- Standards (IFAC 2);
- Intellectual Property Rights (IFAC 3).
- Electronic Commerce (IFAC 4).

Functions

The duties of the ISACs and IFACs are to provide the Secretary and the USTR with advice on objectives and bargaining positions for multilateral trade negotiations, bilateral trade negotiations, and other trade-related matters. The committees provide nonpartisan industry input in the development of trade policy objectives. The committees' efforts result in strengthening the U.S. negotiating position by enabling the United States to display a united front when it negotiates trade agreements with other nations.

The ISACs provide advice and information on issues that affect specific sectors of U.S. industry. The IFACs focus on cross-cutting issues that affect all industry sectors, such as customs matters, product standards, intellectual property rights and electronic commerce. Each ISAC may also select a member to serve on each IFAC so that a broad range of industry perspectives is represented.

Committees meet an average of four times a year in Washington, DC. Members are responsible for all travel expenses incurred to attend the meetings.

Membership

ISAC and IFAC members are appointed jointly by the Secretary of Commerce and the USTR. Appointments are made at the initial chartering of the Committee, at the rechartering of each committee and periodically throughout the two-year charter period. Members serve at the discretion of the Secretary and USTR. Appointments to an ISAC/IFAC expire at the end of the committee's charter. However, members may be reappointed for one or more additional terms should the committee's charter be renewed and if the member proves to work effectively with the committee and his/her expertise is still needed.

The IFAC on Electronic Commerce is chartered for 40 members total, 23 directly appointed members and 17 elected members to represent each of the ISACs. The committee's charter expires March 19, 2000.

Qualifications

The Secretary and USTR invite nominations to the Committee of U.S. citizens who will represent U.S. manufacturing or service companies that trade internationally, or trade associations whose members are U.S. companies that trade internationally. Companies must be at least 51 percent beneficially-owned by U.S. persons. U.S.-based subsidiaries of foreign companies in general do not qualify for representation on the committees.

Nominees will be considered based upon their ability to carry out the goals of section 135 of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended. Secondary criteria are ensuring that the committee is balanced in terms of points of view, demographics, geography and company size. By law, appointments are made without regard to political affiliation.

Application Procedures

Requests for applications should be sent to the Director of the Industry Consultations Program, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW, Room 2015-B, Washington, DC 20230.

This notice is issued under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App) and 21 CFR part 14 relating to advisory committees.

Dated: July 30, 1999.

Michael J. Copps,

Acting Assistant Secretary for Trade Development.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D.080999G]

Notice of Availability of Bycatch Estimates Under the Harbor Porpoise Take Reduction Plan

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

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: NMFS has provided harbor porpoise bycatch estimates for January through December 1998 and January through April of 1999.

ADDRESSES: Send information requests to: Donna Wieting, Marine Mammal Division, Office of Protected Resources (F/PR2), National Marine Fisheries Service, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910-3226, Attn: Harbor

Porpoise Bycatch Estimates. Copies of the information may also be requested from Richard Merrick, Northeast Fisheries Science Center, 166 Water St., Woods Hole, MA 02543; or Doug Beach, Northeast Regional Office (F/NER3), One Blackburn Dr., Gloucester, MA 01930.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Donna Wieting, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, at (301) 713-2322, ext. 157; Richard Merrick, Northeast Fisheries Science Center, (508) 495-2291; or Doug Beach, Northeast Region, (978) 281-9254.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: NMFS implemented a plan in December of 1998 to reduce harbor porpoise bycatch in the Northeast sink gillnet fishery to below the Potential Biological Removal (PBR) level for that stock. The Harbor Porpoise Take Reduction Plan includes a combination of management measures including fishery closures and gear modifications. The Harbor Porpoise Take Reduction Plan aims to reduce New England harbor porpoise takes through two types of gillnet fishery closures: (1) Closures to all vessels except those using acoustic deterrent devices (or "pingers") and (2) In a limited number of cases, complete closures to all sink gillnet gear.

NMFS is hereby making available harbor porpoise incidental take levels for 1998 and the months of January through April of 1999, as estimated by NMFS' Northeast Fisheries Science Center.

For 1998, the total estimated bycatch of harbor porpoise was 778 animals. For January through April of 1999, total estimated bycatch of harbor porpoise was 157 animals (104 in the Gulf of Maine and 53 in the Mid-Atlantic). NMFS considers the numbers to be the best estimates of harbor porpoise mortality in gillnet fisheries in the Gulf of Maine and the Mid-Atlantic during the time frames specified.

NMFS will make information publicly available on harbor porpoise incidental take on a calendar-year quarterly basis through the end of the year 2001. Notification of the information availability will be published in the **Federal Register** on an annual basis.

This information along with other material provided by NMFS staff will be reviewed by the Gulf of Maine Harbor Porpoise Team to evaluate what further action may be necessary for the coming year.

Dated: August 23, 1999.

Andrew A. Rosenberg,
Deputy Assistant Administrator for Fisheries,
National Marine Fisheries Service.
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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 082399C]

Marine Mammals; File No. 848-1335

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 the NMFS Southwest Fisheries Science Center, Honolulu Laboratory, 2570 Dole Street, Honolulu, HI 96822-2396, has requested an amendment to scientific research and enhancement Permit No. 848-1335.

DATES: Written or telefaxed comments must be received on or before September 29, 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);

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

Protected Resources Program Manager, Pacific Islands Area Office, NMFS, 1601 Kapiolani Blvd., Suite 1110, Honolulu, HI 96814-4700 (808/973-2937).

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: Jeannie Drevenak or Trevor Spradlin, 301/713-2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The subject amendment to Permit No. 848-1335, issued on July 10, 1997 (62 FR 32586) 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), the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), and the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered and threatened species (50 CFR parts 222-226).

Permit No. 848-1335 authorizes the permit holder to: to conduct population assessment, disease assessment, recovery actions, and pelagic ecology studies of Hawaiian monk seals (*Monachus schauinslandi*) at all locations within the Hawaiian Archipelago and at Johnston Atoll, through May 31, 2002. Research methods include: observation and monitoring; capture; physical and chemical restraint; flipper tagging and retagging; instrumentation; bleach marking; measuring and weighing; blood and tissue sampling; swabbing; biopsy sampling (blubber); lavage; capture for the purpose of rehabilitation and release to the wild; experimental medical treatment; and relocation or removal of up to 10 adult male Hawaiian monk seals from the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands, in the event that such seals are known to cause mortality to nursing or weaned pups.

The Permittee is now requesting to amend Activity IV, Task 7 of the permit to increase the number of animals authorized to be taken from 30 to 100 seals annually for the duration of the permit. In addition, authorization is requested to: (1) allow retrieval of time-depth recorders (TDRs) from Hawaiian monk seals; (2) provide additional take by instrumentation (including sonic tags) to support continued research into the foraging ecology of Hawaiian monk seals; and (3) allow an additional procedure, isotopic water dilution, to estimate the body composition as an indication of foraging success and condition of study subjects. Activity IV, Task 7 currently authorizes seals to be captured, sedated, blood sampled, and tagged with various instrument packages up to two times each (once to apply the instrument package and once to remove it).